UPCOMING EVENTS

April 4 POSTPONED
Smithsonian Magazine
Museum Day
Harlow House & Barn Exhibit Hall
9am - 4pm

April 13 POSTPONED
THS Benefit
Friends & Family Night
50% of night’s proceeds donated to Troutdale Historical Society
McMenamins Edgefield Power Station

April 28 CANCELED
Edgefield History Pub
The Archeology of Animals, Earthquakes, and People: The Story of Community Resilience at Ciwicen Village, Port Angles, WA
Virginia Butler, PSU Prof. of Anthropology
McMenamins Blackberry Hall

May 25 1 - 2 p.m.
Farewell Cemetery Tour
Douglass Cemetery
Stanley R. Clarke, Cemetery Historian

May 26
6:30 p.m. (doors at 5 p.m.)
Edgefield History Pub
Massacred for Gold: The Chinese in Hells Canyon
Greg Nokes, Oregon author
McMenamins Blackberry Hall

June 14 @ 3 p.m. (new time)
THS Annual Meeting
Fires of Troutdale, Sharon Nesbit
Sam Cox Building

June 30
6:30 p.m. (doors at 5 p.m.)
Edgefield History Pub
100 Hikes in NW Oregon
Bill Sullivan, Oregon author
McMenamins Blackberry Hall

Pandemic

Friends of the Troutdale Historical Society: One minute we are busy saving history, the next minute we are living in a historic moment. This newsletter arrives mostly with word of delays in planned programs and events because of the pandemic of the coronavirus, which is particularly severe on older people. As keepers of our history, we want our members to stay safely at home. Events are postponed until times are safer.

This is not the first time that disease has struck Troutdale. The Spanish Flu struck right after the end of World War I just as soldiers were coming home. Newt Parsons, who worked at the Troutdale Rail Depot, and left a legacy of letters that he typed there, was stricken one day and died the next.

By staying home we hope to temper the effects of this one. While you are at it, be a historian. Sort some photos. Go over old papers and see what sort of history you can find and share. Write the story of your life.

And we will keep on saving history. Our office is open so far, and you can call on weekdays if you have questions. Try to avoid drop-in visits. Stay safe. Please call our office, 503-661-2164, or watch our website troutdalehistory.org for cancellations or date changes.

THS Annual Meeting & Program

For most of its life, Troutdale’s urban renewal came in the aftermath of fire.

Flames twice ravaged the town, leaving the city to rebuild and improve. One result is the “concrete block,” where home and business owners resolved to rebuild with material that would not burn. Historian Sharon Nesbit will talk about fires in Troutdale and how they changed the city.

“Troutdale has burnt down a lot of times and it is a good town now.”
Kurt McKnight at a Troutdale City Council meeting in the 1980s.

Our program will begin with a brief annual meeting and election of the THS Board of Directors for 2020-2021 by vote of our members. Sharon Nesbit will then present Fires of Troutdale.

Bring your friends and family to this free public event. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday, June 14, 2020
3 p.m. (new time) @ Sam Cox Building
1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy

It Could Have Been Carpdale
by Sharon Nesbit
President's Message by Erin Janssens

I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and staying up to date on measures to keep you and your family safe. As the saying goes: May you live in interesting times. I prefer the peace and tranquility of uninteresting times but know that there are blessings to be found even in times of trouble.

As my term as President comes to a close, I look back at an amazing year of fun, and ahead for more great things to come. As you know, we have fantastic public programs like History Pubs at Edgefield and Summer Barnyard Concerts. But we also made progress on an intensive professional assessment of our policies, collections, and structures; strategic planning; grants helping us complete important stepping stones; and throughout it all, a wonderful community of members helping to make it happen. These are great things we all work to deliver, and all of you, are a blessing.

I am honored to have served the THS and worked with our Executive Director/staff, volunteers, and fantastic board. Everyone’s concern from the onset of this epidemic-turned-pandemic has been for the well-being of our members, volunteers, and staff. I am proud we made a relatively early decision to close the museums. The decision to re-open will depend upon many factors, foremost being when we have enough information to convince us that the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in our museums has passed so that our staff, volunteers, and guests are safe.

We’ve all weathered many storms. We have been through changes and events forever altering society, yet we continue on, a bit more weary, but also more wise. This is an historic time, and, while we do not yet know how, I believe this virus will, like other events throughout history, change us.

