

The

ARCHIVE

QUARTERLY OF THE GRESHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

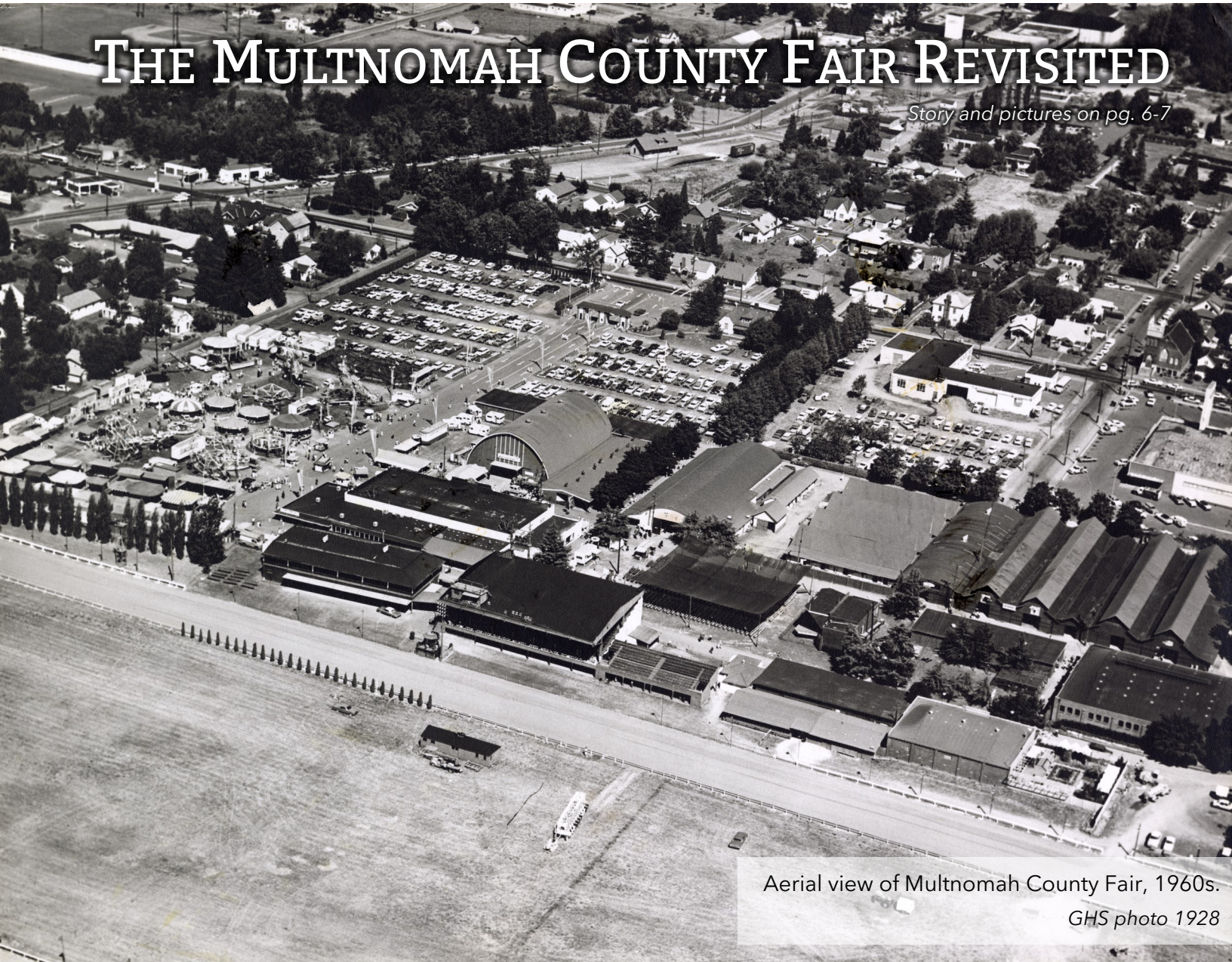
SUMMER 2024



410 N Main Ave ♦ PO Box 65 ♦ Gresham, OR 97030 ♦ (503) 661-0347 ♦ info@greshamhistorical.org

THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY FAIR REVISITED

Story and pictures on pg. 6-7



Aerial view of Multnomah County Fair, 1960s.

GHS photo 1928



See pg. 2.

