UPCOMING EVENTS

October 16
REYNOLDS/ALCOA REUNION
2pm @ Glenn Otto Community Park
1106 E Historic Columbia Riv. Hwy
Troutdale, OR 97060

October 25
HISTORY NIGHT
McMenamins-Edgefield, Blackberry Hall
6:30pm (Doors open @ 5pm)
“The Eruption of Mt. St. Helens”
presented by Robert Gaston

November 29
HISTORY NIGHT
McMenamins-Edgefield, Blackberry Hall
6:30pm (Doors open @ 5pm)
“The Bridge of the Gods: Folklore, Forests, and Floods”
by Jim O’Connor

No History Nights in December

December 3
11am - 4pm
Christmas at the Harlow House

Coming in 2017
Programs on Troutdale’s Historic Landmarks

REYNOLDS/ALCOA REUNION OCTOBER 16TH

October 16, 2016
2pm
Glenn Otto Community Park,
Troutdale, OR

The Troutdale aluminum plant was at risk in 1948 when Columbia River flood waters pushed at the dikes protecting the plant. Workers spent their time patching pressure spots in the dike, managing to keep flood waters away.

About 150 former workers at the Reynolds/ALCOA aluminum plant at Troutdale have responded about attending a reunion of aluminum plant workers sponsored by Troutdale Historical Society, beginning at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 16, at Glenn Otto Community Park.

We hope Troutdale Historical Society members will join the event to act as hosts and to remember the plant that dominated Troutdale’s northern skyline from 1941 through 2000. Troutdale was energized by construction of the plant in the early 1940s. Wood Village was created because of the plant. It resulted in tax dollars sufficient for Troutdale, Fairview and Wilkes to start their own school district and ultimately create Reynolds High School.

While it damaged local flower crops and launched lawsuits, it also provided workers with good wages back in the day. It employed one of Troutdale’s favorite mayors, Sam Cox, and money given for scholarships sent dozens of Reynolds High School kids off to school. We will talk about those days with these workers, recording memories for a video. There will be food, drink and cake and a chance for all to remember the 60 years that the plant was part of our town.

Enhancing our historic town with paint and art

By the time you get this newsletter the Mayors Square mural will be finished in late September, dedication scheduled for 2 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 28. The mural is one of two projects our society has going this summer with money from the Community Enhancement Project grants from the City of Troutdale.

Our THS Arts Committee brought Dwayne Harty from Victor, Idaho, to Troutdale to create a historic city scene, using many faces and images from our photo archives. Frank Card, who owns the wall used for the mural, kindly reduced the size of his window on that wall so as not to interfere with the art. The mural is a memory of Troutdale when it had a one-sided main street.

With luck, we will also have a painter coming from Newnan, Georgia, to paint and restore our 1975 Union Pacific caboose, also a project funded by city grant money. We are still short on matching funds and need to raise $6,000 to cover part of the grant. If you can help, a check designated “Caboose” will certainly help. Stan Clarke and Marilee Thompson are working hard on this project.

Dwayne Harty, Muralist
Paula Goldie retires from concert gig after 14 Years

After 35 years at Troutdale City Hall, 25 of those running the court, Paula Goldie has retired. And now that she is free as a bird, she is giving up her gig as lead person of the Troutdale Historical Society booth at Edgefield’s summer concert series.

We at Troutdale Historical Society are one of a small handful of non-profits represented inside the gate and Paula, and husband Dick, have been our representatives. The benefit of running our booth is being able to enjoy the concerts, albeit from the back row.

Matt Leamy, who has subbed at the THS concert booth, has agreed to take over coordinating this job for THS during the 2017 concert series. It’s a matter of arriving early -- parking and a free pass set aside -- setting up the booth contents (contained in a big rolling suitcase) and greeting concert goers. Matt says the thing he says most is: “No, it was not an insane asylum.”

And, of course, we sell the $5 Edgefield book that tells the whole story. We remind concert guests that we are the people who saved Edgefield from the wrecking ball.

