



Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

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

Editor's Note:

This issue of the Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter focuses on the life and contributions of Karen Lafky Nygaard one of the founders of THS and co-author of many publications and scripts that help others appreciate our city's rich and colorful history. We include an official obituary for Karen and memories of several THS members who knew her as a sister, aunt, close friend and mentor. Our September-October issue included one of the last articles written by Karen, an entry on Tualatin for the new Oregon Encyclopedia Project. Family and friends are planning a celebration of her life at Tualatin Heritage Center, Saturday, November 19 at 3:00 pm.



Karen Lafky Nygaard
December 13, 1925 ~
October 6, 2011



100 Years of Oregon Blue Book Featured at THS Annual Meeting November 6

After learning the Secretary of State was re-issuing the 1911 Oregon Blue Book commemorative edition in 2011, historian Darrell Jerdin decided a companion video with excerpts and interviews of Oregon leaders would be fun and interesting. His new 37-minute DVD features women winning the right to vote, the fire that destroyed the capitol, the 1959 Oregon Centennial celebration and the Columbus Day Storm. He also lined up interviews with our current and four former secretaries of state (who are responsible for issuing the Blue Book) and more than 2 dozen current and former elected officials sharing their comments about the Oregon Blue Book. The result is a uniquely entertaining and informative look at Oregon history. The Blue Book is published every other year and is also a great almanac or fact book about Oregon history, its government structure, agencies, counties

and cities. The 2011 annual meeting will be held in the historic Wiona Grange, not Tualatin Heritage Center, Sunday, November 6.

Making video documentaries is Darrell's hobby and several have been aired on cable TV, public TV and in dozens of Oregon history presentations around the state.



Bring a dish to share and your own table service. Beverages provided. Set up begins after 1 pm as the Abundant Life Church (formerly meeting at Tualatin Heritage Center) finishes its worship. Eating will be underway before 2 pm with plenty of time for fellowship before we adjourn upstairs at the Grange for the program and election of 2012 officers and board members.

A Day That Lives in Infamy

Wednesday, December 7 marks the 70th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into World War II. Oregon was the sole U.S. state fired upon by Japan. Tualatin citizens were affected in many ways. How was your family involved and how did it affect their lives? You are invited to attend this program at the Heritage Center at 1:00 pm and

share your memories with others. This monthly program is sponsored by the Tualatin Historical Society. For information, call 503.885.1926



Left: A poster instructing those of Japanese ancestry where to report to.

What's Going on Here?

by THS President
Yvonne Addington



Remembering...

“Make it interesting and personal to the community” was the last piece of advice Karen Lafky Nygaard gave me as we started writing the Tualatin Fire Department history which is now underway. She edited my work over the years and was a caring mentor. I can count four generations of Lafky and Saarinen family members who lived and farmed on Avery Street (Nasoma Road) and were friends. She will be missed by a lot of people.

Long-time Tualatin resident, Margaret Munniksmä Sagert also passed away recently. She was the daughter of Harry and Deana Munniksmä, who owned Valley Farms across from the recently-demolished elementary school. Harry delivered milk to our doorstep; Margaret raised chickens and delivered our eggs as well as many other things. A great lady.

Another recent death was U.S. Federal Magistrate Donald Ashmanski who in the 1970's helped rid downtown Tualatin of "blight" by writing the urban renewal ordinance. This started the ball rolling on 30 years of major improvements to make our city center more attractive for jobs, housing, landscaped streets and public use.

Today's residents should also remember another recent loss: Senator Mark Hatfield, then Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, helped the city many times with federal funding for the water reservoirs and system, the federal demonstration tertiary treatment plant, some of the central park lands purchases and the Pohl Center. He always looked out for Oregon communities and visited Tualatin many times.

Thanks to you, a number of projects have been completed and many more important ones are in progress as I complete 3 years of service as president of Tualatin Historical Society. THS seemed to get its “second wind” after we led efforts to preserve and move the Methodist Church and convert it to Tualatin Heritage

Center. Many more people became involved in preserving our history. Cooperation with City of Tualatin officials, and in particular, Paul Hennon, could not be greater. We also have received a lot of public support for our projects through initial donations and annual fund raising auctions despite tough economic times.

