



Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

JANUARY 2009

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

Upcoming Programs

- January 7, 1:15 pm
“Birds of the Tualatin Basin” presented by Mary Anne Sohlstrom. She is a staff member at the Wetlands Conservancy, headquartered in Tualatin and founded by THS members Jack and Althea Pratt-Broome. Her year-round bird talks and walks are popular activities at Sweek Pond and the Heritage Center.
- February 4, 1:15 pm
“Life in the Olden Days” Long-time Tualatin residents share memories of life in earlier times. Their stories will be videoed for the Society's oral history collection. Bring your questions.



In this issue:

Memories of snowy Christmases past - page 5

The Tualatin Historical Society's monthly programs are open to the public. We welcome you to join us!



From the President Looking at New Challenges

2009 brings challenges that are not new when looking through the lens of history. People are now talking about the 1930s and policymakers are studying lessons from the Great Depression to avoid the same negative impacts. Our own Tualatin Historical Society (THS) publications have captured memories of local residents who can remember what it was like for their families in those hard times.

The new year also brings challenges for THS which is charged to record local history as accurately as possible and share these stories in interesting and exciting ways. THS got its "second wind" in 2006 with the opening of the Tualatin Heritage Center, thanks to the investment of time and money from volunteers like you. Our Society is blessed with exceptional expertise and we need more interested persons to advance our preservation work.

Being president of a growing organization like THS is not an easy task and I hope I can follow the footsteps of a most capable leader, Norm Parker. This position follows a career for me that started in Tualatin city government and ended in state government implementing policies to benefit local residents and communities.



As a lifelong and nostalgic resident of the Tualatin area, I want to continue giving back by helping record and preserve the history of our area. Join us for a fun and educational experience. There are several of us who enjoy talking about "old times" and your own stories are equally important.

Yvonne Addington

Yvonne stands by the cradle that her great-grandfather carved in Keuruu, Finland, in 1874. It was used by her grandfather Adiel Saarinen and left behind when 20-year-old Adiel immigrated to the US in 1904. Yvonne saw the cradle in a barn on a visit to her ancestors' homeplace and arranged for it be shipped last August to her home here.

Newsletter Changes

With this issue of the Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter we begin a change for the new year. Originally an 8 or 12-page quarterly, a smaller 4-page edition has been published monthly since August and sent via e-mail or mailed to those without computer access. That will continue. Deadline for each issue is the 10th of the month prior. Quarterly issues in January, April, July and October will include more articles on Tualatin area history and will be mailed to all members (and also emailed). If you prefer NOT to receive the newsletter by regular mail, we will honor that request. The THS Communications Committee will plan these special editions. Its members are Yvonne Addington, Doris Gleason, Loyce Martinazzi, Larry McClure, and Karen Lafky Nygaard. Karen will serve as copy editor for the quarterly issues. Send your suggestions for articles on aspects of Tualatin area history to her at karenyaard@aol.com or 1.562.425.7261. Lindy Hughes will continue her creative computer work for all our newsletters which will also be posted at the Society's website at www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org/newsletter

Library Displays Antique Toys

Have you checked out Molly Burns' collection of antique toys in the Society's display case in the Tualatin City Library? It's a Christmas season treat. Her collection of over 50 early toys includes dolls and their clothing and is on display until January 15. The model of the 1875 Hedges House, built by John Bowles, is also shown.

After the toy display, watch for Susan Clark's miniature covered wagons originally built as children's toys or television lamps in the 1950s and then repaired and preserved by Susan because of her life-long interest in the Oregon Trail.



How the Road to Statehood Ran through Tualatin



As Tualatin's contribution to the statewide sesquicentennial (Oregon 150), the Society is sponsoring a "story theater" on Sunday, February 15, at 2 pm at the Heritage Center. It will celebrate Tualatin's connection to Oregon's statehood in 1859.

Actors with the Lumiere Players will portray some of the historical figures who played a role in the Decision at Champoege that led to Oregon's change from territory to state.

Members of the Tualatin Historical Society will become 18 early Tualatin settlers who describe their lives prior to 1859. Two of those pioneers, Levi Anderson and Dr. Nathaniel Robbins, were signatories to Oregon's constitutional convention in 1857. Others who will share their stories are William & Mary Barr, Zenas & Ester Brown, Sam & Sarah Galbreath, Perry & Louisa Goodall, Billy Greenwood, Jimmy Luster, Nancy Robbins, Elizabeth Shaver, John & Maria Sweek, and John & Sarah Taylor.

