



BYGONE TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THS EVENTS

April 23

THS Annual Meeting

Troutdale Flood of 1948 by Len Otto

Sam Cox Building, 1102 E Hist. Col. Riv. Hwy
2pm

April 25 - 7pm (doors at 6pm)

Edgefield History Pub

Topic: Saving Edgefield

Edgefield Historian, Tim Hills interviews
Sharon Nesbit and Mike McMenamin.

April 29

Trek of Forgotten Places II

Bus tour guided by Helen Wand visiting
sites from her books *Where Eagles
Nest & Echoes of Forgotten Places*
1-5pm

May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug 4, Sept 1

First Friday Art Walks

May 30 - 7pm (doors at 6pm)

Edgefield History Pub

Topic: TBD

June 27 - 7pm (doors at 6pm)

Edgefield History Pub

Topic: TBD

July 7

Barnyard Concert

Micah & Me

September 1

Barnyard Concert

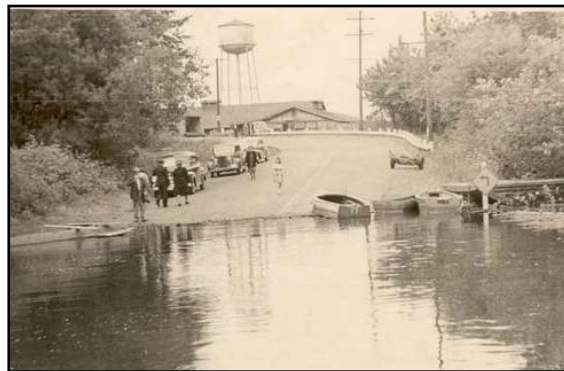
Josh Putnam

THS Annual Meeting & Presentation

Sunday, April 23 - 2pm

We meet again on the banks of the Sandy River to celebrate our heritage and our history. It will be our 55th anniversary on Sunday, April 23, 2pm in the Sam Cox Building at Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy. After the election of THS Board Members and a brief business meeting, Len Otto will present the *Troutdale Flood of 1948*. We never get too far from the river.

Seventy-five years ago, a catastrophic flood in the Columbia River Basin devastated many low-lying communities – including Troutdale – from early May to late June. On May 30th, 1948, a railroad embankment north of Portland collapsed, flooding the entire city of Vanport, Oregon, killing at least fifteen people. In Troutdale, longtime THS



Columbia River Highway view looking north, 1948

treasurer, the late Ted Schulte, carried his flock of chickens to his hen house, feeding them by shoveling feed (loaded on a barge) through the upstairs window of the poultry house. The nearby aluminum plant, protected by earthen levees that "were shaking like a bowl full of Jello," would explode if the waters were to break through, destroying the valuable plant and leveling much of the nearby area.

Len Otto will share the story of this historic flood from the Troutdale perspective, and touch on the story of Vanport, all with photos and stories of those who lived through the flood of 1948. Anyone with photos, artifacts, and stories from the flood is encouraged to bring them to the meeting for sharing. Refreshments will be served. This meeting is open to the public.

Please follow these THS signs for reserved parking at the Sam Cox Building.



Please see page 5 to review the amendment proposal for the THS Constitution for approval by vote of the members.

Proposed Nominations

Executive Board

President: Dave Ripma
Vice President: Norm Thomas
Treasurer: Marilee Thompson
Secretary: Jason Cawood

Board of Directors

Joy Beldin
Diane Castillo-White
Jean Ice
Jeff Neiger
Sharon Nesbit
Len Otto
Bruce Stannard
Helen Wand



Summer Events Coming Soon To Troutdale

Troutdale's First Friday Art Walk - Visit the THS Booth on May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug 4, and September 1.

THS Barnyard Concerts

- Return by popular demand **Micah and Me** on July 7
- **Josh Putnam** on September 1

Morning Memory by Len Otto

I was eleven years old when I broke my first law. I really didn't mean to launch into a criminal career at that tender age, and I believe I have proven that I am an upstanding citizen many times since. But sometimes nature takes hold and forces the issue.

It was a clear, crisp Saturday morning in Troutdale, Oregon. My parents and grandfather had gone deer hunting in Central Oregon, and Grandma was filling in as substitute parent. Next year would be my first as a deer hunter, and last as a coho fisherman for a number of years.

