



Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

OCTOBER 2008

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

Upcoming Programs

- October 1, 1:15 pm**
History of the City of Tualatin - Tualatin's first City manager, Yvonne Addington, will tell how Tualatin went from a small rural village with a toilet tank float atop the City flag pole to become one of the fastest growing cities in Oregon. The incredibly successful, and sometimes difficult growth of Tualatin's residential, industrial and commercial areas in the 1960's and 1970s was due to the brilliant cooperation between several creative persons.

Inside this issue:

Harvest Festival	2
Old Tualatin School Update	3
Genealogy workshop	4
Recycling made easy	4

Medallion Hunt Involves THS

The City of Tualatin has devised a medallion hunt to build interest in the popular Pumpkin Regatta on Saturday, Oct 25. City staff invited THS to suggest a historic location and suggest clues that will appear in the Times newspapers each week leading up to the Regatta. See if you can determine the location Tualatin historians

recommended. If you don't subscribe to the Times, then see the THS or City website for those clues each Thursday. The search will be for a 4-inch diameter brass medallion engraved with the Regatta mascot. The person who finds and returns the medallion will win a night's stay at the Century Hotel, a fine dinner from Hayden's Lakefront Grill, and more! Happy hunting!

Who Cleared Your Land? SUNDE MEADOWS

by Karen Nygaard

The Tualatin area was heavily timbered in the 1850s when the pioneers arrived to claim, then clear, then plant their 320- or 160-acre homesteads. As we mow our lawns now and tend our gardens, we wonder who came before and what their lives were like.

The original donation land claim map for Tualatin shows an unclaimed 40-acre square about a mile south of downtown where Sunde Meadows now occupies a portion. It's on the east side of Boones Ferry Rd and south of Avery St. Those squares were often set-asides for future school sites. The first to live there and build a house was Doc Schroeder, physician for the Oregon Electric Railway (whose tracks now serve the new commuter rail WES).

In 1919 Bernard & Clara Sunde, immigrants from Norway, bought the 15-acre, partially cleared property from the doctor. They rented it to Ed Blank for a decade, then moved out and

raised their four boys there. Father and sons felled the trees and cut cordwood--no chainsaws then. The woods were the boys' world where they peeled and sold chittam bark and swung on dogwood saplings. Don and Gordon, the eldest and youngest sons, share their childhood memories in Tualatin When We Were Young and War, Change, Growth, the Society's last two publications available for sale at the Heritage Center.

The Sunde house stood atop the hill, its long driveway lined with apple trees. In later years, son Lawrence remodeled the old farmhouse which still stands. The acreage was developed into residential Sunde Meadows and the Tualatin Presbyterian Church. And just south is the still-wooded Little Rose Wood Nature Park.

This is the first in a series of articles titled "Who Cleared Your Land?"

Harvest Festival Celebrates Tualatin's Diverse Heritage



Visitors to the September 20, 2008 edition of the Tualatin Historical Society Harvest Festival once again learned about life in earlier times as well as new food tastes today. The third Salsa Taste-Off saw Nacho Mama's walk away again with the most People's Choice votes and new winner Cortney Cox for the non-commercial division.

Popular working exhibits included Richard Hall cranking Marge Larson's antique cider press, the Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association display, and members of the Portland Lacemaking Society plying their craft. Diane Miller's wool spinning proved to be an appealing hands-on test of skills followed by Rebecca Pratt's wool yarn dying pot in the backyard. Lee Farms provided old-fashioned fresh produce and 8 pumpkins for weight guessing. Hot sweet corn on the cob from Lee Farms was another hit. Rebecca Pratt's extensive collection of home and kitchen tools attracted much attention. Ellie McClure's laundry center allowed visitors to clean their hands with smelly Fels Naptha soap. Bill Gilham set up his cross-cut saw in case anyone wanted to use up energy.



Haggen Foods donated the apple cider served to the public rather than the fresh squeezed juice from windfall apples donated by Mary Leslie and Sherwood Orchards. Richard Hall and Rebecca Pratt, with help from Mary Leslie's sons and friends, gathered a poor crop from an old tree at Sweek Pond.

Special thanks go to volunteers who spent many hours in behind-the-scenes preparation and storing for next year: Diane and Art Barry, Jon Hartman, Lindy Hughes, Del Judy, Larry McClure, Karin Olson, and Eileen Rychlick.



On the Festival day itself, the Society appreciated the help of Tualatin High School students who operated the Salsa Taste-Off: Nichole Abbey, Matthew Banse-Fay, Sam Banse-Fay, Sammi Brundvig, Anna Cincera, Will Downey, Grant Hughes, Jena Hughes, Becca Koessler, and Robby Richardson. Our new patio was the perfect place for this contest. Young children also tried the historic picture puzzles on the patio.

