



BYGONE TIMES

Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 2002

Events and Exhibits

See page 4 for more details on upcoming events & exhibits.

Keith McCoy:

L&C Living History
Troutdale City Hall
Sun, Mar 17, 2 pm

**Harlow Douglass
Photo Exhibit**

The final month at the
Harlow House

Ichi, Ni, San (1-2-3)

March through May
Troutdale City Hall

**Japanese-American
Internment:**

Live Interviews
Sun, April 24
Details TBA

Tea & Tour 2002
Sat, May 4

Spring Trek

One day in May...
Tracking Lewis &
Clark to the Pacific.
Details TBA

Cemetery Tour

Sun, May 19, 1:30 pm
Departing from the
Harlow House

Weather Notice

When roads are icy or otherwise dangerous, meetings and events are automatically canceled and the museums are closed.

Vera Strebin Legacy Continues

For the second year in a row, Dave Ripma and Sharon Nesbit, administrators of the Vera M. Strebin Charitable Remainder Trust, are giving the bulk of their administrative fee to the Troutdale Historical Society for purposes of funding the society's operations. Vera Strebin and her son Robert Strebin Jr. created the trust with a portion of the Strebin farm at the corner of Troutdale Road and Stark Street.

The donation is made by Ripma and Nesbit in honor of the late Vera Strebin and Robert Strebin Jr. Robert Strebin completed the construction of our museum barn, oversaw the first Barn exhibit, and is one of our honored Preservationists. This story, originally printed following Vera's death in 1997, celebrates her memory.

Vera Strebin had her pick of friends on her family farm. She died at the age of 92 in her Troutdale farm home. A longtime member of our society, Strebin was a transplanted Oregonian, growing up in Iowa and moving here in 1932 at age—well, as she said: "I'm not saying how old I was. Just say I wasn't a babe in the arms when I came." She met a bachelor berry farmer named Robert Strebin when she went to a dance for berry pickers with her friend Tillie Wiser. Vera and Robert were

married in 1934.

Neighbors murmured, "She knows nothing about berries." But Vera knew she liked the fruit, that back in Iowa she had seen those luscious fruits and had always wanted "to get out there where they have something like that to eat." Her father was horrified by her farm life. Unlike staid Iowa where ladies stayed indoors, Oregon women worked outside in the fields. And Oregon farmers worked on Sunday.

The Strebin farm, like many others in our area, was a haven for Dust Bowl refugees coming from the Midwest in the 1930s. "As soon as they came, they wanted work," Strebin remembered in a 1988 Gresham Outlook interview. "And we needed helpers. They'd land in Troutdale and people would always send them out here to us. Everybody wanted them. They were good workers. Nobody really had much. About all we had to offer was work." And sometimes a cabin to live in and 12 cents an hour. A picker who got four crates could earn a dollar a day. "Every week they'd go to town and I bet

(Continued on page 5)

A Million Thanks to our Friends & Members!

We owe a million (and one!) thanks to you, our new and renewing members, volunteers, friends, and donors, for your generous gifts of time, talent, and finances. Over recent months, as in years past, you have all pitched in to support the Troutdale Historical Society in its mission to preserve history's future.

At this year's annual meeting, on February 24, we gave special thanks to several members. In addition to those honored at the annual meeting, we owe a debt of gratitude to hundreds more! The following list is offered with deep gratitude.

Our Special Thanks To...

Preservationist Ed Ashley

Only the 4th individual so honored in the history of the Society, Ed was chosen, last summer, because of his tireless efforts to see our building projects completed.

Volunteer of the Year Penny Balch

With special thanks for her hard work and dedication in working with the Society's finances during the past months of uncertainty.

Member of the Year

Jean Hybskmann

For her unending dedication and commitment to the daily

(Continued on page 3)

Women in History: Oregon Politics



For more About Women in History...

Women on the Oregon Trail:

www.endoftheoregontrail.org/women.html

Women in History by State:

www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women/wh-state.html

National Women's History Project:

www.nwhp.org

National Women's Hall of Fame:

www.greatwomen.org

divorced and daughter of the well-known and respected Latourell family in the Columbia River Gorge community of the same name, she was married to John Larsson, owner of a "respectable"

was forced to levy a tax to support itself.

Troutdale elected a second woman mayor in 1924, when Laura Bullock Harlow, daughter-in-law of Capt. John Harlow and a friend of Larsson, ran for office.

OREGON WOMEN IN D.C.

Five women have served Oregon in the U.S. Congress...

