

# 50 Years BYGONE TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 21

### THS Program - Great in '68

Glenn Otto Park - Sam Cox Building  
1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy  
Troutdale, OR  
2 p.m.

October 30

### Edgefield History Night

@ McMenamins Blackberry Hall  
6:30 p.m. (doors at 5 p.m.)

**History of the Crag Rats:** America's oldest Search and Rescue organization  
Presented by Don & Bill Pattison

November 27

### Edgefield History Night

@ McMenamins Blackberry Hall  
6:30 p.m. (doors at 5 p.m.)

### McMenamin Brothers

**Rebuilding History:** Pacific Crest Construction. Presented by Pacific Crest Construction Employees

December 1

### Christmas at the Harlow House

726 E Historic Columbia River Hwy  
Troutdale, OR

No Edgefield History Night  
in December

## Great in '68 - Where were you in 1968?

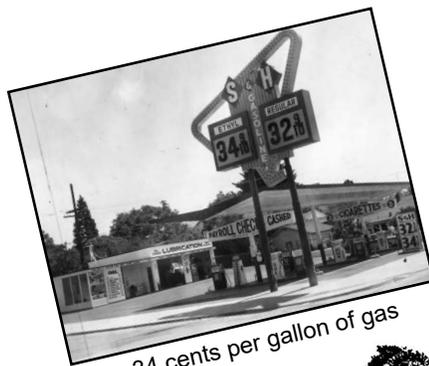
THS Program - October 21 @ 2pm

Glenn Otto Community Park - Sam Cox Building  
1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale

In 1968, a group of 63 Troutdale folks founded the Troutdale Historical Society while other things were going on in the country:

Growing public anger over the Vietnam War; Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated; first 747 "Jumbo Jet" was introduced; three astronauts circled the moon; Big Mac was introduced at a price of 49 cents; movie tickets cost an average of \$1.31; a gallon of gas was \$.34 AND the Troutdale Historical Society was founded.

What were you or your parents doing? That is what we will be asking and celebrating at our last membership meeting of the year at **2:00pm on Sunday, October 21**, at Glenn Otto Park. **Sharon Nesbit** will be sharing historical photos of Troutdale Historical Society. We hope you will be ready to share where you were in 1968. There will be a contest for the The Best Dressed from 1968. Don't you still have those bell bottom pants, those platform shoes, those leisure suits? The prizes will be a THS canvas bag with Lovers Oak pin attached and a complimentary one year membership to THS. Can't squeeze into those bell bottoms? Bring them to display along with other mementos (Tupperware, green stamps, records, souvenirs, etc.), prizes will be awarded to the top three. We are asking those attending to bring a 1968 photo to hang, as well. Start looking! Of course, birthday cake will be served.



34 cents per gallon of gas



1968 Shelby Mustang GT500



McDonald's Big Mac



Est. 1968



1968 Fashion



1968 Astronauts-Anders, Borman, Lovell

## WINTER MUSEUM HOURS

### Barn Exhibit Hall

10am - 3pm Wednesday-Saturday  
1 - 3pm Sunday  
Closed: Monday & Tuesday

### Harlow House

1 - 3pm Sunday Only

### Rail Depot Museum

10am - 2pm Friday Only

## President's Message...

We are in the last three months of celebrating Troutdale Historical Society's 50th year. Looking back (which we love to do), in 1968 Troutdale had a population of about 1,000; today it is well over 16,500. Downtown Troutdale had no buildings on the north side of the street; now it's lined with shops and restaurants. Reynolds Aluminum was the city's largest employer; the land it formerly occupied is covered by two new large employers, FedEx and Amazon. The County Poor Farm on Halsey Street had become Edgefield Manor Nursing Home, later to be the very first McMenemy destination resort. We have seen changes and growth in THS too. From our initial membership of 63 we now have 348. Starting out we didn't even have a museum; now we have three plus a vintage caboose. In addition to our original and ongoing quarterly programs, we host an annual cemetery tour, monthly History Night speakers at Edgefield, and First Friday summer outdoor concerts. We have a paid employee Executive Director, and over 40 volunteers who serve as museum hosts, maintenance crew, event staff, office help, and curators. Since June we have had museum visitors from China, Austria, Germany, United Kingdom, Washington D.C., and 21 states. We are proud and delighted to collect, protect, and share Troutdale's lively past and be part of its vibrant future. I hope to see you at the October 21 party celebration of our 50 years. And yes, there will be cake!



