



# BYGONE TIMES

Newsletter of the Troutdale Historical Society

May 2007

## Please Mark Your Calendars

**May 19**  
Annual Cemetery Tour  
St. Paul, Oregon

## No Program Meeting in June

**June 1**  
First Friday Artwalk  
5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**June 2**  
Pancake Breakfast  
Corbett Fire Station  
7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**July 6**  
First Friday Artwalk

**July 14**  
Ice Cream Social in  
conjunction with  
Troutdale's Bite & Blue  
Grass Festival

**July 21**  
Troutdale SummerFest  
Parade

**2007 Troutdale Celebrates  
100 Years**

## MAY ANNUAL CEMETERY TOUR

This year's Annual Cemetery Tour is set for Saturday, May 19. The bus will depart from the Barn Museum (next to Harlow House) at 9:00 a.m.

Anyone interested in joining this year's tour should bring a sack lunch. We will provide a cooler for cool storage and drinks. At some time during the day we will stop for coffee or a treat. There is no registration for this event, but if you want to make sure we wait for you, please call the THS office at 503-661-2164 and add your name to the list.

Stan Clarke will be out tour guide. He is a member of the state commission on cemeteries and is the best single source in the state of Oregon on historic cemeteries, which he calls "history parks."

The tour will include cemeteries in St. Paul and Champoeg. This is where the first Hudson's Bay trappers chose to settle and it was this community that launched Oregon and the famous Wolf meetings that created the territory. The tour will also include the grave of the only Revolutionary War veteran ever buried in Oregon. The trip will then head north towards Newburg to the St. Paul Rose Garden near the Willamette River where we will likely eat lunch. There are no picnic tables there, so bring a blanket and we will make do. There are restrooms and a nice garden/gift shop. The tour will also include gravesites and tourist center at Champoeg State Park and will plan on being back in Troutdale by 5:00 p.m.

The cost for the tour is a donation towards the rental of the bus.

For more information, call the THS office at 503-661-2164. Plan to be at the Barn Museum on May 19, 2007, at 9:00 a.m.

## 100 Years Ago

### Troutdale ~

In an ordinance approved by the city council in 1907, "all plank walks shall be eight feet wide and shall be laid on three stringers 4 x 6 inches or larger. Planking shall be two inches thick and not less than eight inches wide. There shall be a curb not less than three inches thick by twelve inches wide"...

### Beyond the Bluff ~

Oregon Electric Railway was an interurban railroad line that linked Portland to Eugene. Service from Portland to Salem began in 1907...

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church on NE Glisan was founded...

## From the Director's Chair

### THS Announces New Director



Sheryl Maydew

**T**rousdale Historical Society has been around since 1968 and due to the devotion of dedicated volunteers and donors, the society has managed to collect and archive artifacts, photos, oral histories...preserve many wonderful buildings...build the Barn Museum, maintain the three museums, prepare exhibits to display the wonderful artifacts and educate folks about the local history with the exhibits and programs offered.

For the past four and a half years, I've been the Director and enjoyed working with all of the volunteers, committee's, board of directors and staff. The best part of volunteering for me has been getting to know and build friendships with these great people.

As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, Terry Huston will be taking over as Director. Terry grew up in Troutdale and for the past several months has been attending all of the meetings and working on projects and preparing the newsletter. She has a good understanding of what we do and how wonderful our committees and our people are.



Sheryl & Max

I've been appointed to the Board of Directors and will happily serve there. I will continue to volunteer as bookkeeper and will help with other projects as needed. I'm thrilled that we found someone willing to take on the job. I will greatly appreciate the extra time it will afford me to spend more time with my family and other household and business projects we have going.

Thank you all for your support and friendship during my tenure...and I ask everyone to support Terry. If you get a chance, stop by the Depot and visit with her...and thank her.

## Sharon Nesbit talks of Troutdale History and New Book



Sharon Nesbit

**T**rousdale historian, Sharon Nesbit, was the featured speaker at the Troutdale Historical Society's April 15 meeting at Glenn Otto Park. She talked about not only Troutdale history, but the long anticipated new book "*It Could Have Been Carpdale, Centennial History of Troutdale, Oregon*," due out sometime this summer.

Troutdale actually got its start when between 1891 and 1892 the business community started to emerge on the side of the hill. It was incorporated in 1907 due to the amount of taverns and saloons in the area that needed some "rules and regulations" for their establishments.

Sharon gave a brief explanation of how Troutdale almost became Carpdale due to Captain Harlow's fascination with the fish he had imported from California by steamer at \$5 each. Harlow thought he would get rich selling the fish to the saloons in Portland, that at that time, served free lunches. (Lucky for us, they escaped his pond, got into Beaver Creek, then the Sandy River, but in the process they became the scourge of the entire fishery in the Northwest). He was so sure of his investment he even held a press conference at the port when the fish arrived.

