Mark Your Calendars!

March 18
2 p.m.
Len Otto:

April 15
2 p.m.
Oral History
Glenn Otto Park in the Sam Cox Building. Sharon Nesbit Interviewing a valued community member TBA in April’s Bygone Times.

May 12
2012 Cemetery Tour.
Group will meet at the Barn Museum. Bus will leave at 9 a.m. Destination TBA

THS March 18 Program: Len Otto presents “The Army Corps of Engineers” Troutdale Lab

From wartime warehouse to state of the art testing laboratory, the US Army Corps of Engineers Troutdale Lab did it all: chemistry, concrete, soils, and petrography.

The North Pacific Division (NPD) Materials Laboratory, also known as the Troutdale Lab, was built in 1941-1943 as one of the two warehouses constructed by the Defense Plant Corporation in association with the Troutdale Aluminum Plant. The two warehouse buildings were purchased by the North Pacific Division of the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) in 1949 and the east building was remodeled in 1950 and became a division materials testing laboratory for the USACE.

The period of significance is 1949-1954, reflecting its association with and contribution to the post-war expansion of the Federal dam system in the western United States.

Join Len Otto in a photographic tour of this 62,000 square foot historic building on Sunday, March 18, at 2:00 p.m. in The Troutdale City Conference Building, 223 Buxton, Troutdale.
**Bygone Times**

### Thank you to renewing members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maxine &amp; Bruce Stannard</th>
<th>Bonnie Harlow Taylor</th>
<th>Joann Otto</th>
<th>Jean Driver</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ray &amp; Nancy Hoover</td>
<td>Wilma Konkell</td>
<td>Leroy &amp; Patti Smith</td>
<td>Jean Torland</td>
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<td>Barbara &amp; Raymond DeCamp</td>
<td>Mary Gerding</td>
<td>Art &amp; Ann Kracke</td>
<td>Norm &amp; Louella Webb</td>
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<td>Herbet Nasmyth</td>
<td>Marilyn Morrison</td>
<td>Greg &amp; Sue Handy</td>
<td>Leona Balch</td>
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<td>Freida Oneil</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Elaine Dubesa</td>
<td>Wayne &amp; Janet Vandiver</td>
<td>Christine Howell</td>
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<td>Joanne Kerslake-Ray</td>
<td>Lois Douglass</td>
<td>Clarence &amp; Colleen Mershon</td>
<td>David Rees</td>
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<td>James Workman</td>
<td>Madeline Grimm</td>
<td>Geneva Kellogg</td>
<td>Nellie Hjaltalin</td>
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<td>Darline Payne</td>
<td>Dick Anderson</td>
<td>Jean Holman</td>
<td>Jennifer &amp; David Munson</td>
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<td>Jerry &amp; Jean Hybskmann</td>
<td>Karen &amp; Ray Zakrzewski</td>
<td>Kenn Lantz</td>
<td>Paul &amp; Marilyn Toenjes</td>
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<td>Dorothy Sturges</td>
<td>Cathy Peetz</td>
<td>Mary Eaton</td>
<td>Kathy Werner</td>
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<td>Frieda Ryland</td>
<td>Carl &amp; Tina Tebbens</td>
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<td>Terri (Sprenger) Best</td>
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<td>Donald &amp; Tannis Richard</td>
<td>Dick &amp; Judy Knarr</td>
<td>Jerry &amp; Bobbie Matches</td>
<td>Irene Starr</td>
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<td>Gerald &amp; Shirley Lambert</td>
<td>Jeanne Landis</td>
<td>Richard &amp; Juanita Espenet</td>
<td>Sandy Cartisser</td>
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<td>Steve &amp; Betty Kaufman</td>
<td>Tom &amp; Janice Cowling</td>
<td>Clayton &amp; Rayleen Nelson</td>
<td>Lois ‘Arlie’ Harris</td>
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<td>Evelyn Jacobson</td>
<td>Vi Nasmyth</td>
<td>George &amp; Carole Klinger</td>
<td>Ann Rice</td>
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<td>Nancy Kordosky</td>
<td>Elice Swanson</td>
<td>Bob &amp; Tami Campbell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dale &amp; Bonnie Handy</td>
<td>Steven &amp; Deborah Yost</td>
<td>Ray &amp; Karen Davenport</td>
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### Welcome New Members:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dale &amp; Karon (Cox) Eggers</th>
<th>Bob Baker</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Winkler</td>
<td>Joyce Belcher</td>
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<td>Joanna Klick</td>
<td>Marcelline Norman</td>
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### Thank you re-newing Business Sponsor

Bill & Sharon Strebin
Strebin Farms, LLC.

**Endowment Donation**

Joann Otto

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If you have been receiving the *Bygone Times* by email and all of a sudden it starts coming by snail mail, it is because your email bounced back to us...Please let the office know if you have changed your email address! If you are not receiving it by email and would rather, please send an email to: terry@troutdalehistory.org.

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![Brickhaven's Bed & Breakfast](image1)

![Columbia River Gallery](image2)

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Please support our important business sponsors!
Open Air Market Open Year-Around in Depot Parking Lot!

*Artists, crafts people
and fresh produce!*

The market is open every Saturday. Come support these local vendors that do so much to support THS!

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**Troutdale Centennial Posters**

now on sale at the Depot Store

$5.00

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He tried
To cross
As fast train neared
Death didn't draft him
He volunteered

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At long last we have copies of Tom Cowling’s newest book, *The Ghost Towns on Bridal Veil Creek*, in the Depot Store. The first printing of Tom’s book sold out before we could get any of them. The price of the book is $25.

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Memories of ‘Living by the River’  
By Jim Glenn

The rental cabins have long ago been removed and the hole where they once stood has been filled in and paved over, creating the parking lot for Glenn Otto Community Park.

Mr. and Mrs. (Elliott and Ruby) Staten owned and operated those low income rental units as well as a filling station at the west end of the Sandy River bridge on the Old Columbia River Highway.

Mr. Staten took to me and Tommy from the first time we met and our friendship lasted long after we moved away from Troutdale. Colorful and perhaps eccentric would be two choices to describe the spry old gentleman who taught us various things in those early years including mumbley-peg, a knife game that every boy of that era played. He told us the game required three pieces of equipment. A knife and a pair of shoes. Me and Tommy ran barefoot for the most part in the summer. Guess it was his way of telling us it was best played in winter.

He showed how to select the best firewood on our trips up to the Larch Mountain area to get firewood for his rental units. It was on one of those trips that he taught us the Tarzan holler that would have made Johnny Weissmuller envious, and Tommy would answer with a similar holler of his own. They had established a communication system of their own.

One thing we remember about Mrs. Staten is the fantastic home made popcorn balls she would hand out at Halloween. We would eat them before we got more than a few steps away from the front door of that old filling station and when we went back for a second visit, she would give us caramel apples.

There was a long driveway coming off the old highway and as Tommy and I started walking that late autumn day recently with the sun shining and a slight hint of the east wind, we stepped back in time to the years when two little tow-heads roamed freely throughout the campground. Past the tabernacle on our left, now called the Sam K. Cox Building was a large fish pond that had several gold fish and a large rock garden surrounding most of the pond. That rock garden was a favorite destination during “hide and seek” games.

Before it was Glenn Otto Community Park, the land was occupied as a campground by Advent Christian Church for their annual summer retreats. My folks rented a house towards the south boundary of the campground where we lived for a few years as America transitioned from the war years and into the prosperity of the 1950s and beyond.

Please support our important business sponsors!
derfoot, he’d hand me a trowel and
tell me to go play with it and not to
hurt myself.

And past that building was an
old wooden water tower that was
eventually torn down and subsequent-
ly carted off, but not before one of
Tommy’s bare feet found a rusty nail
in the rubble that resulted in a quick
trip to Doc (Corrine) Chamberlain’s
office in Gresham.

Past the water tower was a rest
room with indoor plumbing for the
annual retreaters and next to it was a
chicken coop right next to the bank
overlooking Beaver Creek. Next came
the yard with the chopping block and
piles of firewood near the back steps
of the house. In certain trees back
there near the south end of the park,
we located old disconnected electric
wires and ceramic electric insulators
from a bygone grid that provided elec-
tricity to the different buildings
throughout the campground that have
all been removed by floods, storms
and progress.

With a chicken coop, there had
to be chickens and we had a few, in-
cluding a big red rooster that one day
showed up for work in deranged state
of mind. He became a self-appointed
guard rooster and no one entered the
yard without his personal approval.
Tommy was born fearless and his fa-
vorite tactic for getting past the roost-
er was to simply run straight at it
while bellowing that crazed Tarzan
noise. The berserk fowl, startled at
first, would get out of his way, then
light out after him in hot pursuit, with
flapping wings and a red feathered
crown standing tall on its head. With
the extra speed the wings provided,
the chicken pretty much lost its ma-
neuverability. So just as Tommy was
about to be overtaken, he’d jive to his
left, then right and scamper up the
back steps to the safety of the
screened back porch. I would follow
suit and upon reaching the porch,
there was Tommy catching his breath
with an ear to ear grin and waiting for
Mr. Staten’s return whoop.

That guard rooster never attacked
our Mom and we had a theory for that.
We figured the rooster had to know
Mom was the cook and, to avoid be-
ing the guest of honor for Sunday din-
er, left her alone.

Jim’s story will continue next month
in the Bygone Times.

We would love to have your stories about growing up in Troutdale. Contact Terry at the
Depot office, 503-661-2164 or terry@troutdalehistory.org. Everyone has stories to tell!

This advertisement appeared regularly
in the Beaver State
Herald, an early
Gresham newspa-
paper. Found by THS
member Ann
Kracke while doing
research in the OHS
archives. Ad circa
1906.

Happy 95th
Birthday
to THS member
Lois “Arlie” Harris

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Troutdale and THS Loses a Friend

Vernon Rathman,

Vern Rathman, former mayor of Troutdale and longtime community supporter, died Friday, Feb. 17. He was 84 and a resident of Sandy.

A celebration of his life is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 17, at First Baptist Church, 224 W. Powell Blvd., Gresham.

Vern served as mayor of Troutdale from 1960 to 1964 and was involved in several civic organizations, including the Troutdale Lions and the Troutdale Historical Society. He was an excavating contractor and served on the city’s first planning commission.

Vernon and his wife, Martine, co-founded the Windy Whirlers Square Dance Club, which first met in members’ homes and later moved into Troutdale City Hall. Martine preceded him in death in February of 2010.
Bygone Times

Beverly Welker Potts

Beverly Welker Potts, 80, died on Feb. 15, 2012.

Beverly, the daughter of Charles and Edna Welker was born Sept. 28, 1931 in Portland. She died in the loving care of the staff of Adams House of Oatfield Estates. She was preceded in death by Robert Potts, her husband of seven years. Beverly attended Franklin High School and Vanport. She received her B.A. from Portland State University, and her Master of Librarianship from The University of Portland. She worked as a long distance operator at Pacific Northwest Bell and taught at Central School in Seaside. When she retired, she was a librarian at William Knight Elementary in Canby. Activities during retirement included cataloging photos for the Troutdale Historical Society, driving for Loaves and Fishes and reading on air for Golden Hours.

Carol Patricia Erh

Gresham resident Carol Patricia Ehr, 82, died on Feb. 18.

Pat was born Sept. 22, 1929, in Weiser, Idaho. The family moved to Portland at the start of World War II and Pat attended Jefferson High School. During her senior year, the family moved back to their ranch in Eastern Oregon, where she graduated in 1947 from Vale Union High. She attended Eastern Oregon College.

On Feb. 5, 1955, she married Richard Ehr. They resided in the Parkrose area. After raising their children, Pat and Dick moved to Gresham where they resided for the past 25 years. Pat enjoyed helping Dick, an architect, build architectural models as well as much of their furniture.

Pat was an avid swimmer and skier. She was a cook, seamstress, knitter and creator of her own patterns. She also enjoyed reading, jigsaw puzzles and card games, especially bridge. She was involved in Meals On Wheels and the League of Women Voters. Pat was an interviewer for the U.S. Census Bureau for 21 years. She traveled throughout the western states and to China, Russia, Europe, the Panama Canal and other places. Pat volunteered for Troutdale Historical Society for several years reviewing articles for the library.

Survivors include her husband; sons, Milton Nelms of Tasmania, Australia, Stuart Ehr of Sisters and Douglas Ehr of Portland; daughter, Marcia Chisholm of Gresham; sister, Ginny Snodgrass of Portland; six grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

Contributions can be made to Medical Teams International, P.O. Box 10, Portland, 97207
**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 nearby area; To stimulate interest in and knowledge of, the locality’s past.

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**Our Thanks…from THS…to the following for their support!**

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**Donations in Memory**
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