"The Road to Statehood—the Tualatin Connection" was crafted by Karen Nygaard and Loyce Martinazzi. Dan Hobbs of the Lumiere Players directs the production, which will conclude with a singalong of the state song "Oregon, My Oregon."

2008 Awards

Each year the Society gives a Lafky-Martinazzi Award to a person or group that fulfills our mission. The 2008 award went to three women:

Del Judy "For designing and planting the beautiful Heritage Garden in the patio."

Christine Tunstall "For coordinating the promotion, brick sales and design that resulted in the stunning Memorial Brick patio."

Yvonne Addington "For spearheading the project to mount the Willamette Meridian marker that notes where the north-south line ran through Tualatin that began the great Territorial Survey."

Chronology of a Threatened Historic School Building



The familiar red brick school now abandoned at the corner of Boones Ferry and Sagert has an interesting 70-year history which THS members Yvonne Addington, Karen Lafky Nygaard and Evie Andrews summarize below:

1939: The Tualatin School District built the 8-room brick elementary school on Boones Ferry Rd. on about 13 acres, replacing a 2-story, 4-room wooden building. It was built with federal WPA funds, employing many local people during the last years of the Great Depression. With its fine maple gym floor and large stage, it quickly became THE gathering place for community activities and the place thousands of people remember for a good education, musicals, PTA events, carnivals, May Day and Christmas celebrations, Firemen's Balls, and sports activities for young and old. It continued in this capacity for about 65 years. Beatrice Cole (Hinderman) was an early principal, one of the first women in the state to hold that position, and was followed by John Brown who served until 1970.

1950s-70s: The brick school was officially named the Gerald Avery Building to recognize his years of service on the School Board. Additional classrooms, a library and outdoor play shelter were added as enrollments increased. Two teachers, Joy Lindner and Evie Andrews, received Oregon State Teacher of the Year awards.

1970s-90s: Tualatin merged with Tigard to form the Tigard Tualatin School District. As Tualatin's population steadily increased, two new elementary schools and a middle school were built.

1992: The 53-year-old building was listed in the City's new Historic Preservation ordinance.

2004: The school closed its doors in June. It was replaced by a new 36-room school on Avery Street. A joyous reunion was held at the old school on June 12 attended by hundreds of former students, teachers and friends of the old brick school.

2005: A section of the vacated building was put in service as the Tualatin Schoolhouse Food Pantry.

2007: The Tigard Tualatin School District (TTSD) declared the 12.75-acre site surplus property, and offered the site for sale, saying there was little interest in the City to obtain the site for continued public use, the main objection being the cost to rehabilitate the brick building. The Tualatin Historical Society asked for public response and in 3 weeks time over 870 persons signed petitions asking both public agencies to try to preserve the site for future public use.

2007: Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) bid on the property with plans to build low-income housing, using the brick building. But TTSD chose Marquis Companies, Inc. to propose development on 3.75 acres on the eastern part that contains the brick building, for a skilled-nursing and independent living center, requiring a demolition permit, and chose Matrix Development/Legend Homes to propose housing development on the western remaining acreage. Matrix/Legend later declared bankruptcy.

2008: Marquis obtained TTSD agreement to propose development of 5 acres on the east side. TTSD, on behalf of Marquis, applied to the City for a demolition permit to raze the historic building, saying that Marquis had analyzed preserving the brick building and "decided to proceed with demolishing the building while preserving some of the construction materials and incorporating those materials, as feasible, into the new development."

2009: The demolition sign is up. City staff recommended demolition. THS must appeal decision to City Council by Dec. 30. We wait to see what happens.



THS 2009 Board of Directors:

- President Yvonne Addington
- Vice-President Christine Nyberg Tunstall
- Secretary Barbara Stinger
- Treasurer Diane Barry
- Historian Pat Saab
- Center Director Larry McClure
- Board Member-at-Large Art Barry
- Board Members-at-Large Annita Gilham
- Board Members-at-Large Doris Gleason
- Board Members-at-Large Norm Parker
- Lifetime Member Loyce Martinazzi
- Lifetime Member Karen Lafky Nygaard

Brick Fundraising Continues

Visitors to the new brick patio at Tualatin Heritage Center walk through history as they discover names and dates of families and organizations who have made their mark on the community. Donors contributed over \$12,000 for the patio/garden project during the first round of installation in 2008. And more brick orders have already been received for the second installation when the weather dries in 2009. Despite increases in engraving costs (\$21 each), the THS board has decided to keep prices at \$50 for the smaller 4x8 bricks and \$500 for the 8x8 blocks that line the edges of the structure. Some donors have memorialized births, marriages, anniversaries, arrivals in Tualatin or years their family lived here. New teachers from Byrom Elementary School were sent to the patio this summer to hunt for names of Tualatin historical figures as part of their August staff orientation.



