



Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

MAY/JUNE 2010

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

Artist and Videomaker to Share Impressions Of Former Thomas Dairy, Now Wet Prairie

The John Thomas dairy, just across the Ki-a-kuts Bridge near Cook Park and the sewage treatment plant in Tigard/Durham, is the setting for a new film, "Wetlands - Seasons of Mind", to be screened Wednesday, May 5 at Tualatin Historical Society's monthly afternoon meeting. The 52 minute documentary tells the parallel stories of a year in the wetland and a year in Deborah DeWit's studio, as she draws inspiration from the former farm that is in the process of restoration to historic Willamette Valley wet prairie. Tualatin residents, particularly those who attended Tigard High School, will remember the Thomas dairy, known for many years as the only certified source of raw milk in the region.

Tigard painter Deborah DeWit and her husband, filmmaker Carl Vandervoort, collaborated on the documentary which premiered in January at the Hollywood Theatre in Portland. You may have seen the articles in the Oregonian www.oregonlive.com/tigard/index.ssf/2010/01/documentary_debuting_at_hollywood_theatre_explores_artist_deborah_dewits_relationship_to_evolution_we.html or the Tigard Times (link http://www.tigardtimes.com/news/story.php?story_id=126585581551328700).

Partial financial support for the film came from the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Clean Water Services and generous cash and in-kind support from many individuals and environmental organizations.

After the screening, DeWit and Vandervoort will talk about why they created "Wetlands" and will be available to answer questions. Prints of DeWit's paintings, many inspired by her experience in the wetland, will be displayed at Tualatin Heritage Center prior to the showing. Copies of the DVD will be available for purchase at the screening, or through the film's website www.wetlandsdocumentary.com. The paintings below are just a small sample of her work. Visit Deborah DeWit's website to see more: www.deborahdewit.com.



"WETLAND ARCH I— BIRDS"
OIL ON WOOD



"ENTWINED"
OIL ON WOOD



President's Column

by Yvonne Addington

Field Days Bring Back Memories

Gunny sack races

May and June bring back memories of older times when school was just about out and we celebrated with annual Field Days and old fashioned races which were held at local schools. Tualatin Grade School featured them annually just days before the third week of May school closure to allow the kids to go strawberry picking.

The races were similar to ones featured in a 1931 Printers Picnic Program found recently by some of the Van Hyning family members. The family's June picnic at Lake o' Woods near Klamath Falls was attended by their uncle, the late Warren Van Hyning, a former Tualatin resident and printer. Here is a list of some of the afternoon races held after the "Picnic Dinner Spread". Do you remember some of them?

A baseball game with the winning team was awarded the game bat, separate swimming races for men and women, 50 yd. dash for boys and one for girls under 14 years, 100 yd. dash, free for all, 50 yd. dash for women, shoe race, free for all, backward race for women. 50 yd. dash for men over 50 years; three- legged race for girls and one for boys over 14 years, running broad jump, egg race for women, gunny sack race free for all, Fat man's race, peanut race, potato race for women, relay race, nail driving contest for women, three legged race for married couples, 50 yd. dash for single women, 50 yd. dash for married women, plate race, tug-of-war for women, boat race.

Some of the prizes given were; neckties, box of silk hose, boudoir pillow from Woolworths, toilet articles, 10 gallons gasoline, 25 lb. sack Piggly Wiggly flour, electric lantern, poplin shirt, box of home- made candy, carton of cigarettes, handy lamp, foot stool, electric iron, cigar lighter, tennis balls, sack of potatoes, hot dish set, pair of bloomers; toaster, book of script to Craterian Theatre in Medford, \$10. script book at Poole's Pelican Theatre; box cigars, 8 dozen popsicles.

Shedding Light on Urban Renewal: Tualatin Was "Going to the Dogs"

By Yvonne Addington

On April 26, 2010 the Tualatin City Council voted to end the urban renewal method of financing improvements in the downtown area.

