

# The *Friend-ly* Gazette

May 2014

Editor: Lisa Amato

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## Letter from the President

By Mary Jo Morelli, President

We are coming to the end of another busy year for Friends of Historic Forest Grove. FHFG has had fun gatherings and successful events. It is so important to an all-volunteer organization like FHFG to have dedicated members who do so much to support its mission and goals. FHFG's annual meeting is coming up May 15, 2014, at the Old Train Station. FHFG is looking forward to a presentation by Ken and Kris Bilderback about their research and writings about Gaston and Forest Grove. The presentation will follow a brief business meeting beginning at 6:30pm. FHFG will say goodbye to some of its board members, elect and welcome new board members, and elect officers for the 2014-15 fiscal year. Please join us!

As days grow longer and we have more sunny days, FHFG are anticipating its annual garden tour June 1, 2014. It promises to be a great event - and please volunteer for a shift in a garden or at the ticket table if you can! The garden tour committee does a great job, and each year's tour is unique. FHFG faces another summer season of watering the new orchard at the A.T. Smith house, and could use your help in the summer months. Please contact David Morelli at (503) 357-0223, or email him at jo.david.mo@gmail.com if you would like to help. There is also mowing to keep up on too! FHFG has a riding mower, and it is really a pleasant way to spend a summer evening at the Smith house.

So I leave you with this thought which you are all familiar with as it really fits our group of Friends: Many hands do make light work!

Thanks for your continued membership and support of FHFG's goals.

## FHFG 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour

"Art in the Garden"

June 1, 2014 | Noon - 4:00pm



Explore "Art in the Garden" when Friends of Historic Forest Grove (FHFG) hosts its 20th Annual Garden Tour from 12 to 4pm, June 1, 2014. The tour will feature nearly a half dozen local gardens, live artists in action, raffles, contests, and more!

Start the tour at the Old Train Station by picking up a map and brochure for the self-led, self-paced tour. Visitors will also be able to browse the OTS.

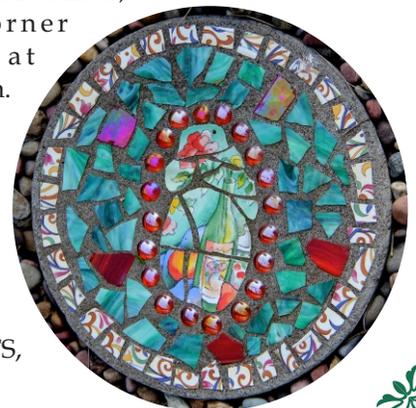
Advance tickets for the tour are \$12, and are available through May 31. Tickets can be purchased at the Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of Commerce, Urban Decanter, A Framer's Touch, Corner Antiques, and online at [www.historicforestgrove.com](http://www.historicforestgrove.com).

Tickets purchased the day of the event can be purchased at

the OTS: \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors 60+, \$7 for FHFG members and students with ID, and children under 12 are free.

Locally-grown peonies will be available for purchase the day of the tour, and FHFG will be raffling a colorful handmade lap quilt.

Funds generated by the tour go toward the maintenance of the OTS, and FHFG's efforts to restore the A.T. Smith House.



## Annual Meeting of the Membership

May 15, 2014 | 6:30 p.m.  
Old Train Station

The new board will be elected at the FHFG annual meeting, May 15, 2014, at the Old Train Station, located at 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street, from 6:30pm to approximately 8:00pm. Ken Bilderback will be speaking about his and his wife Kris's new book about Forest Grove, and will probably have some copies to sign...

The board for FHFG is changing this year while staying on track to accomplish its many goals. Roger Nipp, who has served as vice president for several years, is taking some well-deserved time off. Thanks, Roger, for all you've done to make FHFG a more successful organization. We wish you a merry sabbatical from the board!

Mary Jo Morelli is stepping down from the presidency (which she's held since 2011.) She has served with passion and with much insight, and we speak for the entire membership when we say that under Jo's presidency, the organization has become a much stronger and more active participant in Forest Grove life. During this time FHFG's mission of preservation has grown, with more Forest Grove citizens feeling connected to their history.