Before cable TV, microwaves, the Internet, and Netflix, many of you may recall other events that impacted and changed how we moved through our worlds. In the US, family stories include: cholera in the early 1900s; WWI; the 1918 Pandemic flu; the stock market crash of 1929; WWII; the epidemic of polio in the 1950s; the Korean War; the 1957 flu; the Hong Kong flu in the late 60s; the Vietnam war, (and more wars since); Black Monday in 1987. Perhaps some of you remember a few of these events?

In my life as a firefighter, I recall the front lines of the AIDS pandemic of the mid 80s-90s. We watched the tech crash in 2001, then jets fly into twin towers. On the heels of 9-11, I was able to help establish the Portland Office of Emergency Management. We worked with City, State, and Federal partners learning how best to plan, prepare and protect the public — ensuring an effective and coordinated response against a wide range of threats, including an early corona virus, SARS. Somewhere during that time was the early recognition of the vulnerabilities of not only fault lines throughout the Portland area, but the potential of the Cascadia Subduction Zone. It was a fascinating and eye opening time. I carried those experiences with me and remained involved throughout my career, eventually writing our response plan to H1N1 (Swine Flu), then dealing with both MERS and Ebola. My goal, shared by everyone in the organization, was to serve and protect the public while also protecting those who were serving.

All of these historic events, along with loss of loved ones and the addition of new (good times count too!), are things that have shaped who we are today — and why saving history is so important. History reflects life before an event and documents conditions during an event but it can also alter our futures if it impacts our behavior and how we move through the world. It can change trajectories and who we become. It is a prompt to look forward with an eye toward how we can be better. This virus may produce dramatic changes, or at least influence, how we navigate the future. And, as the collectors of history, the THS serves an important role in gathering facts that help illustrate the impacts on our society. Think about what events had an impact on you, and did they changed you?

We don’t yet know how this pandemic will change the world, or us as individuals, but the practical message of the day is: Wash your hands — often and more than you want. Limit your exposures, and that of others. Enjoy finishing personal projects at home. Practice or pick up a new skill or hobby. Whether it’s for fire, flood, earthquake, etc. remember to check your emergency kit every 6 months; have some extra leeway on prescriptions, and ensure you’ve got a daily check in with someone outside your home (so that if either of you get sick, you can get help). Most of all, be safe out there. I look forward to seeing you on the other side of this.

I’m thankful and proud of all who support the Troutdale Historical Society. Because of you, we’ll keep on gathering, preserving, and sharing history for a long time. Thank you. We’re counting our blessings, and you all are a part of them.
New Exhibits Opening Reception - Saturday, June 6

Remember the old days of stopping by Handy’s gas station for coffee and doughnuts?

Join us for coffee and doughnuts at 9 a.m., Saturday, June 6, celebrating two new exhibits in the Barn Exhibit Hall – a display of memorabilia from the Handy Gas Station provided by Greg and Sue Handy and a new display on smelt runs.

Gas stations were landmarks on the Historic Columbia River Highway and the Handy station, now Alliance Plumbing, was at the top of the list serving Troutdale for 62 years. And, curiously, some of our best pictures of the historic highway in Troutdale were taken during the massive traffic jams caused by smelt runs.

Handy Brothers Service - Union 76 Station, c. 1940
146 W Historic Columbia River Hwy (now Alliance Plumbing)

Smelt Run c. 1913-1916
Parking on the east bank of the Sandy River on what will become the Columbia River Highway. Cars found any spot available to gain access to the Sandy River.

Thanks to our Saturday afternoon volunteer Dave Johnson, a helium balloon stuck in one of the trees has been removed.
ByGone Times April- June 2020

Troutdale Historical Society - Page 4

Collectors – Introducing our Limited Edition
2020 Historic Columbia River Highway Challenge Coin

A great memento and collectible gift for locals and visitors. Now available for purchase at our Barn Store gift shop, the Troutdale Historical Society Challenge Coin honoring the creation of our nation’s first planned scenic highway - Historic Columbia River Highway.

Be ready to challenge or accept challenges from your friends!

