Upcoming Events
Mark Your Calendar!

Friday, October 3, Depot Museum, 5:30 pm-6:30 pm, Kathleen Overton book signing

Saturday, October 18, Sam Cox Building, 4 pm—6 pm—THS & Vista House Present: Jeanette Kloos—Historic Highway 30 and the Oregon Good Roads Movement

Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Harlow House open with Cindy Pitts Exhibit

Saturday, October 25, Deadline for November newsletter

Friday, October 31, Depot Museum, 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Witches at the Depot—Halloween Trick or Treat

Sunday, November 16, 1:30 pm—4:30 pm, Sam Cox Building, THS & Vista House Present: Steamboat Captains, Mayor of Cascade Locks

Saturday, December 6, 11 am—4 pm, Annual Harlow House Christmas open house

THS and Crown Point Historical Society Present:
Jeanette Kloos — Preservation Hero of the old Highway

THS is proud to announce a new partnership with the Friends of Vista House called the “THS/Vista House Presents: Living History Lecture Series.”

Join us Saturday, Oct. 18, 4-6 p.m. (please note different day and time), Glenn Otto Community Park, Troutdale for a visit and talk with Jeanette, Founder of Friends of the Historic Columbia Highway.

We are calling this a “Happy Hour” presentation with light snacks — sparkling and branch water (which is as happy as we can get on city property) — and a chance to hear from Jeanette who has spent so many years working on the preservation of our favorite highway. Afterward, try dinner in one of our Troutdale restaurants. Presented by THS and Friends of Vista House.
Remembering Mike DuBesa

Former Troutdale Historical Society board member Mike DuBesa, Corbett, died Sept. 3 of a heart attack at the age of 72.

Mike served on our board in the mid-1990s and helped with completion of our barn exhibit building. As a purchasing analyst for Multnomah County, he knew how and where to buy items, and was instrumental in securing the lighting for the barn.

Born in Elyria, Ohio, he was a high school football player and attended the University of Cincinnati for two years on a full football scholarship before entering the U.S. Marine Corps, serving three tours in Vietnam where he was an air traffic controller. During that time, he met his wife, Elaine in Hawaii, spotting her on the street. He told the story that he saw her and said to his friend, "I'm gonna marry that girl."

Mike was a civilian air traffic controller and then worked 21 years for Multnomah County. He and his wife enjoyed collecting antiques and donated the parlor set that is in the Harlow House.

Because of his size and presence, Mike became the traffic controller for vendors and volunteers setting up for Harvest Faire and Ice Cream Social events in the park. Dave Ripma, of equal size and presence, served farther back in the park. Jean Holman remembered that no one would listen to her, when she was trying to direct traffic, but when Mike and Dave spoke, they listened.

Lovely Day for a Tour

The Red Hat Classi Lassies toured the Harlow House and Barn Museums on a bright summer day. Their club had a great time and enjoyed the history of the Harlow Family and the history of the Poor Farm exhibits in the Barn.

What Summer Vacation?

Mary Bryson, Julie Stewart, Helen Wand and Treasurer Marilee Thompson burned some midnight oil last month to keep us updated with our $10,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, which funds the interactive portions (videos/websites) for our upcoming highway exhibit.

When someone gives us money, we have to be responsive to reports and requests for progress and provide regular evaluations and updates. The group above sat down with documents and other piles of papers to make that happen. The good news is that we may get additional grants of $1,000.

When you shop Amazon, remember THS

We have joined the Amazon Smile Program. Our members can support THS by shopping at AmazonSmile. That link is http://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0738777. It is really easy to shop on Amazon Smile (just like Amazon) and select Troutdale Historical Society as the charity.
Rich and Carol Allen’s successful bid from auction: “Dinner at the Harlow House”

Jean Hybskmann and the Tuesday Ladies, and, no doubt, Jerry Hybskmann, hosted a dinner at the Harlow House, purchased by Rich and Carol Allen, at our Valentine’s Day auction. Jean cooked and prepared a salmon dinner for the Allens, Mayor Doug Daoust and Marianne, and Glenn and Dianne Castillo-White.

Witches at the Depot!

Back by popular demand “Witches” will be at the Depot Museum, 473 E. Historic Columbia River Highway, October 31 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Come dressed in your scariest custom and be prepared to be trick or treated by the Depot Witches.
News from the old wool pullery

Development of the Troutdale urban renewal site -- generally the old sewer plant site, and the site of the former Wood Pullery -- has raised all sorts of questions about the wool pullery and its role in Troutdale.

For starters, ground tests of the site revealed a "carcass pit" of slaughtered animals, likely sheep, that is now a major cleanup project. It has been a puzzle because generally, the wool pullery, built about 1925, was intended to deal with hides of winter-killed livestock from the Great Plains. In spring, the dead animals were skinned, their hides packed in big stacks and shipped to Troutdale by train where the wool/hair was removed and the hides stripped and partially tanned.

However, Matt Wand, grandson of Ignatius "Ig" Wand, remembers that his grandfather told him that he worked at the pullery for a time and on occasion, live sheep not fit for meat, were slaughtered for their hides. That may explain the carcass pit. (And remind us of why we now require environmental reviews.)

In our files about the wool pullery, which closed in the 1960s, we have a story of workers discovering a live kitten buried in a stack of hides shipped by boxcar. The employees worked diligently and long, massaging the legs and body until the kitten was able to walk and play. It became the factory mascot and lived to a ripe old age.

Further, it was noted, the workers thought that they could hide their bootleg whiskey in wooden kegs under the hides. It was not a good idea because the liquor took on the smell and flavor of the hides and spoiled perfectly good whiskey.
Mission Statement: To gather, preserve and make available material relating to their history of the community of Troutdale, the Sandy River, the Columbia River Gorge and nearby area: To stimulate interest in the knowledge of the locality’s past.

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Remember: THS is a 501 c (3), so your donations are tax deductible and help support the museums, programs, preservation of artifacts and local history. Thank you for your continued support.

Celilo Falls on the Columbia River, a sight now gone, used to draw Native Americans to fish from platforms. A photo from our collection provided by Roy Fall.