

*Tumwater  
Historical  
Association*

Volume 29, Issue 3

*Your Community is Your Heritage!*

Winter 2010

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Thank You—Grant</i>	2
<i>THA Quilters News</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>THA Membership</i>	3
<i>Crosby House</i>	4
<i>Ball is a Great Success</i>	4
<i>Tum Water</i>	5

**Special points of interest:**

- Check out the Calendar of Events on Page 3 and log them onto your calendar!
- Thank you everybody who worked so hard to make the Cider Sunday another huge success.
- The THA Board will conduct its annual retreat in January to plan the year's events. Send your suggestions for THA, the newsletter, or the website to [ctobeck@comcast.net](mailto:ctobeck@comcast.net). Include the words "THA Retreat Suggestion" in the subject line.
- Have you shared the THA brochure with potential new members?. Call Sandi Gray for more brochures.
- Have a wonderful and safe holiday season. See you at the annual meeting on Sunday, December 5th at The Historic Schmidt House, 12:00 Noon.

**POAGE'S AUTOMOTIVE & TOWING**

—BY DON TROSPER

History can be as old as the horse and buggy era or as recent as last month. In this issue I want to feature more recent history. You may have noticed that just a couple months ago a long-time Tumwater business closed shop. Poage's Automotive and Towing on Capitol Boulevard owner, Warren Bergh, decided to retire and due to the current economy chose to shut down and sell the assets.



There are no doubt many local residents who have seen the Poage's auto repair facility near the Trospers Road intersection with Capitol Blvd. and have seen the many tow trucks and heard of their good reputation and expertise in both auto towing and their specialty of heavy towing and accident recovery. For quite a few years Poage's was the only towing business that could handle the big rigs and buses, helping the authorities clear the highways and ditches of larger vehicles involved in collisions. Poage's also gained a good reputation with their honest dealings and

interactions with their auto repair customers.

The name Poage comes from the founders of the business, Terrell Poage and his son Earl. Terrell was a welder at the Highway Department on Capitol Boulevard when he decided to begin a service station in 1958. The "Flying Horse" symbol on the Mobil Gas station on the corner of Trospers and Capitol became a landmark of that increasingly busy intersection. Today there is a Jack-in-the-Box restaurant on the site. Originally it was the site of the old

Thompson Grocery store. Terrell not only ran the station, but also formed the Cogs Car Club, which focused on street hotrods and dragsters and helped teach young club members driving skills, safety and where to race on tracks and drag strips rather than on the town streets. Cliff Burkhardt was one of the more well-known members of that club that attracted a young man just out of high school named Warren Bergh. Terrell's son Earl took over the station and the tow truck service. By 1975 Earl bought

(Continued on Page 5)

**NOTICE**

—From *The Pioneer and Democrat*, November 30, 1860

We hereby give notice to all persons indebted to us, BY NOTE OR ACCOUNT, to call and settle. We will take WHEAT, OATS, BUTTER or EGGS, in payment of accounts at current rates. All accounts not paid before the

first day of January, 1861, will be placed in the hands of an officer for collection. We have adopted the cash system, and shall hereafter decline to credit. We have a full assortment of Groceries, Hardware, Dry Goods, Boots

and Shoes, &c., &c., which we shall sell for cash or produce at greatly reduced prices.

C. Crosby & Co.

—Presented by Karen Johnson

# HISTORICAL GREETINGS TO YOU!

—BY DON TROSPER, PRESIDENT

The Tumwater Historical Association has had a good year as I look back on 2010. We were awarded a grant from the county that allows the board members to obtain period costuming for the many living history events we do each year. We also created a nice new website, a slick THA brochure, and have upgraded the newsletter that you're reading now. We've also added a couple very capable new board members in Corinne Tobeck and Bev York, continued to work with the Tumwater Middle School Homesteader's program in their activities, participated in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

women's suffrage in this state, continued with our very active quilter's group and their activities and true artistry, and were very pleased with our first event in our "Through the Decades" living history series combining the efforts of various local historical groups and re-enactors here in Thurston County. We greatly enhanced our Cider Sunday event with that effort.

There are two things I'd like to highlight in this issue. The first is our THA annual meeting at the Schmidt House. On Sunday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, we'll be combining our meeting with a presentation for the Olympia-

Tumwater Foundation from the authors of the new pictorial Tumwater history book project that has just been published by Arcadia. Karla Wulfsburg and Heather Lockman will do a program and book signing at 1:00 p.m. The house will be open for tours that day at noon, while the program starts at one o'clock and our business will close it out by 3 o'clock. Cookies and cider will be served and everyone is invited to come and celebrate this past year and look ahead to the next.

