



Upcoming Events

mark your calendar!

**Saturday, March 15,
10 a.m.—2 p.m.**

**Harlow House and
Barn Museum**, will
be open to the public.
Admission by dona-
tions

**Sunday, March 16,
2 p.m. Barn Muse-**

um, Jim Glenn inter-
view with Richard Es-
penel, Growing up in
Troutdale

**Sunday, March 23,
2 p.m. Barn Muse-**

um, Jim Urbaniak,
Bonneville Power, Co-
lumbia Gorge Mega-
Floods

**Saturday, April 26,
2 p.m.**, THS annual
membership meeting

**Saturday, May 17,
Cemetery Tour**,
Rose City Cemetery,
Northeast, with Japa-
nese Cemetery, Gypsy/
Romano burials/ and
spectacular granite
stones.

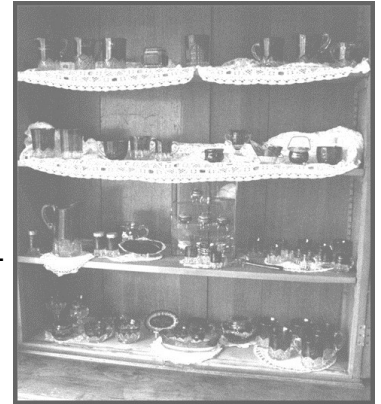
Lunch at Peninsula
Park

BYGONE TIMES

March 2014

Rare Ruby Glass

If you have visited the Harlow House Museum lately, you have been enamored by an exhibit of ruby glass. March 15, from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. at 726 E. Historic Col. River Hwy., the Harlow House Museum will be featuring Doneva Shepard's magnificent collection of Ruby Glass that she accumulated over her lifetime. Some pieces are rare, all are beautiful and were generously donated to the Troutdale Historical Society. If you would like a tour please call the THS office at 503 661-2164. We'll be happy to accommodate you. Admission by donation.



Jim Glenn Oral History interview March 16, with Richard Espenel

"Growing up in Troutdale"

This month join Jim Glenn at the Barn Museum as he interviews Richard Espenel of Troutdale's long standing Espenel Family. Sunday, March 16 at 2 p.m. 726 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy. Refreshments will be served. Donations are greatly welcome.

Employees of Troutdale Sand & Gravel. Left to right front row: Dick Espenel, Wilbur Rathman, Cliff Lindred, Cliff Ekstrom, Ted Schulte. Left to right back row: Mike Brown, Henry Jabs, Dal Brown, Phil Bies, Frank Simons, Bud Salisbury.



Bonneville Power "Mega- Floods"

Jim Urbaniak, from Bonneville Power Administration will talk to the Troutdale Historical Society about the History of the Mega-Floods that cause the Columbia Gorge. Sunday 2 p.m., March 23, 726 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy.,

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Pat (the girl) Brothers



By **Sharon Nesbit**

Paul Thalsofer, Troutdale Mayor, 1993-2008

Paul Thalsofer, longtime Troutdale mayor and former Troutdale Historical Society board member, died Feb. 13 at the age of 86.

He had been in ill health for some time. Thalsofer was mayor of Troutdale and before that a council member. He began city office working with Mayor Sam Cox and shared with Sam an unabashed love for Troutdale.

Born in Prineville on Christmas Day 1927, he once told *The Outlook* that his favorite Christmas dinner was pot roast which he slow cooked in his oven enjoying the smell all day.

He grew up in Prineville, played basketball there and went to University of Oregon. He served in the Navy during World War II.

He and his former wife, now deceased, raised three boys in Pendleton where he worked as an insurance agent, lawyer and judge. When his marriage ended, he came to Troutdale and began again.

A member of our society for many years, Paul was always glad to say that he let his membership



lapse during the years that this organization was fighting to preserve Edgefield Manor. He said he wanted to be sure that when the time came to vote he could not be accused of a conflict of interest.

Jim Glenn “Now that was cool”

Eve was no doubt the first game changer in the world when she took Adam by the hand and led him to the apple orchard in the Garden of Eden. From there the list of people and events changing the status quo throughout history is endless. For me, one word – “Cool” -- stands out as a game changer that stood the test of time.

