

# Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



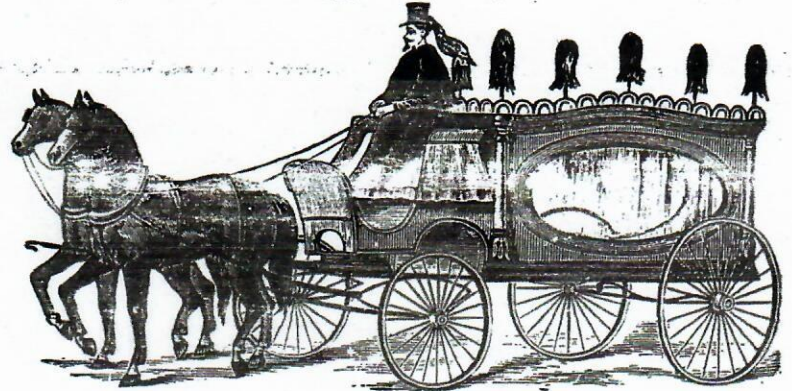
MARCH, 1990

EDITOR: Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

## JOIN THE WAGON TRAIN...

WAGONS HO! on Sunday, March 18, at 1 p.m. (note the earlier hour) in Troutdale City Hall. In a new twist for us, we will gather for a short business meeting, a special surprise presentation and then carpool to Southeast Portland to see the private carriage collection of Myron and Betty Lou Curtis.

The Curtises have 150 authentic carriages, ranging from stagecoaches to hearses and from surreys with fringe on top to Conestogas.



They have kindly offered to show the collection to our society. The tour, which includes buildings in two locations, will take about two hours. Betty Lou Curtis advises us to dress warmly, wear boots because it is a bit muddy and bring a flashlight for a close look at some of the vehicles in the darker corners.

Because of our "field trip" we will dispense with refreshments at this meeting. But there is no law against stopping for pie and coffee at Burns Bros. on the way home.

## THE JOHN NASMYTH LOFT...

At our February meeting, the board of directors of the historical society presented the sign that will hang in the loft of our museum barn. Because of his contributions to our barn fund, and his strong belief that we can build a fine barn museum, the board voted to name the upper floor of the barn The John Nasmyth Loft.

Vic Landreth, a Phoenix, Ariz., woodworker, made the sign.

## OREGON CITY OR BUST...

Only 40 people can go on our St. Patrick's Day Trek to Oregon City, leaving Troutdale City Hall at 9 a.m., Saturday, March 17. We plan to return no later than 5 p.m. The cost, which includes transportation, admission fees to two historic houses, a museum and lunch, is \$20. We will dine at the Fellows House with choices of either chicken with lemon sauce or stuffed pork. Please indicate your preference on the form below and send it and your check to us at 104 S.E. Kibling St., Troutdale, Ore. 97060. Deadline to sign up is March 15. Telephone Gene Bui, 667-3231, if you have questions.

Please save \_\_\_\_\_ seats on the trek to Oregon City. Our luncheon preferences are \_\_\_\_\_ chicken entrees and \_\_\_\_\_ pork entrees. I enclose \$20 for each person.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



THERE IS A FREE LUNCH...

Yes, indeed, there is a free lunch if you sign up for our barn work day on Saturday, March 24, beginning at 9 a.m. Dick Jones is looking for about 12 people. We need nail setters (and someone capable of wielding a sledge hammer), we need folks handy with drills to put in telephone cable, we need a few people to rake and clean up the yard and others who can tote some fairly heavy stuff to the barn. We need a big chain saw, rakes, drills, gloves, and a lift truck would be nice. Call Dick Jones, 252-4306 to sign up so he can match your talents to a job. If you can help with the lunch, check in with Sharon Nesbit.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH...

You would think after all these years that Alex Jones, 86, has done enough for our society. But he just keeps right on doing his part. Alex, who was our president in the mid 1970s, and vice president for many more years, remains an active member of our board of directors. He is the one who fixes all the coffee and tea for our meetings, remembers to buy supplies, opens buildings, carries messages, fetches mail and clips news articles for our scrapbook. Just for good measure he brings his wisdom, and sometimes a bouquet of flowers, to every gathering.