We have focused on three main themes of 1) Prehistoric Tualatin 2) Atfalati Indians 3) Settlers. These themes have allowed us to connect many dots by working with others. After preserving a most unusual 13,000 year old Tualatin Mastodon skeleton, a 15,000 year old Harlan's ground sloth sacrum was donated to us, then a mammoth tusk and bones were discovered nearby. Currently we are working with the Tualatin Chamber, the Ice Age Floods Institute and others to interpret the 350' deep Ice Age Flood evidence, including huge granite and quartz rocks (erratics) which were attached to melting ice packs from Montana. Sounds unbelievable, but true. We are now planning a downtown Ice Age Discovery Walk to teach all ages about these legacies, thanks to a Washington County Visitor's Association planning grant. Even a regional natural history museum has been suggested. Since we don't have room for our collections at the Heritage Center, here might be a way to display Tualatin Indian artifacts, restored farm equipment and preserve “settlers” possessions from years back as well as newly-emerging Ice Age animal bones and erratics. Time will tell how these goals will be achieved.

We also can't forget the tremendously successful annual Oregon Trail living history days for all public school fourth graders each May when local volunteers recreate life on the Oregon Trail and how Tualatin area pioneers lived in early days. There are so many people to thank for what we have done. I look forward to continuing our work on future projects. Thanks for caring so much.

~ Yvonne Addington

These photos show Karen (at left side in each) at work on THS publications or at special events, often in tandem with her THS co-founder Loyce Martinazzi.



Karen Lafky Nygaard

December 13, 1925 - October 6, 2011

Karen died October 6, 2011, the result of a rare form of liver cancer. She was born in Eugene, Oregon, to Mark and Manette Lafky, and grew up on a 60-acre farm in Tualatin, Oregon where a happy childhood included barns, woods, farm animals, abundant orchards and gardens, and a view of Mt. Hood. Her father grew Dutch iris and developed and patented a mutated white bloom in a field of blue Wedgwood and named it the Tualatin Manette.

Karen attended Lewis & Clark College, a music-journalism major, edited the campus newspaper and graduated in 1945 with a listing in Who's Who in American Colleges & Universities. With her first husband, Ed Beach, she moved to New York where she was magazine editor with Buttemheim Publishing. Her interest in music drew her to the Orff Schulwerk Music for Children program and she taught music in schools in New York. The couple returned to Tualatin in 1975 and the marriage soon ended. Karen taught music in Portland and Beaverton, and joined the Portland Symphonic Choir and went on several European tours with the group. Her interest in local history led her and close friend Loyce Martinazzi to form the Tualatin Historical Society. They published a 195-page history of the community, located and printed the diaries of the Oregon Trail settlers, and scripted programs that depicted aspects of Tualatin and its people, including a Cemetery Stroll in which settlers "emerged" from behind their tombstones to tell their stories.

In 1991, she met Jack Nygaard on an Elderhostel bicycling trip along the Loire in France. Mutual interests drew them together and by the end of the trip they were a committed couple. Jack was teaching at the California State University, Long Beach. Karen moved to Long Beach and married Jack in 1992. They enjoyed cycling, often taking 50-mile rides, and on her 72nd birthday they cycled 72 miles. Easy for Jack, on his 75th birthday he rode the difficult Solvang Century. The two took several Elderhostel trips in Europe and in the states. She was active in the Unitarian Universalist Church, writing pageants and skits for the children, and produced the musical "100 Per Cent Chance of Rain". She sang in the church choir and with the Camerata Singers of Long Beach.

Karen passed away near her home in Long Beach. Karen is survived and dearly missed by her husband Jack Nygaard and her son Mark Beach (Theresa). Also surviving are her brother Herb Lafky (Laurine), niece Sandra Carlson, nephew Alan Lafky (Sandy), colleague Loyce, grandsons Kamon, Alex and Jack, as well as a close family of Lafky descendants. Other surviving family members include stepsons Scott Nygaard (Anne), Steve Nygaard (Lisa), Dane Nygaard (Kathy), and several step-grandchildren.

