



Garden Home History Gazette

April 2018

Website: GardenHomeHistory.com

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Editor: Elaine Shreve (503) 246-5879

Mission: Strengthening our community by sharing the history of Garden Home

Visit GardenHomeHistory.com for over 150 stories and 1000 photos.



Old Community Church at SW 71st Ave and SW Garden Home Rd



Garden Home Methodist Church at SW 81st Ave and SW Garden Home Rd.



Monday, April 9 6:30 PM

Garden Home Recreation Center
7475 SW Dieson Road, Portland

Attend our presentation recounting 100 years of the old church bell hanging in Garden Home. Wonderful vintage photos and memoirs. FREE

Hosted by GardenHomeHistory.com

You're invited! **Monday, April 9, 6:30 PM:** Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the old church bell ringing in Garden Home. Vintage photo slide show, memoirs of both churches.

All meetings are at the Garden Home Recreation Center. Free. All welcome.

Monday, May 14, 6:30 pm: Board of Directors meeting: planning for Ginny Mapes reception on May 18.

Friday, May 18, multiple events:

10:00-11:00 am: Roundtable meeting of Washington County historical societies.

11:00 am: Slide show of vintage Garden Home photos and our recent events.

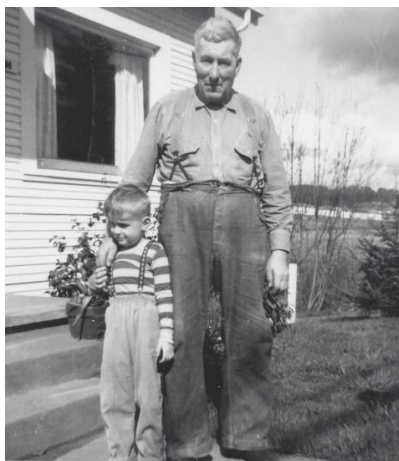
11:30 am - 12:30 pm: Reception honoring Ginny Mapes, author of our first history book: *Garden Home-the way it was* and the *Traces of the Past* books with more Garden Home stories. She also wrote *Chakeipi*, the history of Beaverton. Special invitation to former teachers from Garden Home School, the students and others who worked on the books.

Monday, June 11, 6:30-7:15 pm: Slide show presentation topic TBA, followed by Board meeting.

Saturday, June 16, 10 am to 2:00 pm. Ring the historic bell hanging in the Lamb's Thriftway. Celebrate its 100th year of hanging in Garden Home.



Robert Gertsch, 2018



Fred (Fritz) Gertsch Sr. and grandson Robert Gertsch, late 1940s



Shattuck Dairy wagon

Robert Gertsch: In 1898, Robert's grandfather, Fritz Sr., was the third Gertsch brother to come to Garden Home from Switzerland. He worked for a dairy on Vermont east of Oleson Road, possibly the large Hoffman Balmer dairy. After working to develop some savings, Fritz purchased property across Oleson Road from his brother Christian's property, and began working with Christian at the Shattuck Dairy. Fritz, Sr. married Rosa Nuelerhoser, thought to be from Switzerland, and had a son Fritz, Jr. who married Olive Philena Wolfe.

Robert and Peter Albert Gertsch were born to Fritz Jr. and Olive Philena Wolfe. Olive Philena Wolfe was born to Edna Oleson, a daughter of Ole Oleson who owned many acres in this area of Garden Home. Ole and his wife Polly Philena Patton had eight children, one son and seven daughters. Robert remembers his father Fritz Jr. as a great story-teller, usually with himself as the central figure, embellishing the stories from time to time. Read more on the website: Oleson families.

Grandfather Fritz Sr. had barrels in his basement where he made hard cider, wine and possibly other alcohol drinks during Prohibition. "He liked to have a little nip now and then." Fritz Sr. was always able to get good quality whiskey during this period. Robert's mother, Olive Philena, used to say "Bing Crosby music is not allowed" because Bing had been arrested for some alcohol possession and she thought he was a bad influence on children.

Nancy Donner: Nancy and William (Bill) Donner moved to the Garden Home area in 1967 when Bill was transferred with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers from Walla Walla, Washington. Their large home at SW 62nd and SW Garden Home Road accommodated their five children. The home is just inside the Multnomah County line so their children attended Smith Elementary, Jackson Middle School and Wilson High School.

The Donner home was a voting precinct in the early days, down in the basement. They also hosted the Corp of Engineers' annual picnic in the summertime. With their one acre, they had a volley ball court for lots of fun.

Nancy fondly recalls the Sunday afternoon activity to go for a ride and visit the relatives, all unannounced ahead of time. Social times were spent playing Canasta, Scrabble or checkers. Doors were not locked and fences did not appear until the 1970s or so.



Nancy Donner, 2017



Bruce Koester, 2018



Closely planted Sequoias by the TV Water District tank on SW Garden Home Rd

Bruce Koester: Bruce has lived in his grandmother's home near 62nd and Garden Home Road most of his life. The home was built in 1926 and his grandmother Augusta Matrix Hosner purchased the property in 1927 for \$2,500 from Mr. Sabel who owned much of the property in that area. Bruce's father, Otto Koester, came from Germany and married Augusta's daughter, Elizabeth in 1928. Both parents died in 1979 and are buried at Crescent Grove Cemetery on Greenburg Road.

The original garage for the Koester property was located east of the house, where the huge 1.75 million gallon **Tualatin Valley Water District's water tank** now stands. This earthquake-resistant tank was installed in 2013. It replaced the two aging 500,000 gallon tanks which were developed in 1952. A row of about 20 very tall sequoia trees delineate the property line from the Koesters; the tiny saplings were planted about a yard apart in 1953. Mr. Sabel had an auto repair business at this location prior to the water tanks.

Other News:



Cooperative Cannery 1945



War poster



Whitney's Cannery, 1950



Old Market Pub, 2017

Virginia Vanture presented our February program on the beginnings of the **Cooperative Cannery in Garden Home, 1944** (now the Old Market Pub). The Cannery responded to the war time rationing, food going to the military and Victory Gardens; in addition to the concern after the Great Depression to preserve food for one's family. Garden Home's large platted lots and fruit trees provided an abundance of produce.

THANK YOU to our generous donors: Janiece Day, Anne Olson, Billie Marx, Vlasta Barber, Virginia Vanture, Marianne H Ho Myer (street sign), Kay Feldman for Bob Feldman, Rosella Grafton, Matthew Turay DMD, Paul Norman, Billie Marx, Sybil Grissom, and Sharon & Bob Cram.

We have thus far been able to manage our financial needs with your donations and our fund-raisers. Thanks to all of you, we are a rare historical society without membership dues.

Garden Home History Project
7240 SW 82nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97223



Gathering the stories of our Garden Home families

The Garden Home History Project is a tax-exempt small non-profit under IRS 501(c)(3). Our 2018 officers are Co-Chairs: Patsy VandeVenter and Elaine Shreve, Treasurer: Marie Pacella, Secretary: Mark Kajitani, Board Members: Stan Houseman, Susan Houseman, Virginia Vanture, John Pacella, Esta Mapes, Louise Cook Jones, Jan Fredrickson. Advisory board: Bob Cram, Sharon Cram, Tom Shreve, Sharon Vedder and Carole Vranizan. Thanks to all!

Garden Home History Project

Postal mailings of newsletter..... \$10 per year

Your donations support the activities and research of the Garden Home History Project. **Thank You!**

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Please make checks payable to: **Garden Home History Project**
and mail to our Treasurer: **Marie Pacella, 7240 SW 82nd Ave., Portland, OR 97223**