



# Tualatin Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

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



Save the Date...

### Evening Program

**New Technologies Meet  
Ancient Fossils**  
**Thursday, January 19, 7pm**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Heritage Center**

Julian Gray, CEO of the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals in Hillsboro, explores how micro-photography and new software can open up our eyes even more to the world of small gems, minerals, and fossils. He will focus on Pleistocene artifacts at the museum.



Suggested donation of \$3 per adult. Monthly program co-sponsored by Ice Age Flood Institute Columbia Chapter and the Tualatin Heritage Center. For information, call Sylvia Thompson at 503.257.01440 or [www.iafi.org/lowercolumbia](http://www.iafi.org/lowercolumbia)

### “The Good Old Days” in Tualatin

Tualatin Historical Society co-founder Loyce Martinazzi moderates a discussion among old-timers who remember the ways things were during the years they worked or lived with their families here.

Guests will include Lloyd and Helen Koch, Barb and Bob Kern, Frances Wager Perry, and Larry Lee.

Join us on **Wednesday, January 4 at 1:00 pm** for this interesting program sponsored by the Tualatin Historical Society. For information, call 503.885.1926.

Frances and Helen are sisters and descendants of Daniel Boone. Lloyd and his sister Barb were part of the Koch family dynasty of farmers along Tualatin-Sherwood Road, now raising a fifth generation of farmers in the St. Paul area after selling the home place for industrial development today.

Larry Lee still raises strawberries in Wilsoville and has turned over farm operations to new generations of farmers both at Lee Farms and a granddaughter Erika's farm and Red Barn store along 99W south of Sherwood. Bob and Barb Kern still own a lot near the United Methodist Church.

### Treasures in the THS Attic

Join us on **Wednesday, February 1 at 1:00 pm** when Archives Committee members share a selected variety of unique items that reflect Tualatin's rich and colorful history. You will hear what the artifact is, how it was used, who owned it, and who donated it. Later in 2017, we are planning our own version of Antiques Road Show with experts who will give their opinion on what you bring. That, too, is an opportunity to look back in history with the help of real experts.

Monthly program sponsored by the Tualatin Historical Society. For information, call 503.885.1926.



*These are a few of our  
favorite things.*



**President's Corner**

*from Ross Baker*

**Help us restore the Galbreath Wagon and build a shelter for it.**

As was noted in our 2016 Annual Report, we are working hard to get the Galbreath Wagon restored and find a place for its public display in cooperation with the City. Allen Stein with the Yamhill Valley Historical Society and Museum is an accomplished wainwright. He has helped restore vintage wagons and tractors for our good neighbors in Yamhill county and has been contracted to oversee the restoration for us. His work will be done this spring. Additionally we will need to build a shelter to preserve and protect his craftsmanship.

Please consider supporting this special effort with a donation that will be recognized on a permanent plaque for the community to see and appreciate your contribution to preserving Tualatin's history:

- \$250 Wagon Masters
- \$100 Wagoneers
- \$50 Wagon Wheels
- \$25 Wagon Tracks

*Send your tax deductible check to:*  
 Tualatin Historical Society  
 Attn: Galbreath Wagon Committee.  
 P.O. Box 1055  
 Tualatin, OR 97062

Remember to note on the check that this donation is specifically for the Galbreath Wagon. Should we be fortunate enough to have excess funds those will go towards the Archives and Collections Management at the THS.

Here is an EXAMPLE of the kind of handsome shelter we will seek to build with your contributions.



**Preservation is the Cornerstone of our THS Mission**

Last year the Tualatin Historical Society did something a bit different. We brought in some outside expertise to help us revisit our Collections Management Policy and steer us in the right direction regarding potential software to manage our collection including physical artifacts, photographs and oral histories. Thanks in part to a donation from an anonymous donor, the board approved a modest stipend for Brendan McCauley to help us on both fronts.

