



Tualatin Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2014

*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
An Inside Look at
Camp David
Thursday, April 17
7:00 pm
Heritage Center



Tualatin resident Norb Murray ferried presidents and their families to and from Camp David, a former mining area transformed into the presidential retreat center 56 miles from the White House in the hills of Maryland. Murray, a former Marine pilot, shares stories and photos of his years flying dignitaries for simple relaxation or high-level political meetings. Learn the history and how the presidents have used it over the years. For more information, call 503.885.1926.



Photo: President Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan enjoy some R & R at Camp David.

History of the Hillsboro Airport

Join us on **Wednesday, April 2 at 1:00** in the afternoon when Dana McCullough and Phil Brown talk about the Hillsboro Airport History Project. Dana comes from a three-generation pilot family. Her father, Swede Ralston, soloed on the then 100-acre Hillsboro Airfield in 1934 and went on to establish Aero Air that is still in business today and is the only continuous operation on the field. Dana worked summers at the airport, soloed, obtained her pilot's license, and went on to Linfield College and Portland State University to become a high school and college professor. When her father passed away in 2007, she began researching the colorful history of the airfield and, together with Phil Brown, created a presentation that traces its development through the years. Phil worked for the Hillsboro Airport on and off for 40 years, and has a grasp of its rich history.

Tualatin, too, has its own "airfield" connection. Leonard and Margie Pohl helped restore Myron Buswell's airplane dubbed "Wimpy" in the late 1930s. The plane was relaunched east from Boones Ferry Road along the large flat area in the vicinity of Boones Ferry/Tualatin-Sherwood Road today.

Tualatin farmer Ed Wager flew his small airplane from ITEL farmland and still others took off and landed near where Haggen and Kaiser sit now. According to THS member Yvonne Addington, first city manager, former Tualatin Mayor Lee Gensman wanted to create a port district and build an airport on the open lands but the Port of Portland talked him out of it. Invite friends and neighbors to any monthly program at the Heritage Center sponsored by the Tualatin Historical Society. For information, call 503.885.1926.



Photo circa 1952: Swede Ralston (left) and Ed Ball standing by a Stearman PT 17, primary trainer in WWII.



Message from the President

By Art Sasaki

The Ides of March and the first day of Spring have come and gone. The winds of change blow constantly. Among the greatest changes that have occurred in Tualatin over the past 100 years since our incorporation is what residents do to earn a living.

One hundred years ago, 89 people voted whether to incorporate; the economy was largely agricultural; for many of the past 100 years medical services were provided by one local doctor.

Now, Legacy Meridian Park Hospital is Tualatin's largest employer; 27,000 people live in the city limits; most working residents commute outside the city to a non-agricultural job.

History shows that lasting beneficial change involves leadership as well as participative, cooperative, and supportive effort and resources from all civic elements: government, business, nonprofit organizations and, of course, residents themselves. I see Tualatin Historical Society as the primary information source for decision makers and residents on how the city evolved to its current status. Each of us can help facilitate prudent decisions regarding its future by responding to surveys, attending civic meetings, voting in all elections, providing written input on City Council issues and just letting our voices be heard.

~ Art



Ice Age Tour Offered North of Columbia River



Rick and Sylvia Thompson, officers of the Lower Columbia Chapter of the Ice Age Floods Institute, will be leading a day-long tour of Lake Missoula

Floods geological features along the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge on **Saturday, May 10**. Cost of the daylong narrated tour includes motor coach transportation, lunch and refreshments is \$72 for non-members of the Chapter. Contact Sylvia or Rick to reserve your spot at 503.257.0144. The Lower Columbia Chapter holds its meetings in partnership with THS each third Thursday evening (except August).