History of the Challenge Coin

Challenge Coins, a symbol of pride, affiliation, and camaraderie can be dated back to the Roman Empire, recognizing a soldier’s achievements. During the Renaissance period, the coins were most often associated with royalty, nobility, or other affluent individuals, with one side of the coin depicting the individual, and the other, representing their lineage. These were given as gifts or awards, or simply an exchange between friends. One of the most well-known stories of the coins dates back to pre-WWI. A young American pilot POW, stripped of all official identification, narrowly escaped from the Germans. Donning civilian clothing, he made his way to a French Outpost. Not recognizing his accent, and with saboteurs masquerading as civilians, the French mistook him as such and prepared to execute him. Fortunately, one of his would-be executioners recognized his unit’s insignia engraved on his lone medalion and delayed any action until his identity could be confirmed. Rather than death, he was given a bottle of wine. From that point forward, the tradition was born to carry one’s medallion at all times, with “challenges” to ensure such. A challenge was accomplished in the following manner: a challenger would ask to see another’s medallion, if the challenged could not produce their medallion, they were required to buy the challenging member a drink of their choice. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for both their drinks. All for pride, honor, and of course, a bit of fun for good measure. We hope you’ll carry your coin with the pride of a local, and the awe of a visitor to our wondrous Historic Columbia River Hwy, our nation’s first planned scenic highway.

Farewell Cemetery Tour
Honoring Stan Clarke, Cemetery Historian

Please meet us at the Douglass Cemetery, (SW Cherry Park Rd & SW Hensley Rd) as we honor Stan Clarke for his many years as our cemetery historian and tour guide. This will end our long tradition of cemetery tours.
Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day), 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

415 MEMBERS OF THE
TROUTDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help us reach our goal of 500 members!

Are you a member?
Give a gift of membership to the next generation, friends, family or become a member by clicking here.

Richard "Dick" Anderson died January 7, 2020 in Sisters, Oregon, at the age of 94. A longtime mechanic at Handy's gas station, he was a fixture in Troutdale and known by many names. High school classmates called him "Dickie," to close friends and family he was "Uncle Dick," to some "Red," but mostly people knew him as "Dick."

He was born Richard C. Anderson on December 13, 1925 in Troutdale, Oregon to Carl E. Anderson and Bernice Lehammer. He had one brother, Eugene B.

His growing up years were centered around the family home on Hensley Road in Troutdale. He would ride his bike over cow trails to "Cow Put Lake" and on Sundial Road to the Sundial Ranch Company Lake. He remembers Coney Island hot dogs from Tad Johnson's roadside stand on the east end of the Sandy River Bridge and recalls watching the residents from the Multnomah County Poor Farm (now McMenamins Edgefield) walk to town. He attended Gresham Grade School (1932 – 1940) and Gresham High School (graduating May 4, 1944).

His first job was working as a carpenter to help build Fairview Homes on Halsey Street and Arata Road. These homes would house workers from the ALCOA Aluminum Plant. He also worked part-time for Handy Brothers Service on the weekends and after school his senior year.

December 1943, he was drafted into the Navy and allowed to defer until he graduated. On May 20, 1944 he enlisted into the Navy and served in World War II until his discharge in 1946.

When Dick returned home from the WWII, he went to work for Army Assets – Government Surplus supply (1946-1948) located at the northeast corner of the Troutdale Airport. One day he went to fill his gas tank at Handy Brothers Service and Ike Handy asked him if he would like his job back. He became a fixture at the Handy Brothers Service, working there as an automobile mechanic for more than 60 years.

Greg Handy fondly remembers, "I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend time working, learning, and appreciating his tolerance and humor. He was always there to share his fun and laughter with his family and friends. Being a kid at heart, he continued to right up to the point of running out of gas."

Dick was a true member of the community participating in the Troutdale Boy Scouts, Troutdale Presbyterian Church, a member of the Windy Whirlers Square Dance Club, and a longtime member of the Troutdale Historical Society. He lived across the street from the Harlow House and made sure the garbage cans were brought to the curb every week.


Other than his family & friends, his loves were fishing, hunting, river rafting, water skiing, traveling, hiking, and custom auto events such as Glory Daze (now Mick’s Ride in honor of his son in-law) in Sisters, Oregon. And, his 1975 Ford F-250 Truck.