Alex is a retired school administrator who came to Troutdale in 1965 to care for his brother. He went a little crazy sitting around and signed on to be the janitor at city hall "when we only had three chairs and cop." He only recently resigned from that job.

He lives in the former Imthurn building on Harlow Street and grows wonderful flowers in his backyard.

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND...

We will have one of those wonderful brunches cooked by Rich and Dorothy Kerlake on Sunday, April 8, Palm Sunday, at Troutdale City Park. The event will last from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will include a full array of breakfast items as well as salads and desserts.



On May 21, we invite our neighboring historical societies to join us in the city park for a potluck dinner and a chance to hear about the Oregon Trail from James Renner, new wagonmaster of the Oregon Historical Society, and the fellow who will ramrod the upcoming Oregon Trail celebration. It just happens that Renner also is a fiddler and he promises to play a few historic tunes.

It's not too early to make note of our annual ice cream social and plant sale on Sunday, June 10, in Troutdale City Park.

WE GET LETTERS...

Many thanks to those who were so prompt sending in your dues. And more thanks to those of you who wrote your checks for an extra dollar or two, "just to help out." Then there are the notes that come with the checks.

From Charles and Edna Ellis, Hermiston: "Thank you. Only wish it possible to attend, but do enjoy newsletters."

From Bonita Jenkins, Fairview: "Your progress is great."

From Elice Skirvin, Seattle: "Thanks for the newsletter--love it! I'd love the new tee shirts to be "The Hungry Hill Gang" Troutdale History in Progress."

From Helen Rees, Fairview: "Best wishes and blessings on the



IN MEMORY...

ARLINE SEIDL who contributed many artifacts to our museums died in late January. Arline and her husband, John, were early members of our society. Among many other things, she gave the Harlow House museum the bronze statue believed to have belonged to the Harlow family. Arline's own contributions included the many doilies she crocheted during her 25-year engagement to John.

TILLIE HOWELL died in February. She came to Troutdale in 1931 with her parents, William and Minnie White. They arrived in January, she remembered in a 1984 interview, and "we opened the front door and the snow came right in with the furniture."

Also deceased is MARGARET ST. CLAIR OKRASINSKI, the last child of the family that founded the Gresham Outlook. A friend to our society, Margaret played the organ for us at our Christmas parties and shared her expertise in antiques with us.

IT WAS 100 YEARS AGO...

On Feb. 26, 1890, Celestia Harlow, widow of Capt. John Harlow, platted the town of Troutdale. Previous to that time, the community had consisted of scattered farms, a school and a cluster of buildings along the railroad tracks.

The town that Celestia laid out, was four blocks wide and four blocks long and fronted on the railroad tracks. Columbia Street paralleled the tracks. The tidy square of town was bounded on the west by Willamette Street (now Buxton) and on the east by Sandy Street. The cross streets, now numbered streets, were Celestia, Garfield, Everett and Lincoln. Still surviving are the named avenues, Dora, Harlow and Kibling, which were all Harlow family names.

By October 29, 1891, the new town was booming. The first edition of the newspaper, The Troutdale Champion, gave a first-hand account of the building of Troutdale.

Editor W.D. Pratt wrote: "Though there has been a depot at Troutdale since the building of the road (railroad, 1882), the town which now has a population of over 300, is little more than a year old, and has mostly been built during the past three months."

Pratt went on to point out the slaughterhouse at the railroad tracks and the Sandy River, which processed 1,500 beeves a month. A second "mammoth establishment" was the Walker and Goodell distillery and cattlefeeding building, five stories high and surrounded by a village of smaller buildings. (This building burned only a few years later.)

Troutdale also boasted two hotels, two more under construction, three general stores, one hardware store, one restaurant, one opera hall, two meat markets, one shoemaker, one barber, one blacksmith, one saloon, one lumberyard, one laundry, one livery stable, two doctors, two real estate firms, two painters, nineteen carpenters and one newspaper.

Some familiar names appear in the paper. H. Hensley was the blacksmith. Aaron Fox, who would become the city's first mayor in 1907, owned a dry goods store. The restaurant was owned by Mr. and Mrs. S.M. Ellis. The doctors were Heinrich Volp and L. Allard. You could get room and board for \$1 a day at the Branham House.

The newspaper noted that a special meeting was being held to consider building a new school house (built in 1892).