(Karen prepared this obituary in advance)

Karen Lafky Nygaard, 1925-2011: A Good and Gracious Person

By Loyce Martinazzi

In the early 1949s when I was a little kid and she was a teenager, Karen Lafky was my Sunday School teacher at the Community Methodist Church. Thus, with a fitting symbolism, our lifelong relationship as friends and colleagues in recording Tualatin's history began in the church building that has now become the Tualatin Heritage Center. I still remember Karen's kindness to me and my sister and how she encouraged us to sing in church when we were still shy young girls. Little did I know then how greatly she would affect my own life and the identity of our town.

Karen attended Lewis & Clark College, and then left Oregon for New York. It was during her summer visits during the 70s that we began an adult-to-adult friendship. She directed the church choir in which I sang. In addition to our love of music, Karen and I found we shared a passion for local history. We took long walks, sometimes down along the Tualatin River, talking about the old times, and the idea of starting a historical society in Tualatin began to take shape in our conversations. "Do you think we can really get it going?" I asked, and she assured me that yes, we could! And thus we began what was to be the pattern of our friendship: I had passion for Tualatin's history, and Karen with her capability and influence, made that passion take shape into something real.

So in 1986 we contacted many old timers still in the area and asked them to come to the senior center to start a historical society. Many were interested, and it wasn't long before we were having meetings, and gathering historical information and hundreds of vintage photographs.

In the fall of 1986 we began a series of Tualatin Historical Society programs about such topics as Tualatin pioneers on the Oregon Trail, Tualatin before the white man, and early Tualatin schools. Budding social entrepreneurs, we charged \$3 admission--this price including historically relevant refreshments such as Indian flat bread, smoked salmon, hazelnuts, and tea steeped from local herbs. We were delighted when attendance at these programs on occasion reached over 100.

Almost all our specific projects in the early years of the historical society were Karen's idea, but with her confidence in me, and my admiration and respect for

her, I developed into a good working partner for her. She instigated teas and tours of Tualatin's old buildings and sites, mini-museums at the annual Tualatin Crawfish Festival, an elegant Diamond Jubilee Ball on Tualatin's 75th year of incorporation, Harvest Festivals, pie baking contests, talent shows, and barn dances. For several years, under Karen's leadership, the Tualatin Historical Society published calendars featuring vintage Tualatin photographs.

And always, in the back of our minds, was the idea that Tualatin's history should be permanently recorded. Through the years I had collected great piles of research about our area. I had a lot of stuff and it just sat around in stacks in my office. Karen used to laugh and say I was an encyclopedia of Tualatin.

When Karen left for California to be with her new husband we started to work on "the book" even though we were separated by many miles. She systematically organized my research (something I was unable to do on my own), titled the chapters, and edited the chapters I composed on my electric typewriter and mailed off to her.

Our joint project became titled *Tualatin...From the Beginning*. It was a 196-page illustrated book, published in 1994, updated and re-printed in 2004. The success of our book paved the way for years of events and publications in which we educated Tualatin residents about the history of our town. We wrote and produced several plays about Tualatin's history, published many booklets, and produced a video together about the first 100 years of Tualatin. The publications are available for sale at the Tualatin Heritage Center and on loan from the public library.

In one of our many talks, Karen and I agreed that we could not separately have done what we did together. She changed my personal, professional, and creative life. Karen passed away from a rare form of liver cancer on October 6. In her obituary, I was listed as her colleague. A huge compliment to me, for if ever a good and gracious person walked along the Tualatin River, it was surely Karen Lafky Nygaard.

Karen

By Herb Lafky

Karen was born Dec. 13, 1925 in Eugene, Oregon. I remember because I was there. I was 6 1/2 years old. We lived in a little community called Meadowview, situated between Junction City and Eugene. At about 4 am, our Dad took our Mom and me to a hospital in Eugene. They went into the hospital and I stayed in the car. I recalled the sound of clinking milk bottles as someone delivered milk. When I saw an acquaintance later that day, I proudly announced "I have a baby sister!!! Mother and Karen stayed in the hospital almost two weeks, until Christmas. There were no complications; it was just the way they did it then. In the hospital room they had a little Christmas tree. It was decorated with a special star for Karen and the folks used it on their Christmas tree for years after. When Karen was born, she was named Lois Ann. She never cared for that name but chose Karen instead.