After the original 1851 Territorial Survey when news spread about free land in the West, settlers started arriving in the area we now call Tualatin. Sweek House is one proud reminder of that era. The City of Tualatin was not incorporated until 1913, the same year our first brick "skyscraper" was constructed (now Mashita's and the VFW) at the intersection of Boones Ferry Road and Tualatin Road. Still, Tualatin remained a farming community even after 1954 when the new I-5 freeway bisected the community.

In 1948, a small food processing plant named Westward Packing Company was preparing beef stew for human consumption. In 1952 entrepreneur Jason Hervin bought the plant and added Blue Mountain dog food to his product line. Fresh horse meat for human consumption was cut up and processed in one side of the plant and the other half of the operation was devoted to canned and dry food for pet owners, kennels and fresh food for zoos. (see Willie Crossway's story on page 67 of THS publication "War, Change, Growth: Tualatin in the 1940s-70s")

What nobody thought about in those growth days was how Tualatin's downtown would look to visitors during the heavy growth years that lay ahead. While Blue Mountain expanded and was the town's major employer, the food processing smells permeated the area. An advertising slogan painted on Jason Hervin's trucks—"Going to the Dogs"—became a humorous tag line for the city.

When I was elected city treasurer in 1964, Tualatin was facing a \$28,000 debt, the population was about 350, the wells were dry, septic tanks were overflowing, and all the roads were two lanes with dirt paths for sidewalks. The original 1928 city hall had never been open for business. In 1936, a two

bay lean-to was added to house the city's first fire trucks.

By 1967, it was clear that the ring of growth around Portland was spreading to the Tualatin area. Mayor Lee Gensman opened the old City Hall for business for the first time and appointed this writer as City Recorder-Municipal Judge in 1967. The population in 1969 grew to 855. Mayor Gensman helped obtain loans to connect Tualatin to Portland's Bull Run water system and the city council hired engineers CH2M to apply for and obtain a federal water quality demonstration grant for a state of the art tertiary treatment plant located on Hervin Company land. Hervin had a water pollution control problem, also.

Adequate sources of water and water treatment attracted developers. By 1969, a major City Comprehensive Plan for the City was underway and by 1970 when Mayor Jim Brock was elected, it was clear that provisions for new and improved streets were mandatory. If Tualatin were going to become an attractive suburban city with an identity of its own, it would have to do something about its blighted conditions downtown. Before the Urban Renewal District was formed in 1975, Nyberg Road was the only major east-west road from I-5 and dead-ended at the railroad tracks on Boones Ferry Road. There was no by-pass of the downtown area and no access road from Nyberg and Sagert Street (later Martinazzi extended). Next to K-Mart and the Thriftway store, the only new building was the City Hall built with funds from Hervin Company in return for a rail spur on the old city hall property.

With very limited city funds, we had to rely on federal and state grants for any improvements unless we taxed property owners directly. And there were no available federal or state funds other than some for the new alignment of Tualatin-Sherwood Road between I-5 and SW 89th.

One day in 1974, a newspaper article described a unique financing concept for urban renewal improvements in Beaverton's downtown "blighted" area. I invited my fellow city manager of Beaverton to come see if Tualatin could qualify for similar

financing. First of all, he said, you must have "blight." Throwing open my office curtains with a view of the smelly Hervin plant, and several junky abandoned cars at houses needing repair, he said "My gawd, do you have blight!!!"

With a tight deadline for creation of an urban renewal district so we could begin collecting monies from new central area development, we wrote the necessary plan in long hand, the council adopted it, and it was filed in time. After the first tax increment was received, we hired top urban renewal consulting firms to prepare engineering, transportation, architectural, landscaping, open spaces and financial payment plans for the downtown area. It took years for taxes to amount to enough to sell bonds. Soon, various public improvements (such as the Commons) and land purchases (including parking lots) in turn stimulated private developers to build and carry the far greater burden of development. A lot of them developed after I left City employment in 1982.

