



## **GLADIOLUS, A COLORFUL SPOT IN HISTORY**

While the pandemic has robbed us of our quarterly meetings and shuttered our museums once again, it has launched more communication by email as the work of remembering our history goes on.

Recently director LeAnn Stephan was trying to identify the people and the site in this picture of a gladiola harvest in this area in 1937. The first thing to know is that Troutdale and Corbett farmers grew magnificent gladiolus, among other flower bulbs, in those years. Among those were Union Pacific station agent A. D. Kendall and Clarence Parsons, who had Harry Bramhall build a bulb warehouse, still standing on Buxton Street. Kendall's nearby home was recently purchased by Shalynn Rivas and Coby Robinett and is being turned into a bed and breakfast site.

But who was in the picture and where was this field? So LeAnn sent it out to people who might know including the Wand clan on the hill east of Troutdale. And from there it traveled on with agreements, disagreements and finally conclusion as to where the field was and who was in the photo.

It was a lot of fun. People got to talk and quibble. Others dug around and found more valuable photos. History was not only saved, but enhanced.

As to gladiolas and what happened to them. At one point the farmers of Troutdale and Springdale grew quite a lot of flower bulbs. In one of the earliest cases of industrial contamination, Reynolds Aluminum Plant was built and the fumes from the plant destroyed the crops. Helen Wand's father, Ignatius, was among those who went to court filing suit against Reynolds.



(I to r) Arnold Lampert, A. D. Kendall, Clarence Parsons, Jess Coons, Roy Malcolm

September 11, 1937 - Henkle Farm - Springdale, Oregon

### **THS History Hunt - Raffle Prize Winners Announced**

Thank you to all who participated in our first history hunt. We hope you had fun and learned some interesting facts about our area. Congratulations to our raffle winners and a big thank you to our sponsors. - Troutdale History Hunt Committee

### **RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS**

Jean Freeman - McMenamins Edgefield, one night's lodging for two

James Workman - Envi Adventure, scenic flight in the Gorge

Bruce Stannard - Ristorante Di Pompello Restaurant, \$35.00 gift certificate

Dennis Gavin - McMenamins Edgefield, \$120 certificate toward Ruby Spa treatment

Natalie Constance - Autographed Timbers Soccer Ball with Certificate, donated by

**Bettianne Goetz** 

Gary McCoy - Signed book It Could Have Been Carpdale, donated by Dave Ripma

Kristy Curletto - **Sugarpine** \$100 gift certificate

Patrice Hernandez - McMenamins Edgefield, round of golf for two

Sally Mackey - Sugarpine, \$50 gift certificate

Dave Ripma - Historic Columbia River Hwy Centennial Poster, donated by Bettianne Goetz

Susan Leigh - tour of Firebird Bronze Foundry with Rip Caswell

Cathy Peetz - Signed books Where Eagles Nest and Echoes of Forgotten Places, donated by author **Helen Wand** 

Tammy Bates - Sugarpine, \$50 gift certificate

Tamar Moore - Troutdale General Store, gift certificate

### **HISTORY HUNT SPONSORS**













Historic Cedar School FOR SALE

Interested in purchasing an historic school? This gem is now on the market. Colleen Cahill has spent the past 22 years renovating the school into her home, art/photography studio, and event center.

After years of paperwork and court proceedings, Cahill was able to change the zoning from exclusive farm use (EFU) to rural residential (RR). Now someone will benefit from her hard work with this newly listed property.

### CORRECTION

Gerald Davis caught an error in our last newsletter. Tachi Fujii's nickname should have read Tad not Ted.

Thanks for the correction

I hanks for the correction Gerald.

## Sweetbriar Elementary School Beaver - Elizabeth

We never quite know what is going to walk (or waddle) through the front door in the form of an artifact for our collection. THS Volunteers, **Dwain** and **Sharon Munyan** asked if we would like a beaver. It had been on display at Sweetbriar Elementary School for years. With Beaver Creek running through Troutdale, it is a wonder why we don't already have a stuffed beaver in the collection. (No, we don't need anymore.)

Meet *Elizabeth the Beaver*. Maybe she was Betty the Beaver to her friends? She is a bit of a folklore and somewhat of a celebrity among the students of Sweetbriar; including her own unpublished book *Elizabeth Finds a Home* by **Mrs. Farwell**.

Her story begins on a windy day in Troutdale, c1992. **Mrs. Bettianne Goetz**, Principal of Sweetbriar, came upon the beaver that had recently met its demise. Her quick thinking brought **Mrs. Robyn Munyan** (Dwain's first wife) out to scoop up the beaver into a bag. As Mrs. Munyan bent down, a gust of wind threw her skirt up over her head just as a school bus of children passed by. Hopefully the children didn't recognize her from that angle. Mrs. Munyan finished her task, the beaver was taxidermied (missing two front teeth) and placed on display for all the children to enjoy.