In his own words, “So end of story, Dick.”
NEW MEMBERS

Liga Dale
Dawn Hudson
Kathryn Israelson
Dave Johnson
Sellin Farms - Rodger Sellin
Christina Witka

RENEWING MEMBERS

Robert Baker
Leona Balch
Ed & Claudia Brooks
Donna Brown
Donna Burlingame
Dr. Robert & Tami Campbell
Marjeanne Cartlissier
Gerald Davis
Kathleen Douglass
Reese & Jo Ann Fagan
FedEx
Shirley Harshbarger
Brian & Katherine Haslip
Eric Hazen
Marilyn Howell
Teresa & Dayle Kasner
James & Cheryl Kerr
Judith Lenhart
Leo & Mary Ellen McClathlin
Eugene Melvin
Mike & Andrea Mershon
Clay & Rayleen Nelson
Carol Nielsen
Sue O'Halloran
Jean Holman
Joann Otto
Darline Payne
Jennifer Peake
Cynthia Peetz-Yochim
Leslie Radke
Kathleen Thomas-Rhew
Allen Richard

Tad's Chicken 'n' Dumplings, Judith Jones
Janet Vandiver
Helen Wand
Richard & Julia Warner
Steve & Deborah Yost

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Mike Alderson
Ginger Harlow Allen
Ed & Vera Ashley
Joan Benner
Judith Bergan
Nancy Callister Buley
Stan Clarke
Betty Cook
Jason Cawood
Patricia Currier
Terry Ege
Charles Ellis
Georgia Erdenberger
Kyle Fritzinger
Bettianne Goetz
Joe & Peggy Gorciak
Greg & Sue Handy
Mel Harmon
Lynda Harvey
Karl & Bette Hays
John Hillyard
Erla Janssens
Steve & Kim Kenney
Lael Larger
Steve & Judy Leh
Shirley Jean Loosef
Deanna Maughan
Doug & Elise McGuire
Brian McMenamin
Mike & Mary Alice McMenamin*
Merle McNell
Colleen Mershon
Sharon Nesbit
Sadie Riley
David Ripma & Mario Ayala
Irene Simons
Ione & Harry St. Clair
Robert Strebin
Kay Struckman
Marilee Thompson
Martha Wheeler
Mike Weyhrich

*New Captain's Circle Lifetime Members

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In Memory of Robert Winkler
Leona Balch

DONORS TO OUR MEMORIAL FUND

In Honor of Bob Strebin
and the late Vera Strebin
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THS gets contributions from Fred Meyer. Please enroll, using our non-profit #JA801.

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

Did you know you can renew your membership or donate through our website?
Click on the links below.
Donations
Memberships

You can also call our office and we will be glad to assist you.
503-661-2164
Community Enhancement Grant - FedEx History Panel

For most of a year, a small committee cooperating with FedEx in the Portland Troutdale Industrial Park has been at work developing a local history panel to display in FedEx and, eventually, other businesses in the industrial area.

It occurred to us that thousands of employees come to work there every day and they have no idea of the history of the area where they work — the fact that Oregon Trail pioneers landed there, that the huge Sun Dial Ranch once operated there, and that a war-time aluminum plant was located there.

So, Sharon Nesbit, Jason Cawood, Julie Stewart and LeAnn Stephan worked with Matt Leamy at Leamy Printing, Zoe Lowney at Type + Town, and Marci Laverty and Denise Wright of FedEx to develop an easy to read panel with lots of pictures telling the story. The money to do this came from a Troutdale Community Enhancement Project grant.

It was a lot more work that we thought it would be but it is complete and a presentation will take place soon at FedEx, which joined our historical society as a Corporate Sponsor member.

From here, we will approach other industries to see if they are interested in the panel for their employee rooms or reception areas.

January 2020 THS Program - *Flood of Memories, 1964* presented by Len Otto

| Callister Family - Nancy, Teri, Jo, Larry | Jo Callister, Marilyn Toenjes, Joann Otto |

Many thanks to our refreshment committee Cathy Peetz, Helen Wand, Penny Labberton, who provide us with treats and Black Rock for the coffee.
Condolences to Helen and Dave Wand who recently suffered the loss of two sisters.

Ruth Ellen Wand Casciato, fourth of eight children of Ig and Alice Wand, charter members of the Troutdale Historical Society, died Dec. 3, 2019. She lived in Vancouver and had a career in fine arts, particularly fabric arts.

Dorothy Elizabeth Wand, the fifth child in the family, died January 24, 2020. She also was an artist specializing in Alaska wildlife, stills and portraits. Both got their start in rural schools working in 4-H.

Miriam Jean Hansard - b. February 26, 1929  d. December 21, 2019

Miriam “Jean” Hansard was born in Gresham, Oregon, to Charles (Dick) and Margaret Elva (Spence) Knarr. Her father owned and operated a sand and gravel business, and she was raised in Troutdale along the Sandy River. At one time, her father was also the town mayor. She graduated from Gresham High School, and attended Linfield College where she met returning WWII veteran Carl B Hansard Jr. They married on October 5, 1947. In 1949 they moved to Eugene where he began employment as an Oregon State Trooper, transferring to Tillamook in 1953. Jean was a self-described “stay-at-home” mom until her three children were in school; then she went to work at the County Extension Office for a time, and ultimately for the Nehalem School District Office where she worked for many years as their secretary and then bookkeeper.

