



# Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

JULY 2009

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

## Upcoming Program

• August 5, 1:00 pm  
“Memories of the Great Depression”

Stone soup for dinner. Patches on patches. No jobs. What memories have come down through your family about the Great Depression? Maybe you lived through some of those years yourself and can speak first-hand about hardships encountered and obstacles overcome.

Join Tualatin Historical Society members and friends at 1 p.m. Wednesday, August 5 to hear stories of survival when a whole nation was struggling to make ends meet. Most who grew up in that era quickly adapted to getting by with less. How did neighbors help each other? Did some of their menus pass down to later generations? How did your relatives overcome adversity? Be prepared to offer your reflections as Loyce Martinazzi passes the microphone to persons including Herb Lafky, Marge Larsen and Walter Eames who remember those years or who were taught its lessons.



## Annual Summer Picnic Scheduled for City

An old-fashioned potluck picnic is scheduled 5:00 -7:00 pm. Wednesday July 1 at the main picnic shelter at Tualatin Community Park. Bring your favorite dish to share, but also your own table service. THS will supply lemonade and coffee.

Special entertainment will be provided by the Rodelio Flores family (violin). Members and friends are all invited to enjoy fellowship in the spirit of Oregon's 150th birthday. Anita Gilham and Gerry Brosy are chairing the annual event. For information, call 503.885.1926.



*Picnic in the Park from long ago.  
~ from the Historical Society photo archive*



*Tualatin's Original Park - The open area north of the Southern Pacific Railroad trestle was used as a park by 1916 and was a popular spot for July 4th celebrations. John L. Smith's enormous horse barn can be seen behind the trestle at right.*

## President's Corner

by Yvonne Addington

### Help Us Fund Our Work

We have a lot to do to record Tualatin's history, from the prehistoric era, through native culture and pioneer arrival, to living memory when the community grew from about 300 to over 26,000. History is happening as we speak and your help is always needed to sustain our causes. In addition to your welcome participation in fund-raising and event-planning, there are three important ways you can help provide revenues to get these jobs done.

1. **Donations** - The Society's projects are funded by membership dues, fund-raising events, donations and grants. We hope you will consider our causes when planning donations for your tax deductions and your wills, along with general support of membership dues and activities. For more information, please call Norm Parker, Membership chair, 503.598.7443, or Larry McClure, Fund-Raising chair, 503.692.5459.

2. **Our Books & Gifts** - The Society's published books include pictures and historical facts about the Tualatin area and are an accurate description of the way things were in earlier times.

They make great coffee table displays for home or office. There are now six books for sale, including the latest Kid's Coloring Book. Choose among other gifts--the Heritage jams and jellies, videos, CDs, historical note cards--at our "Country Store" at the Heritage Center, open 10:00 -2:00 pm weekdays, or call Lindy Hughes at 503.885.1926.

3. **Engraved bricks** - The Society sold engraved bricks for funds to build the heritage garden and patio and is still taking orders for more. A personalized brick is a fine way to honor or remember the special people in your lives. (And they'd make a unique Christmas present!) Each 4 x8 inch brick sells for \$50 with three lines of text and 8 x 8 inch bricks are \$500 and includes six lines of text or three lines of text with a logo. Come look at the ones that have been laid and place your order. Christine Nyberg Tunstall, Brick-Project chair, can provide assistance.

~ Yvonne

### THS Returns to Crawfish Festival With Focus on History Makers



Volunteers are needed at the Crawfish Festival Saturday, August 8 to help greet visitors at the THS booth. Features will include Marquis Development plans for incorporating elements of the old Tualatin Elementary School into their proposed senior residence/care complex (gym floor, bricks, windows, trees). Anyone who attended the old elementary school will be invited to sign in. Representatives of Tualatin United Methodist Church, preparing for its centennial September 20, will also be seeking persons with memories of the old church.

