



# Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

OCTOBER 2009

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

## Upcoming Program

### • November 1, 1:00 pm

Tualatin Historical Society annual meeting and potluck. This is the time that we celebrate our accomplishments and anticipate another year ahead. Awards will be made as well as election of officers for 2010. We will not have a speaker at this meeting. Come and enjoy a great potluck and visit with friends.



## Save the date...

### • October 3 2:00-5:00 pm



Oldtimers' Reunion at the Tualatin Heritage Center. For details call Loyce Martinazzi at 503.598.7443.

• **October 16**  
Celebrating Oregon Archeology Month  
**6:00 pm** Social hour  
**7:00 pm** program by Dr. Cameron Smith on "Chinese Camps on Parrett Mountain"  
For directions:  
[www.parrettmountainfarm.com](http://www.parrettmountainfarm.com)



## Paul Hennon to Share History of Tualatin

Since first arriving in Tualatin in 1987, Community Services Director Paul Hennon has overseen the doubling of parks in our city while also spearheading creation of new landmarks such as Tualatin Heritage Center, the Ki-a-kuts Pedestrian Bridge and numerous greenways and trails. Paul will review this rich and colorful history, including partnerships with the Society on heritage trees at Atfaliti, Art Walk and the THS home beside Sweek Pond at the October monthly meeting of the Society. Earlier, THS awarded Paul the Lafky-Martinazzi Award for development of Ibach Park which also won national recognition.

The illustrated presentation begins at 1 pm. Wednesday, October 7 at Tualatin Heritage Center. It is open to the public.



## First THS Wine Tasting and Silent Auction Grosses \$7700

A fun evening of Northwest wines, tasty foods donated by area businesses and live music from Island Trio helped approximately 100 guests raise \$7700 to help THS continue its mission. This dollar amount will change after auction expenses have been deducted. The first annual affair was held Friday, Sept 25 at the Heritage Center and on the patio. On behalf of members, the THS board thanks all the generous sponsors who donated goods and services for the silent auction. A complete list of donors is listed on the insert of this newsletter.

Proceeds will be used to advance the Society's preservation efforts, including storage of its collections.

Please express your appreciation by patronizing local firms and thanking individual donors. Prompted by this event, THS is now offering credit card (VISA/MC) options for payment of memberships, donations and purchases in the Heritage Center store. The organizing committee for the fundraiser included Barbara Stinger, Lindy Hughes, Doris Gleason, Chris Tunstall, Beverly Robinson and Pat Saab.



*Festive Evening:  
Our patio was the perfect place to spend the evening and listen to "Island Trio".*

## President's Column

### *Tualatin for the Curious*



by Yvonne Addington

"Tualatin for the Curious" is a story I have been working on all of my life. So being involved with the Tualatin Historical Society fits my nostalgic interests while at the same time teaches me more about our world--without leaving my hometown. We include the young and old in sharing our discoveries. So what will satisfy your interests if you join us? Up front, we thank many volunteers who make our organization a success and the projects we work on are endless. It is most informal, educational, and fun. We join and link with many other organizations with the same interests so a "taste" of history found with us can be expanded into a much bigger venture.

Boring it is not. Where else but in the Tualatin Heritage Center (which we helped save from destruction five years ago) can you see and show your family members such things relating to local history as:

....Prehistoric Tualatin: Actual partial skeletons of mastodons ("elephants" according to old-timers) which lived here in Tualatin 14,000 years ago? Or see "foreign" granite erratic rocks from Canada and Montana that were attached to icebergs which melted on the banks and valleys of the Tualatin and Willamette River at the end of the ice age; learn about the meteorite that was discovered on the upper banks of the Tualatin River near its mouth at the Willamette River. Scientists speculate that it came here not directly from the skies but was also attached to a gigantic iceberg that flowed into the valley with the many floods over 15,000 years ago. The 350-400 feet deep floods were much higher than the elevation of Tualatin which at the old brick store is 123 feet above sea level. We link with many other people such as Portland State University and the Ice Age Institute. A map above the water fountain shows the depth of the lake which covered our entire Willamette Valley.

