Year 2020 - It's A Do-Over

It's official. The year 2020 is a do-over.

Though we still harbor some slim hope for fall and late winter activities, Troutdale Historical Society events through October are canceled because of the pandemic.

We especially can’t risk those of us who are “of age” and the loss of all the history in our respective noggins.

The one exception will be Edgefield History Pubs which will come to you in virtual presentations on your computers – Helen Wand and her History Pub crew are hard at work on the new technology. (See story in this newsletter about the first program, page 4.)

Because our annual meeting in June is a no-go and was supposed to be our election of officers and board members, our current officers and board have, bless them, agreed to extend their hitches to next year when it will be possible to have an election.

Our board continues to meet monthly via Zoom. To keep things running, we gather on our computers and phones, thanks to help from board member Jason Cawood. Hard to imagine when we think back to the 1960s when the historical society began with nothing but a 1926 Remington typewriter.

The pandemic is not all bad. It permitted chunks of new-found time. You will see in this newsletter that it has resulted in a second edition reprint of the city history, “It Could Have Been Carpdale” by Sharon Nesbit, as edited by Len Otto. Carpdale has been off the market for years and its return fills a gap for people wanting a Troutdale history.

This time has allowed sorting of our historic post card collection by Julia Warner, our only daily volunteer in the museum office. LeAnn Stephan, Executive Director, keeps things working at home from her dining room table. While she can enjoy the daily changes in a new granddaughter born in the pandemic, it is harrowing for her to keep our organization running from a distance.

And we are kept up to date on our web sites by Alex Epps who among other things, puts history quizzes on social media.

The worst part is not seeing all of you, our wonderful hosts, volunteers and members. But until we can get the museums open again – and get the dusting done—we cannot risk health and well being of our most valuable volunteers. We miss you all.
President's Message by Erin Janssens

I open this newsletter with continued wishes for your health and safety, as well as for your family and friends. Unlike so many across the world who have lost their lives or loved ones to COVID-19, hopefully the ongoing challenges of the pandemic are nothing more than an inconvenience for you. So far, I count myself and my family as lucky. I’ve been making progress on a long list of projects and learned how to use Zoom and FaceTime for meetings, “happy hour” with friends, and even a few guitar lessons.

The painful events we have watched unfold across our country in the midst of this historic pandemic, no matter your perspective, has fueled conflict and conversations that hopefully will lead to a path of better understanding, increased compassion, and progress toward equality regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation.

Due to safety concerns trying to limit the spread of COVID-19, we closed our museums on March 13 and our staff began working from home on March 24. We genuinely miss seeing the smiles of our wonderful and talented volunteers who help with all types of computer work and volunteers helping with yard work, building maintenance, and docents; we miss seeing folks and learning from Sharon Nesbit at our Spring 2020 Program and Annual Business meeting; we miss sharing interesting things of Troutdale and the HCRH, and meeting people, some of whom are local, and some from across the world visiting our region; we miss seeing you at our monthly History Pubs as well as sharing a meal at our annual Friends and Family Night at McMenamins Power Station, and we are missing the great music and fun at our annual Summer Barnyard Concerts. We would like to pretend that 2020 just did not happen.

As a non-profit on a narrow margin, we are also missing the revenue of these significant events. We are lucky to have our Executive Director, LeAnn Stephan, scouring for grants we might be eligible for, but so far, the grants have had more demand than resources to share, so the search continues.

Without people coming freely (and safely) through the doors, revenues are down. We still have considerable expenses from utility and employee expenses to purchasing new safety equipment required for the re-opening of our museums.

Yet, we are still thankful. Thankful knowing that with added safety precautions we’ll soon be able to re-open; thankful for our wonderful volunteers to return; thankful to see you and to begin again to meet, to gather, preserve, share, and be a part of history.

So as our community begins to re-open, please continue to be safe. There is a race for a vaccine, but we must pace ourselves for a marathon; this is a long way from over. Remember to be patient and kind with one another and support your local community to thrive. We miss you, and I am betting every small business out there does too. Thank you and take care.

Our Time to Explore

Here’s a response from our inquiry in the May/June 2020 Troutdale Champion "Troutdale and the Pandemic: Please Send Us Your Story." Thank you Nathan for adding to the historic database of the Troutdale Historical Society.