History of Oregon's Amazing Tualatin River



Tualatin Riverkeepers volunteer archivist, John Fervia will give a presentation titled "The History of the Tualatin River" for our May meeting. John will share a beautiful collection of historical photographs which tells the story of the river's history from the geographic happenings that created it, to the people who lived along the rivers banks, through the growth of the Riverkeepers who now protect our river. John worked with THS to co-sponsor "Tualatin River History Day" in 2012. Join us on **Wednesday May 7 at 1:00 pm** at the Heritage Center for this interesting program. For information, call 503.885.1926.

Back by popular demand...

"A Powerful Story That Continues Today"

PGE traces the history of how the falls at Oregon City became the first hub for regional power generation and manufacturing that employed hundreds of Oregonians for generations. PSU geology professor Scott Burns and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde often cite the unique history of the Falls that is still evolving today. The site is now protected as a national heritage area. Join us for this "electrifying" encore program at the Heritage Center on **Wednesday, June 4 at 1:00pm**.



Ice Age Discovery Trail to Include Attractions at New Shopping Center

CenterCal Corporation and the new Cabela's now rising at the new Nyberg Rivers Shopping Center are both planning installations that will help visitors to learn about Tualatin as a gateway for exploring Ice Age history. Working with THS board member Yvonne Addington and others, CEO Fred Bruning, whose company also developed Bridgeport Village and Nyberg Woods, is personally guiding the design, creation and installation of an 8-foot bronze sculpture of a young mastodon. A companion sculpture of a young boy "talking" to the mastodon will be supplemented with an illustrated children's book based on that conversation. Search online for Brian Keith Fine Art and a Facebook video of Brian (in photo) working on the initial clay model for the installation.



In the nearby Cabela's store, visitors will find exhibits featuring Ice Age Flood maps and 10,000-year old giant fauna, developed in consultation with geology and paleontology experts who have spoken at THS programs on those topics (Scott Burns, Mike Full and David Ellingson). Enlarged photos of early Tualatin residents engaged in hunting and fishing are also planned. Cabela's is a national chain of outdoor stores based in Nebraska. Opening is planned for September at the former K-Mart site.

Nyberg Rivers will be one "stop" on the proposed Tualatin Ice Discovery Trail looping through the city. Anchor points will be the mastodon dig site near Fred Meyer and Tualatin Heritage Center. Existing resources such as Ki a Kuts Pedestrian Bridge, Lake at the Commons, Library mastodon skeleton will be included.



Photo: Ki-a-Kuts Bridge where the Ice Age Tonquin and Fanno Creek trails meet at the Tualatin River. ~ Photo courtesy of City of Tualatin

Heritage Center Now Features Historic Hydrangeas

Four hydrangea bushes whose "roots" go back to Tualatin's early days have been moved by City of Tualatin staff to the heritage center's east wall as demolition of their former home at City Council Chambers draws near. These colorful plants originally grew at James Rice Chapman (J.R.C.) Thompson's home located near today's Tualatin entry sign/sculpture at Tualatin-Sherwood/Nyberg Road near Fred Meyer. The Thompson family was prominent in the late 1800s. Both the Winona Grange and Winona Cemetery are named for J.R.C.'s daughter who died in childhood. His family originally came to Oregon on a wagon train. The hydrangeas join these other historic plants connected to long-time Tualatin families: two Robbins rose bushes, the "Tualatin Manette" (Lafky) irises, Nettie Martinazzi daffodils, the Nyberg snowdrops, and several Barbara IteL rose bushes.



Recipe for a Flood

What causes an ice age to occur? Are we in danger of having one soon? Does this winter's "Polar Vortex" bode ill for our future?



George H. Taylor is president of Applied Climate Services of Corvallis, Oregon. In 2008 he retired from Oregon State University, where he served as State Climatologist for Oregon for nearly 20 years. Taylor will discuss possible causes of ice ages and interglacials, including the most recent "Big Melt" which led to the Missoula Floods. The program is scheduled **Thursday, May 15 at 7:00 pm**. A \$3 donation is suggested for adults. For information call, 503.257.0144.



New Members!

