

Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



JUNE & JULY 1993

EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

FOR THE 25TH TIME IN AS MANY YEARS.....
.....THE OLD-FASHIONED ICE CREAM SOCIAL

This year marks our 25th annual ice cream social, Saturday and Sunday, June 12 and 13, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

On Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m., you will hear the Swipsey Cakewalk Ragtime Band, brought to you by Walsh & Sons Trucking of Troutdale. On Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m., three prize-winning quartets from the Blue Lake Chorus of the Sweet Adelines will keep us entertained. They are sponsored by Edwin O. Ege Inc.

From noon to 1 p.m. on both days, some very special Oregon Trail music written and performed by Reynolds District music teachers, Suzanne Chimenti and Judy Buroker will be the attraction. And at 4 p.m. on Sunday, music from the Blue Lake Barbershop Quartet is planned.

Our exhibit at the Harlow house brings us the name of our event, "Ice Cream and Old Lace." We will have an exhibit of lace, lace makers and spinners. Larry Armstrong will return to demonstrate wood carving at the Harlow House and the barn will be open so folks can see what's going on.

For the children, kid's games, Cheryl Hagedorn's wonderful puppet show and child-size sundaes.

For big appetites, sundaes in three flavors, banana splits and strawberry shortcake alamode. Berries will come from Townsend and Fujii farms.

Our famous plant sale will be brought to you by the green thumb of Cathy Hamme and with a huge assist from Tamura Farms. Come back on Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. for the half-price plant bargains. We will have more than 25 craft and artisan booths spread through the park.

Stay tuned to the next item for how you can help.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

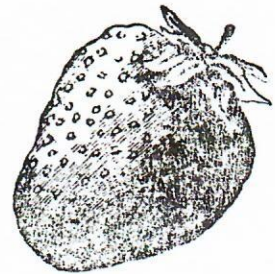
* Wanted: strawberry cleaners beginning at 5 p.m., Saturday night, June 12 in Sam K. Cox Hall. Bring your favorite cleaning utensil. And call Ellen Brothers, 661-2164, so she won't worry about it anymore.

* Needed: People to put up the poster on the back page of this newsletter. Give it to a friend, or post it at your grocery store.

* Urgent need: Volunteers to work any one of four shifts on Saturday and Sunday. Call Ellen Brothers, 661-2164.

* Gather summer flowers and bring them to the park at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 11, so committee members can decorate. If you can stick around to help set up, it would be appreciated.

* Bring plants to the plant sale on Friday, if possible, so Cathy Hamme can get them priced. We want annuals, old-fashioned perennials, herbs, everlastings, vegetables. Houseplants do not sell well.



NICE DAY HINDERS SUCCESS OF BRUNCH...

Everybody agreed that it was just too nice a day on Sunday, and too many people stayed home to work in their yards instead of coming to our annual brunch cooked by Rich and Dorothy Kerslake.

While attendance was disappointing, the food was splendid and the more than 100 people who did come were pleased as ever. Many thanks to RICH & DOROTHY KERSLAKE, ANDY KERSLAKE, CHRIS OVERGAARD, MARGARET OVERGAARD, PAT & ELLEN BROTHERS, MONA MITCHOFF, MITZI KERSLAKE, MIKE DUBESA, SAM COX, JEAN HOLMAN, DOROTHY STURGES, SHARON NESBIT, JOHN & JOHN NASMYTH, DAVID RIPMA and KAREN BURGER-KIMBER all of whom worked and brought food. And to all who donated salads or desserts for the event. Right off the top of our heads the names of the latter are: HELEN TOWLSEY, VALORA JONES, ALICE WAND, FLORENCE BAKER, MARIO AYALA, HEIDI WILSON, BETTY KNIGHT and NANCY COX.

MEET BEVERLY WELKER...

Beverly Welker, a retired school librarian, answered a plea in our newsletter more than a year ago and agreed to take on the formidable task of re-cataloging our collection of historic photos and getting the whole works on a computer. In order to learn her job, Beverly attended a special session for photo archivists in Washington.

Then she came home and spent many hours figuring out how to apply what she learned to our photo collection. The result is that Beverly is just a few categories away from having all of our photos listed in a computerized index. It's a complicated process, but suffice to say, that if we wanted to find every photo that, for example, John Nasmyth has given us, all we have to do is a press a button or two.

In the process, Beverly has garnered a strange benefit. Her close study of each of our 700 some pictures has resulted in a fine pictorial knowledge of Troutdale and the surrounding area.

"I not only see what is there now," she says, "but I see what used to be there."

In addition to spending days at her computer cataloging, Beverly is a Volksmarcher and enjoys walking all over the countryside.



MISS MONA IS LOOKING FOR YOUR GOOD OLD STUFF..

Mona Mitchoff is our volunteer in charge of Granny's Attic, the sale of gently-used treasures that we have each year at Harvest Faire.

