



August 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.

**Garden Home History Display Cupboard in Library**

Old things display



Garden Home History display

All meetings are free. All welcome. Meetings held at the Garden Home Recreation Center, 7475 SW Oleson.

**Monday, Sept. 9, 6:30 pm: Show & Tell program** to begin our Garden Home History meeting. Bring something old to share with us. And enjoy what others bring. This was fun last time with a cache of old bottles dug in Garden Home, a carefully hidden (bad) report card, a quilt and more. Our "things" have a lot to teach us about our history. Extra points if it is over 100 years old or relates to Garden Home. All invited to stay for our meeting at 7:30!

**Monday, Oct. 14, 6:30 pm: Board meeting** to plan Bazaar activity. Visitors welcome.

Thanks to Molly Carlisle, Garden Home Library Director, and the new expansion of the library, we have a nice display cabinet for Garden Home History. We opened with a display on early Garden Home and now have a display of "old things" to invite you all to our Sept. 9 meeting featuring "old things."

Future displays will show school photos and memorabilia, early Garden Home families, the cannery, the church, Lamb's store and more. We'd love to display items that you may have about Garden Home history. The cabinet is locked and items are secure. Call Esta Mapes at 503-246-5758 or Elaine at 503-246-5879.



Retired Principal Don Dunbar and Library Director Molly Carlisle at the June Library Expansion Celebration

## Annual Board Picnic



WormWood Manor (home of Jan Fredrickson)



Garden Home History spinner



WormWood patio

Garden Home History board members met for a July picnic at the historic WormWood Manor, hosted by Jan Fredrickson and Kevin Mistler, both on our Board of Directors. We tried out the new spinner and BINGO games about Garden Home History. Fun! Our board members sponsor and work our events, research history, change the history displays in the library hall, develop the displays in the new library display cupboard, write new material for children, monitor the old Garden Home Post Office safe at the Growlers and more! It's a busy group.

We invite you to join our Advisory Board to help out in whatever area you wish. Advisory board members aren't required to attend the regular Board of Directors meetings. Give us a call if this sounds like fun to you! We work to support the activities in our community such as those at the Garden Home Recreation Center, the Garden Home Library, the Garden Home Gardeners, the business district, and continue to provide interesting programs to appreciate our history.



Top row: Tom Shreve, Louise Cook Jones, John Pacella

Middle: Kevin Mistler, Patsy VandeVenter, Sharon and Bob Cram

Front row: Jan Fredrickson, Marie Pacella, Susan and Stan Houseman

(Elaine Shreve not pictured, taking the photos)

## The Garden Home Totem Pole by Andrew Gorman

Many of you who have lived in Garden Home since the 1990s will remember the surprising totem pole standing in the shrubs at the NW corner of SW 82nd and Garden Home Road. Unfortunately it gradually deteriorated in our damp weather, until it completely fell apart this year. Andrew Gorman, the owner who lived in the adjacent home, wrote this memoir before he moved. It is a loving salute to his stepfather and the history of the wonderful totem pole. Visit [GardenHomeHistory.com](http://GardenHomeHistory.com) to read the full length version of Andrew's totem pole story.

Andrew J. Gorman: I appreciate your interests in my totem pole; however there is no historical value to it except to me and my family. This was the last totem pole that my step father had made as a hobby before he and my mother were killed in an air accident September 5, 1981.

At one time; before I can remember, my grandfather built a totem pole himself and painted it. It was erected across the street from Cutsforth's Park in Morrow County, and stood there for nearly 50 years. Okay, now obviously when Monte was dating my mother, he had noticed and seen this totem pole many times over the years. Monte said that he might like to try his hand at carving a totem pole.

After making 6 or 8 "figurines" Monte decided to try or attempt to make his first totem pole. As I recall his first one about 8' long or tall.

The owners of the Kinzua Mill had built a new golf course just out of Fossil, Oregon. They wanted Monte to build them a totem pole to welcome people as they came to play golf. All in all, I believe Monte built 5 totem poles between 1979 and 1981.

In 1989 Patsy and I purchased the house on 82nd avenue. I think it was during the summer of 1990 or maybe 1991 that I decided to bring the last totem pole that my step father had made. Basically, I put this totem pole up in honor of my stepfather: Monte Stookey. He taught me how to work hard and to appreciate a lot of things. It was through his various projects that I learned many of the skills that I have today. It is not every one who was lucky enough to have had a father such as him.

On a side note: Every once in a while there would be various groups of people out by the totem pole bowing and praying to it. This made Patsy and I nervous. I went outside to talk to those folks a few different times to explain that there was nothing spiritual or authentic about it. It was very odd, how one guy told me that he could read and interpret the art.



Andrew Gorman, 2019



Garden Home totem pole, 2010

## Glenn (1895-1989) and Isolda Rooper Steele (1896-1986)



Isolda worked at the Garden Home School preparing lunches for the children and staff in the late 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.



Glenn and Isolda, shown here on their horses, were married in 1917. Glen is wearing his black sheepskin 'woolly chaps' which were very warm for cold weather riding.

Thanks to granddaughter Kathie Steele, we have additional information and photos for Glen and Isolda Steele. Check out the full interesting story on [GardenHomeHistory.com](http://GardenHomeHistory.com).

In 1937, Glenn and Isolda Steele relocated to Garden Home from Antelope, Oregon. Isolda and Glenn Steele were both from pioneering families in the Antelope area in Morrow County, north of Madras.

In 1939 the Garden Home School PTA minutes report that Isolda announced that hot lunches would now be served in the cafeteria which was below the (current) gymnasium. Louise Cook Jones attended Garden Home School from 1954-1962. She recalls Mrs. Steele would visit each lunch table, encouraging those who were slow to eat to finish their food so they could have some time at recess. Louise loved Mrs. Steele's cooking. "Her yeast rolls were amazing - you could smell them cooking all over the school. And she made wonderful homemade chocolate pudding, served in tall glass dishes."

Glenn was a professional house painter and a collector with many interests. His passion was rocks. The garage had water lines that had been specially set up for the polishing machines. The collection over the years that Glenn amassed was so impressive that a portion of it, specifically the Brazilian Amethyst was given to the Smithsonian.



Brazilian Amethyst



Isolda and Glenn Steele, 1986

## Remembering our Teachers

We recently received an email from Randy DeHaan remembering Virgil Pearce, one of his favorite teachers at Garden Home School in the 1970s:

*I just wanted to give you a quick little bit of possibly interesting Garden Home Elementary history. I don't know if Mr. Virgil Pearce (6th grade teacher 1972/73 and following) is still around, but I thought y'all might want to know what an impact he made. I'm sure many of my classmates would agree. Mr. Pearce was a new 6th grade teacher and he really had us interacting with math/logic/outdoors. I remember we played a lot of chess, many many math quizzes, his well-trained Golden Retriever came for a visit, etc.*

With school starting in September, we'd love to see your comments about your favorite teachers at Garden Home, Montclair or Raleigh Hills schools. You can contact us at [gardenhomehistory@gmail.com](mailto:gardenhomehistory@gmail.com) or in the comment section after a story on the website. We always enjoy hearing from you.



**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: *volunteer needed*, Board Members: Stan Houseman, Susan Houseman, John Pacella, Jan Fredrickson, and Kevin Mistler. Advisory board: Bob Cram, Sharon Cram, Tom Shreve, Mark Kajitani, Virginia Vanture, Sharon Vedder, Patsy VandeVenter, and Carole Vranizan. Thanks to all!

## **Garden Home History Project**

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

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

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