- Fred Bruning
- Peggy Mala
- Margaret Torgeson

Notes from the Archivists' Attic

By Loyce Martinazzi



“This coverlid was wove on a hand loom in Virginia before 1836 for the hope chest of Miss Malvina Meyers who later became Mrs. William Robbins in 1852. Later became the property of Mrs. Nancy A. Ball. Is now owned by Mrs. A. McConnell.”

This handwritten message came with the blue and white woven bed covering when Tim Mayfield recently brought it to the Tualatin Heritage Center. Tim is a descendant of Nancy and Larkin Ball. Nancy was nine years old when her father William Robbins and her mother Melvina Meyers Robbins came to Tualatin on the Oregon Trail in 1852.

Research shows that the “coverlid” (misspelling of coverlet) was probably woven by an itinerant weaver who would use the family's wool. The vertical warp would be white cotton or linen (flax) and the horizontal weft woven across would be wool. Usually the farmers would produce the wool from their own sheep by shearing, washing, picking, carding, spinning and dyeing the yarn with indigo which they grew for the purpose.

The loom was wide enough to weave a piece 36 inches across, so often two or three strips would be hand sewn together to cover a bed. Such is the case with the Robbins' artifact which measures 36 inches wide and 76 inches long. Tim is giving the second strip to his cousin Barbara Stinger, also descended from the Robbins and Ball families.

The Robbins family's trip across the plains is well documented, with several hand written stories and letters now stored in the Society's Family Resource file, and available for anyone to read. Fifty-five members of the Robbins family came on the wagon train, along with 14 hired men. Head of the clan was Dr. Nathaniel Robbins, who with his wife Nancy settled on a land claim in the Stafford area. William, Dr. Nathaniel's son, and his wife Melvina (sometimes spelled as Malvina) settled on 320 acres now bordered on the south by Tualatin's Robbins Road.

The coverlet is in remarkable condition considering its age and journey from Virginia and across the Oregon Trail, as well as its probable use. We are grateful to Tim for this precious donation to our collection. Plans are underway for the piece to be displayed along with other valuable artifacts.

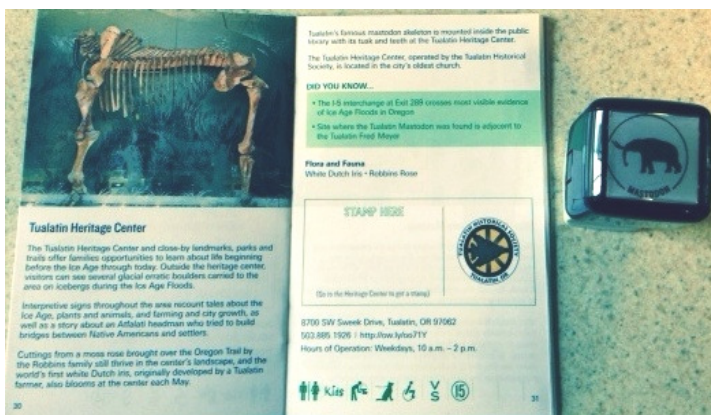
Coverlet Photos: *This coverlet is one of THS' newest prized possessions. Middle photo: Shows where it was patched.*



Photo above: *The historic Robbins house in Stafford was once on the National Registry of Historic Places. Dr. Nathaniel and his wife Nancy had the original Donation Land Claim.*

Visitors Association Features Heritage Center in New Passport Program

Tualatin's Ice Age exhibits at the Heritage Center and library are one of 7 locations in Washington County where Oregonians and out-of-state visitors are encouraged to explore the natural world. They can take their passport to each location and have it stamped with an icon representing that site. Ours is a mastodon graphic. Other sites include Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, Hillsboro; Fernhill Wetlands, Forest Grove; Scoggins Valley Park and Hagg Lake, Gaston; Tillamook Forest Center-Tillamook State Forest; Tualatin Hills Nature Park and Interpretive Center, Beaverton; and Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge and Wildlife Center in Sherwood.