Brendan is a Master's level museum and archives professional with 4-plus years of experience in museums and archives. He has hands-on experience with historical materials and their arrangement, description, care and access. His resume includes working for the University of Washington, Highline Historical Society at SeaTac, Henry Art Gallery in Seattle, St. Louis Art Museum and Missouri History Museum. He made quick work of what we had targeted to be a 3-month project when he began in October. At the December board meeting he presented a new draft collections policy along with conclusions for optimal software solution(s) to assist in managing our collection.

On December 7 we received word that we were awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Cultural Coalition of Washington County (CCWC) to take our Policy to the software and volunteer training level. We now have state-of-the-art information on collections management and will be able to acquire software to achieve the first word in our mission statement: PRESERVE, Promote and Interpret the rich and colorful history of Tualatin. Later in 2017 we will be able to provide training for volunteers in using the software appropriately. If you are interested in this project, please advise Sandra Carlson, Historian (503.956.6741) or leave word at the Heritage Center.

The CCWC receives its funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust which is supported by our personal donations as well as sales of Oregon Culture license plates.

I look forward to serving as 2017 President and working side by side with you.

*~ Ross*



## Why the Galbreath Farm Wagon is Important

By Loyce Martinazzi



George Galbreath crossed the plains on the Oregon Trail when he was two years old, with his parents Sarah and Sam and little brother Joseph. The Galbreaths took out a land claim that spanned the Tualatin River, and set up a ferry, and later a bridge for travelers to cross on the new Boones Ferry Road. As teenagers, George and Joe accompanied the Byroms to Idaho to work in the mines, sending their pay back to their parents.

Upon returning to the area when the mines played out, George married Emma Walker whose mother ran the rooming house by the river. They purchased land along Tualatin Sherwood Road, and George, a respected member of the community, became school board chairman, elder of the Congregational church and charter member of Winona Grange in 1895. George's brother Joseph married Louisa Cummins and the family still owns property in Cipole.

Around 1900 George, a farmer, purchased a Mitchell Lewis Stavens farm wagon and used it until his death when Joe IteI purchased it at a farm auction. IteI later sold the wagon to Mark Lafky, and Lafky traded it to Larry Lee in exchange for custom farm work. The wagon was useful on the Lee farm, pulled with a tractor, not horses, and was featured in several Crawfish Festival parades.

Larry Lee donated the wagon to the Tualatin Historical Society and is currently being retro-fitted by a wainwright to its former state. Hopefully the wagon will be featured in a local park.

## THS Scholarship



For the eighth consecutive year we intend to support youth in our community by awarding a scholarship to a Tualatin High graduate from the 2017 class.

Depending on the response from our members the award will be for \$2000 to \$2500. The funding does not come from the THS budget so we are hopeful members will continue to support this great program.

Your tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to:

Tualatin Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1055  
Tualatin, OR 97062

Thank you for your consideration and support!

### *2017 Scholarship Committee*

Norm Parker, Evie Andrews, Rochelle Martinazzi, Diane Swientek, and Chris Tunstall

## The Politics of Sand

Tom McCall's beach bill in the 1970s illustrated the power of people who wanted to protect this major natural resource for Oregon. Tom Olsen, a Portland videographer instructor and producer of documentaries, will screen parts of his film "The Politics of Sand".

Join us on **Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 pm** at the Heritage Center. Suggested donation of \$3 per adult. Monthly program co-sponsored by Ice Age Flood Institute Columbia Chapter and the Tualatin Heritage Center. For information, call Sylvia Thompson at 503.257.0144 or [www.iafi.org/lowercolumbia](http://www.iafi.org/lowercolumbia).



**Photo above:** Tom McCall looks at the former Surfsand Hotel.

~ Courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society.

## The Sweek House Restoration Story

By Jack Broome

*Editor's note: Sweek House is located across the street from today's Mashita Terriyaki/VFW building and adjacent to the WES station. It's Tualatin's only building on the National Register of Historic Places. Today it is the home of Jack and Althea Pratt-Broome.*

The Sweek House was built in 1858 though we don't know how long it took. John Sweek had moved up to Clearwater, Idaho to "mine" the gold miners. He had set up a store there but came back down periodically for supplies to sell to the miners at much higher prices, of course.