The THS store will also be operating and commemorative patio brick orders will be taken. Parking restrictions have made it increasingly difficult to attract visitors to the Heritage Center during Festival hours.

### THS Exhibits Change Monthly

Thanks to Mary Leslie, two display cases at the Heritage Center change monthly. June themes included wedding dresses and trucks often seen in the Tualatin area, from farm vehicles to Blue Mountain Dog Food.

Molly Burns coordinates THS displays at the city library. Graduation memorabilia from the first Tualatin High School are featured in the Lounge area. The new Tualatin business history posters are on display at West Coast Bank, Umpqua Bank and the Tualatin Library lobby.

## Who Cleared the Land Where You Live?

by Loyce Martinazzi

In 1852 young Jimmy Luster, a single man, settled on 160 acres of land in Section 2S,1W in Section 26. After his untimely death in 1857 his land was sold and re-sold and broken up into smaller portions.

The following article was written by Ann Martinazzi, reporter for the Tri-City Times newspapers who published it in 1962. The Munniksma dairy farm site is now occupied by Living Savior Lutheran Church on the corner of Boones Ferry and Sagert Streets.

### Valley Farms Dairy Bows to Progress

Tualatin—A huge dairy barn, more than a half century old, is being torn down at the west end of Sagert Road in Tualatin.

Owned by retired dairyman Harry Munniskma, the landmark was for many years the main plant for Valley Farms Milk Company which delivered milk to the towns of Tualatin, Tigard, Sherwood, Wilsonville, Lake Grove and Portland.

Although it has now served its purpose and repair costs are too high, the barn will remain in the history of the community. It has been used for storage for the past five years and is being razed by a Newberg party for the “first class” lumber inside.

The barn was built in 1907 by Pike Davis to raise race horses. The nearby house on the same property was built in 1908.

Munniksma came to the United States in 1906 from Holland and worked in the tunnels under the Judson river in New York. He returned to Holland and ran a successful fish market for two years before deciding to return with his wife Dina in 1909. He moved from Portland in 1920 and started a dairy.

In 1925, he moved the dairy to Boones Ferry Road and then in 1929 bought his present farm, converted the horse stables into a dairy barn and began his business with 15 cows.

He eventually built a pasteurizing plant and made his establishment into a Grade A dairy. Nearly \$20,000 in machinery was bought for the dairy barn.



*1930 - Valley Dairy Farm operated by Harry and Dina Munniksma on lane east of Boones Ferry Rd. on Sagert St.*

Fifteen farms in the vicinity brought their milk to him for distribution until the Dairy Co-op was established, which increased his work. To help operate the dairy, Munniksma hired one farm hand, two milkers and three drivers throughout the year. During the summer many more were employed for haying, since he raised almost all of the dairy food.

At the peak of his business, Munniksma had 50 milch cows on the farm with another 17 milch cows kept in the Blank barn in Tualatin, now owned by Dick Price.

All was not pleasant for the early morning milkman. He recalls the milk strike in the early '40s when he rode shotgun while his son drove his milk truck for fear his milk would be dumped. Farmers were also scared when they found planks with huge spikes placed in their driveways.

Three years ago, Munniksma, who will be 78 in March, retired and sold his business to a Portland dairy. He is now a “traveling man,” visiting between Los Angeles, where his son John lives, and Tualatin, where his two daughters, Mrs. Earl Sagert, and Mrs. Melvin Salzer reside. He is currently living at the Salzer home.



The Munniksma Home



## The Willamette Meteorite: The Tualatin Connection

By Yvonne Addington

The famous Willamette Meteorite, now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, could easily have been called the Tualatin River Meteorite. It was found on a hill overlooking the river a few miles east of Tualatin.

But that hill was nearer the village of Willamette. In 1902 Ellis Hughes was cutting wood for the Willamette school when he spotted a rocky projection on a brushy hillside, near where I-205 now crosses the river. When he struck it with a stone it rang like a bell. It was a 16-ton chunk of nickel-iron, the largest meteorite ever found in the United States, and believed by scientists to be the iron core of a planet that was shattered in a stellar collision billions of years ago, fell in what is now northern Montana, became encased in ice over the ensuing ice ages, and was washed down when the ice dams broke during massive glacial floods some 15,000 years ago.