Several companies and organizations have chosen 8x8 bricks to feature their logo. All donations to the brick project are tax deductible.

Watch for the first blooms this spring of the noteworthy white Tualatin Manette Iris propagated by Mark Lafky when he operated a well-known iris farm in town. Gardeners Del Judy, Duffy Hamilton, Jane Brown and Chris Tunstall planted the bulbs in early December. Garden Corner in Tualatin donated holiday-theme hanging baskets to celebrate the season.

Historical Q & A

Q: Where did the Atfalati live and are there any living descendants today?

A: The Atfalati were all over the area. They camped along the river trading wapato and camas from the falls at Oregon City to Lee Falls west of Gaston and across to the coast. There are descendants of Ki-a-kuts [the last head man of the Tualatin band] but the Indian tradition keeps their privacy as they request.

Q: How many acres were promised to the Grand Ronde Confederated Tribe in the 1855 treaty?

A: 600,000. Today the reservation, headquartered in the town of Grand Ronde, consists of 9,811 acres.

Q: What was is the common language of the Grand Ronde people?

A: As the tribes of the Grand Ronde were gathered, Chinuk Wawa emerged as the language all could understand. Children in the tribe are once again learning that language today.

Q: How were higher-status members of the Atfaliti and Kalapuya Indian tribes easily identified?

A: The foreheads of infants were gradually flattened using gentle pressure of a board cinched down over the crown of their heads.

Q: Who was the Indian agent at the time of removal of Kalapuya bands to Grand Ronde?

A: Joel Palmer

Q: Where did members of the Atfaliti Indian community spend their winters?

A: Around Wapato Lake in the Gaston area.

Q: How many different subgroups (such as the Atfaliti people in our area) were forced to the Grand Ronde reservation?

A: Over 20 bands and tribes were sent to the reservation, some coming from as far as today's Medford and Grants Pass. Each tribe had its own culture and traditions.

- From Eirik Thorsgard's remarks at the THS December program meeting



Memories of Snowy and Icy Winters Past

While major floods captured most of weather headlines in Tualatin over the past 100 years, this December's prolonged frosty and snowy days are reminiscent of earlier icy winters in our city. Consensus among long-time residents is that the "old days" were much colder with more frequent snows. And, perhaps because fewer vehicles were on roads and many kids walked in their galoshes, school was seldom called off. Thumb through the THS bookshelf and you'll find chilly stories from yesteryear. Tualatin From the Beginning describes an infamous winter in 1861-62 when even the Willamette and Columbia Rivers froze over (pp. 52-52). Dave Cereghino (in *Tualatin When We Were Young*) remembers a really cold year when he walked across the Tualatin River on ice and his father's story of driving a wagon load of bricks across the frozen Willamette. The winter of 1943 stuck in his mind for its deep snow (pg. 17). Asked about river conditions over the last 60 years, Bill Gilham recalls 1949-50 as the last time the Tualatin nearly froze over. Annita Gilham remembers Bill cutting blocks of ice from nearby Fanno Creek that winter to keep their ice box cold.



Playing in the snow and on frozen ponds and wetlands was a common theme. In the 1930s, kids "made do" with scavenged boards to careen down hills, said Margie Larson. Hungry for homemade ice cream, her mom told the kids to gather icicles to use in the hand-cranked White Mountain machine. Walter John Eames, who grew up near the country club, recalls a favorite sledding slope on the golf course also confirmed by Yvette Saarinen in later years. Duffy Hamilton remembers ferocious snowball fights with caddies at the club. She also remembers building igloos and forts in today's city center when the snow was deep. Karen Lafky Nygaard remembers waking one morning to a foot or two of snow in 1937 and her dad hitched up the horses to a clod masher and took her and the Sunde brothers on a sleigh ride down the road to school.

In the most recent THS book (*War, Change, Growth*), Gay Pennington Paschoal remembers a snowy slope where "the wind was blowing in our faces as we flew down the hill on our stomachs" (p.48). Her mother Dorthea remembers there was so little traffic on Boones Ferry Road that the kids would sled down the road's hills (p. 39). The Saarinen sisters also remember sledding on Boones Ferry near the old elementary school and railroad tracks.

