



Gresham Historical *Quarterly* Fall 2020



Inside

Director's Letter P. 3

President's Message P. 3

Rockwood's Historic Past P. 5-9

Volunteers dress for Halloween: April Lindstedt, Sharon Lehr, Lew Lehr with Mark Moore, Museum Director and Live DJ Dick Karman at the Monster Mash at the Museum on October 31, 2020.



About Gresham Historical Society & Museum

Board of Directors

President

Carol Nielsen

Vice President

Martin Stone

Treasurer

Leslie Radke

Secretary

Rose Marie Noojin

Directors

Silvie Andrews

James Card

Guy Edwards

Kirk French

Carla Piluso

Eellitta Stone

Pete White

Emeritus Board Members

Dick Dowsett

Utahna Kerr

Board Advisers

Website & IT

Guy Edwards

Skip Larson

Staff

Museum Director

Mark Moore

The Gresham Historical Society is a private, non-profit organization that manages the Gresham Historical Museum and special collections library and archive, located in the historic Carnegie 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. Those levy funds pay for exhibitions and for us to have a full-time staff member which helps keep us free and open to the public.

Our mission is to collect, preserve, and share our local history.

Hours of Operation

Wednesday 10 am – 4 pm

Thursday 10 am – 4 pm

Friday 10 am – 4 pm

Saturday 10 am – 4 pm

Sunday 12 pm – 4 pm

Closed Monday & Tuesday



410 N Main Avenue

Gresham, OR 97030-7212

503-661-0347

www.greshamhistorical.org

Volunteers

Claudia Andrews

Mike Andrews

Silvie Andrews

April Avery

Heather Bouchey

Joe Breniser

Mackenzie Cochran

Dorothy Douglas

Sandy Fancher

Beth Gardner

Judy Han

Wayne Horine

Andrew Insley

Bonnie Jepsen

Liz Jones

Ila Lane

Skip Larson

April Lindstedt

Liz Morse

Helen Ryan

Teresa Squires -Osborn

Olivia Schubert

Alice Simonis

Russ Szkolnyj

Nannette Taylor

Janet Westberg

Committees

Collection Stewardship

Claudia Andrews, Community Representative

Silvie Andrews, Board Representative

Teresa Squires-Osborn

Rose Marie Noojin, Board Representative

Eellitta Stone, Board Representative

Facilities, Maintenance

James Card, Board Representative

Kirk French, Board Representative

Letter from the Director

Greetings to our valued Members and Supporters!

We just finished the busiest month of the year at the museum. We had one event this year on Halloween, Monster Mash at the Museum with a live DJ. We had 58 visitors total that day, who safely socially distanced. Thanks to Dick Karman of Reliving Radio for providing his services and technical expertise for audio sound tracks for the museum.

Unfortunately, the spike in Covid-19 cases caused the Governor of Oregon to close museums for the next month. We will not be able to host Photos With Santa or hold events in the museum. Since we are closed till February, we will not be decorating the museum for the holidays. We had planned to close on December 20th for our Holiday break which is expected to run through the middle of February. Due to Covid-19, our reopening may be later.

If it wasn't for our dedicated team of volunteers leading the way, we could not exist. Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped us get through the year.

Under the direction of Claudia and Silvie Andrews, our Collection Stewardship Committee continues to repack and reorganize our collections and artifacts in our newly remodeled basement. Their knowledge has been invaluable to the group. With several grants, we were able to purchase new shelving as well as archival boxes and packing materials to better care for our collections and artifacts.

We are excited to report that we received approval for a grant from the City of Gresham to create a new exhibit in 2021 entitled: the Diversity of Gresham.

Last, but not least, don't forget to renew your museum membership or give the gift of membership over the holidays! The support and donations from our members and patronage helps keep the museum operating and to fulfill our goals of documenting, preserving, and interpreting the history of our beloved city. We greatly appreciate your support.

Happy Holidays,

Mark Moore, Museum Director

President's Message

To our Members and Friends,

We have so missed all of our visitors to the museum this year and we will continue to miss all of our Christmas visitors.

2020 still isn't over and once again the museum is impacted by the rules pertaining to Covid-19. It is disappointing, but the museum will need to close for the rest of the year. We are sorry about the closure because we love decorating for the Christmas season with all the families that come to see the museum turn into a wonderland. We enjoy having the children and hosting Holiday Photos with Santa. So plan on these activities again next year in 2021.

During the closure we will change exhibits and continue with accessioning various artifacts. Mark Moore, our Museum Director will be working hard to get ready to reopen the museum in mid-February 2021.