.....Indian Heritage: The name Tualatin is derived from the Kalapuya word "Atfalati". We have worked with the Grand Ronde Indian Tribe for several years to tell about the times when the Atfalati (Tualatin) Indians lived here. The territory of the Atfalati band of the Kalapuya reached from the coastal mountains north of Portland, along the west banks of the Willamette, to the coastal mountain range near Grand Ronde. The Historical Society worked with the city and the tribe to name the new pedestrian bridge over the Tualatin River in memory of Atfalati Chief Kia-a-kuts to remind us of the Indians who lived here before the pioneers. We display several Indian artifacts found by locals over the years in Tualatin. We continue to work with the Grand Ronde cultural resources staff on projects of mutual interest.

....Pioneer and current history: Much of our local pioneer interests have been generated from books written by local historians Loyce Martinazzi and Karen Nygaard. The books can be obtained at the Heritage Center. We have many artifacts from the Oregon Trail's pioneer families and people who came from all over the world to populate the west. We have worked to include the three local grade schools in Oregon Pioneer days to teach about the ventures and how they lived. "Wagon teams" of students come each year in the spring to the Center to learn how to grind corn, make bread, plant a garden, weave cloth and make clothes, wash them on wash boards, learn how it was in a typical class room of the 1800s and many more things. Volunteers work with teachers and students alike. We have links with the Lewis and Clark Institute to further our northwest discoveries.

And let us not forget about current history, including the many things that have happened from the time Tualatin population was 300 in the 1960s to today's population of more than 20,000. We advocate for saving some of the historically significant buildings and sites. There is so much to research, write and learn about. And we have a good time. Again, please feel free to join us.

## Harvest Time, Old Friends Bring on Nostalgia, Memories

by Yvonne Addington, President

History is all about people. Membership in Tualatin Historical Society brings many perks for those who like local history. There are still a lot of people around who lived in Tualatin when the population was about 300. You do have to seek them out but they have sooo many good stories. I inherited a large dose of nostalgia from my father who loved to talk about the Tualatin days when he was a kid. In later years when he lived in Bay City he would sometimes call me up, say that his childhood buddies, Gordon Blank, or Slim and Laura Kamp, or Herb Lafky were at his house, and to pick up a bottle and come on down. I'd immediately go because I loved to hear them talk about the old days in Tualatin.

Anniversaries and celebrations are a good time for these conversations. Last year, I attended Walt and Lorene Denley's wedding anniversary party at daughter Fran and Tom Ashcroft's family farm. They live on Borland Road and renewed their vows in front of many Wanker's Corner and Tualatin folks. Traditional beer cans trailed their golf cart as they sped off after the vows.

This year, three birthday parties have been entertaining and informative. The first was Herb Lafky's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party in Nehalem. Many Tualatin old-timers there were, including Jane Brown, Dr. Stearnes, Loyce Martinazzi, Annette Saarinen, Dolores Nelson, Duffy Hamilton, and his son Alan, daughter Sandra and sister Karen. It was so much fun, the family set up another old-timers reunion at the Tualatin Heritage Center on Saturday afternoon, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A couple weeks ago, Ike Eichelberger gave a surprise barbeque lunch for Earl Itel who turned 81. The lunch was held among the many Oliver tractors in one of the bus barns at Itel and Itel Automotive Repair. In addition to Loris Itel, several boyhood friends and customers came in to extend best wishes. It was there that I learned who more of the boys were who tipped over neighbor Clyde Huskey's outhouse one Halloween night in the 1940s. Clyde was waiting for them inside the outhouse and when they started to tip it, he fired his shotgun into the air.

The boys fled so fast some of them ran into my Mom's wire clothesline and tore it out. They were easily identified by the wire burns across their foreheads and necks. According to Dr. John George, our mastodon discoverer, he was among the culprits, as was Larry Lee.

Last weekend, the family of Lloyd Koch honored him with a birthday party/picnic at his and Helen's new St. Paul home. Lloyd turned 80. They had moved from the Koch family farm on Tualatin-Sherwood Road earlier this year after farming it for over 70 years. Some who shared old times in Tualatin that day were Barbara (Koch) and Bob Kerns, Kay (Koch) and Clifford Jett (formerly of Tualatin and now Mayor of Rufus), Fran (Wager) and George Perry, John Nyberg, Ralph Ellingsen, Larry Lee, Ed Fritzberger, George and Evelyn Andrews, and Earl and Loris Itel.