Karen's early years were spent living on the Tualatin farm during the Depression until she was in high school. There weren't many families living close with children her age except one --- Sunde family with four boys. Those were her playmates. She attended Tualatin Grade School in the building that had been erected in 1900. She then attended Sherwood High School where she was one of the cheerleaders.

Karen then attended and graduated from Lewis & Clark College, where she met and married Ed Beach. They moved to New York City and they adopted a son, Mark. After about 25 years in NYC, they returned to Tualatin. They bought and lived in a house in Norwood. She became interested in horses at that time. She consulted our Dad, asking how much pasture might be needed for a couple of horses. Dad being a man of few words, listened to her and simply gave a 5-word answer: "You don't need a horse". That of course didn't stop Karen. She had a horse or two and rented out space for a couple more.

Karen and Ed divorced. On a bicycle trip in Europe, Karen met Jack Nygaard. They were married and lived in his house in Long Beach, California. Karen and sometimes Jack, would frequently come up to Tualatin to attend to Tualatin Historical Society needs. While here, she would often ask me questions about life living on the farm.

Karen has done so much, but she found the time to get Laurine, who was a schoolmate of hers in high school, to be with me. Laurine and I have been married over 30 years.

(Dictated by Herb Lafky to Sandra Lafky Carlson, Oct. 14, 2011)

My Thoughts on Karen

Karen was my aunt but she was more a sister to me. I adored her sense of adventure, her creativity, her positive nature and her joyous curiosity. She introduced me to the arts at an early age. I saw my first ballet with her when I was 6. When I was 20, she hosted me for 2 weeks in New York City, taking me to museums, concerts, live theater, art schools, etc. I was dazzled.

As a girl growing up on a farm in Tualatin, Karen had dreamed of traveling to New York City and Europe. And she accomplished that. Among other travels, she visited Scotland and Russia, the homes of her immigrant ancestors. When her mother was 93, Karen took her to the Kansas prairie to stand on the site where Grandma's childhood home, a sod house, had been. In later years, Karen's heart returned to Oregon and she spent as much time here as she could. She loved organizing reunions and staying in touch with everyone, distant cousins and long-time friends. She delighted in the accomplishments of her grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Family was important to her.

Karen had 85 years, a good span. As she herself said "I've lived a long and wonderful life". But it still seemed too short. In her 80's she still had a young spirit, projects to look forward to, and an energy which touched many lives. I will forever be grateful for her presence in mine.

~ Sandra Lafky Carlson

A Celebration of Life

Memories of Karen Lafky Nygaard will be shared Saturday, November 19 at Tualatin Heritage Center, 3:00 pm. Join family and friends from Oregon in remembering her contributions to others.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the Tualatin Historical Society which Karen co-founded 25 years ago.

THS Wine Tasting and Silent Auction Grosses \$9366

A fun evening of Northwest wines, tasty foods donated by area businesses and live music from Island Trio helped approximately 75 guests net \$8355 after expenses to help THS continue its mission. Proceeds will be used to advance the Society's preservation efforts, including storage of its collections.

The third annual affair was held Friday, Sept. 16 at the Heritage Center and on the patio. Thank you to all our generous members and businesses who not only donated goods and services for the silent auction but attended and made purchases. A special thanks goes to the many volunteers who spent countless hours to make this fundraiser a big success.

Would You Like to Join the Fun?

If you missed the chance to bid on these items at the September auction, now's your chance:

Elegant Francis House Tour and Dinner

One place left at the table for \$65. Bibiana and Tim McHugh show how they've updated this historic home on Avery Street followed by an incredible dinner with wine and appetizers. Doris Gleason's famous Orange Marmalade Cake for dessert.

Stones and Bones Tour of Local Area Ice Age Sites

Lake Missoula Floods expert Rick Thompson guides us to Tualatin/Sherwood area landmarks where the earth was forever changed; Yvonne Addington shows the locations where mega-fauna have been uncovered in our area (including some secret locations). Only 5 spots left at \$ 35 for this Saturday tour also appropriate for children.

Tualatin Country Club Centennial Lunch



Next year the Tualatin Country Club celebrates its 100th anniversary and to commemorate this key milestone several old timers will be sharing stories of early golf course history and shenanigans. Not only is this a chance to enjoy a fantastic lunch but also get a tour of the clubhouse and course itself. Date to be determined in April. Ten spots are available for \$30 each.

All proceeds from the above go directly to support the THS budget and special preservation projects. Call Lindy at 503.885.1926 if you are interested. Don't delay, call today!

Local Authors Share New Historical Book for Children

Local authors/designers David Shapiro, Christopher Herndoon and Erica Melville will walk us through their new illustrated book *Terra Tempo: Ice Age Cataclysm* at **Tualatin Library, 7pm Wednesday November 9**. This is a family-oriented presentation followed by a



book signing. Join in the adventure as Ari, Jenna, and Caleb unlock the secret of time travel and journey back 15,000 years to witness the giant Lake Missoula Floods, the largest floods to have ever washed over the face of the earth. Experience the world of the not so distant past when giant mammoths and saber-toothed cats roamed the Pacific Northwest. Ride along with the time travel kids as they tour the changing landscapes from back of the mythic Thunderbird and work together to survive the dangers of the Ice Age Cataclysm!

This family-oriented program is sponsored by THS, the Lower Columbia Chapter/Ice Age Floods Institute and the Library. Great Christmas gift idea for grandchildren since it mentions landmarks we all know in this region.

The Season for Giving

Not only are we entering the time of sharing with others at Thanksgiving and Christmas but it is also the time to renew our membership in THS for 2012. Treasurer Barbara Stinger will gladly accept your check at the annual meeting Sunday, November 6 or by mail anytime. Also consider a generous donation to Tualatin Historical Society to help sustain our programs, build new and better exhibits, prepare interpretive signs, and assure adequate staffing, equipment and materials for another year. Your board of directors is planning to withdraw \$5,000 from THS savings this budget year to preserve precious artifacts and properly display some of them. The board challenges members to match that amount through additional donations. Remember that gifts to THS then make you eligible for a direct Oregon tax credit next April 15 only for the amount you also donate to the Oregon Cultural Trust. THS has received grants from the Cultural Trust in the past and will keep trying to receive more in the future. The Oregon Cultural Trust website has more details and you can contribute on line right up to December 31 to earn the state tax credit.



Heritage Center November Event Calendar

Pilates

Thursdays, November 3, 10, 17, 11:30am–12:30pm

\$10 per class drop-in/ \$8 per class w/ 10 class pass

Barbara Dieringer leads this class. Pilates will safely nourish your back, your abdominals and restore elasticity to your entire body. Its energizing and restorative qualities leave you feeling uplifted and revitalized!

Knitting and Crochet Workshop

Friday, November 4 & 18, 10:00am-Noon

Free!

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

Lumiere Players Fall Production

Friday/Saturday, November 4, 5, 7:30pm

Sunday, November 6, 2:00pm

\$10 resident, seniors, students, \$12 nonresident

“The Messiah on the Frigidaire” is a comedy about a Southern couple who discover the image of Jesus appearing on their refrigerator stored on the porch of their home. The small town of Elroy, South Carolina is thrust into the evangelical spotlight as the appearance happens every evening, and the resulting publicity gives some interesting thoughts. For reservations, call 503.692.9796.

Let's do Lunch & Talk Travel

Monday, November 7, 12:00-1:00pm

Free!

Bring your lunch and listen to Rodney Smith from *Sunspots International* as he shares information, photos and experiences about traveling in the South Pacific, Tahiti, Cook Islands and Fiji. Experienced travelers and daydreamers welcome, along with suggestions for future topics. Call 503.885.1926 for the scheduled travel locations coming up or to get on the mailing list.