Passports include directions to each spot, hours of operation, and an overview of what can be seen. Copies are available at the Heritage Center and Chamber of Commerce.

Gift Baskets Available

THS gift shop manager Diane Sientek will create a custom basket for Easter giving or any other special occasion. Just give Diane a call at 971.228.8965 to discuss what it might contain: preserves, DVD, any publication on Tualatin history including the children's coloring book, note cards. The history book on Tualatin Fire Department is now only \$15.

Discoveries from a Donor's Attic

THS display coordinator Diane Swientek invites your attention to unique holdings in our collection now on display in our floor exhibit cases: a pink frosted glass bowl possibly owned by Lizzie Smith Robinson and a copper black powder flask donated by Marjory Rychen. The Collections Committee is gradually organizing our holdings.

Save the Date!

Friday, September 12, 2014
*6th Annual Wine, Food and
 Silent Auction Fundraising Event*



Back by Popular demand - Music from *Island Trio*



Many volunteers are needed to make this a successful fundraiser. This is our major fundraising event of the year. To volunteer, please contact Lindy at: 503.885.1926 or lindy.thc@gmail.com.



Did You Know?

Art Sasaki and Larry McClure gave the annual Tualatin Heritage Center report to City Council March 24, sharing facts like these:

~ Over 9,400 persons passed through the Center's doors in Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1-2012-June 30 2013). Many of these came more than once for activities. We have accurate records thanks to our staff who keep a tally of visitors and events.

~ THS received income from rental of the Center, fundraisers, donations, memberships, sales of products, grants and a subsidy from the City for a grand total of \$42,897. Expenditures over the same period were \$43,864 which includes part-time staff and operational expenses for both the Center and Society.

~ One recent 72-hour use of the Center saw nearly 300 different persons participating in a THS evening program, a community developer's meeting, a Chamber of Commerce networking event, a birthday, an anniversary celebration and a Boy Scout Award Ceremony. Visitors can't help but notice our historic resources when they are here for another purpose.

Did You Notice?



Installation of ultraviolet ray (UV) protection film on main floor windows was completed by Roger Dyas (*pictured left*) of **Solar Shield** in May, now protecting all artifacts on display. Particularly susceptible were textiles and the tusk/molars of the Tualatin Mastodon. Funds raised at the annual fall wine tasting/auction were used to cover the

work which cost just over \$2,000. The technology blocks most harmful rays but is not visible. The task was difficult since the wood-frame windows are mostly original. A small pane requires more installation time than the tall cathedral style front window pane.

Landscape design and installation contractor **DRG (Design Resource Group)** in Tualatin (who built our patio and landscaping 7 years ago) donated several hours of staff time to prune and care for our trees and bushes before spring.

Quick and Clean Services which has donated carpet cleaning at THC for two years has completed deep cleaning of all our comfortable chairs which had accumulated plenty of soiling since we opened in February, 2006. Thanks to the City of Tualatin for covering this cost. Coming soon as part of our spring cleaning: exterior painting.

THS member and loyal volunteer **Karin Olson** coordinated the new member directory you should have received by now. If not, check with Lindy or Rhonda at THC.



Check out the THS gift shop: a fresh shipment of Tualatin heritage preserves has arrived.

Welcome to 2014 Fourth Graders



Excited students from Tualatin, Bridgeport and Byrom Elementary Schools will be trekking to THC May 27, 28, 29 for their hands-on experience with life in early Tualatin. If you would like to help support this important outreach to a new generation of local residents, please leave a message at the Center (503.885.1926). How could you assist on one or more of the four days?

- Learn what our “teachers” do with each small-group of youngsters so you could fill in if needed (e.g. threading needles, handing out garden tools, finding their house on a Tualatin aerial map, helping students get seated in the one-room school, twirling a jump rope)
- Bring some lunch items for our adult volunteers (soup, sandwich-makings, veggies)
- Help with set-up and clean-up on days before and after the kids are here
- Donate lids from frozen juice cans (kids pound holes to create neck medallion)

You’ll enjoy every minute as you see children discover things they never knew.