Meanwhile, if you have questions about your museum, please call Mark at 503-661-0347 or email him at: director@greshamhistorical.org.

We will continue to post our Gresham History Highlights on our Facebook page: and on our website at www.greshamhistorical.org. A lot of research goes into each of these segments. We hope you enjoy them.

Happy Holidays

Carol Nielsen

President



Become a Member

Not a member yet? Becoming a member is easy! Just fill out the Membership Enrollment Form, bring it by, or mail it in to the museum.

Membership at the Gresham Historical Society supports the continued preservation and sharing of our local history.

Membership includes

- Subscription to the *Gresham Historical Quarterly Newsletter*
- First notice on all public programming and events

Choose your membership

Individual \$20

Membership benefits for one adult.

Family \$20

Membership benefits for two adults and all family members under 18.

Business Sponsorship \$50

Two membership benefits to be used by any employee and your business' logo to appear in the *Gresham Historical Quarterly Newsletter*.



* 10% discount for Seniors, Veterans, & Military Personnel

Membership Enrollment Form

Member name *(Business name for Business Membership)*

Member 2 name *(if Family Membership)*

Street address

City, State, Zip

Home/Cell Phone Work /Cell Phone

Email address

Membership Level

- ☐ Individual \$20 ☐ Business \$50
☐ Family \$20

\$_____ Membership amount *include discounts

\$_____ Additional contribution

\$_____ Total amount

Payment information

Please enclose a check payable to the Gresham Historical Society, and mail it to the address below or bring it by the museum along with this form. To pay by credit or debit card, please call or come in to the museum.

Gresham Historical Society
410 N Main Avenue
Gresham, OR 97030-7212

Rockwood's Historic Past



Ten-Mile Roadhouse at Rockwood, circa 1917.

When Oregon became a territory of the United States, a surveyor general was directed to layout a baseline and a Willamette meridian to be the basic east-west and north-south lines by which the new townships, ranges, sections and land boundaries would be identified. A road was built along the baseline from Portland eastward called the Baseline Road. Starting at the courthouse steps in Portland a stone marker was placed each mile to the east up to fifteen. Their names identified how far they were from the courthouse.

According to Lewis McArthur's Oregon Geographic Names, Rockwood was named for the rocks and Douglas fir that confronted the pioneers, was the inspiration for the name. To this day stands of Douglas fir still grow in the area's parks and along roadsides.

Rockwood was named by an Irishman., Francis Tegart, frequently called Lord Tegart, local landowner, who is said to have insisted they apply for a post office with the name of Rockwood in the hope of impressing his family members in Ireland with his "estate." The request was approved. A post office was established there on March 14, 1882. Cyrus C. Lewis, the first storekeeper in Rockwood, became the first postmaster, hoping a post office located in his store, would help his mercantile establishment. The office was closed February 28, 1903 with the advent of rural delivery.

Rockwoods Historic Past (cont.)



Baseline Road at Rockwood, circa 1920.

A north-south road intersected the Baseline Road near the ten-mile marker, coming down from the Columbia River and going south toward Oregon City. The north-south road was named Rockwood Road. Stage coaches coming out of Portland along the Baseline Road would stop at the Ten-Mile Inn before continuing on toward the Twelve-Mile corner where they crossed the Fairview Road that led south to Damascus. In January 1892, a portion of Baseline Road was renamed Stark Street after Benjamin Stark (1820-1898), a U.S. senator from Oregon.

A small community grew up around the ten-mile junction in that rocky wooded area of Rockwood. The junction also attracted Rockwood School #27 which was built in 1902, a grange hall in 1903, a church, a blacksmith shop, and a grocery store, among other businesses. Rockwood Road became 181st Avenue.

Around 1920, several speakeasies and roadhouses flourished along Stark Street between Barker Road (now 162nd Avenue) and the 12-Mile Corner. According to local-resident Helen Lamb there were seven roadhouses from Barker Road to the 12-Mile Corner: Jack and Jill's at Barker Road, the Beacon Lodge at 165th, Ten-Mile Inn at Rockwood Road, a less-advertised establishment run by A.J. Tully, Bird Legs Reed's Roadhouse, El Porvenir (at 204th and Stark), and Merrill's Twelve-Mile House on Fairview Road, now 223rd.



A.W. Kreofsky's Store at Rockwood, circa 1917.