Development of an attractive and effective city core is a process that is never complete. Today's downtown area has evolved well beyond what the 1970s city council, planners, engineers and staff envisioned.

Photos below include one of many blighted areas in Tualatin that were addressed in that initial 1975 effort and what that area looks like today. Perhaps these historical perspectives will be helpful as we look back on urban renewal and see what needs to happen next.



*Photo left:
Hervin
Company Plant.*

*Photo right:
Tualatin Lake of the
Commons*

*~ courtesy of
Tualatin Develop-
ment Commission*



Celebrate Tualatin Lunch Features Agribusiness

Heritage Center Director Larry McClure reviewed six examples of Tualatin agribusiness, then and now, at an April 22 Chamber of Commerce recognition of volunteer accomplishments by local businesses. For a full text of his presentation, go to the THS website. Highlights follow:

Century Farm, Jurgens Road

Rochelle Martinazzi, descended from the original 1869 Jurgens farm family, operates a Christmas tree farm and holiday greenery business near the original Jurgens homeplace. Century Farm also hosts a garden maintained by Winona Grange members who donate fresh produce to Tualatin Schoolhouse Pantry.

Lee Farm, 65th Avenue

Four generations of Lees, also sharing the Jurgens heritage, actively maintain the family reputation for fresh berries in spring and summer; a country store with seasonal produce, baked goods, and garden plants; fall pumpkins and Christmas trees as well as school field trips/hay rides so city folks can experience farm life first hand.

Pacific Natural Foods, 97th Avenue

Dog food put Tualatin on the food processing map as the largest city employer for several decades. Now, "people food" by Pacific Natural Foods is growing in popularity. One of the city's largest employers today, Pacific operates 24/7 to process a wide range of healthy organically-grown supermarket choices ranging from beverages to soups.

Tualatin Farmers Market, Lakeside at the Commons

Open during the popular Friday summer evening concerts on the lake this summer, the Tualatin Farmer's Market expands on the tradition of local roadside stands and an earlier farmer's market spearheaded by Del Judy and sponsored by Tualatin Historical Society when the Commons was first built.

Wade Rain, Avery Street


Moving its headquarters to Tualatin in 1975, Wade Rain manufactures and exports irrigation and mining equipment worldwide. Drive anywhere in Oregon and see the large-wheeled sprinkler system slowly moving in a field, and it likely was made by this oldest family-owned business in Oregon.

Winona Grange, Seneca Street

Tualatin's Winona Grange was established in 1895 to serve rural families with political and social networking to improve the quality of life for all. The 1940 Grange hall is still a popular place for community events. Members offer a scholarship for local seniors interested in an agriculture-related career.



First THS Scholarship to be Awarded June 2

Thanks to generous THS donors, the Society will be giving a \$2000 scholarship to a worthy Tualatin High School senior planning to go on to a four-year degree. Some 10 applicants submitted materials, including a short essay on what Tualatin history means to them. The committee making the selection is chaired by Norm Parker. Members include Jack Broome (who first originated the idea), Christine Tunstall, Rochelle Martinazzi Smith, Larry McClure. The scholarship will be presented June 2 at a high school assembly. Monies are now being received for next year's. 

Auction Planning is Underway

The second annual fall auction is slated for Friday, September 17 and the committee is starting to make contacts for donations of goods or services that will benefit the Society's preservation efforts. Think of local businesses who might donate an item for sale. Do you have a hobby or interest that could be converted into an activity someone would pay to enjoy (like George Andrews' tours in his classic cars or Ed



Casey's Harley Davidson excursion last year)?

Maybe you would host a dinner in your home, or a special cake baked for someone's holiday. Leave word with Lindy at the Heritage Center.

Photo: Christine Tunstall & Barbara Stinger donated 4 hours of yard work last year.

