



April 2019

Website: [GardenHomeHistory.com](http://GardenHomeHistory.com)Email: [gardenhomehistory@gmail.com](mailto:gardenhomehistory@gmail.com)

Editor: Elaine Shreve (503) 246-5879

**Mission: Enriching the lives of our community by sharing the history of Garden Home**

Visit [GardenHomeHistory.com](http://GardenHomeHistory.com) for over 150 stories and 2000 photos.

## Korean Society Presentation



We are privileged to have John K. Lim and Jenny Kim present a slide story of the Korean Society of Oregon. The Korean Society purchased the former Garden Home Methodist Church on SW 81st Avenue (off of Garden Home Road) after it closed in 1994. John K. Lim served 5 terms in the Oregon Legislature and has been president of the Korean Society. They have a strong commitment to honor our Korean War veterans, please invite any such veterans.

**Monday, April 8, 6:30-7:30 PM**  
**Garden Home Recreation Center**

7475 SW Oleson Road, Portland

FREE

Hosted by [GardenHomeHistory.com](http://GardenHomeHistory.com)

## Historic Garden Home Postal Safe



Join us for a special history presentation at **Garden Home Growlers**. Enjoy a brief slide show about the early history of Garden Home and the Garden Home Post Office. Learn how the community mobilized to rescue the 600 pound safe and move it inside Garden Home Growlers. Children welcome. Hosts: Stan and Susan Houseman.

**Thursday, April 18, 6:30-7:30 PM**  
**Garden Home Growlers**

Inside Garden Home Market Place, 7410 SW Oleson Road, Portland

FREE

Hosted by [GardenHomeHistory.com](http://GardenHomeHistory.com)

All meetings are free. All welcome.

**Monday, April 8, 6:30-7:30pm**, presentation by the Korean Society at the Garden Home Recreation Center.

**Thursday, April 18, 6:30-7:30pm**, presentation about early Garden Home and the historic Garden Home Post Office safe at Garden Home Growlers (inside the Garden Home Market Place).

**Monday, May 13, 6:30pm**, Garden Home History Project Board Meeting. Come learn what we're up to and how to get involved!

**In Memoriam:** George Babbitt, Dean Day, Don Sprague, and Marlene Carol (Nance) Tufts, PhD.

## Moving the historic Garden Home Post Office safe

What a day! Thanks to Matt Combs for offering us the safe from the old Post Office in Garden Home. Thanks to Adam Martinez from the Garden Home Growlers to offer a home for it. How to move over 600 pounds? Denny Parent answered a Nextdoor query from Stan Houseman. A truck with a crane, Yes! Tom Shreve and Stan coordinated the plan, Susan Houseman and Elaine Shreve took photos, grandson Eric Shreve helped. We were excited about the arrival of this huge beautiful truck and our hero volunteer, Denny Parent, who managed the whole process perfectly. Friend Brian Fuller arrives at the store for broccoli, lends muscle to the final push and dashed back to his car for his floorjack, the last perfect tool to complete the job.

Come visit the safe: big, old, ugly, locked, no combination, but what a mystery! See the safe and the photos of the move and early Garden Home on display, have a cool one from the Growler! Inside the Garden Home Market Place. Join us 6:30 PM, Thursday, April 18 at Garden Home Growlers to learn about the safe.



## Vivian Bosley remembers mail sack delivery by train

The Oregon Electric train delivered the mail to Garden Home in about 1910 into the 1930s. Vivian Bosley remembered how her son Ken would get the mail sack:

*Vivian remembers that one of his jobs required him to pick up and deliver the mail to the train as it came through Garden Home. To do this Ken would run along the side of the passing train and the man assigned to handle the mail would toss the mailbag to Ken. Likewise, when Ken was delivering the mail to the train, he would run along the side of the mail car and toss the bag to the man on board. Ken became an expert at this and Vivian recalls that as a result "he could run like a deer!"*

To read more on GardenHomeHistory.com, search for "Vivian DuPue Bosley".



Lana Smith, our current Postmistress

## History of the Garden Home Post Office

The following is an excerpt from the history of our Garden Home Post Office as written on [GardenHomeHistory.com](http://GardenHomeHistory.com).

*Oregon Geographic Names by Lewis McArthur states that the Garden Home Post Office was officially established in 1882.*

*The post office was first located in Lumen Nichols' general store which was located in the Dairy Queen corner of the intersection. Later in the early 1900s the Post Office moved up to Robert and Margie Smith's Red & White store, sometimes called the Red Store. This store was east on Garden Home Road across from the current Old Market Pub.*

*In 1935, Margaret Scherner Smith became the Postmistress. When the Red store closed in the 1930s, the Post Office was moved to the White Store (later called the Upchurch store), the large store built by Chris Jager on the southeast corner of the intersection. Later the Post Office moved into the back of Gust Johnson's service station on the southwest corner of the intersection.*

*When the Lamb's Thriftway complex was built in 1957, the Post Office moved into the back of Irv Huppen's Pharmacy. Elizabeth Rains became the Postmistress from 1968 until 1992. Upon her retirement, her daughter Mary Rogers took over from 1992 until 1996. The postal safe was in the Post Office at this time.*

*When the new Thriftway was built in 1992, the Post Office moved inside Lamb's Thriftway and continues to this day in our Garden Home Market Place in 2019 with Lana Smith as our Postmistress. It is a cherished part of our community. Mail used to be addressed to Garden Home, Oregon but now the more preferred address is Portland, OR 97223.*

We think this heavy safe could have arrived in Portland by train or ship in the late 1800s or later. With the P.O. moving locations, we suspect that the safe did not come into Garden Home until after the new Lamb's Thriftway and Irv Huppen's Pharmacy were built in 1957. The Pharmacy was located at the eastern end of the mini-mall when first built. The old Thriftway store and mall were demolished and the current 2019 store was built in 1981 with a major remodel and new mall in 1995.