So, if you are interested in doing gigs for next year’s series, call our office and leave contact information and we’ll set you up with Matt. And to Paula and her buddies, many thanks, again and again.

A history of Reynolds/ALCOA Aluminum Plant from Oregon Encyclopedia

In November 1941, bulldozers advanced into the green meadows of the Sundial Ranch southeast of Troutdale, Oregon, carving out a site for an aluminum reduction plant. Six months later, the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) produced the first lightweight metal at the plant that would be used to fabricate World War II airplanes. Though known for most of its post-war existence as Reynolds Metals, the plant was owned by Alcoa at both the beginning and the end of its sixty-year life. During those decades, three generations of workers put on steel-toed boots, packed lunch boxes, and went to work in the Troutdale plant.

The plant was a smelter that turned alumina powder into aluminum. Its emergence on a Troutdale pasture created a new town, Wood Village, and startled nearby Gresham, Troutdale, and Fairview out of their Depression economic and social doldrums. The plant gave rise to a school district and a high school, with hundreds of graduates going to college on Reynolds-funded scholarships. Environmentally, it contributed to the death of a flower-bulb industry in Corbett, spawned a major lawsuit with a neighboring cattle rancher, and created a Superfund site.

The U.S. government selected the site at Troutdale because of its proximity to Bonneville Dam, which had been constructed upriver on the Columbia to produce hydroelectric power. More than a thousand workers filled two housing facilities, Fairview Homes, an apartment complex, and Wood Village, one of Oregon’s first planned communities.

During copper shortages in World War II, the Reynolds plant held a fortune in silver-plated electrical fixtures, brought in for the mundane purpose of conducting electricity to a potline, a row of electrolytic cells used in the production of aluminum.

veterans purchasing houses, cars, appliances, and aluminum foil.

Reynolds and the aluminum plant were instrumental in the school district that bore his name. New tax revenue gave Fairview, Troutdale, and Wilkes school districts the muscle to form their own school district and high school. Reynolds High School opened in September 1956.

But the Reynolds plant produced fluoride emissions, damaging flower bulb farms in nearby Corbett and Sprague. After Reynolds bought the Martin Ranch in 1968, a protracted lawsuit against the company claimed that fluoride emissions from the plant had killed the Martins’ cattle. Reynolds sold the ranch for public use in 1991; it is now managed by the U.S. Forest Service as the Sandy River Delta Park. A contaminated area around a company lake near the plant was named a Superfund site by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1994.

The plant operated for sixty years, but increasing competition from other producers on the international market made the operation unprofitable. The electricity so efficiently and inexpensively provided by Bonneville Dam—in 1981 the plant used more energy per day than the entire Portland metropolitan area—could not compensate for the increased transportation and labor costs that diminished the plant’s viability.

In 1984, running at only 40 percent of its capacity, the plant had a $19 million annual payroll to 430 employees and paid $430,000 in local taxes. Alcoa purchased the plant back in 1998 and began demolition in 2003. The Port of Portland purchased the site in 2004 and invested $14 million in environmental cleanup. It is now home to a Federal Express distribution center.

Archive Crawl October 8th

Photo historian Julie Stewart will take examples from our Troutdale Historical Society archives to the Oregon Archive Crawl, Saturday, Oct. 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are interested in the archive contents of dozens of organizations, this is a chance to "see what they got." The event starts at any of three locations: City of Portland Archives and Records Center, Oregon Historical Society or Multnomah County Library in the US Bank Room.

GIVE A GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE

Troutdale Historical Society
503-661-2164
Harlow House open every Sunday

What a pleasure it is to tell visitors that Harlow House, our 1900 farm house, is now open every Sunday afternoon, 1-4 p.m. Andrea Heim has been the regular host for the last year. She is now getting an occasional assist from Hazel Webb, who will host the house in costume.