At his wife's urging, Hughes moved the meteor to his property nearly a mile away. Amazingly, he did it with the help of only his wife, their 15-year-old son, and his horse. He fashioned a truck made of logs mounted on wheels sawn from a tree trunk, and with levers and blocking he got it toppled onto the truck. Then came the really hard part, moving it to his property. Using his horse, he set up a "Spanish windlass" which he moved and re-anchored each time the 100-foot cable was wound. The move took three months.

He next enclosed it in a wooden shelter and charged 25 per view. People flocked to see the curiosity, including a lawyer from Oregon Iron and Steel, on whose property the meteorite was found. The company wanted to exhibit it at the Buffalo World's Fair and offered Hughes \$50 for it. Hughes wouldn't listen, and a suit was filed. Testifying on Hughes' behalf were two Indians from the Wasco and Klickitat tribes. They claimed the meteorite,

"Tomanowos," had fallen from the moon and had magical powers, that rain collected in the rock's hollows had healing powers, that the Clackamas tribe dipped their arrows into it before going to war, that their young warriors were initiated by being compelled on the darkest of nights to climb the hill and visit the lonely spot where the celestial visitor reposed.

The case went to the Oregon Supreme Court in 1904 and Oregon Iron & Steel prevailed. They floated the meteorite to Portland and exhibited it at the Lewis & Clark Exposition in 1905. Oregon scientists' hopes for keeping it in the state were dashed in 1906 when Mrs. William Dodge II of New York purchased it for \$26,000 and presented it to the American Museum of Natural History.

Interest in returning the meteorite to Oregon was rekindled in the 1990s. But the Museum, like Hughes, wouldn't listen. But it did accommodate a request by the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde Community of Oregon to allow their tribal members to conduct a private ceremony around the meteorite once a year, and that ownership would be transferred to them should the museum stop displaying it.

The story came full circle last summer when a replica of the Willamette Meteorite was dedicated not far from its point of discovery, and Ellis Hughes' descendants attended the event. The meteorite, and an interpretive trail explaining the prehistoric floods that deposited the famous rock here, are in Field's Park, on Borland Rd. just east of the bridge. Among the scientists involved in the project was Dr. Scott Burns, Portland State University Chair of the Geology Department, a Stafford resident, and a Tualatin Historical Society member.

Photos on page 5 are courtesy of Yvonne Addington.



1903 - After digging around the 16 ton mass, Hughes and his teenage son , Elias (standing on wheel), jacked and levered the meteorite out of the hole onto a primitive flat-bed cart that they built entirely out of logs.



1905- Unidentified woman posing with the Willamette Meteorite.



2008 - Bill Hughes of Culver, Oregon, grandson of Ellis Hughes, shares family stories of moving the meteorite.

### Ride the Rails July 15

Thirteen railroad lovers explored Portland metro historical sights June 9 in the first THS "train trek". A new itinerary is planned for the next tour Wednesday, July 15. Using an all-day TriMet pass, the group boarded the last train leaving Tualatin in the morning and returned about 5 p.m. Riders were surprised by the large number of passengers, including bikers. After transferring in Beaverton, we had a coffee break in Pioneer Square where we watched a live NPR radio show featuring callers from around the world. Riding the "yellow line" to the Portland Expo Center, THS member Art Sasaki shared family memories at the sculpture commemorating the internment of Japanese Americans. From there we transferred in old town Portland on the "red line" to Portland Airport for lunch at Ikea and then enjoyed a private tour of historical exhibits in the airport terminal before heading back to Tualatin. Persons interested need to register at the Heritage Center by July 14. Call 503.885.1926.

