



Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

AUGUST 2009

*Founded in 1986, the Society's Mission is
to preserve, promote and interpret the rich and colorful history of Tualatin*

Upcoming Programs

• **September 2, 1:00 pm**
Dale Potts, Kathy Walsh, Mary Ann Hulquist and Loyce Martinazzi will discuss **Tualatin's VFW:** How it began, activities through the years, and the current move to the old brick store.

• **October 7, 1:00 pm**
Paul Hennon, Director of Community Services for the City of Tualatin will tell the history of Tualatin's park system.

**Saturday, August 1
Two Fundraisers at the
Heritage Center**
Identity protection is the goal of a **paper shredding opportunity** in cooperation with Tualatin Police Department. Thanks to Shred-It, a Tualatin-based document destruction firm, the public is invited to bring up to two archive boxes of paper for secure recycling at 10:00 am until the truck is full. Donations support Tualatin Heritage Center. Retail value of this service is \$10 per box.

The Philippine Nurses Association of OR/WA is hosting a **"Taste of the Philippines"** meal from 11 - 1 p.m. for eating-in or take out. Menu includes traditional Filipino favorites and proceeds will fund a medical mission. For more information visit www.pnaow.org.

Depression Life Highlights August Meeting



Memories of the Great Depression shared by living witnesses will be featured Wednesday, August 5 at 1:00 pm for the monthly THS meeting at the Heritage Center. Walter John Eames will tell about living in the old train depot building when his dad Walt Eames worked as head groundskeeper at the Tualatin golf course and how local teenagers volunteered to clear the orchard where the 1939 school would be built. Nobody expected to get paid, as there was no money available. Herb Lafky will send a letter telling of his experiences during this era in American history and Bill Fitzgerald will tell of poverty in the Vernonia area, while his wife Eleanor will relate how her family made it through.

Other depression-era folks will be encouraged to tell their stories as moderator Loyce Martinazzi passes the microphone.

Photos of Oregonians during the Great Depression are courtesy of Oregon Public Broadcasting.

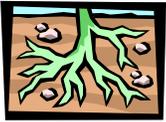


THS Returns to Crawfish Festival

Stop by the Tualatin Historical Society booth at the Crawfish Festival Saturday August 8 for a cup of ice cold water and see how the Marquis Company will utilize elements of the old elementary school in its new development at the site. THS members, some in period dress, will be answering questions about Tualatin history, selling our products and asking visitors to guess how various artifacts were used.



Photo of the former Tualatin Elementary



Digging Family Roots

I will miss the Tualatin Crawfish Festival this year as I have been asked by my granddaughter, Leah, to show her where her ancestors came from--quite a request for a 12-year-old and quite a challenge to show her our roots. Saarinen Wayside Park on Avery Street is on part of the small farm my grandparents, Adiel and Siska Saarinen, settled on when they immigrated in 1920. This month I will show Leah where in Finland they and our other ancestors once lived.

Discovering family history can be more than just recording who was born where. Our ancestors deserve more and it can be an adventure to find living relatives, no matter how distant in relation or place. It was 1954 when Grandma first told me where in Finland to find her relatives and I will visit the cousin I have corresponded with since, plus others of her family who live in or near Kemi, Finland. As a result, most of my family members have been there. My sister Yvette taught school there one year. It wasn't until 1985 that sister Annette and I found our Saarinen family in Keuruu, Finland. Over the years we have had our own family international exchange of relatives. Recently, cousins from Halmstad, Sweden, went to Hawaii with me. Our grandmothers were sisters.

Finding our roots isn't easy. I knew only Grandpa's name, birthday, and the city he left from when we went to the Lutheran Registry in the town of Vaasa to see if there were any relatives still living there. They found lots of Saarinens living a hundred miles east so we hurried by train to get there. And the rewards keep on coming. A visit to the farm where he was born resulted in my recent acquisition of Grandpa's cradle. And since children in Finland begin to learn five languages in the 5th grade, several little cousins practice their English by E-mailing me--instant "pen pals".

How to find our ancestors information? Ancestry.com and Cindy's list are good search sites, as are US Archives, Social Security records (if they

President's Corner

by Yvonne Addington

worked after 1936), Oregon State Health records, and US census information. And recently, much military information from the Revolutionary War, Civil War and World War II has been provided. Also, try searching for relatives on the internet. And assistance in researching family history is as near as the Tualatin stake of the Church of the Latter Day Saints on Grahams Ferry Road. The Tualatin Historical Society will be providing classes this fall, making the search of family roots a good winter research project. ~ Yvonne

Going once, Going twice...SOLD!

That's right! You will have a chance to bid on three hours of yard work by the two lovely ladies pictured below if you attend our fund-raiser. Christine Tunstall and Barbara Stinger have donated their services to our auction that will be held on September 25. If you would like to donate items, gift certificates or services, call Lindy at 503.885.1926.



Rebirth of Old Brick Store Provides New VFW Home

After months of renovation, the Tualatin VFW will have the grand opening of its new official location on Wednesday August 26. THS members are invited to the 9 a.m. official ceremony or may drop in anytime during the day or at a Chamber of Commerce "Alive After Five" gathering in early evening.