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AT THE MUSEUM

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 9** Cemetery Tour, 12pm (see pg. 5)
- June 20** Third Thursday, 5:30 to 8:30pm, Downtown Gresham
Monthly event featuring live music and special promotions at local businesses
- June 21** 2nd Annual Speakeasy Dinner Auction, 5pm, Persimmon Golf Club (see pg. 4)
- June 29** Voices of Gresham Podcast Launch, 5pm (see pg. 3)
- July 6** Cemetery Tour, 12pm (see pg. 5)
- July 18** Third Thursday, 5:30 to 8:30pm, Downtown Gresham
- July 20** Festival of Arts in Gresham, 9am to 5pm, Downtown Gresham
-Tie dye workshop, all day during Festival of Arts
- July 27** History Talk: Remembering Zim's Twelve-Mile Store, 5pm (see pg. 5)
- August 11** Cemetery Tour, 12pm (see pg. 5)
- August 15** Third Thursday, 5:30 to 8:30pm, Downtown Gresham
- August 31** History Talk: Gresham in the Age of Rail, 5pm (see pg. 5)



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Removing one of the Polar King signs from the roof

GHS Saves Polar King Signs

Astute readers of the *Gresham Outlook*, the *Oregonian*, and KOIN online news may have spotted a familiar icon recently. The beloved mascot of the Polar King Restaurant, the polar bear (yes, it's a bear) with the apron and ice cream cone that formerly adorned the roof, has been removed due to deteriorating condition. Volunteers were fortunately able to salvage the two plywood cut-outs, which are in storage until we can determine how to restore and display them. However we decide to proceed, we will make sure that the signs stay available to the public.

State Grant Awarded for Fire Recovery

The Oregon Heritage Commission has awarded GHS a \$6,467.50 grant to examine and rehouse historic textiles affected by a 2021 arson fire. The GHS Textile Recovery Project aims to address issues stemming from a fire that began in the museum's upstairs textile storage area. While few items burned, many were soaked by sprinkler water and were taken offsite for drying and repacking by a restoration company. At the time, GHS staff and volunteers lacked the time to inventory and record the condition of the affected items. The Textile Recovery Project will address that. Volunteer Rose Caughie, who has over two years' experience with our textile collection, will be paid with grant funds to rehouse 75 affected items and inventory an additional 150. Completed items will be added to our portal on Northwest Digital Heritage.



Rose displays a corset cover

AT THE MUSEUM



VOICES of GRESHAM

LAUNCH PARTY

Help us celebrate our community at the launch of *Voices of Gresham*, an original podcast! This party will include a short talk by host Stephanie Vallance followed by a presentation of the first episode. Enjoy snacks and drinks while you listen.

Voices of Gresham is a lively, one-of-a-kind podcast based on oral history recollections of Gresham residents past and present. Using interviews conducted from the 1980s to the present day, Stephanie will explore themes from local history including farming, nightlife, and the Japanese American experience.

This podcast will be available for free on all major platforms starting July 1st. The first season will consist of 10 episodes, with new episodes releasing every week.

The *Voices of Gresham* podcast is made possible by a grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission.



[greshamhistorical.org/
voices-of-gresham-podcast](http://greshamhistorical.org/voices-of-gresham-podcast)

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Help! I'm shrinking!

You may notice that my letter for this issue is somewhat briefer than usual. That's because there's simply too much going on at the museum, and we're running out of room to talk about it all. So I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who make it all happen. Did you know that GHS currently has over 60 active volunteers? One of them, Anne Endicott (yes, *that* Anne Endicott), is taking on much of the work that goes into publishing this newsletter. This has given me significantly more time to play Minesweeper.

Just kidding. I'm still finding ways to keep busy. But I'm never too busy to say hello—so be sure to visit soon!



AT THE MUSEUM

This event promises to be the bee's knees of the summer season!

Dust off those feather boas, top hats and fascinators and join us for our Second Annual **Speakeasy Dinner and Auction** Friday, June 21, at Persimmon Golf Club. The event is a benefit for GHS to fund operating costs and ongoing public events and exhibits. Along with a wonderful buffet dinner, guests will have the opportunity to bid on an assortment of local sporting event tickets, getaway retreats, gift cards for goods and services, and so much more during silent and live auctions.