The nominating committee has been busy, and after much deliberation, we have found a strong list of nominees for the FHFG board. Board members whose terms will continue through 2015 include Melody Haveluck, Linda Lewis, Diane Morris, Jim Morris, David Morelli, and Joyce Sauber. Current board members who have been re-nominated for 2014-2016 terms are Skip Buhler, Mary Jo Morelli, and Don Skinner. New board nominations include Cristy Santangelo-Verant, Cindy Dauer,

# ~ A. T. Smith Property Update ~

By David Morelli, ATS Property Manager

Winter must be ending. Roger Nipp and Jim McGuire have had their first "duel in the sun" as they "jostled" against the grass at the A.T. Smith property. Thanks to them for volunteering for the needed maintenance. Some finishing touches will be needed on the piles of compost delivered last fall, and general blackberry removal is needed along the fence lines.

FHFG had planned to place a wooden house around the "necessary" to allow it to appear as a more appropriate out (house) building. If someone is interested in taking that project, or has any other ideas, please let me know. Prior Eagle Scout projects have been very positive for FHFG, and it's looking forward to having more in the future.

Unfortunately, there is nothing new to report on the development of the East Lawn.

and Randi Johnson.

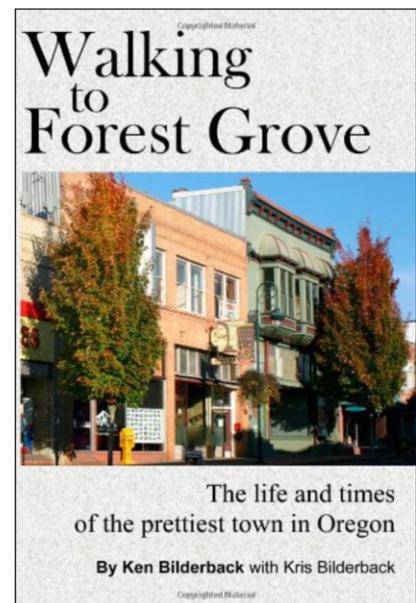
The executive board nominees include: Diane Morris (president); Melody Haveluck (vice president); Mary Jo Morelli (treasurer); and Skip Buhler (secretary.)

If you're interested in being on the FHFG board, or know a member who is passionate about serving, please contact the FHFG secretary by email at fhfg07@gmail.com. You can also RSVP at the same email address. Help FHFG elect a great board of directors!

## Recommended Reading

Forest Grove always has been off the beaten path, so much so that many of the earliest settlers had to walk to town. Even an American President had to hoof it for a visit. Forest Grove always has been a little offbeat as well. It took 50 years of legal battles to build a working sewer, and 100 years to legalize liquor, with the booze battles spilling out of the courtroom and erupting in an arson war. Although noted for its "salubrious climate," Forest Grove surprisingly has found itself at the eye of international storms, from ethnic strife in the two World Wars to a real-life murder on the Orient Express. Yes, Forest Grove is off the beaten path. It doesn't have a strategic position on a harbor or a

river. It was snubbed by those who built the railroads and highways. Yet while Forest Grove never has had the things that built most American cities, it had something even greater. Forest Grove was built on an odd mixture of the indomitable strength of rugged "Mountain Men" who forged the Oregon Territory and the inspiring compassion of a band of missionaries and Tabitha Brown, the 66-year-old "Mother of Oregon," who laid the groundwork for one of the very first universities in the American West. Researched and written by authors with more than a dozen national and international awards, *Walking to Forest Grove* tells the story of a city like no other, but also details both the baby steps and great strides that put any American city on a path to greatness.



# Remembering Forest Grove with Willie

By Kathy Juvet, FHFG Member

I am saddened by the recent loss of my long time friend, Wilberta "Willie" Teeter, almost 94. She passed away March 25 at her home in SE Portland. Willie was a member of Friends of Historic Forest Grove for many years. A lot of you knew her...she worked at Pacific University in the 1970s and 80s, fondly known on campus as "Mrs. T," acted as a docent at Old College Hall, and was a member of the United Church of Christ.

My favorite thing about Willie was that she was my neighbor for over 20 years. We had a lot of history together, and one day a few months ago we got to talking about all the old things about Forest Grove she and I remembered, and of course she could remember back way farther than I could!

One of the first things we remembered doing together was taking a class at Pacific University about the history of Forest Grove, taught by Mary Jo Morelli. We learned a lot about the early settlers, the beautiful old houses, and life in old Forest Grove. Little did I know way back then I would end up being a member of FHFG and helping with things like the garden tour, historic homes tour, and the A. T. Smith house.

