UPCOMING EVENTS

January 19
THS Program
Flood of Memories, 1964
Presented by Len Otto & Guest Panel
1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy
Sam Cox Building
2 p.m.

January 28
Edgefield History Pub
@ McMenamins Blackberry Hall
Detained by My Country
Presented by
Mitzi, Toby, and David Loftus
6:30 p.m. (doors at 5 p.m.)

February 25
Edgefield History Pub
@ McMenamins Blackberry Hall
Schemes, Dreams, and Teams: A Century of Gorge Protection Efforts
Presented by Kevin Gorman
6:30 p.m. (doors at 5 p.m.)

March 31
Edgefield History Pub
@ McMenamins Blackberry Hall
Massacred for Gold: The Chinese in Hells Canyon
Presented by Greg Nokes
6:30 p.m. (doors at 5 p.m.)

THS Program
Flood of Memories, 1964
Presented by Len Otto & Guest Panel
Sunday, January 19, 2 p.m.
Sam Cox Building - Glenn Otto Community Park
1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy - Troutdale, Oregon

Len Otto, himself a witness to the 1964 Sandy River Flood, is calling for a “Flood of Memories” at our January 19 meeting.

We will be videotaping this program because it is a great opportunity to get, on record and in person, the memories of eye witnesses and those who remember the event called The Christmas Flood of 1964.

In a recent conversation with Judy Jones, owner of Tad’s Chicken ’n Dumplings, she remembered that she was living in Portland when a big snow storm hit. “It was really cold and a couple days later it was really warm out.” That sudden melting created the torrent in the Sandy River that ripped through what is now Glenn Otto Community Park and tore out the Columbia River Highway at the Beaver Creek Bridge. It is estimated that some 750 homes farther upriver on Mount Hood were destroyed or damaged.

The Otto family faced the flood head-on as it boiled downstream and at least one Troutdale area home went into the river.

Be sure to join us to share your memories of that event, 2 p.m. Sunday, January 19, at the Sam K. Cox Building in Glenn Otto Community Park so we can learn the story of that flood from eye witnesses. If you have photos or videos to loan for copying to our archives, all the better.
Presidents Message by Erin Janssens

I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and happy. Like each year before, 2019 has flown by even faster than its predecessor.

I find myself giving thanks for the many good things, most importantly: good health, family, friends, wonderful volunteers, a great Executive Director, a wise Board of Directors, and the generosity of members whose time and money keep us moving forward. We are lucky at THS. And, very thankful.

Highlights include interesting and fun programs, engaging tours, Summer Barnyard Concerts hitting full stride, updating outreach materials, working on needed policies, and a comprehensive Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) assessment of THS. The latter included a professional review of our buildings, their systems (including lighting), collections, artifacts, the storage and display of such, and even how we can operate to slow the deterioration of things. We learned a lot going through the process, and now have a detailed report to help us in our preservation work. This also opens up additional grant opportunities we didn’t have before.

In October, the Board held a full day Strategic Retreat (thank you McMenamins for hosting us) to help fine tune priorities and direction. Overwhelming support was directed to better utilize LeAnn’s talents to focus more of her skills on curating, and explore part-time help for some administrative work, as well as invest more energy into Social Media, with the hopeful return of increasing membership. Other items identified were maximizing funds by leveraging grants, examining the cost/benefit of programs, opportunities for Legacy giving, and like so many households, how best to navigate on our shoestring budget.

As a retired firefighter, near and dear to my heart is ensuring our museums and artifacts are around for generations by making the museums more fire resistant. You likely have seen the tragedy of fires at various museums and the loss of complete collections. Prevention is key, but things like electrical shorts, wildfire, human error, and (worse yet) arson, are realities we need to prepare against. It’s an expensive venture, but one we need to pursue. In the meantime, we have posted signs to enforce no smoking, yet still find discarded cigarette butts on the grounds. Kelly Broomall and Greg Handy cleared the immediate perimeter for more fire resistance, and next steps will be to redesign and renovate the office and storage area to ensure documents are more secure with a two-hour fire rating, until one day, we save enough to leverage a grant for a fire protection system.