Reserve your tickets or table before **June 14** so you don't miss this fun-filled evening!

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit greshamhistorical.org/speakeasy-dinner-auction.



GRESHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

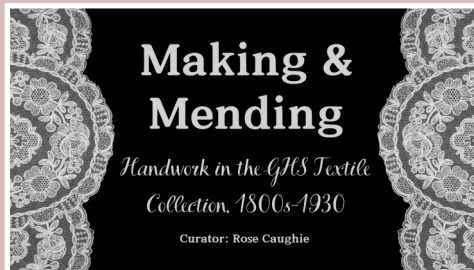
SPEAKEASY DINNER & AUCTION EVENT

JUNE 21, 2024 | 5:30 PM
PERSIMMON GOLF CLUB
500 SE BUTLER RD., GRESHAM, OR 97080

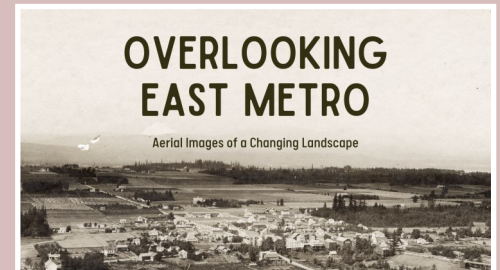
CURRENT EXHIBITS



This special exhibit features locally-connected artists who share their unique take on a variety of traditional methods. Check out the diverse talent that makes up Gresham's artistic landscape. This exhibit is funded by a City of Gresham Cultural Events Grant.



Making and Mending is a celebration of the once-great art of textile working. Thanks to the efforts of volunteer curator Rose Caughie, we are coming into a greater understanding of the stories and knowledge contained within this remarkable collection.



This year's photo essay, *Overlooking East Metro*, offers perspective on the physical changes the Gresham area has undergone starting with the earliest known aerial images taken in around 1905. Test your knowledge of local geography and compare today's Gresham with photos from the past.

Also on View:

- ✦ *Growing Up in Gresham*, a compilation of oral history interviews on school, work, and play
- ✦ *Owerri*, a collection of gifts and souvenirs from our sister city in Nigeria
- ✦ *Recent Acquisitions*, highlights from donations GHS received in 2023

AT THE MUSEUM

JOIN US FOR THE 2024 PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

GHS kicked off this monthly event in February, with a presentation on Black history in East Multnomah County by Kathleen Williamson. The lecture was the first in a regular series designed to feature topics related to local history and significant collections at GHS. Since its launch, museum volunteers have shared their knowledge of efforts to preserve video of the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz and given a peek into the textile collection at GHS.

Join us for this fun and informal lecture series.

When: 5-6pm the last Saturday of every month

Where: Gresham Historical Society main gallery, 410 N Main Ave, Gresham, OR 97030

Cost: \$5 per person (FREE for members!)

Lecture Schedule through August

June 29: Voices of Gresham Podcast Launch, presented by Stephanie Vallance (see pg. 2)

July 27: Zim's Twelve-Mile Store, presented by Anne Endicott

August 31: Gresham in the Age of Rail, presented by Kathleen Williamson

September 28: Growing Up in Gresham, a live interview moderated by Stephanie Vallance

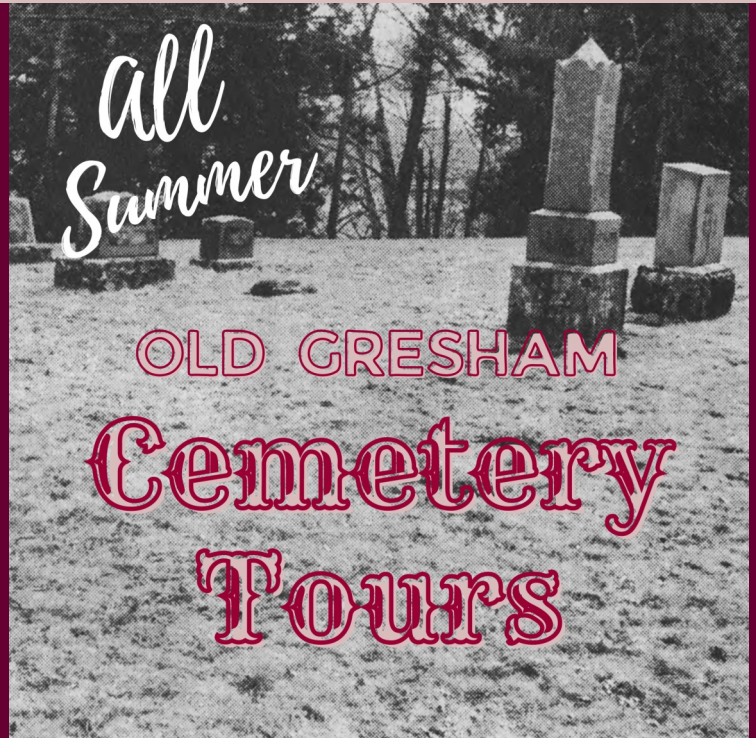
Topics and presenters subject to change. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram or visit greshamhistorical.org/events.