We enjoyed the first Forest Grove Farmer's Market together when it started back in 2000. It was across the street from the fire station in the paved parking lot, and moved to the big university parking lot in front of Taylor Meade until it found its current home on Main Street during the warmer months.

We both thought the best thing about living in Forest Grove was that you could walk to most everything! And Willie did. She never drove a car, so she walked to town almost every day. She would walk to the post office, to get her hair done, Curves (which she attended over 1000 times!), Old College Hall, and church on Sundays...rain or shine.

One thing she told me was that on the corner of Pacific Avenue and "B" Street where the giant Sequoia is now there used to be two giant trees! The second tree was just south of the existing one. Apparently the tree caught a disease and the weather helped take it down.

Another thing she talked about was shopping in downtown Forest Grove. There used to be an upscale ladies dress shop called Goldie Ann's on Pacific Avenue across the alley from where Pac Thai is now. And at one time Pac Thai used to be Ford's restaurant...and also the bus stop. You could catch a bus to Tillamook twice a week.

There was Miller's, a clothing and household goods store, and Gimeries Shoes. J.C. Penney's used to be where Frye's is now, and there was also a Sears catalog store. Willie remembered the farmers would

come to town to mail order items from Sears. There were two more furniture stores across the street from where Patterson's is now. Willie loved to read, and remembered Menagat's stationary and book store. Dr. Menagat taught at Pacific University while his wife ran the store.

Willie reminded me the Safeway store and Sprouts Ritz were on Pacific Avenue as you make the curve to go out Gales Creek Road, and there was a really yummy bakery in the mall behind the Chevron station along with DaBoys market, a small family-friendly grocery store.

Willie's daughter Martha joined our conversation saying she fondly remembered Buckley's Riding Stable located where Gales Way meets Gales Creek Road. Martha got a horse when she graduated from high school and pastured it at Buckley's.

Forest Grove News Times, September 1972

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EVEN THE VERY YOUNG came to the ninth annual Old Fashioned Corn Roast sponsored by Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night. Arnold Franks reported 850 served, up

from 700 last year. Twenty-four new teachers were guests. Enjoying ear of corn is Ann Teeter, who is holding her niece Rebecca Ann Moore. Ann's mother Mrs. Truman Teeter is at right.

# From the Secretary's Desk (top)

By Skip Buhler, Secretary

As I'm sure you can imagine we at the Old Train Station wear many hats. At this moment, I feel the need to throw off the researcher beret, and slip on the fundraiser fedora.

First, I must say how extraordinarily grateful FHFG is to their members. A big THANK YOU to all the membership for your insightful comments, donations, and for getting your dues in, which helps FHFG stay in the black! I also need to tell you - and maybe you heard something about this at the holiday social - that in early 2013, FHFG applied for a grant from the Kinsman Foundation to help pay down the debt on the new "east lawn" property at the A. T. Smith house, and they granted the FHFG - wait for it - \$10,000!

Over the last ten years, the Kinsman

Foundation has granted FHFG a total of \$57,000. Truly amazing! Kinsman Foundation is a leader in the area of preservation, and over the years, they have helped FHFG tremendously in fulfilling its mission, and FHFG is sincerely grateful for its support. The Kinsman Foundation, the FHFG membership, and numerous other groups and individuals such as yourself recognize the importance of preserving our historic treasures, and believe in FHFG's mission to protect endangered structures, objects, and records for future study, education, and enjoyment. We are all in this together, confirming the importance in Forest Grove's heritage, and helping FHFG on the path to educating the next generation, while providing a destination for all lovers of history. Thank you all so much!!

## Remembering Forest Grove with Willie

Continued from page 3

After she started college at Pacific University, Martha learned that horseback riding was one of the options for physical education. How convenient!

Mention of the annual corn roast, now held on campus, brought a sparkle to Willie's eyes. She told me it used to be out Gales Creek Road on a farm up on a hill. George Horner would come with his team of horses and wagon, and the children would ride on the wagon down below on the clear farmland while everyone else was up above sitting on bales of hay. Some of the town's people roasted ears of corn and hot dogs - and let's not forget the coleslaw. This picture was in the *News Times* September 1972. Willie's daughter, Ann, held her new niece, Becky, while Willie watched the activities. She remembered a petting zoo and an 11-year old boy dressed in a western outfit playing the fiddle. I wonder if he could be reading this now...?