The sun had not yet broken over Broughton Bluff. The Sandy River was clear green and running cold. Dressed in old jeans, tattered sneakers, and a sweatshirt, I had gone into the basement to retrieve my trout rod. The river called me.

I knew more or less what coho salmon were. As far as catching one...I knew the basic principals: rod – reel – line – snap swivel – leader – split shot – hook – salmon egg cluster. All presented to a willing fish meant fun, from my eleven year old perspective. Yet I did not know what awaited me.

I traipsed down the sandy bank towards the river, and I marveled at the beauty of my growing up place. The house was perched above the river, adjacent to the old steel bridge. The road the bridge held once was the main east–west route through the Columbia River Gorge and still is in use today, renamed, however, The Historic Columbia River Highway.

Across the river from the house rose those majestic bluffs of basalt. Three bare rock faces, perched above the river, stared down at the house and bridge. The center one bore a bright yellow face, purportedly painted by tribal people who once lived in the area. The remainder of the bluff was covered in Douglas fir, adding a deep green backdrop to the early morning light.

I reached the water, not more than one hundred feet from my home. I knew nothing about sharpening hooks to increase their penetrating power, and my hook, in fact, was spotted with bits of rust. I did know that the eggs had to be attached via an "egg loop" tied on the hook with the leader. What I also was unaccustomed to was how slimy and sticky boraxed salmon eggs actually are. The smell they leave behind – yech! The only wash basin available was the river moving in front of me; a few chilly moments and ten icy fingers later I made my first cast into the center of the green current.

I do not recall whether it was on my first cast that my line began slicing upriver, but it was not more than my second or third. At first I did not understand why my line would be tracking upriver. It seemed backward to me. Then it dawned on me – slowly – that a fish was on the end of my line. So, I reared back on my rod, hoping to hook that silvery beauty. I succeeded, and, being young and inexperienced at such things, I did what any eleven year old salmon catching virgin would do: I yelled.

I do not know what I yelled; those primeval exhortations are gone or forgotten at this stage of my life. But I yelled. With excitement no doubt, and happiness. And I cranked hard on that old Zebco reel for all I was worth. The fish did not come willingly. This fish wanted to go upstream, I wanted him to do my will and come to the shore. He pulled, I pulled back. He made a run, I countered. He made another shorter run, and I countered that. By sheer dumb luck, my "counters" outweighed his runs, and some minutes later – me not being prepared with a net – I dragged his flopping body onto the sand next to me, drenching my worn sneakers with icy water and a healthy dose of fish slime. A well placed rock to the head ended the fish's struggle and suffering.

At that moment I happened to glance up at the man standing on the sandbar across from me. His smile was as big as mine, for he knew that he had just witnessed a special moment, a child's first salmon.

I slid my fingers behind the gill plate of the fish, promptly ran up the bank, up the stairs, and into the kitchen where my grandmother sat drinking her morning coffee. "Grandma, Grandma, look what I caught!" I yelled at her, my older brother and sister as witnesses.

"You're dripping blood all over the floor! Get that fish outside" was her accurate, but less than satisfying response to my display of prowess as a member of a hunter/gatherer clan.

Deflated, I took my mint bright silver treasure outside where I slit its belly with an old hunting knife, cleaned it, washed it, and meekly returned it to be safely stored in the refrigerator. I then returned to the river of magical silver gifts, convinced I now was proficient in the art of catching feisty silver bullets. I was not, of course, and was disappointed in that quest, as the river gods smile only once on some days.

As I noted at the beginning of this tale, I really didn't mean to become a lawbreaker at such a young age. While I did not need a license to fish off my parents' property, I did need a "salmon/steelhead catch tag," which I lacked. So, I did in fact break the law, but have been stellar as a law abiding citizen ever since. I have returned countless times to that same river that – all these years later – bears magical silver gifts. And, to this day the river frequently calls my name, and I respond...just as I did as an eleven-year-old boy.

President's Message

First I want to congratulate our two new Administrative Assistants, **Rose Caughie** and **Claire Watts** who are presently in-training. **LeAnn Stephan** will be retiring at the end of April. Claire will be working on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Rose will be working on Fridays and Saturdays. LeAnn says they are “catching” on quickly and are progressing nicely.

Speaking of our staff, I want to thank LeAnn for the hard work and professionalism she has brought to the THS as our Executive Director over the past seven years. **Marilee Thompson** tells us that the Society has grown under LeAnn’s time with us. In addition, LeAnn’s knowledge of local history has grown by leaps and bounds. She has intimated to me that she hopes to be available to assist **Sharon Nesbit** (as needed) in answering history questions that come up.

