

# BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER, 1993

EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

## IN CELEBRATION OF A HISTORIC CHURCH

We will mark the naming of Troutdale's historic church to the National Register of Historic Places with a program and historic marker presentation at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 15, in Troutdale City Hall.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Third and Harlow Streets, which is being restored by Andy and Jeanine Collmer, was named to the National Register in September and is only the third building in Troutdale to be so designated. The other two are Harlow House and McMenamin's Edgefield. Our society, in cooperation with the Oregon Historical Society, will present a marker to be placed on the church.

We will, as well, give a program on the history of the church, including the work of Presbyterian church historian Tom Wetherill, and we invite all who attended the church or had other associations with it to be part of the talk. (Merle McNeel, for instance, tells us that he was once, as janitor, the church's only employee.) The program will be video and audio taped for our oral history collection.

## HAY, HAY, HAY! A REPORT ON HARVEST FAIRE...

Though some fine-tuning of numbers remains to be done, it looks like our profit from Harvest Faire was about \$5,000, a tidy sum that should pay about half the heating and cooling system for our barn.

What a nice event it was and on a lovely weekend. We estimate at least 2,000 people attended. They paid about \$1,200 at the gate (thank you to our pleasant and amiable gatekeepers), bought \$900 worth of pies (cheers to all of you who brought such wonderful pies), scarfed up huge amounts of chili and chicken n' dumplings, bought crafts and antiques from nearly 45 vendors, spent hundreds of dollars at Granny's Attic (did you know Granny's Attic volunteers worked every Wednesday night prior to the fair, or that Margaret Eddington of Heritage Antiques donated the lion's share of the goods), and toured the Harlow House to see Ted Haines' art and the living artistry of the Powell Valley Long Rifles.

We have listed our steering committee in a previous Bygone Times. Our volunteers and piebakers, as we knew them at the time, were listed on a volunteer sheet distributed at Harvest Faire. But we didn't know in advance about those who just showed up and pitched in--Patti Polly, Mike and Pauline Morrow, Marylou Johnson--or that others would stay late and work longer than intended--Bob Strebin, Bob Mitchoff, Elizabeth Hammond and her friends, Maxine Carmichael at the piano, Sadie Riley and Lael Larger in the kitchen, Judy Jones, Lane DeSmet and Margaret Stitch dishing out dumplings. A great crew and a good effort.

Our thanks to our sponsors, Reynolds Metals, Gary Purvine and Tad's Chicken N' Dumplings. The Tad's contribution this year was nearly one-fifth of what we took in. Thank you, Lane, Judy, Christy and Margaret, for all you do.



A HARVEST FAIRE SCRAPBOOK

Below: Steering committee member and chief scarecrow creator Mona Mitchoff takes an unseemly grasp on a man of straw. And on the right, Cindy Hammond, small but mighty steering committee member, woman-handles a bale of straw with two helpers. Below right, Mike Morrow cannot beleaf how many leaves it took to decorate.



HOW DO YOU LIKE OUR NEW LOOK...

Our new Bygone Times masthead was designed for us by Carolyn Strong who does all our graphic arts work. She designed our tree logo as well. Our printing is done for us by Larry Taraba.



OUR MOST RECENT TREASURER'S REPORT....Treasurer Lynda Harvey

ENDOWMENT FUND.....	\$ 13,398.41
OPERATING ACCOUNT.....	11,931.55
DEDICATED BARN FUNDS.....	416.53
BARN BUILDING FUND.....	11,784.36
DIRECTOR'S FUND.....	3,729.82
GRAND TOTAL.....	41,260.67

DONATIONS...

ELSIE SIMNITT made contributions in memory of Ig Wand and Dena Smith...TED & LOIS SCHULTE made contributions in memory of Ig Wand and Ethel Peterson...LOIS MOLLER made a donation in memory of Ethel Peterson as did BILL & SHARON NESBIT.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

BILL MCGINNIS and RICHARD CEREHINO are new members. Richard and his wife, Marge, and Bill were present at our October Troutdale School Reunion at McMenamins.

SPEAKING OF OUR REUNION...

About 50 people attended the no-host dinner at McMenamins. New faces included Jerry Grimm, Troutdale Grade School Class of 1954; Janet Fleming Rhodes, Class of 1944; her sister, Jean Fleming Hybskmann from 1940; Walter Nasmyth (who claims to be the youngest and prettiest of the Nasmyths), Class of 1940, with his wife, Viola; and Marilyn Howell, class of 1960.

