Mark your Calendar

February 15, 2009
Annual Business meeting. Member-of-the-Year announcement, Election of Board and officers and Joint meeting with Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes, Gresham, Corbett-Springdale for a photo contest. Find your old photos and write down as much info as you know about it before the meeting. Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at Glenn Otto Park in the Sam Cox Building.

March 15, 2009
Program information for March Program Meeting will be in next month’s newsletter.

April 19, 2009
Sharon Nesbit will do an oral history. More about it in next month’s newsletter.

Cemetery Tour
May 16
Stan Clarke will be leading a tour including Eagle Creek and surrounding area. It will probably involve another stop at the Philip Foster Farm and the hard-to-get-into Eagle Creek Cemetery.

Tea & Tour
Due to lack of historic homes available for tours, there will be no Tea & Tour this year. The Tuesday Ladies are planning something really fun for August. Keep watching the Bygone Times for more info.

Bygone Times
Newsletter of the Troutdale Historical Society
February 2009

Clarence Mershon to talk of the “Women of the Greatest Generation”

Due to the wind storm in January that cancelled our January program meeting, Clarence Mershon’s program “Women of the Greatest Generation” will be presented at the February Meeting at Glenn Otto Park in the Sam Cox Building. He will be featuring stories of local women who worked in the ship yards, at the ammunition box factory in Bridal Veil, at Boeing and in the military.

The Meeting date is February 15 at 2:00 p.m. Members of the Corbett/Springdale Historical Society, the Fairview/Rockwood/Wilkes Historical Society and the Gresham Historical Society have been invited to attend.

Bring your old photos of the east county area. You may win a prize for best photo. Light refreshments will be served. It is open to the public, admission is free, but donations are always welcome.

Our Greatest Tresures are Stories From Members

by Sharon Nesbit

Among the great treasures in our historical society library are the life stories written by our members. As we have learned from the letter of Newt Parsons or our pioneer diaries, there is just no substitute for the first-person account.

Stan Rathman, one of the veterans featured in our interview in November of World War II vets—and wasn’t that a great and interesting meeting—sat down and hand wrote his life story, adding pictures and souvenirs and even a copy of our Troutdale Historical Society newsletters.

We arranged to photocopy Rathman’s story, which he concluded in 2003 (but intends to finish), and our librarian Jennifer Munson is now entering it into our historical society library.

Stan went to sea with the Navy Seabees during World War II and even then, was a prolific writer. One of his stories is about correspondence during World War II, a subject we did not touch on in the November interview.

He had a number of “pen-gals” and includes their photos in his story, except that the space for Mary McKuen is blank “because someone stole your picture,” Stan wrote.

Of his war-time correspondence, he wrote: “This was my first time away from home so was a little homesick. We had lots to keep us busy, but in the evenings I started writing letters. Of course, I wrote home, but also I wrote all my aunts and uncles, grandma, cousins and school mates, especially girls…and everyone wrote back. There was one other who wrote. I had never forgotten the little Canadian girl, my puppy love, Mary…I didn’t know her address so I just sent it to Mary McKuen, General Delivery, Windygates, Manitoba, Canada. It turned out to be her address and she wrote back…I would get a letter from her about once a week every week. I would answer right away so that she would answer back. The others would write me but none so faithfully has Mary.”

It is an aspect of war time that we tend to forget in these days when we can contact soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq by e-mail.

Those old letters, too, are treasures. Don’t throw any of them away. They are history.

Troutdale Historical Society has the distinguished honor of winning the Hampton Inn Save-A-Landmark program building refurbishment for the state of Oregon. There were two other sites in the voting. The old civic stadium in Eugene and Fort Clatsop. The Depot Museum entry won the contest. Hampton Inn will be here with a crew of about 40 on March 26th to clean, paint and ???

More information as we learn the process.
Nasmyth area of Troutdale. Wife lived in the Sandy Dell city attorney. He and his
previously served as Troutdale’s 1957 and 1981. He previously served as
House and Senate between a total of 24 years in the state legislature...because of his legal
Troutdale Historical Society lifetime member of the society...Cook was a
Troutdale, died Dec. 6
Former state senator and legislator Vern Cook, Troutdale, died Dec. 6
at the age of 83. Cook was a lifetime member of the Troutdale Historical Society and was granted that honor because of his legal services to our organization in incorporation. He served a total of 24 years in the state House and Senate between 1957 and 1981. He previously served as Troutdale’s city attorney. He and his wife lived in the Sandy Dell area of Troutdale.
June McGinnis Sherman, Troutdale native and 2001 member of the Troutdale Historical Society, died Tuesday, Dec. 2 in Newberg at the age of 91. “She was a pillar of Troutdale,” said former president David Ripma. June met her second husband, John Nasmyth, at Troutdale a few days before their first marriage. In addition, she and John were major donors to the Troutdale Historical Society. They provided us with quite a few documents that helped to tell the story of the ranch and the development of the dike system that protected it from floods. Also dead is 89-year-old Ann Sullivan, an Oregonian reporter, who had a soft spot in her heart for historic buildings and wrote often about preservation efforts in some of the historic buildings in East Multnomah County.

Stan Rathman, Wood Village, and longtime Troutdale resident died Dec. 17, just a few weeks after he and his brother, Vern, were guests for our November historical society meeting, an interview with World War II Veterans. We are grateful to Kim Cook, interviewer, and the program committee for preserving the stories of these veterans. Stan, 83, died of stomach cancer. His wife, Vorita, died in 2004. He and his family came to Troutdale in 1943 from North Dakota. Stan followed his older brother Wilbur to War, ending up in the U.S. Navy Seabees. He shipped out of Norfolk, VA., two days before D-Day and was as surprised as anyone that he ended up in the Pacific in Hawaii. After seven months there he spent the rest of the war running a salvage yard on the island of Guam. He really liked the native people there, and his life story, which he wrote by hand, includes photos of islanders. He got a job with what was then Valberg Lumber after the war, and remained on as shipping supervisor and lumber broker for Vanport Manufacturing for 41 years.
THS Business Sponsors ~
We Value Their Support

Please fill out form and return with your check in the envelope enclosed with the newsletter.

Troutdale Historical Annual Membership Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THS Membership</th>
<th>Contributions/Donations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____ $20 Individual</td>
<td>_____ ongoing work of the society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ $30 Family</td>
<td>_____ preparing for the future with an</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ $100 or more - Lover’s Oak Club</td>
<td>_____ endowment fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ $250 or more – Business Sponsor (with Business card size add in all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 newsletters throughout the year)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name______________________________________________________
Address____________________________________________________
City, State, Zip_______________________________________________
Phone______________________________________________________
Email ______________________________________________________
Our Thanks...from THS...to the following for their support

Thank you for your donations:

In Memory of Willa Sue Davis
June Handy
Elaine Davis
Mary & Dennis Bryson

In Memory of Mark Struckman
Nick & Barbara Welsh

In Memory of June Nasmyth
Sharon Nesbit
Mary & Dennis Bryson

In Memory of Stan Rathman
Vern & Martine Rathman

Centennial Monument Donations
Richard Allen

It is not too late to get your name on the Arch at the $1,000 level or higher. The deadline has been extended to March 15th. You can mail your check to the Troutdale Historical Society, 104 SE Kibling St., Troutdale, OR 97060