Prior to construction of the main house, the Sweeks lived in a "cabin" next to the marsh and what was later called Hedges creek. The railroad didn't come through till after the turn of the century. The appearance of the Sweek House was Maria's design, somewhat following her memories of Southern houses of the times.

Construction-wise there was no knowledge of future major flooding or earthquakes as we think about today. Now we live in jeopardy of the "big one", a major subduction zone quake along the length of the Pacific Coast. Reinforced concrete was unknown to the pioneers of the middle 1800s so the Sweek house was built on a foundation of large boulders brought to Tualatin by the Ice Age Floods. The brick chimneys used lime mortar, not as strong as Portland cement mortar.

Wooden posts 8"x8" and of various heights to compensate for the uneven land were placed on the boulders and floor beams were run across the tops of the posts. No anchoring of the posts to the boulders or the beams to the posts was considered necessary. As an engineering friend of mine Bob Resseger said "the whole house was supported by its force of gravity."

Floor joists, rough cut 2x10s or Douglas fir logs, spanned from beams to beams, secured only by the square nails used at the time. Fir sub-flooring ran at 90 degrees to the floor joists.

Sometime later on, a wood or coal burning furnace was installed in the hand-dug cellar. It was not a true basement.

The walls are vertical rough-cut 2 by's of various widths but running all the way up to the second floor eaves and summer (load bearing) beams. Windows, most with the original glass intact, were probably cut into the walls during construction. Althea Pratt-Broome, the present owner, claims that the frequent use of windows

(all double hung) proves that the house was designed by a woman (Maria Sweek). When her husband asked how she was going to pay for such a large house she replied she had it all figured out. Before bedroom walls were erected on the second floor, she held dances and parties upstairs, charging \$1 a night for lodging, breakfast and food for the horses. For that \$1 a day she could hire a carpenter.

The Sweek House has five fireplaces but no stoves at the time of construction. A large cast iron kitchen range came later. There was one major change to the house which revised the "front" hallway stairs in the "living room" area to provide for the unusually large living room of today with fireplaces at each end of the room and another fireplace in the next-door dining room. Covered porches ran around three sides of the house giving the present handsome appearance and summer cooling.

These porches were of two widths, 12' and just 5'6" on the west side of the house. This was an extremely smart feature since the porches now shade the main part of the house from the hot summer sun. Porch widths and window sizes insured that summer sun never entered the house while winter sun shown well back into the kitchen and its adjacent "utility room." Did Maria know this connection or was it just luck? We will never know, but it was an amazing feature.

The house has five bedrooms and what is now my library was a firewood storage room without any interior finish and a dirt floor. Very practical for the time and a common design feature in many other large houses of the period.

The first floor is 3'6" above exterior grade (for flood protection perhaps). The second floor ceiling height is 9'11". Again, possibly a Southern feature to provide cooling. New England houses of "colonial" vintage had ceiling heights of 7'6" (people were shorter in those days except with a few notable exceptions like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson to name two).

When I married Althea in 1980 and moved into this old house, the porch construction and the post and beam structure were in major need of repair or replacement. Althea was a school teacher with three small daughters. At this time teachers were often paid less than janitors, so she did not have the financial resources to do the necessary repairs.

~ continued next page

As an architect, I first photographed and measured the entire house in 1982 so that any and all repairs were the exact replicas of Maria Sweek’s original home. The entire exterior of the house and well house were repainted in 2015. My “library” is the only room in the house that has in any way been modernized, though two bathrooms were installed over a several-year period. All of the furniture is of the period when the house was built. None of the windows have been replaced and the unlevel floors are a reflection of the compressible soils of the Sweek property. The roof pitch is 45° and the rafters were only 2x4s. Cedar shingles were laid over 1" sawn stripping.



Photos: *To access and upgrade the infrastructure, Jack had to remove the porches of the Sweek House (above) in order to preserve the historic home he and Althea still love today (below).*



**Farewell, Friend**

We remember Stan Prier who died December 23. Stan served as president of Tualatin Historical Society in 2001 and was known for his sly wit and British heritage. As a Board member he helped move us into the computer age. His ashes will be interred at Winona Cemetery. Our condolences are extended to his wife Ruth and family.