The memories that came out of that gathering...eating lunch in the branches of the old maple tree on the playground; Scott Cunningham talking about the merry-go-round; Ernie Cereghino remembering his championship basketball team coached by R.D. Hewitt, John Nasmyth recalling that R.D. Hewitt wept when he handed out the graduation certificates, Mary Allen recounting a visit with favorite teacher Helen Fehrenbacher, who still lives at Corbett.

JULIE RUSSELL--FRONT PORCH PERSON...

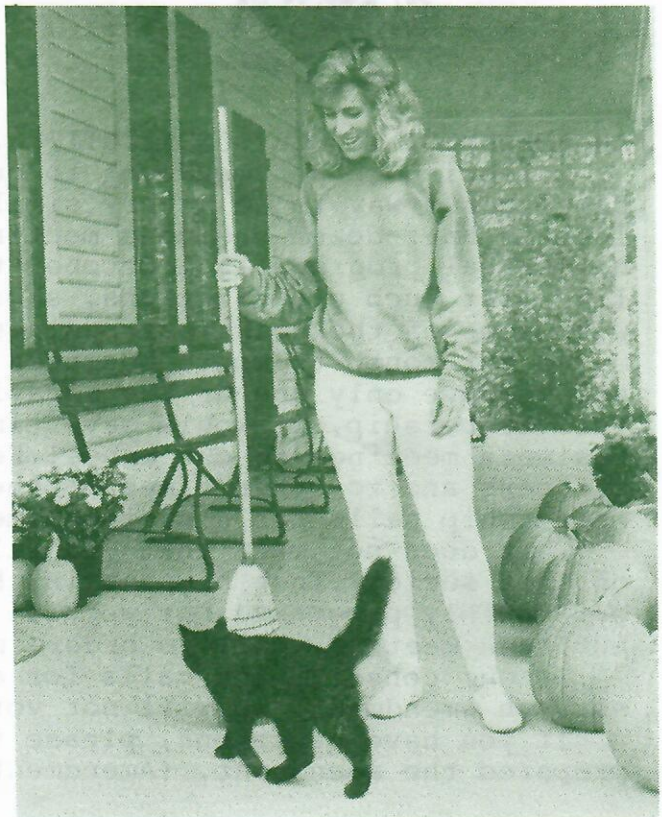
Meet Julie Russell, our front porch cleaner.

Julie is one of those faithful volunteers you wouldn't know about unless you happened to drop by the Harlow House on Wednesdays to catch her sweeping the front porch.

A recent Wednesday with Halloween on the way, pumpkins on the porch and Julie's black cat in attendance made a perfect holiday picture.

Julie and her husband, Rick, are neighbors to the Harlow House living just south of the barn. The last paint job on the Harlow House was done at a reduced rate by Rick.

The couple expect their first child by ice cream social time. Then we'll be looking for a new front porch volunteer.





SAY THANKS TO OUR BINGO  
VOLUNTEERS...

Even on weeks when our society does not have a thing happening--and those are rare weeks, indeed--we still have faithful volunteers working for us every Thursday at Troutdale Bingo.

Bill Nesbit is our representative on the bingo committee. The game is sponsored by our society, Troutdale Lions and Lioness and the Troutdale Parks Advisory Board. All these groups share equally in the profits and all the workers are volunteers.

Historical society members who work at bingo including Bill, who handles supplies and cashier duties are: Nancy Cox, volunteer coordinator; Sam Cox, set up and kitchen; Sharon Nesbit, caller; Cathy Hamme, caller and cashier; Linda Murphy, cashier; Bob Mitchoff, caller; Marge Schmunk, caller; Ed Schmunk, floor worker; Harvey Wieprecht, floor worker; Pam Christian, caller; Valerie Lantz, floor worker; and Bill Jackson, set up.

If you are interested in volunteering once a month on Thursday night at bingo, call Nancy at 665-9053. Or if you would like to play, show up at Troutdale Community Park any Thursday, (except for Thanksgiving) at 6:45 p.m. for early birds, 7 p.m. for regular play.



HOLIDAY OFF DUCK LANE COMING UP...

Lael Larger, one of our good volunteers, is also a member of the Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Historical Society. You can help them out by attending their annual craft fair on Nov. 12 and 13th in Fairview. The event in the community center in the lower level of city hall, 300 Harrison Street, is from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. If you really feel generous, take a donation for the bake sale.

AN AMENDMENT TO OUR CONSTITUTION...

Following is an amendment to our constitution that seems like a complicated way to do a very simple job. After 25 years of having at least a half-dozen business meetings a year in conjunction with our historical programs from October through May, it occurs to us that we, like most such organizations, should keep the programs and do away with some of the pointless business sessions.

As our month to month business is handled by our board of directors and we have only one or two occasions a year when we ask a vote of the full membership, it would save time and paperwork if we limited business meetings to our annual February meeting when we elect officers and to other times of the year when either board or membership calls for a business meeting.

This does not mean that you will not be kept aware of the business of this society. That happens in the newsletter and through reports at our monthly programs, but we will do without the formal structure of a business meeting, call to order, minutes and all the other trappings.

As our constitution calls for a 30-day notice prior to a vote on a such an amendment, we will not vote on this until our January meeting.

If you have questions, please talk to President David Ripma who prepared the amendment. (Amendment on following page.)



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE TROUTDALE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The undersigned members of the society propose three amendments to the constitution, as set forth below:

I. The following language, in Section III. GOVERNMENT,

The following is the new wording with the changed language in *italics*:

2. The officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting each year and shall hold office until their successors have been elected and shall have duly qualified. In case of a vacancy arising in any office, it may be filled for the unexpired term at any *business meeting, or the annual meeting* of the society.

II. The following language, in Section IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Paragraph 2.,

The following is the new wording with the changed language in *italics*:

2. The secretary or others appointed by the board shall keep the minutes of all *business meetings of the society, of the annual meeting,* and of the board of directors, keep a roll of the members, collect the dues and transmit them to the treasurer, conduct the correspondence of the society, give notice of all meetings, notify committees of their appointment, and make a report at the annual meeting on the work of the society.

III. The following, Section VI. MEETINGS, Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4,

The following is the new wording with the changed language in *italics*:

2. *Business meetings of the society shall be those meetings at which a vote of the membership is taken to conduct society business and minutes are kept by the secretary or others appointed by the board. The annual meeting shall be a business meeting and the regular meetings shall not be business meetings unless designated as such by the board. The board may call additional business meetings during the year, or may designate one or more of the regular meetings as a business meeting, if notice of each such additional business meeting, and the subjects to be voted on by the membership, is mailed to the membership at least two weeks before such additional business meeting.*

3. Special meetings may be called by direction of the president at any time, and shall be called upon written request of ten members of the society or a majority of the board of directors. *Special meetings shall not be business meetings unless designated as such by the board in accordance with paragraph VI. 2.*

4. Twelve active members of the society shall constitute a quorum.

5. The board of directors shall hold meetings as needed, upon call of the president or the secretary or any three members of the board, but at least once a quarter. Four members thereof shall constitute a quorum.





This merry crew joined us on our bus trip to Crates Point, Kahneeta and Warm Springs in September. Our Troutdale Trekkers numbered more than 40 and included Bob and Vera Strebin who returned a wonderful stone mortar to the Museum at Warm Springs. The artifact was given to them years ago by a member of the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes and the Strebins thought it should be returned to its original home.

#### MUSEUM THIEF CONVICTED...

We have learned that Brian Giese, who broke into our Harlow House museum in the fall of 1992 stealing gold retirement watch and damaging a china cabinet and two doors, has been convicted of the crime and sentenced to six months in prison and restitution of \$2,200. We are pursuing his failure to pay the restitution with his parole officer. Sadly, we no longer have much hope of recovering the watch.

In order to notify even the criminally stupid that we have an alarm and they will be caught, we have made some changes to our alarm system, which are best not discussed here.

JIM & RETHA BENNETT OF SANDY RIVER ORCHARDS are business members of our society and help support our newsletter. Did you see all the families pressing their own cider at their Harvest Faire booth?

#### TAKE A WALK WITH BUS...

Bus Gibson, a member of our society and a fine outdoorsman as well as Columbia River Gorge expert, has started a business leading walking tours in the Columbia River Gorge. His jaunts include the old wagon roads in the gorge, the Historic Columbia River Highway and portage roads. If you would like to arrange a walk for a corporation, your business associates or out of town guests, contact him at 252-4475.