There's something about harvest time--it's a nostalgic time, a good time for old friends to get together and share memories.



*Photo: Recently, Earl Itel of Itel & Itel Bus and Truck Repair, and Dr. John (Bobby) George (our "mastodon man") shared stories of growing up in "old time" Tualatin. Long-timers like these are invited to come to the Heritage Center on Saturday, October 3, 2-5 pm to continue sharing their stories.*

### New THS Library Exhibit

Don't miss October's exhibit at the library. It features Hollywood publicity stills promoting "horror" films of the 1940's. In November, we plan to feature the retracing of the Oregon trail, which celebrated Oregon's 100th birthday in 1959. Thanks to library display coordinator Molly Burns for keeping the displays fresh and new each month.

## The Road to Statehood

### The Settlers' Stories

written by Loyce Martinazzi & Karen Lafky Nygaard

On February 15, we 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 some of their stories. Here is Sarah Jane (Jennie) Painter's story, as portrayed by Anne Avery. The narrator was Daniel Hobbs from the Lumiere Players.



*Photo left:*

*Anne Avery as Sarah Jane (Jennie) Painter.*

**Narrator:** Mary Jane Painter, come up and tell us your story.

**Jennie:** You can call me Sarah Jane, but everybody calls me Jennie. We were one of the first families to come over the Trail. It was 1848. Sad to say our family numbered seven when we started out, but just five when we arrived. My dad and my married brother got sick and died on the Trail. So we were just my mother, my two brothers, my dead brother's widow, Margaretta, and me. I was just six. We settled on a place about three miles south of here. I remember it was all trees and brush. Nothing else. And a muddy trail down to Territorial Road to get over to Oregon City. My brother Robert would ride over there every two or three months and restock our supply of coffee, beans, lard and stuff. At first it was as rough as if we were still on the trail. But lonelier. And scarier. The only other settlers were the Robert Bird family, and their places were way east of ours. But my brothers cut saplings to get some logs to build a cabin. And cleared enough for a little garden so we could grow some beans and potatoes. And pretty soon it began to feel like a home. Our older brother's widow Margaretta? She's done well. Her dad has the big mill downstream on the

Tualatin river, Moore's mill. That's where everybody gets their flour and wood, shingles and all. Well she's got herself married. To David Schnebly. And they've taken out a 640-acre claim right next to us. 640 acres. That's one square mile. So Margaretta, who was our sister-in-law, is now our next-door neighbor. Well, maybe not next door, they're a mile away, but there's no one in between.

Now if you stay on your land claim for four years, you can sell off a piece. And that's what might happen with Margaretta and her husband's place, the Schnebly place, next door.

Because now (blushing) it seems a young man named George Day is interested in buying half of their claim. He's just come to this area. I hear he's quite a fellow. Very ambitious. He scored timber in Stumptown when he first came out, then taught school over in French Prairie, then went to the gold mines in California and came back with enough money to buy part of that new steamboat, the Hoo-sier. And he's SINGLE. I've seen him and I think he looks very strong and handsome. I hope he thinks the same of me.

**Narrator:** Yes, he does, Jennie. And this is what happened. He married you, he became a prominent judge, and you had 16 children. (Jennie shrieks and throws up apron up over her face).



#### Member News:

Farewell to our friend and willing photographer Darris Seibold who passed September 13. Darris and Linda had completed a pictorial update of the quilters at Pohl Center shortly before the 2009 Crawfish Festival. We will remember his Dutch oven apple crisp at the first Harvest Festival and documentation of 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Pioneer Days. Darris was best known for his many years of service to local Boy Scouting programs, which included being scoutmaster of Tualatin's Troop 530.

## **Who Cleared the Land Where You Live? Norwood and Tonquin**

by Karen Lafky Nygaard

When the Oregon Trail settlers arrived in the 1850s and looked for land to claim, they chose flat or gently rolling terrain that, once cleared, would be good for farming. The areas around the little nucleus of a town that would become Tualatin fit the bill--except for some of the land about four miles south that was rocky and hilly. What we call Norwood and Tonquin was known then as scabland, the result of massive ice-age flooding.

