

THE FRIENDLY GAZETTE

FEBRUARY 2023
FHFG.ORG



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Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

At this time of the year, we get to report on the generosity of our members in responding to our Annual Giving mailing. This year, as we told you in our Annual Giving letter, we did something different and started this year's Annual Giving Campaign with a large sum of money promised to us if we could match the gift during our Annual Giving campaign.

At the time I am writing this letter, donations are still coming in. So, we don't have the final totals. We do know that as of the beginning of January, we received \$5,500 from our members. This combined with the initial "matching funds" donation, makes for a total of over \$10,000 in donations.

This is amazing, and those of us on the Board of Directors feel touched and pleased by the support of our members. It has not been easy adjusting ourselves to the realities of a post-COVID world. We have adapted and adapted again to continue to support and promote Forest Grove's history. By supporting us in this way, you have told us that you approve of the changes we have made.

Like many local organizations, one of the changes that we are struggling with is the need for more volunteers—especially people willing to take on leadership roles. Things have changed for many people in the last few years, and this is true for the people who have pulled the organization through the pandemic. We welcome people who share our passion for local history and want to get involved. If you are interested in local history, send us an email at info@fhfg.org. We'd love to hear from you!

Many thanks for your support,

Megan Havens

FHFG President
president@fhfg.org
831.402.9819

A Closer Look at the Cover

Nader Khoury captured the Old Train Station with a fresh coat of snow in February 2021. The windows were decorated with posters of Valentines from Don and Cheryl Skinner's collection.



News & Events

FEB
22

Forest Grove City Library presents Elizabeth McLagan

Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an online conversation with Elizabeth McLagan, author of *A Peculiar Paradise: A History of Blacks in Oregon, 1788-1940*, which remains one of the most comprehensive chronologies of Black life in Oregon more than forty years after its original publication in 1980. Virtual program on Facebook or YouTube.

MAR
28

Oregon Historical Society presents Mae Ngai

Tuesday, March 28, 7 p.m.

Oregon Historical Society Offers the Mark O. Hatfield Lecture Series. The March presentation is with Mae Ngai on *The Chinese Question: The Gold Rushes and Global Politics*. For more information on this and other events, visit <https://www.ohs.org/events/>

MAY
24

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 24, FHFG Community Auditorium – Mark your calendar!



Eva Guggemos, Vice President of the Board, introduces the speaker at last year's Annual Meeting.

Board Nominations

A Nominating Committee has been formed for the 2023/24 Board of Directors. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else to the FHFG Board of Directors, please contact info@fhfg.org or leave a message 503-992-1280. The board meets monthly on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Coffee and Donuts with the Board

Saturday, Feb 18, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Old Train Station.

Curious about what happens behind the scenes? The Board will be hosting another "meet and greet" for people who have questions or may be interested in getting more involved. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP by email info@fhfg.org or call 503-992-1280.

Historic Landmarks Board to host Window Workshop in May

Are there cold drafts coming from your old windows? Are you tired of living in a dark cave because you have to keep the curtains closed to keep the heat in? Because we are committed to their preservation, living in an historic home can be hard and cold! So the Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board is going to sponsor a window preservation workshop in May. It will be led by a Oregon State Preservation guru. Watch for additional details.

Snapshot Forest Grove

Discover the vibrant history and host of characters, ideas, and innovations that made us who we are today.

Town Roots

The decade of the 1920s begins with the reconstruction of both the library and the Congregational Church. To finance the rebuilding, the Church sells off the village green, a tree-lined square south of the church. Buildings replace open space. The decade ends with another major fire to the downtown.



1920s

1920: Population 1915. A motorized fire truck is purchased by the city. The Census lists the profession of the “logger” for the first time.

1921: A new hospital opens on Cedar Street.

1923: Cement sidewalks are laid south of Pacific Avenue.

1924: Work on Central School begins.

1927: Nursery industry grows vital to community. Large shipments of daffodil bulbs and prunes are shipped East.

1929: The “talkies” come to the Star Theater. A fire on the block between Main and Council Streets causes \$45,000 worth of damage.

Fire Destroys Library and Church

In the summer of 1919, the Congregational Church and the business blocks that included the library burns to the ground in Forest Grove’s most destructive fire. The Oregonian reports on July 21st: “As the flames burst through the roof, the bell, as if tolled by an unseen hand, peeled fir(th) for the last time, then suddenly was stilled.”

Oregon Black Pioneers Introduces Black History Quest!

Black History Quest is a new virtual program series by Oregon Black Pioneers. Every other month a different History Investigator will reveal hidden stories behind select artifacts from the OBP research files.

From complicated family trees to important church chronicles to an unsolved murder, take a peek behind the curtain as experts take on questions that have perplexed researchers of Oregon's African American history. In each episode we'll learn about the challenges and surprises of doing historical research, and try to answer the question: How can one source change history?

Black History Quest will be streamed live and archived on the Oregon Black Pioneers YouTube and Facebook pages. Stay tuned to OBP's Instagram and Facebook page for reminders!

The 2023 roster of History Investigators includes:

- Pamela Filbert, Independent genealogist and researcher (Friday, March 24, 7 pm)
- Mauren Battistella, Southern Oregon University (May)
- Milo Reed, Historian, formerly Multnomah County Library (July)
- Philip Berlin, Chaplain, PhD student Portland State University (September)



(left to right) Eric Cannon, Carol Hilsenkopf, Helvi Smith, Skip Buhler, Melody Haveluck, Jeanne Junk, Laura Johnson, Lynne Magner, Jim Hilsenkopf, Ginny Carlson, Tom Carlson

100th Birthday Celebrated

I first met Laura Johnson three years ago when the Historic Property Recognition Team was presenting a plaque to the Mary Rose Sawyer House, c. 1891 that Laura shared with her daughter Jeanne Junk. Laura's radiant smile and joyful laughter that day was memorable to me. When I heard recently that Laura was going to have her 100th birthday soon, I let others know and we set out to help her celebrate.

Lynn and Andy Magner made her a yard sign and arranged with other neighbors Eric Canon and Helvi Smith to attend. Several FHFG members turned out as well, and on the big day we met on her front walk to sing Happy Birthday to Laura. She also received flowers, cupcakes and a card signed by all. It was a wonderful surprise for her and brought joy to all who participated. Happy 100th Birthday Laura!

Jim Hilsenkopf contributed this article.



Member Highlight

Carol & Herb Drew

When asked to share a favorite memory of Forest Grove, we found it difficult to nail down an singular event.

We came here, young kids, to attend Pacific University in 1956, graduated and made Forest Grove our home. Here are some of the events that stand out in memory.

- The Columbus Day Storm. Carol was alone at home with a 19-month-old and a 2-month-old in the dark with no power or phone service. Herb was hanging from buildings downtown helping to save their signs. Pacific's front lawn looked like a logging zone.
- The Gay 90s celebrations where our kids all wore costumes to school, sang old songs in assemblies, we attended pancake breakfasts, a parade and the barbershop ballad—a real family affair!
- Our Fourth of July neighborhood potlucks which we hosted on our side lawn for over 20 years with 80 to 100 neighbors coming out. We hauled chairs and barricaded the street so the many children could ride trikes, skate, do chalk art, or water play. We ate and visited while the children played. We later paraded them around the block in their trikes, skates, bikes, etc., behind a wagon full of wee ones and a boom box playing a Sousa march. Flags-a-flying!
- On our 50th wedding anniversary was in 2008. We once again blocked off the street, hired a small 50s band and brought out many borrowed tables, chairs, and barbeques. Over 100 friends dined together in the street. It, too, was an evening to remember.

Forest Grove is just that kind of place ... our kind of town.



Top: Neighborhood children prepare for their parade. Photo from Carol & Herb Drew's personal collection.



Fun Times at the Old Train Station

Ashley Roth, Museum Manager

Museum & Library



Much fun was had at the Holiday Social, as you can see from the accompanying photos.

While the museum was closed for the month of January, progress was made on several issues.

We have been working steadily on updating the Internet service. There have been many complications, but it looks like, by the time this newsletter goes to press, that the internet service will finally be upgraded!

Melody Haveluck and Connie Greenlee have been helping to clean out the office and storage closet.

The Blathering Gathering continues to meet the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 am. If

you are interested in talking about local history, memories, and other topics of interest, please join us at the Old Train Station.

Beginning in February, the FG History Museum will be back open on Wednesdays 10 am to 1 pm and Saturdays noon to 4 pm. If these times don't fit your schedule, please call 503-992-1280 or email info@fhfg.org to book an appointment.

Museum Open Hours

Wednesdays 10 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Saturdays 1 P.M. – 4 P.M.

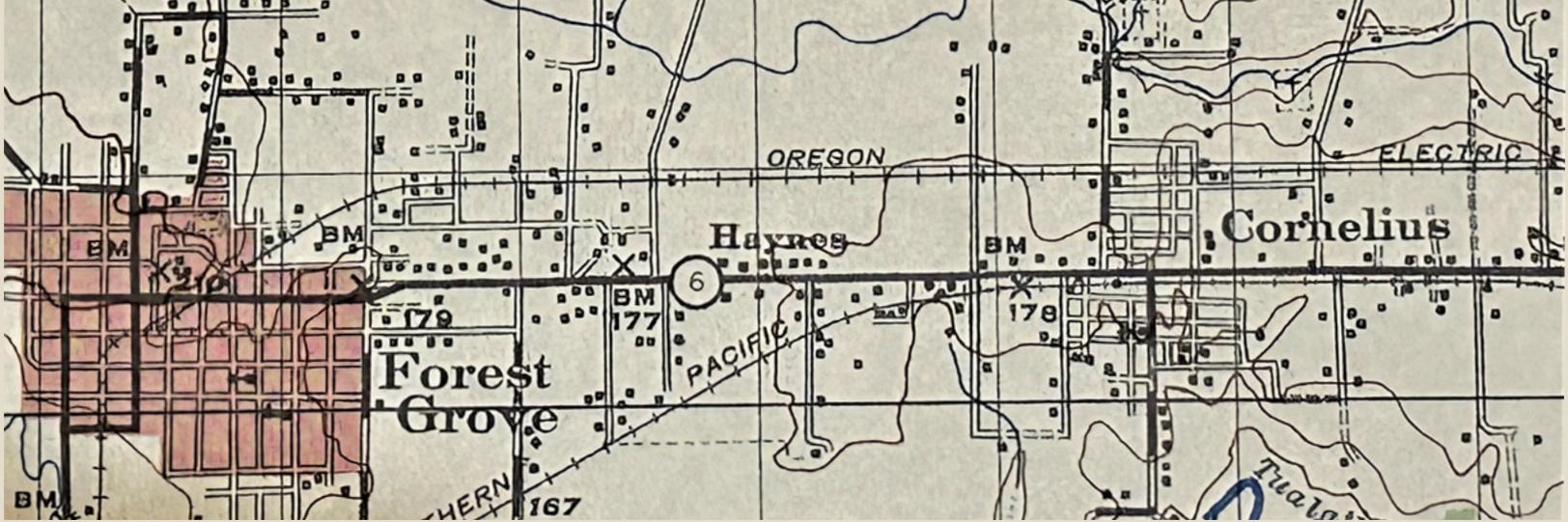
and by appointment





Clockwise from top left: The holiday social committee Ashley, Stephanie, Connie, and Melody, with our special guest, Santa Lance! Bev and Chuck Olson taking a photo op with Santa Lance. Don and Cheryl Skinner enjoying a snack and chat with Santa. A very happy crew! Jim Hilsenkopf, Nader Khoury and Don Skinner hanging out with Santa. Lilly Rose, one of our youngest and hardworking volunteers. Cilicia Philemon posing with the ornament exchange tree at the holiday social. Santa Lance with members Mary Jo Morelli, Megan Havens, Kerry Vanderzanden and Eldena Vanderzanden. Dave Nemeyer picking up holiday social gifts for the annual FGFR toy drive. Bob and Connie Greenlee with Barbara Johnston and Santa Lance—Connie was a huge asset with all the food for the social! Megan Havens FHFG president posing as the coat rack assistant. Santa posing with these two beauties, Carol Hilsenkopf and Cecelia Chapman. Stephanie Asher, Wayne Asher, and Robin Cavendish (above).