All in all, it’s a good problem to have. With a wonderful community of members helping to preserve and share history, we are constantly moving forward and want to express thanks along the way.

Thank you. Wishing everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in 2020 (no pun intended).

Record Numbers at the Harlow House

On Dec. 7, Kelly Broomall kept track serving 159 cups of warm wassail to visitors at the Harlow House when Mr. and Mrs. Claus, (Tom and Barbara Slyter) were there. The two greeted children and their families all afternoon, while the rest of us just tried to keep up.

Guessing that there were a lot of babies and others who didn’t have wassail (but were thrilled with the way it makes the house smell like Christmas) -- we had just under 300 guests for the afternoon. Tiny boys, dressed like lumberjacks in red plaid flannel, little girls in sparkly dresses and their parents, young families who might otherwise never come to the old house.

"It is so nice because it isn't a mall," one woman told Joyce Belcher and Harry Moffat, the greeters who met the crowds at the door. Joy Beldin kept the cookie table supplied. We had many cookies, thanks to all those who baked for the event. Left-overs were put on festive plates and taken to our friends at the City of Troutdale.

Many thanks to the Slyters, Kelly Broomall, Sharon Nesbit, Joyce Belcher, Harry Moffatt, and Joy Beldin. Thanks to Jason Cawood & Dave Johnson for hosting in the barn. And for cleanup the next day, Andrea Heim & Sharon Nesbit.
It Was So Cold the Columbia River Froze

Long time member Christine Howell writes that she would like stories from people who remember the Columbia River freezing over. First-person tales are hard to find because the last time the river froze hard enough for cars to travel on it and a two-man airplane to land on it, was in January 1930.

That was the year the late John Nasmyth wrote about crossing the frozen Columbia with three other Troutdale boys, Charles Hewitt, Victor Alder, and Chim Howell.

That story in the Troutdale history book, “It Could Have Been Carpdale,” relates how the boys walked across the river and into Camas for a bite to eat. On their return, some kind of vessel had broken the ice, forcing them to "jump from floe to floe" to get back to Oregon.

John Eliot Allen’s book, “The Magnificent Gateway,” notes the Columbia froze over in 1833, 1840, 1842, 1884 (when it was frozen from the mouth at Astoria to the Cascades), 1888, 1890, 1891, 1919, 1924 and 1930.

A Clark County historian notes that temperatures today don't come close to those in the early 1900s. In 1919 the record low for Clark County was -10. In order for the river to freeze, temperatures have to drop near 0. Further, dams maintain water flow at a pace that doesn’t allow ice to form.

If you want to know more, visit the Clark County Historical Museum in Vancouver.

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Troutdale Historical Society
Board Members

Executive Board
President: Erin Janssens
Vice President: Norm Thomas
Treasurer: Marilee Thompson
Secretary: Bettianne Goetz
Executive Director: LeAnn Stephan

Board Members
Rich Allen, Joy Beldin, Kelly Broomall, Diane Castillo-White, Rip Caswell, Jason Cawood, Jon Lowell, Sharon Nesbit

Past Presidents
Bettianne Goetz, Sharon Nesbit, Len Otto, Dave Ripma

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ITEMS AT THE BARN STORE GIFT SHOP

Unique Gift Items Sold Here
(Members receive 10% off)

Living East of the Sandy - Vol. 1 & 2
Author: Clarence Mershon
$25 each
+shipping & handling

Where Eagles Nest
Author: Helen Wand
$15 each
+shipping & handling

Available online troutdalehistory.org
Avoid shipping charges and visit the Barn Exhibit Hall Gift Shop
732 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR
Troutdale Water Tower in the Making - c1932

Now that the old sewer plant and Bissinger Wool Pullery have been demolished (just north of downtown Troutdale on the Sandy River) the only thing left to indicate the existence of the wool pullery is the iconic water tower that we always see coming in to downtown Troutdale.

