

# Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



MAY, 1993

EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY

A DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE...AND A FESTIVE BRUNCH

SOCIETY TO HOST "THE YOUNGEST PIONEER"...

The Oregon Trail and pioneer experience, as seen through the eyes of a child who made by the journey by wagon train, will be featured in a performance of "The Youngest Pioneer," at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 16, in Sam K. Cox Hall, (formerly Great Hall), at Troutdale Community Park.

Jane Van Boskirk, a well-known touring performer and musician Chico Schwall will tell the story of a fictional 8-year-old, Alice Westerly, as drawn from journals and diaries of real people who made the crossing.

This event is particularly well-suited to young audiences, so please bring or borrow a child for this special event. We are publicizing it with local schools as well.

This also is our annual gathering of local historical societies and the announcement of our member of the year. The meeting and announcements begin at 2 p.m., the performance at 2:30 p.m.

We'll pass the hat to help defray cost of the program, which is partially funded by a grant from the Oregon Council for the Humanities. We'll conclude the afternoon with punch and cookies. If you would like to help by bringing a batch of cookies, call Ellen Brothers at 661-2164 and leave a message.

AND A BOUNTIFUL BRUNCH...

Rich and Dorothy Kerlake and their family members have once again offered to cook a brunch to benefit our barn museum.

Plan on joining us Sunday, May 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sam K. Cox Hall in Troutdale Community Park for breakfast specialties, salads, fruits and desserts. Price is \$5 for adults. Children, ages 6 to 12, are \$2.50 apiece. Children under 6 are free.

A poster is on the back page. Please cut it off and post it in a prominent place, or give it to someone who loves to eat.

If you can bring either a salad or dessert (to serve 10 people) please telephone Ellen Brothers, 661-2164, and your meal is free.



TREASURER'S REPORT...

ENDOWMENT FUND.....	\$13,336.32
OPERATING ACCOUNT.....	10,070.70
DEDICATED BARN FUNDS.....	733.69
BARN BUILDING FUND.....	12,191.18
DIRECTOR'S FUND.....	3,695.78
TOTAL.....	\$40,027.67

AROUND THE HOUSE  
by Cathy Hamme, Curator

New things have come to the Harlow House museum in the last month.

An especially exciting item because it relates directly to Troutdale history, is a donation from Chuck Rollins of Latourell. Chuck and Steve Lehl who dig in dumps and outhouse holes recently found two bottles marked Columbia Brand Salad Oil, from Troutdale's Union Meat Company. Chuck donated his bottle, in perfect condition, to our museum.

Union Meat Company, was a large slaughter house and meat-packing plant located near the railroad tracks and the west bank of the Sandy River from the 1880s through the turn of the century. It was moved to Portland where it became Swift & Co.

Other new items: A complete cream separator for a future dairy display from Florence Carroll as well as excellent examples of pre-1900 tin baking ware; and from Heidi Wilson, a 1913 baby bottle.

On the subject of artifacts, the museum office's rotary dial phone doesn't work when Director Ellen Brothers has to make contact with one of the new voice mail systems. If someone has a touch tone phone to give to the Harlow House, it would be much appreciated.

NAMEDROPPERS...

MARGARET (PEGGY) GORCIAK has enrolled as a lifetime member. Dues from lifetime memberships (\$100 a person) go to our endowment fund...JACK MALCOM made a gift to the endowment fund in memory of Paul Overstad...from CHARLOTTE WHITE, renewal of dues, a gift to the endowment fund and a note, "Really enjoy your monthly letters. Keep up the good work. Come visit the Rose Farm sometime. The Holmes (William and Louisa) came here in 1843!" Rose Farm is in Oregon City on Holmes Lane. It is open Sunday afternoons, 1-4 p.m...Thanks to Cathy Hamme for donation of metal shelves for the historical society office...JUNKI & LINDA YOSHIDA are new owners of the former Portland Automobile Club/Viking Park estate at the Stark Street Bridge. The property previously owned by Dan and Florence Santry. The Yoshidas have asked our society for historic information on their home...BILL & SUE EVANS (Bill is the grandson of Harlow House residents, Lee and Mabel Evans) were visitors to the house recently. He offered to help us track down some Evans family members to supplement our history...New photos from our collection have come from SCOTT CUNNINGHAM and GINGER HARLOW ALLEN. Also giving us photos of Cedar School was INGA PLUM, whose mother, Anna Anderson, was a cook at the school...ROY MEGER & ELSIE SIMNITT of the TROUTDALE GENERAL STORE made another \$100 contribution. The money is collected in a simple glass jar they keep on their counter.





