

2016 Annual Report: Tualatin Historical Society

Together we have accomplished much this year to preserve, promote and interpret the rich and colorful history of Tualatin. I hope you will pat yourself on the back as you read this summary and also get ready for a productive 2017.

–Yvonne Addington, 2016 President.

November-December, 2015 At the 2015 annual meeting we elected “Timber Jim” Serrill to our Board of Directors and have benefitted from his creative ideas and connections to media resources in the greater Portland area. Jim has lived in Tualatin for over 25 years and made his mark as mascot for the Portland Timbers major league soccer team and a commitment to helping others. THS co-founder Loyce Martinazzi presented the Martinazzi-Lafky Award to board member Ross Baker and Ken and Barbara Stinger for outstanding service to the Society by digitizing our oral histories and photographs. The Stingers welcome family photographs which will be scanned and returned to the owner. Ross is liaison with a new project at Pacific University to catalogue our oral histories. We own very user-friendly audio recorders that simply require hitting a big button! You would enjoy recording an oral history on yourself or a Tualatin personality.

January. Board discussions this year focused often on our collections and how to assure they are protected and shared with anyone interested in local history. While we do not have a warehouse full of furniture, vintage clothing, old-time cooking utensils, fragile books, or handed-down jewelry, our Archives Committee has completed an inventory as a starting point for users. We know there are other items still to be added and as the year ends, we are examining how to make it easy for a researcher to go online or come to the heritage center and learn more about these artifacts and photographs. We still rely on two storage units donated by Tote N Stow on Tualatin Road: one for general equipment and the other for artifacts not easily damaged by dampness. Upstairs at the heritage center we have limited space that is at least dry. Our photographs and oral histories are stored electronically though originals are kept off site.

February saw progress with a project that has been dormant for three years: the completion of an interpretive sign developed in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the City of Tualatin. When installed next to a sidewalk near the heritage center, the sign features a map showing the original homelands of the Grand Ronde confederation which extended from the Columbia River to the California border and bordered by the Cascades and Coastal Range. Our local Atfaliti Indians were part of the Kalapuya nation. Installation is slated for the end of this calendar year with an official dedication ceremony with Tribal members in early 2017.

March saw the beginning of spring and a unique patio garden project organized by a young man working to earn his Boy Scout Eagle award. Mark Fellin replanted our patio boxes with over 30 native flora early settlers found in Oregon country and that the Atfaliti people already knew very well. In the front sections of the two long boxes his team planted colorful flowers pioneers were

known to bring west. Mark also labeled these plants and installed two weather-protected guidebooks with a color photo and explanation of each plant. The historic Tualatin Manette (Lafky) iris is also featured, re-installed by THS board member Sandra (Lafky) Carlson and brother Al. Neighbors invariably come to our patio in good weather to enjoy the beauty of this spot.

In April, the latest icon for our city was officially opened, a wide and winding pathway featuring a timeline of Tualatin history embedded in the pavement as well as interpretive signs and replica bones of giant fauna that roamed our area in the Ice Age. The Tualatin River Greenway Trail was built with public and private funds alike and our Tualatin Historical Society was a partner in planning at every step in the process. One overlook along the trail was named for THS president Yvonne Addington who was an advocate for parks as Tualatin's first city manager. One segment of the ¾ mile trail still remains to be completed when the former RV Park of Portland river frontage is accessible. The City has received several national awards for this project.

In June, over a three-day period we again welcomed about 300 4th graders and their adult helpers to re-live what pioneer life was like in Tualatin. Also in June, we awarded a \$2500 scholarship to Tualatin High School senior Oliver Price. Oliver is presently attending Oregon State University and we look forward to hearing his progress.

In July, our annual picnic returned to the shelter at Tualatin's original community park. Special musical entertainment was provided by Tualatin's own ukulele band which practices at Winona Grange. Our own Rochelle Wandzura joined the fun playing her dulcimer as she also does for the annual Pioneer Days for 4th graders. Folks enjoyed a singalong as well as the usual summer potluck fare.