Roadhouses were known for their good food and musical entertainment and a few had prostitutes, but the principal thing they offered was chicken dinners and moonshine whiskey. Five of the seven houses along Barr Avenue (now Halsey) housed “moonshiners”—people making illegal whiskey. One of the houses had an underground tunnel to the chicken house where the still was. The roadhouses and moonshiners dwindled away after Prohibition was repealed in 1933.

Pheasants and other game were commonplace in Rockwood and it was a posted game refuge. In the 1920s, A. Curtis Ruby, president of the Oregon Livestock Company, raised thoroughbred horses—Percherons, Belgians and Clydesdales—for shipment to the East and for display all over the world. On land now used for advanced automated wafer fab manufacturing, Ruby had a stock farm and golf course. The eighteen-hole golf course reached from Stark to Halsey Streets. The club house was where Abby's Pizza is now. Ruby went broke in 1934 and the clubhouse burned. Ruby Junction on the light rail line was named for him.

Troh's Airport, which opened in 1935, was located at an old dairy farm. The cow barn was repurposed for plane storage and the milking room became the mechanic's garage just north of Section Line Road (now Division) between 174th and 182nd. The runway was a single east/west turf strip running the length of the property. One unique feature of the airport was a hexagonal hangar which had the windsock prominently located on the center top of its roof. Hank Troh lost his lease in 1946 to a competitor, forcing him to move about a mile east, opening Troh's Skyport near 182nd and Division. Troh's Skyport closed in June of 1959. He moved his operations to a new facility in Happy Valley and called it Troh's Nest.

Rockwoods Historic Past (cont.)



Troh's Airport at 174th and Section Line Rd. (Division) in 1935.

Fred Meyer opened a new store in the suburbs at Rockwood in 1957. For many years, it was very successful and it attracted shoppers from far and wide. It seemed like a large store at the time and it offered everything a person could want. It defined Rockwood for many years, making way for the Satellite Restaurant and Lounge and later G.I. Joe's. A major remodel in 2000 would not help the ailing Rockwood store that no longer yielded a profit. The Rockwood Fred Meyer store closed in 2003.

Another popular Rockwood establishment, the Satellite Restaurant and Lounge, was built as a bright neon salute to the 1950s dream of space, but its atmosphere was what drew people to the Satellite Restaurant with a huge metal globe perched on the roof. The restaurant opened in the first few months of the space age on October 22, 1958, and its furnishings reflected the science-fiction visions of the future. Planet-shaped lights hung from the ceiling. A three-dimensional mural of a spaceship decorated the back bar. The Satellite closed June 5, 2000.

The Rockwood area was annexed by Gresham in 1987. Rockwood is Gresham's most densely-populated and diverse neighborhood with 15,915 residents.



Rockwood Fred Meyer Store.



COPYRIGHT: WINDMILL HILL PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN STAUB

Satellite Restaurant and Lounge in Rockwood.

How to Support the Museum

Gifts and contributions to the Gresham Historical Society support the continued preservation and sharing of our local history.

Monetary Contributions

Your unrestricted gift supports the daily operations of the Gresham Historical Society and the maintenance and preservation of the Historic 1913 Gresham Carnegie Library.

Planned Giving

Your unrestricted recurring gifts provide the predictable, ongoing support that allows the Gresham Historical Society to perform necessary financial planning.

Gifts in Memory or Tribute

Each year, the Gresham Historical Society receives gifts in memorial and tribute. Honor the life and achievements of those in your life through legacy giving.

Appreciated securities or stock

Charitable gifts of stock are a wonderful way to provide ongoing support for the Gresham Historical Society. Check with your tax adviser for details.



www.greshamhistorical.org

Monetary Contribution Form

Name

Street address

City, State, Zip

Home/Cell Phone

Work /Cell Phone

Email address

If memorial gift, Name of honored person(s)

Payment information

☐ Check payable to Gresham Historical

Would you like to enroll in Planned Giving?

☐ Yes, please charge my credit/debit card for a recurring donation of \$_____.

Frequency of Planned Giving (Check only one):

☐ Monthly

☐ Quarterly

☐ Bi-monthly

☐ Annually

☐ No, please charge my credit/debit for a one-time donation of \$_____.

☐ American Express

☐ Discover

☐ MasterCard

☐ Visa

Card number

Exp. Date

CVV

Signature

Thank you, 2020 Donors!

We would like to give a special thank you to those who donated to the Gresham Historical Society in 2020! Your financial support helps us fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing our local history. Because the Gresham Historical Society does not receive federal or state aid, we could not do our work without the support of donors like you. Thank you for helping make history happen, and keeping our museum—your museum—free and open to the public.