As the Robbinses, Galbreaths, Sweeks and others settled on their large claims (shown on the donation land claim map on pg. 30 in Tualatin...From the Begining), those undesirable southern areas are blank, unclaimed, except for small 160-acre claims by L. Ball and Meier. But Larkin Ball and Aaron Meier didn't try to farm their thin rocky soil--Ball was a teacher (and later acquired farmable acreage elsewhere) and Meier was a peddler (later to link with Sigmund Frank to form a store in Portland). But these rocky wooded acres caught the eye of the officers of Oregon Iron and Steel, a new company over east that was busy extracting ore with a high iron content from "iron mountain," and smelting it in a charcoal-fed furnace near the little town of Oswego.

Intent on becoming the "Pittsburgh of the West," the company bought up thousands of acres of surrounding land, including much of what is now Tonquin and Norwood, for trees to feed the furnace and possible iron ore in those rocks. But by the 1890s, an economic depression and lack of high-quality ore brought the iron dream to an end, and OI&S owners began turning Sucker (Oswego) Lake and nearby land into a recreational haven and desirable residential real estate. Those Norwood and Tonquin scablands, logged but never cleared, were eventually bought up by Comte & Kohlman and platted into several hundred 3-acre to 5-acre sites called Comte & Kohlman Little Homes. (A map on pg. 134 in the Tualatin... book shows the plats.) In THS's War, Change, Growth, Dan Rowley describes life on the Norwood acreage his parents bought in 1928, a hardscrabble existence much spent blasting stumps to clear the land. C&K sold the small acreages, many to families fleeing the Dust Bowl and hard times. It sounded promising--build a cottage, dig a well, get a cow and some chickens, plant a

garden and be self-sufficient. The Rowleys made it, but many did not, and with the deepening Depression, many lost their little homes, and the properties were sold and resold. The areas were referred to as "the sticks."

Today, some of the little homes remain among the large ones built by more recent settlers who find the woody pastoral settings, rural but close to town, just about an ideal place to live.



*Tonquin Station: In 1906, the Oregon Electric railroad put in a line running between Portland and Salem west of Boones Ferry Road. With a depot every few miles. This sub-station on Tonquin Loop Road helped power the line. Photo from THS archives.*

### **Lumiere Players Open New Show**

"The Dining Room" by A. R. Gurney starts an 8-performance run at the Heritage Center this weekend with the last show on Sunday afternoon October 18. The play is set in the dining room of a typical well-to-do household where the family assembled daily for breakfast and dinner and for special occasions. The action is a mosaic of interrelated scenes, some funny, some touching, some rueful. Actors change roles, personalities and ages as they portray a variety of characters from little boys to stern grandfathers and from giggling teenage girls to Irish housemaids.

Show times are October 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 (Friday/Saturday nights at 7:30) and October 11, 18 (Sunday matinees at 2). Tickets for Tualatin residents and THS members are \$10, \$8 ages 12 and under. Reservations are strongly recommended at 503-524-2058 or lumiereplayers@msn.com.

## 2009 Harvest Festival Brings New Features

A 1959 Ford fire truck from TVFR, expanded “farmers market”, and hands-on exhibit of everyday items in early pioneer life were new attractions for the 2009 fall festival held Saturday, September 20. Inside the Heritage Center, participants listened to a 1900 Edison phonograph as they watched needle workers ply their craft.

Winner of the “people's choice” for favorite salsa from area restaurants was Whole Foods. Six lucky families also walked away with Halloween pumpkins courtesy of Lee Farms.

The ever-popular apple press was operated this year by Scott Judy, Del Judy and Connie Ledbetter. Chris Tunstall boiled up fresh corn on the cob for hungry visitors. Members of the Tualatin Youth Advisory Committee conducted the Salsa Taste Off on the Center patio under the watchful eyes of Lindy Hughes and her mom, Carmen Yuzon.