**Tualatin River Greenway Trail Receives Awards**

*By Yvonne Addington*



Thanks to the leadership of THS member Paul Hennon, Community Services Director, the City of Tualatin has received three state and national awards for excellence, design, and sustainability for the new Greenway Trail project which was also featured in the December 2016 issue of Landscape Architecture magazine:

- American Planning Association’s Green Infrastructure or Transportation Project Award for projects that support and grow sustainable communities.
- League of Oregon Cities 2016 Award for Excellence which recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services.
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Association Design Award for superior landscape design and design processes.

An average of 10,000 walkers, joggers and bikers a month have used the wide hard-surface Trail since it opened in February 2016. The trail is part of a new Ice Age Loop on the Tualatin ArtWalk and a new Ice Age Discovery Trail linking Tualatin’s many Ice Age and paleontological landmarks with informative exhibits. A history timeline along the new Greenway Trail also highlights the Atfaliti and pioneer eras in Tualatin history. My early role in developing the City’s park system is also honored at an overlook with signage.

It’s been my joy to work with several THS members and friends who shared their expertise (Dr. Scott Burns, Rick and Sylvia Thompson, and Mark Buser) and paleontology artifacts from which bronze and concrete replicas could be made (Mike Full, David Ellingson) and Joanie Livermore (who drew the Sabertooth salmon that was etched into pink granite). Brian Clopton and Mike Full arranged for the donation of Ice Age Floods-rafted erratic boulders. Fred Bruning, CEO of CenterCal (developer of Nyberg Woods Shopping Center where the Trail passes) provided private sector matching funds to help secure government agencies’ dollars to build the Trail. The Nyberg family also played a role since part of the Trail traverses their property.



### THS Annual Meeting

Ross Baker was unanimously elected president of THS at the November 6 annual meeting of the Society. Jim Serrill is our new secretary. Yvonne Addington steps into the past-president position on the Board of Directors. Ross has already initiated some new ideas for THS by enlisting several new volunteers. Barbara Hess has agreed to monitor our THS Facebook page and regularly insert news items and photos taken by Al Stewart whose hobby photography morphed into a home based business ([www.photocutouts.com](http://www.photocutouts.com)). Facebook is a great way to follow THS activities in between newsletters.

The THS 2016 annual meeting featured Kurt Krause receiving the Lafky-Martinazzi award for his work on identifying historic properties in Tualatin and pushing for a driving/walking guide which is now being distributed. Legacy Meridian Park donated part of the funding for printing.



**Photo below:** Loyce Martinazzi and her daughter Andrea (visiting from Michigan) sang some tunes reminiscent of the days when they performed when the Heritage Center was their church.



### Our 2016 THS Scholarship Winner



**Photo above:** Oliver Price second from right, poses with several THS board members and Scholarship Committee member Chris Tunstall (far right) before heading off to Oregon State University in September. Board members are Yvonne Addington, Jim Serrill, Barbara Stinger and Norm Parker. Norm heads the Scholarship Committee.

### Relive the Golden Age of Radio

Old-time radio expert Dick Karman (pictured right) exhibits radios and replays examples of popular programs dating 50-70 years ago. For those over 70, re-live memories of Jack Benny and Superman in this soundtrack of your life.



Join us for this popular program on **Thursday, March 16 at 7:00 pm.** Monthly program co-sponsored by Ice Age Flood Institute Columbia Chapter and the Tualatin Heritage Center. For information, call Sylvia Thompson at 503.257.01440 or [www.iafi.org/lowercolumbia](http://www.iafi.org/lowercolumbia)



~ Photos are courtesy of Reliving Radio.

### Everybody Loves Cookies

A big thanks goes to Loyce Martinazzi, Kay Gooding, and Lindy Hughes for providing treats and Gerry Brosy and Anita Gilham for making coffee for the THS monthly programs in October and December. They were delicious!





