



Rainier Oregon Historical Museum

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www.rainiermuseum.org

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HUDSON COMMUNITY

By MRS. ERVIN ABRAHAM (Eleanor H. Abraham)

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HERBERT HUDSON AND WIFE LESLIE

Communities have to get started somewhere, some time, and by someone. One of the oldest communities surrounding Rainier is the Hudson area settled as early as 1860 by an Indian fighter with the U. S. Army, Samuel K. Hudson and his family. Hudson first settled in Cowlitz county, Washington.

The community is bordered by the Columbia river on the north; Apiary and Fern Hill districts on the south; Rainier on the east and Delena on the west. The topography lies a little smoother, that is, hills are not quite as steep and the level land lays more favorable for small farms.

Beaver creek is the main stream heading in the southern area. The stream, bordered by ferns and other water loving plants, meanders through Hudson Park enhancing the grounds. (continued on page 2)

Open House

Join us in our new location on September 9th on the third floor of City Hall. Browse through photos, pick up a reproduction bar of soap, and learn a little bit about our town's history.

September 9th 1 pm – 4 pm

(members only annual meeting to precede open house, see announcement on page 5)

City Hall 3rd floor, 106 W. B Street, Rainier, OR 97048

One thinks of the Hudson community as quiet and dignified where family living is unpretentious and satisfying. It is mainly a community of families with no stores or shopping centers. Once it boasted a post office and school; only a school remains.

In the early beginnings tall virgin fir and cedar trees grew to great height everywhere and blocked out the sun. A tiny spot had been opened before 1860 by an unknown man who cleared a few acres, built a home, planted an orchard and then gave up the struggle. The little hole letting in the sun was made near the present Beaver Valley Grange on the Frank Rinck farm located across the road from the Green Mountain cemetery.

Samuel K. Hudson, who took part in several engagements against the Klickitat Indians moved with his family into the only cleared land. Hudson was born in Arkansas in 1826. He came west during the California gold rush days in 1852. He crossed the mountain passes by covered wagon into Oregon. He and his wife filed for a homestead near the head of Cold Creek slough in Cowlitz county. Their cabin was built against high hills and could be reached only by crossing the slough. There was no back entrance to the place.

Misfortune over came the family when the Cowlitz river, so filled with debris that Indians could hardly find their way through it with canoes, flooded following a long rainy season in the fall of the year. It was reported to have been one of the worst floods of the Cowlitz river. The Hudson family lost all their livestock. Carcasses of sheep were found hanging high in cottonwood trees, swept there by the turbulent waters of the Cowlitz. The family packed bag and baggage and moved across the Columbia river to the open spot in the Hudson area about three miles west of Rainier.

Indians in Columbia county were reported to be friendly, but they too, feared the fighting Klickitat Indians and asked that white families go with them to hide in the tall timbers. Members of the Hudson family did at times seek protection in a block house built in Rainier for the purpose of protecting pioneer families. To supplement his veteran of Indian war's pension, Hudson engaged in some farming. He also purchased more land.

Pioneer families who settled soon afterwards from various places included the Ira Parcher family, and families of John Nelson, Frank Banzer, O. Anstine, Andrew Ray, E. Rice, A. Adkins, R. R. Burns and John Richards. Many descendants still live in surrounding areas. The trials and hardships of the families is legend among the pioneers.

Cordwood cutting used by river boats, logging and some agriculture was the pioneer way of life. A cedar mill was located near where the Hudson school now stands. A post office and school were established. Samuel Hudson was the first post master. The community name was derived from the first post office and first post master.

Samuel K. Hudson donated an acre of land for the Woodbine cemetery now joined with the Green Mountain cemetery. Members of the family were laid to rest in the Woodbine cemetery. (continued on page 3)

At least five generations have since grown up in the community. James C. Hudson, a second generation was born in Cowlitz county but came with his parents to Hudson at the age of eight. Herbert Hudson, now 78 years of age, third generation, married to Leslie Larsen, of pioneer stock, has retired in Rainier and spends his time flower gardening.

In reporting the history of his grandfather he recalls his own most harrowing experience in the wooded country of his grandparents when he laid his gun on an old fir stump only to have a large wolf come between him, his gun, and a heifer calf. (Sorry readers, that is where the article ended, left to your imagination on what happened.)

