



BYGONE TIMES

Newsletter of the Troutdale Historical Society

August/September 2003

Coming up at THS

Harvest Faire

Sat. & Sun.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
September 13 & 14
Glenn Otto Park

Sept. Program:

Historic School Tour

Sat. Sept. 27, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Meet at the Depot

Oct. Program:

Columbus Day Remembered
Sun. Oct. 19, 2 p.m.
Troutdale City Hall

Bring your photos and memories of the 1962 Columbus Day Storm.

Program will be videotaped.

Nov. Program:

Sun. Nov. 16, 2 p.m.
Troutdale City Hall

Christmas Open House

Sat. Dec 6
Noon - 4 p.m.

Harlow House

Jan. Program:

Sun. Jan. 18, 2 p.m.
Troutdale City Hall

THS presents Harvest Faire

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 13 & 14 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Stroll through the park, enjoy live music by Geezer Street and shop a bit...maybe a good time to buy unique Christmas gifts from the numerous vendors lining the path. Then cozy up to Sadie Riley's delicious chili. Have a slice of pie for dessert with ice cream if you like...this is the one time of the year when THS volunteers bake delicious homemade pies and sell whole ones to go.

Vic Jones is the proud new owner of Tippy Canoe and has graciously agreed to provide the beer garden and donate a portion of the proceeds to THS. Thank you Vic.

There will be plenty of fun things for the entire family to see and do. The Harlow House is featuring a wonderful school memorabilia exhibit. The Rail Depot Museum and Caboose are favorites of the kids. And be sure and stop by the barn to see Kathy Allegri's lovely mural "Once Upon The Quicksand."



"One Room School" Trek Coming up Saturday Sept. 27

Come join us September 27th for the One Room School Trek presented by Historian Chuck Rollins! The bus will leave the Depot at 10 a.m. The tour will be visiting eleven sites, where once stood one room schools. Although eventually all of the schools consolidated into what is now Corbett School District, the very first school in the Gorge was a school from the Troutdale School District. The bus will take us through the hills of East County; also included will be a tour of the Crown Point Country Historical Society's museum in the old Springdale School Building, and a picnic lunch at some undisclosed spot. Logging and Lumbering is the current theme at the Springdale Museum. Mom's Garden Bakery is providing the box lunches.

Plans are to return to the Harlow House by 5 p.m.

The cost for the bus, lunch and tour is \$20. Be sure to send your money to Troutdale Historical Society, 104 SE Kibling St., Troutdale OR 97060...and make your reservations early, as space is limited. This will be a scenic and informative tour of the historic schools of our area.

Dorothy Klock's book, re-published by Clarence Mershon, "Crown Point Country Schools" will be available for those of you that have not yet had a chance to purchase a copy.

Quicksand & Condors Exhibit Develops

Thanks to our generous supporters, friends and members the Lewis & Clark Auction Dinner helped us reach our goal to complete the bicentennial project. With the money raised the evening of the auction we will receive the matching money grant from the National Park's Service in the amount of \$20,000 to be used on the Quicksand & Condors exhibit.

It was a lovely evening on the bluff overlooking the Columbia River from the Thiemann's patio where the festivities took place. The salmon was delicious, the wine delectable and the hospitality and friendship divine. Another success story from the pages of the hard working volunteers at THS.

There are too many names to list that gave generously of their time and money....you know who you are and we want each and everyone of you to know you have our deep appreciation.

On July 19 there was a pre-opening of the "Quicksand and Condors" exhibit at the barn. The mural "Once Upon A Quicksand" was unveiled and artist Kathy Allegri described the process of this lovely creation. Author Sydney Stevens was on hand to sign copies of our book "Q is for Quicksand," published in conjunction with the exhibit. Many thanks to those of you who were able to come by and meet Kathy and Sydney....we are truly fortunate to have

such talent working with us on this project. Copies of this informative book are available (\$8) at the Depot.