- ☞ Representative Nan Wood Honeyman (D) (1937-39)
- ☞ Representative Edith Starrett Green (D) (1955-74)
- ☞ Senator Maurine Brown Neuberger (D) (1960-67)
- ☞ Representative Elizabeth Furse (D) (1992-98)
- ☞ Representative Darlene Hooley (D) (1997-)



SUFFRAGE & E.R.A.

The women of Oregon first voted in school elections in 1878 and won full suffrage in 1912. Oregon is one of 35 states which ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

TROUTDALE

Late in 1913, one year after women got the vote in Oregon, Clara Latourell Larsson was elected Mayor of Troutdale, one of the first two or three women mayors in the Northwest.

Part Native American, once-

saloon.

The temperance movement, which traveled hand-in-hand with the women of the suffrage movement, won its way in 1915. It is unlikely that Clara Larsson had a strong objection to alcohol in light of her husband's profession. In fact, in later years, she worked in the Troutdale liquor store.

Mayor Larsson did, however, preside over the closing of her husband's saloon. The closure of the city saloons ended revenue from the hefty license fees and city government, left impoverished,

Union Pacific Artifacts for the Depot Rail Museum

The Gresham Historical Society has invited THS to house a collection of rail-related artifacts donated by the widow of a former Union Pacific employee.

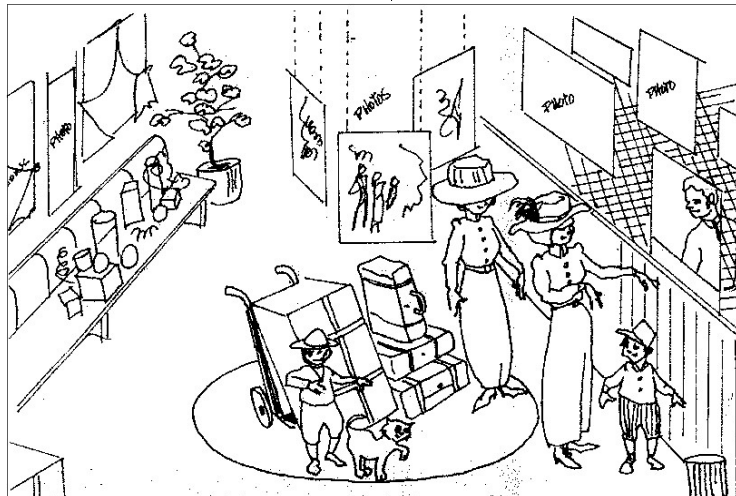
Placing artifacts donated to one organization into the custodial care of a second is a common practice among historical societies and museums, especially in cases where the collection more closely matches the mission or current holdings of the second organization.

The artifacts couldn't have come at a better time. Jeff and Jerry Lawry have been hard at work this winter on the building and painting of life-sized Depot "patrons" (including wandering dogs, cats, and children!). The

GHS artifacts will be displayed alongside our current collection in the new display, which will feature a whimsically lifelike portrayal of a rail station in the

early 1900s.

More information on the collection and the donor family will be in next month's newsletter. ❖



Drawing of Depot Waiting Area

A Million Thanks!

(Continued from page 1)

operations and mission
of the Society

***Recognition of members and
volunteers for their commitment
above and beyond the call:***

Adrienne Claussen, Mario Ayala,
Florence Baker, Dale & Betty
Baldwin, Bill Payne, Jeff Lawry,
Jan Vandiver, Tuesday Lady Mary
Bryson, Tuesday Lady Jean Hol-
man, Tuesday Lady Jean Hy-
bskmann, Tuesday Lady Mona
Mitchoff

December & January Donors:

Bill and Sharon Nesbit, David
Ripma, Walter and Viola
Nasmyth, Lola Fellman, Lois
Moller, Georgeen Penketh, Elsie
Simnitt, Sharon Petri, Kay
Struckman, Nadine & Earl Jordan,
Scott and Eileen Cunningham,
Lois Coons, Florence Baker, Kym
& Brenda Andrist, Lawrence and
Shirley Yost, Nick and Barbara
Welsh, Herb and Clover Nasmyth,
Doug and Elise McGuire, Steve
and Betty Kaufman, Frank and
Jean Driver, Robert & Tamara
Campbell, Ginger Harlow Allen,
Fairview, Rockwood, Wilkes Hist
Soc , LaVerna Snell, Florence and
Ed Happold, Bob and Louise Dix,
Bruce and Marilee Thompson,
Bruce and David Roberts, Frieda
O'Neil, Truly Wright, Lucille
Tolbert, Margaret Splawn,
Lorraine Scott, Edith Quay, Mary
Ellen and Leo McGlothlin, Gerry
and Madeline Grimm, Edna Ellis,
Bob Dunken, Evelyn DeYoung,
Jean Buck, Doris Woolley, Robert
Wenzel, Marie Stone, Debbie
Schoepper, Pearl Ramseth, Evelyn
Jacobson, Roy and Nancy Hoover,
John Denison, Martha Booheister,
Chester and Pauline Morrow, John
Malcom, Lois Douglass, Alice
Cornwell, Clay and Rayleen
Nelson, Gale Underhill, Margaret
Stoeckel, Vera Rueck, Donald and
Tannis Richard, George and

