



Newsletter of the

*October 2011*

*Troutdale Historical Society*

## BYGONE TIMES

### Mark Your Calendars!

**October 15**

Third Saturday!

All three museums are open from 10-2.

**October 15-23**

Fall Foliage Tour and East County

Authors book signing! 11-5

See article at right!  
219 E Columbia River Hwy

**November 19**

Third Saturday!

All three museums are open from 10-2.

**November 20**

Program Meeting.  
Tom Cowling continues his "Ghost Towns of Bridal Veil" discussion.  
2 p.m. at the CCB Building on 2nd and Buxton St. in Troutdale.

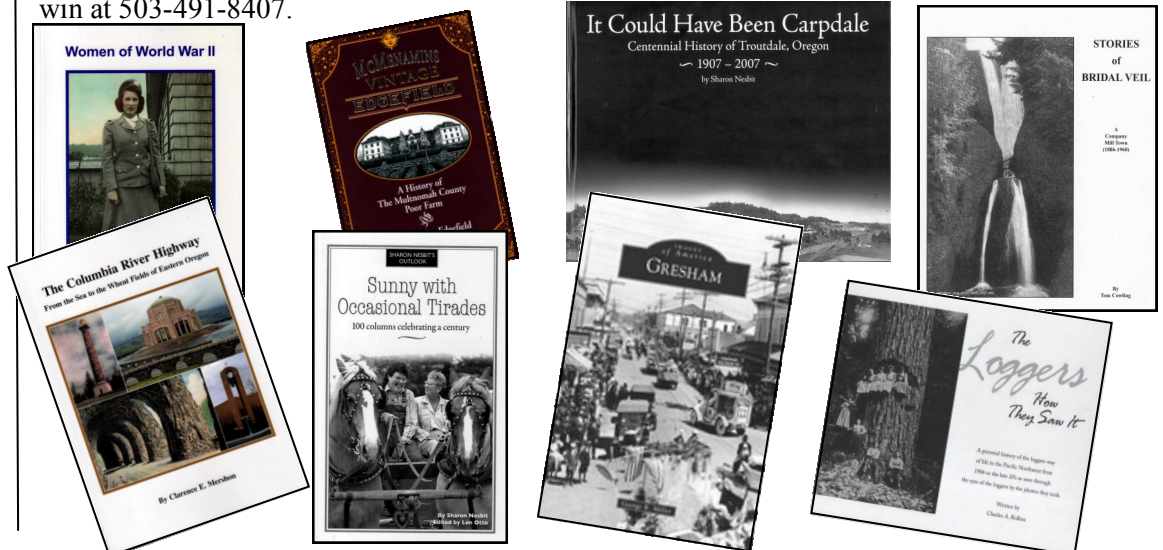
## Local Authors Hold Book Fair as Part of October's Fall Foliage Art Tour in Troutdale

The art of writing history is included in this year's Fall Foliage Tour from October 15 to October 23 in Downtown Troutdale. The location for the art gallery and book fair is 219 E Historic Columbia River Hwy. Donna Erwin, owner of Columbia River Gallery, is the coordinator of this second event.

Authors and publishers of local history will help host a book fair at the reception site for this year's nine-day tour. They will also lend their expertise on local sites and places of interest.

Writers, authors and publishers include Clarence Mershon, Portland, who has written eight books of East Multnomah County history, including one on the history of the Historic Columbia River Highway. George Miller, author of the recently published Gresham pictorial history will be a host, as will Chuck Rollins, who last year published a book featuring the unique post-card photos taken by and of early loggers and logging operations. Sharon Nesbit, author of three local books -- a history of McMenamins Edgefield, a centennial history of Troutdale and a recent collection of columns featuring life in East Multnomah County -- will take part. Also greeting visitors will be Len Otto, publisher, editor and personal historian, and Julia Stewart, photo librarian of the Troutdale Historical Society, who is preparing a Troutdale pictorial history. The books of Tom Cowling, Bridal Veil historian, will also be offered at the event.

Hours at the Gallery will be from 11-5 daily. For more information please call Donna Erwin at 503-491-8407.



## Sister Clare Murphy

Sister Clare Murphy, who could and did stand on her head, even when she was wearing a habit, died Sept. 2 at the age of 92.