In August, THS received two original paintings of the Willamette Meteorite donated by Ice Age Floods Institute leader Mark Buser. They now hang at Tualatin Library. The City of Tualatin built a stand-alone storage shed nestled in the bushes on the west side of the heritage center. We now can hide gardening equipment, hoses, outdoor broom, ladders, signs, tables, canopy and other items that were stuffed into limited storage space inside. The City's maintenance staff regularly work inside and outside this public building to assure we are a welcoming and efficient facility.

In September, our 2015 silent auction and wine tasting on a pleasant summer evening netted over \$9,000 for Society operation. The auction, raffle and popular Oregon and Washington wines and food selections have become a tradition as long-time families see each other again and newcomers feel welcome. This year nearly 100 persons attended, volunteered and enjoyed music by THS member Scott and Friends. Our own Bob and Kathy Newcomb were the lucky winners of the Columbia Gorge Getaway at Skamania Lodge with a wine tour also led by Scott Denis of NW Wine Tours.

In **October**, the Board of Directors authorized \$3,200 to refurbish the Galbreath (then Lafky/Lee) farm wagon that has been stored for many years in Larry Lee's barn. A real wainright from McMinnville has offered to replace missing elements and rebuild other parts of the wagon to resemble its original condition. Work will proceed over the winter and spring at his own pace. There is no decision yet on where the wagon will be stored and/or available for public viewing after the work is finished. This will become our largest artifact reflecting Tualatin's "modern day" era.

Public Programs Monthly

Hundreds of persons attended first Wednesday and third Thursday programs each month as we try to accommodate employed persons and retired persons alike. Our evening programs are planned in partnership with the Lower Columbia Chapter/Ice Age Floods Institute. Program ideas are always welcome. Remember these over the past 12 months?

December: *Tualatin Families Celebrate Christmas* (Hispanic, Scandanavian and other holiday traditions)

January: Washington County Museum, *Tualatin's First People: The Atfaliti Indians*; Dr. Scott Burns, *Is the New Yorker Magazine Right About the Big One?*

February: R. Gregory Nokes, *Breaking Chains: Slavery on the Oregon Trail*; Alice Norris, *The Willamette Falls Heritage Area and Its Future*

March: Norm Parker, *Growing Up as a Homesteader in Canada*; Bill Burgel, *Continental Drift and the Sea Floor Spreading Hypothesis*

April: Tim Wood, *History of Oregon State Parks*; David Ellingson, *Where Giant Animals Roamed*

May: Jerianne Thompson, *No Longer Just Books: History and Future of the Tualatin Library*; Julian Gray, *The Rice Museum: A Real Gem*

June: Paul Hennon, *History of Tualatin's Parks*; Dick Pugh, *Meteorites: Rocks from the Sky*

July: (no regular program but picnic and fellowship at Community Park with dulcimer and ukulele entertainment); Sheila Alfsen, *Another Look at the Cascadia Subduction Zone*

August: Tim Kent, *Staking Claims Then and Now* (history of surveying); no evening program in August

September: Richard Engeman, *Chop Suey: Chinese Cooks in Oregon*; Mark Buser, *Pearl of the Ice Age (the Willamette Meteorite)*

October: Dick Karman, *The Golden Age of Radio*; Rick Thompson, *Overview of the Ice Age Floods from the Air*

Membership Overview

Membership coordinators Norm Parker, Karin Olson and Ross Baker report we have a total of 228 members as this report is prepared. We welcomed 29 new members the last 12 months, a very nice increase! We were saddened by the death of Helen Peterson, Laurine Lafky and Ned Miller. Twenty four of our members are 90-years old or more and automatically qualify for lifetime membership. They join 17 other Lifetime Members. We have now implemented a one-year complimentary Honorary membership category for program presenters and 15 speakers received that certificate this year. Be sure to let Karin know if your address or other contact information changes (503-646-4108).