Elizabeth the Beaver

### President's Message by Norm Thomas

During a recent trip to Glacier National Park in Montana Charlene and I visited several historic buildings. One of those was the Lake McDonald Lodge in Glacier National Park built in 1913. We were amazed by the log and rock construction. It was amazing to actually see the building instead of pictures of what it was. We also enjoyed having our favorite latte in a building built in the late 1800s in Whitefish, Montana. Then while staying in Kalispell we shopped and enjoyed relaxing at an old fashioned Soda Fountain in an 1890 building that once was an opera house. We also enjoyed driving through older neighborhoods viewing the architecture and character of many homes built in the early 1900s.



Norm Thomas, President

Troutdale also has several commercial buildings and homes with that significant historical value that should be preserved. The Troutdale Historical Society has been working to preserve not only the history but also

the historical buildings in the Troutdale area. As Charlene and I travel we both really enjoy the historical parts of the towns that we visit.

1913 Lake McDonald Lodge, Glacier National Park, Montana

### Another way to support TROUTDALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pick up BottleDrop blue bags at the Barn Exhibit Hall. Look for the box of bags outside on the bench - Fill with redeemable empty bottles and cans and drop off at any BottleDrop locations. Funds will automatically be deposited and donated to THS.

Thank you for the increased interest in our BottleDrop fundraiser. With your support we have received \$767.00 this year from the folks who recycle their cans and bottles through BottleDrop using one of our labeled bags.

### **East County Drop off locations:**

Wood Village Redemption Center 23345 NE Halsey Street Wood Village, OR 97060

**Gresham Redemption Center** 1313 E Powell Blvd. Gresham, OR 97030

# **360** MEMBERS OF THE TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help us reach our goal of 500 members!

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WINTER

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### **Troutdale Historical Society Board Members & Staff**

**Executive Board** President: Norm Thomas Vice President: Bettianne Goetz Treasurer: Joy Beldin Secretary: Jason Cawood

**Board Members** Kelly Broomall, Tim Hills, Jean Ice, Sharon Nesbit, Dave Ripma, Helen Wand

LeAnn Stephan, Executive Director Alex Epps, Administrative Assistant Past Presidents Erin Janssens, Bettianne Goetz, Sharon Nesbit, Len Otto, Dave Ripma

### **Keeping a History of Homes**

While we like nothing better than cooperating with people like **Shalynn Rivas** and **Coby Robinett** who have purchased the historic Kendall House to create a bed and breakfast inn, we have in recent weeks also made a record of homes that are being demolished for future development. Two of those are the **Carl** and **Grace Bondesson** house made of clinker bricks and the **Ike** and **June Handy** home, a 1961 Ranch style home with a daylight basement. These adjacent homes were demolished last month in preparation of a 166 apartment complex. Fortunately, we were able to get photos of the houses and gathered families for one last visit before the homes came down.

### **Carl and Grace Bondesson House History**

**Carl Bondesson**, a 55 year old brickmason from Nebraska marries **Grace Wilson** of Troutdale in 1923. Grace was the daughter of **Charles** and **Hattie Wilson**, **who** were celery farmers. They built a Dutch Colonial home just south on what is now W Historic Co-

lumbia River Hwy for their eight children. Grace became a nurse and at least two of the sons continued farming celery - **Russell** and **George** (remember George, he will come up later in the history). Records do not indicate if Carl was employed as a brickmason after arriving in Troutdale, but **Deidre Parsons** (Grace's great-niece) recalls that Carl built chimneys and did other brickwork in Troutdale. He gathered enough "clinker bricks" to build Grace a house. Clinker bricks are those discarded bricks that are misshaped, discolored, or not the right size - not allowed on a proper brick house. A house was built with all the charm of those unwanted bricks, tucked away on an idyllic setting with a view north

over the Columbia River and just south of the Wilson farm.



Bondesson House, August 2021



Clinker Bricks on Bondesson House, August 2021

The **Morrison** family lived in the home from 1945-1957. **Marilyn** and **Bill Morrison** (siblings) were able to visit their childhood home days before it was demolished. As they walked around the dilapidated house overtaken by ivy, Marilyn and Bill described living there and their fond memories. Marilyn reminisces of her upstairs bedroom that had that wonderful view, the **Fujii** farm behind them (location of the Troutdale Terrace apartments today). Bill remembers his father planting the row of trees that spanned the east side of the property all the way down to Halsey Street to block the east wind. Marilyn brought historic documents and photos of the house to add to our collection. A history possibly would have been forgotten if it wasn't for this house and the memories it held. That dilapidated, overgrown, old house became alive with history that day.



