



# Tualatin Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter

OCT/NOV/DEC 2021

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



## **Virtual ...Evening Programs**

### **More Valuable than Gold? Sea Otters of the Oregon Coast (via Zoom)**

Thursday, October 21 7 pm

Lewis & Clark knew sea otters as a vital global trade commodity, highly valued by the Chinese, and did their best to bring pelts back to President Jefferson. Today, the Elakha Alliance, composed of tribal and conservation leaders, envisions a thriving sea otter population as part of a resilient marine ecosystem. Cameron LaFollette, Executive Director of Oregon Coast Alliance and an Elakha Alliance Board member, will trace the history of these now extinct mammals and efforts to restore them to our shores.

### **Glaciers: Sculptors of the Swiss Alps (via Zoom)**

Thursday, November 18, 2021 7 pm  
The second of his three-part presentations on the Swiss Alps, Dr. Scott Burns will focus on glacial landforms, glacial periods of the past, and present glaciers in these iconic mountains. Learn about the Swiss Pyramids, too! He will also be sharing photos from his glacial research in Alaska. A THS member, Scott is a lifelong resident of Tualatin and retired professor of geology at PSU.

Program co-sponsored by Ice Age Flood Institute Lower Columbia Chapter and the Tualatin Historical Society. Call Sylvis Thompson 503-257-0144. [www.iafi.org](http://www.iafi.org)

## **A Conversation with the Mayor (via Zoom)**

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 1 pm virtual

Former THS board member Frank Bubenik will reflect on his first 2 years as mayor and what he sees for the years ahead. Known for his community volunteer work and concern for a sustainable future, Frank co-chaired a city-wide visioning project and served on the City Council before his election to the mayor seat. THS President Ross Baker will interview him on Zoom before a small live audience at the Center to stay within Covid protocols.

Go to [www.tualatinhistory.org](http://www.tualatinhistory.org) for Zoom link.

## **THS Annual Meeting (via Zoom)**

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1pm virtual

Without a lunch for the second year, we will celebrate accomplishments for 2020-21 despite the constraints of no in-person meetings and limited outside activities. THS officers will give an update on projects completed and still underway. Budget figures will be shared showing the impact of strong membership numbers, successful grants, generous donations and community outreach. Be ready to win a trivia contest and claim your prize in the raffle for great prizes. Learn interesting things about new members and newly-acquired artifacts. Find out results of the email election of new members and officers on your Board of Directors conducted electronically in October.

## **Outside Holiday Celebration**

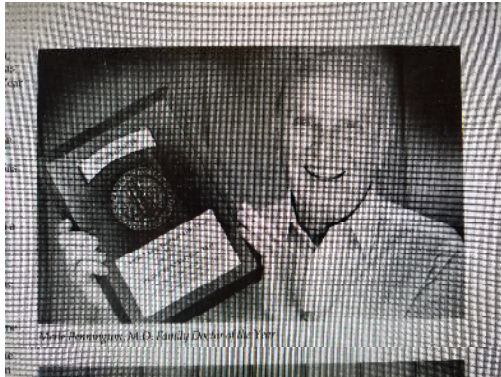
Wednesday, December 1, 2021 1 pm

Stay tuned for details to come, but this special time of the year brings back memories of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa memories for all Tualatin residents (see Yvonne Addington's article on p.5. Be prepared to bundle up and enjoy some hot cocoa on the patio if we are able to re-create an early Tualatin tradition. Will Santa come, too? Let's see what might happen!



## From the Attic

Recent donations to the THS include a medical bag, books and tools used by Dr. Merle Pennington. Dr. Pennington grew up in Tualatin and later practiced as a family physician in the Tualatin-Sherwood area from 1948 on. He also served as a medical educator at OHSU and helped found Tuality Hospital in 1954. He was named Oregon Doctor Citizen of the year in 1965 by the Oregon Medical Association. Many thanks to his daughter Gay Pennington Paschoal for donating these items to our collection.



And in the THS Lending Library are 2 copies of “House Calls, Recollections of a Family Physician” by Thomas L. Stern, M.D. who shared the Sherwood-Tualatin medical practice with Dr. Pennington for a time. Former Governor Vic Atiyeh called it a “thoroughly engaging book”. Dr. Stern also served as a technical advisor on the 1970’s T.V. Series “Marcus Welby, M.D.”



## Sears Roebuck Houses in Tualatin?

Is anyone aware of any assembled in our city? From about 1908 to 1940, tens of thousands of folks around the country ordered a kit from their Sears catalog choosing from several different designs. Detailed instructions were included and everything needed was shipped, including fixtures. We're wondering if any were assembled here. We should get a picture for the THS archives. Sears and Montgomery Ward catalogs were popular items in family homes for many years, especially to boost a boy higher on a kitchen chair for his haircut...or in the outhouse!

## Christmas Shopping at THC

Stop by the Heritage Center to fill your list. Bargains that also bring new insights on local history, including our most recent publication, *When the River Ran Backwards*, an intriguing story of how and why local farmers blew up the dam on the lower Tualatin River (\$20). A fresh shipment of Heritage preserves has arrived with marionberry usually the first to sell out. Other varieties are strawberry and red raspberry. Also available, CDs featuring the Tualatin Symphony's debut of the “Tualatin Overture” composed by Arthur Breur. DVDs of several historic plays written and performed by THS members are also great stocking stuffers. Books on Tualatin history written by Loyce Martinazzi, Karen Lafky Nygaard and Yvonne Addington are also available.



## Pandemic Ramps Up Again

As residents were beginning to see life returning to normal in Tualatin this past spring and summer, the Covid19 virus had other plans. A more virulent strain of the disease started to emerge in the nation. Called the “delta variant”, it apparently started in India. Schools welcomed students back into the classroom in September as more adults were vaccinated.



## Tualatin's Winona Grange Celebrates 125 Years

By Marilyn Reiher, Grange Master (president) and new THS member

Tualatin's oldest community organization was founded long before Tualatin was incorporated in 1913. Twenty-four farm family members met in 1895 to organize the Grange and chose the name Winona to honor the deceased eldest daughter of J. R. C. Thompson. Winona Cemetery is also named after her. Thirteen of Winona Grange's first members are buried there.

Who were these first members? Edward Byrom is a familiar name because the elementary school is named for him. Jurgens Park and Avenue are named for William Jurgens who served as Treasurer until his death in 1909. Laura Thompson, a 19-year old teacher, was the first Secretary. Later she served as Tualatin's Postmistress. After renting above the Thompson's store those first years, members wanted their own meeting place, so in February 1939 members voted to build a two-story building on a lot now adjacent to the Lake at the Commons on Seneca Street. The first meeting in the new hall was held on February 26, 1940.

In 125 years, Winona Grange has had 37 Presidents. Many are familiar Tualatin names: Cimino, Sagert, Robbins, Pohl, Christensen, and Martinazzi. While the number of farmers in the Tualatin area declined, the number of Grange members steadily increased. The Grange had 100 members in 1944 and 200 in 1951.

(For Marilyn's more detailed history and related photos, go to the THS website)



Grange Hall in 2021

## Can You Identify These Barns.

Our historians are going through old photos and trying to identify those for our website and records. Do you have any clues?



#1



#2



#3



#4

## 2021 Heritage Evening a Success

Despite concerns over possible Covid closure or predicted rain that night, some 80 participants enjoyed a mild evening Sept 17, on the patio, a first-ever oral auction, good food, local wines and a chance to re-connect with friends and new acquaintances alike. Proceeds were equally impressive, with over \$9,000 raised to continue support of the Society.

In addition to those who attended, thanks are due to Cindy Frost, THC manager and her committee of Joyce Davis, Barb Stinger, Kristina Wheelock and Larry McClure.

Classical guitarist David Tutmark provided easy-listening background music, Dalton Catering provided bountiful foods, and guests enjoyed wines underwritten in part by St. Josef and Rallison wineries. THS member Richard Hall donated the big tent and the City of Tualatin provided canopies to protect volunteers and guests from the elements.



The cash raffle raised \$2150, prize winners were Anne Avery, Joanne Casey and Lois Roby. All three are THS members! The new oral auction, led by Oregon Cowboy Poet and THS member Tom Swearingen, was successful raking in \$6,000.



Big returns were for one week at the Ross and Laura Baker vacation home in Manzanita. Three successful bidders will receive customized paintings by Carlos Horcos, THS member and artist who also prepared the ten depictions of scenes from Tualatin over the decades for the 2013 centennial.



Kristina Wheelock and Ellie McClure at the Registration



Larry McClure and Yvonne Addington, first to arrive.

Other sought-after items were professional photography services by THS member Al Stewart, two private tours of the Portland Rose Garden, and lunch or dinner with the mayor at any restaurant of the winner's choice (purchased for \$250). This was won by Loyce Martinazzi who chose (for historical purposes) the Country Inn or CI which was formerly the Spot Tavern.