Over at the Nyberg farm, Christine Tunstall remembers kids coming to sled on the slope where Nyberg Woods mall now sits and also skate on the upper pond where they built a warming fire on the edge. Mother Kay Nyberg made tomato soup, toasted cheese sandwiches and hot chocolate for the gang. "You could see little fish and plants through the ice," said Christine. John Nyberg remembers carrying water for livestock and keeping the ice chopped off watering troughs. Sandra Lafky Carlson describes how sleds could run down a hill at their farm and end by skimming across a frozen pond which served as the neighborhood rink (*War, Change and Growth*, p. 56 with photo).

Looking out over the wetlands below their home, Gerry Brosy tells of the day the Gilham boys came over to play their version of hockey bringing their dad's gas cap as the puck. One hard swing stuck the puck above Paul Brosy's eye requiring a quick trip to Dr. Pennington's home for several stitches.

The lower wetlands of Nyberg farm was another popular skating arena for Tualatin young people even if they couldn't afford skates. If anyone fell in there, it was less than 2 feet deep. John Nyberg remembers his dad Clayton pulling him in an apple crate as he skated along the wetlands where the freeway is today. Yvonne Saarinen Addington recollects a winter when Cipole Swamp froze over and someone drove their car on the ice where it broke through and the car remained tail up all winter! Annette Saarinen said her favorite sledding and sliding spot was the city ball field located by the city dump near present-day Martinazzi Square.

~ Continued on page 6

Who Cleared the Land Where You Live? Downtown Tualatin

by Loyce Martinazzi

Coming to the Oregon Territory from far off Scotland in 1853, William and Mary Jane Barr settled the land we now call downtown Tualatin. Their 320-acre donation land claim stretched from the meridian line (65th St.) west to the Sweek property (Boones Ferry Rd.) and from the Tualatin River on the north to Sagert Road on the south. A beaver dam swamp ran through the center of their claim.

A strip of land next to the river was sold to Billy Greenwood, and soon a blacksmith shop was operating near the Galbreath Ferry located near where the Boones Ferry Bridge now stands.

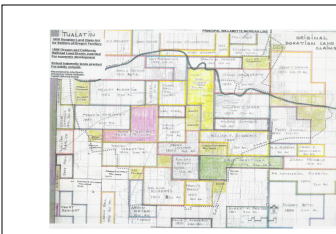
Matthew and Rebecca Thompson bought the land in the 1860s and began draining the swamp to grow onions. A century later, mastodon bones would be dug up at that site. After the turn of the 19th century, John L. Smith purchased part of the land, set up the Savage sawmill, built a 2-story general store (close to the present brick store), and platted out a development called Tualatin Grove. Smith's crew cut down the thick fir forest and hauled the logs to the mill by the river. Smith then built a brick

foundry, calling his business the Tualatin Brick and Tile Company.

The Smith family built houses for themselves along Tualatin Road near the current park. One house remains: Malinda Smith and her husband John J. Boone's house. The City of Tualatin moved the house across the street and tracks to Althea Pratt-Broome's property near Sweek House where it sits today.



Tualatin's mastodon was dug up in what was a beaver dam swamp on the original land claim, now the site of the parking lot behind Fred Meyer.



You can also check out your property's original owner at the Heritage Center. Ask to see the special poster, made by John Bowles, that superimposes a current city map of Tualatin on the 1852 donation land claim map.

~ Continued from page 5

Memories of Snowy and Icy Winters Past



Larry Lee believes the 1940s and 50s were generally colder despite our occasional nasty spells today. Lois Dalton agreed with Bill Gilham that a late heavy snowfall about 1950 reached the top of daffodils that were already up. Larry recalls 1955 for its sustained snowfall that could be classified as a blizzard with drifts that lasted two months. That year also sticks in Loyce Martinazzi's mind being icebound with her third child in three years. 1969 brought another big snow year recalled by John Nyberg who observed that winter snow and ice seem to run in cycles. If so, 2008-09 could just be our turn for snow stories with tomato soup, cheese sandwiches and cocoa but with roads now too busy for sledding.

(Compiled by Larry McClure with thanks to the THS history bookshelf and the above mentioned storytellers sharing their memories.)