Willie talked about old times on campus, remembering the Carnegie building was still the library while she attended there. There were two men's dorms and Herrick Hall, which was taken down in 1973. The Optometry College was brand new. Martha remembered one of the last football games she went to on campus. One of the guys on the sideline caught the ball, and ran for a touchdown! Back in the 1960s it was still a ritual to build a bonfire out behind the old gym after football games, and students worked in the café for \$0.79 cents per hour. Martha remembered an "ugly man" contest won by a girl dressed like a man! She didn't think anyone knew it was a girl. They both had fond memories of the old talent shows, which returned to Pacific University earlier this year.

Forest Grove was and still is a great place to live, but for me it won't be the same without Willie. It was so much fun chatting about old times with her...she will be greatly missed.

## Here Ye, Here Ye!

Dear Friends of Mrs. Pittock,

Mike and I are happy to report that Mrs. Pittock has a brand-new story. We had been giving the other script (on moving west in the wagon train, the beginnings of the Rose Society and the Rose Festival) since 2007. A member of the Rose Society has asked us to tell "the rest of the story." Monday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m., Mrs. Pittock and her chauffeur, Herman Hawkinson, will be telling the important events that happened to her from 1908-1918. Naturally, the building of the Pittock Mansion will be included, as well as some "reform" movements Mrs. Pittock thought were necessary for society. I hope you will be able to attend.

The presentation will be a "dress rehearsal" at the May meeting of the Rose Society at the Oaks Park dance pavilion, a short walk through the main gates of Oaks Park near the Sellwood Bridge. The meeting is open to all, and there is no charge. I would be delighted to see some of you there!

Please do not let me know if you are coming. Nothing makes me more nervous than knowing who's in the audience ahead of time. However, I'd love to talk to you afterwards!

Here's to you in roses,  
Mary Hatchens

P. S. The Rose Society meeting May 19 in Portland is a "precursor" for a time that has been booked with the Forest Grove Library for September 2, 2014.



# Growing Up in Forest Grove: Summertime!

By Don Skinner,  
OTS Manager

Daylight savings time and the evenings getting longer brings back summertime memories of growing up in Forest Grove. During the last few days of school, the grass in the playing field would get high enough that a small child could easily hide waiting for an unsuspecting little girl to wander by. I don't remember the sequence, but at one time, the boys chased the girls, and at another time, the girls chased the boys. Seems this continued on through high school.

School had a designated "last day," but if the strawberries needed picking before that date arrived then we were let loose when the berries were ready. Picking fruit and vegetables was what we did during the summer with strawberries and beans the two big crops and cherries when we were older because we had to use ladders.

Not many homes had fenced yards back then, and we would travel between yards to get together and play all kinds of games. We had a softball diamond carved out in the middle of the block which was a kind of a small field of sorts. We would usually get together in the early afternoon and play until dinner time and then back outside for more fun. Around dusk we'd usually head for home and some quiet time to watch Gun Smoke, the Ed Sullivan Show, Wonderful World of Disney, and that new show, 77 Sunset Strip. My parents insisted we watch the Lawrence Welk Show when it came on.

If it was dark and we were outside, we were usually traveling between one house and another but we would hide from headlights by ducking behind one of the many old oak trees standing in front yards along the way. Hiding from headlights was a game and not "stranger danger."

When we were a little older, two or three of us would venture out on our bicycles to explore beyond our neighborhood. We discovered

Rogers Park and a real find was the "loading docks" along the old Oregon Electric railroad tracks located on the south side of the block facing 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue behind the fire station. I discovered a set of concrete steps and a walkway from the sidewalk on Elm Street into Rogers Park. This was over by the tennis court but more in the middle of the block. For the life of me, I could not figure out why the steps and pathway were there and lead to nowhere. It took me coming to the

what was going on. Many an event was planned at the Tastee Freeze, and back in the day, the huge egg fight during Halloween started in the parking lot of the good old Tastee Freeze.

A story I have to tell is a new student arrived in high school and when he got his driver's license he also traveled by motorcycle. We became best of friends and were always seen together. One day while riding around he said he needed to go home and do an errand, but he knew a



Rogers Mansion, c. 1890. Photo courtesy Mary Jo Morelli

OTS many years later when I got hooked on FHFG that I found out the walkway lead to the Rogers' mansion that was torn down during WWII.

Pacific University was a great find during one of our rides for discovery. PU was very different from what it is today. Back then there were many shrubberies to "skinkle" around in. The pathways were like little roads for us to travel on with our bicycles. Traveling past the optometry building today, and looking at the path that comes down the hill to the sidewalk, it doesn't seem nearly as steep as it was over 50 years ago.