Pioneer Days May 18-21

Volunteers are still needed for 4th grade Pioneer Days! Contact Chris Tunstall if you are willing to assist children with simple tasks they've never experienced before, like sewing a button on their clothing or planting a small garden plot. Other volunteers help children find where they live on the original donation land claim map, remove butter from their small baby food jar "churns", play games like skip rope and hop scotch, guess what old items were used for, etc. Set up will be Monday, May 17 and each day requires some clean up as well. We appreciate Willowbrook setting up their big tents for shelter in case of rain or hot sun.



Pioneer Days 2009: THS Board Member Barbara Stinger assists a proud pioneer fourth grader grind corn.



A first for many: THS Member Lloyd Gooding shows these girls how to plant a great garden starting with a hoe.

New Bricks Soon to be Added

Friends and family will always come and go in our city, but their memory remains in our walkway of honor leading to the patio. Even a few companies, organizations, pets and historical milestones are recognized in the ever-growing THS engraved brick collection.

Thanks to Norm Parker for delivering a "ton" of bricks to Hillsboro for engraving. After he delivers them back to the heritage center, Gerry Tunstall will be installing them in time for Memorial Day. New orders are accepted at any time by filling out a form at the heritage center.

Tualatin Rotary will be holding a ceremony to honor **Bill Maplethorpe**. Bill was one of the founding members of Tualatin Rotary in 1982. **Duffy Hamilton** ordered bricks in honor of her grandchildren. The Tunstalls are honoring the birth of their first grandchild, **Brixton**. The **Van Hyning** family now has a brick. The Van Hyning's also honored their grandfather **Omer Moore** and his family with a brick. Moore was the Mayor of Tualatin from 1950-52. The **Van Hynings** and **Shangraw** families now have a brick. **Elizabeth Ladd** is remembered with a brick.

THS recognizes **Dr. John George** and his contribution of the Tualatin mastodon. Dr. George passed away in March.

Darris Seibold is honored by quoting the Scout Law which he exemplified. Two bricks memorialize **AN Brian Bushnell**, Missing in Action in Vietnam. **Ronald Nelson** is remembered by his former wife Sue.

Train Treks to Begin in June

Last year's popular "Riding the Rails" will start up again June 23 led by Art Sasaki. Leave word at the Heritage Center about where you would like to explore. This season's first expedition will include the memorial for Japanese internment and Ikea. Cost is about \$5 plus lunch on your own. Call 503.885.1926 to reserve your spot.



THS Product Shelf Grows

Didn't see the February anniversary production of "HerStory: Tualatin's "We Did It" women who shaped Tualatin history. Then buy your own DVD of this hour-long production for an economical \$5, thanks to our friend Jon Hartman at Willamette Valley Media Group. And hats off to playwrights/producers Loyce Martinazzi and Karen Lafky Nygaard and a sterling cast of performers.



Thank You, Special Friends

Behind the scenes at Tualatin Historical Society, there are many people who are supporting our work in quiet ways. Almost weekly, you'll find **Leslie Rasor** scanning photos using equipment she purchased and donated to the Society. **Mary Leslie** has prepared displays on such topics as navigation for our revolving exhibit cases. **Molly Burns** recently installed a new exhibit at the Library on the Winona Grange history. **Bob Hughes** converted his volunteer hours for THS into a recent check from his employer Intel for \$560 through the company's corporate donation volunteer program. Does your employer or that of your children do the same? **Karin Olson** and **Denver James** are nearing completion of the 2010 membership directory soon to be distributed. **Ken Stinger** continues to scan boxes of archived photos. Over \$1500 in rental income was earned in April, thanks in part to monitors who give their time to "babysit" the Center when outsiders use the facility. We appreciate the hours given by **Doris Gleason**, **Lindy Hughes**, **Larry and Ellie McClure**, **Cynthia Paris**, **Norm Parker**, **Bud Smith** and **Chris Tunstall**. Another important monitor is **Candice Kelly** who lives directly across the street. If anyone needs to be admitted to the building during off hours and cannot reach Larry or Lindy, you can find Candice's phone number in the THS directory.