If you are doing a bit of summer closet cleaning, she is looking for your good, old stuff--dishes, vases, near-antiques, pretty little doo-dads, old linens--whatever might sell well in Granny's Attic.

If you have donations to make, please give her a call at 666-5455 or leave your donation at the Harlow House.

BECAUSE OF SUMMER SCHEDULES, THIS NEWSLETTER WILL SERVE FOR BOTH JUNE AND JULY. EXPECT THE NEXT EDITION IN AUGUST. JIM AND RETHA BENNET OF SANDY RIVER ORCHARDS, 32302 NE MERSHON ROAD, CORBETT, SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER BY A BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP IN OUR SOCIETY.

TREASURER'S REPORT...

ENDOWMENT FUND.....	\$13,390.22
OPERATING ACCOUNT.....	12,621.32
DEDICATED BARN FUNDS.....	733.69
BARN BUILDING FUND.....	11,701.02
DIRECTOR'S FUND.....	3,710.15
TOTAL.....	\$42,156.40

AROUND THE HOUSE.....by Cathy Hamme, Curator

Had a big dumpster here at the Harlow House for a week. And had a great crew for a clean-up weekend to fill it.

Between raindrops, we had help from DICK & CAROL ANDERSON, MONA MITCHOFF, CAROLE KLINGER, LINN SIMONSEN and yours truly.

Thanks to BILL NESBIT for taking our "toxic waste" to collection day at Gresham City Hall. And to the City of Troutdale, which has done an exceptional job on the lawn this year. The new grass is seeding nicely on the slope that we seem to dig up every other year or so for plumbing and electrical connections.

While I'm thanking people, how about JULIE RUSSELL who keeps our front porch "company ready."

BOB STREBIN loaned the tractor and ERNIE CEREGHINO did the tilling of our flower garden patch behind the Harlow House.

Inside the house, new treasures this month include a collection of buttons from LAURA NASMYTH LORD, who recently died. She was the sister of John and Herb Nasmyth. VICKIE NESBIT gave us three old post cards of Columbia Gorge scenes. MARSHALL B. SHORE donated copies of George Belshaw's Oregon Trail journal and Maria A. (Parsons) Belshaw's diary of the same trip. Both tell of their experiences crossing the plains in 1853. They landed at the Sandy River. DICK JONES brought us some old light bulbs still in their original packaging.

Never miss a chance to stop by the house to see what is new. Our summer hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

NAMEDROPPERS...

Thanks to JOYCE STOECKEL and LOLA FELLMAN for answering last month's wish for a push-button phone...We have received gifts in memory of JESSIE SANDIFORTH (Florence Baker's mother) from FLORENCE BAKER, BOB BAKER, LOLA LUMSDEN, and WANDA CLEMENT...Thanks to VICKIE NESBIT & TERRY WEINER for a donation of pop for use at the Harlow House and our summer events...and congratulations to ANDY & JANINE COLLMER. The Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church, which they are restoring at 302 SE Harlow Street, has been approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Federal approval is expected in several months...At least two groups of historical society members are retracing the Oregon Trail this summer. CHUCK & GINGER ALLEN will go as far as Chimney Rock...HAROLD & ELEANOR BANGS will travel the trail from Independence, Mo...If you can catch her at the ice cream social, say thanks to CINDY HAMMOND, chairwoman of this year's event..how lucky we are to have in new member CONNIE PURVIS a volunteer willing to transcribe or oral history tapes.



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MORE NAMEDROPPERS... from Lombard, Ill. comes the LOMBARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY newsletter. Our member and barn-builder DICK JONES, who used to live there, has written a reminiscence of his misspent youth in Lombard and his first ride in a police car at the age of 8. Dick sent along a Harlow House brochure. The illustration of the house was reprinted in the Lombard newsletter...Thanks to MARIE STONE, NANCY COX, JEAN HOLMAN and JUNE NASMYTH for the cookies at our May meeting...We have received donations from ZELMA SUTHERLAND, SAM COX and family members in memory of BILL MIREHOUSE who died last month...Congratulations to NANCY HOOVER, named member of the year of the Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Historical Society...and to SAM COX who claimed the same honors from our society.

THINGS YOU CAN DO THIS SUMMER...

Congratulations to our friends in Eagle Creek who have opened the Philip Foster farm and a living history exhibit in celebration of the Oregon Trail. You can visit at 29912 S.E. Hwy 211, Eagle Creek. Telephone number if 637-6324.

Don't forget our Troutdale parade and picnic on Saturday, July 17. If you have always had a yen to flip hamburgers, call up and volunteer for our booth at the city park. The telephone number is 661-2164.

And our friends from the Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Historical Society will be hosting Sunday Afternoon in the Park at Fairview's Park Cleone on August 8. Watch the newspaper for times.