On **July 27 at 5pm**, volunteer Anne Endicott will present the history and stories of local iconic businessman Carl Zimmerman and his landmark store, Zim's 12-Mile Corner. Learn what made Carl a local celebrity and why his business was such an integral part of the community.



MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES

Last Saturdays @ 5



Cemetery Tours are back! This event is free to everyone. Bring your friends and come learn about the colorful, poignant, and surprising stories contained in Gresham's historic cemeteries. Tours meet at 12pm in the east lot of West Gresham Elementary. See pg. 2 for upcoming dates.

THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY FAIR REVISITED

By Anne Endicott

On a warm summer evening in 1907, a group of friends got together at the Gresham home of John and Mary Shattuck. Conversation among the Shattucks and their guests, Theodore Brugger and Timothy Brownhill, centered around the upcoming harvest and may have included some friendly ribbing over who cultivated the best produce or raised better cattle.

By the end of the evening, however, the group had laid plans for Gresham's "First Fair and Carnival." Ultimately, the event became known as the Multnomah County Fair.

The Gresham Grange agreed to sponsor the inaugural affair, which took place from October 16-19 on land south of Powell and west of Main known as "The Flats" (now home to the Gresham

Little League park). A large tent housed livestock and produce exhibits (featuring an 87-pound pumpkin), along with space for art and music displays. Small tents scattered along the banks of Johnson Creek offered carnival attractions including "The Human Spider," the only show on the West Coast owned and managed by a woman.

The event was a huge success. The site, however, was far too small to sustain it for long. So in 1908, the Grange established a Multnomah County Fair Board, electing H.A. Lewis as the first president. The fair moved to a 50-acre site just west of Main Avenue, where it was held annually for 61 years.

The fair was branded as a family event. Following the large opening parade, families brought their lunch for a picnic in the "grove" or "purchased soup and crackers for five cents" before joining their friends.

Over time, members of gardening clubs and youth groups such as 4-H and FFA put together exhibits with the hope of winning a blue ribbon or cash prize. 4-H groups not only displayed livestock they had raised, but also demonstrated their knowledge of domestic and gardening skills in cooking, sewing and canning.

The fair expanded its run from three days to seven

and finally to 10 days. To encourage folks to come earlier and stay longer, organizers added a racetrack, which featured horse and harness racing.

But in the 1930s, following the daily horse race, the highlight of the afternoon was the Model T-Ford and Pig Race.

Rules for the competition were simple: participants had to have a Model T-Ford to enter. It didn't matter the condition or appearance of the vehicle – it just had to run. The entire race was a demonstration of dexterity and skill.

A wooden pen containing young pigs, each weighing between 30 and 40 pounds, was towed to one end of the race track and parked next to the inside rail. Drivers took one practice lap around the track and then lined up in a staggered starting position. The limit was six drivers per race.

After a starter dropped a white cloth, "all hell would break loose," recalled Gresham resident Dan Murphy.

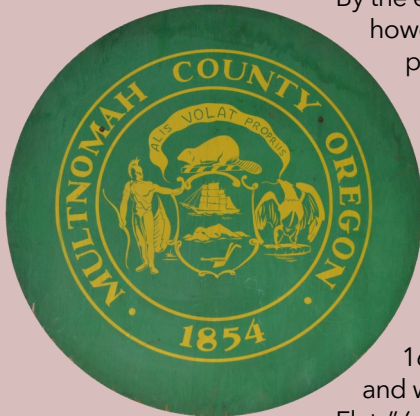
Each driver would sprint to the pen, grab a pig, run back to his vehicle, crank the engine and race a full lap around the track while holding "35 pounds of wiggling, squealing pork chops." After completing the lap, drivers pulled as close to the pen as possible, returned the pig, grabbed another one, and took a second lap around the track. The first driver to complete two laps and return both pigs to the pen won the race. First prize was \$15; second was \$10 and third was \$5. Prize money went a long way, since in those days regular gas was only 18 cents per gallon.

