

THE FRIENDLY GAZETTE

May 2021 | www.fhfg.org



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4 HOMES RECEIVE
PLAQUES

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ASIAN AMERICAN
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**There's a lot more to the
Friends of Historic Forest Grove
than just the newsletter!
Visit www.fhfg.org to learn more
and to join.**



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ON THE COVER: From the 2010 Coucoures D' Elegance. A sleek, black beauty slowly cruises before an admiring audience on the Pacific University Campus. Photo by Brenda Schaffer

Letter from the President

by MEGAN HAVENS, FHFG PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It seems as though every time I've written the president's letter this year, I've been writing about something that was cancelled or changed. This quarter is no exception. After several meetings and lots of discussion, the 2021 Garden Tour committee voted to cancel this year's Garden Tour. We felt that trying to make a video or videos would not be an effective replacement for an actual garden tour. At the time we made the decision, cases of Covid in Washington County were beginning to climb and it was difficult to predict how fast people would get vaccinated. It was a hard decision because we are so close to being able to hold face-to-face events again. As I am writing this, we plan for the Annual Meeting to be virtual. However, we hope we will be able to hold a face-to-face Annual Picnic in July.

The Board met for the Annual Board Retreat in March. It was a Zoom meeting, so we kept it to an hour and half discussion. In that time we reviewed the long-term plans we formulated last year and revised some of them to reflect the changes that Covid has required. The most intense part of the discussion was around finding volunteers to support our programming in a post-Covid world. So many of our activities depend upon volunteer hours and volunteer skills. We feel that many of our volunteers are retiring and that we cannot replace them. We need to develop programming that fulfills our mission and appeals to specific needs in our community. We have lots of ideas that we are researching and we would love to hear from our membership. What would motivate you to volunteer? What events are you passionate about? What could we be doing that we aren't? I hope to hear from you on these subjects in the coming months.

With respect to all,

Megan Havens, president
president@fhfg.org
831.402.9819



Did you know...

You can support FHFG without spending an extra dime!

- **EASY to set up!**
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- **Amazon Smile Program-** FHFG earns a percentage of your purchases.
- **Fred Meyer Rewards Program-** FHFG earns a percentage of your purchases.
- **Employer Donation Match with Benevity.**
- **Birthday/event fundraising through Facebook.**



If you are unsure how to set up any of these, or need to request recyclables to be picked up, please email info@fhfg.org or call 503-992-1280.

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Friend-ly News & Events

FHFG Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 25 at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Jim Moore, Pacific University Professor, as well as popular political analyst for radio and TV on the topic: "The Oregon Way of Planning: Land Use Laws and Local Impacts."

FHFG President Megan Havens will give some brief highlights of our year to date, and some important announcements you won't want to miss!

This will be a virtual event via Zoom and also streamed on the Friends of Historic Forest Grove YouTube channel. Members, watch your email for the Zoom invitation. Voting for Board of Directors will be conducted electronically. A link will be sent out in early May. For members without email, we will send a paper ballot.

Do You Facebook?

If you are on Facebook, please join our group Historic Forest Grove where community members share photos and memories and ask questions. You might learn something –or teach us something new!

Easter Scavenger Hunt

Melody Haveluck and Juanita Calderon represented FHFG for the downtown merchants' Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt. The event was sponsored by Bella Donna's and brought a lot of socially-distanced joy to kids of all ages.



Save These Dates!

MAY
25

FHFG Virtual
Annual Meeting
7:00pm

JULY
11

FHFG Annual Picnic
at the A.T. Smith House

Congratulations to our 2021 FGHS Scholarship Recipients

Kaylyn Brennan has been awarded the \$1000 scholarship and David Glover and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Rohrer are recipients of \$500 scholarships. Please visit www.fhfg.org/community/scholarships to read more about these fine students! While you're there you can also learn qualification information.



Kaylyn Brennan



David Glover



Lizzie Rohrer

Recognition

FHFG presents plaques to four outstanding Forest Grove historic homes

Historic Property Recognition Committee members are: Jim Hilsenkopf-Co Chair, Melody Haveluck-Co Chair, Skip Buhler, Joyce Sauber, Carol Taylor, Ginny Carlson, Carol Drew, and Alanna Colwell. Home descriptions by Jim Hilsenkopf and Skip Buhler. Photos by Terri Erskine.



