



Tualatin Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2021

*Founded in 1986, the Society's mission is
to preserve, promote and interpret the rich and colorful history of Tualatin*



Mazamas Reach 125th Thursday, April 15 , 7 pm

Oregon's premier mountain climbing organization celebrated its 125th year in 2020. Staff



member Matthew Brock will be sharing historic Curtis Brothers photographs of Mount Rainier and Mount St. Helens between the late 1890s and early 1920s.

Majesty of the Beautiful Swiss Alps: The Origin & Physical Processes of Europe's Highest Mountains

Thursday, May 20, 7 pm

Join Professor Scott Burns as he talks about the origin of the Alps, the rocks, folds, landslides, snow avalanches, waterfalls, caves, climate and environmental problems.



See page 2 for March Program co-sponsored by Ice Age Flood Institute Lower Columbia Chapter and the Tualatin Historical Society.
www.iafi.org

Watch your email for the links for these 3 programs or go to www.tualatinhistory.org.

Look Inside Our New Website! Wednesday, April 7, 1 pm

This virtual meeting will feature a guided tour of the many features and resources at your fingertips inside www.tualatinhistory.org, our brand new website. Thanks to funding from the federal CARES act we are able to reach hundreds more folks with information and programs from the comfort of home even if you missed the live recording today.

Collateral Results of Viet Nam Wednesday, May 5, 1 pm

Jack Estes, the author of the critically acclaimed book *A Field of Innocence*, a memoir of his service in Vietnam in 1968-69.

His articles and essays have appeared in Newsweek, LA Times, Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, and the Oregonian. *A Field of Innocence* is available on Amazon.com in both paperback and Kindle editions. Jack has also written an award-winning screenplay entitled *A Soldiers Son*, which has been adapted for print and was published as a novel in 2016 and published in the literary anthology *Timberline Review*.



His in-laws owned and developed properties in Tualatin during the 1970's around today's Killarney Lane. Jack is married to THS member Colleen O'Callaghan.

Local Hops History and Area Connections

Wednesday, June 2, 1 pm

Mark Browne from the Lake Oswego Heritage House will talk about the history of hops in the Tualatin Plains, the area's historic hop farms, the importance of farming and agriculture and the social celebrations surrounding those.

Hops were grown in Tualatin as well. One plant descended from the Cimino family farm still climbs our parking lot light post thanks to Bob and Lindy Hughes.



Mastodon Dental Work!!!

On Feb 23, 2021, U of O researcher Andrew Boehm returned to extract a DNA sample from our mastodon tooth. Andrew is pictured at left with Yvonne Addington and Mike Full.



Andrew writes:

Now that the sample has been removed, I will mail it to the DNA lab at McMaster University where they will attempt to extract DNA. 'Fingers crossed', but at this point we have to wait until the lab can process the sample, before we have a better understanding of how long ago the Tualatin Mastodon lived. They are temporarily out of the office due to Covid.



Sample of tooth removed for DNA. And yes THC did smell like a dental office.



Andrew Boehm and Mike Full at THC preparing mastodon molar for sampling

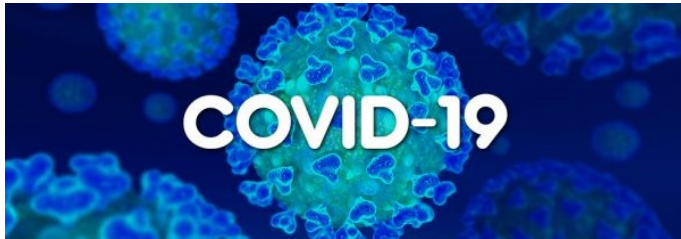
When Yellowstone Was in Oregon

Thursday, June 17, 7 pm
Zoom at www.iafi.org

Bill Burgel, local geologist, traces back in time when Yellowstone Park's geysers today were actually very close to where we are now in Oregon!



