



# Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2010

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

## Valley of the Giants



Following January's stage-setting talk by Scott Burns on the Ice Age Floods and their impact on our region, PSU paleontologist Danny Gilmour will focus on local environmental change, the extinction of the megafauna (such as mammoths, mastodons, bison, ground sloth, horses, and camels), the earliest evidence for human foraging groups, and a status report on the current effort to document the chronology of megafauna extinction in the Willamette Valley.

Danny was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. His interests in archaeology and paleontology developed at an early age: he grew up in California directly across the street from the La Brea Tar Pits and his dad packed the whole group into the family van for two weeks every summer to tour the American West to view ruins and fossils.

Currently, Danny is one of several researchers investigating the paleoenvironment of the Willamette Valley. The Tualatin Mastodon is a part of this work and public interest in the Tualatin Mastodon is actually what initially spurred Portland State to pursue this project.

Danny will also reveal that the sacrum given to THS by Dr. McDonald (Avery extended family) is NOT from a mastodon. He will tell us what it is at the meeting! Was the Tualatin area really the first "Portland zoo" back then?

## Tualatin HerStory— Event Portrays Women's Role in Tualatin's Growth



Men may have driven the wagons that brought the settlers West, but don't ignore the role women played in creating a vital community once they arrived. The stories of 17 of Tualatin's "We Did It" women will be told Sunday afternoon, February 14, at 2:00, in Winona Grange Hall, as the Tualatin Historical Society celebrates the anniversary of the Heritage Center's opening. Each February the Society presents a program that depicts some aspect of Tualatin's history.

This year it's the women's role during Tualatin's 150 years. Maria Sweek (pictured above) who built a mansion like the Ante-bellum one she grew up in. Lizzie Robinson who built and ran the landmark corner brick store. Jessie Byrom who raised funds to build the Methodist Church. Rosa Casteel who was the ace at running events. Orpha Sagert who ran the family threshing business every farmer needed. Teachers Nellie Elwert, Bea Cole and Evie Andrews who inspired generations of students. Ethel Pennington who got Grange members to build a new Grange Hall. Nami Sasaski who ran the family's strawberry fields and built a landmark home. Ann Martinazzi who compiled the first history of Tualatin. Peggy Gensman who built a thriving realty business. Lois Dalton who made the Crawfish Festival a summer must. Althea Pratt-Broome who saved the wetlands and started the Willowbrook summer arts program. Yvonne Addington who was City Manager during Tualatin's period of tumultuous growth. Sherilyn Lombos, current City Manager, and Linda Moholt, president of the Chamber of Commerce. Descendants of the earlier women will tell their stories.

The event will include songs by the Sweet Adelines, and a piano prelude by young Katie Lee, great-great-great-granddaughter of Tualatin settlers. Valentine-theme refreshments will follow in the Grange social hall. Winona Grange is in downtown Tualatin on Seneca Street near the Lake. Suggested admission is \$5, to be shared by the Society and the Grange, or contributions of like amount for the local food bank. For info call 503.598.7443 or email at loycem@gmail.com.



## President's Corner

by Yvonne Addington

# SOMETHINGS NEVER CHANGE...

“Hang up and drive” reads today’s bumper sticker. Now it is against the law to use your cell phone to talk or text while driving. It’s too dangerous. And doing it at stop lights clogs traffic badly....

Driving on public streets is a privilege and not a right”, I used to say as a municipal judge in the 1970s. “In order to use the public streets, you must obey the safe traffic laws.” In those days, most violators were “driving while encumbered”, usually trying to drive with one arm around a girl or boy friend sitting as close as possible to the driver. Bucket seats alleviated this driving violation somewhat but new hazards took their place.

And of course, there were just as many travel hazards in the good old Tualatin days about 90 years ago when cars first arrived.

In the book “Tualatin When We Were Young” published by the Tualatin Historical Society in 2004, some of the town’s senior residents recalled during interviews the way you got around the area and to Portland before cars. And they told about the hazards of transportation then, long before current days when drivers drive 70 miles per hour on Interstate I-5 while cell phoning, texting and weaving in and out of traffic.

Before cars came in the 1920s, the major transportation to downtown Portland or south to Eugene were the electric passenger trains that ran every thirty minutes on the Oregon Electric Railroad.

There were at least 3 main depots and sidings in the Tualatin area and one on the Southern Pacific Railway line near the Tualatin Country Club.

Irene Schmokel recalled there was a flood every winter in downtown Tualatin. She rode the train to downtown Portland where she worked at Meier and Frank and sometimes it would flood over so bad in Tualatin, train operators would have to put boxcars between the passenger train cars and she and other passengers would have to walk over the boxcars to get home.

Art Sasaki told about the change to automobile transportation in the 1920s. “The rutted dirt roads were smoothed over and graveled and a few cars began to appear in our area. They were heralded as the coming safe means of travel. Runaway horses and overturned wagons and buggies would be a thing of the past. People would be safe in their automobiles. Now travel became easier. And to travel any distance one headed for one of the ferry roads, roads given their names from the day they had crossed a river by ferry—Boones Ferry, Gramams Ferry, Taylors Ferry, Bakers Ferry, Scholls Ferry.”

According to Mike Schmokel’s recollection, the coming of the Model T Ford to the City was a most interesting and sometimes an amusing event when drivers were distracted while driving. “The Model T was a great car. It was cheap, very simple, anybody could fix the thing. And the farmers all bought them, these guys 40-50 years old, all their lives they been driving horses.”

