



# Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2009

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

## Upcoming Programs

- February 4, 1:15 pm

By popular demand, "Life in the Olden Days" is the theme for the monthly meeting. This program could be titled "history R us" since it invites your own stories of growing up in earlier times. Participants will be invited to share their memories as Tualatin historian Loyce Martinazzi announces each topic and the microphone is passed.

*Monthly programs are open to the public. We welcome you to join us!*

## Come to a Coffee Klatch

*NOUN: A casual social gathering for coffee and conversation.*

You are invited to a monthly coffee klatch for THS men held every second Friday at 10 am.



## Living History Retells Tualatin's Role in Oregon Statehood

Tualatin was a tiny community of about 300 in 1859 but it played a role in the vote for Oregon's statehood. That story will be re-told in a "story theatre" production titled "The Road to Statehood—the Tualatin Connection" at 2:00 pm Sunday, February 15 at the Heritage Center.



Two of Tualatin's pioneer settlers, Dr. Nathaniel Robbins and Levi Anderson, were among the 60 elected delegates to the 1857 constitutional convention that brought Oregon into the Union. Dr. Robbins, Oregon's first professional doctor, and 55 family members came across the Oregon Trail and filed for free land on several hundred acres near present-day I-5/I-205 and as far southeast as Stafford, including Atfalati Park on 65th (Meridian Road) and Sagert Street. The Anderson donation land claim was located where Apache Bluff subdivision and Tualatin Country Club are now.

The play begins with the Decision at Champoege in 1843 when Oregon country came under the American flag, followed by the arrival of 17 Oregon Trail immigrants in the early 1850s who tell their stories of settlement in this new, untamed land, and concludes with US ratification of the state constitution in 1859. It includes fiddle and guitar players performing 1850s fiddle tunes and a sing-along of the state song "Oregon, My Oregon" (see page 3).

Dan Hobbs of the Lumiere Players narrates the story as it is enacted by members of the Tualatin Historical Society, including two who are descendants of the pioneers they portray—Barbara Stinger as Nancy Robbins and Duffy Hamilton as Elizabeth Shaver. Two Tualatin city officials will be special participants. City Councilman Ed Truax will portray John Sweek who platted and named the town Tualatin. His house remains at the intersection of Boones Ferry Road and Tualatin Road. Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager, portrays Maria Sweek. Other players are James Boyd, Sue Raxter, Anne Avery, Bill and Doris Gleason, David Parker, Gerry Tunstall, Sandra Carlson, Richard Hager, Ken Stinger, Rollin Carlson, Kurt and Eleanor Krause. Loyce Martinazzi and Karen Lafky Nygaard, Tualatin Historical Society co-founders, crafted the script.

This will be Tualatin Historical Society's first Oregon 150 sesquicentennial event of the year. A suggested donation of \$1.50 (a penny for each year since statehood) will help support Society projects.



This February event also marks the third anniversary of Tualatin Heritage Center. Refreshments will be provided by Haggan Foods.



## Welcome, WES

This month marks the return of regular passenger service in Tualatin after more than 70 years of freight cars only. In the early days of our city, two rail lines crossed downtown Tualatin. Golfers headed for the Tualatin Country Club from downtown Portland could board either train for a day or weekend at the links. Now, commuters headed for city center will transfer in Beaverton. Service in 2009 is three hours each weekday morning and afternoon.

Tualatin Historical Society volunteers helped welcome residents and commuters at grand opening festivities Friday, January 30 and during the first week of public operation Feb. 2-6. Historic photos, THS flyers, publications, and John Bowles' model of the old church were on display behind the new brick commuter rail station. The new passenger shelter reflects the style of the old brick store across the street now being restored to its 1913 appearance.

Before Boones Ferry Road was paved, farmers brought wagonloads of local commodities to the old brick store to be weighed before loading onto freight cars on both rail lines. The scales are easily visible in our historic photo collection. After passenger rail provided by Oregon Electric ended, private bus companies operated stage lines through Tualatin. With rapid growth of automobiles after WWII, mass transportation faltered and highways were the priorities. Responding to public demand in the 1980s, Tri Met offered improved bus service with freeway express lines and more options between Tualatin and Portland in the 1990s. Park and Ride lots were also introduced.