"My son and I have been doing a lot of exploring these past 6-7 weeks. I officially lost my job on 22 March when Mount Hood Meadows shut its doors for the season. My 8 year old, a second grader at Troutdale Elementary, was also laid off - from school. But Mom wasn’t. Talk about father and son time! Some days he would ride his bike while I would jog, while other days I would carry a heavy pack and hike quickly while he tagged along. I think we managed to cover every road and trail in the town, discovering trails we didn’t even know existed. Off Beaver Creek Lane we found several interesting trails, including an old Indian one that took us from our door to Glenn Otto [Community Park] in ten minutes. We found the maple trees blossom[ing] along it rather refreshing, and found out that they are actually edible, though we didn’t try any. We also managed to explore the woods behind Kiku City Park - we found what’s left of a city-built trail leading into Beaver Creek Canyon. A little more exploration and we came upon a city-built metal staircase just a few blocks away that led us down those same trails to a teetering old bridge. We looked for fish and found some garter snakes, and checked out a fish wheel that ODFW [Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife] must have built. I did everything I could to keep him occupied, because when he wasn’t out exploring the town with me, he found a way to spill house paint on the patio, break the trellising in our backyard, fill our pond with rocks and leaves, and put a hole in our drywall. What a time to grow up. Glad to share."

- Nathan Berry, Troutdale resident
The Return of Carpdale

Troutdale’s Centennial History Book, “It Could have Been Carpdale,”
the history of the city
written by Sharon Nesbit and edited by Len Otto

The book, released in 2007 for the Troutdale Centennial, has been out of print for more than a decade. Rare copies of the original have sold online for as much as $300. It took a pandemic to find the time but Sharon has gone through the first edition, creating a page of notations, corrections and updates for the second soft-cover reprint. It is the same book that sold out a decade ago, with the exception of one photo in the original publication that was in error, and the addition of notations/corrections to bring the reader up to date since 2007.

Both the Gresham Outlook and Pediment Publications relinquished their copyright for the new publication. New printing methods at the Gresham Outlook allow us to get reprints as we need them. We have arranged to mail the book to you so you can get one, even in a pandemic.

We are offering this much anticipated second edition at a pre-sale price to our members and friends of THS. Order your copy through our website store troutdalehistory.org, call our office 503-661-2164 (Office staff is working from home, so please leave a message with your name, phone number, email address and number of books requesting), or fill out enclosed form and mail with a check to the address provided.

For a limited time we are offering a discount on shipping costs for all pre-sale orders through July 31, 2020.

Pre-sale order price: Members $36 + $5 S & H*; Nonmembers $40 + $5 S & H*
*Books will be shipped once received from the printer. We have a limited number in the first printing, an additional printing will be ordered according to demand.

Regular retail price: Members $36 + $9 S & H**; Nonmembers $40 + $9 S & H**
**When museums open the option to pick up the book(s) to avoid shipping charges will be available.

419 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.

A note from...

The Friends of Multnomah Falls

If you love the Columbia River Gorge, love it back by volunteering with the U.S. Forest Service Visitor Center at Multnomah Falls.

Contact Chris Meinicke: chris.meinicke@frontier.com 503-645-3124 friendsofmultnomahfalls.org

SUMMER MUSEUM HOURS
May - September

Barn Exhibit Hall
9am - 4pm Wednesday-Saturday
1 - 4pm Sunday
Closed: Monday & Tuesday

Harlow House
1 - 4pm Sunday only

Depot Rail Museum
Closed for Renovation

TEMPORARILY CLOSED
Correction:

Our obituary for Robert Winkler in the April-June 2020 edition of ByGone Times gave an incorrect name for the stepfather of the Winkler family. It was Herman Kercher who married Theresa Winkler and took on a ready made family making him the hero of the story.

Our apologies.

Thank you for the increased interest in our BottleDrop fundraiser. With your support we have received $95.35 so far this year from the folks who recycle their cans and bottles through BottleDrop using one of our labeled bags.