Margaret Rice, President  
Troutdale Historical Society



Dave Ripma  
Past President

## Dave Ripma

Longtime THS president and city councilor **David Ripma** was on his way to get a few more signatures on his petition for re-election to the council in July when he was struck on his motorcycle by a mail delivery truck. He suffered multiple injuries and has undergone several surgeries and now is in rehabilitation, hoping to return home to Sweet Brier Farm by the end of September.

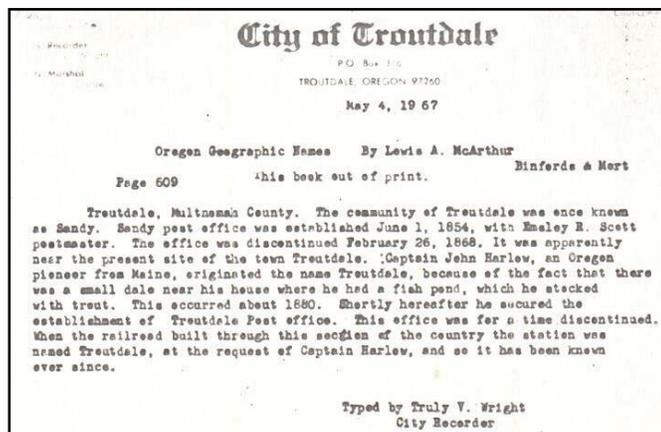
Friends completed his application for council so he will run (or maybe limp) for office.

## Every Historical Society Needs About 10 People Like Nancy Hoover

Nancy, who was 91 in August, is still sorting through piles of historical papers. Her father, William Stone, wrote the first Fairview history and Nancy has been a mainstay for years at the Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Historical Society, now ECHO, East County Historical Organization.

Recently, Nancy was going through one of her many boxes crammed with history and found an old photocopy made in 1967 by Troutdale City Recorder Truly Wright on the copy machine at Troutdale City Hall. The technology for photo copying was expensive and required an odd kind of flimsy paper. It produced a somewhat fuzzy copy but it was the best method of its day.

The item Truly deemed worthy of copying was a brief history of Troutdale taken from Lewis McArthur's book, "Oregon Geographic Names." It offered a paragraph of history about Troutdale's founding and Captain Harlow's fish ponds. Truly obviously kept copies handy for those who inquired about Troutdale history because that was just about the only authority at the time.



City of Troutdale Memorandum - May 4, 1967

A year later the Troutdale Historical Society was founded and we began to learn more. Nancy's letter reminds of where we were and how far we have come.

## 348 MEMBERS OF THE TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help us reach our goal of **500** members for our **50th birthday!**

Are you a member?

Give a gift of membership to the next generation,  
friends, family or become a member by clicking [here](#).

## Sorry Art Israelson

Our sincere apology to **Art Israelson**. We inadvertently gave him a new last name in our July-September article, *2018 THS Annual Meeting*. Art donates his time and energy selling customized wood fish plaques, a fundraiser for the Sam Cox Building at Glenn Otto Park. If you are interested in purchasing a fish or two, contact Kelley Graham at City Hall, 503-665-5175 to pick up a form.



Sharon Lucky, Docent

## Volunteer Sharon Lucky

You might think with the last name and affectionate nickname "Lucky" she was born on St. Patrick's Day, but she was born on October 31. Most of her early childhood as a shy little girl, she thought everyone celebrated Halloween for her birthday and was sorely disappointed to learn otherwise. Please meet our volunteer – Sharon Lucky.

Sharon was born in Los Angeles, CA and during her school years, the family moved from California through Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska as her electrician dad worked on various dams and power line projects in the 1940s and early 1950s, finally settling in the Okanogan Valley of Washington. She returned to California at 17, by then working, taking college classes, and on her own. She moved to Seattle, re-acquainted with high school classmate Don Reed from Okanogan Valley High School, fell in love, and married. In the late '60s she was hired by Boeing to work on an early inter-plant IBM computer system, Don was in residential construction, and they managed two

apartment buildings. Life was good. Until. The infamous Boeing layoffs began, eventually with over 50,000 people out of work. As Seattle's largest employer, the economy plummeted. Construction jobs tanked and Don became a taxi driver. Sharon was almost six months pregnant with their first child, and the Boeing personnel policy required an expectant mom to resign her position at seven months. She begged to remain employed, and was transferred to Everett, a horrid four-hour daily round trip commute.