Museum News



During the weekend of Rainier Days in the Park (July 7, 8, 9) ROHM had a booth on the main promenade and a soft opening of our museum in the City Hall. Our city hall exhibit was covered in articles by the Daily News, The



Clatskanie Chief and The St. Helens Chronicle. Our activities were deemed a success, because it introduced our history to more people than before. We had several who applied for new membership.

On August 5 we participated in a “History Get-Together” at the Beavor Homes Grange. It was an annual multi-family reunion, public invited, for visiting, reminiscing, and looking at ROHM exhibits. It was topped off by a spaghetti feed, and it was fun for all those who came.

The next big event planned is our OPEN HOUSE this September 9th (1 pm – 4 pm) at City Hall (3rd floor, 106 W. B Street, Rainier, OR 97048). Don’t miss it!

Please read President Kay Heflin's report below for detailed information on our museum’s growth.

Our Museum Continues to Grow!

President’s report by Kay Heflin

So much has happened since our April newsletter. We have been very busy this summer creating four different major events. On July 7th and 8th we opened our

museum to coincide with the Rainier Days in the Park. That exhibit featured **Rainier Daze Celebrations** from 1959 thru 1973. At the same time, we had a booth at the Rainier Days in the Park. On July 29th, our museum was open for an **All Class School Exhibit** and featured the graduating class of 1967 for their 50-year class reunion. We did a **History get-together** event at the Beaver Homes Grange on August 5th exchanging pictures with a well-known multi-family reunion. Most recently, on August 7th, we had our first **History Presentation** at the Rainier Senior Center.

Our museum is striving to create exhibits that will interest our members and bring people in to see the museum. The history sharing events at the Beaver Homes Grange and the Senior Center were our way of reaching out to the community, and bringing a portion of our town's history to the people. With each of these events, we made more contacts for acquiring photos and items for our museum. For example, during our history presentation at the Senior Center, the wife of Ira Mitchell donated the sheriff badge that Ira wore while he was the High Sheriff during the 1959 Rainier Daze Celebration.

These events have also generated more members, expanding our memberships from 68 to 90 since April. Membership dues are very important because the dues pay for our operating costs throughout the year, whereas money received from grants cannot be spent on museum operating costs. I want to thank all of our members for supporting our museum. We wouldn't exist without you!

More Good News!

We have received a \$9,000 grant from the Friends of Paul Bunyan Foundation. Over the next year we will use this grant to create a logging exhibit which will feature how logging has affected the growth of Rainier and its surrounding communities since the early 1900's. As part of the exhibit, we will create a memorial for fallen loggers from the surrounding area. We will be looking for photos of past and present logging operations, names and photos of those who have passed while working in the logging industry, and any personal stories of friends or family that worked in the logging industry.

Rainier Oregon Historical Museum Opens

Our museum now has regular operating hours. We are open every Saturday from noon to 4:00 P.M. (except holidays), at the Rainier City Hall on the 3rd floor. We will welcome any old photos or items that you would like to share or donate to our museum. We can also scan your photos and give you back the originals. You can contact us by dropping in on Saturdays, by phone at 503-556-4089 or 360-751-7039, or emailing at kay-lynn2@hotmail.com.



ROHM Board Members

Secretary, Judy Lepin

Judy's Mother's grandparents, came from Belgium and settled 2 miles south of Rainier in late 1870's with 5 daughters. It was a 640 acre land grant. When they arrived, the only way to see daylight was to look straight up, due to the dense forest. Their son, Judy's grandfather, Felix F. DeBast, was born on that land in 1879. It was the place Judy grew up, and where she returned at age 40 to reforest 15 acres, and raise llamas for 20 years.

Judy's Father's grandparents, came from KY and LA, settling in Rainier 1903. His mother was born here in 1904. So, Judy grew up listening to all the family, and community chatter, and heard all the names and goings-on of current and past settlers of the town.

Her interest in Rainier's history has only deepened with age. Due to her family roots in Rainier, Judy will find herself related to a few people in any crowded room in town. She found 3 cousins on the ROHM board when she joined. One of the original six board members of ROHM when it originated two years ago, in position of Secretary. All the other members happened to be fellow classmates back in the 60's at old RUHS.

When not at a board meeting, Judy fills her time volunteering at Rainier Senior Center, sewing, gardening, baby and pet sitting, walking her dog, and spending as much time as possible with her three children and their families, including six grandchildren.

