



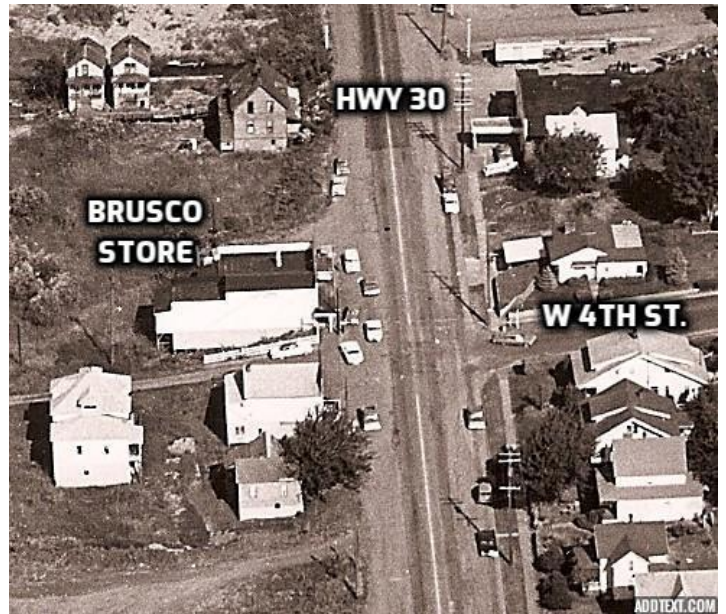
*"Preserving the past for the future"*

[www.rainiermuseum.org](http://www.rainiermuseum.org)

## Jack Brusco's Grocery Store

By Mike Clark

On the northside of highway 30, across from where West 4<sup>th</sup> Street connects to the highway on the south side, there once stood a grocery store in Rainier, Oregon, that was built in 1923. It served the community for 49 years until a devastating fire in 1972 destroyed it.



Many will remember the store as Jack Brusco's Grocery and others as Gabrielson's Grocery before that. In fact, the first business to occupy the building was Clark's Confectionery soon after it was constructed in May 1923. Clifford Campbell "Jay" Clark came to Rainier in 1918 and went to work for J. A. Schunesen at the Rainier Creamery, substituting for M. K. Tolleshaug while the latter was in military service in World War 1. In January 1920 Clark bought out James. H. Frick's Confectionery that was located in the Grand Hotel on "A" Street. Clark's move to the highway in 1923 was a lucky one, for

on July 27, 1924, the Grand Hotel caught fire and was a total loss. Clark kept the store for nine years, selling out in August 1929 to Arthur and Golda Measor from Philomath, Oregon. Clark moved with his family to Lebanon, Oregon, then to California and finally settled in Gig Harbor, Washington.



Art and Golda Measor added groceries to the confectionery store and operated it for eleven years. They were well liked in the community. They had no children of their own, but they were interested in the welfare of all youth. Their store was popular with the young folk. They had taken in one boy from a broken home and offered him refuge. The boy never forgot their kindness and for years, after reaching adulthood, would visit them with his family. After they sold the store, Art worked for a time at Bob's Market. Golda went to work at the Lindeman

*The Measor store as it looked about 1935*

clothing store. She remained employed there after it was sold first to John Rupprath in August 1946 and then again a month later to Henry and Clint Weiby. Art had a love for flowers and enjoyed baking, making carrot and banana bread and cookies that he shared with others. He was also very kind in taking shut-ins about in his car and doing errands for them.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Vincent bought Measor's store on August 1, 1940. They came from Wren, Oregon, and Thomas had previous experience running a confectionery store. But on November 2, 1942, they closed the store after Thomas said that he expected to be entering military service. At the time of the closing, they had yet to find someone to take over the business. But by the end of 1942, Alice Gabrielson had purchased the store. Two years later her husband Carl Conrad Gabrielson joined her.

The Gabrielsons had moved from Wisconsin to Ridgefield, Washington, in 1938 where they had farmed, then to Rainier in 1942 when they purchased the store. They had three children. Mr. Gabrielson passed away on June 20, 1959 while he was at work. He was 64. Marjorie Clark remembered him as being jolly and very sociable and that Mrs. Gabrielson was the one who "ran things."



