



BYGONE TIMES

Newsletter of the Troutdale Historical Society

November 2003

Please Mark Your Calendars

Christmas Open House It's All About Santa

Sat. Dec 6

11-4 p.m..

Harlow House

A wonderful family day at the
Troutdale museums...

Canoe Carving Project Blessing Ceremony

2:30 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 6

**At the cedar log next to the
barn**

Jan. Program:

Sharing Native American
Culture program presented
by Clifton and Christine
Bruno

Sun. Jan. 18 at 2 p.m.

Tentatively...At The Barn

Feb. Program:

Annual Membership Meeting

Preserving History

Sun. Feb. 15

1 p.m.

**Sam Cox Building
Glenn Otto Park**

It's All About Santa



It's All About Santa at the Harlow House on Saturday, December 6, 2003. Join us for some home baked cookies, wassail, good cheer, and of course, a visit with Santa Claus.

Be sure to bring your kids or grandkids to visit with Santa. It is a way of assuring that they'll be good for at least three weeks!

The Harlow House will be decked out in Christmas greens, and a vast collection of Santas borrowed from many THS members.

The Tuesday Ladies have been busily making Santa ornaments to decorate the tree and to offer for sale, with proceeds destined for ongoing Harlow House upgrades. (We've asked Santa for new floor treatment for the two parlors and dining room.)

The festivities begin at 11 a.m. with the arrival of Santa Claus and continue until 4 p.m. We hope to see you then.



If you can, please bring a plate of cookies to share, take some cookies home as well, and any left overs go to our friends and supporters.

Blessing Ceremony Scheduled for Canoe Carving Project

Clifton and Christine Bruno have arranged the ceremony than includes songs and prayers to bless the log and those working on the project. It will be held the same day as our Christmas Open House, Saturday Dec. 6 at 2:30 p.m. and we are all welcome.

Take a Journey From Back in Time...to present day learning about the culture of the native people of the Columbia River, Wasco Tribe and other Northwest Indians.

Troutdale Historical Society is fortunate to have Clifton and Christine Bruno's presentation at our January Program/Meeting.

The presentation will include a Celilo Falls video presentation, native American dance, and examples of how the native people used natural materials, like cedar bark, to make clothing. Christine is also very knowledgeable about the basketry and beadwork. This program is scheduled for Sun. January 18 at 2 p.m. and we hope to have it at the barn.

Columbus Day Storm Remembered Meeting of The THS By Doneva Shepard

“Columbus Day Storm Remembered” meeting of the Troutdale Historical Society.

Forever etched in the memory of those who were around when the Columbus Day Storm of 1962 hit has their own unique memory of what they saw. Larry Pinegar, our faithful Videographer captured some of those memories on tape as members told their stories of the windy phenomenon.

Len Otto started the focus on the 1962 storm of remembrance with some of the facts:

- The October 12, 1962 the Columbus Day Storm was born when the remains of Typhoon Freda regenerated off the northern California coast.
- It became the most powerful non-tropical storm in the lower-48 states' history when it struck the Pacific Northwest.
- It claimed 48 lives, injured hundreds more, damaged over 50,000 buildings, and left millions of people without power, some for nearly 3 weeks.
- Throughout the region, the storm caused \$235 million in property damage (\$1.4 billion in 2001 dollars). In addition, over 15 billion board feet of timber was blown down from the coast as far inland as western Montana.
- The storm was declared the worst natural disaster of 1962 by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

The National Weather Service created a list called Oregon's Top Weather Events of the 20th Century. It was based on impacts to people, property and the economy. On it,

#10. Extreme Cold - February 1933 (Statewide)

#9. Tornado - June 11, 1968 (Wallowa County)

#8. January 1950 Oregon Snow Storm (Statewide) (Jan. Snowfall Troutdale 36.7 inches)

#7. Severe Thunderstorm and Flash Floods-July 9, 1995 (Central and NE Oregon)

#6. River Floods - February 1996 (Statewide)

#5. River Floods - December 1964 - January 1965 (Statewide)

#4. Wildfire - Tillamook Burns (August 1933, and again in 1939, 1945, and 1951)

#3. The Columbus Day Storm - October 12, 1962

They commented, “This windstorm became the standard against which all other statewide disasters are now measured.”

- In Oregon, the storm killed 38 people, injured many more and did 170-200 million dollars in damage (800 million in today's dollars).
- Over 50,000 dwellings were damaged.
- Entire fruit and nut orchards were destroyed.
- Scores of livestock were killed as barns collapsed or trees were blown over on the animals.