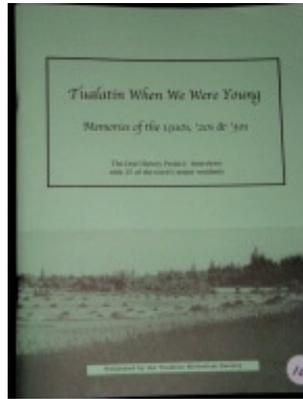
“They didn’t know anything about driving a car and they’d forget they weren’t driving horses, you know, and they’d go in the ditch all the time. Old Man Hedges, he’d be driving down the road chewing tobacco and have to spit. He’d spit out like this (demonstrates leaning way over)and the car would go right with him!”

“Another chap, name of Heide, he had a Model T coupe, one of the top-heavy rascals. He smoked a corn cob pipe and he also didn’t have any front teeth, so he’d drive down the street with his pipe in his mouth like this (demonstrates carefully holding a pipe with his hand) and he’d have to do something with the gas lever and let his hand go, and of course the pipe would flip over and dump ashes down his lap. He’d get down there and brush the ashes off, and over he’d go. Once, right in front of Wager’s place (Tualatin-Sherwood Road) there was a hill. He run off the road there, went upside down!”

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The book “Tualatin When We Were Young” compiled and edited by Karen Lafky Nygaard and Loyce Martinazzi, co-founders of the Tualatin Historical Society, is the result of an oral history project and includes interviews with 35 of the town’s senior residents who lived in the Tualatin area in the 1910s, ’20s and ’30s. Copies of the book are available at the Tualatin Heritage Center. It is a good read.



### THS Scholarship Program



At our January meeting the board approved the establishment of a Tualatin High School scholarship of \$2000 to be given to a high school senior who will be attending an Oregon college or anniversary this fall. We are not limiting the course of study but one of the criteria will be to write a short essay of their understanding of Tualatin’s history and its importance to the community.

The scholarship will be funded by donations for this specific purpose and will not come out of our treasury. We are asking all those interested to contribute to this fund whether is be \$25 of \$500 and are hoping we can generate enough interest for this program to continue in future years. To date we have received a total of \$1650 donated by eight members and we hope to receive more responses in the next few weeks. Any amount received over the \$2000 will be used in future years.

The Tualatin Historical Society has always supported the youth of the area with historic educational events such as the popular Pioneer Days and the historic coloring books we sponsored this past year. We feel this scholarship program will further show our commitment to our young people and remind them of the important history of our area and the people who have made this such a fine community.

We hope you will consider a donation to this important program. For further information please contact any member of the scholarship committee.

Rochelle Smith, Christine Tunstall, Jack Broome, Larry McClure, Norm Parker



Tualatin High School yesterday and today



## 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!

- Dona A. Adams
- Glen & Inga Allen
- George & Evelyn Andrews
- Catherine Baltimore
- George & Patt Bowlsby
- Barry Buchman & Debra Meisinger
- Joanne Burkett
- Molly Burns
- Charles & Barbara Chicks
- Michael & Lois Dalton
- Bob DeLisle
- Robert & Catherine Dexter
- Ken & RosaLee Dickson
- Abigal Elder
- Bill & Eleanor Fitzgerald
- Ron Ferguson
- Richard Hager
- Vincent & Jackalyn Harbick
- Paul & Patricia Hennon
- Michael & Marissa Houlberg
- Mary Ann Hulquist
- Doug & Jeanne Jurgens
- Herbert & Laurine Lafky
- Larry Lee
- Karl & G. Lanie Magsarili
- Jan Peterson
- Leslie Razor
- Lois Roby
- Patricia Saab
- Dennis & Brenda Bajdek-Slowski
- Bob & Myrna Summers
- Gordon Sunde
- John & Suzanne Sweek
- Joan Tallan
- Orrie Nyberg Waller
- Patsy Westling
- John & Dawn Westphal
- Herb & Nancy Zachow

*This is an update as of January 26. More renewals arrive daily. Please notify Norm Parker at [4nparker@gmail.com](mailto:4nparker@gmail.com) if your name is missing.*

**Upcoming Program**

**March 3, 1:00 pm**

Program speaker and topic to be announced.

*Save the date...*

**Knitting and Crochet Workshop**

**February 5 & 19, 10:00-12:00 pm**

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



**Dulcimer Jam**

**February 14, 1:00-3:00 pm**

Donations welcome.

**Bird and Nature Walk**

**February 16, Noon**

Led by the Wetlands Conservancy. We should find a variety of ducks and geese, as well as migrating warblers and wintering song birds. For information, call 503.691.1394. Next bird and nature walk will be on March 17 at noon.



**Engraved Brick Orders Remain Steady**



Have you purchased your engraved brick yet? Are you looking for a unique gift for the person who has everything? We have the answer for you. Why

not purchase a gift certificate for an engraved patio brick or surprise someone with an inscription ordered by you. We are currently gathering up a batch of new brick orders to be engraved. Please call 503.885.1926 if you would like an order form. 4x8 inch bricks are \$50 and 8x8 inch bricks are \$500.



**Clothing Swap**

**February 8, 7:00-8:00 pm**

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

**Old-timers Coffee**

**February 12, 10:00 am**

-Enjoy coffee and pastries with old friends and new friends.



**Wine 101: The Basics of Wine**

**February 12, 7:00-8:30 pm, Adults 21+**

Learn about wine types, wine tasting, and food pairings while tasting some terrific wines. \$20 Call 503.691.3061 to register.



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 month.



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

Tualatin Historical Society  
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 Tualatin, OR 97062