Captain Harlow could have named our city Carpdale, but as Sharon states, "The fact that he died in 1883 before he thought of it is the best news we've had today."

She also told many funny stories about the goings on in Troutdale through the last 100 years, giving much credit to Walt Nasmyth for his memory of growing up in Troutdale. A good many of the stories also involve one of our beloved mayors, Sam Cox.

Sharon's much anticipated book has been a labor of love that she has worked on for at least the last ten years. The book has 11 chapters, and more than 200 photographs. The deadline for pre-sale price of \$34.95 is June 16, 2007. After that time, the price will be \$44.95. Books can be pre-ordered by calling the Gresham Outlook at 503-665-2181 or by filling out a pre-order form at THS accompanied by a check. The office will forward those to the Outlook.

### THS Ice Cream Social moved to July

**T**his year's Ice Cream Social has been moved to July 14th and will be held in conjunction with Troutdale's Bite and Blue Grass Festival. Anyone interested in helping out in the THS ice cream booth should contact Adrienne at 503-665-5288.



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## Sharon Nesbit Receives Preservationist Award

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Sharon Nesbit is the heart of the Troutdale Historical Society. At the April historical society's program meeting Sharon was presented with the Preservationists Award and a moving tribute by Mike McMenamin.

Along with a flower bouquet she was given a wooden bowl made by Dale Larson from the heart of the walnut tree that had to be cut down at Harlow House.

Mike McMenamin also presented Sharon with a collage of pictures of Edgefield in honor of her hard work and dedication to the preservation of the county's poor farm.

Sharon was honored for

- helping to organize the society in 1968 and for strongly supporting and volunteering ever since
- years of continuous service and devotion to preserving history, serving at one time or another in every volunteer position in the society including Secretary, Board Director and Historian
- leading the walking tours, treks and oral history interviews
- her tireless effort on behalf of the Troutdale History and THS
- writing the Troutdale history book, "*It Could Have Been Carpdale*", which will be published this year for Troutdale's Centennial
- And for her most beloved accomplishment, **volunteer recruitment**, and the famously effective words that many volunteer still recall, "**Your Ass Is Mine.**"

Among some of the ways used to describe Sharon, Mike said used phrases like "a force of nature" and "a piece of work."

The best quote that sums up the person we all know and love as Sharon Nesbit came from her husband Bill, "**If she was only humble, she'd be perfect.**"

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Mike McMenamin and Sharon Nesbit

## Mary Bryson Honored as THS Member of the Year

Mary Bryson received the Member of the Year award at the April program meeting held at Glen Otto Park on April 15. Scott Cunningham presented Mary with a bouquet of flowers and the Member of the Year plaque for her 10 years of dedication as curator of the Troutdale Historical Society's Museums.

The Troutdale Historical Society also purchased a document cabinet in Mary's honor with the inscription "The Mary Margaret McGinnis Bryson Flat Document Cabinet Honoring Mary's First Ten Years as Troutdale Historical Society Curator."

Mary has also served on the board of directors, the program committee, exhibit committee and many major projects as well as being one of our treasured "Tuesday Ladies".

When Scott reminded her that along with the honor of being Member of the Year, she would ride in the Troutdale Parade, Mary said she would be there "unless it interferes with a golf game."



Scott Cunningham and Mary Bryson

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## Special Thank-you to...

Dave Munson for the new back stairs at the Harlow House...

Jennifer Munson for taking on the task of organizing our tangled library...

Jean Hybskmann for 10 years of wonderful Tea & Tours...

Mary Bryson for 10 years as curator of our museums...

Adrienne Clausen for all of her work coordinating tours and host for all the museums...

Helen Wand and her committee for the fantastic programs she schedules for the monthly meetings...

Connie Purvis for transcribing all old oral histories on audio tapes into written word...



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## 4 One of the March Photo Contest Winner's

For the next few months we will be featuring the winners of the photo contest held at Glenn Otto Park on March 18.

This photo was submitted by Lorraine Scott & Mary Wright and won for Funniest photo. It is of the Bourgeois's dog Rowdy on their front porch with cat and rooster for company.

If you missed this great event we are planning another one for a future date.



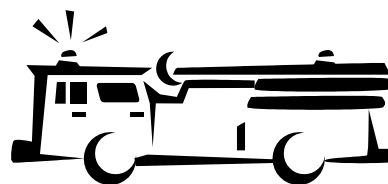
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### Out & About

Multnomah County Fire District #14 is sponsoring a breakfast at the Corbett Fire Station on June 2, 2007 from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.. The Cost is \$4.50 for adults and \$2.75 for kids ten and under. All proceeds will go to the *Ferd Riehl Scholarship* that will be awarded to a student to study Fire Science or to be a paramedic.

