



# Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2009

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

## Upcoming Program

• **December 2, 1:00 pm**, Mary Anne Sohlstrom and Ed Casey will discuss Tualatin Wetlands Conservancy. Founded in 1981 by Althea Pratt Broome and Jack Broome, the organization is dedicated to permanently protecting and conserving Oregon's greatest wetlands.

## Save the Date...

### Heritage Center Activities

### Knitting & Crochet Workshop

November 6 & 20  
10:00-12:00 pm  
Bring your project or start one. Help is available. All levels welcome.

### Dulcimer Jam Session

November 8  
1:00-3:00 pm  
Donations welcome.

### Clothing Swap

November 16,  
7:00-8:00 pm  
Recycle, Reduce, & Reuse! Bring something, take something. Women clothing & accessories. For information, call 503.716.8910.

### Bird and Nature Walk

November 17, 8:00 am  
Time for Fall migration. Find a variety of ducks and geese, & warblers and wintering song birds.



## Annual Meeting This Sunday, November 1

Good old-fashioned potluck fare and conversation will highlight the 2009 annual meeting of Tualatin Historical Society this Sunday, November 1 at Tualatin Heritage Center starting at 1:00 p.m. Bring your own table service as well as a favorite dish to share. Beverages will be provided.

Highlights of the meeting will include presentation of special awards. The Golden Spike award for preservation of historic buildings in Tualatin will be presented to David and Diana Emami who saved and renovated the old brick store (widely known for many years as Rich's Kitchen). The 1913 "skyscraper" was moved some 30 feet east to accommodate widening of Boones Ferry Road. It now houses Mashita Teriyaki on the ground level and the Tualatin VFW post on the second floor.

The 2009 Lafky-Martinazzi Award for exceptional service to THS will also be revealed during the afternoon.

Election of officers for 2010 will also be conducted. 2009 accomplishments will be celebrated along with updates on recent historical events such as discovery and moving of three large erratic boulders from Tualatin to the Ice Age/Missoula Floods interpretive trail at Fields Park in West Linn on the Tualatin River. THS member and PSU geology professor Scott Burns has a new book on the Missoula Floods which scoured our area and deposited boulders carried by glaciers from today's Canada.



## Family Research, a Growing Need

One of the services The Tualatin Historical Society offers is a Family Research Center, a file of photos, clippings, publications and oral histories of Tualatin residents, past and present. Its importance became evident last month with the POW/MIA organization's inquiry about young Brian Bushnell, a Tualatin resident before he became a Vietnam casualty. (See separate story) The Research Center was started by Duffy Hamilton with help from Vicci Martinazzi and is a

work in progress. When downstairs space in the Center permits, it will be more accessible for persons who want to learn more about Tualatin families.



Files organized by family surname. Shown is a copy of Issac Ball's obituary in 1914.



## Not to be Forgotten Tualatin's Brian Lee Bushnell, POW/MIA

By Yvonne Addington  
THS President

It has been almost 40 years since Tualatin resident Brian Lee Bushnell, then just 21, was declared missing in action over North Vietnam seas. So it was quite a surprise to receive an inquiry (via the City of Tualatin to the Tualatin Historical Society) from Candace Lokey of the National League of POW/MIA Families, regarding Bushnell, whose last address was listed as Tualatin, Oregon.

A check of local "old timers" and newspaper articles revealed the Bushnell family had long ago moved from Tualatin and little was known about them. But we just could not forget a Tualatin man who gave his life for our country.

Candace Lokey of the POW/MIA League Families of Freeport, Pennsylvania reinforced our resolve to find out information about the life and service of Bushnell. Lokey explained the work of the League:

"It is primarily interested in a photo, any newspaper articles that may have appeared at the time of his loss and any family information you might have. We are in the process of putting faces to the names of the 1,737 missing in action/prisoners of war. We only need 68 more."

"We found out in the process that the military casualty office and the military departments charged with trying to locate these men do not have all the photos. There aren't photos in all the military records either. I have been providing copies to the military offices that "should" have them. When questioned as to why they didn't have them, I was reminded that they are responsible for all wars, not just Southeast Asia and that they are working on it. They have even lost contact with family members due to deaths, marriages or moving and new contact information not being provided. It's very sad that some of these men no longer have family. We are working to make sure these men are not forgotten and that they are remembered as men not just statistics. Members of the League all have family members that are still unaccounted for in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos."

"We don't want to invade anyone's privacy. If the photo is in a high school annual or newspaper, that's fine. If a family member is known and they want to

send a copy of one of their photos for our files, that's fine too. We would appreciate any assistance you can provide."

Following is a compilation of information provided through internet inquiries and networking. After more "history detective" work, we finally found his youngest brother Scott Bushnell, his only immediate survivor. Scott lives in Lake Forest Park, Washington and provided most of the information about Brian's family and life before the military. He also provided two photographs of Brian in military uniform, the last one taken for his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in March 1970 and just before he went missing. Brian liked the photo according to Scott. Brian Lee Bushnell was born March 9, 1949 to Charles and Marilyn Bushnell. Brian was the oldest, then Bruce, then Scott. The family lived in the Norwood area west of I-5 freeway. He attended Tualatin Elementary School and graduated from Tigard High School in 1968. Brian joined the Navy and with the rank of E3 Technician served in the Carrier Early Warning Squadron 116 aboard the USS Coral Sea.

The USS Coral Sea, USS Hancock and USS Ranger formed Task Force 77, the carrier striking force of the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the Western Pacific and participated in combat action against the Communists. Aircraft from her squadrons flew in the first U.S. Navy strikes against targets in North Vietnam, and reconnaissance aircraft from her decks returned with the first photograph of Surface-to-Air Missiles in North Vietnam.