### “Locally Grown...preserving the history of Tualatin” THS Fundraiser Theme

Our first big fundraiser is just around the corner. We have been busy planning this exciting event that will take place on Friday, September 25. We have inserted a flyer with more information in this newsletter. Help us continue with the Society’s mission to preserve, promote, and interpret the rich and colorful history of Tualatin.



These are just a sampling of some of the beautiful items from local artists that were recently donated to THS for the silent auction.



## The Road to Statehood The Settlers' Stories

On February 15, THS presented a playlet on Tualatin's role in Oregon's statehood, during which the area's first settlers told what their lives were like in those early years. Over this sesquicentennial year we reprint their stories here, beginning with Zenas and Ester Brown. They were portrayed by THS members Dave Overby and Sue Raxter (see photo right). The narrator was Daniel Hobbs from the Lumiere Players.



**Narrator:** It's 1853. This was the biggest year on the Oregon Trail. By now some 30 families had settled on claims in what would one day be the town of Tualatin. What did they find here? What is it like in this New Eden? Let's hear them tell their stories. Here's Zenas Brown and his wife Ester.

**Zenas:** I was one of the first ones here. Before 1850, Came all the way from New York. By myself. The wife had died and I figured here was a chance to start a new life. Lived in the boarding house over in Oregon City. That's where we put up while we look around for land. That's where I met this young lady.

**Ester:** I was glad to get away from that boarding house. My sister Elizabeth and I worked from dawn to dark helping our parents run that place.

**Zenas:** I had some doctor trainin' back East and so I opened up an office down by the levee, and hung up my shingle. Dr. Brown, "Eclectic Physician and Surgeon." Eclectic. That meant I do whatever's needed. Even concocted my own bitters and sarsaparilla beer. Just the medicine for some people.

**Ester:** After we got married we took out our claim over yonder. Six hundred and thirty acres. One square mile. And built our little log cabin.

**Zenas:** Lucky there. A few years later a couple could only get half that. A good spot too. Just east of that new meridian survey line. It's where the road from Lafayette to Oregon City crosses the river. Folks had to ford the river at a shallow spot there, so I figured I'd put in a ferry and make a good livin'. Browns Ferry. First one on the river.

**Ester:** Not for long though. The Galbreaths and the Taylors put in ferries upstream.

**Zenas:** They cut into our business too. Their ferries were on new roads into Stumptown. Portland they call it now. Then bad things happened. That young scalawag Isaac Warwick. He wouldn't pay up for that piece of land I sold him.

**Ester:** He was sick, poor man. You took him in and tried to cure him.

**Zenas:** And the thanks I got for that. He died anyway and our spiteful neighbors said I killed him. They said I was out to get his estate. Humph. About all he had was that damn violin.

**Ester:** They indicted you for murder. That was terrible. You didn't kill anybody. He just got sick and died.

**Zenas:** Hateful people. Can't wait to get out of here.

**Ester:** It wasn't too bad. They later found you innocent for want of evidence.

**Zenas:** Well, we can't stay here with that cloud over my head. We'll sell this place and move on, maybe Salem. Come on. (They return to their spot, then Ester dashes back to the mike)

**Ester:** My sister Elizabeth did better. She married Edward Byrom.

**Narrator:** Yes, and now he has a school named for him. But you didn't do badly. There's now a nice Browns Ferry Park on your old claim.



*Photo courtesy of the City of Tualatin*

**George Andrews: Local Boy Makes Good**

The entrepreneurial spirit that fuels Tualatin's economic engine has been part of our landscape for over 150 years. Tualatin Historical Society is celebrating this heritage in a series of display panels that can easily be transported to schools, public places, and local businesses where residents and visitors alike can learn more about our city. The first four panels were developed in part by a grant from the Washington County Cultural Alliance using Oregon Cultural Trust funds. Last issue we featured Avery Chicken Breeding Farm.