As of our 55th year, the society now has our own colorful history to share as well as Troutdale's. Back in the day, a volunteer group made the Barn Exhibit Hall a reality and somehow saved both the Troutdale Depot building and Edgefield. Much of this activity was driven by **Sharon Nesbit's** futuristic vision.

Renovated Windows at the Harlow House

Last year we contracted with Well Hung Windows, a window restoration company, to rejuvenate the old windows at the Harlow House. This process is tedious and slow, but the windows are making a comeback.

We are so excited and pleased with the results. Stop by and visit the Harlow House and ask to see the completed windows in the dining room. They look magnificent. The dings and nicks of age are still visible. We didn't want to erase their age. But the tired, dry wood has been refreshed and will last another 100 years.

This was made possible with funds from the OHS Multnomah County Tax. Thank you for supporting this levy.

Be sure to attend the Edgefield History Night, April 25 for an exclusive program with **Sharon Nesbit** and **Mike McMenamin** giving us an overview of how they saved the Multnomah County Poor Farm.

During our Annual Meeting, April 23, there will be a “changing of the guard” with new officers and a couple of new board members on the electoral slate. Please come for the election, the festivities, and **Len Otto's** program *The Great Troutdale Flood of 1948*.

Much thanks to everyone for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your president this past year. It has been an interesting and challenging experience. And I would be remiss if I didn't thank our dedicated volunteers who are now even more important than ever!

Helen Wand THS President, 2022-2023



Helen Wand, President

**SUMMER
MUSEUM HOURS
MAY - SEPTEMBER**

Barn Exhibit Hall
Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm
Sunday 1 - 4pm
Closed: Monday & Tuesday

Harlow House
Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm
Sunday 1 - 4pm
Closed: Monday & Tuesday

Depot Rail Museum
Monday - Thursday 9am - 5pm
Friday - Sunday 9am - 5pm

Fred Meyer Rewards Card
www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards
THS gets contributions from Fred Meyer.
Please enroll, using our non-profit #JA801.

Simply select
Troutdale Historical Society
as your charity.
Shop as you normally would.

Renew your membership or donate through our website?
Click on the links below.
[Donations](#)
[Memberships](#)

**375 MEMBERS OF THE
TROUTDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Help us reach our goal of **500** members!

Are you a member?
Give a gift of membership to the next generation, friends, family or become a member by clicking [here](#).

**Troutdale Historical Society
Board Members & Staff**

Executive Board
President: Helen Wand
Vice President: Dave Ripma
Treasurer: Marilee Thompson
Secretary: Jason Cawood

Board Members
Joy Beldin, Kelly Broomall, Diane Castillo-White, Jean Ice, Erin Janssens, Sharon Nesbit, Len Otto, Bruce Standard, Helen Wand

Past Presidents
Norm Thomas, Erin Janssens, Bettianne Goetz, Sharon Nesbit, Len Otto, Dave Ripma

Staff
Rose Caughie, Admin. Assistant
Claire Watts, Admin. Assistant

NEW MEMBERS

Janis Allen
Mallory Cox
Jerilyn Walker

DONORS - GENERAL FUND

Jane Berver
Jodi Cox
Sandy & Ronald Evans
Greg & Sue Handy
Eric & Peggy Hazen
Marilyn Howell
Jamie Martin
Mike & Mary Alice McMenamin
Shirley Miller
Trisha & Jeff Neiger
Leslie Radke
Sue O'Halloran & Allen Richard
Len & Gloria Otto
Sharon Petri
Judith Scott
Rodger Sellin
David Slauson
Bruce & Maxine Stannard
Wayne Swanson
Bonnie Harlow Taylor
Patricia Wand

Sharon Nesbit
In Honor Of
Robert, Jr & Vera Strebin

DONORS - MEMORIAL FUND

Mary & Dennis Bryson
In memory of Jean Holman

Carol Davis
In memory of Wilbur, Gladis,
Jim & Sara Davis

Charles & Sharon Ellis
In memory of Louise & Bob Dix

Kathleen Forrest
In memory of Michael Orelove

Greg & Sue Handy
In memory of Jo & Vaden Callister

Richard Kerslake
In memory of Dorothy Kerslake

Len & Gloria Otto
In memory of Louise Dix
In memory of Jean Holman
In memory of Jerry Lambert
In memory of Jo Callister
In memory of Michael Orelove