UPDATE - BottleDrop Bags Now Available

You can now pick up bags Tuesday through Thursday 8-10:00 a.m. at the THS Barn Exhibit Hall 732 E Historic Columbia River Hwy. Look for the box of bags on bench outside by museum door OR Margaret Rice can deliver BottleDrop bags to your home or meet you at an agreed-on location in the Troutdale-Gresham area.

The lines at the Redemption Centers are for those wanting to process their containers for immediate cash. You do not need to enter the building. Scan the THS bar code tag on your filled bag, put bags through the outside drop door.

If you aren’t familiar with BottleDrop, the acceptable bottles are redeemable glass, plastic, metal bottles that contained soft drinks, beer, hard cider, water, tea, coffee, fruit and veg juice, energy/sport drinks, coconut water, kombucha, cocktail mixers, non-alcoholic beverages, wine, and drinking vinegar.

Hope you can fill a bag for THS.

Pick one up or contact Margaret at 503-663-5597 or margrice7@yahoo.com

Thank you for all your support with this fundraiser - we need it now more than ever!
WORKING LIKE THEY OWN THE PLACE (which they do)

**Garden Crew**

Last spring a group of volunteers saw a need and organized the “Garden Crew” to beautify the grounds around the Barn Exhibit Hall and Harlow House. They each picked a section, weeded and tended their assigned space throughout the summer. Flowers were added to several planters and Harlow Park looked fantastic throughout the season.

This year the weeds arrived and grew out of control at an astonishing rate. The Garden Crew was discouraged with the enormous task ahead of them. Then to everyone's amazement, an anonymous donor(s) hired a landscape company to resolve the problem. In one day the flower beds went from a jungle of weeds to a thing of beauty. The flower beds were weeded and bark dust was spread. The transformation was truly incredible.

Thank you so much to our anonymous donor(s) for their generosity and support of the Troutdale Historical Society. Looking to the past, we have been the recipient of many such donors. The effort to pay the mortgage of the Harlow House several years ahead of time, labor and material donation to build the barn (a 10-year project), the response to our plea for a new roof on the barn in 2015, twice recipients of the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout projects and community volunteers to repaint the barn (2007 & 2019), and the donations we receive throughout the year to help pay our general operational expenses. Plus our many volunteers who have donated time and labor to keep us moving forward for more than 50 years.

We feel your support and are very grateful and appreciative. Thank you.

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**Do you have some time to volunteer?**

The Garden Crew would love to add you to the group. You work independently in your assigned area and according to your own schedule.

Email troutdalehistory@gmail.com or call 503-661-2164.

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**Yost Family Condolences**

Steve Yost, who worked on maintenance projects over the years at the barn and Harlow House died Sunday, June 7th. We will have a more complete obituary in our next edition.
NEW MEMBERS

No new members this quarter.
Thank you to all renewing members.
We appreciate your support!

DONORS TO OUR GENERAL FUND

- Laura Anson
- Patricia Farrell
- Jeff Felker
- Jim & Shereen Gurtisen, O.D.
- Bill & Penny Labberton
- Chris Meinicke
- Shirley Miller
- Sharon Petri
- Peter & Bonnie Harlow Taylor
- Marilyn Toenjes
- Burce & Maxine Stannard
- Grant & Myrtle Sturm
- Ray & Renae Summers
- Carl & Tina Tebbens
- Robert Watkin
- Louise Dix
  - In Honor of Jim Glenn, Kenny Moen, Angela Lucas Townsend, "The Winkler Boys," Jean Knarr Hansard

- Marilee Thompson
  - In Honor of Way Out Inn & Ristorante Di Pompello

- Marilee Thompson
  - In Honor of Anonymous Donor(s) for Harlow Park Landscape Clean-up Crew

DONORS TO OUR MEMORIAL FUND

- Bonnie Jepsen
  - In Memory of Judith Jones

- Eleanor Ann Kracke
  - In Memory of Arthur Kracke

- Shirley Miller
  - In Memory of Melvin Miller

- Len & Gloria Otto
  - In Memory of Judith Jones

- Len & Gloria Otto
  - In Memory of Steve Yost

RENEWING MEMBERS

- Bruce & Diane Bangerter
- Joyce Belcher

- Comfort Inn Columbia Gorge Gateway
  - Louise Dix
  - Patricia Farrell
  - Kathleen Forrest