The fun-loving Murphy, an educator all of her adult life in Catholic school systems in Portland, said she was inspired to teach by her teacher, Mrs. Nichols, at Troutdale Grade School. She and her sister, Patricia Murphy O'Brien, who survives her, came back to Troutdale on April 20, 1992, to talk about their growing up years in the community. It seems clear from a review of the video tape recorded that day, that nobody had more fun than the red-headed Murphy girls.

Two of four daughters of Francis and Emily (Green) Murphy, ("Irish on both sides," they said), came to Troutdale in February 1925 from British Columbia. That was the year that most of Troutdale burned down in a fire that started at the Larsson garage on the east end of town during a fierce East Wind. Francis Murphy ran the Troutdale Lumber Yard.

The Murphy girls, (the other sisters were Frances and Sister Miriam Clare, who was the oldest), climbed the hill to the old Troutdale School, a two-story structure and then were in the first classes to attend the new, and present, school. Herb Nasmyth, was one of their classmates, as well as his brother, the late Johnnie Nasmyth. Clare remembered that she loved to see Johnnie Nasmyth swagger up the stairs after recess.

The girls played in the Spence's hay stack, climbed trees in the local orchard, and eventually got to borrow "old man Spence's" horse to go riding on the Sun Dial ranch with Tillie Wiser. Later, Clare being the only one able to crank start the old Ford, they had Model T races on the Sun Dial Ranch. They were, they remembered, 10 or 11 years old.

The Catholic family joined other area Catholics in worshipping at St. Henry Catholic Church in Gresham, but had no problems with joining in the activities at the Troutdale Presbyterian Church as well. In fact, Clare told her mother she did not want to go to Friday night Mass in Gresham because that was when Troutdale School held dancing class. "I told her I didn't want to grow up to be an old maid," Clare remembered in the 1992 interview, adding, "I guess that didn't take."

After joining her order and becoming a teaching nun with the Holy Names sisters, Murphy said she did return to Troutdale in her habit and on a dare, stood on her head. She said that once, she was summoned by the head of her order, and went in with some trepidation, only to be asked if it was true she could stand on her head. She did and the question was answered.

The video of Clare Murphy and Patricia Murphy O'Brien is available at the Troutdale Rail Depot. We are grateful to Troutdale Historical Society members for supporting our oral history program.



Clare Murphy, 3rd Grade, 1930  
Troutdale Elementary School



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Donna Erwin  
Tues-Sat 10-5

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This from Tim Fujii: This is a photo of my grandmother, Yoshino Fujii on the right and my aunt, Kimi Fujii, on the left in 1945 when they returned from the internment camp in Idaho. This photo is looking north from where is now the middle of SW 257<sup>th</sup> Ave about 50 yards north of where the house I grew up in was built 11 years later.

## Open Air Market Open Year-Around in Depot Parking Lot!

Every Saturday 10-2

### Closed:

November 26 & December 24

### December 8-10th

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. with Santa visiting.  
Great photo opportunity for family & pets!

Come support these local merchants and do some Christmas shopping and pick up fresh fruit and vegetables.

There will be a food drive for local pantries and drawings for door prizes.



Raffle tickets are still on sale at the Depot Office for this year's quilt, donated by Leona Balch. Tickets are \$2 each, 3 for \$5, 7 for \$10 or 15 for \$20. You can mail a check to the office, stop by the office or call the office to use your credit/debit card. Drawing Dec. 3 at Harlow House Christmas Open House.

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## A Visit to Harlow House

Barbara and Dennis Grahn, the second caretakers of the Harlow House, 27 years ago, came for a visit Sept. 17. They had their son Matt, while living at the house. They were poor college students at the time. Dennis has since gone on to work at Stanford University at Palo Alto, and Barbara is between jobs there. Also in touch with them is the third and last caretaker, Kim Schilling, who replaced them at the Harlow House. After Kim left the house, by then protected with alarm systems, went solo. For many years though, the caretakers at the Harlow House, lived in it during the week, and were "museum-ready" on Sunday, putting away all evidence of their habitation. They used the upstairs bedroom that is Mary Bryson's office for their sleeping/living quarters, but the kitchen and bath were in regular use during the week.