Bondesson House, 1945 - (I to r) Grandfather, Mike Kehrli, Aunts Margaret and Trudy, Marilyn, Mother Marie, Aunt Rosa



Bondesson House, August 18, 2021 - (I to r) Daughter to Bill & Kaye Melissa Frost, Kaye, Bill, Marilyn

So, how does **George Wilson** fit into this history? Marilyn and Bill Morrison's grandparents, **Ernest** and **Mary Louise** (she went by Louise) **Morrison** worked at the Fairview farm. Ernest dies in 1918 of the Spanish flu. Louise takes over his management job at Fairview farm while raising their son, **William George**. Thirteen years later, Louise marries George Wilson. Troutdale history is full of these types family connections. It makes history gathering a little tricky, but it exemplifies the close knit community.

### Keeping a History of Homes, continued from page 4

### **Ike and June Handy House History**

**Ivan (Ike)** and **Lenore (June) Handy** operated the Handy Bros. Service station in early 1940s. The building still stands today and is occupied by Alliance Plumbing on the corner of the Historic Columbia River Hwy and Kendall Avenue. The station became known as "Troutdale's Country Club," where people gathered and "drank bad coffee." Ike also worked for Reynolds Aluminum Plant. They began raising their four sons; **Dale, Gene, Neil, and Greg** in a home located where Plaid Pantry is now (corner of 257th and Historic Columbia River Hwy). It is hard to imagine, but 257th was not there during their growing up years.

The Handy family was well known throughout Troutdale. They were the kind of people you want to sit and chat with, even if the coffee is bad. Ike was known as the guy you could count on to fix a flat tire if you were stranded on the side of the road. **Dick Anderson** came to work at the station. Their motto "Let Ike and Dick Make it Tick" sums up their business relationship.



Handy House, August 18, 2021

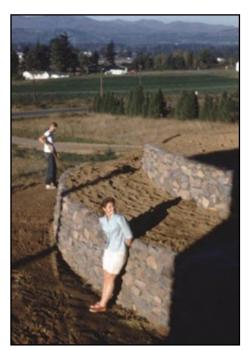
Within the first 25 years of marriage, they were able to build their dream home. In 1961 their home was built just below the Bondesson home, without blocking the magnificent view of the then occupants. **Greg Handy** remembers loading his dad's 1954 Chevy pickup with rock from a slide near Multnomah Falls to build the retaining walls. He said "it seemed like 1000 loads" by the time they were finished.

In 1981, they had an unobstructed view of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. They enjoyed the steep slope down to Halsey Street during a winter day in 1992.

The home stayed in the Handy family until it sold to a developer in November 2020. It was the first of the two homes to be demolished. It feels like the memories die when a house is demolished. But photos and stories help keep those memories alive.



Handy House, Winter 1992 Ike and grandson Brian on tube with Tucker leading the way. On the hill is Greg Handy, his daughter Sonja and friend Amanda Green awaiting their turn.



Handy House, 1959 - new rock retaining wall Bonnie Blough and Dale Handy, students of Reynolds High School, later marry

Many homes have been demolished in Troutdale over the years in the name of progress - some not so significant, others iconic. THS tries to capture and save these homes through photos, historic accounts, and family genealogy when the wrecking ball is en route. Keeping a history of homes.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

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

## **A Drill Sergeant for President**

THS **President Norm Thomas** has a unique set of talents to lead a group of historians because he was a Drill Sergeant in the U.S. Army, explaining his clear voice and erect posture, even though these days he uses a crutch.

(There is another story here about how Norm and three women, one of them aged, put together a heavy shelving unit in the top floor of the barn. Reading instructions as we went and propping up the various pieces and laughing a lot. Think Erector Set.)

Norm went into the Army in 1972 and got out in March 1981. He spent three years in Bamberg, Germany, where his wife, **Charlene** joined him, and was reassigned to Fort Knox, Kentucky, in 1976 where he attended Drill Sergeant School and worked in that from 1976 and 1979. He was discharged in 1981.

He is also a former Troutdale city councilor and he and Charlene enjoy traveling and camping.



The McMenamins Edgefield Concerts returned this summer. Thank you Margaret Rice (pictured) and Bettianne Goetz for hosting the THS table on this August summer evening.

### Who We Are, A Note from the Director

I am embarking on my 6th year as an employee of the Troutdale Historical Society. This is a small blip in time in comparison to the 53 years THS has been around. During my time here I have witnessed incredible projects, events, and historic programs orchestrated by board members and volunteers - Mayors Square Mural, repainting of the Caboose, Lovers Oak recreation, Visionary Park and monument Devoted Passion, 100th Anniversary Celebration of the opening of the Historic Columbia River Highway, summer Barnyard Concerts, numerous history programs, plus many more. These all happened because of a dedicated group of board members and volunteers who strive to gather, preserve, and share the history of Troutdale.

