

Bygone Times



Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.

SEPTEMBER, 1988

EDITOR: Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

MMMMMMM, PIE...

The pie bakers have been alerted and we are planning our annual front porch pie social, Sunday, Sept. 18, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Harlow House, 726 E. Columbia St.

This will be a good opportunity to see the work on our barn museum and you can feel virtuous while eating pie and ice cream because profits go to the barn fund, which needs replenishing.

Pie and ice cream and beverage is \$2. Events are planned all afternoon. Margaret Okrasinski, Gresham, will play the organ at 1:30 and again about 3:30 p.m. Sharon Nesbit will lead a walking history tour of downtown Troutdale, plus the tale of the Great Troutdale Pool Hall Robbery, at 2 p.m. The tour returns in time for the dedication of the Alex Jones flagpole in front of the Harlow House. Alex raise the first flag, as he has in downtown Troutdale for 25 years.

OLD SCHOOL TIES...

Oct. 8 is our first meeting of the year and also our annual Troutdale School reunion. Plan on being in the Great Hall at Troutdale City Park at 3 p.m. Saturday. We will visit over punch and coffee and then have a light supper of lasagna, salad, bread and dessert. Cost for this meal will be about \$4 a person. After dinner will be introductions, recognition of classes by decade, and just for fun, we will find out which decade spells best in an old-time spelling bee.

Sadie "Mario" Riley and Jeff "Guido" Watanabe will cook their famous Italian lasagna. Lucile Crouser will run the spelling bee.

AND, YOU ASKED FOR IT...

The one thing we heard most on our Trek to Hood River, August 20, was "Where are we gonna go next time? And let's go soon?"

So Chairman Gene Bui, 667-3231, has put together another trip, this time a fall leaf tour to Goldendale and Maryhill in Washington. Because of the greater distance, Gene has hired a coach with a restroom. We plan on leaving Troutdale about 9 a.m. for The Dalles where, if time permits, we will see a sight or two. Then on to Goldendale for lunch on your own and to the old house that is the museum of the Klickitat County Historical Society. Our member Homer Townsend has arranged a visit of the elegant old home.

After that we head for the Stonehenge, Sam Hill's wondrous monument on a bare windswept hill, and then to his fantastic home, which is the Maryhill Museum. The \$20 price includes transportation and all admissions. We have room for 44 on a first come, first served basis. If you want to attend fill out the form and send a check to:

THE TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
104 SE KIBLING ST.
TROUTDALE, ORE. 97060

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

NO. OF RESERVATIONS WANTED _____

BUILDING A BARN...

As this letter is being written, the concrete floor is being poured in our barn museum. Contractor Dave Traxler is there, working for nothing except small fee to cover his workmen's compensation and benefits. Our Harlow House putterer Dick Jones is there, a red bandanna wrapped around his head, sweat pouring and specks of concrete hardening into freckles all over him. Also there is Ben Wetherill, who showed up last week, on his way home to Maryland after a summer of working on an Alaskan fishing boat. Attracted by our barn-raising sign he stopped to see what it was all about, reached into his car and dragged out a carpenter's apron and is working two weeks for free.

And then there is the supplier who gave us \$2,000 in materials when Sam Cox and Ted Schulte went to him to appeal for help.

That is the encouraging news and it is, indeed, in the spirit of an old-fashioned barn raising.

At the same time, we stand at the gaping hole where our barn is rising and worry because it is a very expensive hole. Unanticipated problems with drainage and excavation pushed our excavation bill to a whopping \$10,000 more than originally estimated.

The benefits are that we have not one, but two drains, to keep our barn high and dry. We also have sewer and water connections that we had not planned at this time. But, unless we find a way to make up the difference in the next four weeks, the extra cost may prevent us from getting the shell of the barn up and sealed before winter.

As a result, board members and officers are going, hat-in-hand, to ask local corporations for donations to finish the shell and get it sealed against the weather. And we are asking you, our members, for help.

Rankin Davis figures it this way, "We can make it if we find 100 people to give a \$100 each."

It is a worthy goal, this "century club" and we hope you'll pitch in. A good farmer would not leave a barn exposed to winter winds.

A LETTER TO OUR MEMBERS:

Dear friends:

I was at the Harlow House last week to watch the first pour of concrete in our museum barn. All of you who have baked pies and cookies, boiled spaghetti, scooped ice cream, sold tickets, opened your homes for tours and worked your fannies into the ground to earn money for this barn will know how I felt seeing that first concrete come down the chute. All I could see was dollars pouring out. And knowing that our project is already in the hole, I was pretty discouraged. Still, it was exciting to see something "concrete" happen to our dream of a museum barn.

I walked around to the front of the Harlow House wondering if all the worry and effort is worth it. Just pulling up in the museum parking lot were three people on bikes, two little girls about 10, and a mother coasting along in the rear.

The little blonde girl in the lead yelled to the others urging them into the Harlow House, "C'mon, it'll be fun. I've been here before."