In 1971 Don saw an opportunity to start a modular home plant in Oklahoma. They became part of the Seattle exodus, reading the forever iconic highway billboard near Sea-Tac Airport "Will the last person leaving Seattle -- Turn out the lights." They left town with a baby, a crib, high chair, and two TV tables. Three years later with two children and a fully-packed 20' moving van towing a new car, they headed back to the Northwest for Spokane and Don's new job in law enforcement. They bought a 3,000 square foot 1905 Victorian home complete with cupola and a big yard, which would be Sharon's home for the next 42 years.

With two young children, Sharon was happy to be a full-time mom and homemaker. She had flower and vegetable gardens, preserved and canned her produce, sewed her children's clothes, and started babysitting for a few nearby working moms. Within two years she had a licensed in-home day care business which became a pre-school with two employees. She never advertised, classes were always full, and she ultimately had second generation children, taking her early babysitting job into a career as owner-operator of Sharon's Day Care for 40 years.

As if running a day care business wasn't enough, also during that time, Sharon was an adoption search consultant "Confidential Intermediary." This is a person formally trained and interned to be a research and contact person through a court-assisted agency to help a birth parent or child to find the other. From her own heartbreaking experience of surrendering a child for adoption in her late teens, and later reuniting with her son Scott, she wanted to make this possible for others who were searching. She had 500 soul-satisfying cases in her 20 years with the Washington Adoption Reunion Movement, bringing much joy to many.

Lest you think Sharon is all work and no play, she DOES play ... bagpipes! Bike riding with her son in 1991, they came upon the Spokane St. Patrick's Day parade and the Angus Scott Pipe Band. She was so intrigued, she spoke with several women pipers, was invited to a practice, took lessons, and joined the band, to play at parades, birthdays, weddings, funerals, memorials, graduations, and for Robert Burns Day. By now you know she doesn't do anything halfway. She took over the somewhat haphazard bookkeeping of the Pipe Band, then became secretary-treasurer. She increased the event schedule; set wider destinations to Canada, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon; created band sub-groups to perform at small events; formalized a fee schedule instead of relying on donations; and made the band's travel lodging and transportation arrangements. She also organized fundraising for new uniforms and made 30 pairs of spats. And as if that wasn't enough, she completed all the tedious and complicated work of obtaining 501(C)(3) non-profit status for the band.

During her 24 years with the band, they won many awards at Highland Games and competitions across the Northwest, both individual and group, including two consecutive year awards at the Portland Highland Games held at Mt Hood Community College. Through the band Sharon has had the honor of meeting Bill and Melinda Gates, and her greatest privilege and achievement was solo performance of "The Rowan Tree" for 5,000 people at a Gonzaga College graduation in the Spokane Convention Center.

Sharon moved from Spokane to Troutdale in 2016 to be near her daughter Angela, son-in-law Mike, and one grandchild; her son Don, daughter-in-law Sherry, and three grandchildren live in Redmond. She likes to be busy, loves people, and being part of a community. She misses gardening in her big yard and was recently "major muscle" in a two-day landscape clean-up by the THS Barn and Harlow House. She has been with THS about six months. She has always wanted to work in a museum and we are very lucky to have Lucky at the Barn Exhibit Hall on Fridays. Stop by to meet her. And, by the way, she isn't shy any more.





- Erin Janssens** for replacing the leaky faucet at the Barn.
- Kelly Broomall & Erin Janssens** for picking up a donated display case.
- April Avery, Dave Johnson, Ruth Woodke** our new volunteers.
- Joy Beldin** and **Laureen Lucero** for doing the Barn Store inventory.
- Joy Beldin** for the donation of note cards for sale at the Barn Store.
- Sharon Nesbit** for providing the cucumber sandwiches at the Garden Party.
- Diane Castillo-White** for organizing and implementing all three Barnyard Concerts this past summer.
- Abbey Nickerson** for devoting her summer to work on our Past Perfect data entry project.
- Al & Joyce Stoeckel** for cleaning the Harlow House and Barn Exhibit Hall.
- Parade Committee** for assembling the carriage (**Kelly Broomall & Greg Handy**), decorating the float (**Joy Beldin & Joyce Belcher**), use of the flat bed (**Erin Janssens**) and truck (**Norm Thomas**), storing the float (**Dave Ripma**) and sign carriers (**Julia Warner, Bettianne Goetz, Margaret Rice**).
- For the use of **Erin Janssens'** 1963 Ford T-bird, **Greg & Sue Handy's** 1957 Chevy Bel Air, and **Dave Ripma's** 1965 Ford Mustang in the SummerFest Parade.