Financial Picture of THS

We are lucky to have Barbara Stinger as our treasurer. She works diligently to track our income and spending and keeps reminding us in Board meetings about where we are either ahead or behind on budget. She makes sure we have a planned budget ready for the start of each new fiscal year starting July 1. We are presently half way through the 2017 fiscal year working with an anticipated budget of over \$50,000. What follows is a general summary of what we typically take in and spend. Final figures for the year now underway will be compiled after books close June 30, 2017 and are available on request.

Income

Rental of THC in FY 2016 was up about \$3,000 from the previous year to \$14,601; individual donations slipped from nearly \$4,000 to \$1,900; annual auction (Sept 2015) slipped about \$2,000 to \$9,265; City of Tualatin subsidies for Center operations maintained at \$8,100; Memberships increased about \$300 to \$4,254; Donations to the scholarship fund slipped about \$700 to \$2,690; Product sales (books, jam) declined about half from last year to \$937. All income sources totaled \$41,747. To accomplish big projects in the future, our donations will need to increase significantly.

Expenses

We keep our Tualatin Heritage Center doors open to the public at least five days a week and many times in evenings and on weekends. Meantime, institutions bigger than ours are often unable to operate regular hours. We are grateful to have Lindy Hughes in her ninth year as our on-site manager. Payroll expenses totaled \$26,547. An Experience Works trainee Dana Entler was with us for part of the year. Her salary for 18 hours/week was paid through a federal employment program. Operational expenses like postage, printing, supplies, telephone and internet services held steady at \$3534; Contract services for bookkeeping, speakers increased by \$200 to \$3784; Insurance, security system and equipment/landscape maintenance costs dipped

by \$900 to \$3949; Fundraising expenses increased by \$500 to \$1,634; We awarded the same-size scholarship of \$2500; Other operational costs, such as business fees, credit card fees, membership in other organizations, awards, archival materials and monitors for certain rentals increased about \$200 to \$1406. Total spending was \$43,892. So overall, we spent about \$2,000 more than we brought in.

Savings

In addition to temporary funds held in a money market account averaging some \$43,000 , Barbara monitors a CD still sitting at over \$27,000 held in part for future exhibits and building modifications as the Board of Directors determines.

We Thank Our Supporters

Rentals of the heritage center provide a financial base for our operations. We are delighted to host two churches on Sundays, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Former Tualatin artist Linda Aman still travels back to Oregon for regular art classes and two different business networking groups meet early mornings before the Center opens to the public. Our staff works hard to maintain this flow of support. THS is a popular venue for business networking functions, workshops, anniversary celebrations, and memorial gatherings. Avocation groups like watercolor artists and knitters like the ambiance of our space. These hundreds of visitors every month often pause to look at displays and exhibits.

Our major fundraiser for THS is the always-fun September auction which is headed by Barbara Stinger and Lindy Hughes. The latest auction (proceeds to be reported in our next report) was another good turnout with lots of new friends being made and oldtimers sharing memories. One of our own members Scott Denis led musician friends for entertainment. Two other THS members funded the highly-sought raffle prize, a two-night Skamania Lodge stay and wine tour in the Columbia Gorge. Donors who gave gifts of wine, baskets, artworks, business services and gift cards are always greatly appreciated as well as the eager buyers who walked away with smiles on their faces.

Is Tualatin Historical Society a Beneficiary in Your Will?

Would you consider a 1-5% earmark or a flat amount from your estate as a reasonable future gift to support THS? **Please consider this option as a way to assure that the work of THS continues** for future generations. Related to donations for survival of the Society, remember that when you give to THS and also contribute an equal or larger amount to the Oregon Cultural Trust, there are tax advantages for each—but particularly for the donation to the Trust. In the latter case, you will get a valuable tax credit on your Oregon tax return. In effect, it costs you nothing. Details are available at the Oregon Cultural Trust website. THS has received grants from those funds in the past and continues to write proposals for certain needs.