In high school, my bicycle was traded for a motorcycle and hanging out at the Tastee Freeze was where the action was. At the Tastee Freeze you could see who was out and about as they would go by or stop in to see

shortcut to get home and would meet up with me at the Tastee Freeze a little later. Well, I knew good old Forest Grove pretty well and I didn't know of any shortcut from where we were to his house, but I agreed to meet him at the Tastee Freeze. Well, he never showed up. The next day I asked him what happened, and he said he got lost using the short cut. How the heck could anyone, except for my good friend, get lost in Forest Grove?!

Looking back, Forest Grove was the most perfect place to grow up. I'm so glad I have these childhood memories return to me when the longer days of spring and summer arrive to warm the cockles of my heart.

# ~ Thomas & Mary Anne Roe House ~

By Dina Wenzloff

On a cold wintry morning in Forest Grove, there was a fire at the Roe house February 5, 2014, that caused quite a bit of damage. The historical home was built circa 1872 by Thomas and Mary Ann Roe, my great great-grandparents. What follows is a bit of the history of Thomas and Mary, and the history of the house bearing their name.

The couple came from sturdy pioneer stock. Thomas was born in Cayuga County, New York, August 21, 1827, to Thomas Roe, Sr. (from North Hampshire, England) and Anna Burnett (from Bedfordshire, England). Thomas Jr. arrived in the Oregon Territory in 1850, and took up a donation land claim on the Cowlitz River. Keenly interested in education, Roe served as Cowlitz County School superintendent. Roe married May Ann Ostrander in 1857, who had come overland to Oregon with her parents four years before. Roe later operated a store in Monticello, Washington Territory, and served in the 1856 Washington Territory Legislature.

Mary Anne Ostrander was born March 21, 1841, to another pioneer family, Dr. Nathaniel and Eliza Jane Ostrander, who in 1853 joined an ox train and came west. Weeks before the train arrived at The Dalles, black measles broke out among the emigrants and many died. In a letter to Ruth J. Bolling, Mary Genevieve told of her grandmother, Mary Anne Ostrander: "Her life is like a book. Her father was the doctor of the long wagon train they were in, and she said they would not see him for days at a time when there was much sickness. She had one little sister born on the trip, and another one of her sisters had died en route."

The Roes, along with their two young sons, Barnett and Charles, moved to Forest Grove in 1871 in order to farm, and give their sons an education at Pacific University. A third son, Walter, died at age two before they

moved to Forest Grove. The Roes bought about 500 acres of land near town to raise hay, horses, and cattle. Thomas later invested in the town's cannery and electrical plant. The same year they arrived, the Roes purchased a sizable parcel of land in town from Maria L. Clark (Harvey and Emeline Clark's daughter) and built their home on what is now 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue circa 1872.

Mary Anne gave birth to a baby girl November 1874: my great



Photo courtesy the Genné Family

grandmother, Anna Elizabeth Roe. Anna and her two brothers grew up in Forest Grove among many friends. Barnett graduated from Pacific University, and became a farmer south of Forest Grove. Charles was in the furniture business, and later became a judge in Forest Grove. Anna became a musician, both instrumental and vocal. Anna married Willis Goff in 1908, and the following year my grandmother, Mary Genevieve Goff was born in the house (their house on the corner, the Goff House, was being built, but was not yet finished.) Grandma Gen grew up in Forest Grove. She married Dick Bolling whom she had known since childhood.

By 1909, the Roes had split off sections of the property for each of their children. Charles married Belle Clark, and they built the Charles O. Roe house in 1897 next door to his parents.

Barnett married Julia Ann Brown. He did not develop his piece of property, but rather moved south of town to

farm and raise his family.

Following Thomas' death in 1908, the house and remaining property changed hands several times. Bill and Betty Genné purchased the house at 120 SE Third Avenue August, 1947. The town streets and buildings were later re-named and -numbered in 1949, and the house became 2126 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They, with their two young children Tom and Nancy, moved to Forest Grove in time for Nancy to start first grade at Central School.

"Father was the first Chaplain at Pacific University," Nancy recalls. The Gennés built an addition to the house in 1950 which included a garage, laundry room, workshop, and craft room on the first floor with two bedrooms and a bathroom on the second floor, as well as a connecting hall and bathroom for the master bedroom in the house. Bill and Betty built the addition for their growing family as a daughter, Peg, was born July 1950. The additional bedrooms were rented to two brothers, Jay and Dean Stoval, who were both students at Pacific.