Marilee Thompson
In memory of Jean Holman

RENEWING MEMBERS

Brooke Alsaker
Laura Anson
Jane Berver
Donna Brown
Margeanne Cartisser
Catherine Crabb
Liga Dale
Doug & Marianne Daoust
Carol Davis
Donna Davis
Donald DeVore
Elaine Dubesa
Donna Erwin
Sandy & Ronald Evans
Tom & Cheryl Graves
Derek Grimm
DeeDee Hansen
Andrea Heim
Marilyn Howell
Joan Keiski
Richard Kerslake
Jim & Lori Kniff
Laureen Lucero
Jamie Martin
Claudell Metzger
Mel & Shirley Miller
Harry Moffitt
Jill Monti
Trisha & Jeff Neiger/Albert Cook
Len Norby
Sue O'Halloran & Allen Richard
Cecelia & Tom Pavlik
Linda & Richard Paz
Diana & Grant Radke
Leslie Radke
Joanne Ray
JoAnn Reese & John Fagan
Myna Rhodes
Charlotte Rubin
Judith Scott
Tim & Shannon Seery
Virginia Selberg
Rodger Sellin

Skipper & Jordan Nursery
Bruce & Maxine Stannard
Joyce Stewart
LeRoy & Barbara Stratton
Zelma Sutherland
Wayne Swanson
Bonnie Harlow Taylor
Doug & Diane Walker
Patricia Wand
Richard & Julia Warner
Hazel Webb
Kathleen Werner
Paul & Judy Wilcox
Peg Willis
Steven Wright

CAPTAIN'S CIRCLE LIFETIME

Mike Alderson
Vera Ashley
Ken & Trish Atha
Joan Benner
Judith Bergan
Kelly & Karla Broomall
Nancy Callister Buley
Jason Cawood
Ione Scott Clair
Stan Clarke
Janet Ege
Charles Ellis
Georgia Erdenberger
Kyle Fritzsinger
Bettianne Goetz
Joe & Peggy Gorciak
Greg & Sue Handy
Lynda Harvey
Karl & Bette Hayes
John Hillyard
Erin Janssens
Jean Jensen
Steve & Kim Kenney
Jeanette Kloos
Lael Larger
Steve & Judy Lehl
Shirley Jean Loeffel
Deanna Maughan
Doug & Elise McGuire
Brian McMenamin
Mike & Mary Alice McMenamin
Colleen Mershon
Dwain & Sharon Munyan
Sharon Nesbit
Sadie Riley
David Ripma & Mario Ayala
Irene Simons
Robert Strebin
Kay Struckman
Marilee Thompson
Mike Weyhrich
Martha Wheeler
Kimberly Wolfer
James & Oie Workman

**Swede from Berlin**

Bengt Severinson reached out to THS all the way from Berlin, Germany. He was researching his ancestors and discovered his great-grandfather's sister lived in Troutdale, Oregon. She lived on Section Line Road and he wasn't able to find that road on any current map. He can now get an approximate location now that he knows the road name was changed to Division Street.

THS Constitution Amendment Proposal

Proposed THS Constitutional Change

At the Troutdale Historical Society's (THS) Annual Meeting on April 23rd, members will be asked to vote on new language for our constitution. The issue is important as it would change our purpose, or mission. Please read the following paragraphs carefully to see if you agree with the proposal. Portions to be added or deleted are italicized.

Current THS Constitution language (old):

Section 2. PURPOSE

The Troutdale Historical Society is organized and shall be operated exclusively to gather, preserve and make available museum, record, and other material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, the Sandy River, *the Columbia River Gorge* (delete) and nearby areas to stimulate an interest in, and knowledge of the locality's past.

Proposed THS Constitution language (new):

Section 2. PURPOSE

The Troutdale Historical Society is organized and shall be operated exclusively to gather, preserve and make available museum, record, and other material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, *the northern portion of* (add) the Sandy River, and nearby areas to stimulate an interest in, and knowledge of the locality's past.