We have tentative plans for a Sept. 11 fall trek to Warm Springs followed on Sept. 25 and 26 by our fall Harvest Faire.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS...

LLOYD & LAVERNA SNELL attended our school reunion gathering and have now become members.

MEETING COMMITTEE AT WORK...

Our season of fall and winter meetings is over. Our historical society does not hold meetings and historical programs during summer months. Our next regular meeting will be our school reunion in mid-October. That meeting will likely be a gathering at McMenamins Edgefield on Monday, Oct. 18.

On May 25, our new meeting committee, Connie Purvis, Alice Wand and Maude Winning, met with Sharon Nesbit to talk about next season's offerings. A tentative list has been drawn up that includes a program on Columbia Gorge petroglyphs, interviews with Troutdale oldtimers, a possible visit to a lovely historic home and other delights. Stay tuned.

If you have suggestions for programs next year get in contact with the people above.

IN MEMORY...

Laura Lord Nasmyth died April 26. She was the sister of John and Herb Nasmyth and a member of this society. At our May meeting, John Nasmyth had a poignant memory of his sister. In 1925 when Troutdale burned for the second time, Laura Nasmyth was only about three. As her older brother, John, left the school at the top of the hill to go down to see the fire he met his 3-year-old sister coming up the hill, without a stitch of clothing on. "I guess my mother had told her to get out of the house fast," says John. "I put my shirt on her."

Also deceased is Heini Ziegler, dear friend to Sam and Nancy Cox, a member of our society and a former fire chief in Corbett. Heini will be remembered for his ability to repair anything and for his favorite joke about his work on the Corbett water district board. Water, said the avowed beer drinker, was only necessary when you were dirty.



Trekkers Jean Holman, June Nasmyth, Sharon Nesbit, Gloria Ladum and Evelyn Jacobson line up at Baker City Interpretive Center.

THE TREK TO BAKER CITY...

Nearly 40 people joined our April 24 and 25 trip to Baker City with Sharon Nesbit as the declared Wagon Mother (or wagon mistress as one wag said.)

A letter from Jeral Beaty: "We surely enjoyed a marvelous cast of characters--story teller, chicken soupers and all. And the interpretive center is a superb experience. What a grand trip!"

The reference to "chicken soupers" refers to our trekkers who took part in the a chorus of a musical production at the interpretive center.

This was the first overnight trip we have ever attempted and we came home without losing a single person. "Without a hitch," wrote Bill Ferguson, another of our trekkers. "A special trip," said Lola Fellman and Arline Silfberg. And from the inimitable storyteller Arlie Harris, who regaled us with tales as we crossed the high desert: "Had a lovely time! More than half the fun was seeing all the countryside I shall probably never see again. The rest was being in such nice company."

Thanks to those who wrote such kind notes afterward and to all the trekkers for being such good sports. Not every wagon master misplaces an entire motel.

We also received a thanks from the Umatilla Historical Society for our donation to that museum, which we visited while passing through Pendleton.

Our tentative plans call for a one-day trek in the fall, Saturday, Sept. 11. We are considering a trip to Warm Springs to see the new tribal museum. More in our August newsletter.

A LETTER FROM HELEN ALTHAUS...

Helen and her friend Leah Ireland were here for our Oregon Trail marker dedication and our April meeting. They stayed at McMenamins Edgefield.

"We will be telling all of Southern Oregon about the delights of McMenamins--the delicious food--the extraordinary art work and decor--the plans for the grand dining room in the main building--the fine personnel who made us feel so welcome and their great 'esprit de corps'.

"And of course the dedication, the dinner, the meeting at city hall...the opportunities to renew acquaintance with old friends--and to meet new friends and enjoy again a Troutdale celebration."

NEXT BARN WORK DAY ON JUNE 26...

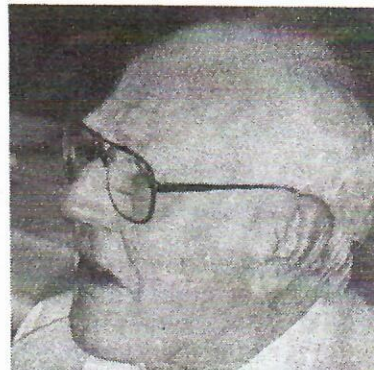
Bring your work gloves, a sack lunch and some energy for our barn work day beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 26. At our May 8 workday, DICK JONES, BILL STONE, FRANK DRIVER and BOB STREBIN got quite a lot of work done on our barn door at the front of the building.

Work being done now is preparation for sheetrocking the building.

MEET BILL SULLIVAN...

At left is Bill Sullivan, whose job it is to head up the depot volunteers this summer

The picture was taken at our brunch, where he was hard at work looking for folks who would like to sit in the depot from 1 to 4 p.m. on a summer Saturday or Sunday. If you can give him some time for this valuable task, an ideal way to help out tourists on the Columbia River highway, then please give him a call at 760-7260.