"Dick Bolling used to ride a bike that had a wire basket attached to it," Nancy shared. "He would put a blanket down, and give Peg a ride in the basket. We had a lot of fun growing up there." Nancy and my Uncle Tom Bolling walked to school together every day. They were both born in 1941, and were great friends.

The Gennés had a huge vegetable garden at the back of the property where there is now an apartment building. Tom Genné remembers talking his babysitter into riding his tricycle through the house. He was three years old when they moved to Forest Grove. The walls in the living room were covered in Furtex.

The Korean War started in 1950, and a lot of young men went off to war. Pacific University downsized their personnel, and Bill's contract was not

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# Thomas & Mary Anne Roe House

*Continued from page 6*

renewed. He finished off the school year in 1951, and was offered a job in Michigan. The Gennés rented out the house until 1957 or 1959 when they sold it. In Michigan their fourth child, Sue, was born.

The Thomas and Mary Ann Roe house was always white when Nancy lived there. She likes the way the colors accentuate the details in the house now.

The Tompkins lived in the tiny house next door, and the Rockwoods lived in the big house on the corner during this period. My grandparents, young Tom, and great Uncle Charlie Roe lived next door on the west side. They all knew and looked after one another. The Rockwoods also had a house fire during this period.

More families came and went, including Phyllis and Warren Lancaster, and Walt and Gloria Richardson. Omar and Madeline Bose lived in the addition. The property went to James and Thelma Haynes in 1965.

My mother, Constance Lynne Bolling, married Rod Andersen in 1975 - aka Ramblin' Rod, the beloved children's TV show host. My parents were able to once again bring the family home back into the family in 1977. They lived there for several years.

"From the moment I first walked into the house I knew it was a place of love," Connie said. "The previous owners, Donald and Alice Benskin were good, honest people. They carried the contract and allowed me to make payments." Connie thinks it was the Benskins that built the final addition on the back of the house.

Connie and Rod had a little drive-in restaurant in town named Ramblin Rod's Restaurant. Connie ran the restaurant while Rod commuted daily to Portland. Usually he drove the highway, but occasionally he would fly his plane out of Hillsboro Airport, land at Portland Airport,



*Photo courtesy Dina Wenzloff, 1999.*

and then go into the TV station from there.

About 1979, Rod and Connie adopted my little sister, five-year-old Beth. She and my son, Kristofor, used to slide down the banister along the stairs. They played tag, picked up walnuts, visited their great grandpa Bolling in the Charles O. Roe house I now live in.

Currently Gwen Steinbach owns the Thomas and Mary Ann Roe house, and has lived in the home for 23 years. I have watched her children, Rosie and John, grow from little sprouts into college students. She bares the heartache of a house fire and the loss of family belongings. She's had a full and busy life while home-schooling, raising stray animals, building props and sets for plays, and supervising 4-H projects and science competitions with the kids.

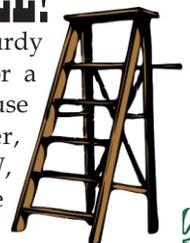
Gwen shared they had been looking for a Victorian farmhouse with acreage. When they came upon the Roe house in town, they felt such a sense of community they knew this is where they wanted to live. "It was winter first time I saw the house. There was snow on the ground. The first thing I noticed when I came inside was this winding

staircase with a curved banister. Six college students were renting the main house and a couple lived in the back apartment. The students huddled around a wood stove in the kitchen trying to keep warm. After we moved in, I visited with Dick Bolling next door. He said he used to fly down the banister as a kid. Every time I go down those stairs I think of him."

The house fire made Gwen realize how much like a person her home is to her. "You take it for granted and don't realize how much it becomes a part of yourself." As a nurse, Gwen has seen her share of burn victims, and "the house is like a person who has been burnt." Gwen plans to restore as much of the house as she can with as little change as possible, while making it livable and improving safety and maintaining the character of this historical home. Gwen, like many of us, has dreams of seeing the house restored to its original beauty.

**FREE!**

FHFG has a six-foot sturdy wood ladder looking for a new home. If you could use this mighty fine ladder, please let us know. BTW, you will have to provide the transportation.