The picture above is from our April 19 dedication of the Oregon Trail Interpretive signs at the Columbia Gorge Factory Outlet Stores. Mary Graves, manager of the stores, and Helen Althaus removed the quilts to reveal the markers, which tell of Troutdale's role in the Oregon Trail.

Many thanks to Jim Renner of the Oregon Trail Coordinating Council who helped us get these signs, to Lynda Harvey who coordinated the effort and to the development company of the factory outlet stores that paid for them. And thanks to those who showed up to participate in the dedication. Helen Althaus and her friend, Leah Ireland, drove from Ashland for the event.

As luck would have it, we received just the week before two wonderful Oregon Trail diaries from Marshall Belshaw Shore, Spokane, whose family landed at the Sandy River at the end of their Oregon Trail trip.

This is the account of Maria A. Belshaw on her arrival at the Sandy River Sept. 24, 1853. Though she is not precise in her mention of the location, the fact that it is the Sandy River is supported in an accompanying diary by George Belshaw: "Puff-Puff came the steamer this morning. We took passage and soon launched out on the deep waters of the Columbia. It rained a little had a pleasant trip and splendid view of Cape Horn, its lofty rocks and crystal waters flowing down, its summit decked with a beautiful green tree with its branches bidding us welcome to its craggy rocks. Tongue cannot describe the beautiful scene that God of nature has unfurled. Went to the landing on sands at 2 o'clock 17 minutes. We were four hours coming down. Quite pleasant here. There are farms within 2 - 4 & 6 miles of here. Raining very hard this evening. Traveled 25 miles.

### MORE NAMEDROPPERS...

We received a donation to the general fund from ELICE SKIRVIN...PATRICIA O'BRIEN renewed her membership in the Director's Club. Memberships at that level help pay the salary of our director...FRIEDA O'NEIL made a gift to the barn museum in memory of the birthday of her late husband, Eugene O'Neil...PAT WAND, Bethesda, MD., is a new member...Our thanks to CAROLYN STRONG and to her husband, GARY, who are helping us put together a new museum brochure.

### GETTING READY FOR ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Cindy Hammond is chairwoman of our steering committee and recently accepted the task of chairing our ice cream social, which will be June 12 and 13 at the Harlow House and Troutdale Community Park.

The steering committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month and had the onerous task on April 6 of working out portions and flavors for sundaes, shortcakes and banana splits, and testing the results. It was an awful job, but somebody had to do it.

The Swipsey Cakewalk Ragtime Band will play on Saturday, and quartets from the Sweet Adelines sing barbershop harmony on Sunday at the social.

You can help by potting up outside plants for our famous plant sale. If you make homemade crafts, or know someone who does, call Jean Holman, 665-7678, to rent booth space for the craft fair. If you or your business are interested in sponsoring entertainment for an afternoon, call Ellen Brothers, 661-2164.

Want to volunteer at the social? Give Sharon Nesbit a call.

### NEW MUSEUM HOURS...

Our two museums, Harlow House and the Troutdale Rail Depot open for summer hours in May.

Volunteer hosts greet visitors at the Rail Depot each Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. At other hours during the week, visitors are likely to meet Julie Sorenson, director of the Troutdale Area Chamber of Commerce. The chamber uses the waiting room as an office.

Thanks to depot chairman Bill Sullivan, we have volunteers lined up for the month of May to work at the depot, but he is still looking for other summer workers. His phone number is 760-7260. And thanks to you who said yes: Jean Ridings, Pat Albin, Don McGinnis, Martha Booheister, Gladys Norment, Karen Burger-Kimber, Jeral Beaty, Vera Peters, Bonita Jenkins, Sharon Nesbit, Donna Hawkins and Virginia Ranken.

As to the Harlow House, it opens for five afternoons a week beginning May 5. Through September the Harlow House will be available to visitors from Wednesday through Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

### WELCOME TO NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS...

Jim and Retha Bennett of Sandy River Orchards, 32301 N.E. Mershon Road, Corbett, have a business membership in our historical society.

You'll remember the Bennetts. They come every year to Harvest Faire bringing their cider press and apples, giving many families their first-ever chance to press their own cider.

A business membership helps support the cost of our newsletter and earns the donor a mention in the newsletter each month.

Remember the Bennetts when you want apples and peaches, or fruit products. They make delicious apple and peach butters.

GRAB YOUR GLOVES AND COME TO THE BARN...

Dick Jones, chairman of our barn, has declared barn work days beginning at 9 a.m. on the following Saturdays, May 8, May 29 and June 26.

Dick is especially in need of people with basic carpentry skills to help with some fine-tuning prior to having the building sheetrocked. If you can handle a saw and a hammer, please give him a hand on those days. Your pay will be a free doughnut and coffee. Barn volunteers also receive credit \$10 an hour to the barn, a way to earn your name on a barn beam.