We will continue to research this safe and would welcome any information from you! Email us at [GardenHomeHistory@gmail.com](mailto:GardenHomeHistory@gmail.com).



Post Office circa 1890 (Lumen Nichols pictured)



The Red Store circa 1911



Gus Johnson's Texaco circa 1940s  
(see Post Office sign far right)

## Obituaries

**George Nobel Babbitt February 6, 1926 - December 19, 2018**

**Mae Babbitt December 11, 1921 - May 11, 2016**

George Babbitt, a plumber in S.W. Portland for 60 years, born in Bell, California; the oldest of four children. He moved to Oregon after WWII. He married Mae Babbitt in April 1948. Mae was born in December 1921 in Norwood, New York to a Dairy farmer. Together they raised four children, sons, Robert and Steven and daughters, Twanda and Carole. Mae was his office manager for the plumbing business. They were married 68 years. George and Mae were preceded by both sets of parents; his sister, LaVonne; her seven siblings; son, Robert; and daughter, Twanda.

Read more on GardenHomeHistory.com: [Veterans of Garden Home](#) and [George and Mae Babbitt](#). George was a favorite old-time resident for us. He had a wonderful memory and knew the children's names in the families that he talked about. With his plumbing business, he had been inside of most of the early homes in Garden Home. We will miss him and his sweet Mae.

**Donald Marvin Sprague Jr., February 6 1948 to October 12 2018**

Donald Marvin Sprague Jr. passed on October 12 after a courageous fight with pancreatic cancer. Born in Portland, he had 4 siblings Gary, Joanne, Mike and Jerry. He proudly served for the United States Naval Construction Battalions, better known as the Seabees at the young age of 18. He married his wife of more than 48 years, Trish, at the age of 22, and raised three children. Many families will forever remember Don especially during the holiday season as "Santa" who selflessly paid a special visit to countless children in hospitals, community centers, childcare facilities and homes to brighten up their days. He had several careers including being a mechanic, an engineer for PGE, a technician for Intel and Radysis, working at the Red Cross. Read more about Don on [various stories](#) on GardenHomeHistory.com.

**Dean Day (age 82, birth date unknown) - March 6, 2019**

Read more about Dean on [various stories](#) on GardenHomeHistory.com.

**Marlene Carol (Nance) Tufts, PhD, May 2, 1938 – November 8, 2018**

Born in Albany, Oregon, Marlene received a PhD in Psychology from the University of Hawaii in 1986. Marlene taught psychology at Clackamas Community College from September 1969 and retired in 1999. Marlene lived in Garden Home for 50 years. Marlene was a music and movie aficionado and an avid reader. She loved the outdoors and was a backpacker, hiker, river rafter and a serious birder. She traveled to every continent except Antarctica and preferred exploring third-world cities and countries over luxury tourist resorts. In her own words, she was a "lover of life and experiences, good wine and delicious food and exceptional men!" Read [Marlene's full obituary](#) on GardenHomeHistory.com.

### **Temporary library closure for expansion!**

The Garden Home Library will be closed for expansion April 7 to April 20. Items checked out at Garden Home after Sunday, March 17th will be due on or after they reopen on April 21.

For more details, visit <https://www.gardenhomelibrary.org/expansion>.



**George and Mae Babbitt**



**Don Sprague as Santa**



**Dean Day**



**Marlene Tufts**

## Concerns about Alpenrose

We are concerned about the possibility of the Alpenrose complex being sold for development. The newspapers are reporting a disagreement within the family as to the future of Alpenrose. It has been the center of so many community activities such as the Easter Egg Hunt, baseball and softball, Little League Softball World Series, Midget Sprint Racing, Olympic training on the velodrome, performances of all types, the Holiday festivities with animals and music and more. Read our [History of the Alpenrose Dairy](#) and [Jackie Wisher](#) articles on GardenHomeHistory.com for more about the history of Alpenrose.



Alpenrose Dairy (date unknown)

## Thank you for your donations and time

We were pleased to thank our outgoing Co-Chair Patsy VandeVenter for her several years of service and manager of our meetings. We recognize that the members of our Board make a time commitment to fulfill their roles. Thanks to Anne Olson for the donation of several of her mother's history books and memorabilia. The Dictionary of Oregon History, edited by Howard McKinley Corning, 1956, comes with many pertinent newspaper clippings. Wonderful!

We extend a special Thank You to everyone who shared their family stories and memories and contributed pictures and artifacts to this project. Your contributions have made Garden Home's history come alive. Donations made in honor or memory are indicated in italics.

## 2018 Donors

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**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 2019 officers are Co-Chairs: Elaine Shreve and Esta Mapes, Treasurer: Marie Pacella, Secretary: Mark Kajitani, Board Members: Stan Houseman, Susan Houseman, Virginia Vanture, John Pacella, Jan Fredrickson, Kevin Mistler. 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 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97223**