*Be sure to add Christmas Open House to your calendar now, so you don't forget! December 3, 2011 from 11-3. Santa will be there and it is always a wonderful addition to the holidays to stop by Harlow House and see the decorations. If you haven't been before, start a new family tradition.*



**THIS WANTS YOU!**.....Can you volunteer at one of our museums for a Saturday? or for a special tour? Take photos at an event? HELP on the newsletter? Dust? Scrapbook? HELP with fundraisers? Do you know or work for a company who would donate goods or services?...Call the office to volunteer. The smallest task helps a lot!

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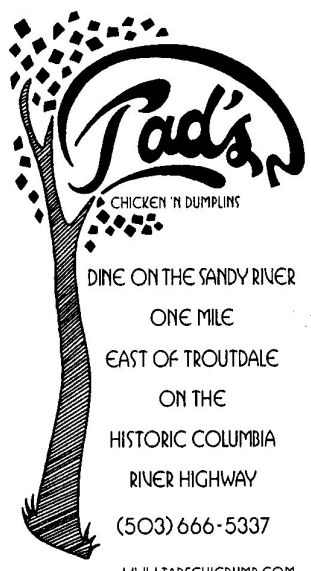
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## City of Troutdale adds new Historic Landmarks Commission

The City of Troutdale announces a new Historic Landmarks Commission. This new committee will assist in promoting historic preservation in the city. It makes quasi-judicial land-use decisions about designation and alteration of historic landmarks. Members should have demonstrated an interest in historic preservation through experience, training or knowledge.

If you are interested in serving on this committee you can obtain an application packet at Troutdale City Hall, 104 SE Kibling St, on the web at [www.troutdaleoregon.gov](http://www.troutdaleoregon.gov), or contact Debbie Stickney, City Recorder at 503-674-7237 or [Debbie.stickney@troutdaleoregon.gov](mailto:Debbie.stickney@troutdaleoregon.gov).

Deadline to apply is 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2011.

### Arthur Ross Johnson

Corbett resident Arthur Ross Johnson died Aug. 5 at the age of 85.

A memorial service was held on Aug. 20, at Corbett Community Church in Corbett.

Ross was born Sept. 30, 1925, in Corbett to Arthur and Geneva (Wright) Johnson on the family farm, which was established in 1909. He lived in the house his entire life. He was the youngest of three children. Ross's ancestral tree includes several prominent Oregonians: Harvey Scott, editor of The Oregonian; Abigail Scott Duniway, a well-known suffragette; and maternal grandmother Annie Wilkes Wright, the family for whom the Wilkes neighborhood was named.

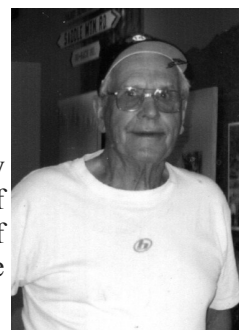
Ross graduated from Corbett High School in 1943 and served in the Navy, stationed on Manus Island. He served from 1943 to 1946 and was honorably discharged. Upon his return, he worked on the family dairy farm. In 1955, dairy operations ceased, and it became a beef farm.

In 1949, Ross married Thelma Lundbom of Gresham.

Ross worked for the Army Corps of Engineers at Bonneville Dam, retiring in 1986 after 31 years.

Ross was a member of Corbett's volunteer fire department for 32 years and served on the budget committee for many years after that. Ross also volunteered for the Helping Hands Food Bank at Corbett Grange Hall since its inception in 2002 and accompanied THS on Treks and Museum Round Robins.

Ross was preceded in death by his wife in 1989; and by his sister, Arlene Marble, in 2011. Survivors include his sons, Curt Johnson and Carl Johnson, both of Portland; sister, Margaret Warren of Corbett; companion, Doris Lagging of Gresham; nieces and nephews; and his dog, Killer.





*Gresham Memorial Chapel*  
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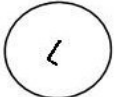
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## Bygone Times



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**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!**

**Thank you to Ann Springer and the Red Hat Ladies that toured the museums.**

### From our email basket...

You are very kind. I appreciate your offer. I hope the Red Hat Ladies enjoyed their tour on Wednesday.

Once my dad and I were going home through Wood Village in the 1960s. Then it (Edgefield) was a nursing home. He told me his grandma lived there and the only way she could stay out there was to get married to other people who were down on their luck. They also were poor so there was nothing for her to do but keep getting married. I don't know her last name when she died but I would like to see the Edgefield Exhibit some time. Thanks for responding to me.

*Judy West*

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