Photo: *THS Board Member, Barbara Stinger shares a collection of artifacts. She asks the students, “Guess what this is used for?” Some of the answers will bring a smile to your face and often times a chuckle.*



Heritage Center April Event Calendar

Knitting and Crochet Workshop Fridays, April 4 & 18, 10:00 am-Noon

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



THS Monthly Program Wednesday, April 2, 1:00 pm

See page 1 for more information.

Bird and Nature Walk Thursday, April 10, 8:30 am

Join us for a bird walk at Hedges Creek Marsh. This 1 1/2 hour walk around Sweek Pond is led by the Wetlands Conservancy. For information, call 503.227.0778.

Ice Age Evening Program Thursday, April 17, 7:00 pm

See page 1 of the newsletter for more details. For more information, call 503.885.1926.

May Event Calendar

Tualatin Historical Society Program Wednesday, May 7, 1:00 pm

See description on page 2. Monthly program sponsored by the Tualatin Historical Society. For information, call 503.885.1926.



Knitting and Crochet Workshop Fridays, May 2 & 23, 10:00 am-Noon

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

Recipe for a Flood Evening Program Thursday, May 15, 7:00 pm

Evening program at the Tualatin Heritage Center. See page 5 for details about this program. For more information, call 503.257.0144

June Event Calendar

THS Monthly Program Program Wednesday, June 4, 1:00 pm

See description on page 2. Monthly program sponsored by the Tualatin Historical Society. For information, call 503.885.1926.

Knitting and Crochet Workshop Fridays, June 13 & 27, 10:00 am-Noon

Bring a project or start one. Help is available. All levels welcome. Quarterly potluck held on June 13.

Ice Age Program TBA Evening Program Thursday, June 19, 7:00 pm

Evening program at the Tualatin Heritage Center in partnership with Lower Columbia Chapter Ice Age Flood Institute. For more information, call 503.257.0144



Mask & Mirror Singers Benefit Concert for THS

The new Mask & Mirror Singers will present their 1st concert at **7:30 pm on Saturday, April 26** and **2:00 pm on Sunday, April 27**. This will be a free concert with donations accepted that will be split to benefit the Tualatin Historical Society and The Mask & Mirror Community Theatre. The concert will take place at the Tualatin Heritage Center, 8700 SW Sweek Dr., Tualatin, OR 97062.



The singers, led by Cindy Green, will present a program of pop tunes, musical theater, spirituals, and surprises! For reservations, call 503.333.1139 or by email tickets@MaskandMirror.com

Everybody Loves Cookies

A big thanks goes to Edie Torgeson, Diane Barry and Gerry Brosy for providing cookies and Ruth Prier for making coffee for the THS monthly programs in January, February and March. They were delicious!



Your 2014 Tualatin Historical Society Board

Executive Board:

President: Art Sasaki
 Vice-President: Kurt Krause
 Secretary: Loyce Martinazzi
 Treasurer: Barbara Stinger
 Historian: Ruth Prier

Directors:

Yvonne Addington
 Evie Andrews
 Kurt Krause
 Larry McClure
 Norman Parker
 Diane Silvey Swientek



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

Engraved Bricks at the Heritage Center

Engraved bricks are placed in the patio walkway to recognize:

- Loved ones whose memories should ne cherished
- Present or past residents
- Recognition of persons for contributions to Tualatin
- Significant donors to Tualatin Historical Society
- Or even a quotation or bit of wisdom

A \$50 contribution buys a 4"x8" brick with 3 lines containing 17 spaces each. Larger pavers are \$500 and sometimes accommodate a logo and words as well. Bricks will be engraved during dry weather sometime this Summer. For assistance, call 503.885.1926.



Tualatin Heritage Center Closures:

May 26, Memorial Day
 May 27through May 30, 4th Grade Pioneer Days

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.

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