## Fire Disaster Averted

One early morning in July the new City Grounds Keeper, **Diego De La Cerda**, discovered the flowerbed at the Harlow House smoldering. An attempt to douse the burning ground resulted in steam, but not effective to remove the danger of fire. The Gresham Fire Department arrived to eliminate the threat and a disaster was averted.



Gresham Fire Fighters

A reminder to extinguish cigarette butts completely and dispose properly.

## Garden Party/Barnyard Concert

Artists took a bow on August 3 at a garden party to recognize all the new art work on our grounds: the THS stone and metal sign by **Ed Lockett** and **Brad Lorang**, (ditch digging by **Gary and Victoria Purvine**, which is an art itself), Lovers Oak by **Crete, Inc**, Bill's Bench installed by **Erin Janssens** with bronze mole by **Allison Caswell**; our new front porch by **Kelly Broomall** and **Greg and Sue Handy**, power washing and general cleanup, **Kelly Broomall** and **Sam Barnett**; and the bronze of our first lady mayor of



Garden Party & Concert Attendees

Troutdale, Clara Larsson, by **Marlena Nielsen**.

Cucumber sandwiches were nibbled, **Diane Castillo-White** spiked the lemonade with fresh fruit and the event was followed with our First Friday Barnyard concert.

## Troutdale SummerFest Parade



Len Otto, 2018 THS Preservationist, & wife Gloria riding in Erin Janssens' 1963 T-Bird



Clockwise to left: Virginia Symonds, Marge McDevitt, Bev Law, Hazel Webb, Helen Wand, Ruth Woodke, Charlotte Freeman, and Sharon Nesbit

## Summer Volunteer Appreciation Party

Our dedicated volunteers at THS were treated to a wonderful afternoon of good food, good friends, and great scenery. **Bettianne Goetz**, Past President, hosted the affair at her Fairview Lakeside home. To top off the event - a tour around the lake in a party boat by her granddaughter, **Laura Collier**.



Louise Dix, Charter Member of THS, with Doctor's Buggy float

## Cool Words for a Hot Summer

In the hottest part of summer, member **Len Norby**, who lives on Springhill Road east of the Sandy River, renewed his membership – thank you for that – and sent along a bonus story to cool us off:

*"I moved to this address back in 1967 from Wood Village where I had lived for about five years. In the winter of 1968 we had a snow storm that lasted for about three days and the temperature got down to about 2 degrees above zero. Winds were in the 50-60 mph range that caused a lot of drifting. "I had a drift of about 17 feet beside my house. After the storm subsided, the big Oshkosh snow blower was brought to this area to clear the roads. The intersection at Woodward and Ogden (roads) was more than six feet deep. At the (U.S. Forest Service) ranger station on Woodard (road) there was another six-foot drift that was about one-quarter mile long."*

# WORKING LIKE THEY OWN THE PLACE (which they do)

## It's a Jungle Out There

Trees were trimmed and weeds were pulled from behind the Barn Exhibit Hall. After two hot days and many hours later, the area looks fantastic. Thanks to the hard work from our dedicated volunteers - **Mike and Margaret Rice, Kelly Broomall, Sharon Lucky,** and City Grounds Keeper, **Diego De La Cerda.**



Before - Mike Rice begins to tame the jungle.



After - Beautiful!

## Lauren Lucero Hostess, clipper, sweeper



Lauren Lucero

In addition to her hosting job, Lauren makes it her job every week to clean the floor of flotsam and jetsam that has been tracked in to the Barn Exhibit Hall. She also meticulously clips and files articles for historic research. All this while greeting guests with her beautiful smile. Multi-tasking at its best.

## Pillow Talk

Harlow House hosts like to have a comfy chair on the front porch on nice summer days, and we have chairs for that purpose. Unfortunately, one of the cushions died by drowning in last fall's rains and the sitting has not been as easy.

**Sharon Lucky** noticed the lack, found a sale at the fabric store, made new pillow covers, and we are back to having a nice place to sit on the porch.