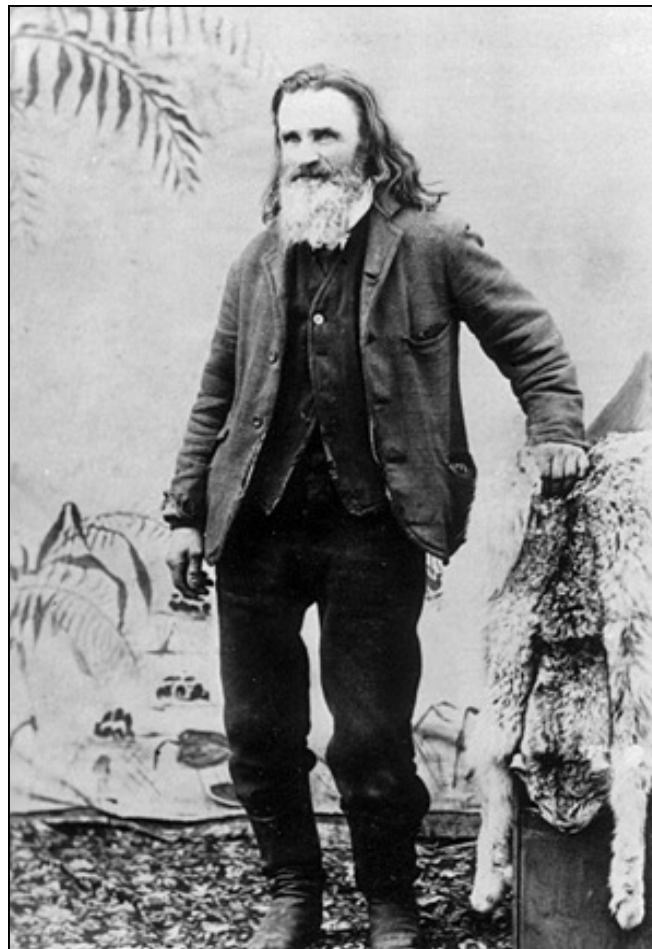
The Other Sweek Boy

Harvey Sweek and his wife Elmira purchased 160 acres of Tualatin land from Hilaire Guthlie some time before 1860. The property ran from Boones Ferry Road along Sagert Road east to the Clackamas County line (Meridian Road). The Barr DLC was on the north and the Wm Robbins claim on the south. Mohawk Street, the Park and Ride lot, I-5 freeway run through the property.

Harvey sold the land around 1892 and moved with his family to Hamilton Oregon in Grant County where he raised cattle. The photo shows him in his work clothes, with a cougar he shot to protect his livestock.

Harvey Sweek was John Sweek's brother.

The family pronounces the surname as "Swick." The Society has a land abstract which goes back to the original Hilaire Guthlie Donation Land Claim. Part of the land was purchased by Julius and Nettie Martinazzi in 1913.



*Harvey Sweek (date of photo unknown)
Photo courtesy of Sweek descendant Sharon Chambers*

Heritage Center May Event Calendar

Dulcimer Jam

May 2, 1:00-3:00 pm

Donations welcome.

Clothing Swap

May 3, 7:00 pm

Recycle, Reduce, and Reuse! Bring something, take something. Women and teen clothing and accessories. For information, call 503.716.8910.



"Wetlands - Seasons of Mind"

May 5, 1:00 pm

Tigard painter Deborah DeWit and her husband, filmmaker Carl Vandervoort, will show their documentary about the former Thomas Dairy now a wet prairie. The film premiered in January at the Hollywood Theatre. Open meeting of Tualatin Historical Society.

Knitting and Crochet Workshop

May 7 & 14, 10:00-12:00 pm

Bring your project or start one. Help is available. All levels welcome.



Monthly Watercolor Classes

Mondays, May 10, June 14

9:00 am - 1:00 pm OR 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Learn basic to advanced techniques from award-winning artist Linda Aman. All levels welcome. Bring any project you want to work on or Linda will have a project for you. All materials available for use in class. Fee is \$60 for 2 sessions. Call 503.691.1586 or linda@amanarts.com.