Earlier in July, Mashita's Teriyaki took possession of the bottom floor of the old brick store now re-named Robinson Crossing. Street side features include a large fountain, palm trees and a new flag pole. The VFW owns the second floor which will also be available for rent.

Exterior of the building conforms to the original design of the 1912-13 structure, thanks to developer David Emami's research with Tualatin Historical Society. Mashita's continues the modern era memory of Rich's Kitchen, a popular dinner house in the 1970s/1980s.

The old VFW was demolished in late June to make way for a two-story office building with underground parking.

The Tualatin VFW Post 3452 launched its 70-year story on Saturday night, August 31, 1940, when 23 overseas veterans gathered. Before the evening was over, they had elected officers and decided to create an official Post and name it for Axel Rasmussen, brother of charter member R.W. Rasmussen. Major Axel Rasmussen, a native Oregonian, first enlisted as a trumpeter in Troop G, Fourth U.S. Cavalry, in the Spanish-American War, when still a boy in his teens in 1898. He served first in the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War and in the Philippine insurrection and when the World War started he enlisted as a private in the Princes Pats, Canadian Light Infantry. He participated with them in all their engagements until the Fall of 1917 when he was transferred to the United States Army as a major and served with the First Division in all their engagements until he was killed in the Amiens sector May 4, 1918. During his activity in France, Major Rasmussen received more than thirty citations, among them the Distinguished Service Cross from the United States Government and the Croix de Guerre from the Government of France. He was a much publicized soldier in foreign as well as American newspapers, and Irvin S. Cobb devoted an entire page of in the popular Saturday Evening Post to details of the Major's life and death. The Major Axel Rasmussen Post 3452 was officially chartered on October 25, 1940. The first vote of the Post was to form a Ladies Auxiliary. Twenty-three ladies proceeded to organize and

the Auxiliary has been active ever since. Originally the Post held its meetings at Winona Grange while the ladies met at the Odd Fellows Hall in Tualatin. For rental information, contact hall manager Gerald Gleason 503 746-7051.



VFW Today—photo courtesy of Jon Hartman, Willamette Valley Media Group

***Editor's Note:** The September meeting of THS will feature more history of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary presented by long-time

members still active today. The September newsletter will continue a historical profile of this influential Tualatin organization.

Local History Projects to Start Up

by Yvonne Addington

It's been 40 years since Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon. Back then Tualatin was a community of 300. Our historians have done a great job recording the early history of the area, but what about the story of Tualatin's growth to today's city of more than 26,000 residents? There's a story that needs telling.

The Tualatin Historical Society will form several ad hoc committees beginning in September to research, collect pictures and articles, and conduct interviews to flesh out this recent history. Examples: the Tualatin Fire Department which is now a part of Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue; the soon-to-be-demolished Tualatin Grade School built in 1939; the nearby former grade schools whose buildings still exist (Cipole, Durham, Stafford, and Carlon), and information on Tualatin's 17 Mayors since 1913 incorporation. There is interest in the genesis of the Tualatin Police Department and the first municipal court.

SO LET'S GET STARTED. If you have any information or pictures to share (we can copy them) or want to join in the effort, please feel free to call the Tualatin Heritage Center, 503.885.1926 or email Yvonne Addington at yaddington@verizon.com.



But wait, there's more...

Thanks once again to Garden Corner for the donation of two hanging baskets for the Heritage Center patio and for a discount on annuals for the planters... Yvonne Addington and Loyce Martinazzi met with Jake Saum and his cousins on a Saturday visit to the Heritage Center last month. Jake was a member of Tualatin's 4-H, Grange and his sister Fern was a Crawfish Festival Queen. The old ox bow on display at the Heritage Center was used on the Saum farm east of today's I-5 near Saum Creek. Jake now lives in Puyallup, Washington.....THS President Addington will be serving on the Government Affairs Committee for the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce during the coming year, building on her long years of service at the local, county and state levels....thanks to Dolores Peterson for donation of several items of historical interest now appearing in the Library display case using the theme "Grandma's Attic" Other items are on loan from Molly Burns and Willis and Jean Nyberg...and thanks also to Mary Leslie for the changing displays at the Heritage Center. Recent themes have included: June Brides and Mary welcomes the loan of your collections for future exhibits.

Tualatin Heritage Center
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The Center is open to the public weekdays from 10am to 2pm. The Tualatin Historical Society holds open program meetings in the Center at 1:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.



Visit us at:
www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org

Get Your Tickets to the Wine, Food & Auction Event



We have only 75 tickets left to our first big fund-raiser. Reserve yours today by calling Lindy at 503.885.1926 or email lindy.thc@gmail.com.



these new members!

Gordon and Joan Fuller, Tigard
Dick Mort, Milwaukie



Recycle Tip of the Month from Karin Olson Plastic Shopping Bags

REDUCE — Bring reusable bags when shopping

REUSE — Line wastebaskets, take to the library, take to store to use for produce

RECYCLE — Place in plastic bag recycling bins at grocery store, Plastic Round-up or Pride Recycling Depot on Tualatin-Sherwood Road, 503.625.6177.

Do not put in curbside recycling

Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

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View this newsletter in color:

<http://www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org/newsletter.html>

Tualatin Historical Society

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