Two events outscored the Columbus Day Storm according to the NWS reckoning:

#2. May 1948 Vanport Flood (Lower Columbia River and Portland-Vancouver Area)

#1. Deadly Flash Flood - June 14, 1903 (Heppner, Oregon)

I also found the list for the National Weather Service Top Ten Events in Washington State. Curious to me was the fact that The Columbus Day Wind Storm ranked first on that list. In fifth place was the May 18, 1980 - Eruption of Mount St. Helen's.

Sadly, our Society's symbol, the Lover's Oak, succumbed to the Columbus Day Storm.

Walt Nasmyth, Herb Nasmyth, Florence Baker, Doneva Shepard, Sharon Nesbit, George Klinger helped paint the picture of what it was like 51 years ago. Walt brought a souvenir, his fireman's helmet he was wearing with the dents and holes to prove the velocity of things hitting him. It was a bit chilling to realize that if it were not for that hat; Walt would not be here among us now.

Herb Nasmyth told about how difficult it was for him to get home from work, he was working on 21st and Broadway at the time. Florence Baker related that she and her husband were in their airplane hanger through the duration, afraid to leave and terrified to stay but luckily they didn't suffer any vile damages.

Sharon Nesbit said downtown Troutdale and the houses on the North side of the hill suffered little or no damage. The wind, coming from the southwest was diverted over the top of the hill but fell hard on the airport, doing extensive damage to the airplanes and buildings.

Doneva Shepard told of being without electricity, water, heat or a phone for 3 weeks with 3 little kids under 10 years. She told of the elderly couple, Harry and Daisy Cook who stayed with her during the storm. After the storm, Harry Cook was busy helping the local dairies milk cows by hand because there was no power to run the milking machines. Most of the milk had to be poured down the drain because there was no way to keep it cool. She remembered the feeling of relief when Don Lewis, then with PGE, walked up her driveway saying it would be “just a bit longer” and she would have electricity.

George Klinger told of the many trees downed, everywhere. He told how he called up his entrepreneurial skills and went to “Moen Machinery” where they had 2 chain saws left and without thinking for a minute he said “I'll take them both!” He and his brother took the chainsaw and knocked on people's doors and asked if they wanted their trees cut up and the area cleaned. Of course they did. He said they had 100% success in their little business. People were really desperate to get the messes cleaned up. This video tape is available for sale at the Depot. We are attempting to compile other stories for booklet form to add to the tape package. If this has jogged any memories you might have, or pictures, please let Sheryl know, at the Depot, so your story can be included also.

Wind Speeds of the Columbus Day 1962 Storm

Location	Max Sustained	Peak Gust
Cape Blanco	150 mph	179 mph
Troutdale	66 mph	106 mph
The Dalles	n/a	29 mph
Bellingham	n/a	113 mph
San Francisco,	n/a	63 mph



to see that more than half those present at our Nov. 16 meeting on the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition had been in the spectacular log building that served as the forestry exhibit hall for the fair. The beautiful building, 'described as the world's biggest log cabin,' survived the

fair until the 1960s when it burned, depriving Portland of one of its great landmarks. Engeman presented a slide show of the 1905 fair, telling of some of the buildings that did survive the event at Guild's Lake, and giving a very good description of Guild's Lake itself, which receded into a swamp and is now gone all together. Engeman observed that the first fair was all about commerce and industry and that Native Americans were dismissed as a dying race. He noted that the bicentennial of the event is more introspective with studies of native people and a review of the changes in the two great rivers, the Missouri and the Columbia, that served the expedition.

About 55 people were present for the program in Troutdale city hall. As a way to help pay program costs, raffle tickets were sold for a train alarm clock from our depot collection. Alice Wand bought the first ticket and declared that she really wanted that clock. Several said if they won it, they would give it to Alice, but no need. Alice's name was drawn and she took her clock home.

Stay tuned to future newsletters for other Lewis and Clark meetings, the Native American view point in January and in March, historian Barb Kubik on Sacagawea.

The Lewis and Clark 1905 event reminded Viola Nasmyth of stories she heard from her grandmother who was a waitress at the fair. Those were 'big hair' days and her grandmother tucked the tips she got in her hair to keep them safe.

News of our members:

Shirley Yost arrived at our November meeting with a copy of the original East Multnomah County Pioneers biographical book. It had been in the possession of a woman who died in a Portland nursing home. Learning of it, Shirley said she would take it, presenting the original to the Crown Point Country Historical Society and a copy to our organization.