If you drive by the barn, take a look at the nice bed of gravel and the giant cedar tree. Imagine that tree becoming a canoe. Thanks to Dr. Jim Gurtisen for heading up this portion of the exhibit and a big thank you to Dan Kerslake for donating the tree. Gurtisen's team will be building the plank house shelter for the upcoming canoe carving demonstrations. Thanks to the expertise of Clifton and Christine Bruno, the tree will be carved, using authentic methods into our very own canoe.

Volunteers have finished painting and cleaning the exhibit area and Jean and Jerry Hybskmann have built the platform depicting the dock area. Now that we have the money lined up, the graphics will be produced and progress will continue towards completion of the exhibit.

If you or someone you know, would like to become involved in the researching and building of this exhibit, call the office (503-661-2164)...this exhibit team consists mostly of people who have day jobs and are volunteering spare time and they would welcome any help you may wish to offer.

Volunteering and The Importance of Being There

Last week Director Sheryl Maydew was returning from vacation and nearing the Canadian border when her cell phone rang with word from our security agency that the Harlow House burglar alarm was going off.

It just so happened that the people who are ordinarily on the call list when such things happen were all gone that day, so Maydew called Sharon Nesbit to check on things.

Nesbit discovered the front door unlocked and the alarm blaring and entered the house carefully to make sure there were no burglars there. She tiptoed around a bit and finding nothing disturbed, was headed out when a small blond head popped around the door.

The menace in this case was two inquisitive third graders who hoped to visit the museum, knocked politely and opened the door, setting off the alarm and scaring the bejeebers out of them. (Apparently the last person in the building left the alarm on, a good thing, but failed to lock the door, a bad thing.) No harm done. One of the third graders came back with his dad the next day for a personal tour. But it does illustrate our need to be there and share our museum with the

curious and the inquisitive. If you can sign up for our winter hosting schedule, Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Harlow House and weekends at the rail depot, please call 503-661-2164. One day a month is all we ask.

Volunteers Will See New Hosting Tips

Mario Ayala, an excellent typist, has retyped all our tired and much photocopied museum host materials. The result soon will be a new training packet for our volunteer hosts and tour guides containing easy to read — in big type — histories of John Harlow and other Harlow House families, our museums and the community of Troutdale. Further, we have found a videotape of one of Sharon Nesbit's walking history tours, which will be provided to help train others to host our school and adult walking history tours. The first school tour is Sept. 24. Bob Whipps, former Troutdale UPS driver, is a new tour guide volunteer. Also welcome Ola June, who started work in the Harlow House in August.

Troutdale Historical Society in August received payment via the Multnomah County Circuit Court system from former director Laura Newton of more than \$10,000 that she stole from our society over a period of nine months from January through October 2001.

The final check for \$10,255 settles in full a court judgment of March 22, 2002, requiring Newton to repay the historical society more than \$12,000 stolen from the treasury, largely in the form of extra paychecks that she issued herself. For the past year, Newton has been paying the society at a rate of \$150 a month. The lump sum payment last month concludes that process. Court officials told former president David Ripma, who coordinated all aspects of the discovery and prosecution of Newton, that full payment in these kinds of cases is rare. "We are fortunate to get it", Ripma said. "It ends a sad chapter in our society's history."

Ripma congratulated those who helped resolve the case including Marlene Burns, who discovered the theft in an audit Halloween night, 2001; former treasurer Penny Balch who spent hundreds of hours tracing the loss in the society's books and made a clear case to the court that Newton's acts were willful and deliberate; Sharon Nesbit who coordinated

public information and assumed part of Newton's duties; board member Scott Cunningham who helped Ripma gather evidence prior to the confrontation with Newton, and Jean Holman who joined Balch, Ripma and Cunningham in a painful confrontation that ended with Newton's resignation.