It used to be that the house was open only once a month. We are able to expand hours because we have volunteers willing to host. If we can find 2 to 3 people who would like to share Saturdays, we would be open on Saturday afternoons as well.

The same applies to the Depot where Kelly Broomall hosts on Fridays. We would love to have Saturday and Sunday hosts at the Depot.

Summer Daze at the Museums

Volunteering at our museums has its diversions

For one thing, we began to find people on the lawn this summer hunting Pokemon creatures. (Now we know that a really irritated squirrel-like creature lives in another dimension at the Harlow House.)

And then there was the man who was not playing Pokemon who explained to LeAnn Stephan, “I see things that people don’t.” In an aerial view stretching from the freeway bridge to well past the Glenn Otto Park and up Beaver Creek he discerned the shape of an immense dinosaur and we at the barn are in the belly of the beast. He believes we should be displaying some of the creature’s bones.

Some days are only slightly ditzy. A 53-year-old flower child wandered in saying she had no interest in history but was sitting in our gazebo trying to decide how she could be happy. (We refrained from suggesting that she might volunteer while she’s pondering.)

A 17-year-old on her bike arrived with no idea what county she lived in. (Multnomah County residents get in free because they pay for the tax levy that helps support us.) Once that was sorted out, she wandered through the exhibit, leaving a comment saying she didn’t know “roads could be this popular.”

Then one of our local street people, who are welcome to visit the exhibit, came in. He visited before as a county resident so there had been no charge. Now he was back, rushing in to drop $2.50 on the counter saying, “I told you I’d make a donation and I have.” That was special.

At the depot, Kelly Broomall watched one morning as a fellow enjoyed a beer and a cigarette at the picnic table. Then he got up, leaving the beer can on the table and flicking the butt into the landscaping. Kelly bellowed, “Is that how you deal with your can and cigarette butt at home?” The fellow came back and cleaned up.
NEW MEMBERS
• Friends of the Hist. Col. Riv. Highway
• William Knight
• Rose City Model T Club
• Arlen & Rita Sheldrake
• Waste Management
• Hazel Webb

RENEWING MEMBERS
Rich & Carol Allen • Patricia Brost
Adrienne Clausen • Carol Davis • Elaine Dubesa • Mary Eaton • Tom & Cheryl Graves
Donna Hawkins • Bonnie Jeppson • Sharon Luvaa • Mel & Shirley Miller • Carol & Walter Ottoson • Ken & Kathleen Overton • Cecelia & Tom Pavlik • George & Virginia Perry • Jerry & Janice Sinnitt • Norm & Charlene • Thomas • Carol & Walter Ottoson • David Underhill • Janet & Wayne Vandiver • Jerome & Dana Wand • Richard Weil • James Workman

WINTER HOURS
October 1 - April 30
Barn Exhibit Hall
10am - 3pm Wednesday-Saturday
1-3pm Sunday
Harlow House
1-3pm Sunday Only
Rail Depot Museum
Friday Only 10am-2pm

DONORS TO OUR GENERAL FUND
Tom & Cheryl Graves
William & Marge Kitchen
Sharon Luvaa
Mel & Shirley Miller
Sharon Petri
David Underhill
James Workman

DONORS TO OUR MEMORIAL FUND
In memory of Al Goetz
Kay Struckman, Len & Gloria Otto
In memory of Eileen Cunningham
Greg & Sue Handy
Bill & Sharon Nesbit
Len & Gloria Otto
In memory of Harold Scofield
Larry & Rosie Puderbaugh
In memory of Loretta Gilsdorf
Patricia Brost
In memory of Mary Jean Mohn
Greg & Sue Handy
Len & Gloria Otto
In memory of Chuck Allen
Bill & Sharon Nesbit
Len & Gloria Otto
In memory of William C. Moller
Claudell Metzger
In memory of Alice, Allen R. & Dorothy Kerslake
Richard Kerslake
In memory of Betty Wieprecht
Lori Vencill

SUMMER VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY
To show appreciation to our volunteers for all that they do to keep our exhibit and museums open, they were treated to a wonderful evening on Fairview Lake. Bettianne Goetz, Vice President of THS invited everyone to her lake front home for a fun evening of food, drinks, and a tour of the lake on her party boat.
Thanks, Bettianne!