Virginia Perry, Jo and Vaden
Callister, David Rees, Barbara
Huston, Alice Hartje, Marian
Ford, Lloyd Woods, William
Ferguson, Richard & Juanita
Espenel, Elaine Dawson, Gail
Simmons

New & Renewing

Director's Club Members:

Tom and Marian Young, Norman
and Louella Webb, Dorothy
Sturges, Kay Struckman, Elsie
Simnitt, David Ripma, Helen Otto,
Bill and Sharon Nesbit, June
Nasmyth, Lois Moller, Bob and
Mona Mitchoff, Beverly Jones,
Ivan and June Handy, Lola
Fellman, Gordon and Ione
Doolittle, Bob and Louise Dix,
Scott and Eileen Cunningham,
Nettie Cox, Jack and Roberta
Burns, Pat and Pat Brothers,
Florence Baker

New & Renewing Members:

Kym & Brenda Andrist, Wally &
Doris Balmer, Betty Bohall, Jean
Buck, Jo and Vaden Callister, Lois
Coons, Tom Cowling, Mona and
Rocky Denton, Lois Douglass,
Frank and Jean Driver, Edna Ellis,
Theresa Erdman, Richard &
Juanita Espenel, Marian Ford,
Gary and Diane Hanson, Florence
and Ed Happold, Alice Hartje,
Pam Holbrook, Warren and
Christine Howell, Rowena
Hughes, Nadine & Earl Jordan,
Gloria Ladum, Kenn Lantz,
Margaret Maggy, Donna
McCollister, Clarence and Colleen
Mershon, Chester and Pauline
Morrow, Dawne & Greg Morse,
Juanita Evans, Walter and Viola
Nasmyth, Clay and Rayleen
Nelson, Frieda O'Neil, Norman
Reiter, Joann Otto, Ken Otto,
George and Virginia Perry, Sharon
Petri, Angela Pietrok, Carolyn
Porter, Edith Quay, Bruce and
Joanne Ray, David Rees, Helen
Rees, Robert and Helen Salathe,
Debbie Schoepper, Gail Simmons,

Jill and Jeff Smith, LaVerna Snell,
Bruce and Marilee Thompson,
Lucille Tolbert, Lloyd Woods,
Truly Wright, Lawrence and
Shirley Yost, Doris Woolley

***Recent Volunteers &
New Volunteer Trainees:***

Mario Ayala, Florence Baker,
Dale & Betty Baldwin, Donna
McCollister, Betty Kauffman,
Scott & Eileen Cunningham, Jeff
Lawry, Jerry Lawry, Mary Bryson,
Jean Holman, Jean Hybskmann,
Mona Mitchoff, Barb Welsh,
Tiffany O'Dell

Special Thanks to McMenamins:

Special thanks go to the
McMenamin brothers and Kristine
Gottsch, Corporate Marketing
Director, for their commitment to
our mission. Last month, we
received a check for \$6000.00,
\$1.00 per bottle, from sales of the
Poor Farm Pinot Gris.

***We have attempted to thank
everyone and to recognize all of
our new & renewing members
through mid-February. If we
have inadvertantly left you off the
list, please accept our apologies!***

***Watch next month's newsletter
for a continuation of our thanks
and a list of more new &
renewing members!***

Upcoming Events You Don't Want to Miss

March thru May, 2002
On display at City Hall
Ichi-Ni-San

In honor of Asian- and Pacific-American Heritage Month (May), the display covers three generations in the Troutdale area, including Japanese-American Internees.

March 17, 2002 (Sunday)
2 pm; Troutdale City Hall
L&C Historian Keith McCoy

White Salmon, Washington, historian Keith McCoy steps into his buckskins with Lewis & Clark.

April 21, 2002 (Sunday)
2 pm; Troutdale City Hall
Japanese-American Internees

Live interview with Japanese-Americans on internment, and life before and after in Troutdale.