*Jack Brusco behind the counter*

Alice Gabrielson continued running the store until selling it to Jack Brusco on October 30, 1961. Jack already had a grocery store that he purchased from Frances Mathers on October 15, 1954, located in Kentucky Flats. Jack then renamed his first store Brusco No. 1 and the former Gabrielson store as Brusco No. 2. On June 20, 1963, Jack closed Brusco No. 1 and continued business at No. 2. Jack graduated from Rainier Union High school in 1947. He was well liked by his classmates and served as student body president his senior year. He then served four years in the U. S. Air Force. After returning to Rainier, he decided to go into the grocery business like his father, Julius Brusco, did years before him.

Jack Brusco's business prospered, and he made other investments. He purchased a number of rental units in Rainier. In May 1968 he purchased the Flagstone Motel in Eugene, Oregon. In July 1969 he bought 4.1 acres of property in the Cannon Beach area overlooking the famous Haystack Rock with plans to build condominiums.

Brusco's store was hit by a break-in on April 6, 1968, between 8 and 10 PM. The thieves knocked a hole into the basement wall and entered there. They then forced the doors that led to both the store and his residence. They stole \$6,000 in merchandise from the store and took just about everything from his living quarters, including his electric razor. It was reported later that a truck had been seen backed to the side of the building with a number of young men around it.

On June 8, 1972, it all came to an end when Jack Brusco's store burned to the ground. It started at about 2:00 AM in the front southwest corner and spread to the rear. Per Fire Chief Merle Chase, some progress had been made at the front, but when the fire reached the back of the building the firemen could not reach it because of high water from the Columbia River.



At the time of the fire, Jack's sister Mrs. Louise Thompson was managing it. Jack maintained his apartment at the store, but he had been living in Eugene, Oregon, where he was part-owner of the Firestone Motel. The store was never rebuilt. Jack passed away on November 10, 1976, at age 47.

References: Rainier Review, 1920-Jan-1, 1920-Jan-8, 1923-May-18, 1929-Aug-2, 1934-Aug-10, 1940-Aug-1, 1942-Nov-5, 1943-May-13, 1954-Oct-21, 1959-Jun-25, 1961-Nov-2, 1963-Jun-20, 1968-Apr-11, 1968-May-23, 1968-Nov-21, 1972-Jun-15.

---

## President's Report

### By ROHM President Kay Heflin

Our museum is finally getting back to normal as the Covid-19 restrictions are being lifted. We had our first event on April 10th, partnering with Rainier City Hall for the 100-year Anniversary Celebration. There was a great turn out, starting with opening ceremonies on the front steps of city hall. Visitors were safely distanced, with historical pictures of city hall shown both in the city chambers room and upstairs in the museum. Alan Hulsopple, who created five walking tours of Rainier, gave guided tours of tour #1, which included Rainier's first hospital, the Odd Fellows Hall, the war observation tower, the location of the first church in Rainier that was located beside the first Rainier School on East 4<sup>th</sup> and D Street. If you are interested in taking one of our five walking tours, contact our museum at [rainiermuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:rainiermuseum@hotmail.com) for more information. We have brochures available at our museum for each walking tour. There are thirty-five video tours of historical locations in Rainier that are available to see on-line by clicking on the links, or scanning the QR codes, that are on the bottom of page 7.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 15 -- every Tuesday thru August 17-Bookworm at the Rainier City Park from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. Volunteers from the Rainier Museum will be helping with the reading program.

June 26, Saturday at 1:00 PM., Meet and Greet at our museum for Grand Marshal of Rainier Days in the Park, Duane Bernard.

July 9 thru Sunday July 11 – Our museum will have a booth during Rainier Days in the Park.

July 25- All-Class picnic starting on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at Hudson Park. The museum will provide, plates, silverware, water and coffee. Bring a food dish to share. Buffet lunch will start at noon.

Our museum board wants to thank all our members for supporting our museum, by renewing your memberships, and donating to our new building fund. If you would like to donate to our building fund, send your check to ROHM, PO Box 762, Rainier Oregon 97048. Our museum continues to preserve the history of Rainier and its surrounding communities. Our most recent donation was a wall mirror with advertisement for the May Agency with a calendar from 1959. If you have an item or pictures from early Rainier, contact our museum at [rainiermuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:rainiermuseum@hotmail.com) or bring your item or pictures to the Rainier Museum. The museum is open every Saturday, except major holiday weekends, from noon until 4:00 PM.