Joyce Sauber presents the history book to Phil Clark.

1905 Hiram & Mary Porter House

Hiram Porter, who was a carpenter, built this house in c. 1905 on lots 11 & 12 of block 8 in the South Park Addition. The house is very similar to others of the time designed by local architect J. E. Jerome. Hiram and Mary had moved their family to Forest Grove from Austin City, Minnesota, sometime after June of 1900. Little else is known about them although it is believed that Hiram built other houses here. They lived in this house for about 2 and a half years.

Other owners include: 1907 Willamina Cline, 1915 Septimus Gibson, 1920 Lucy Weeks, 1939 William & Gertrude Fitzgerald, 1943 Arthur & Emma Hellickson, and 1944 Edward and Minnie Merritt. Edward Merritt was a farmer. Minnie was only 16 when she married Edward, eight years her senior. They raised their family of 9 kids in a sod house on the Kansas prairie for 22 years before moving to Iowa. They continued to farm there until moving to Forest Grove to retire.

After a hard life farming, Edward only lived another 8 years, but Minnie continued to live in the Porter House for a total of 39 years, until the age of 94. Among her special interests she



enjoyed raising berries, fruits, nuts and flowers in her yard. She also had a special love for making quilts, making over one hundred of them. At her death she was survived by 45 grandchildren, 114 great grandchildren and many great-great grandchildren as well as a host of friends and neighbors.

We are grateful for the support of Friends of Historic Forest Grove members Elizabeth & Travis Powers, who are the current owners since 2020, and we are very pleased to recognize the Hiram & Mary Porter House and its contribution to the history of Forest Grove.

Interested in reading the full descriptions on each of these historic properties? Visit www.fhfg.org/hpr.

1906 Joseph & Nora Fairchild House

Joseph Fairchild was born in 1872 to Mary & Lewis Fairchild who came here to Washington County to homestead about 1867. Joseph grew up as a farmer and acquired some land of his own northwest of Forest Grove. In 1906 he married Nora Laughlin of Forest Grove. After buying Lots 14, 15, & 16 of Block 7 in the South Park Addition, the new couple was the first to live in the house he built there.

Nora was a dedicated and consistent church worker serving as Clerk and Treasurer at the local Christian Church. She was a staunch supporter of the Women's Suffrage Movement and in 1913 the local newspaper had a front page picture of her along with the story that "Mrs. Nora E. Fairchild had the distinction of being the first woman in this city to cast a ballot at an official election."

Nora died in October, 1956, shortly after celebrating their Fiftieth Wedding

1890 S. B. Starrett House

The S.B. Starrett House, located at 1614 Elm Street, dates from c. 1890, and is painted a vibrant yellow. The vernacular farmhouse is named after Stephen Barry Starrett. Starrett, with his son Porter, built numerous residential and business structures in Forest Grove between 1902 and the 1920s, including the Lavina Watt House, and the Masonic Temple on Main Street. The Starrett House retains many of the period's formal aspects, while having a few modern additions. After Stephen passed away in 1913, Porter Starrett, his wife Lora, and son Clyde continued to live in the house for decades, before moving to California in the mid-1930s.

After that, the house was the residence of the Hodges family, who resided here until the 1980s. The father, Ray Hodges, drove trucks for the Haney delivery line. The house is currently the home of the Buhlers: Amber,



Anniversary. Joseph continued to live in the house they shared until his death three years later.

Ten families have lived here, until it was recently purchased by Bill and Megan Vincent who had been looking for a long time for just the right place to be their first home. They fell in love with the neighborhood and this home. We are so glad that they did and we are very pleased that we can present them with a plaque recognizing the history of the Joseph & Nora Fairchild House.



Skip, Sophie, Claire, Alec, Oreo, Gnochi, Poppy and Posie. One of the original apple trees is still bearing fruit, and the Buhlers have added an outbuilding in the back lot, which is shaded by a grand Box Elder tree,

Continued on next page

1912 Mary Elizabeth Fairchild House

Mary Elizabeth Roher met Lewis Stinson Fairchild in Vancouver, Washington and after marrying in 1867, they came to Oregon, where they lived the rest of their lives in Washington County. They first homesteaded in the Gaston area and then later retired to Cornelius. During that time, while growing crops and raising livestock, they also started a family with nine kids: three girls (Sarah, Louisa & Emma) and six boys (Joseph, Edward, Charles, Elmer, James & Robert).