- Ray Fuji - Fuji Farms
  - Steve & Kathy Green
  - Mike & Barbara Goertz
  - Jim & Shereen Gurtisen, O.D.
  - Dale & Bonnie Handy
  - Dee Dee Hansen
  - Jean Holman
  - Patty & Gerald Huntley
  - Eleanor Ann Kracke
  - Bill & Penny Labberton

- Leamy Printing & Design
  - Steven Lettengarver
  - Janet & Larry McGinnis
  - Chris Meinicke
  - Shirley Miller
  - Don Nelson

- Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation
  - Michael Orelove

- Mike Opray - Orient Electric, Inc
  - Len & Gloria Otto
  - Sharon Petri
  - Joanne Ray
  - James Rhodes
  - Debbie Schoeppeper
  - Burce & Maxine Stannard
  - Gerald & LeAnn Stephan
  - Alfred & Joyce Stoeckel
  - William & Sharon Strebin
  - Grant & Myrtle Sturm
  - Ray & Renae Summers
  - Carl & Tina Tebbens
  - Marilyn Toenjes
  - Robert Watkin
  - Barbara Welsh
  - Kathleen & Gary Werner
  - David & Jeanne Wheaton
  - Glenn & Diane White

LIFETIME MEMBERS

- Mike Alderson
- Ginger Harlow Allen
- Vera Ashley
- Joan Benner
- Judith Bergan
- Nancy Callister Buley
- Stan Clarke
- Betty Cook
- Jason Cawood
- Patricia Currier
- Charles Ellis
- Georgia Erdenberger
- Kyle Fritzsche
- Bettianne Goetz
- Joe & Peggy Goriak
- Greg & Sue Handy
- Mel Harmon
- Lynda Harvey
- Karl & Bette Hays
- John Hillyard
- Erin Janssens
- Steve & Kim Kenney
- Lael Langer
- Steve & Judy Lehl
- Shirley Jean Loeffel
- 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

Fred Meyer Rewards Card
www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards
THS gets contributions from Fred Meyer. Please enroll, using our non-profit #JA801.

AMAZON SMILE
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
Judith Ward Cummins Jones - b. October 1, 1943 d. May 6, 2020

Judy (Judith) Jones, owner of Tad’s Chicken ‘N Dumplins on the Sandy River at Troutdale, died in her sleep at her Sandy River home, May 6. Jones, 76, at the time of her death, began working at Tad’s as a child when her mother, Olga Cummins Holmberg, bought the restaurant in 1950. Tad’s operations manager Lane DeSmet said, “Judy was 7 or 8 when she began washing glasses behind the bar.” Tad’s closed March 16 when the Corona 19 pandemic struck. Late last year, Jones listed the restaurant for sale saying she wanted to retire. Jones did not live to see her first great-grandchild, Emma, born May 8 in the Seattle area to her grandson, Ariel DeSmet and his wife, Brianna.

The family plans no public service. “I appreciated her sense of humor,” said former Troutdale resident Len Otto. “(She) found humor in words and situations. She did that well.”

Quiet and notoriously camera shy, Judy was perfectly happy, as her mother was, to tell people that long time waitress, Margaret Stitch, was in charge of the restaurant. But Jones cherished its history and was a faithful member of this society. For one thing, in the years when we ran our hamburger stand for the city picnic, the fried onions that were the big draw were sliced in Tad’s kitchen. She was careful to keep the flavor of the restaurant which began as a food stand at the east end of the Sandy River Bridge and moved upriver in 1946.

For years, the vintage neon sign was partially burned out, reading on the south side: “Tad’s Chic Dump,” which tickled local residents. When the sign burned out completely, Jones explained to neon restorers that she wanted it repaired, but only partially. Nor did she dare mess with the chicken and dumplings or the green beans. Like her parents before her, she maintained the comfort of the place.

Jones was a neighbor to the community. She helped Corbett Fire District buy its first water rescue craft, which was called Tad Pole. And she served chicken and dumplings at two fundraisers to help build the Troutdale Historical Society barn exhibit hall.