The new self-propelled commuter railway is nicknamed WES because it is the "westside link" between Wilsonville and Beaverton. It is operated by Tri-Met in cooperation with the existing freight railroad which continues daily runs on the same tracks. Riders can transfer in Beaverton to Tri-Met's or MAX, the light rail service to Hillsboro, North Portland, Gresham and Portland Airport. Bus transfers can also be made in Tigard and Wilsonville.



*January 23: Free rides on WES was a busy day at the Tualatin Station. Photo courtesy of Jon Hartman of Willamette Valley Media Group.*

One big difference between now and then: entering railroad right-of-way and walking the rails will mean major fines. With more frequent train passage, officials are concerned about safety. The new Ki-a-Kuts pedestrian bridge at Tualatin City Park provides walkers and bikers their best alternative for crossing the river.



*February launches WES commuter rail service in Tualatin as the newest public transportation option for our area. When THS member Edie Torgeson was a child in Aurora, she rode this school bus (pictured above). After passenger rail ceased operation, private stage lines provided mass transportation until the regional Tri-Met agency was formed.*

## Spring and Summer Excursions

Contact Tualatin Heritage Center (503-885-1926) if you are interested in guided excursions using the new WES commuter rail and MAX, or field trips by van to historic sites in the greater Portland area. Dates and itineraries will be determined based on interest. Participants responsible for own costs.

## Photography Show Coming in March



Tualatin Chamber of Commerce member Paul Sivley took this photo while on an overseas assignment. Paul is chair of our first professional photography show at Tualatin Heritage Center. Entries will be hung during the month of March. Watch for details of a wine-tasting reception during the event. Framed and un-

framed prints will be available for sale. Call the Center for more information.

## Tracing Your Family Health History

A new and private way to document your family's health heritage is now available to try. Go to <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov> and you can build a record of your relatives' experiences with various ailments that tend to run in families. Much like building a family tree, the program downloads to your own computer so the government has no access to it and it will not be sent out on the internet. However, you can choose to share it with relatives who may be able to update the information and with your doctors who might find it useful as you make health care decisions.

## Women's Tools in Ancient Times

A new exhibit at the Heritage Center features mortar and pestle stone implements used by native peoples. Part of a collection owned by Rebecca Pratt, the tools illustrate food processing methods used by various tribes before the introduction of modern-day technology. The Society's smaller collection of local Atfaliti Indian artifacts will remain for permanent viewing. Thanks to Rebecca for creating this exhibit which keys each item to its name and use.



## Witnessing History as it Happens



Fifteen Tualatin residents had front row seats at the January 20 inauguration of President Barack Obama, thanks to the big screen and cable TV originally installed when the Heritage Center opened. If there are other major events (including sports) that are broadcast on basic cable channels, contact the Center to suggest public viewing (subject to building schedule and availability of volunteers). Cable service is provided through the City of Tualatin's franchise agreement with the cable company.

## Oregon State Song

### Oregon, My Oregon

*Written by A. Buchanan of Astoria and Henry B. Murtagh of Portland*

*Adopted on February 12, 1927*

Land of the Empire Builders,  
Land of the Golden West;  
Conquered and held by free men,  
Fairest and the best.  
Onward and upward ever,  
Forward and on, and on;  
Hail to thee, Land of Heroes,  
My Oregon.

Land of the rose and sunshine,  
Land of the summer's breeze;  
Laden with health and vigor,  
Fresh from the Western seas.  
Blest by the blood of martyrs,  
Land of the setting sun;  
Hail to thee, Land of Promise,  
My Oregon.



Paintings by Laurie Koch (top) and Kayla Gamache (below), granddaughters of THS members Helen and Lloyd Koch and Evie and George Andrews respectively, were honored at the third TuHS student art show that opened this week at the Center. The show moves next week to the Library.

Former Tualatin watercolor artist Linda Aman flies in from Boise monthly to conduct her popular classes at the Center. Coming next: "Terrific Tulips" workshop Saturday, February 21, and "Watercolor Floral and Gold Leafing Techniques" March 7. Call 503-691-1586 for details



Knitters of all ages gather on first and third Friday mornings to help beginners, learn new techniques, swap design ideas, find out about yarn sales, share advice, enjoy coffee and solve the world's problems.



**Recycle Tip of the Month** from Karin Olson

**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE**

Take rigid plastic (no PVC), plastic film and other items to:

PRIDE Recycling Center  
13980 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Rd  
**503-625-6177**

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 1:15 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.



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

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