After 52 years together, Mary's husband Lewis died in 1919. Mary continued to live in their house on the corner of Alpine and 10th in Cornelius where they had resided for more than 20 years. Now that Mary was in her 70s, and still walking every week to Forest Grove, her kids began pressuring her to move to Forest Grove. Mary moved into this house next door to her son Joseph and his wife Nora, who lived on the corner at 1504 Birch Street. The Fairchild family thought that they could keep an eye on Mom from there. Into her 90s, they watched her split cords of wood for her two stoves, hand



spade a large garden in the side yard, and continue to walk regularly to Cornelius to visit her friends there! There have been five other owners of this house since then until 2006, when Carole and Philip Clark took on the task of completely renovating it into the beautiful house that it is today.

Asian American Oral Histories

by SKIP BUHLER

May is Asian American-Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and in celebration and recognition, we're exploring the various historical resources we have access to in Washington County. Our oral history collection is large and growing, and holds incredible learning opportunities. These oral histories, particularly that of sisters Taka Mizote and Aya Fujii, should be required viewing by Oregon citizens and students of every age.

Born Taka and Aya Iwasaki, the sisters grew up on their family's farm, on Minter Bridge Road and they went to Hillsboro schools. The Iwasakis - Billy and Ito - raised their eight children on a 50-acre berry farm, which they started around 1915. The children (3 sons and 5 daughters) attended Japanese school on Sundays in Banks, which would be their once-a-week immersion into Japanese culture. As their interview conveys, the sisters never sensed they were different from their Caucasian peers, and experienced little if any discrimination, that is, until 1942 when they were sent with their family to a series of internment camps in Eastern Oregon, by order of President Roosevelt. They were immediately faced with, on the one hand,

Continued on pg 11

At the Old Train Station

By Don Skinner,
Museum Manager

Ladies and gentlemen, we are hoping to open the OTS to visitors by appointment only starting in May. After more than a year of being closed, we are dusting stuff off and spiffing up the place in anticipation of being able to have visitors once again.

Cheryl, Melody and I started putting together a Pharmacy display but the virus took over and it sat pretty much unfinished. We are now putting the finishing touches on this interesting part of Forest Grove history. There were almost as many pharmacies as there were service stations! Well, not really but there were a bunch over time.

Speaking of Service Stations, we will have a map pinned to the wall showing most, if not all of the service stations located in good old Forest Grove. Again, there were a bunch—almost one on every corner. Actually, there were three at one intersection!

Another display we are working on is a collection of past businesses in Forest Grove. The empty display case will be filled with items from businesses past. If you happen to have any items from past Forest Grove businesses and don't know what to do with them, we sure would like to have them to add to our collection.

We hope you'll plan to visit the OTS. Please contact us and we will work with you to set up the best appointment time for your visit.

Call us at 503-992-1280 and leave us a message including your return call information, when you might like to visit, and how many of you would be coming. You may also email your request to info@fhfg.org. As we are all volunteers, please allow a few days to coordinate your visit appointment .



Call us!
Plan your museum visit appointment. See our current local pharmacy historic display.



What's Next? Contribute your local business artifacts, photos and memorabilia to our upcoming display of the history of Forest Grove businesses. Call us and let us know what you have to contribute.

Shock after Shock...

Professor Anna Berliner



Prof. Anna Berliner, circa late 1960

Anna Berliner, a professor of optometry at Pacific University, is best remembered in Forest Grove as the victim of a random murder. In May 1977, she was found dead in her home with twelve stab wounds. According to court testimony, she had opened her door to a teenage boy who was running a fake charity scam. When she refused to give him money, he beat her and attacked her with a knife. She was 88 years old.

This shocking crime was the last of many incredible events in Anna Berliner's life. She was a pioneer in research on the intersection of psychology and optometry, or how the eyes and brain interact.