Jean had a quick wit and never lost her sense of humor. She was an avid reader, and in her retirement volunteered at the Tillamook Hospital. She loved music, and was a charter member of the Neskowin Chamber Music Association and a regular attendee of Monday Musicals. In her life she was blessed to be able to travel to Europe, Hong Kong, cruised through the Panama Canal and visited many destinations in the U.S. Her greatest joy was reading, but she always had a pencil in hand for the daily crossword puzzle. She bowled for many years, and dutifully joined Carl and friends on annual autumnal hunting trips to SE Oregon. She never met a piece of salmon she didn’t like to eat, or a dog she wouldn’t pet.

Her husband of 55 years, Carl, and her son Thomas (aka Grae Wyddn), and her brother Bobby (at age 10 of polio) preceded her in death. She is survived by her brother Richard (Judy) Knarr of San Francisco, and daughters Christine Crossley of Bay City and Lynn (David) Grube of Corvallis; grandchildren Shelli Hornbeak, Bryan Crossley, Sara Crossley, Heidi Bolt, Anton Grube, and Margaret Grube; and great-grandchildren Reese Grube, Sonia Grube, Isaac Hornbeak, Kiara Crossley, Sophia Bolt, Thaddeus Bolt, and Mikaela Somstey; and Smokey, her beloved dog. Never one to draw attention to herself, she desired no funeral. Memorial gifts in her name may be given to the Tillamook County Library.

Ruth Ellen Wand Casciato
b. May 9, 1945  d. December 3, 2019

Dorothy Elizabeth Wand
b. October 8, 1947  d. January 24, 2020

Robert Winkler died in December 2019, joining two older brothers who also died in 2019, reports Leona Winkler Balch, older sister.

Bob and family members were recorded at our annual meeting on April 19, 2015, a story that was a remarkable tribute to their mother, Theresa. The family arrived in Troutdale in 1936, the Winklers divorced, and Theresa Winkler worked as many as three jobs to keep her children fed. She worked at the Troutdale vegetable shed where she got the culls, and came home with rutabaga, cabbage and other vegetables creating soups to feed her children. The tale ended happily with Theresa's marriage to Thomas Kirshner who became a good stepfather to the children.

Bob Winkler spent much of his free time as a child lying belly down on the dike at the end of the Troutdale airport watching planes come and go. He confessed in the interview that 24 model planes were hanging from his living room ceiling.

The Winkler family gave us Penny Balch, our treasurer for many years. The daughter of Leona Balch, Penny died too soon of breast cancer and left Troutdale Historical Society a bequest that continues to make a difference.

You can check out, or buy, DVDs of our interviews and programs at our office in the barn. There are many good stories told there.
Are you interested in becoming a Business or Corporate Sponsor? Visit our online store troutdalehistory.org, fill out the form from this newsletter, or call 503-661-2164 for more information. The logo of our Business and Corporate Sponsors are linked to their website through our website and digital ByGone Times quarterly newsletter. We proudly display the logos at all our events.

Support our local history and become a Business or Corporate Sponsor!
Membership includes free entry to all our museums, 10% off Barn Store gift shop merchandise, quarterly newsletters by mail or email, and $10 off membership for the Oregon Historical Society.

- $20 Individual Membership
- $30 Family Membership
- $100 Lovers Oak Club
- $200 Lovers Oak Club ~ Family
- $250 Business Sponsor (includes interactive link of your logo on THS website and online newsletter)
- $500 Corporate Sponsor
- $1000 Captain’s Circle ~ Lifetime

* $15 Gift Membership given by ____________________________ (Current Member Name)

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Mail this form to:  Troutdale Historical Society
219 E Historic Columbia River Hwy
Troutdale, OR 97060

Thank you for your support!
Troutdale Historical Society sponsors free programs throughout the year.

*Current Members* can give an Individual Membership to a friend or family member for only $15 for the first year.

**Edgefield History Night**
The last Tuesday of every month (except December) the Troutdale Historical Society co-sponsors a speaker at McMenamins Edgefield Blackberry Hall, 6:30pm (doors at 5:00 p.m.) Free for all ages. Food and drink are available for purchase.