SUMMER VISITOR QUOTE

ByGone Times
Troutdale Historical Society - Page 4

Thank you

Al & Joyce Stoeckel for cleaning the Harlow House.
Julie Stewart for the vintage clothing exhibit at Harlow House.
Joy Beldin for proofreading all our printed material.
Diane Castillo-White for coordinating our first Summer Barnyard Concert Series. She arranged for musicians to play, popcorn to eat, and punch to drink. She even held off the rain for our last concert in September.
Linda Simkovic and Joyce Belcher for hostessing the HCRH Exhibit during the concerts.
Len Otto for gutter cleaning in the rain.
Helen Wand, Sharon Nesbit, Margaret Rice, Jan Vandiver, Joan Benner, Jan Ackley for their hard work organizing the Reynolds/ALCOA Reunion.

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TROUTDALE SAND & GRAVEL
Elaine Stamm: Memories of 1992

Elaine Stamm, former Gresham resident and now of Saddlebrook, AZ wrote recently sharing her observations written about Troutdale in 1992. Just four years later, Max and Sheryl Maydew developed the north side and Troutdale became a different town:

“Someone from the East might think that Troutdale is covered with fish, but we know that the main street has a Plaid Pantry, an antique garage, half a mural, a tavern with a grungy parking lot occupying a prime location, an old time grocery store, a hidden treasure of a gourmet restaurant and a City Hall on a side street.

We know that Troutdale’s newest successful business is a tavern called Skyland Pub (from the parking lot, I’m judging – I have never been in it.) We know that the new luxury subdivision occupants will soon discover that their theme song will be “High on a Windy Hill.” We know that Troutdale runs down a hill and stops to gaze at the “flashy new kid on the block,” the Factory Outlet stores. Where are the signs down there that entice shoppers to explore Troutdale? The historic houses? The (one) nice restaurant. There could be others. McMenamins? The train could stop, couldn’t it. And bring people in? The water tower could be painted couldn’t it?

For years the most colorful thing about Troutdale was Uncle Walt and his chickens, geese and peacock, until City Council stopped him.”

Editor’s note: Does anyone have a photo of the Troutdale Bank Building when it was occupied by Walt Schwartz?

The Joys of Cardboard

Jim Glenn enjoyed Sharon Petri’s interview at our April meeting on the joys of cardboard sledding and wrote in response:

“Brings back many memories of my youth in East County. One in particular was her recounting of her Cardboard Hill in Cascade Locks story. It took me back to our own cardboard hill in Wood Village that is located south of Robertson Park. In those days it was a pasture for the County Farm’s side hill cows to graze. The perfect storm was brewing in the 1950s for cardboard hills all over America. Families were buying TVs and the even newer appliances of the time, automatic washers and dryers. All these appliances came to the homes wrapped in heavy cardboard. A piece of that cardboard could last for several weeks as we would shoot down that big hill below present day Cherry Park Shopping Center. The negative to her story is that we thought WE invented those cardboard All Terrain Vehicles. Oh well, it was still more fun than sitting at home playing video games like my grandkids generation is so involved with. Ah, for that bygone era.”

Troutdale Historical Society Board

President: Sharon Nesbit
Vice President: Bettianne Goetz
Treasurer: Marilee Thompson
Secretary: Margaret Rice
Board Members
Rich Allen, Diane Castillo-White, Rip Caswell,
Jon Howell, Sharon Petri, Norm Thomas
Past Presidents
Len Otto, Dave Ripma, Scott Cunningham

Fred Meyer Rewards Card
www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards—THS gets contributions from Fred Meyer. Please enroll, using our non-profit #85937.

AMAZON SMILE
Go to http://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0738777 Simply select Troutdale Historical Society as your charity. Shop as you normally would. THS receives a contribution from Amazon.