May, 2002; *Spring Trek*

Currently in the works is a one-day event to track Lewis and Clark to the Pacific Ocean with visits to Ilwaco and Fort Clatsop and of course, some fine eating along the way. Stay tuned for final details. If interested in participating, please call the Historical Society and leave a message.

May 4, 2002; *Tea and Tour*

The fifth annual Troutdale Historical Society Tea and Tour will be held May 4th at Pamela and Richard Simeon's home on Larch Mountain Road.

The home, built in 1924 as a summer retreat, was greatly expanded in 1934. Every window overlooks the Columbia River



Gorge, and the spectacular view will enhance the experience as you sip your tea in this natural wood and stone beauty.

Invitations will be sent to previous Tea and Tour attendees in late March. If you haven't had a chance to join us in the past, call the Troutdale Historical Society at 503-661-2164 and we'll place your name on the invitation list.

The cost of attendance is only \$35.00 (\$25.00 of which you can itemize as a charitable donation). The experience includes a hosted tea with traditional tea fare (finger sandwiches, scones, and other delights), an history of the home, and a tour.

Space is limited to 100 guests, and those spaces go quickly, so return your invitation's reply card as soon as possible.

May 19, 2002

Sunday, Departing 1:30 pm
From the Harlow House

Fourth Annual Cemetery Tour

Cemetery Historian Stan Clarke



leads tour of "Stories in Stone"

June 1 & 2, 2002

Fri & Sat

34th Annual Ice Cream Social

A celebration of summer, ice cream, and history at our traditional Ice Cream Social.

Annual Meeting Recap

February's Annual Business Meeting was attended by approximately 75 members of the historical society, who took advantage of a terrific Mardi Gras lunch made by the "Gorge Gang", and a presentation by Lewis & Clark historian Barb Kubik.

Election of Officers

Congratulations to David Ripma (President), Ed Thieman (Vice President), Scott Cunningham, Terry Smoke, and Ray Davenport (Board Members) on their reelection to our Board of Directors. As we have been unable to fill the Treasurer's position, the Board has decided, at this time, to pursue a "team" approach utilizing the skills of several individuals with bookkeeping and accounting experience.

Quilt Raffle

The annual meeting was also the kick-off of our Quilt Raffle to benefit the Lewis & Clark Exhibit. The quilt, made and donated by THS Curator Mary Bryson, is absolutely gorgeous, and tickets are only \$1 each! The quilt (or a photo

of it) will be on display at all of our regularly scheduled meetings and raffle tickets will be made readily available.

Changes in Dues Schedule

Presented with information about the cost of printing & mailing the newsletter, the membership voted for a change in the dues schedule. The vote to change the dues schedule was unanimous. Dues for current members will not increase until next year's renewal. New member dues this year and renewing member dues next year will be:

Individual Membership: \$20

Couples/Family: \$30

Director's Club Individual: \$75

DC Couple/Family: \$100

Awards of the Society

Several individuals were recognized for their commitment to the society. See "Thanks a Million" on the front page. ❖DM

Ernie Cereghino

E-mail to Sharon Nesbit in Maui from Gene Stone in Gresham:

Saw you Cereghino rage (Gresh look, to out today. Had his obit in paper a week 2 ago. A loss, at least in my mind's eye—we had very short enjoyable h I hadn't dealings since I was yrs. old, at mers at the



I worked there 2 different summers, but not consecutively—had to be gone from there long enough to have forgotten just how miserable it was before I could drag myself back. Think I mentioned before that I worked there one summer with Gene Handy.

Anyway, Ernie...that was summers of '59 and '61, and he seemed ancient to me then. Always looked forward to him coming in with his old beat up truck loaded with raspberries. I remember him mostly for one word, Puyallup. That was the variety of raspberries that he grew. He insisted on calling them "Pea-all-up-peas". That was over 40 yrs. ago, and I still can't say the word properly—or maybe I just don't want to—or maybe he was the only one who said it right—think I'll stick with that one.

One of those characters who has made an extremely short visit in my life and left an unforgettable memory—and totally positive." ❖

Vera Strebin

(Continued from page 1)

they didn't spend a dollar on groceries. They were very frugal people," she said. And they did not believe in waste. "They mended fruit. I mended fruit. And we ate fruit until we burst. I guess thought of this as a n." The day she died, Strebin counted her friends the who originally to work on their

farm. Robert Strebin Sr. died in 1966. The land is leased, and Bob Strebin Jr. continues to live on the farm. When she got her member of the year award in 1986, Vera displayed it proudly on a table, but she would not hang it on a wall. None of the walls of her home had pictures. Instead, her house has windows looking out to the fields. "Who wants pictures when the view changes in these windows every day," she said. ❖SN

~Tidbits~Tidbits~Tidbits~Tidbits~

Sunny Sharon: Sharon Nesbit had lunch January 20 with Diane Schulte Janni and her husband, Joe. Diane is the daughter of the late Ted Schulte, long-time treasurer of our historical society.. The following day, Sharon and husband Bill had breakfast with Frank and Jeannie Driver, on Maui visiting their daughter. All they do on that island is eat!