Forgotten Forest Grove

Haynes Station

Skip Buhler

On maps of the Forest Grove area from the first half of the 20th century, you will often find the name “Haynes Station” or simply “Haynes.” The newspapers of that time reported happenings in Haynes as though it were a distinct village and, in many ways, it was. Located just east of present-day Jennings McCall retirement community, Haynes was home to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, a racetrack, several small shops, quite a number of homes and farms, and perhaps even a tavern or two. Most importantly, Haynes had a “light rail” station.

Harry Haynes was born in Pennsylvania in 1847 and was a captain in the Union Army by the age of seventeen. He fought at the Battle of Antietam, was shot a few times, and even stabbed in the hand during his service. After the war, Haynes lived in Utah where he was a school teacher, tavern operator, mercantile owner, a one-time Postmaster, Territorial Legislator, and delegate to Utah’s Constitutional Convention.

Around 1898, Harry Haynes and his family — wife Jane, and children Crum, Claire and Harryott — moved to Forest Grove. Although he was never

made Colonel in the Union Army, Harry somehow acquired this honorific title in Oregon. With a look reminiscent of Gen Custer, “Colonel” Harry Haynes bought up pieces of the William W. Catching land claim east of the Grove, ultimately growing the Haynes farm to nearly 180 acres. The family’s main farmhouse may have been the original Catching house built in the 1850s, once described as the sturdiest built home in the region.

Harry may have come with the intention of being a farmer, but his attention quickly turned to civic improvement and promotion. Part of his interest most likely grew from a desire to see his land investments increase, but he also had a long history of civic engagement and a boosting mindset.



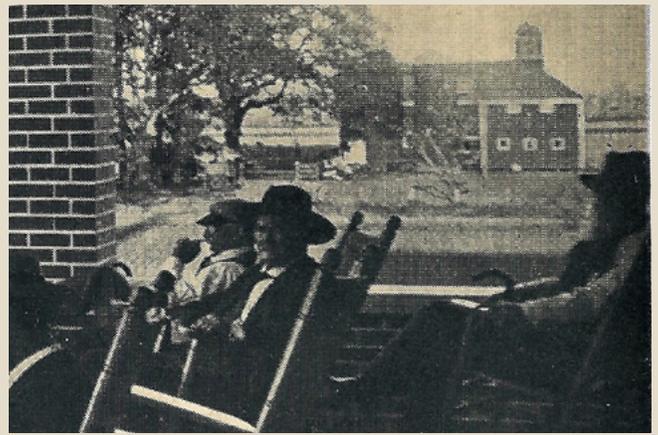
Harry Haynes, detail from “Delegates to the Constitutional Convention” (1895, Salt Lake City, UT). Used by permission, Utah State Historical Society

Not long after his arrival, Harry was made chairman of several local organizations. Along with Judge Hollis and Senator E.W. Haines (no relation), he was a representative of the Commercial Club, and served on the Forest Grove Board of Trade. He helped organize the Washington County Hop Growers' Union, and sat on the County's "Good Roads" Committee. He frequently served as Forest Grove's representative in the Willamette Valley Development League, and the mayor even made him the president of the Civic Improvement Society (with Mrs. Adeline Rogers as his vice president). Though not a native son, Harry would later refer to Forest Grove as his true home and, during his short time in the Grove (roughly ten years), Harry Haynes did more for city development and beatification than many before or after.

Perhaps Harry's most important civic involvement was in railroad promotion, specifically in bringing the electric train line into Forest Grove. It may come as a surprise to some, but the Grove was once home to two competing electric train lines. Five years before Southern Pacific's "Red Electric" line pulled alongside the Old Train Station, the Oregon Electric (OE) had advanced its "Yellow Electric" rail service to Hillsboro, with hopes of reaching Forest Grove by the end of 1908. It was finally accomplished, in large part thanks to Col. Haynes.

As early as 1902, Harry served on the County's electric railroad committee. In 1904, he was selling the idea to all who would listen, stressing the idea that a new train line would increase property values and economic development. He praised electric trains as a cure to social unease and pollution, and so was a bit ahead of his time. Harry joined the city's Railroad Committee in spring of 1908. When the directors of the OE line promised to complete the line from Portland to Forest Grove if they could be given right-of-way and property for a station, Haynes donated a small piece of his ranch to assure its construction.