Born into a German Jewish family in 1888, she was the only woman to earn a doctorate under the experimental psychologist Wilhelm Wundt. Anna's husband, Sigfrid, had a Ph.D. in physics. Despite their eminent qualifications, anti-Semitic policies made it difficult for them to find teaching positions. In 1913, Sigfrid accepted a position at a university in Japan, and the couple moved to the other side of the globe. Fortune did not smile upon them however. Just a year after arriving in Tokyo, World

by EVA GUGGEMOS

War I broke out. Japan was on the side of the Allied powers, and as German nationals, the Berliners could not remain. Sigfrid was interned and Anna was deported. She spent the war as a refugee in the United States, studying at universities and working at a Jewish orphanage in New York.

Anna and her husband reunited after the war, returning to Germany briefly. They soon decided to go back to Japan where they had better opportunities. Again, misfortune struck. The Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 destroyed much of Tokyo and killed 140,000 people. The Berliners evacuated to Germany.

Over the next years, Anna became one of the country's foremost scholars of Japanese culture, editing the German East Asiatic Society's journal and publishing a book on tea culture. But this phase of their life would not last long. When Hitler came to power in 1933, Jews across Germany were barred from holding most jobs and they faced increasingly repressive laws. The Berliners were lucky to escape the country in 1936. The Nazis would murder 6 million European Jews by the end of World War II.

When they arrived as refugees in America, the Berliners had many fractures in their academic resumes. "Interruptions... are due to two wars, a revolution, the Japanese earthquake and research work," Anna explained on one curriculum vitae. She eventually found a home in Forest Grove. Pacific University's School of Optometry opened just after World War II, and they hired Anna as one of their first professors. Finally able to work in peace, she became Dean of the department and received the Apollo Award from the American Optometric Association in 1971, one of the highest honors in her field.

For a survivor like Anna to be killed on a quiet day in Forest Grove was both sad and ironic. People who knew her say

she was strong-willed and would not stand to be pushed around. Perhaps this was a surprise to the young man who came to her door expecting an easy mark for his charity scam. Newspapers reported that when he forced his way into her home, she fought back. Her killer was sentenced to life in prison.

This article is in honor of Jewish American Heritage Month. Sources include the Anna Berliner Collection, Pacific University Archives; and Mike Francis, "Women Who Made Pacific: Anna Berliner," Pacific magazine (Fall 2019). More sources on request: guggemos@pacificu.edu.

Asian American Oral Histories Continued from pg 8

a hyper-concentration of Japanese culture in the camps, which they had not experienced in Hillsboro, and, on the other, with the bizarre feeling of difference and discrimination, and the lack of privacy. Their oral history highlights the destructive nature of the whole internment system, and the ironies inherent in the policy.

Before the family learned they would be sent away, they were told to get rid of all material connections to Japan. Taka remembers: "We had a lot of Japanese phonograph records, and I think we said 'oh we have to bury those' ... they went down the outhouse toilet." Because of their young age, and pulled right out of high school, the sisters were struck, in a positive way at first, by being thrust into a camp with their Japanese peers. They didn't fully understand what was happening politically, but they followed their parents in what they assumed would be an "adventure," with an odd sense of excitement. The sisters quickly came to understand the social inequities and racial discrimination that led to their removal and forced labor.

Well known by the Hillsboro community, the Iwasaki's had a fairly easier time in the internment system, and had more choices

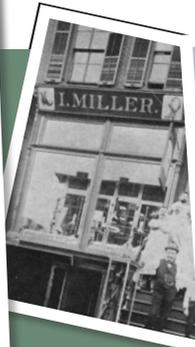


Sisters Taka and Aya Iwasaki

in their placement compared to the average Japanese-American families. The parents made sure to protect the farm, and they provided a safe place for other Japanese-American friends to store their possessions. Their older brothers Arthur and Ike were in the army, and when on furlough, would check on the Hillsboro farm, which the family quickly rented out to a German-American family before being relocated. Their brand-new house, completed in early 1942, was rented to a local physician.