# Lilian Pherne Bain: Painting in the Spirit of Grandma Brown

By Skip Buhler, Secretary

On the south wall in Old College Hall's "Tualatin Academy" room, an oil painting hangs representing a familiar face, but painted by an artist relatively unknown today. The subject is Forest Grove's first grandmother and the "Mother of Oregon," Tabitha Brown, one of the founders of Pacific University. The artist is Tabitha's great, great-granddaughter, Lilian Pherne Bain (1873-1949.) The two did not know one another, Lilian being born 20 some years after Tabitha's death in 1858. Still, the fact that this painting exists is striking, and speaks to the continuity of the public's celebration of Tabitha, and her appreciation in the early 1900s when Lilian Bain directed the art department here.

The Forest Grove Lilian Bain entered in 1904, when she was given the job of directing the new art department at Pacific University, was a world away from the hustle and bustle she had grown accustomed to in Salem, Portland, and New York. In the same way the early pioneers to the area, like Alvin T. Smith, Harvey Clark, and Tabitha Brown, filled with

missionary spirit, brought "civilization" to the rural wilds of America, Bain, like Tabitha, was on a mission of sorts; in much the same way her contemporary Grant Wood was bringing the students at the University of Iowa a renewed celebration of their own rural space, Bain was bringing a more modern art aesthetic to small-town America, and an appreciation of their landscape. Bain was driven to reach the student body and other citizens of "the Grove," and to stress the importance of American art as a unique subject of study, one distinct from the often celebrated European schools of art. This was a novel aim at the time.

I was somewhat surprised, then, when I attempted to do an initial review of Bain's art, and found that not one of her paintings is included in the Smithsonian's online archive of paintings, the authoritative compilation of American artists' production in American collections. It's an unfortunate omission, given the Smithsonian's massive database, and the artistic quality included there runs the gamut. The small selection of Bain's paintings and etchings



Lilian P. Bain,

*The Sunday Oregonian, September 4, 1904.*

which are available for study online are wonderful views that evoke a quiet, meditative space. Usually set in Oregon, although sometimes in New York and other East Coast locales, Bain's landscapes take the viewer to that tranquil world that the artist always sought to balance with her enjoyment of the commercial advantages found in the city (figs. 3 and 4).

Bain was born in Salem in 1873. Her middle name of Pherne was passed down through the generations. Tabitha Brown named her own daughter Pherne, who actually may be considered the first female artist in Oregon, as she made landscape sketches as the party emigrated along the Oregon Trail. Lilian (sometimes spelled Lillian) was given the name Pherne as a familial tie to that pioneer, as well as to her paternal grandmother, Pherne Brown Strong.

Though she was not raised in Forest Grove, living most of her life in New York and Portland, Bain represented a connection to the Grove's past. She descended from the Browns, a founding family of the Grove, and she was well-known at the time of her teaching here to be an inheritor of



Lelo Micklin, Lilian Bain, and Manche Langley.  
Detail of Pacific University Archery Club photograph, 1907-1908.  
Courtesy of Pacific University Archives.

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# Lilian Pherne Bain

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Tabitha Brown's legacy. Though her tenure at Pacific University was short (1904-1909), she would bring with her a long missing artistic spirit to the town, filling a need for the developing artists living in the area.

Bain left the Portland area in the 1890s for Manhattan to work with Frank V. DuMond, a well-known teacher at the Art Students League with connections to Oregon. Bain worked in his studio as his assistant for many years. She returned to the West Coast around 1900, and was working as a photo re-toucher in Salem, at Hart & McLennan's in 1902, and spent most of her free time on the Bain family ranch in Eddyville, Oregon, and at beach resorts in Newport and Gearhart. Shortly before she was hired at PU, she filed for a land claim in Lincoln County near the ranch, and would return to her claim each summer.

It's not clear how Bain learned of the job in Forest Grove, but PU trustee Alanson Hinman may have played a part. Forest Grove had had trouble holding on to art teachers. There had been a few other art instructors at Pacific University, but in most cases, they did not stay long. Clyde Cooke had been the director of the art school years before Bain, and he also lasted only three or four years. The intervening years (1886-1903) saw no fine art department, and the art appreciation and art history classes were taught by Mary F. Farnham, the English literature professor. Students during this period who wanted to take an actual studio art class needed to find a local artist, and were able to get course credit this way, as specified in the university's catalog.

From her training under DuMond and with the figural painter Harry Mills Walcott, Bain had become an established artist, and was a member of several art clubs, including the Art Students League in New York and Portland, and she exhibited at numerous shows on the East Coast. She was welcomed into Forest Grove

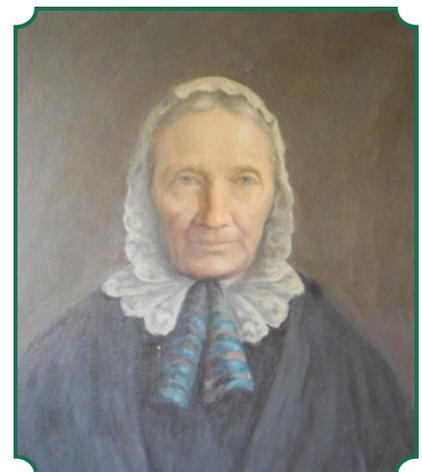
society, and was an active participant in city happenings. She was also one of the first members of Pacific's archery club (fig. 5). During the academic year, Bain lived in Herrick Hall, and was on an excursion (perhaps to Portland) when the building burned to the ground in March 1906. After the fire, she stayed in a temporary hall on the Cadwell block for an unspecified time.

Bain was described as an art enthusiast according to the first announcement of her appointment in the September 1904 *Pacific Index*, and she "teaches by 'Composition,' a method which stimulates observation, quickens the imagination and brings out all the individuality of the student." Starting in her first term, Bain put on annual exhibitions featuring the art of her students and some of her own work. These events were held in the art room at Marsh Hall, though sometimes in the English Literature rooms. In 1907, she organized a large exhibition featuring a variety of European paintings from private Portland collections, which was a city-wide spectacle. *The Oregonian* noted that "much interest has been awakened among the students and towns people by the loan exhibit...the first time that any institution in Oregon has undertaken the work of bringing a rare art collection before the students." Forest Grove citizens got involved, contributing their own works for the exhibition.

Lilian may have assisted her longtime friend and colleague DuMond while he was working as the fine art director at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, and she left Oregon to work beside him in New York in 1909, thus marking the end of her tenure at Pacific University. Bain took more classes in Manhattan, studied etching under Joseph Pennell, and was employed at a number of youth academies around New York,

teaching private classes at the Met. Finally, in the late 1920s, she returned to Portland to live with her sister Lois. In the late 1930s, she served on the Oregon Society of Artists' board of directors, and she would eventually serve on the Portland Art Commission for six years, playing a key role in keeping the Skidmore fountain from being moved in 1941.

Returning to the painting of Tabitha, it appears from the attached label on the back on the frame that it was most likely painted in the mid 1930s. The frame was either taken off of a painting titled *By Memphremagog's Shore*, a work which was included in Bain's solo show at the Portland Art Museum in 1935, or Tabitha's likeness was painted over the landscape. The canvas itself has Bain's name and address written in graphite in an exaggerated script, seemingly by Bain herself, and the address given was her home after returning to Portland in the late 1920s. Whatever the case, it suggests Lilian still maintained ties with the university into her later career. Her version of Tabitha, obviously based on the single famous photo we know today and taken shortly before her death, reveals her passion for the subject. Similarly, Bain brought to Forest Grove a new passion for art, and a desire for celebrating developing artists that remained long after her departure.



Lilian P. Bain, Tabitha Brown, ca. 1935,  
oil on canvas, Old College Hall.  
Courtesy of Pacific University Archives.

# FHFG Needs Your Help!



*Image shown is stock image; not actual desk*

FHFG has a vintage school desk that is in need of some TLC to bring it back to life again. FHFG is planning on having a “children's area” set up with some mid- to late 1800's toys, along with a few other ideas its working on. FHFG thought the desk would fit in perfectly for the children to sit at and be entertained.

The desk includes the front seat, as it is attached to the front of the desk, and the rear desk, which is attached to the back of the seatback.

Some disassembly is required along with a good cleaning, and the wood probably should be refinished.

If you have an overwhelming desire to work on this desk, please call FHFG at (503) 992-1280, and leave a message. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.



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Although Like-ing us on Facebook is a way to get FHFG information out to your Facebook contacts, a better and more effective way is Share-ing us. Selecting Share instead of Like additionally gives you an avenue for adding your comments and thoughts. There are some great events coming up, and what an easy way to let all your family and “Friends” know about Friends! FHFG looks forward to hearing from you through Facebook!