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April 2009 - Volume 28, No. 2

From the President...

Historic greetings from your THA board in 2009. I love working with local history. A firm grasp on history gives a better sense of perspective about the present and helps us to plan more wisely for the future. Some examples? Consider that we've had many economic downturns in history. They are a common occurrence. Also common are different weather and climate cycles, whether warming or cooling. With a historical perspective we can approach issues in a more reasonable and less emotional and reactionary way. The sense of "crisis" about issues that are common in our past does not have to rush us to quick reactions and actions that only make the situation worse. In short, a knowledge of history is essential to a healthy society; whether nationally or locally in our communities.

This has been a good year so far in local history. The project I've been working on with the Tumwater School's History Committee is completed and for sale at the local schools and district office. I hope you'll get a chance to purchase "The History of the Tumwater School District" soon. The soft cover version is only \$10 and the hard cover version is \$25. A lot of pictures and a lot of wonderful Tumwater area history!

For the Tumwater Historical Association, this is a year with a little less activity since we don't have a Stagecoach event to work on. We're focusing on the Pioneer Fair at the American Heritage Campground May 30th and planning for events in cooperation with other local history groups. After our great experiences working with other groups during the two Territorial Express Stagecoach runs, we see this kind of cooperation a key future direction for THA. We can combine visions, volunteers and share expenses to put on events that are more difficult for just one group to do on their own. We'll be working on special speakers and programs, gatherings and celebrations, quilting events, and future stagecoach runs and other living history projects. If you have ideas about this, contact us on the board.

Overall budget concerns are hindering local history at a governmental level in 2009. The Thurston County Historic Commission is facing the elimination of the County Parks and Recreation Department, Tumwater is cutting back in museum operations which will therefore affect the Harvest Festival formerly held the first weekend in October at Falls Park. What will that mean for "Cider Sunday"? Will we go back to doing it on our own again? It all remains to be seen.

In other news:

- Corinne Tobeck is now on the THA board and we welcome her with open arms. Her first duty is taking over the newsletter you're reading now. Thanks Corinne! We look forward to having your energy and experience in our group!
- There is some archaeological work going on at the George Bush homestead site off Old Hwy. 99 as the current owner is preparing to put the place up for sale. Already we're seeing some neat artifacts coming off that site. It is hoped that something can be done to preserve that historically significant site for the State of Washington. We'll keep you updated.
- It shouldn't be long now that you'll be seeing new banners and directional signage near the Tumwater Historic District. Also there's going to be some very nice display panels installed soon around the Falls Park river walk trail.
- On a personal note: the rebuilding of our house on the Trosper Homestead site should be happening very soon. It's been a long 10 - 11 months getting to this point. It is hoped that we'll be in the new house by the end of October. Thanks to so many of you who have been encouraging us and helping us out. We'll soon have a website on line for you to keep track of the progress. I think it's going to be "Trosperrebuild.com".

I hope you enjoy the information in this newsletter. Our goal is to have another one for you by the end of the summer for our fall season events and plans.

Historically Yours, Don Trosper

Our Community

by Chuck Hornbuckle

What defines a community? Recreational opportunities? Outstanding views? How about early settlers, events and our schools that shaped who we are?

Beginning with the next newsletter we will explore each of the many historical markers within the Tumwater School District area. Stay tuned for those articles and with photos from our past.

In the meantime I want to mention that the Tumwater School District has recently released "A Rich Heritage – The Tumwater Area Schools Since 1845".

Through grants over the last several years the History Committee has interviewed numerous "old-time" residents and gathered historic documents and photographs from the very beginning of Tumwater area schools.

Mountains of data were transcribed by Don Trosper and have been published in both hard and soft cover books. "A Rich Heritage" is available at the Tumwater School District Administrative Office on Linwood Avenue.

Our Community is Our Heritage!

Pioneers, Trails and Oregon 150

A joint expedition of the Ezra Meeker Historical Society and the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), traveling from Puyallup, WA to Jacksonville, OR, with the Ezra Meeker wagon, and a party of five pioneer re-enactors. An ox drover and his yoke of oxen will join the expedition in Grants Pass and Jacksonville.

Speakers & Topics

- Ray Eagan, interpreting Ezra Meeker, the Champion of the Oregon Trail: "O, the Pioneers."
- Andy Anderson, historian of the Ezra Meeker Historical Society: "Ezra Meeker in Oregon."
- Dave Welch, former National Trails Preservation Officer for OCTA: "The Oregon Trail Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

Dates & Location

June 10—Oregon City, Oregon Trail Museum, 1 PM to close.
 June 11—Salem, Mission Mill Museum, 10:30 AM to close
 June 12—Grants Pass, Josephine Co. Historical Society, 1-5 PM
 June 13—Jacksonville 10 AM Parade; Afternoon Performances
 June 15—Champoeg State Park 10 AM to 3 PM

Join the Expedition in your pioneer period attire!