In 1944, Hollywood put Gresham on the map when a camera crew and 15-year-old actor Roddy McDowall arrived in town to film a sequel to the hit movie *My Friend Flicka*. After a nationwide location search, the ornate fairgrounds entry arch drew the production company to the city.

Gresham High School band director Harold Weber joined the cast as an extra for three days to play the bugle that announced the opening of the races in the film. Storm Warning, owned by local resident Sully Palmer, was the double for the real equine, *Thunderhead*. McDowall was the special guest at an assembly at Gresham High School, where he chatted with students and posed for photos.

In 1968, the fair moved to the Expo Center in North Portland after the county sold the land. The fair relocated to Oaks Park in 1997, where it continues to be held every Memorial Day weekend and is privately funded through the nonprofit Friends of Multnomah County Fair.

The original fairgrounds site is now home to Gresham Town Fair shopping center and a local branch of the Multnomah County Library.



Sign from Multnomah County Fair
GHS 1986.10A.0003

"...all hell would break loose," recalled Dan Murphy.



Movie poster for *Thunderhead: Son of Flicka*, 1945. IMDb.com

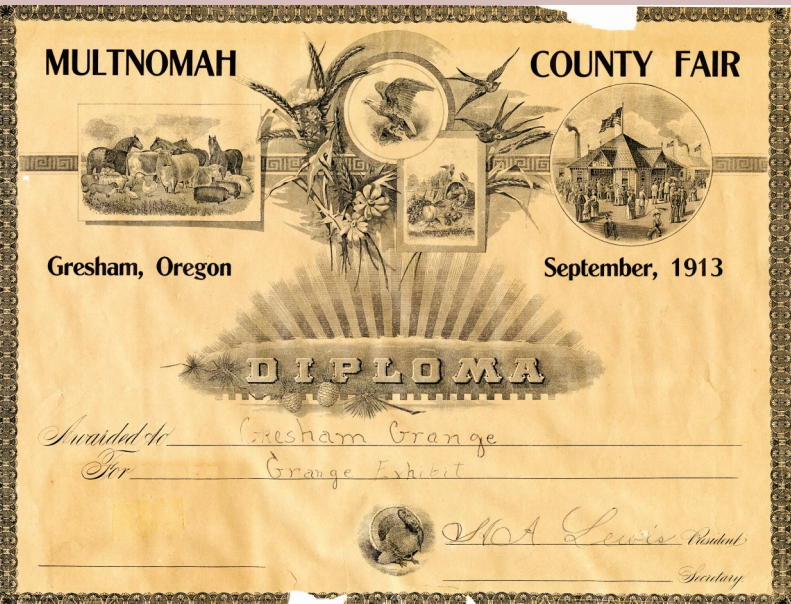
HISTORY FEATURE



Entrance to Multnomah County Fair, photographed in 1932 by Wesley Andrews. The children in the photo are Maggie Splawn and neighbors. GHS 455



Complimentary pass to the Multnomah County Fair exhibit hall, 1918, belonging to "Wm H. Gore & wife". GHS 2016.001.0029



Diploma awarded to Gresham Grange in 1913 for "Gresham Exhibit." Signed by H.A. Lewis, the president of the fair board. GHS E0151



Crowd watching a band perform on the stage at the fairgrounds, 1950s. The stables and poultry building are visible in the background. GHS 2038



Jim Moore of Hillsview on horseback at the Multnomah County Fair racetrack, 1932. GHS 3035



Sign used at Steve's Place, a hamburger stand run by Steve and Willie Splawn (pictured) at the Multnomah County Fair from the 1930s to the 1970s. GHS 2002.08A.0001

RECIPES FROM GRESHAM'S PAST: PART 3

By Elizabeth Cour

This article is the third part of a seasonal series dedicated to sharing recipes and history from a 1923 Campfire Girls cookbook. The "Camp Fire Cook Book" was donated by a former president of GHS, Betty Chisum, and the recipes were compiled by Gresham Campfire Girls Kathleen Bailey, Willene Botkin, Hazel Cooley, Helen Hisey, Florence Honey, Joyce Kidder, Lillie Nelson, Melba Rossman, and Dorothy Taylor. Their cookbook cost 50 cents at the time and the table of contents includes sections for bread, cakes, cheese dishes, confectionery, cookies, fish, meats, pastry, pickles puddings, salads, soups, and vegetables as well as a table of weights and measures.