Tualatin's Covid19 History Continues



March marks the first year of Tualatin's lockdown to help halt the spread of the world's worst pandemic since 1918. Nationally, Covid19-related deaths were moving over 550,000 with over 2000 of those in Oregon. But March 2021 also brought increasing vaccinations for eligible populations. Vaccines for young people below 16 were still not approved. Public schools in Tualatin were still not back to full classrooms. More empty storefronts could be seen in Tualatin with restaurants restricted to carry out or outside dining in tents only. March saw gradual lifting of capacity limits, however. Masks, preferably doubled up, were recommended by health experts even though resistance to these guidelines was evident. Hundreds of Tualatin residents who formerly traveled to brick and mortar buildings for their jobs were still confined to their home work spaces even as traffic on streets and freeways was almost back to normal times. To complicate life in February, extreme weather moved into the state and hit the Tualatin area hard with frozen rain (ice) downing trees and limbs throughout the city. Some residents were without electricity for several days. Churches and civic meetings were still being held virtually and Tualatin's community theatre group Mask & Mirror held performances on line only.



We Remember: Evie Andrews 1933-2021

Evelyn (Evie) was born in The Dalles in 1933 and died January 9. In 1954, she married Erwin Pearson and together they had 4 children: Julie, Deborah, Timothy, and Cheri. In 1977, Evie married George "Corky" An-



drews and their union created a blended family of 8 children. Their beloved log home on 65th Avenue was the center of many large gatherings. After graduating from Oregon State University in 1955, Evie went on to student teach at Tualatin Elementary and continued her entire 30-year career teaching first grade there. Her positive impact on the Tualatin Elementary community is legendary, leading the district to name a wing of the school after her. Her professional awards include Oregon Teacher of the Year, the Christa McAuliffe Excellence in Teaching award, and the Milken Educator award. After retirement, Evie substituted for many years exclusively at Tualatin Elementary and also volunteered for THS as a board member and particularly as a key planner in the popular 4th grade Pioneer Days where she served as school marm for our one-room school. Her grandson Nathan was the very first Jack Broome scholarship winner..

Gordon Sunde 1931-2021

Today's Sunde Meadows subdivision at Boones Ferry and Avery is named for the family of Gordon Sunde who died of Covid19 in March. At 5-years old and nicknamed "the littlest cowboy," Gordon joined his three musical brothers in their Sunde Brothers band performing in area-wide talent shows, at fairs, Grange halls and on KGW radio. They were also featured in a movie *Running Wild* filmed in Oregon. In 1955 Gordon joined the Air Force and served as a pilot during the Viet Nam era and afterward, rising to the rank of Major in the Reserves. His civilian career was as a tri-county parole/probation officer.

THS member **Donna Scheckla** passed away in November in California

Welcome New Members

George Schroeder
Ron Huelat
Rachel Martin



Recognized on a plaque at THC

Founders Club– 3 yr. membership \$250

Frank Bubenik and Donna Capodacqua

Robert Kellogg

June Halliday

Allen Song

Steve and Kristin Kunkle

Kay and Lloyd Gooding

Oregon Heritage Council

Scott Burns

Gay Paschoal

Art Sasaki

Laura Spurrell

Julie Spaniel and Adam Tarr



Heritage Circle-5 yr. membership \$500

Rochelle Martinazzi

Laura and Ross Baker

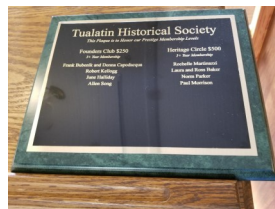
Norm Parker

Paul and Cindy Morrison

Larry and Ellie McClure

David and Diana Emami

Virgil and Jo Remillard



2021 Tualatin Historical Society Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Individual \$25

Household \$40

Patron \$100 new level

Founder's Club \$250 (3 years)

Heritage Circle \$500 (5 years)

Mail form and payment to
P.O. Box 1055, Tualatin, OR 97062
Make Checks to Tualatin Historical Society –
Visa/MC accepted

Pandemic Halts the Wagon Train Again?