THA CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Call 754-6204 for more information on any of these events.

May 28-30	2009 Tumwater Historical Association Pioneer Fair at the American Heritage Campground
August 5	Quilters at the Thurston County Fair
September 19	Welcome Homesteaders at the Delphi School
October 4	Cider Sunday (Tumwater Harvest Festival)
Board Meetings:	THA Board Meetings, 5:00-6:30 pm—2nd Thursday of each month—Schmidt House
Quilters:	Homestead Quilters, 12:30 —2:30 pm. , 2nd and 4th Mondays; Tumwater United Methodist Church, 1401 Lake Park Drive SW (no meetings in July and August)

2009 Pioneer Fair

The 2009 Pioneer Fair will be held for the Community on May 30th, at the American Heritage Campground just south of Tumwater. The Tumwater Middle School Homesteaders 8th graders will be demonstrating a variety of hands-on pioneer skills for the community in partnership with the Tumwater Historical Association. The Homesteaders have been honing their skills all year, and will have just completed their two days of performances for all the 4th grade students in the Tumwater School District.



The Homesteader class at TMS is a living history program started in the 1988-1989 school year with a two-fold purpose. The first was to provide as many 8th grade students as possible with detailed history about Tumwater which was the first American community located north of the Columbia River.



The second purpose is that through this program students actually participate in hands-on learning of skills the pioneers of their community used on a daily basis. This allows students to better understand and form a link with the pioneers of their community who founded Tumwater.

The Pioneer Fair will allow students to pass along their skills to any and all who come to visit the New Market Homestead. Visitors can try their hand at making candles, blacksmithing, ax magic (a test of hand and eye coordination), butter churning, old fashion laundry, tinsmithing, pioneer schoolhouse and games. There may also be wagon rides and other fun activities for the younger pioneers. The fair will be open to the community from 10am to 4pm and all are welcome to visit. There will be a modest admission fee of \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children, *OR* \$15.00 for the entire family. Remember that

April Quilt News

THA Quilters have had a busy winter. We are completing a "Basket" quilt which is hand appliquéd and quilted and will be added to our collection of historical study quilts. THA fund raiser quilt for 2009 is a green work quilt with matching dish towels and pot holders and has been embroidered and quilted by hand. It is very fresh and appealing.

We are preparing to work with the Tumwater Middle School Homesteader girls as they work on their quilt in April and May. Also on tap for our participation will be the Pioneer Fair in June, Annual Quilters' Picnic and demonstrations at the Thurston County Fair.

Washington was the first state in the 20th Century and the fifth state in the Union to permanently enact Women's suffrage. That was in 1910. To honor that event THA Quilters, along with the Quilt Study Group in Olympia, are planning an exciting day of events at the Schmidt House May 8, 2010. There will speakers, activities, displays and quilts. We are all working hard on researching for this event. If possible you may enjoy seeing the exhibit currently at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma on the Suffragist Movement which runs thru September.

If any of these activities interest you please know you are welcome to join us. Our group meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 12:30 – 2:30 pm at the Tumwater Methodist Church. For information call Joanne at 943-1383 or Kathleen at 943-7527.

The History of Tumwater

Purchase "*The History of Tumwater*" series at **Thompson's Furniture, Southgate Drug**, or at any **THA Event**.

Volume 1	<i>The Founding of Tumwater</i>	1985
Volume 2	<i>New Market</i>	1987
Volume 3	<i>Fortress Tumwater</i>	1992
Volume 4	<i>The Train Stops Here</i>	1995

This series is an on-going publication by THA President Don Trosper.

Tumwater Historical Association Mission

"The Tumwater Historical Association is organized for educational and cultural purposes relating to the history of the Tumwater area, its life and people."

Enrich the lives of your family and friends, invite them to join the Association. THA programs include: Homesteader Program, Cider Sunday, Pioneer Fair, Tumwater Area Quilt Registry, New Market Homestead Quilters, Heritage Speaker Series, Oral History Project, Edna Holden Scholarship, Sale of Tumwater History Series, and the New Market Homestead Living History Museum.

"Your Community is Your Heritage!"

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 "09" means you have paid. Thank you for continuing your membership!**