The sisters recall that a kind neighbor drove the family to Forest Grove, for their ride to the Assembly Center in Portland: "It was a greyhound, and we met at the Forest Grove bus depot, and we all got on." Their Caucasian friends saw them off, waving goodbye and promising to look after the farm. The sisters' recounting of their years in internment provides a fascinating glimpse into age and gender differences in responding to being detained and working in the labor camps. Today, the Iwasaki Bros. Nursery continues to operate on Minter Bridge Rd., selling plants to BiMart, Fred Meyer and other local retailers.

The story of the Iwasaki's is one of many available through Pacific University's Oral Histories page [exhibits.lib.pacificu.edu/exhibits/show/oral-histories] that detail the lives of these inspiring Washington County citizens. Many of these recordings include downloadable transcripts. Please take a moment and watch and listen to the oral histories, and consider recording your own. Future generations will benefit from your unique story, as we do from Taka and Aya's.



by CHERYL SKINNER

The Old Train Station Museum received a pair of silver slippers February 7, 2014, from Christine Kidd. They had belonged to her mother Merna Fay. The shoes fascinated me because of their tiny size.

Merna was born in 1902. She graduated from high school at age 16, passed a test of competency over the summer and began teaching in a one room schoolhouse in Iowa. In her early twenties, sight unseen, she accepted a teaching position and traveled alone by train to Yuma, Arizona. Merna met her husband there and after they were married they moved to Los Angeles. Merna finally received her college degree when she was in her 40s, by going to summer school every year she could.

They lived in Southern California until at age 92. Merna, a widow, moved to Forest Grove to be near her daughter Christine and family. She lived at Forest Grove Residential and the Beehive until her passing in 1998.

Merna's silver slippers were made by the I. Miller & Sons shoe store. Israel Miller (I. Miller) immigrated from Prussia in the late 1880s/1890s. He opened his company in 1895 in New York City. He designed and made footwear for the Broadway stage and silent screen stars, as well as the general public. One of his famous clients was actress Ethel Barrymore (1895-1957) "The First Lady of the American Theatre". Another was silent film star Mary Pickford (1909-1933). From 1910 to 1925 she was known as the most famous woman in the world.

The I. Miller Shoe Company grew to 228 stores across the country, before closing in 1970. Their shoes were imprinted with "I. Miller Beautiful Shoes Made in NY" in one of the shoes and the name of the shoe store and city in the other. In this case the right shoe says "I. Miller Los Angeles".

Christine told me that the I. Miller shoe store in LA "used small size shoes to advertise, but very few women could wear what they called sample shoes. As a result my Mother could buy beautiful, expensive shoes for very little money."

This pair is size 4A – the average size in the early 1920s. By the 1960s the average was 5 ½; in the 1970s it was 7 ½. Now the average is 8 ½ - 9.

After hearing Merna's story, thanks to Christine, I am not only fascinated by the tiny shoes, but am in awe of the accomplishments of a young woman in those days.





Details from the A.T. Smith House L-R: Laurie McCulley and Carol Howell worked on trimming and weeding. Tulips from Abigail's Garden add a beautiful touch to a day giving the house some TLC under robin's egg blue skies. Terri Erskine and Jeff and Brody Roth work on taming the blackberry brambles. Others who assisted and were too fast to capture on camera included Mary Jo and David Morelli, Cleo Howell, Tom Beck, Bill Gilbert, Marcus Hazelett, Ashley Roth, Greg and Martha Robertson, and Fletch Grylls a.k.a the Lawn Ranger. Photos by Mary Jo Morelli.

Doings...

At the A.T. Smith House

By Tom Beck, FHFG Board Member

Spring has come and thus cleanup at the A.T. Smith house. On April 10 and 11 a hardy group of volunteers burned the debris piles from last fall, weeded around the orchard trees, and generally cleaned up the entire property.

In the meantime, Mary Jo found time to write a CEP grant to the City of Forest Grove to replace the window and siding on the south side of the house. This is a first step in our work to secure the entire building so that we can remove the perimeter fence. To reach this goal we will be doing more grant work to fund the repairing of the south entrances and enhance the durability of each entrance.

The Capital Campaign Committee has met and is moving forward to determine an estimate for the complete restoration of the house and development of the property, which is our first step in the development of our capital campaign. Concurrently, we will be meeting with Anne Lane, the

new Parks and Recreation Director for Forest Grove—Tom Gamble has retired—to discuss the City's plans for the A.T. Smith Park, which is the City property in front of our property. We hope to have the City at least grade and seed this area to enhance the entrance to our property, since the full development of this new park is most likely a number of years in the future.

An important part of the capital campaign is to have partners, and thus we will be meeting with the City Manager of Forest Grove to begin the process of developing a full partnership in the importance of restoring the A.T. Smith house and the development of the full property to enhance tourism as well as provide an attractive and interesting destination for the residents of Forest Grove. It is important to have these first steps firmly in place in order to have a strong case when we begin to approach large scale donors and other funding agencies.

Memories of...

Concours D'Elegance

By Brian Howson, Forest Grove resident 1969-2004

The Forest Grove Rotary Concours D'Elegance was the brainchild of a handful of car nut Rotarians, of which my father became intrinsically involved. And with his involvement came the participation of the entire family in the annual event in the 70s and early 80s. Initially, I was what my father called the "gopher". All day during the event, I ran from one side of Pacific University campus to the other, passing messages and grabbing judging results. Over the next few years, I worked to fill the envelopes the car owners received, put up the fencing and direct traffic. The only thing I didn't do with the show was present my own car.

During my high school years in the early 80s, I was recruited to help take photos of the show that would later be used in slide show presentations at events where the Rotary Club would promote the car show. Every year, we were stationed in the

Portland Swap Meet and Rose Cup Races, showing those slides and handing out leaflets as reminders of the date of the show.

These early experiences with the show helped build a love for old cars. During this time period my father had purchased an old 1965 Mustang convertible as a toy and possible investment. His involvement in the show garnered him information that the Mustang was bound to be declared a 'classic' by the Historic Car Club of America and he decided to pick up one for \$500 in the mid seventies.

One thing that was missing in all those years, I never attended the show as a car owner. In those early years, I was working through the entire weekend. Finally in 2012, I was able to attend as a car owner with my 1969 Mercury Cougar XR7. The memories of owners from those early years, the quality of the event, and the



Above Left: Brian's own 1969 Mercury Cougar XR-7 is visited by an admiring feline during the 2012 Concours. Right: From the 1982 Concours, this entry was parked by the old wooden Pacific University sign. Far right: This 1930 Ford Model A Roadster is carefully looked over by the 1983 Concours Judging team. Photos by Brian Howson.



Left: 2019 Concours Vineyard and Road Tour starting on Main Street in Forest Grove. Photo by Brian Howson.

the show, without the stress of cleaning and prepping your car for the judging. It's a nice day of relaxing and swapping car stories with attendees and other car owners.

The show is first class all the way. A great addition to the show in recent years has been the Winery Tour/ Cruise. In 2019 I had the pleasure of cruising the backroads of Forest

people that ran it came to life for me 30 years later. As an owner at a car show, there is no better event in the region to be a part of.

Judging at this event is according to a fairly strict standard of the Classic Car Club of America and has intimidated some of those attending the event. Judged cars start with 100 points and points are deducted along the way. Cars must have a minimum of 92 points to take home an award...several classes at the show went without awards as a result. I entered my 1969 XR7 as a display only in the designated class 'Fords, 1960 through 1972'. The Display option is a great way to get your car in

Grove, Gales Creek, Gaston, Yamhill and Carlton with some legendary classics like Packards and Cadillacs.

Not much has changed since the days I worked at this event with my father...the cars have the same classes, they are placed on the campus of Pacific University in the same places...the amount of volunteer work that goes into putting on this show is second to none. It was great to come full circle with my involvement with the show...30 years later.

We were sad to recently learn that the 2021 Concours has been cancelled.



Above: Pacific University archives show an amazing array of buggies and vehicles that have been presented at Concours over the years.



Help us tell the story...

Join us—become a member!

Volunteer

Donate Historic Items—We'd really like someone to donate items and artifacts for our local business history display.

Donate Products & Services.

Contribute Funds.

Remember us in your estate planning.

And **Thank You** because none of our work could continue without you!



Hop on board the Forest Grove Trolley!
Photo courtesy: Five Oaks Museum.

Watch the next issue for lots more about Oregon's electric railways!



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