SUMMER CAN'T STOP BINGO...

Summer may be here, but bingo, which accounts for about 15 percent of annual income, continues every Thursday night beginning at 6:45 p.m. for the early birds, 7 p.m. for regular play, in Sam K. Cox Building at Troutdale Community Park.

Our newest bingo volunteer in the cash cage is LINDA MURPHY.

I TOLD YOU WE'D END UP IN THE POOR FARM...

The smug folks at left, enjoying rocking chairs on the front porch of McMenamins Edgefield, formerly the Multnomah County Poor Farm, are Ted and Lois Schulte.

They were among officers, board members and former board members who waged the fight to save Edgefield. A gracious invitation from McMenamins brought them to a pre-opening party at the Main Lodge. It was a night that we dreamed would come and the McMenamins used the evening to say thanks..

Bob Sturges said it best when he said that we owe McMenamins our thanks for saving a Troutdale landmark.



GUS MERCER LOOKS FOR KIN...

Gus Mercer of Edmonds, Wash., is looking for his family roots in Troutdale. His grandparents were C.D. "Card" Parker and Flora Parker, who moved to Troutdale in 1912 where they lived on Gordon Road. Anyone know where Gordon Road used to be? According to Mercer's research Card Parker worked for the Cherry Park Farm. Could that be Karen Burger-Kimber's place?

Mercer's other grandparents were Theo and Ella Mercer who built a house south of Troutdale in 1911. Any clues? Call Sharon Nesbit.

ANTIQUe AND COLLECTIBLE SELLERS MAY RESERVE TABLES FOR HARVEST FAIRE, SEPT. 25 AND 26, BY CALLING JEAN HOLMAN, 665-7678.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK----by Ellen Brothers

The Harlow House and Depot museums are open for the summer hours now. That means more visitors. If you are interested in hosting at the depot now, or at the Harlow House next fall, give me a call at 661-2164 or 695-2382. It's fun and the shifts are short (three hours once a month.) Training sessions are provided--including a free lunch.

Our winter hosts at the Harlow House have completed their season. My personal thanks to FLORENCE BAKER, ARWYN BARNES, JACK & ROBERTA BURNS, GEORGIA ERDENBERGER, CATHY HAMME, MARY HUGHES, SHARON NESBIT and PEARL RAMSETH. You are a great crew.

Thank you to all those who answered the volunteer call and helped at the brunch on May 23. The Kerslakes put out a wonderful array of food and they also appreciated the volunteers who worked and brought salads and desserts. We're already making plans for next year on May Day.

One last note on volunteers--please call me if you would like to help out on June 12 or 13 for the Ice Cream Social. We need ice cream scoopers, servers, berry cleaners, ticket takers, greeters and others.

And, if you hate to pay bills and balance your check book, then you'll be glad to know Treasurer Lynda Harvey has set up a new check-writing, bookkeeping system that works with a single entry. It streamlines our financial process and ultimately results in a double entry system making it easy to check our books. Our money is too hard to come by, not to take good care of it.

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." A second chapter last month told of Indians who lived in this area.)

Indian John, who died in 1893, was likely buried at what was then the county poor farm, a facility then in Portland's West Hills. Another resident, Indian Mary, may have been related to John and lived here many years. Her children had the last name of Tibbetts and attended Troutdale schools. The Jackson Park burial ground for Indian families was sometimes called the Tibbetts cemetery, according to the late John Seidl. No trace of that cemetery is left. It was destroyed in the 1920s when a road was built into the Sandy River Canyon at that point.

Pewrhaps the earliest white habitation began at the mouth of the Sandy River where ferries operated in the 1850s. At least one account indicates there was a small store at that site. A post office named Sandy was located in the general area in 1854. Through its exact location is unknown, it may been at the ferry settlement at the mouth of the river. The Sandy was well-known to Oregon Trail travelers who rafted down the Columbia. A number of the pioneers chose to leave the river at the Sandy and travel overland to their destinations.

The earliest settlers came in 1850 or 1851. Early donation land claims were filed by John Douglass, D.F. Buxton, Benjamin Hall, Stott and Hicklin. Hicklin graves are found in the old Mountain View, or Hall, cemetery on Stark Street opposite Mount Hood Community College.

Baseline Road, now Stark Street, was pushed through to East Multnmah County from Portland in about 1854. The Sandy post office was not long lived and Emsley R. Scott, the first postmaster, moved it to Fairview. The first post office to be named Troutdale was established in May 1880. James Brand was the postmaster.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

ICE CREAM SOCIAL, JUNE 12 AND 13, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
TROUTDALE CITY PARADE AND PICNIC, JULY 17, 11 a.m.