Because of your generosity and support, our fundraising was a success. We would like to thank these local businesses for donating goods & services for our raffle:

Glaze Gifts & Giggles
Columbia Mermaid
Cornerstone Cafe
El Tapatio
Hometown Pizza
Rainier True Value
Rainier Senior Center
Oregon Grape Stitch
More Power Computers
Bridgeview Tobacco
City Barber Shop
Karol Lee's
Luigi's Pizza
The Lily Pad
Ol' Pastime
Duane Bernard
Rainier Deli and Mart

We would also like to thank the Columbia County Cultural Coalition for giving us the grant to enable us to purchase display cases and make it possible for us to open our museum.

MEMBERS ONLY **ANNUAL MEETING**

September 9th Noon – 1 p.m.

Members are invited to join us for our annual meeting. We will be discussing the museum's progress over the past year and electing a new Secretary & additional directors.

We're also looking for volunteers to help on Saturdays during our new operating hours, Noon – 4 p.m. You don't need to be on the board to volunteer, and it can be as little as one Saturday.

All interested parties for board positions or general volunteers can call either 503-556-4089 or 360-751-7039, or email at kay-lynn2@hotmail.com

New Membership and Donations

New 2017 Members who have joined as of August 2, 2017. We now have a membership of 90.

Barton, Bill	Fisher, Tim	Peterson, Phillip B.
Bauserman, Jim	Foshaug, Evie	Powney, Josephine
Berg, Alfred	Grimshaw, Vern	(Graham)
Blahm, Penny	Harrison, Scott & Terry	Putnam, Malcom
Burnett, Patricia	Harrison, William O., MD	Ridderbusch, Ed
Butcher, Phil	Holly, Beverly & Jack, &	Roberts, Linda
Clark, Marjorie	Emelee & Damon	Singleton, Earl
Clay, Dennis & Garnet	Brokenshire	Smith, Duke
Wilson	Laughlin, Delyla	Smith, Matt
Columbia River	Lee, Dianna	Teuscher, David & Sheryl
Reader/Sue Piper	Lepin, Roger	Thomas, Roger & Lisa
Dunlap, Connie	Lucas, Kiman family	Van Natta, K.C. & Marilyn
Elbert, Carole	Magruder, Margaret	Wellington, David
Fern Hill Grange #592	Nys, Carl & Linda	Zuber, Randy & Rebecca
(Bruce Wallace)	Oliver, Mary	

We are grateful to these people for their donations to the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum making it possible for our museum to grow (as of August 7, 2017)

Carl Baker	Malcolm Putnam
Jerry Bennett	Rainier Liquor Store
Columbia County Museum Association	Eileen McKee Ransom
Columbia River Reader/Sue Piper	Earl Singleton
Cornerstone Café, LLC	
Creamer, Terry	Charles Skeans
Harold Davis	Mat Smith
Connie Dunlap	Beverly Lewis Spurgeon
Dale Fisher	Jock Stewart
Claire Gerdes	
Karl Giepel	Franklin Strong
Joyce Guasch	Robert M. Thomas
William O. Harrison, MD	Aimee Thompson
Roy & Marilee Irwin	David & Sheryl Teuscher
Bernice L. Jamieson	
Henry & Mary Keith	K.C. & Marilyn Van Natta
Doug & Helen McKee	Robert & Martha Van Natta
Gordon McKee	Richard Vance
Patricia Moore	Vernonia Pioneer Museum Association
Betty Neer	
Sloan & Jennifer Nelson	David Wellington
Albert Norman	Robert West
Paul & Judy Nys	John Wilburn
Sam Patching	Jan Davis Wolz



RAINIER OREGON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Established. 2015

www.rainiermuseum.org

Membership Application

We want to thank all our members for your continued support. Your membership is not due until December 31st but you can use this form to give a membership gift to a friend or family member that is interested in Rainier's history.

Renewal membership family / individual \$15 _____

New membership family / individual \$20 _____

Gift membership \$20 _____

Donation to keep the museum open to the public \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: _____

Print Name _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Date: _____

Newsletters sent to you by: email ____ or by mail ____

Signature _____

*Enclose your check with this form and mail to: ROHM
P.O. Box 762
Rainier, Or. 97048*

- *Contributions above the membership fee is tax deductible as a charitable donation. ROHM is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization. Our tax ID # is 47-5361161.*
- *Our yearly membership runs from Jan.1st. Thru Dec. 31st.*

If you have any questions, you can contact the President of ROHM, Kay Heflin, at kay-lynn2@hotmail.com, ph.# 503-556-4089, cell# 360-751-7039 or Vice President, Tiffany Trahan, at tiffany.trahan13@gmail.com, Ph. 208-339-1736