We Need Help Identifying Photo
Captioned George & Emma Chambers. Did they live in Troutdale? Are they related to anyone in Troutdale? Please call THS 503-661-2164 if you have any information regarding this photo.

Curator Needed
If you are interested in history, sorting, filing, organizing, and fussing with old stuff, give us a call.
GOOD NEWS FROM THE END OF THE LINE...

Our 1955 Troutdale Union Pacific caboose (with a cupola which makes it really special), is getting a restoration. In July, the City of Troutdale gave Troutdale Historical Society a grant of $21,000 for a museum-quality restoration of the caboose. We have a bid of $27,000 to do the work, so we will have to raise an additional $6,000 of donations to pay that bill.

It is too bad that three-year-old boys -- who are great fans of our caboose -- don't have a lot of money.

Further, Stan Clarke, who has been spearheading efforts to find resources and the right people for this project, is working on replacing the decals/stickers and other labels that are on the carriage of the caboose. So far he has rounded up the original ditty for “Great Big Rollin’ Railroad” as well as the right material to replace the large letters.

We hope work will begin this summer, but that depends on when the caboose painter can come from Georgia to do the job.

In the meantime, if you have a soft spot for cabooses and would like to donate, please send a gift indicating caboose to us and we will put it in the kitty for that purpose.

Caboose Volunteer Needed!!

Stove: Volunteer to remove stove to rebuild in own shop as a donated service. Remove rust, paint black and restore to site. Replace stove pipe only if necessary. Seal stove pipe.
Visionary Park Dedication postponed until late fall

The construction of Visionary Park is progressing and the stonemasons are working hard to complete the stonework, but it will not be ready by the end of September. "We want it complete and looking beautiful at the dedication", says Rip Caswell. We anticipate the dedication to take place in late Fall.

FROM OUR PHOTO RECORDS - December 1964

This page shows two views of the old Mayo Apartments, now owned by Rip Caswell. The Visionary Park photo above shows the apartments as restored by Rip. And the photo below shows the washout of the Historic Highway in the wake of the 1964 Flood. It is ironic that most pictures we have of buildings are due to some catastrophe or another. The house on the right, just above the "Road Closed" sign has been torn down. The Sandy River Service Station just beyond is now the Troutdale Art Center, now owned by Alison Brown.

WORKSHOP SHAPED INTO OFFICE

As we make improvements to our office, we have many people to thank. Len Otto removed a large work cabinet that was collecting a lot of junk. All the board members moved out boxes and furniture to prepare for carpet installation the next morning. Gerald and LeAnn Stephan moved all the furniture and boxes back into the office and set up computers, printers, etc. Leroy Judd added a screen door to allow for fresh air to circulate and installed new lighting. George Stephan donated a desk for the curator. Stop by and see our progress!
### Troutdale Historical Society

**Preserving The Past, Embracing The Future**

With membership in the society, you receive quarterly newsletters to keep up with all of our activities. Membership privileges include a reduction in membership cost for the Oregon Historical Society and free entry to all our museums.

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Payment Options:
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**Thank you for your support!**

Troutdale Historical Society sponsors free programs in Glenn Cobble Community Park in January, April, and October.

The last Tuesday of every month (except December) the Troutdale Historical Society co-sponsors a speaker at Almeda Village Senior Center. For details, call 503-651-2144.

**Address:**

721 E Historic Columbia River Highway
Troutdale, OR 97060

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**Mission Statement**

The society's past walkable in the historic area old house and contents date to 1886. The Cherry Lane museum, the Columbia River, the community of Troutdale, and the history. To gather, preserve and make accessible.

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**Contact Information**

Phone: 503-651-2144
Email: info@troutdalehistoricalsociety.org

**Location:**

Troutdale, OR 97060
721 E Historic Columbia River Highway

**Mail Address:**

Troutdale, OR 97060
219 E Historic Columbia River Highway