Interestingly, right before the train line was finished, in the last days of December 1908, Harry was in Utah helping his in-laws with a new business venture. Though he had been a special passenger on OE's inaugural trip from Portland to Hillsboro earlier that year, Harry seems to have missed the first train passing through the station bearing his name. Over the years, he remained in Utah but



Haynes Station, from a historical photograph of the Grove (above) and the former location in present day.

returned to the Grove to check on his farm and interests, and so remained a local celebrity of sorts.

In their final years, Harry and Jane returned to live full time in the Grove at their house on A Street, in the Walker Addition, in hopes of improving their health. It didn't really work out that way; Jane passing away in 1919 and Harry followed in March 1920.

Though the train witnessed a few decades of lively activity, by the late 1920s, profits were falling so precipitously that the OE ended its passenger service throughout the Willamette Valley; the very last train went through Haynes Station on Sunday, July 24, 1932. Within a decade, "Haynes" was no longer commonly used to denote the area although the name can still be seen on some maps from the 1940s. Nothing remains of the actual structure, but a grassy spot where the station stood, on the southeast side of Quince Road, is still apparent. I personally refer to the area as Haynes Station. It's got a cool ring to it, and maybe, if light rail service ever does return to the Grove, they'll pick up the name again, in honor of the good "Colonel."



Inside the A.T. Smith House

Mary Jo Morelli

In November 2022, David Morelli wrote about the process to bring the Smith House back to alignment. This cannot be done quickly and winter is our time of waiting for good things to come. Lee and Jesse Hebert (Historical Salvage & Design LLC) are again front and center as we move along an inch at a time. The roof has raised an inch and the north wall has come in an inch! Measurements for the steel plates to maintain the alignment have been delivered and will be put in place when the time is right.

Lee and Jesse were FHFG volunteers of the month for November and since that time have brought more support to the project with the donation of time and material for the fabrication of the steel plates by Jeff Lyski at Elite Steel Products!

The efforts of Lee and Jesse have kept costs down significantly for this project with volunteer jobs by David Morelli where needed. They are also working on pricing for the next structural work to take place in the basement.



Father and son team Lee and Jesse Hebert awarded Volunteer of the Month. Shown with Mary Jo Morelli, ATS Manager (center).



Lee Hebert Historic Salvage & Design, Tom Beck, David Morelli, Jeff Lyski Elite Steel Products, Kerry VanderZanden Architect, Jesse Hebert Historic Salvage & Design, Jesse VanderZanden Forest Grove City Manager, Tom Martin Forest Grove Parks Supervisor, Jerry Navarrete Star Rentals, Tom Carlson, Eldena VanderZanden. Seated: Trevor Marsh Burl & Grain, Mary Jo Morelli. Terri Erskine not in photo.



Before and After – Tightening the joint.

Museum Treasures

Don & Cheryl Skinner

Some years ago, FHFG members Dick and Linda Kroll donated an antique wood burning kitchen stove to the OTS Museum. This lovely white enamel stove has green accents and a separate water heater tank. Don remembers that the Krolls said they kept the stove on their back porch and used it often.

I remember the day it arrived at the OTS. It is so heavy that it took four or five of our members to bring it into the museum. Some of the movers were Skip Buehler, David Morelli, Don Skinner and Jim Morris. It was quite a production, but with David's knowledge of how to move heavy items learned in the Navy, he was an excellent supervisor/mover!

Last summer, 2022, we were fortunate to have a volunteer, Lesley Schaefer. Lesley offered to research the stove for us. A big thank you to her! Lesley found that the year of the stove patent was 1870. The company "Estate Stoves House" was founded in 1845 in Hanging Rock, Ohio, and was later moved to Hamilton, Ohio, and renamed "F & L Kahn Brothers" after Felix and Lazard Kahn and brother Sam who also joined the company. The company name changed to "The Estate Stove Company" in 1885. Our stove would have been produced in the late 1880s. The model tag says "Estate Heatrola" by The Estate Stove Company of Hamilton, Ohio.

In 1888, they were producing 500 different styles and sizes of stoves. By 1909, it was the third largest stove company in the world. During WWII, the company did work for the Army and Navy. A new department, staffed by 200 women, was formed that made the under wing part of the Boeing B29 Superfortress bomber. The Kahn brothers sold the company to RCA in 1953.



The stove resides in the Home Display room at our Forest Grove History Museum at the Old Train Station. Come and see it for yourself!

We very much appreciate having this antique stove and are thankful for all the effort to get it to the museum.

As you can see in the picture, the stove is in very good condition except for the oven handle. We would very much like to find a replacement to finish off this fine representation of a kitchen wood burning stove.



Jim Hilsenkopf, Skip Buhler
photos by Terri Erskine

Historic Property Recognition

*FHFG presents plaques to five outstanding
Forest Grove historic homes*



Emma & Lewis Rodlun House
2336 Gales Way

This two story Queen Anne home features many of the classic elements of that style of architecture. The home sits on a part of the original land claim of Elkanah Walker that he established in 1849. Listed in the 1880 census as a home builder, Franklin Doughty was likely the property owner when this home was built in c.1888. Changing hands multiple times early on, no records were found attributing any early owner to actually living here. By 1898 it had been purchased by Katherine Wiley, wife of a well-known saloon keeper who lived in Hillsboro. Kate used it as a rental for several years until 1934, when Emma and Lewis Rodlun bought the home after occupying it since 1919.



Ethel & Arthur Brodersen House
2204 A STREET

Arthur Emil Brodersen was born May 19, 1896 in Chicago. He was 10 when his family moved to the Dilly area and that is where he met his future wife Ethel Nelson. Returning home in late 1919 from WWI, he quickly married Ethel and they moved to Forest Grove. One year later their only daughter, Virginia, was born.

The Forest Grove City surveys state: "In 1924 this modest home was built for Mrs. Arthur Brodersen. The Brodersens had purchased a mail order design for this 'builder bungalow,' which was then constructed by James S. Loynes." Loynes is credited with building many surviving homes and buildings in Forest Grove.



Frank & Mary Famme House

2043 Willamina Ave

Forest Grove had a population of just 1100 in 1903 when 39-year-old Sarah Porter and 41-year-old Felix Verhoeven married. Sarah and Felix purchased lots 10, 11, 12, and 13 of Block 10 in the South Park Addition and, in 1907, built this home on that land. Soon thereafter, Felix got out of the real estate business and opened a nursery and floral company. On a couple of the lots adjacent to the home, they built large greenhouses in which to grow plants. As their business increased, they regularly advertised in the local newspapers.

The Famme House, a vernacular farmhouse, is named after Frank and Mary Famme, settlers of German descent who arrived in Forest Grove around 1910. In 1914, it was built on land that, at the time, was the northern limits of town. “Willamina” was not the official name of the road yet, as far as census records go, and the other homes in that area were listed in directories as being on the “North end of Main,” or “off Greenville Rd.”



Sarah & Felix Verhoeven House

2417 15th Avenue



Newton and Eunice Walker House

1835 Elm Street

The Newton and Eunice Walker House is a vernacular cottage with a blending of various architectural modes, combining stick style elements with Colonial Revival features and floor plan. The house was built in 1891 on the former site of the town’s original Methodist Church. The house’s first inhabitants – Newton and Eunice Walker – came to Forest Grove in 1891 from Gaston and purchased the house from Loren Porter for \$2000 in June 1892. They lived in the house until selling it in 1898.

For the full narratives, visit fhfg.org/historic-homes

Help us tell our stories!

- Join or renew on our website www.fhfg.org
- Volunteer
- Donate refundable cans and bottles with BottleDrop blue bags
- Host a birthday/event fundraiser through Facebook
- Remember FHFG in your estate planning

Questions? Email info@fhfg.org
or call **503-992-1280**

Thank you because none of this could continue without your generous support!



This vintage Valentine card addressed to Lee Strickland was one of several found in the house on 21st Ave that Cheryl Skinner grew up in.



Friends of Historic
Forest Grove
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