She was born Judith Ward Cummins on Oct. 1, 1943, in Portland to Olga and John Cummins. Her father died when she and her brother, John Cummins Jr., now deceased, were small. She was raised by her mother and stepfather, Roy Holmberg, both deceased. Olga Holmberg bought Tad’s in 1950. After their marriage, Roy, a former pilot, worked at the bar with a sign declaring, “Flying spoken here.”

Judy graduated from Portland’s Grant High School in 1950. She married James Jones, now deceased. They were divorced in 1981. She is survived by her daughter, Christine DeSmet of Portland, former son-in-law, Lane DeSmet of Troutdale, grandson, Ariel DeSmet, Seattle, his wife, Brianna, and great grand-daughter, Emma, as well as nieces and nephews.

Christy DeSmet suggests donations to either Oregon Public Broadcasting or the Troutdale Historical Society.

If you have stories you want to share about Tad’s please send them to us.

Being strawberry season, (and enjoying Hood strawberries from the Fujii berry stand), it is good to remember Terry Ege, who died in 2009 and whose obituary listed the Troutdale Historical Society ice cream social as one of his favorite events. He and his wife, Janet, who survives him, have a lifetime membership.

Ege Sanitation, which operated in Troutdale for 50 years, was sold to Waste Management of Portland, Oregon and Terry, his brother, David (deceased) and a third brother, Kenneth, who joined Waste Management, were the owners. Their father Edwin O. Ege bought the Troutdale sanitary service from Harlen Lehli in 1954.

The vintage skis you see on the wall in the Harlow House parlor over the organ were donated by the Ege family. Ege Sanitation was always a regular supporter of our ice cream social which began in 1968 and continued into the 1990s when our feet finally wore out pounding the concrete floor while serving strawberry ice cream sundaes.

Mary Lou Welsh Johnson - b. June 30, 1925 d. April 27, 2020

Mary Lou Welsh Johnson, the last member of the family that started Blue Lake Park, died April 27 at the age of 94. She was the daughter of Nick and Mary Welsh, born June 30, 1925.

Mary Lou gathered the history of Blue Lake and the community of people that grew there. She and her family gave many photos and artifacts to THS about the years they created and operated Blue Lake Park before it was sold to Multnomah County. Recent donations to the society included Nick Welsh Sr.'s plans for a subdivision of lake-front homes on the lake shore that is now a park, an action that likely triggered purchase of the Welsh property by Multnomah County.

Mary Lou went to Fairview Grade School and enjoyed a visit to that school recently before its demolition. She graduated from Gresham High and the University of Oregon and was a founding member of Parkrose United Methodist Church. She married Leland Johnson on her birthday in 1947. Her brothers Bennett Welsh and Nick Welsh predeceased her as did her husband. She is survived by three sons and a daughter, their children, and great grandchildren.

Mary Lou was the keeper of Blue Lake's history and the people who lived there. "She was the last of the old guard," said Bettianne Goetz, Troutdale Historical Society secretary and her longtime neighbor.

Ed Ashley was darned handy to have around when you were building a museum barn. Ashley, who died March 16 at the age of 90, was the fellow who brought underground electricity to the barn and the Harlow House. It was a big deal because it meant digging up the Historic Columbia River Highway, burying a big thing the size of a Buick in the Harlow House lawn and closing off the highway for the time it took. Just the permits were dizzying. No one better than Ed. He was an electrical engineer who began a career with the Corps of Engineers at Bonneville Dam in 1959 and retired as acting chief of operations in the Portland District at age 55. He then became an electrical code inspector for the City of Troutdale until he retired for good. He and his wife, Vera, lived in Troutdale and were regulars at our bingo games back in the day. So when it came time to get underground wiring to the barn, he was our guy.

He was famous in town for being one of the first to shave his head. It was just cleaner and easier maintenance, he said. He loved everything about the Columbia River Gorge. He was born Feb. 11, 1930, and grew up on the family farm near Antler, N.D. He married Vera, who survives him, in 1951 and entered the Navy where he held the rank of Aviation Electrician First Class. He ultimately earned a degree in electrical engineering and earned his professional engineer license at Oregon State. He had three children and is survived by them, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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THANK YOU BUSINESS SPONSORS

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
Mission Statement
To gather, preserve and make available material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, the Sandy River, the Columbia River Gorge and near area; to stimulate interest in the knowledge of the locality’s past.

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.