WANTED: A skillful woodworker willing to undertake front porch floor repairs at the Harlow House. No pay. Lots of thanks. Free coffee. Call Ellen Brothers, 661-2164.



AROUND THE HOUSE--BY CATHY HAMME

The grounds around the Harlow House are settling in for their cold winter's nap, so the inside of the museum will get some attention for a change.

We have several new artifacts that our wonderful members have donated. Shirley Baker Yost gave a pressed glass celery from the 1930's. Beverly Welker gave a bone-handled sharpening steel and a green Depression glass platter. Lola Lumsden gave some great old games, including jack straws and dominoes. And a very special treasure from Mona Denton, a Troutdale postcard mailed from our fair city on Feb. 4, 1908 to Corbett. Donna Anderson of the Crown Point Country Historical Society gave us a 1900 whiskey bottle found at Bridal Veil about 25 years ago. Finally, Bev DeAngelo gave us a fine copy of the June 1, 1955 Parkrose Enterprise, which included a picture page about Troutdale. I'll try to have all these and more on display for our Christmas open house.

Kim Schilling will be changing the upstairs bedroom display in time for Christmas, also. We will gather all the baby things from around the house and put it in one place. The baby clothes that Beverly Welker gave will be there as well some some family things of mine that will be on loan.

Come see us anytime. Saturday 1 to 5 p.m. or Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.

P.S. Because of work committments, Cathy Hamme is stepping down as chairwoman of the Harlow House committee, though she will continue her work as curator and groundskeeper. If you are interested in chairing or working on the Harlow House committee, contact an officer or board member or Ellen Brothers.



SPEAKING OF CHRISTMAS...

Craftspersons Gerry & Curt VonAhn will make our 25th anniversary Christmas ornament this year. The ornament will be for sale on Dec. 11 when we have our Christmas open house, as well as every weekend during December. The ornament is a wooden bell in ivory, purple and gold, labeled 1993, and follows our theme this year of trimming the tree with sprays of lavender grown right at the Harlow House.

ABOUT THE BARN...

RICH AND DOROTHY KERSLAKE have donated a large amount of excellent crack lighting fixtures for use in the barn. A bit more fine-tuning on wiring and insulation, Dick Jones says, and we will be ready to hire a sheet-rocker.

HAVE AN OLD SNAPSHOT?

The new owners of Troutdale Transmission, formerly the Crunch Company, at the Y intersection, Historic Columbia River Highway and Halsey Street, would like to have an early picture of that building, which was a gas station.

If you have one, please contact the historical society.



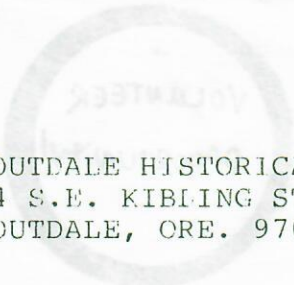


CONTINUING OUR HISTORY OF TROUTDALE...

In 1914, one year after women got the vote in Oregon, Clara Latourell Larsson took office as mayor of Troutdale, one of the earliest women mayors in Oregon. Part Native American, once divorced, and a daughter of the well-known Latourell family in the Columbia Gorge community of the same name, she was the wife of John Larsson, a respectable saloon owner. The temperance movement, which came hand in hand with the suffrage movement, won its way in 1915. A local option for prohibition was approved by voters and Troutdale's saloons were closed. Larsson had to preside at the closing of her husband's saloon. It is likely she did not lead this campaign because she appeared to have no strong objection to alcohol. In her later years she worked in the Troutdale liquor store. The closure of the saloons ended the hefty license fees and city government, left impoverished, was forced to levy a tax to support itself.

In 1924 another woman, Laura Harlow, daughter-in-law of Captain John Harlow, was elected mayor of the city.

The first 20 years of Troutdale government are well recorded. After that, around 1930, the minutes of the council meetings, like the town, began to decline. The slaughter house, which later became Swift & Co., moved to North Portland. In 1907 a disastrous fire, fanned by East Winds, swept through the city burning the 1890s buildings. The only public building left from the 1890 period is the Methodist Episcopal Church, which was built on the hillside two blocks from the business district in about 1895.



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

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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TROUTDALE, OR  
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CELEBRATING A  
HISTORIC CHURCH  
ON NOVEMBER 15

Collman  
114 Elm Ave.  
Wood Village, Or. 97060