## Heritage Center January Event Calendar

**Knitting and Crochet Workshop**  
Fridays, 1/6, 1/20, 2/3, 2/17, 3/10, 3/24  
10:00 am-Noon



Bring a project or start one. All levels welcome.

**“The Good Old Days in Tualatin”**

**THS Monthly Program**

**Wednesday, January 4, 1:00 pm**

See page 1 for more information

**New Technologies Meet Ancient Fossils**

**Ice Age Evening Program**

**Thursday, January 19, 7:00 pm**

See page 1 of the newsletter for more details.

## February Event Calendar



**Treasures in the THS Attic**

**THS Monthly Program**

**Wednesday, February 1, 1:00 pm**

See page 1 For details.

**Marine One – Presidential Helicopters**

**Ice Age Evening Program**

**Thursday, February 19, 7:00 pm**

See page 3 for details.



## March Event Calendar

**The Surprising Adventures of George Gibbs on the Oregon Frontier, 1884-1861)**

**Wednesday, March 1, 1:00 pm**

Dr. Stephen Beckham describes little-known George Gibbs who served as secretary and cartographer for the Willamette Valley Treaty Commission in 1851. In 1849 he rode horseback to Oregon and was heavily involved in Indian affairs. An artist and writer, he wrote fishing-rights treaties for Gov. I.I. Stevens and returned to the East in 1861 where he worked for the Hudsons Bay Claims Commission. Dr. Beckham is a retired history professor from Lewis and Clark College and a popular speaker. Monthly program sponsored by the Tualatin Historical Society. For information, call 503.885.1926.

**Golden Age of Radio**

**Ice Age Evening Program**

**Thursday, March 16, 7:00 pm**

See page 6 for details.

## THS Membership Form

Some of the many benefits include: Quarterly issues of the Society’s newsletter, voting privileges, a voice in historical preservation, invitations to various events, and making new friends.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph#: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*You are signing up for periodic email from the Society. You may unsubscribe at any time.*

Levels of Support:

- Individual membership \$25
- Household membership \$40  
(2+ at same residence)
- Sponsor membership \$50
- Patron membership \$100

*Please add my...*

- Tax deductible donation \$
- Tax deductible donation \$  
to our auction.
- Tax deductible donation \$  
to the TuHS Scholarship Fund

***Thank you  
for your support!!***

**Make checks payable to:  
Tualatin Historical Society**

**Federal Tax ID #94-3090360**



**Mail to:  
Tualatin Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1055  
Tualatin, OR 97062-1055**

**Your 2017 Tualatin Historical Society Board of Directors**

**Executive Board:**

President: Ross Baker  
Vice-President: Kurt Krause  
Secretary: Jim Serrill  
Treasurer: Barbara Stinger  
Historian: Sandra Lafky Carlson

**Directors:**

Yvonne Addington, Past President  
Loyce Martinazzi  
Larry McClure, Heritage Center Director  
Norman Parker  
Art Sasaki

Newsletter Editor - Larry McClure  
See current and past newsletters in color and other articles of interest at [www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org).

**A Reminder from THS Historian Sandra Carlson**

Remember those encyclopedia salesmen who used to knock on our doors?

No longer needed, thanks to electronic versions like The Oregon Encyclopedia which is a project of the Oregon Historical Society and is available just two or three clicks away on the Internet. Try it out by searching for Tualatin and a short article and historic photos will pop up on your screen written by our own Karen Lafky Nygaard, co-founder of Tualatin Historical Society. Many other topics are available, like the Atfaliti Indians for whom our city and river were named. Give it a try!



As we approach the winter season, we may experience inclement weather that could possibly cause the Heritage Center to open later or close. Call 503.885.1926 for information.



*Physical Address:*  
Tualatin Heritage Center  
Tualatin Historical Society  
8700 SW Sweek Drive  
Tualatin, OR 97062



*Mailing Address:*  
Tualatin Historical Society  
P.O. 1055  
Tualatin, OR 97062

The Tualatin Heritage 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 except July and November. For information, call 503.885.1926.



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