## Tualatin Fire Department Spreads Christmas Joy to All.

by Yvonne Saarinen Addington, THS Board Member

After World War II, beginning in the late 1940s, a Merry Christmas celebration became an essential event to gather and reunite neighbors who had too long been isolated from others by required protective measures of the war. Even in the tiny town of Tualatin (population 293) it had been a long time since people had been able to gather. During the war time, night time protective blackouts had been nationally enforced such as a nightly, very loud 9:00 PM curfew siren atop the Tualatin fire building to remind all people to get inside; no lights on cars or outside buildings were allowed and blackout shades were required on all windows of homes and businesses. Night time gatherings were also considered unsafe in attracting possible enemies that could destroy a community.

After the war ended, a new building to house the first full time firemen of the Tualatin Fire Department and their fire trucks had been built by volunteers and the firemen were anxious to reunite the community as before the war. During off duty time at the fire department they decided to form a Toy and Joy Program to repair and distribute toys to needy young people. Then they planned and scheduled a major annual community event starting with singing at a night time caroling party around the largest evergreen tree in downtown Tualatin.

The firemen, using the fire trucks and ladders to reach the top of the tree, strung large strings of gleaming lights on the large tree at the intersection of Boones Ferry Road and Tualatin Road. It lit up the community for the holidays. A major night time community caroling party filled the roadway as it was attended by hundreds of singers young and old and **Santa Claus** arrived on a fire truck together with toys of joy.



One person who still celebrates Christmas almost year around since those days in the late 1950s and 1960s, is Dee Ann Conover Meharry, granddaughter of the first Fire Chief William Barngrover and daughter of one of the first full time firemen, Merwyn Conover. Dee Ann grew up in Tualatin and in 2012 participated with retired firemen and other citizens in telling and writing "*Tualatin Fire Protection History 1937-89*", a booklet that was published and is still available at the Tualatin Heritage Center. There are many stories and pictures in it as well as pictures of her Dad and Dee Ann working on donated toys for the Christmas season.



Excerpts from her story includes how much she enjoyed the firemen's community and Christmas efforts. "When I was a child, I loved the Christmas season at the fire department. I loved to go there. The toys were being fixed behind the trucks as well as food donated for distribution to the needy. The firemen were my family. They welcomed many other youngsters and helped them to understand the importance of fire protection and community service. Many community events were held. by the department which had large truck spaces for community events. The kids got along well, played together and bonded."

Santa Claus arriving on a fire truck to join the community in singing Christmas songs is a lifetime memory for many of us who grew up in Tualatin.

## August 7 Fire Truck Event Attracts 200 Visitors

Over 200 visitors dropped in to the first public showing of the restored 1950 Tualatin fire truck and a new model now operated by Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue. The rusty old truck was rescued in a Terrebonne farmer's field by THS member Brian Clopton. It was brought back to its original vintage condition by a dedicated crew of volunteers led by Kelvin Steven, several of whom were on hand to show it off. TFVR personnel answered questions on the modern equipment they now use.

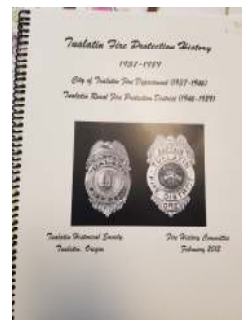


Tualatin's fire department served as the catalyst for today's largest fire district of its kind in Oregon: Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVFR). Tualatin's early firefighters worked from a "lean-to" attached to the old city hall just south of today's "Gyros to Go" building near Boones Ferry and Tualatin Sherwood Road



All ages were intrigued by how technology has changed over the years. THS member Annette Saarinen remembered when the old truck was first introduced to the original Tualatin Fire Department when she was a child. She and sister Yvonne Addington recall the days when their father was a captain who would drop his auto shop and welding tools when the loud siren sounded and race to the station to respond to an emergency. Kids visiting that Saturday received plastic firefighter helmets and other goodies.

As the town grew, the Tualatin Rural Fire Protection District was formed and a new station was built on Seneca Street not far from the Lake at the Commons and Winona Grange with new ones added later. Today's TVFR now operates from 23 stations and responded to some 50,000 incidents last year in much of Washington County and surrounding areas. Brian served on the TVFR board for many years.



The history of Tualatin's fire department has been chronicled in a book coordinated by Yvonne Addington, former city manager, whose father served on the board when the vintage truck was used. Copies available at the Heritage Center for \$10, call Cindy 503-885-1926



## Historian's Corner by Sandra Lafky Carlson

### Lois Karen Lafky Nygaard

Karen was my beloved aunt, my father's only sibling. Born in 1925, she grew up during the Depression on the Lafky family farm in Tualatin. She remembered a pleasant childhood with playmates Margaret Buswell and the Sunde boys. They spent many hours exploring the woods that later became Little Woodrose Nature Park.