The Camp Fire Girls helped with the war effort during World War I and II. During World War I, the Camp Fire Girls sold over one million dollars of Liberty Bonds and over \$900,000 of Thrift Stamps. 55,000 girls helped support French and Belgian children orphaned during the war. Other ways the Camp Fire Girls helped with the war effort in World War I was by maintaining Victory Gardens, conserving food, and making clothes for soldiers and refugees.

During World War II, the Camp Fire Girls ran a special drive selling war bonds to buy an ambulance airplane. In addition to raising the funds for this plane, they also raised enough to buy 1,250 Army field ambulances. They collected fat, wastepaper, and other salvageable material.

References

New England Historical Society
Camp Fire Girls

CAMP FIRE COOK BOOK



Recipes

Here are some fun recipes to try and share this spring.

*Note: Most of the baking recipes in this cookbook do not include baking times or temperatures. We suggest you consult similar recipes and use your best judgement.

Stuffed Tomatoes

Cut tops from tomatoes and scrape out pulp. Mix with this pulp one part of bread crumbs to two parts of minced ham. Fill tomato shells with mixture, put a dice of butter on top of each and place in baking pan. Pour over all a cupful of soup stock and bake until tender. Serve immediately.

Plain Pie Crust

2½ cups sifted flour
1 cup shortening, half butter and half lard
Pinch of salt
1 heaping teaspoon baking powder sifted with flour

Rub thoroughly the shortening into the flour. Mix with ½ cup cold water or enough to form a rather stiff dough. Mix as little as possible, just enough to get into shape to roll out. This makes two pies.

Lemon Pie

2 egg yolks (beaten).
2 tablespoons flour.
1 ½ cups sugar.
1 cup sweet milk.
2 tablespoons melted butter.
Grated rind and juice of 1 lemon

Just before putting into raw crust add beaten whites of eggs.

Mustard Pickles

Prepare as many quart jars full of quartered cucumbers as you would judge it would take of the prepared vinegar.
1 gallon vinegar.
1 cup salt.
1 cup sugar.
1 cup dry mustard dissolved in a little vinegar.

Mix together and pour over cucumbers in jars enough to fill each jar. Seal.

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED

The Gresham Historical Society is gifted with an army of volunteers dedicated to preserving our community's past. But ever wonder who those folks are who donate their time to ensure Gresham's history will continue to unfold and be available to future generations?

Well, let's get acquainted!



Teresa Squires Osborne, Collections

Every artifact donated to the Gresham History Museum has a story to tell. Uncovering those stories and documenting them in a central database for future reference is what Teresa and other collections volunteers do every Thursday morning.

"I ... enjoy finding new treasures in the cataloging process," Teresa says. "Since I was a history teacher, artifacts and stories have always interested me. Looking at the items and stories cataloged on Thursdays, is a fascinating look at the history of Gresham."

Raised in Gresham and now living in Portland, Teresa signed on as a GHS volunteer in 2018. She got her first library card back when the museum was a Carnegie Library and remembers "the wonder and awe of being able to check out all of (those) books!"

Teresa's mother, Marie Squires, was a regular volunteer for GHS. She instilled an appreciation and curiosity about local history in her daughter that led not only to Teresa's career teaching history but also her appreciation of the relevance of preservation.

"GHS, like all historical societies, is an important repository of the items, ideas and growth of places," Teresa says. "I remember Gresham as a small town. My grandparent's bakery was on Powell before it was widened. So to see Gresham as a city, not just a farm town, is an incredible growth just in my lifetime."

Leslie Radke, GHS Board of Directors

With a resume of volunteerism spanning decades, Leslie has left her fingerprints on numerous local nonprofits, agencies, and fraternal organizations dedicated to helping the community.

