

REFLECTIONS

May / June
2007

Newsletter of the Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society



Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society's Annual Meeting

May 20, 2007, 2:00 pm

*Fairview Community Center, bottom level
3rd & Harrison, Historic Fairview, Oregon*

FRW's First 20 Years!

Come join us and celebrate our 20th year as a Society. It's a finger-food potluck, so bring fruits, veggies, cookies, nut bread, or whatever you prefer. There is a large refrigerator to keep things cold during the program.

Cake & Refreshments will be provided.

Program:

A video looking back on FRW's First 20 Years will be shown.

Material for the program is from the FRW archives.

2007/2008 Election of Officers.

Member of the Year.

FRWHS
P. O. Box 946
Fairview, Oregon 97024
503-261-8078
www.frwhs.org

Important Dates

*1874 Zimmerman
Heritage Farm
17111 NE Sandy Blvd
Gresham, Oregon*

House Tours
3rd Saturday of each month
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Volunteer in the Garden
2nd Saturday of each month
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

*1893 Heslin House
60 Main Street
Fairview, Oregon*

Volunteer to help!
2nd & 4th Saturday of each
month
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Society

FRW
Monthly Board Meeting
2nd Wednesday
of each month
6:30 pm
Heslin House

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**Lanny Olin and members of the Honor
Guard VFW Post #1,
Stand at attention during the singing of
our national anthem**

Patriotic Tree Planted

On March 17th, a white oak was planted just north of the grape arbor at the Zimmerman Heritage Farm in honor of our Military, Fire and Police men and women. Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Portland District, sponsored the event.

Isobel would be so proud and delighted her home was chosen for the planting of this tree in honor of these brave men and women.

GIFTS

FRW Board of Directors

Dodi Davies, President
Twila Mysinger, Vice President
Lael Larger, Secretary
Kim Kirk, Treasurer
George Riley, Position I
Stephanie Graves, Position II
Linda Adams, Position III

Membership Coordinator

Nancy Hoover

FRW & Heslin Collections Curator

Stephanie Graves

Zimmerman Collections Curator

Judy Lenhart



Stephanie's new work station located in the Heslin House upstairs archival room.

Thank You George Riley!

General Fund

Alice Cornwell

Zimmerman House

Dr. James & Margaret Billings
David & Maureen Relyea
US Bancorp Matching Donation
For Dodi Davies

Zimmerman Utility Sponsors

Clinton Witter
Wooddale Windows

In-Kind

LBL Windows
Beaver Chapter MAFCA

New Member

Kim Kirk

"Dues Time Has Arrived"

The dues for our fiscal year of 2007-2008 are due on June 1st, 2007.

You will notice we have made a slight change in our dues categories this year. There is a Dues Payment form enclosed in this newsletter, along with a return envelope for your convenience. If you have any questions concerning this year's dues, please feel free to contact Nancy Hoover, Membership & Donations Coordinator, at 503-665-3253.



Zimmerman House Next Restoration Effort

Two-part project:

Twila Mysinger

1. Structural reinforcements were installed in the 1874 basement in 2003. A component of that project was to install reinforcement supports under the kitchen next to the current brick pillars, which have weakened through the years. This work began, but the pillars were buried deeper than anticipated and the labor costs were going to exceed our available funds, so this work was halted. We'd like to complete this project at this time to ensure the stabilization of the kitchen, pantry, and front porch of the house.

2. The house enjoys a wrap-around porch, which ends in front of the kitchen with a small 34 square foot enclosed space called the flower room. This room has three large windows and Isobel Zimmerman used this south-facing room as a greenhouse. The entire floorboards need to be replaced, the original door needs to be re-hung, the window casings need to be repaired / replaced, and the windows sashes replaced.

The cost of this project is estimated at \$8,000 and we have earmarked \$1,000 from our restoration fund to jump-start this effort. We have submitted seven grant requests to date, and have several more in progress.

We will also do some specific fundraising at the museum during the tours. Peggy and Lanny Olin have painted a sign requesting donations for this project, and it has a thermometer so everyone can see our progress to the goal. (Thanks, Peggy and Lanny!)

If you would like to contribute to this project, please send your check to the FRW Historical Society and write "Flower Room" on the memo line.

Archiving Photos at the Zimmerman

Jennifer Munson

I am presently at the end of the first family photo album. I have scanned, printed pages for use in the house and archived the scanned photos by putting them in archival sleeves. They have been numbered both on the individual photo and on the page placement of the original photo album from whence they were removed. The photos include some wonderful shots of the Zimmerman Family trip to the east coast where they met President Taft (1909-1910). It was an extensive trip and covered six months. We have artifacts in the collection which were purchased during the trip and, of course, all the paper ephemera to boot!!!

There are several more photo albums as well as hundreds of loose photos of family and friends from the community. I will be working on this project for a very long time to come ... pure jealousy regarding Walt Nasmyth's progress for the Troutdale bunch. He will be genuinely missed for all his knowledge and capabilities.

We continue to have "goose bump" moments as photos are connected to specific objects and events regarding the house and family. At that time, we try to find all supporting documentation of the object and put it out on display for four days.

Jessie's Dress

Kim Kirk

During a tour that I gave last month a very interesting thing happened, another mystery was solved.

We find out about artifacts in the museum in wonderful ways sometimes and then we are able to put together time lines, gather items together that we didn't know were related and come up with more interesting facts to tell people about when they come to visit the house.