In 2002, Walter Nasmyth wrote about watching the construction of the tower: "Sometime between 1930 and 1932 the Bissinger Wool Pullery was in great need of a better water supply system in order to process more hides. The only alternative they had was to build a large water reservoir with a gravity flow system from an elevated steel tank. When construction was finally started, all the kids in the area acted as sidewalk superintendents. The concrete work on the reservoir was of great interest to us, but the exciting part of the job was construction of the elevated tank tower," Walt wrote.

He explained that during the Depression, structural steel was assembled and made sound with joints secured by "hot rivets" heated in a forge. Once the tower legs were secured to the platform the forge for heating the rivets was placed on a six-foot square platform. Riveters worked on a three-foot square platform. As the tower rose the platforms were raised to each level reducing the distance the rivets were thrown because they had to arrive hot. The man operating the forge would grab a red-hot rivet with a pair of tongs and throw it up to a catcher on the platform who caught it in a cone-shaped bucket designed so that the rivet always landed with head up. Using tongs the catcher would put the rivet in a drilled hole. The "bucker" would place a steel plate over the head of the hot rivet using an air-driven hammer to secure it. As the structure grew higher, Walt remembered, there was more of a show by the hot rivet thrower and the catcher. "My brother, Herb, and I spent numerous hours watching --- I do not remember ever seeing a catcher miss a thrown hot rivet."

"I can still recall one steel worker's name, Herchel Keeney. When he saw us watching he really put a little extra pizazz into the rivet throwing."

Representing THS at Marketplace Tradeshow

The West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce presented the first annual Marketplace Trade Show on November 13th at the Troutdale House.

THS Board Members - Joy Beldin, Diane Castillo-White, and Jason Cawood were on hand to represent the Troutdale Historical Society. They answered questions, handed out brochures, and made some important connections with the community businesses.

Thank you for the increased interest in our BottleDrop fundraiser. With your support we have received $500.95 this year from the folks who recycle their cans and bottles through BottleDrop using one of our labeled bags.

Drop off locations:
Wood Village Redemption Center
23345 NE Halsey Street
Wood Village, OR 97060

Gresham Redemption Center
1313 E Powell Blvd.
Gresham, OR 97030

401 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.
If you haven’t met this diversely skilled & talented volunteer yet then let us introduce you to Laureen Lucero, our Wednesday morning Barn Exhibit Hall docent.

Laureen has been our volunteer for the last three years. During that time she took on the additional task of gathering from several storage boxes all The Outlook newspaper clippings relevant to Troutdale history and organized them into one easy to find archival file. It took her nearly a year to complete. She continues to fill this archive file with current clippings and in addition maintains the bulletin board by posting local stories, articles about our volunteers, upcoming events, and other clippings significant to the area. It makes for interesting reading and a way to stay tuned-in to our town and surrounding area.

Laureen was born and raised in Portland Oregon, attended Woodlawn Elementary and graduated from Jefferson High School. She then met and married Don MacLeod to whom she was married for 30 years. With two daughters, Laury, who lives in Portland and is on the board of Broadway Rose Theatre Company, and Julie Rae, who is a realtor in the San Diego area, Laureen was happy to be a mom and homemaker, raising a family and using her talents to venture into several career paths along the way.

Her first job was at Woodlawn Pharmacy while still in high school. Then while attending to her first child, Laureen worked as a telephone operator for Pacific Northwest Bell Phone Company.

It was in 1969 when Laureen, her husband Don, and brother Dan Lissy started with less than $5,000 (a lot of money back then) to open an 800-square-foot Portland record store, Music Millennium, at 3144 East Burnside Street. A few years later they moved down the street to the current location at 3158 East Burnside Street. There was an upstairs that was previously used as offices and Laureen opened a boutique called The Upper, selling jewelry, books, and clothing. The record store subsequently sold in the 90s to Terry Currier, who is still owner today. Sadly Don MacLeod passed away on January 31, 1996.

Fifty years later, Music Millennium is the oldest record store in the Pacific Northwest. Don MacLeod was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame in October of 2019. You can tune in to an interview with Laureen and her daughter Laury on YouTube. 2019 Induction Don Mac Leod- Oregon Music Hall of Fame

Going back a few years...When Laureen’s first child went off to college, she pursued her photography passion by doing her own film processing and going on photo shoots in and around the Portland area. She still enjoys photography.

She had taken yoga classes for several years when her teacher asked her to be her assistant. That led to her becoming a yoga teacher for more than 40 years. In association with her yoga, she uses her sewing skills making eye pillows that ship all over the world to countries like France, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Norway and England. The eye pillows are made of 100% silk and filled with flax seed, and are small enough to fit over your eyes. They help the eyes to relax at the end of yoga class.

Although retired from public teaching, she continues to teach yoga to clients at Guide Dogs for the Blind. She also enjoys reading and yard work.

After purchasing her own home she met her future husband Ray Lucero at a spiritual retreat. They married in August of 1996 and traveled several times to Hawaii to swim with dolphins. They also took a trip to Australia where they spent six weeks exploring the Gold Coast, Lizard Island, Ayers Rock and the capital Sydney, with its beautiful Opera House.

Laureen and her husband have lived in the Oxbow neighborhood for more than twenty years. Between them they have seven children, fourteen grandchildren, and five (soon to be six) great-grandchildren. She maintains the Oxbow neighborhood directory that involves keeping the neighbors abreast and informed of activities, incidents happening in the neighborhood, and responding to residents' inquiries.

When you are in the Troutdale area, stop by the Barn Exhibit Hall and meet Laureen on any given Wednesday morning. She loves sharing her knowledge of the highway and talking with visitors from all walks of life.
NEW MEMBERS
Trisha Neiger & Albert Cook
Joe & Dotta Janssens
Lora Janssens
Mary & Mark Malloy
Ellen Osoinach
Kerri Peetz
Philip Ritter
Clark & Christine Santee
Bob Strombom

DONORS TO OUR
GENERAL FUND
Kelly & Karla Broomall
Margeanne Cartisser
Karon & Dale Eggars
Kathleen Forrest
Donna Hawkins
Sally Hicks
Judith Jones
William & Lura Kitchen
Curtis & Beverly Knight
Laureen Lucero
Colleen Mershon
Marilyn Morrison
Michael Orelove
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Charlotte Rubin
Tim & Shannon Seery
Kay Struckman
Tad’s Chicken ‘n Dumplins
Marilee Thompson
Lori Vencill
Cherie & Steven Wallace

DONORS TO OUR
MEMORIAL FUND
In Memory of June Sherman Nasmyth
Louise & Ray Blohm
In Memory of Dorothy Kerslake
Richard Kerslake
In Memory of Art Kracke
E. Ann Kracke
In Memory of Harold Scofield
Rosie & Larry Puderbaugh

RENEWING MEMBERS
Joy Beldin
James & Mary Burson
Larry Callister
Rip & Alison Caswell - Caswell Sculpture
Terry & Charles Ciecko
Catherine Crabb
Carol Davis
Donna Davis
Gerald Davis
Elaine Dubesa
Karon & Dale Eggars
Claire Finkel
Charlotte Freeman
Tom & Cheryl Graves
Daina Hardisty
Donna Hawkins
Sally Hicks
Nancy Hoover
Clifford Howell
Bob & Jean Ice
Bonnie Jepsen
Dave Johnson
Dorothy Keefe
Richard Kerslake
Melba Kinker
Jeanette Kloos
Curtis & Beverly Knight
Sue Landreth
Laureen Lucero
Marilyn Morrison
Patricia Morron
Twila Mysinger
Len Norby
Betty Jo Pietzold
Diana & Grant Radke
Margaret & Michael Rice
Charlotte Rubin
Carolyn Rundorff
Janice St. John
Judith Scott
Tim & Shannon Seery
John Sherman
Janice St. John
Joyce Stewart
Zelma Sutherland
Norm & Charlene Thomas
Wendy Thompson & Elise Bush
Lori Vencill
Hazel Webb
Richard Weill
Barbara Welsh
Paul & Judy Wilcox
Frank Windust
Tony Zindel