Karen loved music and musical films as a teen and took piano and guitar lessons. She also dreamed of traveling, of leaving the farm and sleepy town of Tualatin, and exploring the arts and culture of bigger cities and more exciting places. She majored in Music and Journalism at Lewis and Clark College. She married Ed Beach and they moved to New York City where she became an editor for an education magazine. She enjoyed all the culture NYC offered, visiting museums, live theater, the symphony, etc. She travelled twice to Europe and found the Scotland birthplace of her grandmother.

Karen didn't forget Tualatin though. She wrote weekly letters home and returned for visits each summer. I so looked forward to her visits because she was interesting and she took an interest in me. A big influence in my life, she gifted me with good books and recordings of classical music and she took me to events like the first professional ballet performance I ever saw. I was in awe of her.

She and Ed became parents to their son Mark 1965. Karen loved being a mother and would bring Mark along on her summer visits to Tualatin. As a young child, Mark expressed the wish to move from the big city to Tualatin. I think that was when Karen began to miss the slower-paced life in her hometown. She got her teaching degree and the family moved back to Tualatin. She taught music in various schools and also became involved in the United Methodist Church where she directed two choirs as well as the Portland Symphonic Choir. When Mark left for college, Karen began traveling to Europe on Choir trips and with Elderhostel (Road Scholar) tours. She took up cycling in her early 60's, often riding from Tualatin to Sherwood or the Canby Ferry and back.



Karen Laky Nygaard

Karen had a friendship with Loyce Martinazzi who had also grown up on a family farm in Tualatin. They shared interests in music and local history.

In 1986, they co-founded the Tualatin Historical Society and wrote scripts for programs based on local history. In 1992, Karen re-married, this time to Jack Nygaard and moved to Southern California to be with him. But each year she returned to Tualatin for THS events and to visit family. Loyce had gathered a lot of information about Tualatin history so Karen suggested they prepare a book of those stories, so in 1994 they co-wrote "Tualatin from the Beginning".



Karen Lafky Nygaard  
and  
Loyce Martinazzi

Whenever Karen was in Tualatin, they loved researching together at the Oregon Historical Society and other venues. Karen took that information with Loyce's and divided it into chapters. During most of the year when Karen was in California, Loyce would write each chapter on an electric typewriter and mail to Karen. Loyce remembers: "Of course, she would change a few things which I didn't like, but soon I realized that she had editing skills that I knew nothing about. At the time neither of us had a computer, so it was more difficult to change things. When my electric typewriter broke down I used a plain old typewriter. I think I finished the last chapter writing by hand.....After she edited each chapter she would send it back by snail mail, and notate the pictures needed and the size..... It was an ordeal, to be sure. ...We did argue about some things, but I usually gave in to her.....I had such respect for her abilities, and she was gentle in telling me why she changed things."

Karen had a busy life with Jack in California. She joined a choir there and wrote and directed musical plays with children as the actors. She and Jack travelled on Elderhostel trips. She won several cycling medals in the Long Beach Senior Olympics. "She cycled 73 miles on her 73rd birthday". But Karen missed Tualatin and hoped to have a summer home near the Heritage Center, so she could spend more time in her hometown, continue her work in the THS, and be closer to family. However, in her 86th year in 2011, she was diagnosed with a rare aggressive cancer which soon ended her life. Her last bit of writing was a comprehensive article about the history of her hometown Tualatin. It was accepted into the Oregon Encyclopedia (a project of the Oregon Historical Society) and can be read on the website [oregonencyclopedia.org](http://oregonencyclopedia.org).

Karen was unforgettable, so positive, fun and smart. She loved challenges and was always interested in other people. "A lover of old things" as she described herself. She left quite a legacy. And I still miss her.

**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:**

Art Sasaki  
Yvonne Addington  
Larry McClure,  
Kristina Wheelock



Loyce Martinazzi- 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](http://www.tualatinhistory.org).

**Volunteer of the Quarter: Joyce Davis**

*Joyce Davis has helped plant and water outside plants for several years at the Tualatin Heritage Center. She passes by when walking her dog Boomer and also helps keep an eye on the center, since she lives in the condos across the street.*

*In recent years she has been a huge help with our fundraisers and was a member of the fundraising committee in 2021. We could not have done it with out her.*

*She also helps monitor at the center.*

*Thank you Joyce Davis!*



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**Tualatin Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 1055  
Tualatin, OR 97062

**Welcome  
New  
Members**

Ingrid Carlson  
Emily Carlson  
Sue Hickman  
Jason Ruybalid