June Nasmyth has, at least temporarily, moved to a home on the west side of Portland to be closer to her daughter. She can be contacted at the same phone and address, however.

Walter Nasmyth is gimping around pretty well after his second hip replacement and his back at work cataloging photos, but is 3/4 of an inch taller as a result of the hip replacement. Jan Vandiver said she noticed, but then she said Walter was standing on the upper level of the city hall refreshment room.

Marie Stone is in a new home in Eagle, Idaho, but before she left, donated an original postcard of a prize pony and Carolyn Zimmerman at the Zimmerman Pony Farm in Troutdale. That farm was owned by Carl and Ada Zimmerman who owned Zim's 12-Mile store.

Nick and Barbara Welsh (the latter our member of the year and a Tuesday Lady regular) asked permission to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in the barn at the Harlow House since we are, at the moment, between exhibits. Their children put together a lovely event of friends and family with an assortment of wedding photos and a lot of memories. Barb's mother, Fran Eade was there. And it was a good opportunity to show off our barn to people who have never seen it before. Tours were also conducted of the Harlow House.

We will all miss Mom's
Patty Meyers said it took about six years to figure out she couldn't make a living running Mom's Bakery & Café in Corbett.....we were all sad to hear she closed. The Good News: Her bakery opens soon at Strombolis in Troutdale.

The New Calendars are Here



by Paula Goldie

The Troutdale Historical Society has available for purchase, a new, beautiful and innovative calendar. It's called a "perpetual" calendar.

No need to transfer all those important dates from calendar to calendar, year to year! Keep this calendar forever, with all those dates intact. Simply jot down the important occasions (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.) in the *month* and on the correct *date* line, and next year, there it remains. Untouched and unmoved. For the reasonable price of \$10.00, you will be the envy of your friends. Order soon as supplies are limited.

Note: Member and volunteer, Paula Goldie worked with our historic photo collection and with a local photography club.... The result is wonderful area photos, some old, some new displayed in this calendar. Thank you Paula, for planning and executing this project.

Our Thanks...THS wishes to thank the following for their support:

Donations

J. Frank Schmidt & Sons
Nick & Barbara Welsh

Marie Stone
In Memory Of
Bonita Jenkins

Directors Club:

Bonnie Irwin

In Memory...

Troutdale Historical Society has lost two great story tellers from our ranks in recent months.

Ed Happold, who, along with his wife, Florence, was a frequent volunteer in the kitchen at Harvest Faire and Ice Cream Social, died Oct. 20 of bladder cancer. Fortunately for all of us, Ed sat down several years ago and wrote a life story about his growing up in Sherman County, his time in the Civilian Conservation Corps and his time in the Air Force in England in World War II where he met and married Florence. He also wrote about his considerable skill at poker, which finance much of his wartime activity and how, on his return home, he taught himself to build his own house. He was a retired post office worker and a longtime member of our society.

Our other loss was in John Denison, who died Nov. 3 at the age of 90. He joined us with some frequency when we had meetings and programs on the Multnomah County Farm (McMenamins Edgefield) because his father, also John, was the first farm manager of the county farm. John was born in Troutdale, went to school here, graduated from Gresham High and got his college education at Oregon State. After a stint in the Army Engineers he joined the Soil Conservation Service in 1953, got a master's degree in agronomy from U of O and spent the rest of his career improving farming practices. His wife, Ruth, died in 1997.

Tragically, John had been discussing writing his life story and was to be our living history interview in the spring. We have missed an opportunity there to get a record of his considerable store of memories.

THS Board
Ed Thiemann, President
Mona Mitchoff, Vice President
Jean Holman, Secretary
Tom Graves, Treasurer
David Ripma, Past President
Cunningham
Terry
Smoke
Dubesa
Hybskman

THS Volunteer Staff
Sher-yl Maydew, Director
Mario
Ayala, Office Manager
Mary
Doneva
Bryson, Curator
Shepard, Genealogist
Walter Na-smyth, Photo Librarian
Penny Balch, Grant Research
Marlene Burns, Accounting



Troutdale Historical Society
104 S.E. Kibling St.
Troutdale, OR 97060
Phone: 503-661-2164

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 area: To stimulate interest in, and knowledge of, the locality's past.

Change Service Requested

**Non Profit
Presorted
Standard Mail
Troutdale, OR
Permit No. 5**