"But does it cost anything?" asked the other child, worrying and pedaling at the same time.

"No," I said, "It's free."

That decided it and the little blonde girl stopped her bike and parked, jamming the kickstand into the dirt. "You'll like it a lot," she told her friends. "It's real good."

I left them as they walked up to the house to sample the past. This is a "real good" thing we are doing.

Sharon Nesbit

ABOUT EDGEFIELD MANOR...

Multnomah County is seeking permission to destroy Edgefield Manor, the former Multnomah County Poor Farm. County officials say that trespassers are filling the building's walls with graffiti and conducting Satanic rites there. Recently the Troutdale City Council toured the building and, while it is true that walls are covered with spray painted graffiti, the building remains structurally sound and fit for restoration if a developer can be found to put it to good use.

In addition, two people from the Historic Preservation League of Oregon visited the building. Said Dick Matthews, a staff member of the league, "It is a wonderful resource and a splendid building and it is really sad that it has been allowed to deteriorate."

It is the contention of the board of directors of the society that the problem lies in the county's neglect of the building. We continue to hope that if the building is sealed up and a caretaker installed on the grounds, that the structure can stand until a use is found for it.

If you are concerned please write the Multnomah County Commission, 1021 S.W. Fourth Ave., Portland, Ore. 97204.

A SWEET MOMENT...

The Board of Trustees, which is composed of members who have made outstanding contributions to our society, met for its annual meeting this month to talk about the future of the society and to discuss our progress to date.

The board's chief concern is to get the barn finished. But there was other talk and some dreams of the future from the mundane--such as installing a toilet in the depot museum--to the hopeful--looking forward to the day when we might offer classes in pioneer crafts in our barn museum.

We also had a lovely dessert donated by Nancy Cox and since so many people like recipes, here it is:

HEAVENLY DESSERT

- 2 cups vanilla wafer crumbs, crushed (a 1/2 pound package)
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 4 egg yolks
- 1 cup cream whipped
- 1 cup drained, crushed pineapple

Spread 1 and 1/4 cups of the crumbs in the bottom of a 9x9x2-in. pan. Cream butter, sugar and vanilla until fluffy, beat in yolks one at a time and CAREFULLY (Nancy says you almost have to do this with your fingers) spread on top of the crumbs. Beat the cream stiff and fold in the pineapple. Spread over the top and sprinkle with the remaining wafer crumbs. Refrigerate several hours (even better overnight) and cut into squares and serve.

HARLOW HOUSE LURES 160 PEOPLE...

Cynthia Howe who is our host four days a week at the Harlow House was busy in August because we had 160 visitors to the museum.

This is an all-time record and reflects the decision of the board to have the museum open five days a week this summer. On Sundays the museum is hosted by volunteers. They are Virginia Murphy, Dorothy Larson, Sharon Nesbit, Cathy Hamme and pinchhitters, Alex Jones and Rankin Davis.

We have not yet counted up the visitors who stop at the Depot Museum on Saturdays and Sundays. Those museum days are hosted entirely by volunteers. Look for their names in next month's newsletter.

NAME DROPPERS...

From now on the two old restrooms in the rail depot museum should be known as Kluehe's Klosets. ARMAN & DONNA KLUEHE volunteered to clean them out a month ago. A 10-year accumulation of "stuff" had shifted and one door wouldn't even open. The closets are now in apple pie condition...HELEN & HOLLY MCWILLIAMS, longtime supporters of this society celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary July 22 with a ride up the Columbia River Gorge and a meal at the Columbia Gorge Hotel in Hood River...The FRIENDS OF VISTA HOUSE wrote thanking us for our loan of white, pinafore aprons worn by the women who served the brunch July 30 at the rededication of Vista House. With the thank you came a color photo duplicating the one that was taken 70 years ago at the first Vista House dedication...DOROTHY STURGES thinks we ought to have a rummage sale and she is willing to help organize one if someone has some space, a garage or spare room, where we can store donated goods until spring when we have a sale. If you can help, telephone her at 665-4896...Welcome to new members: DEBORAH DAVIDSON, VIOLET HILL, JEAN RIDINGS, VERNA HICKENBOTTOM, HENRY & GENEVA KELLOGG and PENNY STRAUSS...We were sorry to hear in late August of the death of EVELYN HEWITT ELLIS in Stayton. She was a former Troutdale and Corbett resident...BARBARA GRAHN, the second of three sets of Harlow House caretakers, visited in late August from Palo Alto, Calif., where her husband, DENNIS, is finishing up his education...Our third caretaker, KIM BREWER, got married in late August.

BINGO...

This society receives part of its funding from Troutdale Bingo, which is played every Thursday night in the Great Hall at Troutdale City Park. Early birds start at 6:45 p.m., regular play at 7 p.m.

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

BULK RATE U. S. POSTAGE PAID TROUTDALE, OR PERMIT NO. 5
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PIE, ICECREAM AND
 HISTORY SERVED
 SEPT. 18