Shortly after World War II this particular word’s new definition was getting traction. It was becoming more than just a temperate zone, not warm and not cold. Like beauty, cool is in the eye of the beholder. By the mid 1950s to expedite the transition from weather map to youth culture, Marlon Brando became cool when he rode that Triumph motorcycle across the big screen as the “Wild One.” The “cultural icon of teenage disillusionment,” James Dean was another deemed cool and, of course, Elvis. Elvis was more than cool. He was the King. Words like “swell,” “spiffy” and “myriad” were sentenced to dwell in the dictionary, never uttered by cool teenagers again.

Teens would imitate actions and deeds they figured were cool or devised their own ideas, styles or feelings in pursuit of cool. Any chance I ever had of being cool I forfeited when I confused James Dean with the sausage magnate Jimmy Dean. Today I think I’m ineligible to be cool due to my age but I’ve learned to deal with being swell and spiffy as I travel down life’s highway in the slow lane with my blinker on.

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I met Larry McGinnis in Kindergarten at Cedar School, Rick Davis and Hal Schofield at TGS and Ray De Camp along with my lifelong best friend, Johnny Miller, while being schooled at Fairview. Clyde Wood, Bernie and Bryan O'Byrne completed our gang at Reynolds High School. We grew up working side by side in the fields of East County and playing ball at the different venues from Troutdale to Reynolds High.

We have grown old admiring each others strengths and overlooking a weakness here and there. The marriages, birth announcements and even the obituaries have all contributed to our enduring friendships and loyalties.

And throughout our lives from childhood to geezer hood, we have all been fascinated with the Columbia River Gorge. We have climbed cliffs, hiked the trails, and fished the streams from Broughton Bluff to Herman Creek. The top attraction for the entire gang has always been the abandoned town of Oneonta. It was a fun time exploring the empty buildings of that once bustling old rail town. Those buildings are gone now and the road leading into the town is gated but Oneonta Gorge, Creek, and the restored Tunnel are still there to provide new memories for yet another generation on the King of the Roads.

Like all groups of friends, we started drifting apart in the months and years following graduation due to college, career moves or the military service. With our patriotic duties, college and bachelor hood pretty much behind us, we started getting back together annually to rekindle old friendships.

It was fun to take inventory each year of the growth of our young families in the additions and ages. The little girls were becoming lovely young ladies as were their mothers before them and our sons growing into strong and bright young men. And not to be left out are all the revisions of youthful feats of derring-do like the size of the bull snake we shot at as it swam across a land-locked pool at Thousand Acres and how many shots we fired. The number of fish we caught in the stream above Multnomah Falls has since grown from zero to the generosity of the person retelling the story. I recently was told a tale of the time one of the boys took a date up to Oneonta one warm summer evening for street dance. One guy, one gal, a full moon, a Patti Page cartridge in the 8-track and two half empty bottles of pop sitting on the hood of the car. How could life ever get any better?

But, as they say, "all good things must come to an end" and we all drifted apart again. We loosely kept in contact but never was there a concerted effort to get back together on a regular basis until about two years ago when a few of us started going to an undisclosed restaurant in downtown Gresham every Wednesday afternoon. Except for Hal, all the surviving members of that old gang of mine along with Larry's brother, Lee, showed up at the restaurant for a grand old time one Wednesday earlier this year. Shortly after the last arrival, Johnny and Larry kicked off a surprise birthday party for one of us old timers, complete with well thought out gifts, candles, wishes and of course stories that started with "do you remember the time when . . .?"

Now that was cool.

Going clockwise around the tables from lower left: Larry McGinnis, Bryan O' Berne, Bernie O' Berne, me, Rick Davis, Johnny Miller, Ray De Camp and Lee McGinnis.



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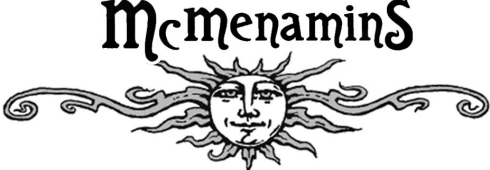


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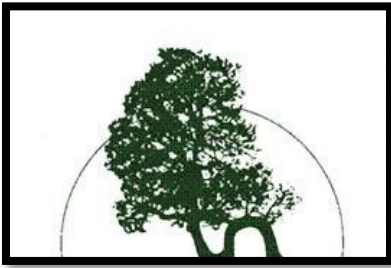
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Mission Statement: To gather, preserve and make available material relating to their history of the community of Troutdale, the Sandy River, the Columbia River Gorge and nearby area: To stimulate interest in the knowledge of, the locality's past.

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