Harlow House Front Porch

## Harlow Park Improvements

Changes are taking place at our old farm equipment site on the Harlow House grounds.

The agricultural items on display had a lot of "pointy" stuff on them and were an inviting hazard for children so they have been removed, with the exception of the Stone Family farm kettle. **Kelly Broomall** has taken down the Oregon Trail marker there and we are planning to place that at the front of the house, closer to the Robins Way Trail which is the route the pioneers took up over the hill to go on to Oregon City.

The plan is to put a new double interpretive sign at the kettle site. **Nancy Callister Buley** is preparing the history of the kettle, which was used for cooking stock feed and, the story goes, was purchased by Stone from Hudson's Bay Company.

In addition we will tell about the Lovers Oak, illustrating how it was shaped in a Columbia River Flood, and how our new one was made.

This will take money so we will have to apply for a grant or scrape some up, but that is the plan so far.



Glenn White (tractor) and Kelly Broomall removing broken farm implements

## New/Old Back Porch at the Harlow House

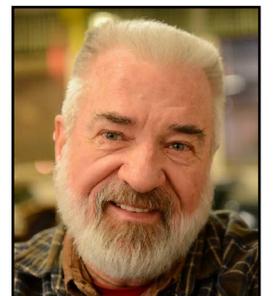
The ghost of **Dick Jones**, who built the last set of steps for the Harlow House, had to have been happy this summer to see **Kelly Broomall** replace the old steps. Wooden staircases give out after so many years. Kelly worked more than a week in hot weather on the project.



Reconstructed Back Porch 2018



Dick & Valora Jones c1989



Kelly Broomall

## RENEWING MEMBERS

Carol Addleman  
 Laura Anson  
 Sam Barnett  
 Luke Bates - The Way Out Inn  
 Joy Beldin  
 Trish Bilesimo  
 Dr. Robert & Tami Campbell  
 Annell Carlson  
 Rip & Alison Caswell  
 Beverly Christman  
 Donna Davis  
 Gerald Davis  
 Ronnie & Howard Dick  
 Jean Drake  
 Elaine Dubesa  
 Mary Eaton  
 Claire Finkel  
 Charlotte Freeman  
 Mary & George Gerding  
 Gerry Gerritz  
 Jean Hansard  
 Andrea Heim  
 Clifford Howell  
 William Knight  
 Wilma Konkell  
 Donna Kuechler  
 Gerald & Shirley Lambert  
 Sue Landreth  
 Gary & Bev Law  
 Steven Lettengarver  
 Laureen Lucero  
 Herb Mohn  
 Marilyn Morrison  
 Pauline Morrow  
 Twila Mysinger  
 Vickie Nesbit & Terry Weiner  
 Len Norby  
 Saul & Ruby Pompello  
 Cathy Peetz  
 Betty Jo Pietzold  
 Thomas Potiowsky  
 Rosie & Larry Puderbaugh  
 Charlotte Rubin  
 Carolyn Rundorff  
 Tim & Shannon Seery  
 Janice St. John  
 Ray & Renee Summers  
 Zelma Sutherland  
 Cherie Wallace  
 Richard Weill  
 Barbara Welsh  
 Greg Whistler  
 Frank Windust  
 Doris Woolley

## NEW MEMBERS

April Avery  
 Doug Bloom  
 Maryann Coyle  
 Judy Hamm  
 Dona Hare  
 Dave Johnson  
 John Kiepke  
 Marge McDevitt  
 Alex McNabb  
 Virginia Symonds  
 John Urquhart  
 Nancy Vitangeli

DONORS TO OUR  
GENERAL FUND

Annell & Bob Carlson  
 Columbian Garden Club  
 Erin Janssens  
 Wilma Konkell  
 Larry & Tricia Lofthouse  
 Marilyn Morrison  
 Vickie Nesbit & Terry Weiner  
 Len & Gloria Otto  
 Karen Rathe  
 Charlotte Rubin  
 Ray & Renee Summers

DONORS TO OUR  
MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Wayne Vandiver  
 Len & Gloria Otto

