



# Bygone Times

*Newsletter of the*

**Troutdale Historical Society**

**November ~December 2008**

## Please Mark Your Calendar

### November 7

#### First Friday at The Depot

Artist will be Inga Ojala, music will be Jensen Graham and his "Delta Blues" and Star Simon from Leaning Star Winery in Corbett will be presenting her wine for tasting. This will be the last

First Friday at the Depot until February, so come on down!

### November 16

#### Program Meeting at City Hall, 2 p.m.

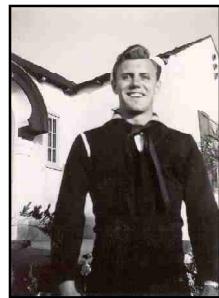
Local World War II Veterans will be interviewed. This will be a good one. Light refreshments will be served.

### December 6

#### Christmas Open House

Come to Harlow House and have some cider and a cookie with Santa from 11-4

## November Program Honors Local Veterans



**Bob Dix**



**Scott Cunningham**

November's, Sunday program meeting at City Hall on Nov. 16 will be a very memorable one. Please come and hear stories from Harvey Weprech, Paul Toenjes, Scott Cunningham, Stan Rathman, Vern Rathman, Merle McNeel, Bob Dix and Herb Nasmyth. Anyone else who served in WWII and would like to participate is invited to do so.

The veterans will be interviewed by Kim Cook, military writer, who will return in January to discuss "Warrior Tales" and advise veterans how to chronicle their memoirs. January's meeting may also be a continuation of November's meeting depending on how long it is.



**Harvey Weprech**



**Herb Nasmyth**



**Paul Toenjes**

The program begins at 2 p.m. at City Hall and light refreshments and coffee will be served. For more information please call the THS office at 503-661-2164.



We now have a credit card machine at the Depot for purchases in the store, membership dues and reservations for Treks and Tea & Tour. Come on in a buy something for Christmas.

## <sup>2</sup> From the Director's Chair

by Terry Huston



Orlin Huston ~ Army 1943

**"We loaded, reloaded again and again  
'til we felt we couldn't go on.  
But there was no need for any decision  
We were part of the Dixie Division"**

This Veterans Day is a hard one for me. It is with honor I add Dad's pictures to this month's newsletter. His military marker has arrived at the cemetery in The Dalles, but we have not made the trip to see it yet.

One of my favorite stories Dad always told us about the war was about our "sisters."

Dad was a gunnery sergeant and took many pictures of his time in The Philippines and in New Guinea. There were some pictures of bare-chested young native girls and Dad would always tell us they were our sisters. He also used to tell us how sick all the soldiers got as they traveled on the ship through the Pacific. Dad was one of the lucky ones. He came home. He had a few bouts with malaria after he got home, but he came home.

I heard somewhere that we are losing our WWII Veterans at a rate of 1,000 per month, so it will be a real pleasure and honor to attend this month's program meeting and listen to the stories from a small segment of "the greatest generation." Please join me at this month's program meeting,

Since there will not be a December newsletter, I will wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. Please join us at Harlow House on Dec. 6 for Open House and to see Santa. Have safe holidays.

Terry

### From Jerry & Laura Lawry:

We would like to thank you for dedicating the Depot Rail Museum waiting room in our son's name. The renovation of the depot was a vision Jeff had to bring the artifacts into a perspective with

function of the depot. The addition of the "Depot People" helped to bring the era together. Many long hours were spent in designing the people as well as set up of the displays.

On May 29, 2001, the re-opening cel-

ebration was an evening that his vision came alive. He just beamed as he watched everyone have a good time.

We know he is once again smiling with the dedication of his vision. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



### Meet Barbara Crichton

Barbara is our "new" office assistant. She started with us back in May and has been an enormous help in the office and working with our curator, Mary Bryson entering artifacts into our computer system. She comes from the Easter Seal Program to get training to return to the job force. Stop by the office and say hello!

