

# BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February, 1997

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

## Back by popular demand: Jim Keyser on rock art

The annual meeting of the Troutdale Historical Society, -- where we elect officers and collect dues -- offers a top notch program as well. Back at the request of our members is archaeologist James Keyser, author of "Indian Rock Art of the Columbia Plateau." He speaks at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 16, in Troutdale City Hall.

Keyser offers a slide show and talk on pictographs and petroglyphs (you'll learn the difference) and interprets what you see when you visit rock art sites in the Columbia River Gorge.



This picture, for instance, taken at Horse Thief Lake State Park on our trip to Toppenish last fall, shows the famous "She Who Watches," the best known of the Columbia Gorge petroglyphs.

Why was she placed there? Keyser has theories. Come and learn the story.

We will, as well, elect officers and conduct our annual meeting. Our current slate of officers has agreed to run for reelection, but if you have a yen to serve, please express that wish to David Ripma, 666-8462, or Ellen Brothers, leave a message at 661-2164.

As to our annual dues, details are on this page.

## STORIES ABOUT OLD HIGHWAY?

As we narrow choices of what goes into our smelt exhibit in the barn, more people show up with smelt memorabilia or material that we want to consider.

For our next exhibit, the Historic Columbia River Highway, we are starting earlier tapping stories of our members. Our focus is how Troutdale responded to (and made a few bucks from) the road. If you have a story to tell, or a picture to share, send it to us.

## CALENDAR

for February/March

Feb. 6, Wed., 7 p.m.:  
Troutdale Historical Society  
Board of Directors meeting,  
barn.

\*\*\*\*\*

Feb. 16, Sun., 2 p.m.: Annual meeting and election of officers plus James Keyser, speaking on Columbia Plateau rock art.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mar. 1, Sat., 9 a.m.: Barnstorming exhibit committee in the barn.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mar. 5, Wed., 7 p.m.: Troutdale Historical Society Board of Directors meeting, barn.



## This is how we pay our dues

If you owe annual dues, a dues/donation envelope is attached to this newsletter. If you are a lifetime member, or paid your dues ahead of time, read the next story in the newsletter, because you have nothing to do.

Membership categories are:

**\$8, individual**

**\$12, couple,**

**\$20, family;**

**Director's Club, \$75 per couple**

**or \$50 for individual**

The latter category helps pay the costs of our director, Ellen Brothers, and includes a nice party once a year.

Should you wish to give a little extra, you may indicate a fund where your money is to be used. Our **operating fund** takes care of the general business of our society including copying photos, buying paper, running our computers, printing our newsletter and buying stamps.

Our **barn fund** is used for completing the barn and its exhibits. This is particularly exciting this year as we build our first exhibit on smelt and Troutdale smelt runs.

And the **endowment fund** is money socked away in an investment fund with the Oregon Communities Foundation with the principle is untouched, and only the earnings to be used to run our society in the future.

Know someone who would like to be a member? Gift a gift membership.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

From Penny Balch

Operating acct.....	\$ 4,134.43
Barn fund.....	25,751.04
Endowment fund.....	23,174.55
Director's fund.....	2,380.16
Bingo fund.....	1,958.73
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$57,398.91</b>

This report reflects a \$20,000 gift from the estate of John Nasmyth designated for the barn and creation of exhibits in the building, as well as \$23,174 in our endowment fund, dedicated to the future of our society.

**And welcome these willing volunteers**

A non-profit organization such as ours counts pennies in the treasurer's report above, but our other measure of wealth is in volunteers.

In the last month or so, four people have said "yes" to jobs that need doing in our society.

Marge Schmunk, after attending our goal-setting session in November, was moved to volunteer as Depot Store and Museum chairwoman. Marge is perfect for the job, having helped set up the Depot store. She is a former Troutdale councilor and former treasurer of our society.

Connie Purvis is a member with a low profile, because her work is done at home on the computer. She transcribes oral history tapes, presenting them neatly copied and beautifully bound. She has agreed to the additional task of video/audio tape librarian sorting and cataloging our big box of tapes. These represent a valuable oral history of our community.

Just for fun, Connie is showing her antique Valentines now in the Harlow House museum, open 1-4 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday. And she is a member of our program committee.



**Harlow House: Open Sat. and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.**

**Two longtime members remember our society**

Faye Harlow, 87, a member of our board of trustees, and Valera Rathman, a longtime member of our society, died recently.

Both wanted remembrances in the form of donations to the Troutdale Historical Society.

Faye Harlow married Samuel Harlow, son of Lou and Laura, who resided in the Harlow House. She died Dec. 30 in a foster care home after a year of declining health. Her ashes were placed at Rose City Cemetery, 78 years to the day after her father, Newton Parsons, was buried there. He was Troutdale's only victim of the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1919.