There will be rides on fire engines for kids of all ages, door prizes, balloons, old cars and Sparky the Fire Dog.

June also marks fifty years of service that Bob Layton has dedicated as a volunteer fire fighter for the district. The entire community is invited to stop by for breakfast to shake Bob's hand, thank him and congratulate him for his service to the Fire Department.



A lecture and outing will take place on May 12th starting at the Barn Museum. The event Will kick off at 10:30 and include a tour of the exhibit at the barn. There, the group will hear from Joan Hockaday, a flower enthusiast who has a great slide show of Columbia Gorge flora documented by Corp of Discovery. Then those who are interested will caravan to Vista House to have Roger Wendlick point out historic spots the captains talked about and camped at. Then the group will start driving east towards the Mosier area and stop to see and hear about the flowers Joan described earlier. Mike Igo, another well known native plant expert of the Gorge will meet the group over in that area. There is no charge for this event.

Joan Hockaday is a journalist, photographer and garden historian. During the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, she helped lead a two-week tour of British botanists down the Columbia to Lewis & Clark wildflower sites all the way to the ocean. She wrote about the Lewis & Clark wildflower history in the *Seattle Times* and also in *We Proceed On*, the LCTHF magazine.

Jon has authored two books, *The Gardens of San Francisco, 1988* and her next book, *John Charles Olmsted in the Pacific Northwest*, to be published in connection with the 2009 centennial of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition on the University of Washington campus.

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## In Memory ~

### Evelyn Lewis

Corbett resident Evelyn Marleen Lewis died on April 21st in Portland at the age of 71.

She was raised and educated in Troutdale and graduated from St. Mary's Academy In Portland in 1954.

Evelyn was a homemaker and enjoyed gardening. She was known for her flower garden along the Crown Point Highway.

She is survived by her children; Carl, Perry, Garth, Casey of Corbett; Greg from St. Petersburg, Fl.; and Stephanie of Happy Valley; her sisters, Lenore of Gresham, Delores of Orient, Lucille of Fairview and Eileen of The Dalles; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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### Albert "Mack" Mauck

Troutdale resident Albert "Mack" McClellan Mauck died at home on March 14th.

He joined the Merchant Marines and served during World War II. He was honorably discharged in 1945.

Mack moved to East County in 1950 and worked for Goodman Sanitary and Excavation. He also owned Gateway Arabian Horse Ranch, where he bred national and international champion Arabian and half Arabian horses.

He is survived by two sons who grew up in Troutdale, Erik of Boring and Alex of Sandy; and one grandson.

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### Rhea L. Austin

Former Gresham resident Rhea L. Austin died on March 23 in Portland.

She moved to the Portland area in 1947 and then to Gresham. In 1966 Rhea responded to an ad for a waitress position at Tad's Chicken N' Dumplings in Troutdale and got the job. She continued as a server there for 29 years through the mid-1990's. She and fellow waitress, Margaret Stich, were the "queens" of the back dining room and acquired many loyal customers.

When Rhea was 84 she began working as a hostess for Saylor's Old Country Kitchen. She loved cards and was a Life Master at Bridge.

Rhea celebrated her 91st birthday at Tad's in February.

She was preceded in death by her husband Robert and her son Jeff.

She is survived her children; son Robert of Redmond; daughter Judy of Wamic; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

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### George Swanson

It has just recently come to our attention that longtime Troutdale resident George Swanson passed away in December of 2005.

George grew up in Troutdale in the house at the base of "Hungry Hill" in the Union Pacific Railroad house in the early 1940's with siblings Melva, Wayne and Elice. The family later moved to Lynchwood for six months and then purchased the Malcolm farm on Halsey Street a half mile east of the "poor farm."

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### Lorraine Wright Scott

Longtime Troutdale Historical Society member Lorraine Wright Scott passed away last week. We will have more information on her in next month's newsletter.



### Volunteers Needed

**V**olunteers are needed for the upcoming months for the Harlow House/Barn Museums and the Depot Museum. If you are interested in taking a shift at either museum, please contact Adrienne Clausen at 503-665-5288. The shifts would be for Saturday or Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. There are also some tours already scheduled for May that we need guides for. This is such a vital part of the THS, please help!

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## In Memory

### ~ *Walter R. Nasmyth* ~

**W**alter was born in Portland, Oregon on February 8, 1926. He passed away on April 18, 2007 in Clackamas, Oregon.

Walter was the youngest of eight Nasmyth children growing up in Troutdale. He joined the United States Coast Guard at age 16 (after bending the truth about his age) on November 17, 1942. He trained in Port Townsend, Washington and was assigned to the beach patrol in Newport, Oregon. As WWII progressed, Walter was assigned to LST 19 and served in the Mariana Islands, Tinian and Saipan and the Carolines in the South Pacific. He was discharged as a Quartermaster at age 19 in 1945.