Setting up and staffing the exhibits were Toni Anderson, Evie Andrews Art and Diane Barry, Gerry Brosy, Jane Brown, Anita Gilham, Adrienne Heathman, Mary Ann Hulquist, Del Judy, Joe Lipscomb, Diane Miller, Pat Saab, Edie Torgeson, and Chris and Gerry Tunstall.

Thank you, everyone!!



Historic Designation of Old Tualatin Elementary School May Be Removed



A neighborhood meeting to discuss removal of the historic designation for the old Tualatin Elementary School was held September 18 with only 7 persons present, including THS vice president Yvonne Addington and Bill Avery, son of the building's namesake Gerald Avery. The Marquis Company has entered into a purchase agreement with the school district with plans that include demolishing

the existing structures and constructing an independent and assisted living center for seniors. Marquis representatives earlier met with THS representatives and seemed receptive to using elements of the old building (such as the maple gymnasium floor) in constructing a multi-purpose public room at the facility and possibly reclaimed bricks from the building for outdoor features. No plans have yet been presented to the Society by Marquis and the THS board is withholding its endorsement of the proposed change in historic designation or any demolition of the facility until more is known. Plans for the remaining acres at the site are in limbo. That parcel was to be purchased by a separate developer.

Society Board Urges Mapmakers To Recognize Historic Landmarks

On behalf of the Board, THS vice president Yvonne Addington has asked state and local policymakers to insert icons or trail markers on official state highway maps to identify the trails traveled by Lewis and Clark and Oregon pioneers and also the importance of the meridian that passes through Tualatin. The Board has been encouraging city officials to add the name Meridian Road to the 65th Avenue. (signs as it was known to Tualatin residents in earlier days.)

Lumiere Players Opens Fall Play

On November 7, the Lumiere Players will open its fall production of "Sylvia," a romantic comedy by A.R. Gurney (who also wrote "Love Letters," which Lumiere presented for Valentine's Day earlier this year). Greg and Kate have finally got the kids off to college and other adventures, and are just beginning to get their own lives back. When Greg brings home a stray dog named Sylvia, Kate says "No way!" But we all know what happens, right!? This delightful, heartwarming play is a must for anyone who has ever loved a dog.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, Novem-

Library and Heritage Center Features Presidential Campaign

A special exhibit later this month in the Library lobby and Heritage Center will feature historic presidential campaign buttons. Loaned by KPOJ disk jockey Carl Wolfson, the collection was arranged by THS member Karin Olson on behalf of Duffy Hamilton whose exhibits and displays at the Heritage Center change regularly depending on monthly speakers for our meetings as well as seasonal themes.

ber 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 at 7:30 PM, and Sunday matinees on November 16, 23 at 2:00 PM. For ticket information, call 503-330-4576 or email dan@lumiereplayers.org.

NOTE: Lumiere is now rating our plays, much as movies are rated, for the convenience of our audience. "Sylvia" is rated PG for brief mild language. SPECIAL NOTE: The opening performance for "Sylvia" is a food benefit for the Tualatin Food Pantry. To see a wonderful play and help someone in need, bring three (3) items of non-perishable food for admission.

Genealogy Workshop

The Champoeg Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution is holding a Lineage Workshop on October 15, from 2-5 pm at the Heritage Center. The workshop is free and open to the public. Genealogical help will be given on an individual basis. Whether you are a beginner or experienced researcher, come and receive some genealogy tips. If you've hit a brick-wall in your research, challenge our genealogists with your problem - they may be able to help.

The DAR is a service organization. Its objectives are Historical Preservation, Promotion of Education and Patriotic Endeavor. Champoeg Chapter serves the communities of Wilsonville, Newberg, Sherwood, Dundee, West Linn, Tigard and Tualatin. They meet the 2nd Thursday of the month, September through May in Sherwood. Meetings include a short business meeting, a program and a social time. For information contact Gloria Farris at 503-625-9638, GloFar27@verizon.net or Registrar, Lois Streimer at 503-655-1887, lois@streimer.com.

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



Visit us at:
www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org

October 14 Election Forum

A city council candidates open house and Q&A on local ballot measures for the November election will be held at the Heritage Center on Tuesday, October 14 at 7 p.m. Bring your questions for this forum which is jointly sponsored with the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce. RSVP at 503.692.0780.

Recycling Seminar



Allied Waste, the City of Tualatin and our own recycling master Karin Olson will share the latest information on how to reduce and eliminate waste from landfills while also saving precious dollars in an open forum at the Heritage Center on Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00 pm.

The City and Allied Waste will also be sharing plans for new recycling containers for homeowners in early 2009. Now is the time to make your opinions known on how recycling pickup should be handled. Bring your list of items you've been wondering what to do with and see what the gurus say.

Tualatin Historical Society
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