Though only three editions can now be found, the newspaper was published in Troutdale at least through 1896. Fred Baker became the editor. He later moved to Tillamook where he published the Headlight



NAMEDROPPERS...

Thank you to DAVE TRAXLER who has completed the stairs in the barn. That step allows us to move toward putting up the siding and getting a coat of paint on...Donors to the barn fund are: ETHEL PETERSON, COL. MERLE COONS, FRANCES SEITZ, LAEL LARGER, TRULY V. WRIGHT in memory of ACIL WRIGHT and BOB and MARY HUGHES.

Thanks to GLENN OTTO, TED SCHULTE and FLOYD SPLAWN who reminisced about smelt last month. Floyd says the smelt will come in mid-March. Ted says they will come March 12, if they come...BETTY CODY of the Jacknife-Zion-Horseheaven Historical Society invites us to visit the Phillip Foster House at Eagle Creek...Welcome to new members RONALD HAWVER, NANCY HAWVER, BETTY FERGUSON and WELDON SKIRVIN. And a special welcome to HARRY CLAIR III and COL. MERLE COONS who became lifetime members.

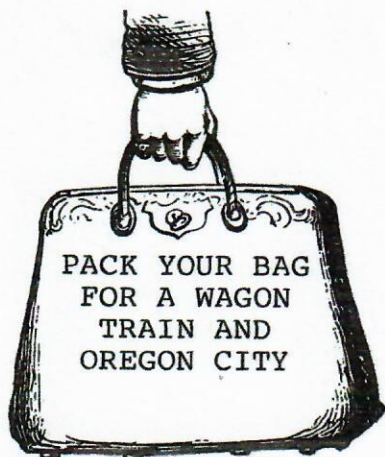
Thanks to DICK JONES and HAROLD BANGS who hosted the Mazamas at the Harlow House in January. In May we expect a two-day Volksmarch with many walkers stopping to visit our depot and Harlow House museums.

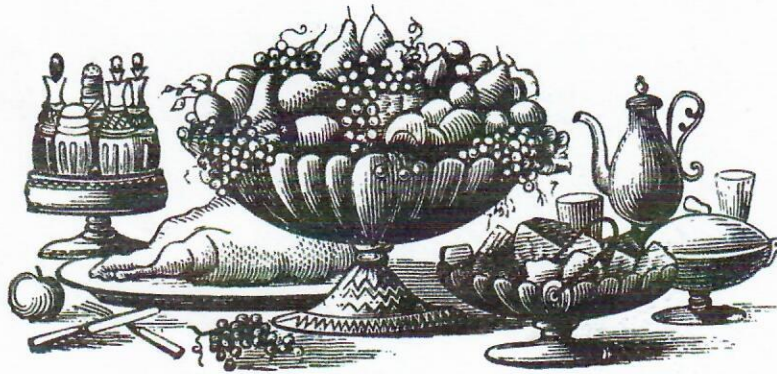
Gifts to our endowment fund were made in memory of ACIL WRIGHT, ARLINE SEIDL, TILLIE HOWELL, MARGARET OKRASINSKI, MRS. ERNST MERSHON, and BILL SULLIVAN from the following donors: VERA STREBIN, ALEX JONES, FRANK and JEAN DRIVER, SAM and NANCY COX, GLENN and HELEN OTTO and SHARON NESBIT. ALEX JONES, as well, has given a donation to the endowment fund to commemorate his late brother, FRANK JONES, and the late LAURA IMTHURN.

Gifts to the general fund came from JAN VREELAND, MAE L. ROBERTSON, RICHARD ANDERSON and JEANNE PULLIAM.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
104 S.E. KIBLING ST.  
TROUTDALE, ORE. 97060

BULK RATE  
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TROUTDALE, OR  
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# APRIL FLOWERS BRUNCH

Sunday, April 8  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Great Hall, Troutdale City Park  
On the Columbia River Highway at the Sandy River  
Troutdale, Ore.

A bountiful meal in celebration of spring. Cooks Rich and Dorothy Kerslake will prepare a sumptuous spread of breakfast specials, salads, fruits and desserts.

Adults, \$5    Children 12 to 6, \$2.50  
Children 6 and under, free.

A benefit for the Troutdale Historical Society.