Chuck Lindvig, a Tualatin living history expert, displayed 1800-era survival tools and demonstrated how a rope bed was made (and how the term “sleep tight” originated). Rebecca Pratt again set up a pioneer kitchen inviting children to shell corn, grind coffee and guess how dozens of artifacts were used. The Portland Lacemaking Society always brings oohs and aahs, supplemented this year by Adrian Heathman's intricate Brazilian embroidery. Under tents because of intermittent rain, Ellie McClure let visitors wash clothes using scrub boards.

Dolores Nelson and Rita Conrover shared memories of the Tualatin Fire Department, an upcoming history documentation effort by the Society. Corey Stark, a volunteer with the current fire department, drove the engine and stayed with it all day. Richard Johnson of Tualatin has loaned his family's Edison phonograph for the month. His mother remembered it as a child in 1913 when her father paid \$300 for the spring-driven entertainment system, the same cost as a Model T in those days.

Many thanks to Richard Hall and Willowbrook Arts camp for providing four tents for the festival. Morning rain kept attendance down this year. Haggen Food & Pharmacy provided fresh apple cider samples since the real stuff could not be served to the

public. Other volunteers for the day included Loyce Martinazzi, Rochelle Smith, Molly Burns, Art Sasaki, and Yvonne Addington.



*Chris Tunstall cooks up some super sweet corn.*



*Ellie McClure takes a break from the washboard and knits.*



*Del Judy preps apples while...*



*...her son, Scott Judy operates the cider press.*

## New Additions to Memorial Bricks Leading to Tualatin Heritage Center Patio

Thirty five more engravings were added to the Tualatin Historical Society memory walk August 6 as families recognize people, dates, events and even pets. .More than 300 etched bricks now serve as permanent reminders of Tualatin legacies. Several bricks were also re-arranged to more accurately reflect family groupings..

Bricks are still ordered regularly, according to coordinator Chris Tunstall. Engravings on 4x8 inch bricks cost \$50 while 8"x8" are \$500.

The Avery family purchased 14 bricks with thoughtful messages to reflect their many years of contributions in Tualatin including 44 years of farming. The bricks were laid out in a family tree spreading from George W. & Angie Nicholson Avery to descendants Katherine, Sarah Emily, Summer and London. Inscriptions included "Grandma & Grandpa The loving roots of the Avery Tree" and "To enjoy life and know beauty, Gifts from parents, Nancy Avery"

Henrietta Barngrover Conover and her daughter Dee Ann Meharry donated a large brick on the left of the walk in honor of first Tualatin Fire Chief Bill Barngrover with the fire chief logo. Rita and Dee Ann also honored their family with 2 smaller bricks.

Auction or drawing winners Dianne & Art Barry honored her parents Betty & Vernon Hollingsworth. Kurt Krause ordered a large brick in honor of 10 members of his family.

Anita and Bill Gilham honored their five children. Molly Burns honored her family members and also honored her mother, Nell Jackson Sammons, a Tualatin Elementary school teacher. Founding member of THS, Karen Nygaard, honored her parents Mark & Manette Lafky and their "fields of iris."

The Lumiere Players honored their "Tualatin Community Theatre" which calls Tualatin Heritage Center their home.

Two pets were remembered: Ziggy, the Parker's dog, and Katey, David Skogland's cat. We now have a group of 3 bricks recognizing pets.

*~ Submitted by Chris Tunstall*

## The Brick Process

*...starts with masking*



*...then blasting occurs*



*...Voila!*

*Your beautiful engraved brick is ready!*



### *Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter*

THS President: Yvonne Addington

Editor: Larry McClure

Publisher: Lindy Hughes

Circulation: Bill and Doris Gleason

Contributing Editors: Karen Lafky Nygaard  
Loyce Martinazzi

**View this newsletter in color:**

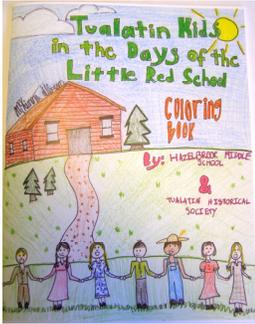
<http://www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org/newsletter.html>

## 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

#### 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.)

**~Now accepting VISA and MasterCard!**

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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