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 Fritzsche
Bettianne Goetz
Joe & Peggy Gorciak
Greg & Sue Handy
Mel Harmon
Lynda Harvey
Karl & Bette Hays
John Hillyard
Erin Janssens
Steve & Kim Kenney
Lael Larger
Steve & Judy Lehl
Shirley Jean Loeffel
Deanna Maughan
Doug & Elise McGuire
Brian McMenamin
Mike & Mary Alice McMenamin
Merle McNeill
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

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
WORKING LIKE THEY OWN THE PLACE (which they do)

Celebrating Our Volunteers
"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give." Winston Churchill

Our volunteers give so much time, talent, and support to the benefit of the Troutdale Historical Society. We want to celebrate them.

They have a vast amount of knowledge and experience. Did you know that we have many retired volunteers - several teachers, an elementary school principal, a journalist, a CPA, a computer programmer, an engineer, two Vietnam Vets, a nurse, some business managers, some business owners, a farmer, a Columbia River Highway expert, even a Fire Chief. But, not all our volunteers are retired. We have several in the working sector - some artists, some business owners & managers. And, some of our volunteers are college students. Each one brings with them a knowledge and experience that make up the Troutdale Historical Society. We are so grateful for them all.

- LeAnn Stephan & Alex Epps (THS Staff)

Here are some of our volunteers at the Holiday Volunteer Appreciation Party @ Harlow House

Photos by Q Madp
Mice are in the House

Bev Law of Springdale loaned her mouse collection, largely tree ornaments, for the Harlow House Christmas tree this year. (This did not set well with Kelly Broomall who tried to see the house varmint free.)

Bev, in the early 1980s lived on Larch Mountain. "We always had field mice – either in our cars or house. One day I opened the entry closet and a cute little field mouse was "hiding" in the corner. I called to my family to come look at it. The next day, I was at the store, getting cat food, and saw the cutest two little gray and white toy mice, so I bought them and put them on the dashboard of the car. Needless to say, whenever I got gas, the attendant always asked if I knew there were mice on the dash. A few days after I stopped to get gas in Troutdale, when the attendant went to put gas in the car, a mouse ran out and scared him to death. I always found that funny that one could be scared of a tiny field mouse."

So you know what happened next. Friends and relatives gave Bev mice ornaments, figurines, music boxes, books, candy, Beanie Baby mice, stuffed mice dolls, pillowcases, garden art, tea pots, cups, plates, loads of cards, necklaces, earrings, and the list goes on.

Thank you to Bev for loaning them to the Harlow House this year. Bev's collection will be on display at the Harlow House until the end of December.

Winter Beauty at the Barn

It's December 10th and Bev Knight appears at the Barn to plant some winter flowers. She wants to get them planted before the rain arrives. Honestly, it is so cold that maybe it will be freezing rain. This did not stop her from planting winter pansies and purple kale.

Erin Janssens snaps up a holiday wreath while shopping to add festive decor to our Barn Exhibit Hall door. You may see this displayed beyond the holiday season.
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!

275 E Historic Columbia Riv Hwy, Troutdale
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)

Membership Dues Amount: $____________________
Donation Amount: $____________________
☐ General Operating Fund
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Payment: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

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Home Phone: ____________________________ Mobile Phone: ____________________________

Credit Card #: ____________________________ (Visa, Master Card, Discovery ONLY)
Exp. Date: _______ CVV #: _______

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.