The history we gather comes in many forms. It may be a piece of paper documenting an event, it may be an object you hold in your hand, it may be a photo with a man standing in a field of celery with Broughton Bluff in the background for reference, or it may be a building that holds our history in its structure. Items of history are donated on a regular basis. It takes an enormous amount of time to catalog and store these items, which is accomplished by several volunteers devoted to preserving and protecting them.

Our work is rewarded when I receive emails or phone calls inquiring about a relative that lived in Troutdale, a question about a heritage tree, a curious resident wanting to know who lived in their historic house, or a business owner wanting images of their building from the past. Our history collection is here to be shared... an important part of our mission.

Regarding our efforts to preserve old city hall we were described in a City of Troutdale document, since rescinded, as "a small special interest group." We are so much more. THS is not here to impede progress but to preserve community history as envisioned by Charter Members of THS who struggled with a pauper's budget in 1968 to bring this society together. The progress made by **Glenn** and **Helen Otto** - former Troutdale mayor and Oregon senator, a group of women known as the **Tuesday Ladies** who spent countless hours in the Harlow House to make it into the museum it is today, **Sharon** and **Bill Nesbit** - Troutdale's Historian, **Sam** and **Nancy Cox** - former Troutdale Mayor and Past President of THS, likewise **Bob Sturges**, and his wife, **Dorothy**, serving in both capacities at the same time. If that sounds like a conflict of interest, it wasn't. Because back then their interests were not conflicting. The cause was the same - to make Troutdale and its history the best it could be for this community.

THS' success is due to the support of its 360 members, twelve dedicated board members, and forty volunteers. Three museums do not run themselves. They take a great deal of work and finances to keep them running. The staff, Tracy (new Administrative Assistant) and I are here to support the vision of THS in any way possible. We are treated with the utmost respect by every board member and reminded almost daily how important we are to them and the role we play in these endeavors. And in return we strive to do our best to represent this historical society in a professional manner.

I am proud of who we are, of what we have accomplished, and what we will accomplish. We are the Troutdale Historic Society, serving the community of Troutdale since 1968 and beyond.



# Friends in History Remembered



### Frank Archer Windust - b. February 5, 1938, d. February 14, 2021



Frank A Windust

Frank Windust, owner of many parcels of land in Troutdale, passed away last February.

### Harrison (Mac) McKnight, Jr. - b. December 28, 1935, d. July 18, 2021

After an extended period of time in hospice care, Harrison (Mac) passed away on July 18, 2021. The founder of Ever Fresh Fruit Company, he and his wife **Greta** raised three children in Troutdale - **LeAnn Miller**, **Kurt McKnight**, and **Kaylynn Ramberg**.

His mother-in-law, **Truly Wright** served as Troutdale's city recorder and municipal judge for many years. There would be no point in arguing with Judge Truly Wright. She was also a charter member of the Troutdale Historical Society.

Mac was quoted in Sharon Nesbit's book, *It Could Have Been Carpdale*. The quote was attributed to his son Kurt in error.

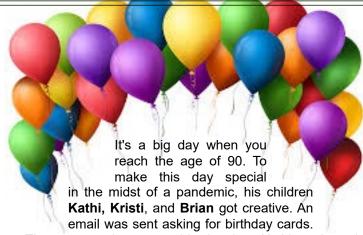
"Troutdale has burnt down a lot of times and it is a good town now." - Harrison (Mac) McKnight



### Kenn Lantz turns 90 years old - March 23, 2021



Kenn Lantz and family



They were to be sent to his daughter Kathi so the collection would be a surprise when handed to Kenn on his special day.

**Kenn** has been a member and supporter of the Troutdale Historical Society for many years.

We're a bit late in recognizing your birthday Kenn, but we hope it was a joyous occasion - Happy belated birthday!

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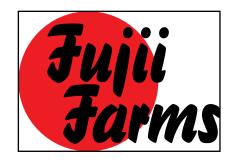






















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knowledge of the locality's past. nearby area; to stimulate interest in the River, the Columbia River Gorge and community of Troutdale, the Sandy material relating to the history of the To gather, preserve and make available Mission Statement

> Website: www.troutdalehistory.org Email: info@troutdalehistory.org Phone: 503-661-2164

Troutdale, OR 97060 732 E Historic Columbia River Hwy. Office Location:

Troutdale, OR 97060 219 E Historic Columbia River Hwy. Mail Address:

# Troutdale Historical Society

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# Thank you for your support!

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