But it's her 36-year former career in finance that makes her oh-so valuable to the GHS Board of Directors as treasurer.

A nine-year veteran of the GHS board, Leslie also brings a lengthy recollection of Gresham's past and a veritable phone book of the city's movers and shakers of the time.

"I could sit down and share so many stories of the fun we had in our little community back then, when our Historic Downtown Business Association was called the Gresham Booster Club," Leslie says, "and we decided it was time to stop rolling up the sidewalks at 5 p.m. on Friday nights for the entire weekend."

Joining others determined to bring "happenings" back to downtown Gresham, Leslie served as treasurer of the Historic Downtown Business Association (now Historic Downtown Gresham Association) for 16 years, along with a 17-year stint as treasurer of the Gresham Art Walk and Gresham Outdoor Public Art committees. Ever notice the bronze couple standing outside the museum? They were Leslie's last project as an officer with GOPA before she resigned to devote more time to the historical society board.

But why is GHS important to the community?

"What we collect, what we share with exhibits and speaker events, tell the stories of who we are and where we came from," Leslie says. "Our comforting and sometimes not-so-happy memories of what we knew, what we endured still linger in the back of our minds, and bringing them to the front gives us pleasure to recall."



AT THE MUSEUM

Not a member already? You can join on our website, at greshamhistorical.org.

Or, fill out the form below, bring it to the museum, or mail it to us at PO Box 65, Gresham, OR 97030. Make checks payable to the Gresham Historical Society.

Membership at the Gresham Historical Society supports the continued preservation and sharing of our local history. Now, more than ever, we rely on member support to continue our mission.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM

Member or Family Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Each membership level includes 10% off museum store purchases, a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, and invitations to members-only events throughout the year.

- Individual** \$25 membership for one adult
- Dual** \$35 membership for two adults
- Family** \$50 benefits for two adults and all family members under 18
- Business** \$150 two membership cards for any employee
- Business Plus** \$500 two membership cards for any employee and your business logo in the Quarterly of the Gresham Historical Society
- Patron** \$1,000

I wish to make an additional donation in the amount of \$ _____

How do you prefer to receive your newsletter? Email Print

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment method (circle one): Cash Check (payable to Gresham Historical Society)

Please charge my credit/debit card \$ _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____ CVV _____

Signature _____

OUR GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS PLUS MEMBERS FOR THEIR VITAL SUPPORT!



AT THE MUSEUM

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE JOINED OR RENEWED SINCE MARCH:

Individual

Linda Anderson
 Silvie Andrews
 Howard Berg
 Linda Bergmann
 Marilou Bohmann
 Linda Brixey
 Debby Brown
 James Card
 Janice Corder
 Dorothy Douglas
 Julie Frediani
 Deanna Haley
 Linda Kidby
 Melba Klinker
 Carole Linneman
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 Angel & Thea Hayes
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 Corrie Bree Wardlow
 Mary Jo & Paul Warr-King
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Business

All About Automotive
 Gresham Senior Center
 The Center for Men's & Women's Urology

Business Plus

Country Coffee Sit & Sip
 Foraged Blooms
 Gresham Outdoor Public Art
 Iseli Nursery
 Nicholas Restaurant
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 PRODUCTION SERVICES
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Clackamas
 County Bank
 SINCE 1911

Gresham Outdoor Public Art
 Imagine the Possibilities



View overlooking Gresham from Wallula Heights, Multnomah County Fair in the foreground, 1940s.
Donated by Norma Davidson. GHS 2014.008.0054

The Gresham Historical Society is a private, nonprofit organization that manages the Gresham Historical Museum and special collections library and archive, located in the 1913 former Gresham Library building in Historic Downtown Gresham.

Founded in 1976 and funded through donations from the community, the Gresham Historical Society was run exclusively by volunteers for the majority of its history.

In 2010, Multnomah County voters passed a property tax levy to support local history. These levy funds pay the salary of a full-time museum director, which helps keep us free and open to the public.

Our mission is to preserve and share our community's past to enrich its present and future.

HOURS

Wednesday-Saturday	10am-4pm
Sunday	12pm-4pm
Monday-Tuesday	Closed

CONTACT

Web: greshamhistorical.org/contact

Email: info@greshamhistorical.org

Phone: (503) 661-0347

Board and Staff

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