Sheryl Maydew, who offered much helpful advice in the process and now serves as the society's volunteer director, says that new financial safeguards have been initiated under the direction of Marlene Burns and current board treasurer Tom Graves. Newton manipulated her paychecks from the payroll company and also opened bank statements in order to conceal the theft. None of those acts are possible in the new processes initiated since the theft.

"We can assure our members that we learned a hard lesson", Maydew said. "The worst part of it", Ripma added "was the loss of trust. We had a long line of wonderful directors whom we trusted implicitly."

Working Towards The Mission

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.

THS recently received a call from Sylvia Graham, history teacher at PCC. She said she was told that THS was a very active historical society and called to propose a project. She will send some history students to us, who will each perform ten hours of work. They will be helping us with curation, archiving and possibly some will work on portions of the Quicksand and Condors exhibit.

Last month we welcomed Michelle Adams, who comes to us through Mt. Hood Community College's Steps to Success program. Michelle will be working 30 hours per week for three months. She is friendly, outgoing, smart and we've heard "good at winging it". Michelle has been calling members to fill out the museum host schedule, working on our reference library project, and helping out wherever needed in the office. Be sure to say "hi" to Michelle and thank her, if she calls or when you stop by the Depot.

We have evaluated and are in the process of ordering the computer software program "Past Perfect", which is widely used by museums and historical societies nationally. This program will be used to keep track of our artifact collection, photo library, reference library and archive materials. We were recently notified by Lynette Walters of Mt. Hood Community College that their data processing class led by Doug Evans is interested in back loading all of our existing data and catalogues into the program for us!

We Get Billing At Oregon Historical Society

Oregon Historical Society opens its doors once again on Sept. 20 after a remodeling. The new exhibit on the history block in downtown Portland is Oregon A to Z, and our historical society contributed several elements for this great new display.

The exhibit allows visitors to begin at A (that would include an abacus from the Kam Wah Chung museum in John Day) and spell out Oregon's history with alphabetically displayed items.

The OHS newsletter explains it like this: "An example, consider the letter S. At the exhibit, you can expect to find a set of portable balance scales, used to weigh placer gold in the 1860s (on loan from Southern Oregon Historical Society), a scale used to weigh smelt dipped from the Sandy River (Troutdale Historical Society.)"

Go See the exhibit soon.

Wishing Walt a Speedy Recovery

Walt Nasmyth had hip surgery recently...we hope he heals quickly. We are very grateful to Walt. Besides working on our photo library, he has donated a computer and also donated copies for us to sell of his book "Memories From My Early Years In Troutdale", which is full of wonderful tales of Troutdale and available for sale at the depot.

Barn Roof & Gutters Cleaned

Thanks to Max Maydew for the much needed cleaning. It was no small task, that's one steep roof. He says the vane is broken, though. Any one out there willing or able to fix our barn's vane?

Our Thanks...THS wishes to thank the following for their support:

Donations

- Judith McCreary
- In Memory of Gertrude "Trudy" M. Witter
- Charles Ellis
- Dan Kerslake (for donating the cedar tree)
- Members shopping at Albertsons
- Lois Moller (school exhibit memorabilia)



Did you know? That's June Nasmyth perched on the horse proudly helping prep the Troutdale school yard for the playground

Eileen Brown

Eileen Brown, sister of Garthe Brown, died in April and was featured in one of the Oregonian's Life Stories on the obituary page. Eileen was born in 1915. She and Garthe lived for a time in the old Hicklin Place (now Lewis and Clark State Park) across the Sandy River from Troutdale. Garthe Browne presented a program to the historical society about the family's time there and both have been very helpful in reconstructing the history of the Hicklin donation land claim. Eileen was a physical therapist. According to The Oregonian account, "Her brother taught her to read, and Eileen was such a bookworm that she would stop and sit down on the curb to read and then be late for class. Her teachers punished her for being late by having her write the Gettysburg Address on the chalkboard or sending her to the library, which was her idea of heaven."



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 Research
 Marlene Burns, Accounting

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