I was in the middle of a tour, when Judy, our Curator, came and said there were two women on her tour that had known Jessie May, the daughter whose belongings and paperwork I am archiving and organizing so that I can learn about her and tell her story to visitors. Judy asked if I wouldn't like to swap tours with her so that I might learn any stories about Jessie that they knew.

I was showing the group the parent's bedroom and the two ladies, who had known Jessie May, got excited about a dress that was on a mannequin by the window. It is a floor length gown, golden, yellow fabric with a bead pattern on the bodice. The two ladies were hovering over the dress, ignoring me as I talked about the cheese presses. One said, "No, it's the wrong color" and the other kept insisting, "It's the same dress". I was intrigued. I asked what was wrong about the color. One of the women said her mother had the same exact dress only hers was fuchsia. Then she said she had a copy of a black and white photo in her car



showing her mother, the other woman's mother, and Jessie May, all wearing the dress at an OES (Order of the Eastern Star) officer's function.

After I was done showing them through the house, the woman went to her car to retrieve the photo. Eureka! It was the same exact dress.

Now we know that the dress is an OES officer's dress, because Jessie May was an OES officer. We have moved it up to Jessie's bedroom and I am anxious to get back to the museum on a workday and try to find out when the meeting was held and what it was for. The lady who had the photo generously made a copy and gave it to us. She even identified the rest of the folks in the photo.

It is so wonderful that the ladies made a special effort to come on tour day, bring the photo with them, and tell me all about their memories of Jessie May and their mother's belonging to the OES. I will always be grateful that I have another story to tell visitors thanks to their thoughtfulness'.

I know there are more stories out there, waiting to be told. We need people that know the stories to come, visit the house, and see something that reminds them of historical information they didn't realize was important. Something they see on display may trigger a forgotten memory and if they share with us that priceless information it may unravel clues to the mysteries still lingering in every room.

Zimmerman Artifacts Home Again

Judy Lenhart

From April 1995 to March 2007, part of the Zimmerman Heritage Farmhouse collection, several heavy-duty artifacts, such as bathtub, mangle, stove, and several large tools, were stored in Dave Ripma's Barn. These artifacts were taken out of the drive through wood shed that collapsed after everything was removed in 1995.

I'm pleased to let you know all these artifacts have been returned to the Zimmerman Heritage Farmhouse. First, it took Steven and Julie Simms, and me two days to clean out and re-organize the Zimmerman house basement to make room for the artifacts permanent location. Also while doing this we were able to check for any mold problems in the basement. I'm happy to report that 99% of the mold was growing on old pallets stored in the basement that and they have since been removed. Our artifacts are not at risk.

Finally, on a Saturday work day in March, Catherine Fritts, her husband Tim, son Brad, Stephanie Graves, Jason Whitaker and me, moved the artifacts into the Zimmerman house basement. The collection is all together once again.

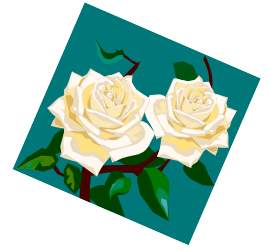
Many, many thanks to Dave Ripma for putting up with our stuff in your and we appreciate your patience very much.



Plant Sale

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday May 19, 2007



*Location: 1874 Zimmerman Heritage Farm Museum and Park
17111 NE Sandy Boulevard, Gresham Oregon.*

*Sponsored by the Fairview, Rockwood, Wilkes Historical Society, proceeds
will be used for maintenance of the Museum and grounds.*

*Plants in: 4 inch pots \$1.75 1 gallon pots \$3.75 2 gallon pots \$5.75
Other plants priced as marked*

*Sale features perennials and vines
propagated and grown by
Zimmerman Heritage Farm and Museum volunteers*

*"History and Roses Tour, a Selection of Vintage Portland
Landmarks & Gardens".*



The Zimmerman Heritage Farm is one of sixteen properties on the "History and Roses Tour, a Selection of Vintage Portland Landmarks & Gardens". This Rose Festival Centennial event will feature some private homes and some public gardens. The Zimmerman House will be open June 2nd, 14, 15, and 16th 2007.

More Information regarding this event will be in the May 24th issue of the Home and Garden section of the Oregonian

Or go to the official Rose Festival website at:

www.rosefestival.org

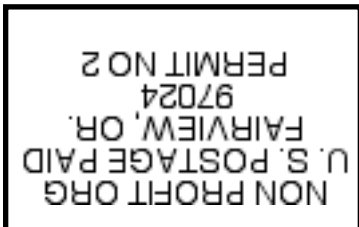
It Could Have Been Carpdale, Centennial History of Troutdale Oregon, 1907-2007

By Sharon Nesbit

Don't wait! Get your pre-order in for **Sharon Nesbit's** book about Troutdale history. The advanced sale is at a reduced price for \$34.95 through about mid-June. After that, retail price will be \$44.95. Orders can be placed at The Gresham Outlook,

503-665-2151.

The book: 208 pages including an index, more than 200 pictures and a lot of stories written by Sharon and other who have helped to tell Troutdale's story over the years. Examples: Roy Meger's longest holdup at the Troutdale General Store, the mayoral adventures of Glenn Otto and Sam Cox, the story of Troutdale's first two women mayors, smelt runs, school history, hair-raising weather stories and Sharon's own essays and columns on life in the area.



Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society
PO Box 946
Fairview, OR 97024
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED