

# Lunch at Alvin's Place

By Melody Haveluck, Vice President

Great news! The Forest Grove/Cornelius September luncheon will be held at the A. T. Smith house. The idea came from Howard Sullivan, Director of the Chamber of Commerce. A few days ago, Diane Morris and I took Howard on a tour of the house and property.

It is always a pleasure to see someone's reaction when they step into a house that has withstood time for 160 years. Howard had many questions, and shared his history experiences with us as well. The house holds so many mysteries which leads the imagination to fill in what it might have been like back in the 1850's when Alvin was laying out the plans to build his home. We explained to Howard the house is a two-story Greek Revival and that Alvin built the main portion first, then an addition which surrounds the house on two sides, and ended with digging out the basement. Quite an accomplishment for a time period when there weren't any power tools or front loaders, and all the work was done by hand and hard labor.

The Chamber luncheon will be held September 20, 2014, from noon to 1:00pm, and will be catered by Maggie's Buns. The program is by Courtney Helstein, a Health Care Outreach coordinator. If you would like to attend the luncheon, contact the Chamber of Commerce at (503) 357-3006, or info@visitforestgrove.org. For those who are interested, tours of the house will be available after the luncheon.

This is a great opportunity to come out, meet business people from Cornelius and Forest Grove, have some tasty food, listen to an interesting speaker, and tour an incredible home of one of the first settlers in this great city we live in. Hope to see you there!



Howard Sullivan at A. T. Smith House, June 6, 2014.  
Courtesy of Melody Haveluck.

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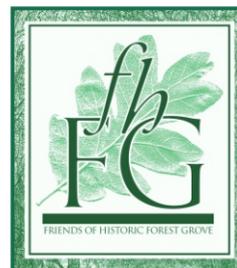
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 Like Us  
On Facebook!

To all FHFG's wonderful members and those who enjoy reading its newsletter, there are other ways to communicate your thoughts to us! One is the use of Facebook. If you are a Facebook subscriber, FHFG has a page in which it tries to promote and inform people on current events as well as history items.

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!

Stamp



Editor: Lisa Amato

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# The Friendly Gazette

August 2014

## Letter from the President

By Diane Morris, President

I told the editor I wanted to put this column on the front page because I think it will be the most important one I write. This is my first and best chance to speak to each of you, to share with you my hopes for FHFG this year. Before anything else, I want to thank those of you who have worked tirelessly for this organization since its inception. Three of those incredible volunteers who have just left their positions - Mary Jo Morelli, Roger Nipp, and Amber Mather-Hall, have put in more hours working for this group than I have lived in Forest Grove! Mary Jo has stepped down from the presidency, Roger from the vice presidency, and Amber from the board. FHFG owes them all its gratitude, as it does to those of you who have made FHFG so important in our community.

Now I want to quote one of my heroes, Eleanor Roosevelt, who said, "With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts." This is a new day for FHFG. It not only has new officers, but three new board members as well, all talented people, all passionate committed volunteers, and all bringing new strengths and new thoughts. Every group, no matter how successful, benefits from new beginnings.

So, you ask, what are these new ideas? And what am I asking of you? There's the paradox, because my "new ideas" are simply variations of things you have heard before from this very organization. Of course you have heard about childhood education in connection with FHFG. FHFG's mission statement itself acknowledges education as the bedrock of its commitment. Restoring the A.T. Smith house is not a new goal, nor is making the Old Train Station museum a legitimate destination point for visitors from Washington County and beyond.

The "new" aspect comes with our renewed determination to fulfill the potential of the A.T. Smith house dream. FHFG pledges to do everything in its power to carry forward its goal of restoring the Smith house, and making Forest Grove a destination spot for the people of our state. FHFG can make exciting things happen...but there's a very large "IF" here. This can only happen IF everyone pitches in to help.

In every organization, it seems the same people volunteer for every event. The "I'd love to, but I have another meeting that night" or "Oh, I wish I could help, but I can't be there," might just as well translate to "Good luck, you're on your own." The dreams FHFG has are so big it cannot do this job on its own.

If you would like to be a part of this exciting, rewarding year, won't you please volunteer for a committee? There are many opportunities for you to contribute, and amazingly enough, what my husband Jim and I discovered after we moved here is the more involved we got, the happier we became! We have made wonderful, lasting friendships, we have learned more about Forest Grove's history, and we have become a part of something really important to ourselves and our community. The cherry on top of the icing on the cake is that we have had a whole lot of fun, too!

FHFG committees are already functioning in high gear, and FHFG wants to begin new ones so we can do more and do it more efficiently. You don't need anything to join except a sincere desire to help. FHFG has something for everyone as you will see by the choices listed below. If you have a special talent you'd like to contribute for specific projects, please let us know; we can find a way to utilize your skills. Finally, if you



have historical artifact or photographs in your attics or basements, and would like to share them, FHFG would be so appreciative. Feel free to send FHFG any ideas for fundraising, programs, or events. FHFG will be as good as you, and we together can make it. Join us!

# Making Connections Across Generations: Carl "Bud" Sherman

By Skip Buhler, Secretary

My good friend Carl Sherman passed away April 30th at the age of 103. You'll remember him from our drives around town that I wrote about in previous newsletter issues. I knew Carl as "Bud," which is how he referred to himself when relaying stories to me, the name that friends and family regularly used while he was growing up. I met Bud in the winter of 2011 after I started volunteering at the Old Train Station for FGHFG. He had called FHFG wanting someone from the organization to come out to his apartment at Jennings-McCall to write down his story, and since we had just resumed our oral history project, so seemed like perfect timing. As it turned out, he had already spent the three years prior to our meeting recording his memoirs, so that was a bonus! I would go visit him once a month or so, and record his recollections of Forest Grove, sometimes driving around town with Bud and a tape recorder. Good times! Bud's memory, though not as clear in the last few months, was still sharp,

particularly when compared with that of yours truly. And he knew every house, every road in Forest Grove like an old friend. Every turn would spark a memory.

Bud was born Herman Carlyle Binkley in 1910 in Portland to Willa Pearl Barrett Binkley and Clyde Darius Binkley at home. When Bud was five, his mother remarried Harry Sherman who ran a saw mill at Warren, near St. Helens. For some reason, Bud preferred being called Bud to "Herman Sherman." Most of his early life was spent working around the family's series of saw mills. He worked in Warren for eight or so years, then at Olequa, Washington, where he went to elementary school with members of the Olequa tribe of Cowlitz. After four years at Olequa, the family relocated to the saw mill above Gales Creek. Bud was often responsible for caring for the mill's electrical system. When Bud was visiting his grandparents in Portland, a fire destroyed the mill at Gales Creek in 1925, and they moved to Scappoose for a year before settling in Forest Grove. Bud was a sophomore in high school at the time. During one summer, he worked at the Carnation mill, where "Dad Sherman" worked as a sawyer. Though he knew every aspect of the saw mill life, Bud's true passions were electronics and ham radio. So knowledgeable was Bud, in fact, that when it came time to cover the subject of radio systems in high school, the science teacher let Bud teach the class. While still in high school he got his radio license. He would follow the one electrician in town, Raleigh Walker, around and thus learned the trade. He went to Oregon State University, and obtained his electrician's license, and when he returned to Forest Grove, he had all the jobs he could handle! He wired several buildings at Pacific University, as well as the two movie

R.I.P.



Carl "Bud" Sherman  
1911 - 2014

theatres in town, and many of the homes built here in the 1930s and 1940s. If your home was built before 1955, he has probably been in your home to repair something or other.

Bud enlisted in the army in 1943 during World War II, and served in the Philippines and New Guinea. Based at Manila Bay, he was put in charge of keeping the bases electrified. He wired much of the area, climbing power poles and a few palm trees too. After the war, he returned to Forest Grove, where he continued to be one of only a few electricians in town. He was an active Mason, was Master at Holbrook Lodge in Forest Grove, and earned the degree of High Priest in 1953. Bud moved to Portland in 1955, and worked at Tice Electric for 23 years. (Interestingly, in the early 1950s, Bud's brother Harry Jr. became the Superintendent of Forest Grove Light and Power.) Bud was married twice (to Elsie Lemley and Elda Berdan,) and for the last five years, he had a girlfriend named Helen, who also lived at Jennings-McCall. He had a stepdaughter who lived in Beaverton, and many, many nephews and nieces.

Continued on page 8



# Miss Emily's Buggy

By Judy Gates Goldmann  
Contributed by Mary Jo Morelli

A buggy is a four wheeled, horse drawn vehicle. This one is light weight, with hard rubber tires on the delicate wheels. It is black, with red wheels. Maybe the wheels were carmine to begin with. This buggy was probably bought new in about 1900-1910 by Adam Young of Hillsboro, Oregon. Adam had come from Sweden at age 17. He married Emily Peterson in Minnesota where they lived for about 20 years. He came to the Hillsboro area in 1889, Emily may have died in Minnesota.

In 1900 they lived north of Hillsboro on "The North Plains Road," what is now Glencoe Road. Adam's family was listed in 1900 as Adam Young, age 48, widowed, with two daughters, Cora Dell and Emily Elva Young, and his sister Emma Young.

The North Plains road was a market road, probably very rutted and muddy in the winter months, dusty in the summer. The buggy was a smart, lightweight single seater, built to be pulled by one horse. A good trotting horse could cover many miles on good roads. Alas, the roads were bad most of the year in Washington County, rutted by wagons with loads of grain and produce. In the winter the buggy might have been left home, and the horse ridden to town. The horse was likely a bay, weighing about 1000 pounds. Bay, a shining brown coat with darker tail and mane, was the most common color for a light driving horse. The harness was leather, perhaps with a collar to capture the power at the horse's shoulders. Other harnesses had a breast collar, which was simply a large band of leather that fit across the horse's chest. This band formed into tugs, or traces that attached to the buggy's single tree. The tugs, being most important in transferring the horse's pulling power into forward movement, fed through the

belly band which carried the shafts. The crouper which also buckled to the shafts, stretched around the rear of the horse to transfer stopping ability, acting as brakes to slow forward movement.

The harnessing of the horse and hitching up must have been a daunting chore for a schoolmarm on those cold fall mornings. Miss Cora and Miss Emily were left on their own when her father died in 1904. Adam is buried in the Young family plot at the Tualatin Plains Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

In 1910 Cora was the head of household, and was listed as a teacher, and Emily was at school.



(Left to right) Mary Jo Morelli & Judy Goldmann with Miss Emily's buggy. Courtesy David Morelli.

Aunt Emma Young was also living in the home. Many teachers boarded with a family near their school. It was not common to travel home daily if the job was in a country school.

The automobile slowly took over the county's roads, and the buggy fell into disuse. Miss Emily taught school in the Hillsboro area. In June 1935, Emily was "showered" by her teaching friends at Peter Boscow school as she retired to get married. Emily had been teacher since 1906. In an article in the Hillsboro Argus June 6, 1935, she told of plans to travel east to visit friends in Philadelphia and Long Island, New York. When she returned, she married Will Robb at the age of 52.

Will Robb was a farmer, age 67,

widowed in 1933. He and his first wife, Bertha Hanley, had three children. He came to live with Emily, leaving the place near Centerville where he had farmed with his brother James. When Will died in July 1945, Emily put the buggy up for sale. Johnnie Gates, a neighbor, bought it, took it home, and painted the wheels bright red. He had the dashboard re-covered with leather at Ferdinand T. Spicker's leather shop.

Emily lived until 1968 at the farm home along the North Plains road. That site is now filled with houses, just south of Glencoe High School.

John trained the family's spotted riding horse to tolerate and pull the buggy. Named Ramona, this pinto mare pulled the buggy in several Fourth of July parades in Hillsboro. When's Ramona's colt Cheyenne matured, they became a team.

The Gates family - John, Ruth and Judy - had the pleasure of driving the team in the 1950s in the Pacific International Livestock Exposition horse show. When it snowed, an ancient sleigh was pressed into service, during the winters

of 1950 and 1951.

When Ramona died in 1960, Cheyenne was sold to another, younger, horse enthusiast. Miss Emily's buggy was again put into storage at the Gates' family Century Farm. The buggy was taken down in 2014, re-assembled, and made ready to go to a new home with owners who appreciate the delicate transportation of an earlier age. Those new owners are David and Mary Jo Morelli of Forest Grove, where they plan to use the buggy in historical displays. The traditions of Miss Emily's times will be shared with new generations when the Morellis will take the buggy around to historical events in Forest Grove.

# ~ Wrong Side of the Tracks ~

By Jim Morris, Member-at-Large

Did you ever hear anybody from Forest Grove say "I live on the wrong side of the tracks?" I'm guessing you haven't. Why? Because Forest Grove, by definition, has no "wrong side of the tracks," that's why!

In the 19th and 20th centuries, as railroads were expanding all across the United States, most of the rails were built to go down the centers of towns. The thinking was to provide more convenient access to passengers and freight for the hotels and businesses in the downtown area. This thinking applied equally to towns both large and small; in fact, many small towns were built around the railroad stations.

Many small towns were built that way, but not Forest Grove. Our town was built around the beautiful school nestled among the tall old trees. Our nod to tracks, initially at least, was the trolley track that ran down Pacific Avenue, and around to 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, thence to the front of Pacific University.

When the time came to let in the

bigger trains, early in the 20th century, the town fathers of Forest Grove chose to keep the "Iron Monster" steam trains with their noise, soot, steam, smoke and cinders outside the city limits. Their track curved past the southeastern edge of town on its way toward McMinnville and points south.

As a result, the prevailing westerly winds blew the train's mess away from Forest Grove's beautiful downtown. Why was that significant? In all the countless other cities and towns around America bisected by steam train tracks, the prevailing westerly winds blew the mess all over the eastern side of town. Quickly this became the less desirable real estate, and just as quickly the west side of town increased in value. It's no coincidence that "the poor side of town, aka the wrong side of the tracks," was so quickly and clearly defined prior to the middle of the 20th century.

Thanks to the foresight of its leaders, Forest Grove declined the steam trains. Instead, two different electric

railroad lines were allowed into our city limits. Both of them ran into town just south of Pacific Avenue, and each had its station adjacent to 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, just a couple of blocks apart. Their clean and relatively quiet service ensured convenient travel for the town's citizens in the two decades before bus and truck service became the norm.

So, next time you wander our lovely streets and historic districts admiring the variety and quality of the homes you see, say a quiet thanks to all those who chose the electric train service more than a century ago. They are the ones who gave us a very special - even unique - place with no "wrong side of the tracks."

If you would like to learn more about our electric trains, come on down to the station that served one of them, the Southern Pacific Red Electric. It's open Wednesday mornings from 9:30am until noon, or just about any day by appointment. You will be delighted to learn that it's on the right side of the tracks.

*If you'd like to volunteer with FHFG, please complete the form below and mail it to:  
FHFG, P.O. Box 123, Forest Grove, OR 97116.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # or email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities/committee(s) I am interested in:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Garden Tour                | <input type="checkbox"/> A.T. Smith house restoration         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Tour of Historic Homes     | <input type="checkbox"/> A.T. Smith house property management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer picnic set-up/refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraisers                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Research                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance committee                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farmer's Market booth             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education planning                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Old Train Station docent          | <input type="checkbox"/> Website                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                |

Other talents/knowledge: \_\_\_\_\_

Ideas I'd like to share: \_\_\_\_\_

- I'd be interested in occasionally volunteering to keep the Old Train Station open on a limited basis on Saturdays

# History of Friends of Historic Forest Grove

By Mary Jo Morelli, Treasurer

As I contemplate many years as a FHFG Board member, I remember some very special people who started this trail we are on. The names of these people are not likely to be familiar to many of our current membership.

When an unlikely group gathered to form FHFG, the Forest Grove Historic Landmark Board had already been formed in response to an Oregon State mandate that communities identify their local cultural and historic resources. Forest Grove was actually used as a test/model site for establishing a process to fulfill this mandate. FHFG has current members who were part of that first survey process!

However, that is not the beginning of the trail. We could say Alvin T. Smith himself was the first preservationist for the history of Forest Grove. Smith left provisions in his will that addressed the longevity he saw for the investment and sacrifices he had made in our community.

Now let's move forward in time to 1928 when a young news man purchased himself a small town newspaper. This man was on hand in 1937 when the first "movie" was made to record the community. Hugh McGilvra was still owner of the paper in 1982 when the old movie was transferred to video tape. He narrated the video, identifying many residents by name, and adding details about the many businesses in the film.

A group of 'old timers' met later in Old College Hall to plan for the historic future of Forest Grove. The FHFG Old Train Station Museum has the hand-written meeting notes kept by Mary (Rockwood) Cowan. This record tells how the West Tuality Preservation & Heritage Society was formed. Old College Hall at 2041 College Way and the Hines House at 1604 Birch Street still display the wood plaques placed on them by the WTPHS.

Enter Dr. Margaret 'Peg' Gilbert,

retired professor of anatomy in the Pacific University College of Optometry. While reading a book about Joseph Meek, Gilbert found a reference to the diaries of Alvin T. Smith. She eventually went to the Oregon Historical Society library, and upon reading the diaries, realized the value of the information they contained. Gilbert began to transcribe the diaries with a focus on the settlement period from 1838 - 1850.

In the last issue of this newsletter, board member Melody Haveluck described her awe when she made the trip to OHS to view the diaries. There are a handful of us who have had this amazing experience. By the way, making a diary is one of the skills we can teach school children who visit the Smith house.

The three-ring binder with Dr. Gilbert's typed transcription of the diary section she transcribed is at the Old Train Station. This much-used volume also contains Gilbert's hand-

written notes and her early notes to index the names of people Smith mentioned in his diary.

Dr. Gilbert and her friend Gladys Haynes were both part of the first Historic Landmark's Board Survey. This was about the time Eric Stewart came on the scene. Eric was a retired archivist, and he jumped in to further the cause of preserving the history of the town.

By 1987, members of the WTPHS had aged and many had passed away. The Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board was doing the survey work as an appointed City Board; however, historic preservation was a mysterious concept to many and vaguely intimidating. There remained the need for a means of relaying the benefits to preservation of the cultural heritage of Forest Grove through education and promoting the history of our community.

New interest arose and a need for some way of recognizing the cultural and historical resources that had been listed. The structure of the board did not accommodate education of the resources, and no funding was allocated for this purpose within the city's budget at that time. A group of interested citizens gathered and compiled a list of names and addresses of people who might be interested in organizing an organization with a mission to recognize our listed resources, and educate the community by sponsoring tours of designated structures.

I attended these organizational meetings, joined as a charter member, and helped promote and conduct the house tours. In the beginning, the requested donation for touring a home was \$1. One of the early tours drew 180 visitors! Money raised was used to purchase the brass plaques on Forest Grove's local National Register resources.

And that's how Friends of Historic Forest Grove came to be.

## 2014 - 2015 FHFG Board Members

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Randi Johnson

Cindy Dauer

Cristy Santangelo-Verant

### ATS Property Manager

David Morelli

### Webmaster/Newsetter

Lisa Amato

# Community Enhancement Program (CEP) Grant Update

By Melody Haveluck, Vice President

Every year the City of Forest Grove opens applications for the Community Enhancement Program, which awards grants to non-profit organizations. Last year, FHFG applied for a CEP grant for the placement of a wagon trail on the A. T. Smith property. Included in that grant was money designated for FHFG brochure printing. Upon review the city awarded us \$1,172.00 for this project.

This year, FHFG applied for CEP grant money to address safety priorities: installing a handrail at the front door, and another handrail at the second floor stair tread 'winder,' and a third-floor guard rail; restoring the basement stairs and platform; and to build a wood shed for site-specific equipment.

Twenty different non-profit organizations made requests totaling \$87,936.00 to the city. The amount of available funds for these grants was \$56,604.00. FHFG was fortunate enough to be one of the receiving organizations, and was awarded \$2,735.00!

FHFG is grateful to the Forest Grove City Council for granting its request. It is through funding such as this that FHFG's vision for the A. T. Smith house can become a reality. Making these safety upgrades will allow FHFG to have tours and special events at the house. If you'd like to know more about the CEP grant and awarded amounts, go online to [www.forestgrove-or.gov/latest-news/community-enhancement-grants-awarded-for-2014-15.html](http://www.forestgrove-or.gov/latest-news/community-enhancement-grants-awarded-for-2014-15.html).

# ~ A. T. Smith Property Update ~

By David Morelli, ATS Property Manager

Summer is upon us and there a plenty of opportunities to come to A.T. Smith property and volunteer to help.

I have re-assembled the handicap ramp donated by John and Penni Eagan and removed by James Duncan, and it now provides a temporary access ramp to the north door. Much of the wood was primed as it was being assembled, until I ran out of primer. FHFG is looking for a volunteer to finish the priming, and apply a finish coat of white paint to the ramp. FHFG also needs someone to help re-assemble the part of the foundation splash guard that was disassembled to set the ramp's footings next to the house.

There is a tree root needing to be removed between the head of the concrete ramp and the foot of the wooden ramp so a connecting path can be built. We are looking for volunteers to remove several stumps obstructing the leveling of the parking area on the north side of the house.

The weather is getting warmer and dryer, so FHFG is looking for additional volunteers to help Roger Nipp and Skip Buehler haul water to the orchard trees during the summer months.

Because we have no water on-site, all water needs to be hauled in. This means the crew will need containers and a truck or trailer suitable for transporting the water to the orchard. There is still some mulch that can be added to the trees if we have someone to move it.

FHFG also needs volunteers to help Roger Nipp and Jim McGuire mow the grass around the house and the larger area outside the fence. I have mowed the tall grass that grew over the winter with my "Brushhog," and Mary Jo did the first mowing of the grass within the fence using the riding mower that was generously donated to FHFG.

This summer FHFG is looking for volunteers to "give Smith a bath." Because pressure washing would damage the exterior wood, this will need to be done by hand brushing. All water needed for washing and rinsing will need to be brought to the property as well. For safety reasons, people can't be up on high ladders, and FHFG anticipates a loan of scaffolding courtesy of Melody Haveluck, so this work will need to be coordinated with availability of the scaffolding for any work that cannot be done standing on the ground.

In the past, roads were built with horse-drawn disks, harrows, and fresnos. I am grading the access road by using a tractor pulling a traditional "horse-drawn" disk and drag harrow. This should provide a smoother drive across the east lawn to the house.

The wagon road needs to be sprayed for blackberries by a volunteer and then it will be "dressed" as well.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for any of the things needing to be done listed above, please contact me at (503) 992-1280. Thank you!



(Left to right) John & Penny Egan, James Duncan, & David Morelli  
Courtesy of Diane Morris

# 2014 Garden Tour Recap

By Melody Haveluck, 2014 Garden Tour Committee Chair

There is a saying that goes "it takes a village to raise a child." Personally, I believe it takes a small country to put on a garden tour. It starts with 10 people meeting six months in advance, planning, brainstorming, and organizing the event. Don't forget the garden owners who start working on their gardens, and it's a given bet they're out in their garden the night before putting the finishing touches for making it the best they can. Then



2014 Garden Tour Committee (left to right:)  
Names.....

there's the support staff, such as the master gardeners, the painter, and artist, along with someone who brings out information in relationship to gardening. The event would never be successful if it wasn't for the volunteers who are available in the gardens to direct the tourist, putting out sandwich boards marking the location of the gardens, supporting the open house for the Old Train Station, baking cookies for the event, and more.

This year's winner of the hand-made quilt was Randi Johnson. The contest winner of finding Art with his favorite plants was Angelia Elliott, who received two free tickets to next year's garden tour and a hand-made quilted

pillow. The drawing was done at the Chamber of Commerce by Howard Sullivan. A special thank you goes out to Sue Vosburg and Paul Sansone for the donation of 500 beautiful long stem peonies, and to the Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of Commerce, Corner Antiques and Collectibles, Urban Decanter, and A Framers Touch for participating in being FHFG's advance ticket outlets.

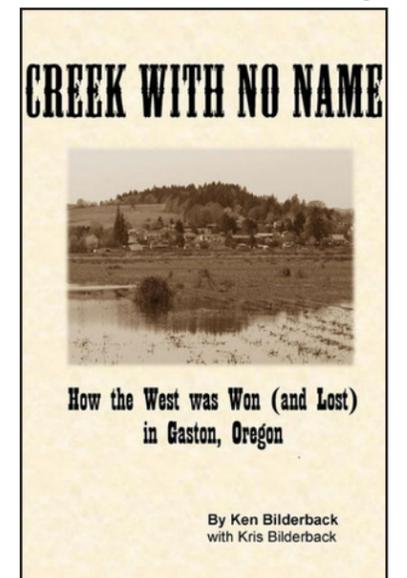
The garden tour committee met for their wrap-up meeting at the end of June. Ideas flew around the table as everyone pondered over the high points and those not so high. As the chair for the garden tour committee, I couldn't feel more privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such a great bunch of people who continuously surprised me with their innovative ideas and ability to get the job done. A personal

thank you from me goes to all the people involved in making this year's garden tour a huge success. It is all of these people who make up that small country I mentioned earlier. FHFG is looking forward to creating another memorable garden tour for 2015. See you next year Sunday, June 7, 2015, for our 21<sup>st</sup> annual garden tour!



2014 Garden Tour Home Owners (left to right)  
Back row: Names...  
Front Row: Names...

# Recommended Reading



Everything you really need to know about the American West happened in Gaston, Oregon. OK, that's an exaggeration, of course. Some of it happened as much as 10 miles outside of town. The Oregon Trail, unquenchable thirst for water, federal land giveaways, the railroads, Native Americans, the timber industry, farming, grandiose goals of visionaries ... it all happened in Gaston. Wild West shootouts? Got 'em. Ghost stories, too. Bootleggers and brawls, dastardly deeds and Utopian dreams. Of course we had a gold rush, too. But where you find winners you'll find losers. The Indians, of course, but also the Chinese and Japanese. Most of the visionaries eventually saw their dreams die, sometimes in spectacular disaster. Nature has taken a beating, and so has the working man. In the Great Depression, Gaston watched as the Tillamook Burn threatened its very existence and then was the battleground for class warfare waged by a rich, out-of-control former Army General. In World War II, internment ripped apart Gaston's rich Japanese culture and the Japanese military placed a bulls-eye on the town. After the war a hometown "spy" touched off an international incident and a former Nazi leader moved to town. Oh, and we also have monsters and psychic ghosts and salacious love triangles and UFOs. Even cannibals.

# Summertime in Forest Grove

By Don Skinner, OTS Manager

Back in the day, when I was a kid, the city swimming pool was where you'd find me. In my early years, my mom would take me to the little kids' pool, but I had my eye on the big pool, both of which were outdoors. Early on, my parents realized that me taking swimming lessons would keep me safe around water. I'm forever thankful to them for doing that. I took to water like a duck.



Forest Grove Public Pool, c. 1950  
Courtesy of the Byer family.

I would stand in line at the pool building door, waiting for the pool to open at 1:00pm, and be in the water until they kicked me out at 5:00pm. I'd be back in line at 7:00pm, and swim until they kicked me out again when the pool closed for the evening. I would do this all over again the next day, and all through the summer. Boy was I fit by the end of summer! I could swim underwater across the pool and back without in a single breath. I tried lengthwise, but never made it down and back all the way. One time, the lifeguard called me out of the pool, motioning me to come to him. He had been watching me, and asked if I wanted to join the swim team. I said thank you but no, as I was having too much fun doing what I wanted to do.

In sixth grade, all the school classes would go to the city pool at different times of the day and different days of the week. Swimmers could spend their time as they pleased, and non-swimmers got lessons on how to swim. During one of these outings, the teachers decided to see who the

fastest swimmer was in their class. I came in first in my class. The teachers then got together and decided to see who the fastest swimmer was in all the schools, including high school. Again, I came in first.

When I turned 16, the city pool was no longer calling me; instead, the Wilson River was the place to be. Having spent many years fishing on the Wilson River with my dad, I knew of some really nice places along the river. One special place had a sandy beach to relax on with a tributary next to the beach to keep refreshments cold. Across the river there was a large rock to climb up on and jump off of into the swimming hole. There was also a rope to swing off the rock into the water. When Cheryl and I were dating, we'd head out to this spot with a load of steamer clams, and cook them up on the little beach, spending the day together. At other times diving for crawdads with my buddies was a great sport. Under water, no one can hear you yelp when one pinches you.

As you all know, boys will be boys, and one of the boyish things we'd do on the way over to the river required a manual transmission. At the summit, whoever was driving would put the transmission in neutral, and we'd see how far we could coast towards Tillamook. We also tried doing this on the way home, but the coasting wasn't near as far coming down the east side. One of my buddies put his parent's car in third gear, and came down the slope for a ways on compression with the ignition switched off. When he turned the ignition on, the accumulated gas fumes blew out the exhaust system. I don't remember what happened to him when he got home, but that was a good lesson learned.

All in all, I treasure these memories of summer days in Forest Grove - what a great place to grow up!

## Making Connections Across Generations: Carl "Bud" Sherman

Continued from page 2

Suffice it to say, he left behind numerous stories on tape (now digitized), and I have been working on editing these. He also allowed me to scan a lot of his photos, and said he was fine with me featuring his saw mill stories and photos in the newsletter, so look out for those along the way.

As anyone who knew Bud can tell you, he was an avid joke teller, and he had one for every day and every occasion. The majority of jokes he told me involved his age, such as "Most of my friends are gone, and so are my enemas." He was proof that humor keeps you young. Bud was well aware that he had much history to share, and I feel so fortunate to have met him, to listen to his stories, and to record and save them. I hope I confirmed the fact that his life and his stories are still important, and that his experiences are valued. Thanks to him, and his desire to make connections across generations, we are left with a treasure trove of information on early Forest Grove for future study. Thanks Bud for sharing part of your life with me. You will be missed.



# 2014 Tour of Historic Homes: A Trip to Tranquil Times

By Melody Haveluck,  
2014 Home Tour Committee Chair

September 28, 2014 | 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Plans are in the making for this year's Tour of Historic Homes. The theme is *A Trip to Tranquil Times*. The home tour committee met July 8 to set this year's tour in motion. Forest Grove is an amazing city that is home to three designated historic districts: the Clark National Register Historic District established 2002; the Painter's Woods National Register Historic District established 2009; and the most recently added district, the Walker-Naylor National Register Historic District established 2011. With all this history and great architecture surrounding us, FHFG is excited about being able to share its good fortune with those in the surrounding communities who have the same interest.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, September 28, 2014. Advance tickets will be available after August 15 at Corner Antiques and Collectibles, A Framers Touch, Urban Decanter, and Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of Commerce. Tickets will also be available online at [www.historicforestgrove.org](http://www.historicforestgrove.org). Prices are \$7 for members, seniors, and students, \$12 for non-members, and children under 12 are free. Tour hours are 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

This year, the Alvin T. Smith house will also be open for the event. FHFG knows it's been some time since some of you have seen the house, and this would be a great time to share it with your friends and family.

If you'd like to be part of a great group of people, have fun, and learn more about these homes and districts, come join the FHFG home tour committee. I have the privilege of being the chair for this remarkable event, and would love to hear from you. You can contact me at (503) 359-5131, on Facebook, or email me at [amberdoo@earthlink.net](mailto:amberdoo@earthlink.net).

If you would be interested in having your historic home be a part of the FHFG's tour, or know of someone else who would, please feel free to contact me - it's not too late to be part of this year's tour.



Courtesy of Diane Morris

## Blathering Time in Forest Grove

By Jim Morris, Member-at-Large

Recently, a wonderful thing has been happening down at the Old Train Station. Well, many wonderful things, really, but the one I'm talking about involves a bunch of "oldsters" sitting around our new meeting room and just blathering.

Now, the word blather, in this case, means simply talking about all manner of things in a pleasant and enjoyable way. Building upon individual memories of the old days of Forest Grove, these conversations are liable to go in any direction and include any subject under the sun.

Ground rules prohibit discussions about politics, religion, and sex (unless they happen to be an innocent aspect of an otherwise hilarious story.)

The first requirement, however, is very clear: THERE MUST BE FUN INVOLVED!

I can assure you from personal

involvement that the first requirement has been met and exceeded in all blatherings so far. We have had a ball.

Subjects have ranged from exploding acetylene-filled balloons to log-chained rear axles of police cars to "crummy" transportation from Forest Grove to logging camps to blasting caps splattering backyard gardens.

If there seem to be too darn many violent episodes, perhaps that's because the blathering has been done by a bunch of old guys whose memories retain such incidents more easily than they retain school cotillions and the like. Of course, all of that could change with the makeup (so to speak) of the blatherers.

So...here's what we want to do: we want you to consider joining us to add your own memories and perspective to our gatherings. We are

going to meet for coffee and conversation on the first and third Thursday mornings of each month at 9:00am at the Old Train Station's new meeting room. Don Skinner fixes a fine cuppa joe (military intelligence DOES pay off), Jim Morris takes good notes (when he's not blathering), and new friend Gary Eddings adds much delightful banter and insight to the proceedings.

So please make a note to join us some first or third Thursday morning soon. In addition to the fun, we hope to bring some new historical perspective to the mid-20th century in Forest Grove based upon eyewitness recollection and storytelling. We will share the best stories with our membership and the citizens of "The Grove" in these newsletters.

When it comes to blathering, the more the merrier. We can't wait to see you!

## Focus on a "Friend"

By Diane Morris, President

It's time to introduce you to some of the finest, busiest, and most productive volunteers you'll ever meet...people who normally do their work quietly, and don't get a whole lot of recognition for it. FHFG is going to start a new feature in its newsletter: *Focus on a Friend*. FHFG hopes to show you why it thinks it's the luckiest non-profit organization anywhere.

### Friend Focus: Don Skinner, OTS Manager

If you visit the Old Train Station on any Wednesday morning, you'll be greeted by Don Skinner, the OTS Manager. As he shows you around the museum, you'll immediately realize he is a very special man. Don't let his low-key manner fool you! Don can not only tell you about the photographs and the artifacts surrounding you, he had a hand in putting together most of the displays. If something doesn't work, he'll often repair it effortlessly (ok, sometimes it's not so effortless!)



Don & Cheryl Skinner. Courtesy of Diane Morris

Don and his wife Cheryl have spent most of their lives in Forest Grove except for a brief time while he was enlisted. Don was born at Jones Hospital in Hillsboro (now Tuality) and graduated from Forest Grove Union High School in 1968. He was trained as a photo lab technician, and then sent to Vietnam. Don, who never learned the meaning of the words, "You cannot....." wrote to the Pentagon when he had concerns about his reassignment stateside. His letter must have been very persuasive; Don got a personal reply from General Abrams.

Upon his return to the States, Don married his high school sweetheart, Cheryl Selfridge. After his service commitment ended, they returned to Oregon where Don became the camera department manager for the Beaverton K-Mart. He came into his own, though, when he left that job for Tektronix, and worked his way up the highly technical ladder to ESD Program Administrator before he retired. He loved his job, and when I asked what he valued most, he replied with a twinkle in his eyes, "It was all mine." Next he smiled, adding, "And that's what I love about this, too."

The "this" he was referring to is his domain, the Old Train Station. He and Cheryl came to the OTS looking for some historical photos for a reunion. They didn't find exactly what they needed, but Don said he was "quite taken with the mess that was here." Cheryl and Don decided to volunteer their time, and they tackled the filing and refining of the treasures that were here until they were satisfied with the results. They would love to have the OTS open on alternate Saturdays, April through September, and are looking for volunteers to help staff the museum so the OTS can be open for those folks who have to work during the week.

Don has recently published a book about one of his major passions, the Mercury Cougar. Cheryl gave him a white 1967 Cougar GT as a birthday present in 1990, and that led to his fascination with the car. He first wrote technical journal articles on Cougars, and after some years he compiled all of the data and articles he had written into one book. He will soon have to have a second printing because the book is so thorough that every Cougar owner wants to own it. This is just another example of the way Don Skinner works. When he does something, he wants to do it right, and to the best of his ability. FHFG is lucky to know him, and luckier still that he values FHFG as much as the rest of us.

## Friend Focus: Kathy Juvet, Member-at-Large

Did you chuckle to yourself when you got your invitation to this year's FHFG picnic? If you did, you were smiling at the handiwork of Kathy Juvet, who has been doing more and more of the graphic design for Friends. She has designed the garden tour brochures for the past several years, she is now redesigning the FHFG membership brochure, and she adds a creative sparkle to everything she touches. We are fortunate to have the expertise of this talented lady.

Kathy is quiet and not given to promoting her own accomplishments. She is like her garden, which speaks for itself without saying a word. Each year my husband and I take pictures for the Tour of Historical Homes and the Garden Tour, so FHFG gets wonderful "sneak peaks" of the tour treasures. Kathy's garden was on the tour in 2013, so FHFG made an appointment to take photographs in her garden. When we rounded the corner of her garage, we couldn't believe what we saw! It was a perfect little green world, with a cottage she built herself, lush plantings and whimsical touches everywhere, and fanciful pink flamingoes that inspired that year's garden contest. At first glance this was just a normal house, but underneath, there was hidden magic. That, in a nutshell, is Kathy.

So let's talk a little about the journey that brought her from a childhood in Michigan to where she is today. Like many of us, Kathy was looking for Forest Grove all her life; she just didn't realize it until she moved here. After studying math in college, she moved to Denver, then to Dallas, and on to California. Her work took her many places, and along the way she picked up several skills that would help her later. She helped a friend in San Jose who was building a 60-foot commercial fishing boat. Some of that expertise she used later in her own home and garden. Matter-of-fact always about her own accomplishments, Kathy merely smiled and said, "My dad and brother worked for construction companies, so perhaps it was in my genes."

After launching the boat successfully, Kathy visited friends in Oregon, a visit that literally changed her life. Reflective for a moment as she talked about coming to this beautiful state, Kathy smiled. "My life came alive at 40," she said. She moved to Oregon and never looked back.

Kathy has worked for several high-tech companies, gaining more responsibilities as her quiet competence in both marketing and sales operations grew. During this time, she discovered Forest Grove, bought her home, and started her backyard transformation. She started with an almost blank canvas (an apple tree, some junipers and grass.) She admitted to having an "over the top" garden, but she said it with a smile, and it was obvious she wouldn't have it any other way.

Over the past 22 years she has transformed the "kind of cute" house with dark wood paneling everywhere, and pink kitchen cabinets into a cheerful, cozy home. When she bought a new shower curtain with a songbird motif, Kathy took up watercolors and painted two matching pictures to go on the bathroom walls. Did I say she can do just about anything?

Kathy went on her first garden tour with a friend in 2000, and decided to join FHFG. She has loved the organization and the friends she has met along the way. At the same time, she was getting more involved creatively in her job. The marketing director of her company appreciated her talent, and arranged for Kathy to take some design classes at PNCA. She learned to do more and more imaginative things...and realized that, as she now says, "You can do anything." Beginning in September, she is scaling back some of her duties so she can devote more time to free-lance graphic design, and to the things she enjoys.

One of Kathy's greatest strengths is her perception. She notices everything, and sees things other people miss. She talked about the concept of "starters and finishers," something a colleague once explained to her. "Some people start things, but have trouble getting them to completion. Other people are good at finishing things. I'm a finisher." Kathy got a wistful look in her eye as she said this, and I knew where she was going with this thought. "Like everybody else," she said, "I would love to get to the place where the A.T. Smith house becomes the A.T. Smith House Museum." We at FHFG are very happy that she is making that journey with us.



Kathy Juvet. Courtesy of Diane Morris