Visitors to THC Enjoy Exhibits and Displays

In the 12 months since our last annual meeting, our Heritage Center staff logged 10,217 persons walking through our doors, many more than once. That's some 600 more than the last report. Diane Swientek coordinates our permanent and revolving displays which these persons see. One unique artifact added to our collection was Tualatin Elementary School's schoolhouse clock donated by Jane Brown. Our other permanent displays include the Robbins coverlet, family washboard and home picture; items from the original Methodist Church including the program used at the original dedication service in 1926; the original mastodon tusk and molars dug up near today's Fred Meyer parking lot; and outside the building are the huge glacial erratics and historic plants (Robbins roses, Lafky irises, Martinazzi daffodils, J.R.C. Thompson hydrangeas, and Nyberg snowdrops). Rotating exhibits this past few months included trophies, pictures, yearbooks and class books, wooden bowl, cooking utensils, cookbooks, linen, kerosene lamps, railroad lamps china, picture albums, cooking spices, cast iron waffle irons, cast iron flat iron etc. Clothing included WW2 Red Cross uniform as well as dresses and shoes from the 1920s. Another small exhibit case is at the Juanita Pohl Center.

Because of its public hours, our most accessible artifacts are shown at Tualatin Library featuring large and small Ice Age artifacts, castings and several replicas of mammals provided by our partners in the North American Research Group and Willamette Valley Pleistocene Project.

Tualatin History on View Other Places, Too!

Residents and visitors can view items and photographs reflecting Tualatin history at the Tualatin High School, Marquis Health Care Center, and Cabela's. Vintage photos hang in elementary schools, Cabela's, New Seasons Market, Firehouse Subs, Sharky's, CenterCal offices and of course all city buildings thanks to the THS partnership with the City of Tualatin.

First Annual Survey Suggests Actions for 2017

All THS members were surveyed this year to identify things of importance for the Society. Donations and Grants topped the list of things you felt we should focus on for additional revenues. Those were followed closely by Membership Dues and Fund Raising. Increasing the rental rates for the Heritage Center was suggested but is already being considered by the City. The vast majority of you indicated that reminder phone calls for our Wednesday afternoon program as well as the Thursday evening program were not required. So we will try to find a way to accommodate the handful who feel they need calls on a by-request basis.

The number of members who expressed an interest in helping with THS tasks was modest, but a first step toward increased participation. We will reach out to those who indicated their willingness to become more active. To those who are interested, but gave no contact info, please take a minute to let us know who you are. And many thanks to existing committee and board members who re-committed themselves for next year.

Many of you contributed some great ideas that we will discuss, prioritize and follow-up as money and time allow in 2017. Here we share a handful of those ideas:

- An Antique Appraisal event (both educational and fundraising).
- Special event(s) for old timers.
- Keep programs more up-to-date on web page.
- More contact with other local historical societies.
- Seek sponsorships for projects.
- More evening programs

Looking Ahead

- Watch for progress on our ideas for “double signing” 65th Avenue and naming the two state highway bridges (not I-5) to reflect local history
- We continue to need volunteers to preserve documents on digital formats, conduct oral history interviews, help maintain our patio garden, make school presentations, and to monitor rentals which helps keep costs down.
- Stay tuned for progress reports on a new policy guiding our collection of artifacts and a new software program to make preservation and storage more systematized. A recent University of Washington graduate in Museum Studies is leading this work.
- Look forward to progress on the National Park Service designation of Tualatin as a key tourist spot on the future National Ice Age Floods Geologic Trail.
- Help us expand our membership base by inviting relatives, neighbors and friends to join you for a THS event next year.
- Remember the Society bookstore when you need that special gift!

We are pleased to have served on your Board of Directors this year and look forward to your participation in THS activities during the months ahead. We also look forward to new officers and directors who will be joining the Board after the November 6 election. Board meetings are typically the Monday before the first Wednesday program each month and are open to all members. Our third Thursday evening programs are open to all as well.

2016 Officers

Yvonne Addington, President
Kurt Krause, Vice President
Barbara Stinger, Treasurer
Loyce Martinazzi, Secretary
Sandra Carlson, Historian

2016 Directors

Norm Parker
Ross Baker
Larry McClure
Jim Serrill
Art Sasaki, Past President

November 6, 2016