For those too young to remember, according to Wikipedia, the Vietnam War was a military conflict that occurred in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from 1959 to April 30, 1975. The war was fought between the Communist allies and the government of South Vietnam, supported by the United States and other member nations of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). The war exacted a huge human

cost in terms of fatalities, including 3 to 4 million Vietnamese from both sides of Vietnam, 1.5 to 2 million Laotians and Cambodians. U.S casualties numbered 58,209 dead, 153,303 wounded and 2489 missing.

According to POW Network sources, "On April 9, 1970, Technician Seamen Brian Bushnell and Andrew A Horcher Jr. accompanied E2A pilot LTJG Charles B. Pfaffmann and his co-pilot LT Larry C. Knight assigned to Carrier Early Warning Squadron 116 onboard the USS Coral Sea. They were launched in their E2A Hawkeye on a routine mission over Vietnam. Immediately after launch, the aircraft crew reported a fire and their intention to return to the ship.

The aircraft impacted the water about three miles ahead of the USS Coral Sea. A rescue helicopter and escort destroyer were on the scene within minutes. No survivors were seen, and no remains were recovered." The Network added "The crew of the Hawkeye is listed among the missing because their remains were never found to send home to the country they served. They died a tragically ironic death in the midst of war. But, for their families, the case seems clear that the men died on that day. The fact that they have no bodies to bury with honor is not of great significance." There were 69 combat losses on the USS Coral Sea which served over Laos and North Vietnam according to the website of the USS Coral Sea.

According to Scott Bushnell, it wasn't long after the family was notified that Brian was missing in action that they were re-notified that Brian's status was changed to Killed in Action (KIA). Brian's family tragedies continued. His younger brother Bruce died in 1973 of Hodgkin's Disease. His father, Charles Bushnell owned a liquor store in Portland's Rockwood District and was murdered in a store robbery in 1974. His mother Marilyn Mullin Bushnell remarried Kenneth Cuddeford of Tualatin whose children Judith, Carol Lee, Gary still survive, and Diane, deceased. After Cuddeford died, Marilyn remarried Miles Larson. Marilyn Larson died on October 8, 2009. She is survived by son Scott Bushnell, his

wife and three children of Lake Forest Park, Washington. Services were held for Mrs. Larson on October 19, 2009 at Tigard United Methodist Church where the family attended.

Memorial markers for Brian Bushnell can be found at Willamette National Cemetery and at the Vietnam Memorial and in Washington Park in Portland. To help insure that Brian will be remembered locally, the Tualatin Historical Society will provide an engraved brick for display in the Tualatin Heritage Center garden. According to Dale Potts of Tualatin's VFW Post 3452, the VFW will prepare a plaque in Brian's memory for display at the new Post. The Tualatin Historical Society will sponsor brother Scott's membership into the Men's Auxiliary if he so desires, so he can have membership privileges and access to the new building whenever he is in town to see and show the plaque. Brian's service qualifies Scott to join. Mayor Lou Ogden has invited Yvonne Addington, President of Tualatin Historical Society, Dale Potts of the VFW and Scott Bushnell to appear at the City Council meeting on November 9 to lead the flag salute and pay tribute to Brian and others in observance of Veteran's Day.

Scott has provided pictures of Brian in uniform, one that Brian particularly liked, to the National League of POW/MIA Families, and has described Brian's family (included in this article). The Tualatin Historical Society will provide a copy of articles published in the November 1, 2009 issue of the Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter to the POW/MIA Families and post the story on its website. Tualatin will not forget Brian Bushnell. He served us well.



*Brian Bushnell started his Navy career as a newly-enlisted sailor in 1968 (left). He was proud of the second picture taken two years later close to his 21st birthday in March, 1970 shortly before he perished over North Vietnam waters  
~photos courtesy of Scott Bushnell*

## They Shared Stories of Early Tualatin

by Karen Lafky Nygaard

About forty people who grew up in Tualatin in the "old days" gathered for memory sharing in the Heritage Center on Oct. 3. Herb Lafky told how in 8th grade he plotted to fool stern Miss Powell into believing he wasn't chewing gum, after she had earlier broken a ruler on his hand for doing so. Art Sasaki told how kids used to fire BB shot across the swamp between his place and Carlon Grade School, aiming to ping the old school bell. Arlene Stites remembered how Myron Buswell carried her from a ditch to dry land during the '37 flood, then had to re-enact it for the *Oregonian* photographer. Dr. Tom Stearns remembered the evening a family with a medical emergency, after getting no phone response, drove around the neighborhood until they spotted his parked car. Walt Eames told of the bugle Dick Walgreave gave him that he'd found in the mud in France at the end of WWI. Several remembered hearing the words of "Taps" and Art Sasaki recited the full poem. Yvonne Addington told of the kids who enjoyed playing around an immense old-growth tree and were so mad when it was cut to make way for I-5, they pulled up a stretch of the marking stakes. And many remembered the horror of the military transport crash near Wilsonville in the early '50s.

Copies of the stories told and the photos taken will be assembled and sent out to all. And the hope is to make the old-timers reunion an annual event.



*Herb Lafky entertains the group with his story of an 8th grade prank.*  
~Photo courtesy of Jack Nygaard



### **Corrections in October Newsletter:**

Our apologies to Adrienne Heathman for misspelling her name. Names missing from the p.3 story about long-time Tualatin residents were Ike Kirkbride who was chef at Earl Ite's 81<sup>st</sup> birthday party and Ed Fritzler, another friend who attended Lloyd Koch's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

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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.

### *Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter*

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**View this newsletter in color:**

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