In Memory of Felicia Corrine Seery  
 Tim & Shannon Seery

DONORS TO OUR  
FIRE SUPPRESSION FUND

Len & Gloria Otto

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Mike Alderson  
 Ed & Vera Ashley  
 Joan Benner  
 Judith Bergan  
 Nancy Callister Buley  
 Ione & Harry Clair  
 Stan Clarke  
 Betty Cook  
 Patricia Currier  
 Terry Ege  
 Charles Ellis  
 Georgia Erdenberger  
 Kyle Fritzsinger  
 Joe & Peggy Gorciak  
 Mel Harmon  
 Lynda Harvey  
 Karl & Bette Hays  
 John Hillyard  
 Steve & Kim Kenney  
 Lael Larger  
 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  
 Robert Strebin  
 Kay Struckman  
 Marilee Thompson  
 Martha Wheeler  
 Mike Weyhrich

## AT THE BARN STORE GIFT SHOP...

## Look to us for books

The best sellers in our Barn Store are local history books, and we have just about the best supply anywhere. Recently, **Helen Wand**, author of "Where Eagles Nest," based on her Corbett area family, had a brain storm and combined hosting at the barn museum with a signing of her books.

What a deal. Our authors get to sign books (and sell us more) and host the barn museum at the same time. So, we plan to make it official, putting out a sign any time one of our author/hosts is present in the museum. And, if given enough notice, a press release touting the event.

So, watch for a sign when we are having an author event at the barn. You can also stop in the THS Barn Exhibit Hall gift shop for items by local artists. Think of us for the bookworms on your list, and resident interview and story DVDs for your history buffs. We also have note cards, mugs, tote bags, and hats for a quick stop gift. Send something from home to your college student, share your Troutdale pride with friends and relatives. Members, of course, get 10 percent off.

## Living North of the Freeway

Longtime member **Jean Holman** was reminiscing recently about the lost neighborhood along the lower reaches of the Sandy River. Because freeway construction in the late 1940s separated that area from Troutdale, it was kind of a forgotten corner of Troutdale.

Now part of Troutdale's industrial area, and home to **Rip Caswell's** new Firebird Bronze Foundry, that stretch of the Sandy once had a short row of homes stretching along the west bank with the dike at their back yards. Once Interstate 84 opened in 1955, the area was accessed by a road over the top of the dike at the east end of the Troutdale Airport runway. Jean lived there for 36 years. She and her late husband, Lloyd, raised their three children there, along with a pony, a few dogs and an assortment of cats and the occasional chicken.

While one of the earliest houses might have been an original farm house (more work needs to be done to figure that out) the other four likely were built in the late 1920s or early 1930s. For certain, the Holman home, in Spanish Revival style, was built in 1928 by William Wiser, father of Tillie Howell. Wiser also built the Spanish Revival style gas station that was the former Handy Gas Station, now Alliance Plumbing in downtown Troutdale.



Former home of Lloyd & Jean Holman

Jean remembers the succession of homes, coming over the dike and moving up river as: one belonging to the Schutze family, her own home, the home of Chim and Tillie Howell, the

home of Ted and Lois Schulte, and finally nudged up against the freeway, the home and blueberry farm of Charles and Peg Abbott. Farther downriver to the north was the Graham farm house, but it was not part of the neighborhood.

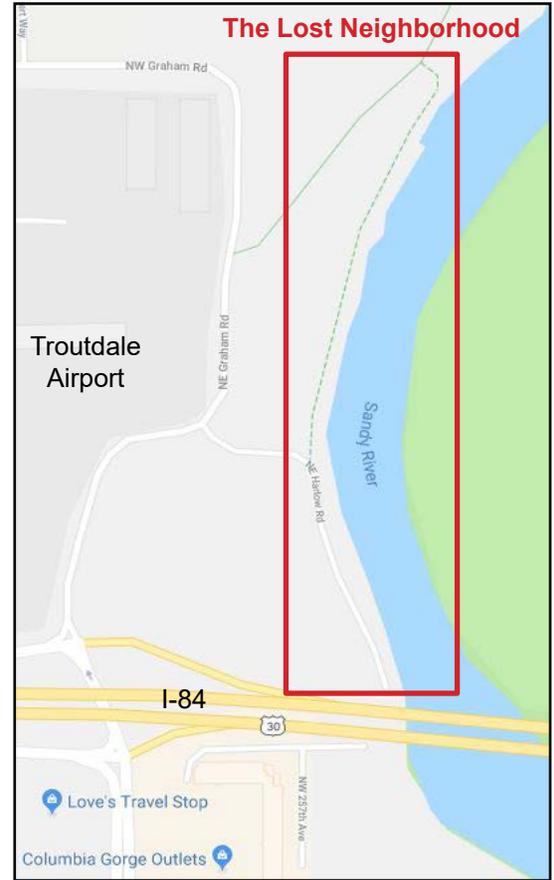
As to those who lived there, Chim Howell grew up in Troutdale in a large family. Chim is the one who once said there were three or four stills within a block of city hall. (Troutdale Historical Society files include an oral history and other material on Chim and Tillie Howell.)

