



Bygone Times

Newsletter of the

Troutdale Historical Society

January 2011

Mark Your Calendars!

January 16
Program Meeting
Clarence Mershon
finishes his discussion
of local women who
served in various
capacities in
World War II
CCB Building on
2nd St. & Buxton
2-4 p.m.

February 20
Program Meeting
location TBD
Love in BridalVeil
2-4 p.m.

Construction at Troutdale City Hall forces change of venue for January Program Meeting



Clarence Mershon will continue his discussion of his newest book "*Women of World War II*" at the January program meeting for the Troutdale Historical Society.

The venue for January's program has been changed to the CCB Building (the

old post office) on 2nd & Buxton due to the construction going on in the council chambers at Troutdale City Hall.

The meeting, from 2 to 4 p.m., is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please call the THS office at 503-661-2164.

In case of bad weather, please call the Depot office to listen to recorded message and make sure events are going on as scheduled. 503-661-2164. If in doubt, stay home and stay safe.



The Arch is finally completed. The final plaque and time-capsule were put into place on Thursday, January 6, 2011.



2 The Director's Chair

by Terry Huston

With the ending of each year and the beginning of the next, I tend to look back at the previous year and all those volunteers who helped THS accomplish so much.

Thank you to Dave & Jennifer Munson as always for construction projects and work in the library. Thank you to the Tuesday Ladies; Mary Bryson, Jean Hybskmann, Jean Holman, Mona Mitchoff, Barb Welsh, Judy Norby, Dor-

othy Sturges and Heather Mitchoff (and their supportive spouses) for all the work on Harlow House, the Barn, the inventory, Salmon Bake, etc... We COULDN'T do it without you!

Thank you to Mindy Schmidt for her work on the website. Thank you to Tom Graves who volunteers his time and office staff to keep our books straight. Thank you to Sheryl Maydew for volun-

teering to do the book-keeping, writing checks and paying the bills. Thank you to Greg Handy for work at the Barn and at Harlow House. Thank you to Sue Handy for doing grant research for us this past year.

Thank you to Jan Vandiver for coffee and cookies at all of our program meetings! Thank you to Geoff Westgaard for all the help in the office.

Thank you to Sharon

Nesbit and Dave Ripma for all you do for THS.

Thank you to Carol La Coste and Karen Jordan for cutting out newspaper articles on Troutdale for our scrapbooks. And another thank you to Karen Jordan for donating a beautiful quilt to THS for raffle.

And Thank you to an awesome Board of Directors who keep this ship running smoothly.

Happy New Year to all!!!
Terry

Troutdale to Enhance Historic Preservation

On December 14 our Mayor and City Council voted unanimously to approve the City Staff and Planning Commission Recommendations to enhance historic preservation in Troutdale.

This vote initiates the review and approval process that is necessary to address Comprehensive Land Use Plan Goal 5 Policies. When the City review process has been completed and if approved and fully implemented, our City will be certified and the mission of historic preservation will be integrated with State and National preservation programs. Nearly 60 Cities and Counties are currently cer-

tified as Oregon Historic Preservation Commissions. Under the Certified Local Government (CLG), owners of Historic Resources that have been recommended for local designation may voluntarily request their property be designated as a Community Resource. Recently two properties were requested to be considered for Historic Resources designation, the Strebin House and the Olsen House, both located on Troutdale Road. Bob Strebin, Trish Perrin, and Dennis Langston are to be commended for their appreciation of history and for their voluntary participation in this program.

Our thanks to Consultant Sally Donovan and Carole Connell for their excellent presentation to the Council and for all of their work with the Planning Commission and City Staff. Their expertise and level of detail was instrumental in the Council reaching a favorable decision. And of course, a special thanks to Sharon Nesbit for speaking on behalf of the program and providing her special encouragement to the City Council.

This very important program has passed the first crucial steps and has been approved for further review by our elected Council. However, it has not re-

ceived final approval and certification by our Council. We ask for your support to make it a reality. Please contact and encourage our City Council Members to continue the positive efforts necessary to attain a Local Government Certification. Details of the process and Comprehensive Land Use Plan Goal 5 Policies can be accessed through the City of Troutdale website or by contacting Elizabeth McCallum, Senior Planner at the City at 503-674-7228 and via e-mail at emccallum@citroutdale.or.us

Thanks to Greg & Sue Handy for attending the council meeting and passing on this information.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! to the Year-End donors for 2010

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From Sheryl Maydew, THS Bookkeeper, "We have received over \$2000 in donations since the end of the year letter ...awesome!!! We can fix the barn and pay the bills and look at what else is dire now. I am so thankful and happy about

Turkey(s) make appearance at Harlow House

Visitors to the Harlow House at Christmas might not have noticed, in all the holiday trim, that in the kitchen there was a gleaming, fresh-roasted turkey in an old roast pan with sprigs of rosemary all around.