While carpenters are necessary, there will be jobs for the less skilled of us, since we need to tote a lot of insulation to the loft and clean the workshop. Your help will be appreciated.

HARVEST FAIRE BOOTH SPACE FREE...

Planting your garden about now? Give some thought to sowing something you can reap at Harvest Faire.

In an effort to encourage fall produce and flowers, the steering committee has decided to make an introductory offer of free booth space to people who sell pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn, dried flowers and other types of fall produce. We'll also give you space if you want to sell the surplus from your garden.

Antique and collectible sellers may reserve tables now for Harvest Faire, which will be Sept. 25 and 26. Contact Jean Holman, 665-7678.

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A CLIP AND SAVE LIST OF OFFICERS AND EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

DAVID RIPMA, president  
4220 S.E. Troutdale Rd.  
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JOYCE STOECKEL, membership secretary  
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ELLEN BROTHERS, director  
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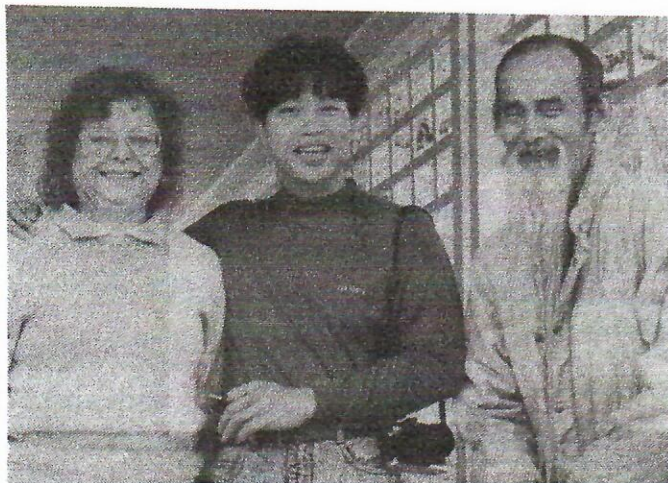
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TED SCHULTE, past vice-president  
6404 S.E. 23rd Ave.  
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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK----by Ellen Brothers

Days at the Harlow House are always interesting. Recently, as you can see by the photo at, I greeted Alan Quach, a reporter for Asia Today, and his father from Taiwan.



If you want an afternoon a month to hosting the Harlow House and greeting visitors from near and far, give me a call. We are putting together our summer schedule now.

As to other business in the director's office, I recently finished writing a grant to the State of Oregon for a bit of help in running the museum. Perhaps you didn't know that the state gives us about \$400 annually to help run Harlow House museum.

That money is intended to promote tourism in the state. It comes to us because tourism experts know that the tourists who come to Oregon are looking for historic sites and more than half of them visit a historic site while they are here.

CONTINUING A SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF TROUTDALE...

(Previously, the history told of Lt. William Broughton's expedition up the Columbia River and the naming of the Sandy River as "Barings.") American explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark renamed the river the Quicksand River when they passed its sandy mouth on Nov. 3, 1805, on their expedition to the Pacific Ocean.

They wrote, "we coasted and halted at the mouth of a large river on the Lard. Side, (left or south side) this river throws out emence quantitys of sand and is very shallow, the narrowest part 200 yards wide bold current, much resembling the river Plat." The explorers noticed the presence of two mouths on the river.

The river continued to bear the name Quicksand for about 50 years. It appears to have been shortened to Sandy in the 1850s, according to Lewis McArthur, author of Oregon Geographic Names. It was at the Sandy River on their return trip to the east that Lewis and Clark learned that they had overlooked the Willamette River and backtracked to find it.

Evidence of Native American population exists throughout the area. The Sandy River delta yielded artifacts for many years during sand and gravel dredging operations and two sites are known to exist there now. Other sites are recorded along the Columbia bottomlands, the most prominent of which was the large population of Indians at Blue Lake, the village sometimes called Nechacokee. A persistent legend tells of an encampment of Indians buried in a landslide from Broughton Bluff. And a burial ground for Indians of mixed blood was located on the west bank of the Sandy River in the Jackson Park Road area.

By the time white settlers came to this area, only a few of the Chinook people were left. Most had died of diseases brought by the ships and traders. One, who claimed the title of the last chief of the Multnomahs, was Indian John or Chief John. He lived in the area until the 1890s, tanning hides and doing odd jobs. John claimed to have an iron skillet that Lewis and Clark gave to his grandfather. It was presented to the Oregon Historical Society. John died in 1893.