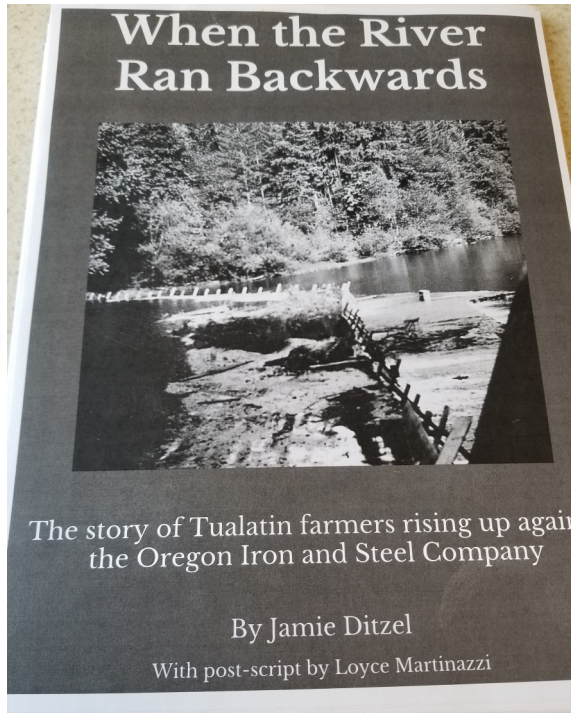
With 4th graders not able to enjoy full classroom participation most of this year, it appears that they may not be able strike out on the Oregon Trail to the Heritage Center. While the oxen would be OK, there is still no guarantee of “herd” immunity for the rest of us. Stay tuned as we learn more. Discussions are underway of possible future changes in how we might help young people understand life in the days before electricity.



Long-Promised Publication on Local Mystery Completed

When the River Ran backwards by Jamie Ditzel

Tells the story of Tualatin farmers rising up against the Oregon Iron and Steel Company in 1906.



While many jobs depended on that ironworks, there were adverse impacts on upriver farms when the dam was further raised causing flooding as far up as Scholls. Court battles had gone on earlier but finally local Tualatin farmers had enough of lawyers and one night in August 1906 a dynamite explosion settled the issue. The story is worthy of a TV documentary, but you'll have to read the book itself to learn who did it! Loyce provides this postscript: *"Well dad, it's done. You would be happy."*



Jamie Ditzel

Before he died, Art Martinazzi made his daughter Loyce promise that someday she should tell the story of how local farmers blew up a controversial diversion dam on the Tualatin River that was destroying farmers' crops in our area. Working with Loyce's stack of gathered over the years, the entire fascinating history was compiled this winter by Portland State University graduate student Jamie Ditzel.

Complete with maps, photos, newspaper clippings and excerpts from court proceedings, the 76-page volume titled "When the River Ran Backwards" is now available for \$ 20. The story begins in Lake Oswego when Oregon Iron & Steel Works was in its heyday in the 1890s. The company depended on the river for navigation and floating timber downstream to make charcoal for use in the foundry.



With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember

Listen for the Sound

Veterans will be honored by the traditional flyover with military aircraft on Monday, May 31. The usual Winona Cemetery ceremonies and picnic at Community Park will be postponed till next year. Watch for other opportunities around town to purchase a poppy in honor of all who lost their lives in foreign wars.