Because her daughter, Ginger, is the family historian (she has provided us with excellent material



about the residents of the Harlow House) Faye's tribute was a great piece of local history. We plan to print some of it in a future newsletter.

For now, Faye is remembered as a young

mother, widowed with small children, who made her way in the world and returned to Troutdale again and again to tell this historical society how pleased she was with our efforts to preserve her hometown history.

Val Rathman, 71, died in Gresham at O'Hara Manor. A Troutdale resident since 1946, she was married to Wilbur Rathman and was active in PTA and scouts and worked in the laundry at Edgefield manor.

She and Web attended many historical society events. When he died in 1992, she asked that he be remembered with gifts to our society.

Unless otherwise designated, gifts in memory of people go to our endowment fund as permanent memorials.



**Winter shuts house, barn**

The post Christmas storm shut down power at the Harlow House and barn, triggered our alarms and sent an

ice jam up the barn roof penetrating the building and causing a leak on the south side.

Once power was restored, the furnace in the Harlow House refused to start. We owe thanks to Pounder Oil for getting that done for us, at no charge. The leak in the barn appears to be drying and is the result of failure to clean the gutters in the fall.

Special thanks to Dick Jones, for trekking out in ice to check the barn. Sharon Nesbit and Dick and Carol Anderson watched the Harlow House.

**NAMEDROPPERS**

**Weltha Wilson**, a lifetime Corbett resident and member of the Lasley family, turned 104 New Years Day. She lives at Farmington Square retirement center. She remains active, though her memory is failing.

**Sharon Nesbit, Jean Holman, Dorothy Sturges and Florence Baker** saw to it that the Christmas decorations were taken down and carefully stowed for next year.

The first Harlow House caretakers, **Ken and Linda Grassman**, and their daughter **Kimberly**, sent a holiday card from a small Mexican town, Colonia Vicente Guererro in the Baja, where they work in a Christian mission and orphanage.

They still receive our newsletter and Ken notes, "in the last one I read something about Ted Schulte. It is good to know he's still going strong. Somehow that is not surprising."

Ken, who studied chiropractic while living in the Harlow House, is the clinic's chiropractor and "x-ray guy." Linda works in an outreach program among migrant workers.

## "Old Dad Watson"

by A.E. (Art) Scofield

In the late 1920s I was working as a hired man (boy) on a large farm near Troutdale. Since I was still a young lad of 14 or 15 years of age, this type of employment was not exactly to my liking. Said farm was known in those days as the L.H. Stone Farm and was quite large. It stretched from the railroad tracks all the way to the Columbia River. The first year\* I worked there my "salary" was \$10 per month and board and room. Working days were only 9 to 10 hours long and six days per week.

However, I had Sundays to myself to roam and hunt and fish in the area. The only pleasant memories I have of those two years on that farm are of the Sundays off and two men whom I became well acquainted with. One of the men was Dummy Moller. The others was an elderly man (75 years or so) named Old Dad Watson, a resident (inmate) of the Multnomah County Poor Farm at Troutdale.

Old Dad was rather careless about his personal dress and appearance. He was usually dressed in a work shirt, waist high overalls and brown work shoes, brown being the color of tobacco juice. His pants were held approximately in place by suspenders. Depending upon the length of time since laundry day at the poor farm, his shirt might also resemble the color of tobacco juice. I never could see more than four or five teeth in his mouth when he opened it to speak or to spit a mouthful of T.J. Lack of teeth might account also for his lack of aim with the T.J.

He was a very likable and simple-minded old man. His sole interest and sole necessity in life was not to run out of chewing tobacco. I was at that time also a very simple-minded young man. My sole interest in life was not to run out of .22 caliber cartridges for my \$2 single-shot Stevens rifle. Or not to run out of fish hooks and a bit of fishing line. Cartridges cost somewhere around 15 to 20 cents for a box of 50. Readers of this (if any) can judge for themselves as to who was the most simple-minded, me or Old Dad. Apparently the poor farm was too stingy with Old Dad's chewing tobacco money or rations, so he came up with the following solution.

He established a peddler's route, something like the old Fuller Brush Man or Watkins Products. Apparently I was his favored customer, maybe his only customer. His "merchandise" consisted of anything and everything he could scrounge up, whether on the roadsides, at the poor farm dump or whatever -- old bottles, broken or rusty tools, bolts, nuts, washers, cast-off trinkets, etc. He would walk the mile from the poor farm at least once a week to hunt me up and offer me a choice of his products, all very select and valuable and -- to me only -- 25 cents apiece. As I remember, we ended up with a limit of about 15 cents. If I happened to be plowing, discing, harrowing or hoeing a mile from the farm house, he would wait until quitting time to consummate the sale.