Spring Bird and Nature Walk

May 11, 8:00 am

It is time to welcome back the Spring migrants! Led by the Wetlands Conservancy. For information, call 503.691.1394.

World Wine Tour - Italy

May 13, 6:30 pm

Taste and learn about the key types of wine from different regions in Italy. Served by Sharon and Mark of Taste of Wine. To sign-up, call 503.612.0099.



Heritage Center June Event Calendar

"Heart History"

Tualatin Historical Society Program

June 1, 1:00 pm

David Farrell, pathology professor and researcher at OHSU, tells about an important discovery and discusses why high levels of a blood-clotting factor may be able to help doctors predict who is at risk for having a heart attack. He has studied the clotting factor gamma-prime fibrinogen since 1988. Dr. Farrell and his family live in Tualatin. Open meeting of Tualatin Historical Society.



Knitting and Crochet Workshop

June 4 & 18, 10:00-12:00 pm

Bring your project or start one. Help is available. All levels welcome.

Dulcimer Jam

June 13, 1:00-3:00 pm

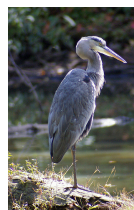
Donations welcome.



Spring Violin Concert

June 19, 4:00 pm

Join Conductor Rodel Flores and his students for a free concert to welcome Spring.



Spring Bird and Nature Walk

June 22, 8:00 am

It is time to welcome back the Spring migrants! Led by the Wetlands Conservancy. For information, call 503.691.1394

Watch for Newsletter Changes

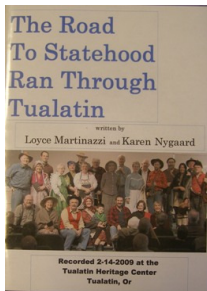
With this May-June newsletter, we will be launching a different format combining two months at a time. This saves considerable staff and volunteer time in writing and set up to say nothing of copying and mailing to those who need postal delivery. We will continue to distribute the familiar one-page calendar at the first of each month along with late-breaking news on the back. The Society website will become more important as it continues to grow in importance and size. All photos in this newsletter and others are always in color when you use the Web at www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.com.

Thank You

Membership is vital to our success. We are proud to list the following members who have renewed membership and joined for 2010 since our last newsletter. Welcome new members!

Chris & Joelle Davis
Donna & Tracy Maddux
Colleen O'Callaghan
Dwayne & Shari Scales

This is an update as of 4/28/10 More renewals arrive daily. Please notify Norm Parker at 4nparker@gmail.com if your name is missing.



DVD's Available for \$15

The Road to Statehood DVD's are back in Heritage Center store thanks to the help of THS member Jon Hartman. Pick up your copy today of this wonderful playlet.

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 1:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each

Corrections:

The Tualatin Historical Society strives to be accurate, fair and complete in its coverage, and corrects significant errors of fact. If you see an error in the newsletter, please call 503.885.1926 or email us at larry.mcclure@gmail.com or lindy.thc@gmail.com. Thank you.

THS Program Ideas and Coordinator Needed



Have you wondered about some part of local history that needs to be explored? Have you heard good speakers with topics that might be of general interest to THS members and the community at large? What are some programs you'd like to attend yourself? Please contact president Yvonne Addington with your ideas.

Your 2010 Tualatin Historical Society Board

Executive Board:

President Yvonne Addington
Vice-President Christine Tunstall
Past President Norm Parker
Secretary Doris Gleason
Treasurer Barbara Stinger

Directors:

Adrienne Heathman
Newsletter Editor & Center Director- Larry McClure
Art Sasaki
Historian - Rochelle Smith
Honorary Board Members:
Loyce Martinazzi and Karen Lafky Nygaard

Website - Lindy Hughes, See our current and past newsletters in color and other articles of interest at www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org.

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