**1935** Third of 10 children growing up in two-bedroom home on Boones Ferry with no indoor plumbing.

**1949** Graduates 8th grade at Tualatin Grade School where he will later be on staff

**1953** Graduates from Sherwood High School, works at Fred Bonk's Shell which he later will own and later sell (recently Mashita's Teriyaki)

**1956** Serves as medic in Navy using nation's first radioactive isotope imaging technology

**1960** Returns to Tualatin and establishes first private nuclear medicine lab at Good Samaritan Hospital; earns teacher certification at PSU; starts building houses that will eventually total 40

**1964-1974** Popular but demanding science teacher and coach at Tualatin School, grades 6-8, works part-time for James King Co. on 65th Ave, a small local firm making truck accessories

**1975** Buys Tualatin Shell Station. Takes over operation of King Co. and gradually relocates and expands manufacturing facilities to include custom and injected molded rubber and plastic products sold nationwide. Today the 70-staff company is owned and operated by his son Tim with backup from his stepdaughter Julie.

**1979** Buys ProGro Mixes in Tonquin area, a small supplier of nursery potting soils. Invents new equipment and processes to make this firm the premier supplier of specialty planting mixes for commercial growers and landscapers, including new "green roofs" in Northwest. Raw materials (like pumice and peat moss) are shipped daily from sources throughout Oregon and Canada.

**2005** Oregon On-Site Concrete, a subsidiary of ProGro, mixes and pumps small batches of concrete for homes and businesses. ProGro is now owned by Corky's son Dave.

**2009** Corky still has a hand in operations of each company while also teaching and coaching 33 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. His wife Evie (a former Oregon Teacher of the Year) was a 40-year staff member at Tualatin Elementary School and still substitutes for teachers there today.

*Save the Date...*

**Food, ID Theft, Member Social  
Highlight Future Activities**



**August 1 - Document Shredding Fundraiser,** 10:00 am – noon, Tualatin Police Department parking lot. Bring sensitive papers to be shredded by Tualatin's *Shred-it*, the world's leading document shredding company. Bring up to two boxes (bank box size) of sensitive papers. Drive through service available. Suggested donation of \$10 goes to Tualatin Historical Society. Identity theft information will be provided by Tualatin Police Department.



**August 1 - "Taste of the Philippines",** 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Mabuhay! Purchase authentic Filipino cuisine and help a good cause. Eat in or take out. This fundraising event is sponsored by the Philippine Nurses Association of Oregon & Washington. Proceeds will help to fund a medical mission to remote Filipino mountain tribes.



**September 25 – "Locally Grown...Preserving the History of Tualatin"** THS Wine, food and silent auction event.

<p><b>Recycle Tip of the Month</b> from Karin Olson</p> <p><b><u>REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE</u></b></p> <p>Don't use paper napkins Use small towels or cloth napkins</p>
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*Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter*

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- Contributing Editors: Karen Lafky Nygaard  
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**View this newsletter in color:**

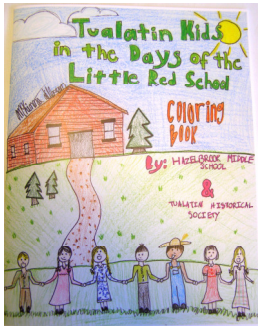
<http://www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org/newsletter.html>

## 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. Find them at the Center, or order by phone or mail.

### Books

#### NEW Children's Coloring Book



#### *Tualatin Kids in the Days of the Little Red Schoolhouse*

A coloring book about Tualatin kids by Tualatin kids. Created by 8th grade students that depict and describe a day in the life of youngsters here a century ago. 32 pages \$4 each, 3/\$10, 10/\$30.

***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 small books is \$30. Add \$3 for postage.

### DVD

#### ***The Road to Statehood Ran Through Tualatin***

Hour-long story theatre written by Loyce Martinazzi and Karen Lafky Nygaard video taped by Jon Hartman. \$15 To order, call 503.885.1926.

### 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.)

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](http://www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org)

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