History:

When THS began in 1968, little effort was placed in preserving the history of the Columbia River Gorge (the Gorge) and nearby areas. It made sense for THS to begin a collection of artifacts and history of the Gorge. Since 1968, the following organizations have formed:

- Crown Point Country Historical Society (CPCHS)
- ECHO (East County Historical Organization – formerly Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Hist. Soc.)
- The History Museum of Hood River County
- The Dalles Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum
- Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum at Stevenson, Washington

THS led the way and we are proud of it. It is safe to say the history of the Gorge is presently well protected and we no longer need the language in our PURPOSE. We will continue to record the history of the Gorge near the mouth of the Sandy.

A second proposed change involves Sandy River history. Presently the wording has THS covering the history from Reid Glacier on Mt. Hood to the mouth of the Sandy River, a distance of ≈56 miles from start to finish. Other historical societies such as the Sandy Historical Society and CPCHS are in the locale of the Sandy River and can fill the gaps between the "northern portion" and Reid Glacier. In other words, what was a good idea in 1968 is now dated and impractical.

Our own local history is huge and continues to grow as more families share their stories, photos, and artifacts.

At the Board of Director's meeting on February 16 th the Board voted their support of the proposed change, and to place the issue before the members at the Annual meeting. The THS Board respectfully requests a "Yes" vote.

Another way to support **TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Pick up **BottleDrop** blue bags at the Barn Exhibit Hall. Look for the box of bags outside on the bench - Fill with redeemable empty bottles and cans and drop off at any **BottleDrop** location. Funds will automatically be deposited and donated to THS.

Donations for 2023: **\$230**

Thank you for continued support in our **BottleDrop** fundraiser.

East County Drop-off Locations:

Wood Village Redemption Center

23345 NE Halsey Street
Wood Village, OR 97060

Gresham Redemption Center

1313 E Powell Blvd.
Gresham, OR 97030

Earth Day Bonus

In honor of Earth Day, **BottleDrop** will donate 20% on all THS donations accepted between April 11 - 22.



Friends in History Remembered

Josephine "Jo" Callister - b. December 25, 1927; d. February 9, 2023

The youngest child of Cedric and Frances Stone, Josephine Eliza Callister passed away last February. Her ancestors are well known in the Fairview area - Stone, Zimmerman, Bliss, and Engles. She grew up on the dairy and berry farm of that town attending Fairview Grade School and Gresham High School. She met and fell in love with her high school sweetheart, Vaden Callister. They married three years after graduation on November 10, 1948. They resided in a home on the Sandy River in Troutdale.



Jo Callister

Jo enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, swimming, and water skiing. In addition to being a mother of three, she was a part-time secretary for the Edgefield Nursing Home (1949-1982) and a part-time secretary for the Smith Memorial Church in the 1960s. She and Vaden were the founding members of the Fairview Mariners church group.

Her legacy includes her three children - Teri Herzog, Nancy Buley, Larry Callister; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Michael Orelove - b. December 9, 1942; d. January 3, 2023



Michael Orelove

Michael passed about a month after his 80th birthday. He grew up in Chicago with two siblings and always had a zest for a life of fun and creativity. After serving in the Army, he married his best friend's sister, Fran. They had one daughter and divorced four years later.

Michael moved to Juneau, Alaska for a time. While there, his daughter remembers rib dinners eaten while sitting on the floor, planned pie throwing fights on her birthday, and playing Monopoly with real money.

In 2006 he moved to Portland, Oregon where he met the love of his life, Kathleen Forrest. They lived in Troutdale where he became involved in his community volunteering for the Kiwanis Club and the Portland Flag Association. To honor him for his volunteerism, he was selected as the Grand Marshal for the Troutdale Parade in 2012.

"Michael Mail" was a term used by his family and friends as the recipients of many, sometime weekly, letters/cards sent via the United States Post Office. His philosophy in life was "you live a life of fun and generosity and you don't look back."

Myrtle "Myrt" Sturm - b. August 3, 1933; d. December 29, 2022

Myrt Sturm passed away peacefully at the age of 89 in Troutdale, Oregon on December 29, 2022. She was born to Homer and Ann Stockman in Bismark, North Dakota. Her family moved to Sandy, Oregon in 1936. She graduated from Sandy High School in 1951. Grant, "the cute boy from Benson [High School]" became her husband on October 18, 1953. They had one son Don, two grandchildren Tanna and Travis, and three great-grandchildren Shaylee, Brevin and Wylie.



Myrtle Sturm

Her career in bookkeeping kept her busy at Berg Machinery and the Sandy School District Office, where she retired in 1996. She would fill in at McRoberts Ford and Bonneville Dam to help out her sisters. Her skills also came in handy with Grant's berry farm.