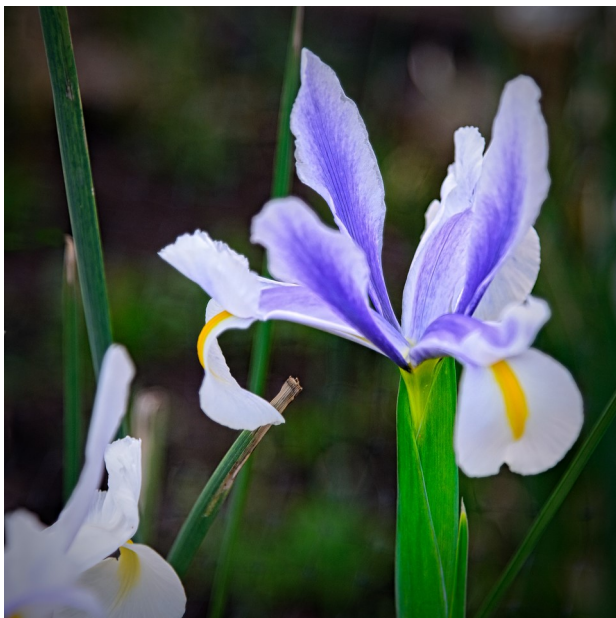


Check Out Our Historic Plants

Blooming This Spring!

Springtime is also show time for the two historic plants in our north patio planter. One put food on the table for the original Mark Lafky family whose major income was from growing Dutch iris at the family farm off Boones ferry Road in south Tualatin; the other was an important food source for the indigenous Atfalati people in their day who knew exactly where to dig camas bulbs which grew prolifically in our region before settlement.

Sandra Carlson remembers watching her grandfather Mark Lafky prepare his field with two horses and a plow. Later, she participated in harvesting the bulbs in July. "You had to crawl down the rows to dig and pull out the stalks then cut off the bulbs. I remember doing that as a kid. It was a hot and dirty job." While purple iris were the most biggest seller, one day Mark spotted a white mutant in his field and separated it from all the others so it wouldn't revert to its original color. When he had a consistent crop he named the new species the Tualatin Manette for his wife. Eventually he filed for a patent to protect the discovery. Watch this May for the white blooms protected from varmints by netting. Besides the small group growing at the heritage center patio others are growing at Winona Cemetery and Lafky House at Community Park, though now some are beginning to show some purple streaks. Linda Aman's watercolor painting of the Tualatin Manette iris hangs at the heritage center.



At the west end of this same planter grow several Camassia or camas plants which is a spring lily with primarily blue-purple flowers most often found in wetlands, grasslands and oak savannas. Oregon has the greatest diversity of these species which were a basic foodstuff of the Kalapuyan nation up and down the Willamette Valley. Women dug the bulbs with special sticks crafted from wood or antlers. After harvesting, the bulbs were often baked in earth ovens and cooked till tender and sweet or dried and pounded into flour for storage. Camas is a North American plant whose greatest diversity lies in Oregon, home to over 65 percent of the named species. Meriwether Lewis first described camas for science in Idaho noting the prolific blooms "resemble lakes of fine clear water." Today tribes carefully protect existing stands of this traditional food source. The ones in our THS planter were obtained from Bosky Dell Nursery in West Linn. Nature Preservancy owns the 22-acre Camassia Nature Preserve also in West Linn features camas stands blooming in April-May. The preserve was closed in 2020 due to Covid so check ahead before visiting (503-802-8100)

Heritage Center Closures

**The Tualatin Heritage Center
will be closed to observe
Memorial Day
May 31 and 4th of July.**

Historian's Corner by Sandra Lafky Carlson

Ora Barngrover Nyberg, 1879-1932

Ora was born in Kansas in 1879, and arrived in Oregon by train with her family in 1883. Her parents, John and Catherine Barngrover, purchased 80 acres of farmland in Tualatin on Borland Rd. Ora met John Nyberg, a young Swedish immigrant, in the early 1890's. John had planned only a brief stay in Tualatin before heading north, but when he met Ora Barngrover he decided to stay. They were married in 1897 at the Oregon City Courthouse, and settled into a log cabin in Tualatin. They eventually had ten children: Claude, twins Velma and Elma, Ruby, Ruth, Cecil, Zira, Clayton, Wilbur and Willis. Six of their children lived their whole lives in Tualatin.

