



# Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2009

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

## Upcoming Program

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

## Save the Date...

• **September, 19  
11:00 - 3:00 pm**  
Fourth Annual Harvest Festival and Salsa Taste-Off.

• **September 25  
6:00 pm**  
First Annual Wine, Food and Silent Auction Event.

• **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)

## VFW Celebrates Second Tualatin Home



THS will salute Tualatin VFW's long history at the Society's monthly meeting Wednesday, **September 2** at the Heritage Center. The program begins at **1:00 pm** and features dual VFW/THS members Mary Ann Hulquist, Dale Potts and Kathy Walsh in a presentation moderated by Loyce Martinazzi. VFW members moved into the second floor of the restored former old brick store last month. Its new name honors a Tualatin Marine who died from injuries in Afghanistan.

In October 1944 land was deeded to the Post and Ladies Auxiliary. Construction of the first VFW home began in November 1949. The first meeting in the new

building was held in September 1950 while only partially complete. On October 28 that year the Auxiliary was able to hold its first Annual Turkey Dinner. The advertised prices were \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children under twelve. ~ story continued on Page 2



2009-Inside Corporal Matthew Lembke Hall

## Fundraising Auction and Wine Tasting Promises Fun and Enticing Bargains



A weekend at the coast, original art, a violin serenade, a dulcimer/bass concert, dinners for four and even a ride around Tualatin with George Andrews in his Model T are just a few of the many opportunities for winning bids by only 100 entrants at the Society's first gala fundraiser Friday, September 25. Wine, food and music will provide the background for a fall evening of fellowship and silent bidding both inside the Heritage Center and on the Patio. The event starts at 6:00 and tickets cost \$25. We have only 61 tickets left to sell.

Raffle tickets for a weekend getaway will be \$25 and a Wall of Wine will encourage buyers of \$20 tickets to walk away with mystery bottles with values of at least \$20 donated by local connoisseurs and wineries. Music will be provided by Island Duo. Foods are being donated by local restaurants.

The September event will help us continue with the Society's mission "to preserve, promote and interpret the rich and colorful history of Tualatin". For tickets, call 503.885.1926 or email [lindy.thc@gmail.com](mailto:lindy.thc@gmail.com). Committee organizers include Barbara Stinger, Doris Gleason, Christine Tunstall and Lindy Hughes.

~ *VFW Celebrates a new Home*

*Continued from page 1*

In August 1951, the Post and Auxiliary sponsored the first Tualatin Crawfish Festival held in the Tualatin City Park. It started with a parade, followed by a ball game, and then free crawfish were served at the VFW Hall followed by a dance that evening. For many years the Post operated a hamburger and pronto pup booth with the Auxiliary running a pie, cake, coffee and soft drink stand.

Saturday night dances at Post 3452 were a long-standing tradition in Tualatin during the early years. Members were permitted to invite guests and with live music the crowd always reached capacity.

During its formative years, primary membership of the Post was World War II era veterans with veterans of Korea, Vietnam and more recent conflicts now renewing vitality of the Post.

Primarily a service organization, VFW members organized many activities to benefit the community. These included an annual Voice of Democracy oral essay, a Patriots Pen youth essay writing contest, living history programs in high schools, citizen education, raising of American flags at the Tualatin Commons Wall on patriotic holidays. April 1979 saw the first annual Awards Banquet held to honor local law enforcement and fire protection officers. The Awards Banquet was a regular tradition until 1993. In more recent years, the VFW Post has sponsored "welcome home" parades for returning Iraq veterans and hospitality kits for troops and their families.

Income from annual sale of "Buddy" Poppies contributes to a relief fund used to assist veterans in the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles, as well as helping other veterans in need of assistance. To support these projects, the weekly bingo games became popular in 1980 and in November 1982 featured drawings every other month for a trip for 2 to Reno. Proceeds helped assure building improvements. However, in 2002 bingo ceased as volunteers and public interest waned.

The generous size of the facility, its location, ease of access to parking, and full kitchen made it an attractive rental space, particularly for Mexican family celebrations. Severe flooding in Tualatin in 1996 caused drastic damage. At its peak, there was nearly seven feet of water in the Hall with walls, flooring and equipment ruined. A bright light through the cleanup process was volunteers from the Church of Scientology in Portland.