**A HUGE thank you to Mike Alderson and Clyde Keebaugh, City of Troutdale, for helping us get the bugs at the Depot and the skunks at Harlow House under control. It has been a crazy year for critters at THS.**

### Volunteer Opportunities

- 1. Musem Host**
- 2. Grant Writer**
- 3. Museum Host**
- 4. Electrician**
- 5. Museum Host**
- 6. Scrap booking**
- 7. Museum Host**

Please call Adrienne Clausen at 503-665-5288 to Volunteer.

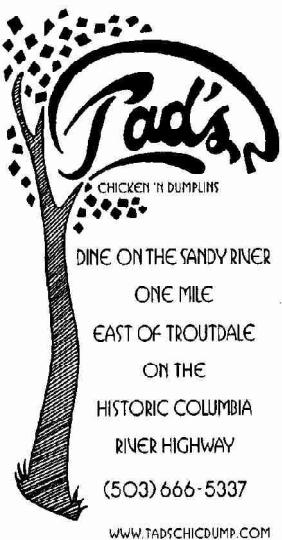
### Picture of the Month



**Herman P. U. Skunk getting ready for his trip to the wilds of Estacada. We not only caught Herman, but his very pregnant wife Hilda and their two sons Henry and Harrison.**

**Len Otto**  
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# <sup>4</sup> October Trek enjoyed by all!



The lady waits on board. A mural in the "river" exhibit at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center.



Sharon Nesbit, Margaret Maggy, John Andrew and Jean Holman at the Fort Rock in The Dalles. Lewis & Clark camped on this very spot.



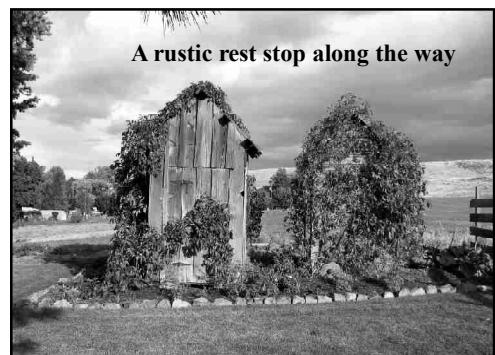
Fort Dalles surgeon's quarters built in 1856. The fort was founded in 1850 to protect Oregon Trail wagons and help exhausted pioneers on their way to the Willamette Valley. At that time it was the only fort between Fort Laramie, Wyoming and Fort Vancouver.



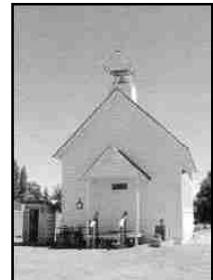
Our bus driver Seng



Schreiber Log Cabin in Dufur



A rustic rest stop along the way



One room school house in Dufur



The Balch Hotel in Dufur, built in 1907.



Trekkers on the porch at the Balch Hotel.

## Helen Rees

Helen Guyton Rees, author and Fairview historian, died Thursday, Oct. 2, in Gresham at the age of 98. A memorial service was held on Oct. 11, at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.

Rees, a resident of Fairview since 1942, was a postal clerk, homemaker and a Civil Rights marcher in Washington D.C. She wrote five history books. Her motto, she said in an interview in 2005, was "Write what is true."

In 1945, when Gresham business leaders organized in an attempt to prevent interned Japanese residents from returning to Gresham, she was the only reader to challenge the idea in a letter to the Outlook.

She began her work as an author/historian when she was provoked to write a history of Shaniko after reading a dime-novel approach her hometown in Central Oregon. She later wrote a history, "Fairview, On Duck Lane," about Fairview's Dunbar and Heslin families.

Born March 30, 1910 in Kent to William and Ada Guyton, she was raised in the area graduating from Kent High School. She married William Adelbert Rees on Jan. 4, 1929, on the Guyton ranch near Kent. She and her family moved to Fairview in 1942. Her husband, postmaster at Fairview for more than 20 years, died in 1992.