I don't know what Old Dad's life was like before he ended up at the poor farm. I don't think he had any family or relative to attend his funeral, whenever that was, or to say a prayer or shed a tear for him.

This story must end right here because I now have some tears in my eyes. All of them for Old Dad Watson.

**Old Dad Scofield**

\*The "year's" employment consisted of about three months. From the day school let out to the day it began again in the fall.

**No way shall this little story every be construed as a commercial or endorsement for the deadly, addictive drug known as tobacco.**

## Two more volunteers offer help and talents

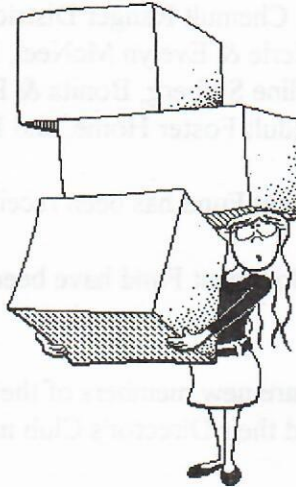
Our search for a curator to catalog our artifact collection appears to be over. Mary Bryson, recently retired from teaching school, has said she would like to take on the job.

She would prefer to do the work on a computer, and we'll find one for her. She replaces Cathy (Hamme) Warren who has cataloged and stored a considerable chunk of our collection in her years on the job.

Bryson will pick up that work where Cathy left off.

Our other volunteer is Frieda Ryland, who has an urge to decorate things.

Frieda appeared at Harvest Faire and, securing the long reach of President David Ripma, whipped up some very nice touches for our decorations there. She came back at Christmas to help at the Harlow House and has agreed to chair next year's Harlow House Christmas



decorating.

She has already worked up a prototype of the 1997 ornament, a pine cone angel. (Got any pine cones to offer?) And Outlook publisher Bill Hunter has offered to display part of his collection of nut crackers at the house.

A final note: This year's Harlow House ornament, a glass ball containing potpourri made by Ellen Brothers, is on sale at the Harlow House. The price is \$4. The house is open each Saturday and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.

A donation  
has been received

In Memory  
of

**Hans Herman Nelson**

who used to farm and grow roses along  
302nd and Kerlake in Troutdale

from

**Greg and Debbie Schoepper**

## Steering committee begins work

Mona Mitchoff\* has commenced meetings of our steering committee which organizes Ice Cream Social and Harvest Faire.

Steering committee ordinarily meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the barn. Want to help out? Give Mona a call at 665-5455.

A donation to the General Fund has been received from Bob & Louise Dix in memory of Val Rathman.

Donations to the Endowment Fund in memory of Val Rathman have been received from Gerald & Shirley Lambert, Lorne & Kim Mitchell, Tim Sell & Marjorie Mitchell-Sell, Ivan & June Handy, Zelma Sutherland, and Jo & Vaden Callister.

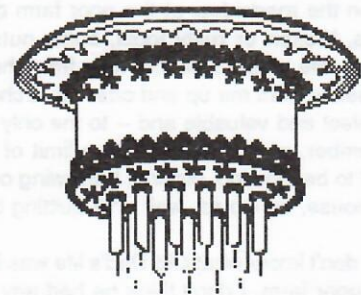
Donations to the Endowment Fund in memory of Faye Harlow have been received from Brent Foster, Chemult Employees Assn., Chemult Ranger District, Ethel Lee, Ginger Harlow Allen & Charles T. Allen, Dr. F. J. & Viola Cerny, Merle & Evelyn McNeel, Frederick & Elizabeth Bridges, Jean & Larry Torland, Joyce & Victor Nelson, Arline Silfberg, Bonita & Peter Taylor, Roy & Diana Moore Scheuffle, Vera Viranond, Three Springs Adult Foster Home, and Ruth & Bruce Shaugnessy

A donation to the Endowment Fund has been received from Patricia Wand in memory of Ig Wand

Other donations to the Endowment Fund have been received from Kay Struckman, Arline Silfberg, and Robert Wenzel

Gerald & Shirley Lambert are new members of the Director's Club for 1997. Jeanne Pulliam and Ted and Alvera Binn have continued their Director's Club memberships for 1997.

Troutdale Historical Society is 29 years old.  
Attend our annual meeting, Feb. 16  
2 p.m., Troutdale  
City Hall



Troutdale Historical Society  
104 S.E. Kibling St.  
Troutdale, OR 97060  
Address Correction Requested

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TROUTDALE, OR.  
PERMIT NO. 5