On May 10, 1945, Walter married Viola Marie Norton. They had four children, Jackie, Claudia, Christie and Scott. Their daughter Jackie preceded him in death. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

After his discharge, Walter worked as a woodworker and then joined the Portland Fire Bureau. After sustaining an injury he retired from the Fire Bureau in 1965. He then completed his college education and worked for the US Department of Agriculture, retiring in 1988.



Walter was a very active member of the Troutdale Historical Society. He attended all of our monthly program meetings, enjoyed many of the historical treks and served as our photo librarian for the last three years. Every Wednesday Walter and Vi would join Sharon Nesbit in the basement of the Depot and scan and catalogue the historical society's photo collection. In the past three years Walter has scanned and cataloged over 1300 photos. Walter and Vi were Troutdale Historical Society's co-members of the year for 2006.

The last big project Walter did for THS was putting together and organizing the February 2007 meeting which consisted of a photo contest and photo show featuring many of the albums and photos he had catalogued.

### It Could Have Been Carpdale

Centennial History of Troutdale, Oregon

1907-2007

by Sharon Nesbit

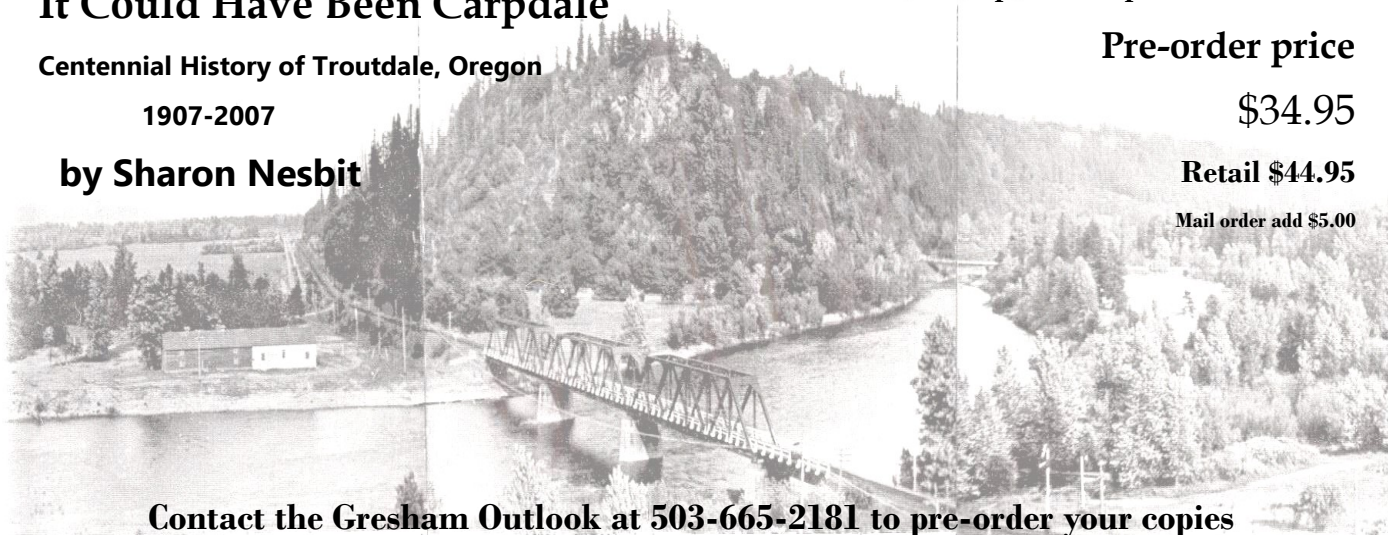
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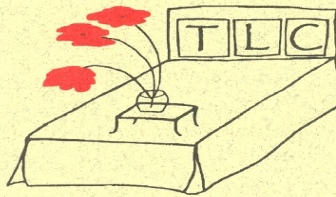
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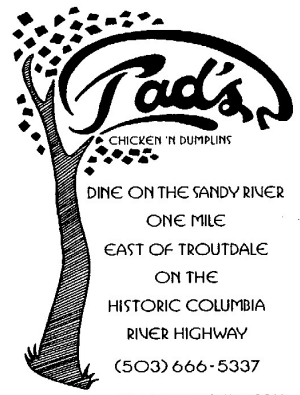
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Troutdale Historical Society  
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Phone: 503-661-2164  
www.troutdalehistory.org

**Mission Statement:**

To gather, preserve and make available material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, the Sandy River, the Columbia River Gorge and nearby area: To stimulate interest in, and knowledge of, the locality's past.

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**In Memory of ~**

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**in memory of Walt Nasmyth**

**Virginia Wright Taylor**  
**In memory of Lorraine L. Scott**

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