In recent years, with development of urban renewal projects in Tualatin's downtown core, the Post considered several options for future needs including a potential new building with parking or shared facilities. In early 2008 the Post and Auxiliary voted to accept an offer from David Emami to move into the top floor of the nearby newly-renovated "old brick store" which was originally constructed in 1913. Mr. Emami proposed turning the old VFW hall into a parking lot which would serve future development in that block. The Post would become owners of the second floor of the brick store, remodeled to include an elevator. The groundbreaking of the new home of Major Axel Rasmussen Post 3452 was held in summer 2008 and the official grand opening was August 26.

Through prudent management of its resources since 1940, the Post was able to provide support for many activities and important causes. Major Axel Rasmussen Post 3452 has long been a vital force for good in the community, and will continue that tradition into the 21st Century with the enthusiasm and good will of its members and local residents who will be able to rent the facility. Special thanks to Dale Potts and Al Turner for this two-part history of Tualatin VFW and to Post Chaplain C.A. Tony Rizzutto for photographs.



*A view of the old and the new VFW.*



## THS Well Represented at Crawfish Festival

THS member Evie Andrews served as parade grand marshal this year. Many thanks to Marquis Development for underwriting the THS booth and giving guests a preview of how they plan to use structural elements of the old school in their new senior living complex at the Boones Ferry school site. Guests purchased some \$130 of THS books, jam and other items.

## Fourth THS Fall Festival Returns September 19



Demonstrations of life in Tualatin before modern conveniences will again fill the Heritage Center, the parking lots and patio on Saturday, September 19 from 11:00-3:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to help answer questions and point visitors to interesting exhibits. The fourth Salsa Taste Off will again invite competing restaurants to offer their best salsa in an effort to win the People's Choice award. Nacho Mama's has won top honors twice. The contest is a modern-day reminder of how gardens filled with tomatoes, peppers and onions still delight our palates. Lee Farms will again return with hot corn on the cob and fresh produce as well as the ever-popular pumpkin weight-guessing contest. New this year will be a vintage fire truck from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue and an historical exhibit about the old Tualatin Fire Department. The salsa taste-off will be run by members of the Tualatin Youth Advisory Council from 12:00 - 2:00 pm.



*Chuck and Ellen Lindvig, who normally appear at Civil War re-enactments, generously set up their tent and artifacts for visitors at the THS exhibit at the Crawfish Festival.*



*Molly Burns is shown inviting visitors to sign in if they ever attended the old Tualatin elementary school.*



*It's not as easy at it looks. Shown left: Mary Anne Hulquist watches as Rochelle Smith assists her grandsons, Nolan and Logan cranking the corn sheller crank.*

*Photo taken at 2008 Harvest Festival.*

### Auction Items are Rolling In

That’s right! We have been busy procuring donations for the silent auction. They are coming in but we still need more. Any item, large or small is greatly appreciated.



Just in today from Tualatin’s Kershaw Knives used by chefs worldwide is a Cutting Board Set that includes a Chef’s Knife, Paring Knife and Maple Cutting Board. Retail for \$45

Other donations include: photography packages, Lee Farms hayride for family of six, one night in a jacuzzi suite, one unit of garden mulch delivered, private performance at your home or business by “Heartstrings”, wine basket, A Taste of Asia basket, white item basket, various restaurant gift certificates, interior decorating consultation, ice skating, Judy’s cream caramels, and much more! If this sounds good to you, call today and reserve your auction tickets at 503.885.1926.



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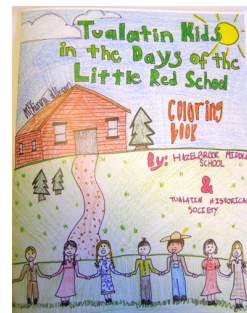
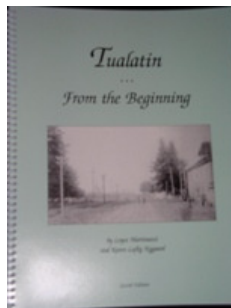
The Center is open to the public weekdays from 10am to 2pm. The Tualatin Historical Society holds open program meetings in the Center at 1:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.



Visit us at:  
[www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org)

### Books on Sale at Library

Books on Tualatin history for all ages will now be on sale the first Saturday afternoon of every month from 1-3 p.m. at Tualatin Library. The six-volume THS bookshelf ranges from the comprehensive *Tualatin...From the Beginning* (\$20) to the new and popular coloring book featuring contributions from Hazelbrook 8<sup>th</sup> graders (\$4). Proceeds help support Society projects and will facilitate buyers unable to visit the Heritage Center during weekdays.



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