The Holman house, Jean says, once had Spanish style vigas on it (the log ends that distinguish such homes) but they were gone by the time the Holmans purchased it. The only house still standing in the lost neighborhood, it still has interior tile work and a distinctive living room fireplace. Jean is a longtime THS volunteer and liked her years living down on the river.

Neighbor Ted Schulte was board member and treasurer of the Troutdale Historical Society and a deeply valued volunteer who knew how to build things. Lois Schulte mailed our newsletter for many years. Ted had a voluminous knowledge of smelt runs and at one time, ran a commercial smelt fishing site near his home. He raised chickens in large hen houses to the west of his house, moving the poultry to the safety of the top floor of the hen houses when the flood of 1948 put the property underwater. His house was an island, and he remembered seeing carp float up and snack on his lawn.

Living closest to the freeway was Peg Abbott, a longtime Troutdale school teacher, and her husband, Charles, who was a mayor of Troutdale. Local families brought their children to pick at the blueberry acreage in the summer, which is precisely the spot where Firebird Bronze is now located. The Troutdale Historical Society has a number of images from Peg Abbott's years as a teacher.

If you can contribute more information or photos about the lost neighborhood, contact the Troutdale Historical Society.



### Troutdale Historical Society Board Members

- President: Margaret Rice
- Vice President: Erin Janssens
- Treasurer: Marilee Thompson
- Secretary: Norm Thomas
- Executive Director: LeAnn Stephan

#### Board Members

- Rich Allen, Kelly Broomall, Diane Castillo White, Rip Caswell, Jon Lowell

#### Past Presidents

- Bettianne Goetz, Sharon Nesbit, Len Otto, Dave Ripma



New home to Firebird Bronze Foundry

## Friends in History Remembered

### Harvey Wieprecht (July 12, 1923 - June 15, 2018)

Those who attended **Harvey Wieprecht's** memorial service July 17 at Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church had to wonder how he managed to live to the age of 94. Harvey died June 15.

An outdoorsman, born July 12, 1923, in Portland, he lived most of his adult life in a home he and his wife, Betty, built on Jackson Park Road in Troutdale. He was a veteran of the famed 10th Mountain Division that fought, often on skis, in World War II.

At his death, a flag was placed at a tree in his memory on Highway 26 near Banks where the 10th Mountain Division has a memorial site. Until quite recently, Harvey returned yearly to the places in Europe where his battles were fought and where in later years, he and his fellow soldiers met their former adversaries, the German veterans.



Harvey Wieprecht

"He told me that story once when I met him walking on Jackson Park Road," said his neighbor, **Jean Ice**. "How he went back to Italy and the Germans were there, the ones he had fought. I stood there in the road with tears running down my cheeks."

In an interview with the Gresham Outlook, Harvey told Sharon Nesbit that he was just a kid early in the war. In Italy in deep snow, they were conducting reconnaissance of a village. "I noticed black marks in the snow. It took a while to realize they were bullet holes and we were being shot at."

However, if one must to go to war and fight in snow, the military picked the right guy in Harvey Wieprecht. He was always attracted to mountains and rode his bicycle entirely around Mount Hood when he was about 13. He was famous in the war for helping to rescue two Red Cross workers delivering doughnuts to the front, and once the women were safe, braved fire to go back and get the doughnuts. Friends said he had a terrific sweet tooth.

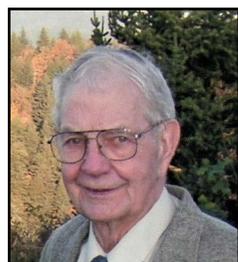
He trained in the Colorado Rockies with the ski troops and really never gave up on mountains, skiing until he was 90. "He always skied like he was out of control," remembers a nephew.