(Continued on page 5)

*"It has been a joy to bring history to life for the Crosby Family of New Market."*

—Bev York

## Thank You Grant Writers & Thurston County

—BY BEV YORK



**.Bev York as Mrs. Mary Lincoln Crosby and her granddaughter, Ada Augusta Woodruff**

I want to thank the grant writers and Thurston County for affording the Board Members of THA to have historically accurate clothing made. Linda Myers of Olalla, WA used the Truly Victorian patterns to create a lovely widows frock for my portrayal of the widowed Mrs. Mary Lincoln Crosby (mother of Nathaniel Crosby III).

It has been a joy to bring history to life for the Crosby Family of New Market, we are learning so much and hope to share it with all of our visitors. We are excited to be working with two Master Gar-

deners, (Connie Barclay and Kathleen Falk) and volunteers to bring the gardens of the Crosby House back to life in Spring 2011. Our first event will be on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 4 pm ~ Planning of the Pioneer/Victorian Gardens.

We would welcome gardeners who may wish to help with this exciting project.

Please contact Bev York via e-mail or telephone, for more information:

[yorkba@scattercreek.com](mailto:yorkba@scattercreek.com)  
or (360) 264-2923

### SODA BISCUITS

Take 1 lb. of flour, and mix it with milk enough to make a stiff dough; dissolve it in a little milk 1 tsp. carbonate of soda; add this to the paste with a teaspoon of salt. Work it well together and roll it out thin; cut into round biscuits, and bake them in a moderate oven. The yolk of an egg is sometimes added. (Sarah J. Jale, Mrs. Hales New Cookbook 1857)

[Different in texture (heavier) than today's biscuits, but good with the beans! I baked them at 350\*]

*Excerpt taken from the Oregon Trail Education Resource Guide from the BLM National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon.*

# HOMESTEAD QUILTERS' NEWS

—BY KATHLEEN KOONTZ

## Homestead Quilters Wind Down 2010

THA quilters finish up a busy year. Our May 8 event, WE VOTE, honoring the right to vote for women of Washington State was held at the Schmidt House. It was a glorious spring day with an enthusiastic turnout. We are very grateful to the Schmidt House, Mayor Pete Kmet, speakers Bev Duniwent, Karen Fraser, Kim Wyman, Shanna Stevenson and other community groups who participated. A State Day of Jubilation was held at the State Capitol on November 8 to round out activities honoring women voting in Washington. THA members and

quilters also participated in this event.

Our 2010 fund raiser quilt will go to its lucky new owner at the THA annual meeting in December. This log cabin quilt with a medallion center has been a crown pleaser, so be sure to purchase your tickets soon. We also attended the Thurston County Fair.

The Annual Quilters' Getaway was held October 30 at the Olympics West Retirement Inn. We had a wonderful day sewing, finishing up projects, doing a bed turning (mini quilt show), and visiting with friends and residents. Many thanks to Olympics West.

We have started on our 2011

fund raiser quilt which will be a charm quilt with over 400 pieces of non matching fabrics. It is being assembled by hand and promises to be unique. Planning is also going forward on the quilt which the Tumwater Middle School Homsteader girls will be working on in the spring.

Our Christmas lunch is on December 13, 11:30am, at Pellegrinos in Tumwater. Regular meetings will resume on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in January. Please know you are welcome to join us. The only requirement is enthusiasm and love of fabrics. Call 943-7527 or 943-1383 for information.

*You Are Invited  
to the Tumwater  
Historical Association's  
2010 Annual Meeting  
on Sunday, December 5,  
2010 starting at 12 noon  
at The Historic Schmidt  
House, 330 Schmidt  
Place SW in Tumwater.*

— Program —

*Images of America-  
Tumwater*

*Joy song Victorian  
Carolers*

*Annual Meeting*

*Refreshments  
will be served!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2nd & 4th Mondays	Homestead Quilters
2nd Thursday	THA Board Meetings
2nd Saturday in May	Heritage/Living History Program
1st Sat after Memorial Day	Pioneer Fair
3rd Saturday in September	Welcome Homesteaders
1st Sunday in October	Cider Sunday
4th Saturday in October	Quilters Getaway
1st Sunday in December	Annual Meeting

### Crosby House Closed for Winter

November—March  
(Tours by special arrangement  
w/Daughters of Pioneers)

### Pioneer/Victorian Kitchen Garden & Grounds

Sunday, April 17, 2011  
1—4 pm Planning Session

**2010 Annual Meeting, Sunday , December 5, 12 Noon at the Schmidt House—See Insert**

## THA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Tumwater Historical Association (THA) kicks off its Annual Membership Drive.