It's a small touch but brings a house museum alive. The trick is you can't

have real food in a museum because of "critters" being attracted, so the Harlow House museum must rely on fake food. Mona Mitchoff, one of the Tuesday Ladies who takes care of the Harlow House, thought our old fashioned wood stove would look great with a roasted turkey

coming out of the oven but when she went shopping for a fake turkey found they cost about \$100.

That led Mona to the craft store to ask a woman, who is still laughing, "How can I make a turkey?" Though the woman had never exactly made a turkey, she sold Mona fabric strips, that when wet, mold around a form and take its shape, sort of like paper mache.

She suggested Mona start with a balloon and create a turkey from there, but it was just before Thanksgiving, so Mona got out her defrosting bird, wrapped saran wrap around it to protect it and then molded the fabric over her holiday tur-

key. Forty minutes later she had a turkey shape and still had a turkey for dinner. A couple of layers of goop to coat it and she took the pale and pasty thing to Jean Hybskmann and asked her to make it look like a roasted turkey. With advice from her own turkey expert, Jerry, Jean gave the turkey a roasted glow, a bit darker on the legs and wings and presto, the Harlow House has a turkey.

One of the joys of being a volunteer in our historical society is that you get to do stuff you never thought you could do. Or in Mona's case, you tell her it can't be done, and then she will go out and find a way.



A thousand words (or so) on a single picture.

At the recent reception in the Museum Barn for the late Penny Balch – treasurer extraordinaire – Penny’s uncle, Robert Winkler gave our historical society this photo of Troutdale. It was once a post card and was mailed with a charming inscription – “Don’t you think it is a pretty town?” – penned across the top. An X at the upper left of the photo apparently designates the writer’s house on Kibling Street.

We have this image in our photo collection, but our copy of the photo is smudged and unclear. We have never seen this picture in such clarity, with every house, fence, tree and log pile. There is much to learn from it and Robert Winkler should know that researchers are likely to look at it hundreds of times in the years to come – provided our historical society is still here to serve the people who will come asking.

Now, words about the picture. We know that it was taken some time between 1907 and 1925 be-



cause the large brick building, built by the Weinhard estate in 1907, still has two floors. The top floor of that building burned in the 1925 fire. To the right of it, the light colored building on the corner of the Columbia River Highway and Dora Street, is the Tiller Hotel, only downtown building in the photo still standing. The Tiller Hotel was built about 1907. The picture appears to be taken from the roof of the Union Meat Company plant, which burned about 1915. Uphill can be seen one of Troutdale’s oldest structures, the 1895

Methodist Episcopal Church, which still stands today and is on the National Register of Historic Places. At the extreme left of the photo is a small sawmill that cut railroad ties and shipped them out of Troutdale. And the lot where Troutdale City Hall now stands appears to be a pasture or a very big yard.

In 1925 a fire started in the large false-fronted livery stable in the center of the photo, burning every building on the highway except the Tiller Hotel. The brick building lost the hotel rooms in its top story, but

was rebuilt as a one-story structure and was a landmark in downtown Troutdale until it burned in 2005????

As the writer said, “Don’t you think it’s a pretty town?”

**Article by
Sharon Nesbit**

(Our historical society at present does not have a photo librarian. We could use one person, or two or three, working as a team in our Depot library. If you would like to work with historical photos, call our office.)

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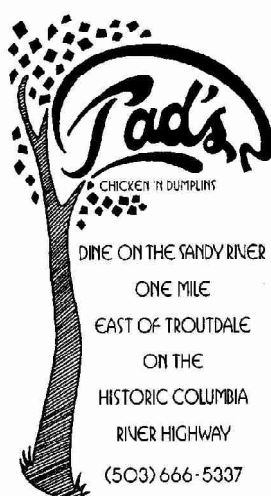
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Thanks from THS for your Support



Troutdale Historical Society
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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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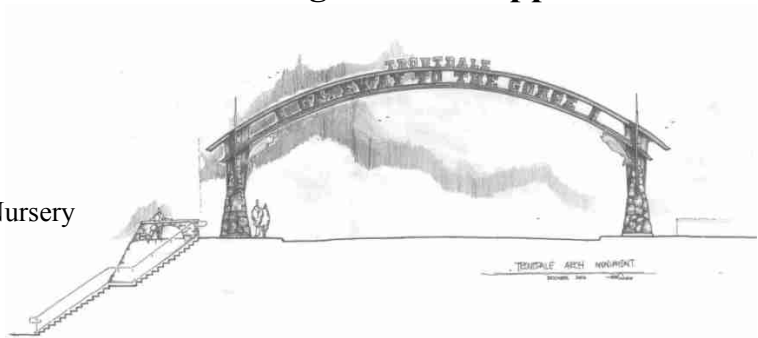
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Our Thanks...from THS...to the following for their support



Centennial Monument Is Up!!! The permanent plaque is in place. Check it out!

We need help with the Newsletter. If anyone wants to write stories or take pictures at THS events, please call the office at 503-661-2164. Leave a message if no one answers!