Donor Levels

Contributor	\$1-99
Patrons	\$100-249
Associate	\$250-499
Steward	\$500-999
Grantor	\$1,000-4,999
Benefactor	\$5,000-9,999
1913 Carnegie Fellow	\$10,000+

(Monetary or in-kind value)

Contributors

AmazonSmile
Betty Chisum
Karylinn and Patton Echols
Robert Estes & Mary Jeanne Oliva
John and Bunny Harrold
Wayne and Pamela Horine
Liz Jones
Kroger
Lew & Sharon Lehr
Rose Marie Noojin
Emma Olson
Jo Ann Reese
Martin Stone
Luby Taylor
Larry and Kathleen White

Patrons

Teresa Squires-Osborne
Sue Piazza
Judith Scott

Associate

Rotary Club of Gresham

Stewards

Hank and Mardy Stevens

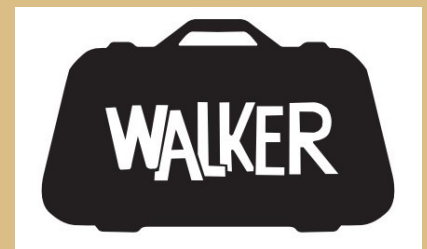
1913 Carnegie Fellows

Jim Chase
Jack Malcolm
Pat Stone
Oregon Heritage Commission

In-Kind Donations

Guy Edwards
Gresham Sanitary Service
Sunny and Judy Han
Leamy Printing and Design
Ken and Martha Manske
Mark Moore
Rose Marie Noojin
Minuteman Press of Gresham
Portland Security Alarm

Business Sponsors



Edward Jones
Alina Rocha Johnson

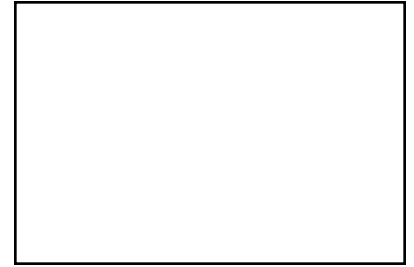


Rotary Club of Gresham



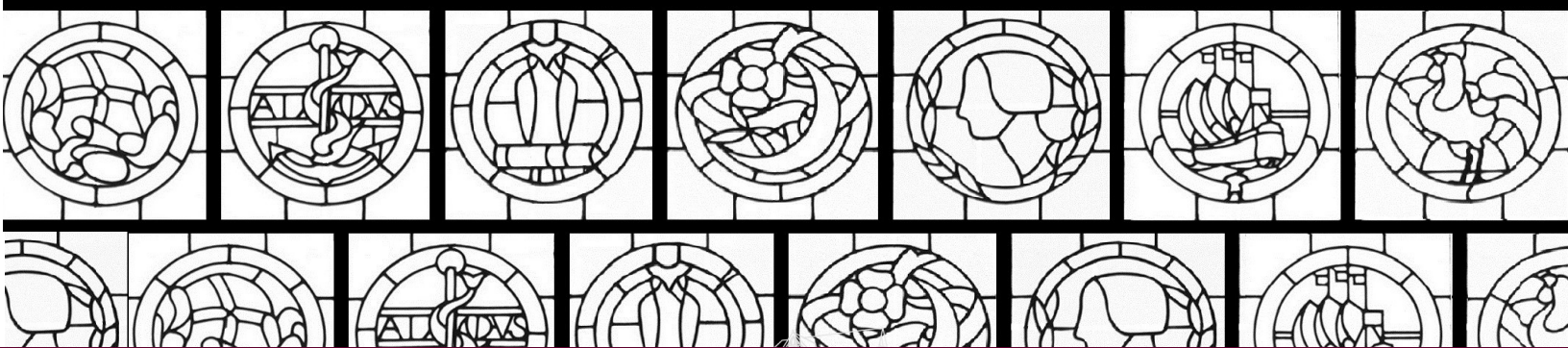


Gresham Historical Society
PO Box 65
Gresham, OR 97030-0011



www.greshamhistorical.org

E-mail: info@greshamhistorical.org



Gresham Historical
Society & Museum

MUSEUM CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19

Museum Hours

Wednesday 10 am – 4 pm
Thursday 10 am – 4 pm
Friday 10 am – 4 pm
Saturday 10 am – 4 pm
Sunday 12 pm – 4 pm
Closed Monday & Tuesday