Friends and relatives recalled numerous escapades on Mount Hood including one descent sliding on plastic sheets down an ice field and arresting at the last minute with ice axes. Family members recalled skiing trips, camping and climbing and hiking trips, river floating expeditions, nearly everything that could be accomplished outdoors. After the war he went to work for the U.S. Post office, beginning his job in early morning and ending at 3 p.m. with time left to spend outside. He took five weeks of vacation every summer so the family could enjoy expeditions to the outdoors.

He and his wife Betty, who died in 2006, found their lot on the Sandy River in 1949 and spent three years clearing it before they began their "starter" house. They were both longtime members of the Troutdale Historical Society. He was a Troutdale Lion, a former Deacon at Smith Memorial Presbyterian and a member of the 10th Mountain Division Northwest Chapter.

He is survived by his daughter, Lori Vencill, and his son, Ron Wieprecht.

### William Ray "Bus" Gibson (February 9, 1942 - August 1, 2018)



Bus Gibson

**Bus Gibson**, who died in August at the age of 86, could sniff out a Columbia Gorge trail or road with ease.

As if he had a map in his head, Bus, whose real name was William Ray, had a passion for hikes, building trails and being a historian in the gorge. Into his old age, he was still building trails and scouting off the beaten path.

In addition to being our source for years on the gorge's roads and trails, he helped in the 1990s by identifying Columbia Gorge photos from the negatives and pictures taken by Harlow Douglass and given to our collection.

His daughter, Teresa, visited the museum recently to tell us about Bus. Happy trails to him.

### Paul G. Toenjes (June 11, 1925 - September 4, 2018)

The Troutdale Historical Society would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of Paul G. Toenjes.

#### Fred Meyer Rewards Card

[www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://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/ch/93-0738777>  
Simply select Troutdale Historical Society  
as your charity.

### Visiting the THS Booth at the McMenamins Edgefield Concerts

Volunteer **Jason Cawood** took his 12-year-old (almost 13) son, Bryce, to help run our concert booth at Edgefield in August.

Bryce decided to count the people who visited the booth that night. Total: 59 contacts for the Trout-

dale Historical Society. Many guests are intrigued with our booth there, designed by **Matt Leamy**, and telling the story of the history and preservation of Edgefield.

Our volunteers who run the booth, of course, get to take in a free concert. Not a bad gig, all in all.

### Hazel Webb 2018 Pioneer Award

The Annual Pioneer Picnic was held at the Glenn Otto Community Park Sam Cox building, September 9. One of our beloved volunteers, Hazel Webb, received the Pioneer Award.



Hazel Webb and Alan Wand

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# Troutdale Historical Society

Preserving The Past, Embracing The Future

Membership includes free entry to all our museums, 10% off Barn Store gift shop merchandise, quarterly newsletters by mail or email, and \$10 off membership for the Oregon Historical Society.

- \$20 Individual Membership
- \$30 Family Membership
- \$100 Lovers Oak Club
- \$200 Lovers Oak Club ~ Family
- \$250 Business Sponsor (includes interactive link of your logo on THS website and online newsletter)
- \$1000 Captain's Circle ~ Lifetime
- \*\$15 Gift Membership given by \_\_\_\_\_ (Current Member Name)

Membership Dues Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Operating Fund  
 Endowment Fund in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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**Questions? Contact THS Office**  
 Phone: 503-661-2164  
 Email: troutdalehistory@gmail.com  
 Website: troutdalehistory.org  
 Donations are tax deductible.  
 THS is a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization.  
 Federal Tax ID #93-0738777.

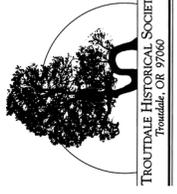
**Mail this form to:**  
 Troutdale Historical Society  
 219 E Historic Columbia River Hwy  
 Troutdale, OR 97060

**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 Membership* for only \$15 for the first year.

## Edgefield History Night

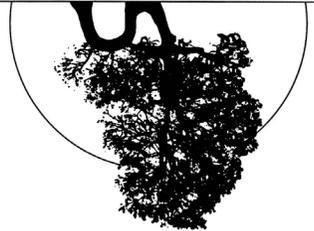
The last Tuesday of every month (except December) the Troutdale Historical Society co-sponsors a speaker at McMenamins Edgefield Blackberry Hall, 6:30pm (doors at 5:00 p.m.) Free for all ages. Food and drink are available for purchase.



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 the knowledge of the locality's past.

Mail Address:  
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TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 Troutdale, OR 97060



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