John and Ora purchased 126 acres of rich farmland along the Tualatin River. They planted onions, mint, a walnut orchard and many other trees on their Guernsey dairy farm. They built a barn and eventually a grand 3-story home—an American Classic Foursquare. Years later the home was moved a short distance west when the I-5 freeway came through Tualatin. It stood as a landmark for decades at the Nyberg Rd exit from I-5.



The older Nyberg children all took music lessons and played several different instruments. The 3 youngest Nyberg boys were very involved in 4-H, and showed their animals at county and state fairs, and at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition in Portland. The Nyberg's had many visitors from their extended family and friends who came and camped on the farm in the summer. John's birthday was July 4th, so they always had a big party to celebrate. Zira remembered how they would can 1000 jars of preserves each summer to feed the family.

John became a County Commissioner, and also Tualatin's second mayor serving 26 years from 1918 to 1944. Ora's brother Bill Barngrover became Tualatin's first Fire Chief and served for 30 years. Sadly, Ora passed away in 1932 at the age of 53. Her oldest grandchild Ralph Eames had been accidentally killed a week before at the Tualatin Country Club. Ora had suffered a heart attack then, and died a week later from a second one. Clayton and his younger brothers were 14, 12 and 10 years in age at the time. Mrs. Ibach recalled how they all sat in a row at her funeral and were stair steps in height. Her obituary said hers was the largest attended funeral in Tualatin history. For a long time after, John would often be seen walking the mile from his farm to visit her grave at Winona Cemetery.

Sources of information about Ora: Chris Nyberg Tunstall, and "Tualatin From the Beginning" by Martinazzi and Lafky-Nygaard.

THS Launches Brand New Website

Thanks to our technology guru Matt Kleinke and president Ross Baker, the Society can now boast a totally new web design that puts us in the forefront of historical societies our size. The address is now much simpler: tualatinhistory.org So start your exploration there and notice all the directions you can go at the top of the Home page. If you missed one of our programs delivered virtually this year, you can now see them "live" from your easy chair. You can listen to voices of Tualatin personalities telling stories about when they were young, sometimes including the transcriptions of their oral history. Cindy will continue updating the website as needed. Photos from our vast collection maintained by Ken Stinger will gradually be added. Be sure to join the April-Zoom meeting when Ross will walk us through the site in more detail.

THS Scholarship Program Begins Second Decade

Now named the Jack Broome Scholarship since he first proposed the idea over ten years ago, there is still time to make a donation so we can continue helping a Tualatin High School senior attend a two or four-year college. Chair Norm Parker and his committee will shortly be reviewing applications. Your contribution can be made by check or call Cindy to use a credit card. The typical scholarship is for \$3,000.

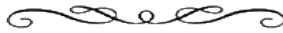
Your 2021 Tualatin Historical Society Board

Executive Board:

President: Ross Baker
 Vice-President: Kurt Krause
 Secretary: Cathy Stockwell
 Treasurer: Barbara Stinger
 Historian: Sandra Lafky Carlson

Directors:

Yvonne Addington
 Larry McClure
 Art Sasaki
 Kristina Wheelock
 Allen Song



Loyce Matinazzi— Co- Founder

Publisher—Cindy Frost
 Editor - Larry McClure
 See our current and past newsletters in color and other articles of interest at www.tualatinhistory.org

Volunteers of the Month

Tualatin resident **Greg Doering** from General Tree Service enlisted his wife **Karla** to help prune our apple trees for the season in March. Thanks to you both and to our own **Karin Olson** for cleaning up the branches afterward. Thanks also to **Barb & Ken Stinger** for pruning the roses and **Bob & Lindy Hughes** for getting hops ready for a new year.



Tualatin Heritage Center
 Tualatin Historical Society
 Mailing: P.O. Box 1055
 8700 SW Sweek Drive
 Tualatin, OR 97062
 Phone: **503.885.1926**
www.Tualatinhistory.org



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The Center is open to the public Monday-Thursday from 10am to 3pm during Covid. The Tualatin Historical Society holds virtual program meetings at 1:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month or see the website.