Tualatin Heritage Center News



*Heritage Center with 16 inches of snow, 12-22-08
Photo courtesy of THS member and volunteer
Jon Hartman of Willamette Valley Media Group.*

Heritage Center Honors Police Officers



Thanks to Patricia Saab, who lost her state trooper brother in the line of duty, the Heritage Center features blue candle lights in its eastward windows facing the Tualatin Police Department. Blue lights glowing in the holiday season are recommended by Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), a national organization that supports families of police officers who gave their lives in police service. The Tigard/Tualatin Times featured a story on this Christmas tradition in its last issue of 2008. To learn more about C.O.P.S., visit www.nationalcops.org/home.htm



New Winter Memories - Thanks to a 12-inch snowfall just before Christmas, several second-generation Apache Bluff residents build a neighborhood igloo reminiscent of 1937, 1955 and 1969 winters in Tualatin. Residents Germond, Goode-Test, Hughes, Parker and Welsh families worked hard into the night to construct this 7 foot tall igloo.

Family Crafts Day Emphasizes Traditional Arts

Children and adults alike enjoyed a Saturday of homemade Christmas ornaments and gifts, plus Willowbrook entertainers on Saturday, December 13. The hands-on activities outgrew the Heritage Center and moved to the Winona Grange for this year. Co-sponsored by THS and Willowbrook, the event also was a fund raiser for the Tualatin Schoolhouse Pantry. Thanks to the following THS members who spent six busy and noisy hours teaching crafts and serving food: Diane and Art Barry, Molly Burns, Annita Gilham, Richard Hall, Lindy Hughes and her family, Del Judy, Ellie and Larry McClure, Rebecca Pratt. THS member Vicci Martinazzi arranged the Grange rental and assisted with cleanup.

December Events Draw Record Crowds to Center

The December 3 presentation by Grand Ronde Confederated Tribes staff member Eirik Thorsgard drew a capacity crowd of 65. Tualatin's Voices of Hope community choir enjoyed our venue for their holiday concert and wants to return in the future. They contributed all donations from listeners to THS. Hayden's at the Commons rented the Center for four different catered parties their facilities could not accommodate on December weekends. Mary Kay dealer Joy Flaming is now a regular user. Help us spread the word that rentals are available for a variety of functions. Appreciation goes to to Duffy Hamilton and Lindy Hughes for setting up the miniature village display and hanging of antique Christmas tree ornaments from the Society's archives and Duffy's family collection and also to Doris Gleason for displaying her Santa collection. Garden Corner provided seasonal baskets for outside display. Bad weather before Christmas did curtail operations, but thanks to the City our sidewalks were always cleared.

Recycling Tip of the Month From Karin Olson

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle-
RESOLVE to RECYCLE!

Coming soon - After January 1 all TV's, computers and monitors must be recycled at no cost.

Heritage Center "Store"

Our Heritage Center "Store" has a wide variety of items that capture the memories, the visuals, the tastes and even the sounds of early Tualatin. Check them out when you visit the Center, or order by mail.

Books

Tualatin...From the Beginning 196 heavily illustrated pages that take you from our 10,000 BC mastodon to the 2004 Commons. By Society co-founders Loyce Martinazzi and Karen Lafky Nygaard. \$20. Add \$3 for postage.

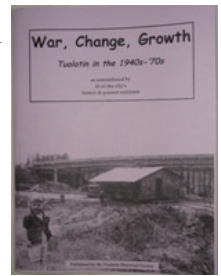
Life in a New Untamed Land * Tualatin diaries of 1851-53 by four of the area's first settlers. 46 pages. \$10. Add \$1 for postage.

Tualatin's Past Remembered* Ann Martinazzi's interviews with the second generation of settlers. 42 pages. \$10. Add \$1 for postage.

Tualatin When We Were Young* 35 seniors' memories of the 1910s, '20s & '30s. 68 pages. \$10. Add \$1 for postage.

War, Change, Growth* Tualatin in the 1940s-'70s as remembered by 43 residents. 72 pages. \$10. Add \$1 for postage.

* The set of four for \$30. Add \$2 for postage.



Video

Tualatin's First Century 1850-1905 Narrated half-hour slide show from our collection of vintage photos. \$10

Notecards

Pictures of Tualatin's historic homes and farms. Set of 6 cards \$6.50

Heritage Jams & Jellies

Glenmore Farms products use local berries in a secret family recipe. \$5 and \$2 (Glenmore Farms is the original name of the Byrom place.)

CD

Heartstrings, Tualatin's own hammered dulcimer and string bass duo and members of THS, offers 16 historical tunes that would have been heard at Sweek House and other gathering places. \$15

Tualatin Heritage Center
 Tualatin Historical Society
 8700 SW Sweek Drive
 Tualatin, OR 97062
 Phone: 503.885.1926 Fax: 503.692.5876

The Center is open to the public weekdays from 10am to 2pm. The Tualatin Historical Society holds open program meetings in the Center at 1:15 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.



Visit us at:
www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org

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