You can contact me at 360-751-7039. Best regards, Kay Heflin, President of ROHM.

---

## “A” Street Museum Goals

by Martha Van Natta, ROHM Treasurer

As most of you know, there is an anonymous donor who will donate \$100,000 towards our new museum on “A” Street if the museum can raise \$100,000 on its own. Thanks to Jerry and Huong Kelly, and other donors, we are just over 40% there. Jerry donated a sizeable amount to the museum on April 10 at the City’s 100th Anniversary Celebration for the city hall. I was pleasantly surprised when I received the Kelly’s \$5,000 cashier’s check for the museum.

Several others have made generous donations to the building fund. Those who have donated \$1000, and above are Buzz & Alice Beck, Lowell & Teresa Bentley, Duane & Joanne Bernard, Tunie & Doug Betschart, Rick & Ann Burnham, Sherry & George Evans, Dick & Kay Heflin, Delyla Laughlin, Steve & Jan Oliva, Teevin Bros. Land & Timber Co. LLC, Robert & Martha Van Natta, Ken & Karen Vance, Emily Wilson, and an anonymous donor. Many people too numerous to list here have made donations under \$1,000. We still have a long way to go. We appreciate your support. Thank you so much!

---

## A Thank You to our June 1 Volunteers

Many thanks to everyone that offered to come attempt to finish the chipping on the museum property on June 1, (what likely was the planet’s hottest day ever). Those attending were Lowell Bentley, Jerry Kelly, Ron Fadden, Dave Scott, Pat Valpiani, Rick Burnham, Don Calvert, and Larry Will. Special thanks to Paul and Judy Nys for the use of the chipper.

Duane Bernard, ROHM Vice President



***“With an Invisible Hearing Aid,  
Only Your Best Qualities Will Show!”***

**“Mr. Flanagan endorses our building plan.”**

**Shannon Flanagan, BC-HIS**  
shannon\_flanagan@comcast.net  
Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences  
OR License #HAS-P-1000826  
WA License #671

Miracle-Ear Center  
Riverwoods Crossing  
812 Ocean Beach Hwy, Suite 300  
Longview, WA 98632  
**(360) 423-6700**

# 2021 Rainier Days in The Park Grand Marshal Duane Bernard



Duane Bernard moved to the Rainier area in 1939 with his folks. When old enough, he started the first grade at Apiary. He graduated 65 years ago from RUHS, along with his future wife, Joanne Bentley. They've been married 64+ years.

They have four children. Cathy, twins Dave and Dan, and Carma who all live close by with their families. They have six grandkids, and soon will have their 9th great grandchild.

Having always been a hunter with an interest in wildlife conservation, Duane has served on many boards over the years, including county, state, federal and international. He said that "being on the ROHM board is one of the best. I've always been interested in local history, and I will continue to strive towards a very nice museum in Rainier's future."

Duane also said that "to be honored in this manner (being picked as Grand Marshal) is, I guess, my reward. Thanks to the city and the museum."

Come to the museum on June 26, Saturday at 1:00 PM., for a Meet and Greet with our 2021 Grand Marshal Duane Bernard.

---

## Meet your ROHM board members Alice Beck, Director

Alice has been a lifetime resident of the Rainier area. She and husband Buzz were married in 1956, and they are looking forward to celebrating their 65th anniversary on September 1st.

They raised three children who helped in the family retail building materials business in Rainier. Alice's lifetime hobbies include researching family genealogy, sewing, reading, gardening. After retiring 25 years ago, she volunteered with Washington State University as clothing and textile adviser.

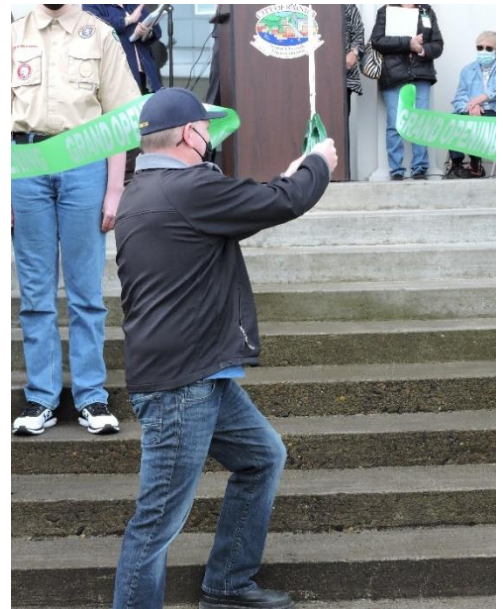
And, she adds, don't forget traveling. She and Buzz have made six driving trips across the United States, plus they have visited 20 countries.