Clothing Swap

Wednesday, November 9, 7:00–8:00pm

Free!

Recycle, Reduce, and Reuse and attend this clothing swap. Bring something, take something. All sizes of women and teen clothing and accessories. This popular swap is held quarterly. For information, call 503.716.8910. Swap to save a planet...and some green!

~ November continued next column

Bird and Nature Walk

Wednesday, November 9, 9:00am, Free!

This 1 ½ hour walk around Sweek Pond is led by the Wetlands Conservancy. For information, call 503.691.1394.

Dulcimer Jam

Sunday, November 13, 1:00–3:00pm

Free! Donations accepted.

Enjoy the beautiful sounds of one of the oldest instruments around.

Lunch Hour Celtic Solo Concert Series

Wednesday, November 16, 12:15pm-1:15pm, \$10

Bring your brown paper sack lunch and enjoy an hour of some of the best Irish music by one of the top players in the world! S&A Irish Entertainment presents, Colleen Raney, recognized as one of the finest singers in the NW Irish music scene. With stunning talent and a bold vision of traditional music in a new century, she is a rising star in the world of Celtic music. Colleen Raney brings a voice to reach to the back of the pub, a band to bring you to your feet, and a love for the poetry of Irish song.

Heritage Center

December Event Calendar



Pilates

Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, 11:30am–12:30pm

\$10 per class drop-in/ \$8 per class with 10 class pass

Knitting and Crochet Workshop

Friday, December 2 & 16, 10:00am-Noon, Free!

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

A Day That Lives in Infamy

Wednesday, December 7, 1:00pm, Free!

See page 1 for details.

Bird and Nature Walk

Thursday, December 8, 9:00am, Free!

This 1 ½ hour walk around Sweek Pond is led by the Wetlands Conservancy. For information, call 503.691.1394.

Lunch Hour Celtic Solo Concert Series

Wednesday, December 21, 12:00pm-1:00pm, \$10

S&A Irish Entertainment presents **Nancy Conescu** and **Matthew Hayward-MacDonald**. Nancy is known for honoring the roots of traditional Irish and American ballads while shaping the music to her own sensibilities. Celebrated singer/songwriter Matthew Hayward-MacDonald has been a musical fixture in the Northwest for a decade.

2011 Tualatin Historical Society Board

Executive Board:

President Yvonne Addington
 Vice-President: Larry McClure
 Secretary: Doris Gleason
 Treasurer: Barbara Stinger

Directors:

Evie Andrews	Art Sasaki
Adrienne Heathman	Chris Tunstall
Kurt Krause	Historian: Rochelle Smith

Honorary Members:

Loyce Martinazzi
 Newsletter Editor & Center Director- Larry McClure
 Website - Lindy Hughes, See our current and past newsletters in color and other articles of interest at www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org

**Coming Up in January:
 History of the Oregon White Oak**

Tualatin is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its designation as a Tree City USA in 2012 by encouraging organizations to plan public activities and events every month and not just during Arbor Week each April. THS will be kicking off our new year with a fascinating look at an historic tree that was first documented for science by Lewis and Clark in March 2006 as they headed back up the Columbia River. An Oregon White Oak grows right near the Heritage Center and others can be found at various locations in Tualatin. Groves still thrive in locations like the Oregon Garden. Jonathan Soll, manager of science and sustainability for Metro, will describe the unique background of this famous tree and its present-day challenges. Information about how to donate a memorial tree in Tualatin city parks will also be available.

Razor Straps and Shaving Brushes

There was a time when the words “get the razor strap” struck fear into a misbehaving boy. Many a young child marveled at how grandpa whipped up warm lather in a mug, whisked his straight edge on the leather and then shaved with that deadly steel instrument so close to his jugular vein. Thanks to Rebecca Pratt and Carole Hoss, be sure to closely examine the tall display cases at Tualatin Heritage Center featuring early barber tools and home grooming aids from days gone by, including one from the Roman era.



Tualatin Heritage Center Holiday Closures:

November 11
 November 24 & 25
 December 26 through January 1



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.

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