She was a member of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Daughter of the King, Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Historical Society, East County Church Women United, Heifers for Relief and past president of the Gresham Union High Parent Teacher Association.

She volunteered for SERVAS selling fair trade imported articles, as well as Meals on Wheels, and as a 4-H Leader. She sent relief packages to foreign countries during World War II and made quilts for the homeless in addition to reading, gardening, needlework and food preservation.

She is survived by daughter Anna Rosene of Boring; son Charles Rees of Columbia, Maryland; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Two sons, William and Richard Rees preceded her in death.

## Willa Sue Peetz Davis

Sue Davis, a charter member of the Troutdale Historical Society, died Sept. 19 at her daughter's Beaverton home at the age of 90. A graveside service was held at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Gresham on Wednesday, Oct. 1.

Until recently, Davis had lived 61 years in the same home in Troutdale. She was born in Alva, Okla., the daughter of Robert and Myrl (Edwards) Seyler on Nov 18, 1917. Her family came west in 1938 and to Troutdale in 1947.

A homemaker and mother of four, she was married to Theodore Peetz, who died in 1955, and to Rankin Davis, a former Troutdale city councilor, who died in 1991. She and Rankin Davis were charter members of the Troutdale Historical Society, joining the organization at its founding 40 years ago. Sue, who almost always wore red, kept the society in chocolate for most of her years, making fantastic Rocky Road candy for many of our events.

Her children say that want her to be remembered as a dedicated mother. She is survived by son Teddy Peetz of Vancouver, Wash., daughters Penny Labberton of Beaverton and Cathy Peetz and Elaine Davis, both of Vancouver, Wash.; sister, Nancy Cox, Troutdale, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Her sister, Edna Alexander (who made fantastic pies for the Troutdale Historical Society) preceded her in death, as did her brother Bernerd Seyler. Contributions may be made to the Troutdale Historical Society, 104 S.E. Kibling St., Troutdale, OR 97060.

## Lola Fellman

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Longtime Troutdale Historical Society member and Portland resident, Lola Fellman died Oct. 28 at the age of 101.

Lola was a longtime friend of Vera Strebin and her son, Bob, and joined us often on our historical society treks. A retired comptroller for Standard Oil for more than 30 years, she was inquisitive, loved the newspaper comics and often during the days we were building our barn, gave us donations to help the cause.

She is survived by her cousin, Ross Cassidy. Burial was at Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

## This 'n That

Please, if you change your email, let us know. Every month when we email the newsletter to those who want to receive it by email, we get a lot of them bounced back because email addresses we have are no longer valid. Thanks for your help!

**Heart of the Country Art Show and Sale** is coming up on November 21, 22 and 23 at Glenn Otto Park. The proceeds from the sale go to the Hands-on Art Program in the Corbett Public Schools.

**Troutdale Farmer's Market** will take orders and deliver to the Depot parking lot once a month. To place an order go to [windance@pacifier.com](mailto:windance@pacifier.com) or call 503-407-3403 for more information.

**Cedarplace Inn Bed & Breakfast** fed breakfast to its last guest on September 1st. We wish Trish and Dennis the best wherever they land.

## FedEx Donates BIG to THS for the Centennial Arch



FedEx representative presents a \$15,000 check to Mayor Paul Thalhofer and Centennial Arch Committee Chairman Dave Ripma at FedEx ground breaking ceremony on Oct. 29



Troutdale Historical Society  
104 SE Kibling St.  
Troutdale, OR 97060  
Phone 503-661-2164  
[www.troutdalehistory.org](http://www.troutdalehistory.org)

### 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



### Centennial Monument Donations FedEx

**It is not too late to get your name on the Arch at the \$1,000 level or higher. The deadline has been extended to November 15th. You can mail your check to the Troutdale Historical Society, 104 SE Kibling St., Troutdale, OR 97060**