Correction: Apologies to hard-working Lewis & Clark Exhibit member Dan DeGraw, misidentified last month as McGraw!

Noah Says: "It was *REALLY COLD*," Noah Weiner, age 7, reported after helping close up the Harlow House and bringing in the "Open" signs. Thanks, Noah, for braving the weather to help us out!

Salina Fox Biography: We're looking forward to reading Nadine Fox's biography of her grandmother, Salina Fox. Watch for news of its completion.

Letter from Member:
Dear Mr. Ripma:

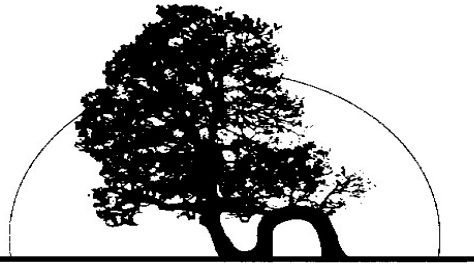
...My husband, Orbin, worked in the Troutdale Post Office for 35 years and we lived on Jackson Park Rd. When he retired in June 1980, we took a trip to find a warmer climate and landed in Yuma City. I still enjoy the Gresham Outlook & especially the articles Sharon Nesbit writes—especially about Maude. We used to have a motor home but it wasn't quite like her & her problems. But, we have been there & done that. Keep her running, Sharon!

Our daughter & son-in-law, Terry & Milt Belnap, are active in the Society & I know they will repair anything that needs doing.

~Barbara Huston

Barbara's letter included a donation in memory of her long-time friend, Pat Gassar. Thanks, Barbara!

By the way, Terry & Milt, we may be calling... ❖



BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 TROUTDALE, OR
 PERMIT No. 5

Troutdale Historical Society

104 S.E. Kibling Street
 Troutdale, OR 97060

Phone: (503) 661-2164

Fax: (503) 674-2995

E-mail:

Troutdale_Historical_Society@juno.com

Inside THS

David Ripma, Board President

Dawne Morse, Interim Director

Mary Bryson, Curator

Sharon Nesbit, Historian

Doneva Shepard, Photo Librarian

Change Service Requested

Harlow House & Barn

726 E. Historic Columbia River Highway

Phone: (503) 661-2164

HOURS: Saturdays & Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.

Depot Rail Museum

473 E. Historic Columbia River Highway

Phone: (503) 667-8268

HOURS: Closed Until May 2002

In Memory...Ernie Naureth, Lawrence Yost, & Verne Jones

Ernie Naureth, the first police chief of Troutdale, died in January at age 60. Ernie served as Chief of Police from 1973 to 1979.

Lawrence Yost, THS member, Corbett resident, World War II vet, retired truck driver for Multnomah County, and husband of Shirley Baker Yost, passed away February 10th. Watch next month's newsletter for a remembrance.

Verne Jones, last administrator of Edgefield Manor, died January 12, 2002, of leukemia. He lived in McMinnville where he retired after closing Edgefield in June of 1982. Verne was an honorary member of our historical society who served history well by remembering that Edgefield and its residents were part of the Troutdale community.

In the last months before

Edgefield Manor nursing home was shut down, he invited our society first to look at the artifacts left in Edgefield and make a selection for our collection. We took two truckloads of materials from the former poor farm. Many of those artifacts, including the phonograph with the wooden horn in the living room of the Harlow House, are mainstays of our collection.



After Edgefield closed, Verne, along with the rest of us, worried about the decline of the buildings and the state of things in the old poor farm. Though he found it hard to believe that the McMennamin brothers would ever be able to restore the place, he

worked with us and with the McMennamins to record all the stories about Edgefield and its patients and employees. On several occasions he met at Edgefield with former employees to tell artists and historians about events there. That work is reflected in the art at Edgefield and in the history sold there, written by Sharon Nesbit.

Verne was well known to many Troutdale people during his days as administrator at Edgefield and any one who ever visited the patients there, or took special gifts for holidays met him and came to know him. He played a big part in Troutdale history and we will miss him. ❖SN