You, like our ancestors before us, are currently living the history of our grandchildren and their descendents. Your membership provides you the opportunity to help write that history and to document the past and present for generations to come. Your membership will help us further the appreciation, understanding

and teaching of the rich and unique history of the Tumwater area through research, writing and publication of related historical material.

We look forward to your continued membership and ask that you invite your family and friends to join the Tumwater Historical Association in 2010.

Please fill out the enclosed envelope and return it today.

### THA Annual Dues

Individual . . . . .	\$20
Family (Household) . . . . .	\$25
Senior Citizen/Student . . . . .	\$10
Business . . . . .	\$50
Contributing Friend . . . . .	\$50+
Estate Planning, (Information available upon request)	

***"Your Community Is  
Your Heritage!" Join THA today!***

Please pass the brochure on to someone you think will enjoy THA membership!

## CROSBY HOUSE

—BY BEV YORK

We would like to thank the Daughters of the Pioneers for hosting our first season of bringing history to life at the Crosby House Museum during the early-1860s. New Market was flourishing as a community with business and activity.

Joining up this year have been new and veteran re-enactors depicting a Sunday afternoon at the Crosby's with family/friends.

—August, we were working on the details of the upcoming wedding of our Nathaniel III to Miss Cordelia Jane Smith of Chambers Prairie (Lacey). We highlighted a Trousseau of the era with antique handiwork of the era.

—September, spent celebrating Cordelia's birthday with games of crochete and



**Troup of Re-enactors**

graces on the lawn and of course cake and tea of the time.

—October, we came indoors to work on handicrafts of the era, featuring Miss Linda and the latest in sewing machines and knotwork from the ships the Crosby's used for their maritime enterprises. A sailor from one of their ships brought and shared "his"

Ullean (Irish) bagpipe music with us. Also, Miss Cordelia, read to us from Jane Austen's "Sense & Sensibilities". It was a most enjoyable finish to the first season of bringing living history to our neighborhood.

Hope you can join us next year for the 3rd Sunday of each month beginning in April to run through

October, from 1 to 4 pm. Keep posted for more information. Refer to the Calendar of Events on page 3 for upcoming events.

We have been blessed to have very knowledgeable veteran re-enactors join us and some new ladies bringing their enthusiasm to learn about all our history and sharing it with others.

*"Thank you, Karen Johnson, for providing THA members with an interesting look into our community's past. The newsletter articles Karen provides are shared as originally written."*

—Corinne Tobeck

## Ball Is A Great Success

—From *Morning Olympian*, November 24, 1910

The Charity Ball held at Tumwater club house last night was a very appropriate opening of the winter social season in Olympia, which promises to be a brilliant one because of the legislative functions and several other swell affairs that are on the program for the winter months. Never has there been a like affair more successful, and the committees which had it in charge may well be complimented on the masterful way it was handled.

A gathering of close to 100 couples tripped the light fantastic to the entertaining strains of McNamara's six piece orchestra which furnished music to which nearly all agreed was the best heard here for a long time. Twenty numbers in all were played and every one was enjoyed to

the fullest. On all sides satisfaction was expressed and frequent remarks were made that this was one of the nicest affairs given here in some time.

Undoubtedly the affair was the scene of more beautiful gowns than many another for some time. To choose any one gown as handsomest would be an injustice to all others, for all were par excellence.

Nearly all the upper class of local society was present and the state and city administrations were well represented. The event was partially a dress affair and the somber black of the dress suits relieved by the brighter colors of the ladies gowns made a pretty picture indeed.

Delicious punch was served the entire evening, Miss Irene Harris and Lucile McKenney doing the honors. The hall was prettily decorated and the floor was the best of condition. All in all it was superlatively an enjoyable affair.

\* \* \*

### 1861! New Year's Eve Ball

A ball will be given at Carroll's Hall, in the town of Tumwater, on Monday evening, December 31st. All are respectfully invited to attend. Having adopted this plan of advertising in place of sending out tickets, I hope none will consider themselves slighted in the least.

NB Tickets, \$3/John C. Carroll

—From *Pioneer and Democrat*, December 14, 1860

—Presented by Karen Johnson

# TUM WATER

—FROM THE WASHINGTON STANDARD, DECEMBER 2, 1910

The injustice of arrest and trial of several Tumwater boys for disturbing a religious meeting by stamping of feet, clapping of hands and other unseemly noises, last week, who were fined \$50 each and costs, seems especially severe when claquers were allowed to use both hands and

feet to applaud the pastor, in the Christian church, Sunday night, to emphasize their opinion of Mr. Orrick's semi-political sermon. It is true that there were not many, but their irreverence for things sacred was just as apparent.

\* \* \*

Peter Schmidt, of Tumwater, has lost his little dauchland dog, and is very anxious to recover the pet. It is a rare species — probably the only one in this part of the country — and it may be only a question of time when it will be recovered.

—Presented by Karen Johnson

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## POAGE'S, CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

the building that became Poage's Automotive and Towing. It was a building owned previously by a plumber. Earl added the garage additions and eventually gave up on the Mobil station. Earl passed away in 1986. He sold the business to Warren Bergh a couple years before his death.

Warren is the son of Stanley and Margaret Bergh and grew up on their farm in the South Union area. His dad was active in the Grange and was on

the Tumwater School Board at one time. His mom was a homemaker and in later years worked at Miller's downtown in Olympia. Warren was a shop foreman for Sears Auto Department when he became dissatisfied and quit, going to work for Earl Poage as a mechanic. Within a couple years he was made shop foreman, not quite realizing that Earl was grooming him to take over the business as his health was failing. Warren owned and ran the business from the mid 1980's to 2010. He is now in the process of

selling the old trucks, equipment and the building and going into retirement with his wife on the family farm, raising cattle and hay, occasional boating out on the bay and working on his hobby of restoring old radios. He is very thankful for the many business relationships he has enjoyed over the years and greatly appreciates all his customers he has served so well. Poage's Automotive and Towing has been an important part of Tumwater's business history and we honor them for their service.

*"Our next  
"Through the Decades"  
event scheduled for  
May 14th from 10 to 4  
in Tenino."*

—Don Trosper

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

The second item relates to 2011. That's our next "Through the Decades" event scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 4 in Tenino. Plans are already being put together as we portray in various displays and living history demonstrations for the time period 1850 to 1875. We hope to bring many local area groups together for this day from all over the county. We're looking forward to Ray Egan as he

portrays Willis Boatman, John Salico as he brings his stories and music, and hopefully have Phil and Vivian Williams with us with their wonderful music of the time period. The plans are still being put together and we're excited about how it's coming together. Set the date on your calendar for next year and watch for more details.

As you can tell, THA remains a very active group and we'd love to have you involved.

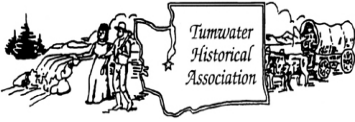
You can volunteer for the various events, bring others with you as you attend the events, and of course join our association as a member. The dues are \$20 per individual, \$25 per household, \$10 for seniors over 65 and students, and \$50 for business membership. You'll help us preserve our rich history and continue with our many educational projects and activities.

Thank you very much!

—Don Trosper, President

## THA Motto

*"Your Community is  
Your Heritage"*



*Tumwater Historical Association*

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*Ph (360) 943-6951*

*Corinne M. Tobeck, Editor*

**THA Website!**

[www.tumwaterhistorical  
association.org](http://www.tumwaterhistoricalassociation.org)

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# Tumwater Historical Association

## Mission

*"The Tumwater Historical Association is organized for educational and cultural purposes relating to the history of the Tumwater area, its life and people."*

The Tumwater Historical Association (THA) is an active organization that was incorporated on October 2, 1981 with 200 charter members. THA is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization governed by the board of directors. The board generally meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Schmidt House in Tumwater, starting at 5:00 PM.

THA offers a variety of activities funded through membership dues, grants, donation, and entry fees. THA offers its members and the community the opportunity to partake in a variety of historical and education activities, such as:

Pioneer Fair

Oral History Program

Cider Sunday

THA Homestead Quilters

THA Country Store

Heritage/Living History Programs

Historical Field Trips

New Market Homestead Living History Museum

Call (360) 943-6951 or send an e-mail to [ctobeck@comcast.net](mailto:ctobeck@comcast.net) to request information about any of the above activities or to learn how you, too, can become a member of the Tumwater Historical Association.