She loved card games, family gatherings, and traveling. She will be remembered most for her fun spirit and contagious laugh.

Jean Holman - b. December 7, 1928; d. December 25, 2022



Jean Holman

Jean Holman died at home in Troutdale early Christmas morning. She was born in Dayton, Ohio, but spent her childhood growing up outside of Chesterhill on the farm of her mother, Alice Geddes' parents. After brief periods in Columbus, Ohio and Detroit, Jean's father, Ken Allen, got a job driving a car to Los Angeles. Jean remembered driving across the country in the mid-1930s in a yellow roadster convertible to join family members who had moved to California for work.

Years later, the family moved to Portland. After graduating Milwaukie High School, Jean worked for the telephone company for several years. She married Lloyd Holman in 1951. The family moved to Troutdale in 1958 to be closer to Lloyd's work.

For over 30 years, Jean went to the Ashland Shakespeare Festival with friends. After Lloyd's death in 1990, she continued traveling with friends, making motor home trips as well as going to Ireland and Australia and many parts of the US. She was active in the Troutdale Historical Society for many years. Jean is survived by three children - Sherri, Gary, and Scott and two nieces, Kristin and Melissa.

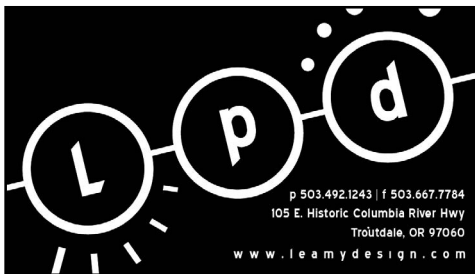
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Are you interested in becoming a Business or Corporate Sponsor? Visit our online store troutdalehistory.org, fill out the form from this newsletter, or call 503-661-2164 for more information. The logo of our Business and Corporate Sponsors are linked to their website through our website and digital *ByGone Times* quarterly newsletter. We proudly display the logos at all our events.

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Troutdale Historical Society

Preserving The Past, Embracing The Future

Membership includes free entry to all our museums, 10% off Barn Store gift shop merchandise, quarterly newsletters by mail or email, and \$10 off membership for the Oregon Historical Society.

- \$20 Individual Membership
 - \$30 Family Membership
 - \$100 Lovers Oak Club
 - \$200 Lovers Oak Club ~ Family
 - \$250 Business Sponsor (includes interactive link of your logo on THS website and online newsletter)
 - \$500 Corporate Sponsor
 - \$1000 Captain's Circle ~ Lifetime
- *\$15 Gift Membership given by _____ (Current Member Name)

Membership Dues Amount: \$ _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

- General Operating Fund
- Endowment Fund in memory of _____

Payment: Cash Check Credit Card

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Questions? Contact THS Office
 Phone: 503-661-2164
 Email: troutdalehistory@gmail.com
 Website: troutdalehistory.org
 Donations are tax deductible.
 THS is a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization.
 Federal Tax ID #93-0738777.

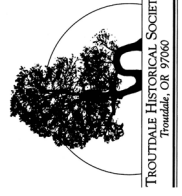
Mail this form to:
 Troutdale Historical Society
 219 E Historic Columbia River Hwy
 Troutdale, OR 97060

Thank you for your support!

***Current Members** can give an *Individual Membership* to a friend or family member for only \$15 for the first year.

Edgefield History Pub

The last Tuesday of every month (except December) the Troutdale Historical Society co-sponsors a speaker at McMenamins Edgefield Blackberry Hall, 7:00pm (doors at 6:30 p.m.) Free for all ages. Food and drink are available for purchase.



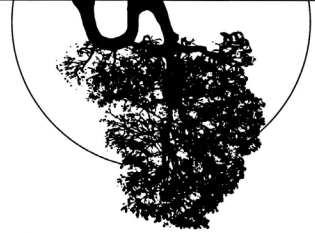
Mission Statement
 To gather, preserve and make available material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, the Sandy River, the Columbia River Gorge and nearby areas; to stimulate interest in the knowledge of the locality's past.

Mail Address:
 219 E Historic Columbia River Hwy
 Troutdale, OR 97060

Office Location:
 732 E Historic Columbia River Hwy
 Troutdale, OR 97060

Phone: 503-661-2164
 Email: info@troutdalehistory.org
 Website: www.troutdalehistory.org

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Troutdale, OR 97060



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