## Rainier City Hall 100-year Anniversary Celebration



On April 10, 2021, the Rainier City Hall celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On hand to address the assemblage was City Administrator Scott Jorgensen, Mayor Jerry Cole, State Senator Betsy Johnson, ROHM president Kay Heflin, ROHM Vice-President Daune Bernard, ROHM Secretary Sherry Evans and Alan Hulsopple. Mayor Jerry Cole cut the ribbon to usher in the next 100 years. Photos by Mike Clark



---

## New Sign for the Knights of Pythias Cemetery



*Left to right; Larry Will, Lowell Bentley, Judy Lepin and Jim Lepin. Jim drove from Millersburg, Oregon, to give a hand*



On May 16, 2021, a new sign for the Knights of Pythias Cemetery was installed to replace the one that had fallen down and rotted. The sign was carved from a fir plank by Robert Tidwell who owns “Knot Just a Bear.” Those who installed the sign were Jim Lepin, Larry Will, Lowell Bentley and Judy Lepin. Also, there was Mike Clark who took photos and Marjorie Clark as honorary supervisor. The McMilan/Harrison Clan provided the funds and specifically asked that it be spent on cemetery improvements. This included the sign, a new flag and lock for the flag pole.

## NEW ROHM MEMBERS

(3/12/20-6/8/21)

We have 198 memberships\* now.

Sephe Fox  
Russ and Jan Moon  
Rainier Senior Center  
Tess Poat and Alex Gilmer  
Ted Foshaug  
Mark and Sue Pitra  
Greg Beck  
Herb and Jo Williamson  
Tonya Higgins and Gary Rice  
Bill and Carma Harrel  
Teevin Bros. Land & Timber Co.  
Steve Beck (memorial lifetime member)

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Mike Avent  
Greg Beck  
Buzz and Alice Beck  
Steve Beck (memorial)  
Harold and Elaine Davis  
Carol Girt  
William and Mary Harrison  
Mark and Sue Pitra  
Charles Skeans  
Teevin Bros. Land & Timber Co.

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Columbia County Museum Association  
Steve and Jan Oliva  
Carl Pellham  
Vernonia Pioneer Museum Association

\* Memberships can be an individual member, a couple, or a family

Contact information:

ROHM President Kay Heflin: [kay-lynn2@hotmail.com](mailto:kay-lynn2@hotmail.com) or 360-751-7039

ROHM Vice President Duane Bernard: 503-556-9661

---

Alan Hulsopple's Walking Tours of Rainier can be accessed by clicking on the links below. Also, by scanning the QR codes below with a smart phone.

Links to Walking Tours of Rainier; Map and Videos:

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/viewer?ll=46.091363216103524%2C-122.94056385555817&z=16&mid=1jyrYS-i3DdOxmQKi3fgfG\\_vxMmZ\\_v9D](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/viewer?ll=46.091363216103524%2C-122.94056385555817&z=16&mid=1jyrYS-i3DdOxmQKi3fgfG_vxMmZ_v9D)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKuealLQe\\_GSwLGzCB-MetA/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKuealLQe_GSwLGzCB-MetA/videos)

QR codes to Walking Tours of Rainier; Map and Videos:



---

This issue was produced by ROHM President Kay Heflin, newsletter editor Mike Clark, and assistant editor and proofreader Martha Van Natta.



Planting peppermint on the Warren and Byron Hirtzel's farm in West Rainier. John Cowles took the photo and date stamped it April 15, 1947. Left to right; Byron Hirtzel on the tractor, Arvin Hirtzel, Elaine Hirtzel with hat, Audrey Hirtzel and Marjorie Clark (with striped shirt) seated on the back (Mike Clark photo).

---

Rainier Oregon Historical Museum

106 W. B Street

PO Box 762

Rainier, OR 97048