

# Garden Home History Gazette

November 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 Holiday Bazaar

### GARDEN HOME RECREATION CENTER

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SHOPPING AND CHEER.



# Holiday Bazaar

**Saturday, December 7 | 9 am - 4 pm**

100+ local art and craft vendors, holiday music, prizes and more.



7475 SW Oleson Road, Portland OR | 503-629-6341 | [thprd.org/events](http://thprd.org/events)

We are preparing for the Garden Home Recreation Center's Holiday Bazaar on December 7, 9am to 4pm! Be sure to visit our booth in room 7 on the Library hall for great gift ideas and special bird feeders. Also check out our "Gift Box" at the Bazaar for unique Garden Home items such as note cards, license plate frame, and holiday ornament balls. We look forward to meeting you!



John Pacella, Louise Jones, Kevin Mistler, Jan Fredrickson making holiday bird feeders



Patsy VandeVenter, Stan Houseman and Carole Vranian packaging the feeders



Esta Mapes, Patsy VandeVenter, Louise Jones, Carole Vranian tying ribbons

## Grocery Store Closing

The big news in Garden Home this fall has been the October closing of the Bales Garden Home Market Place grocery store after sixty two years of operation in Garden Home. The independent businesses of The Garden Home Growlers and the liquor store are also closed temporarily, we hope, until new tenants move in. The Wells Fargo Bank branch may be permanently closed. The future of the Garden Home Post Office is uncertain. Colin Lamb (building and property owner) and Mike Babbitt (store manager) have kept us posted about the process.

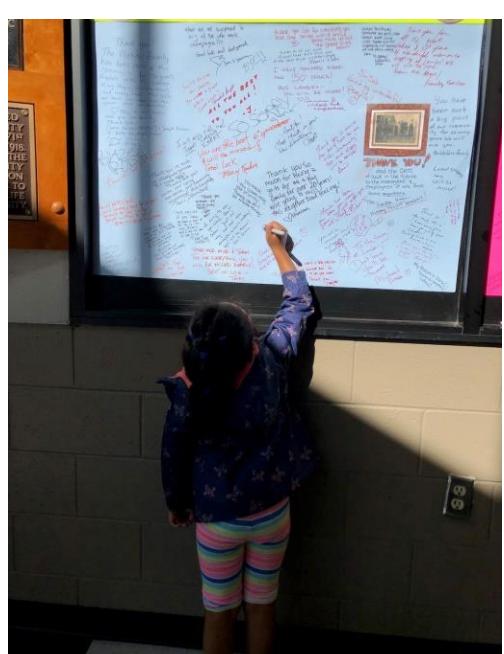
We held our annual Bell Ringing of the historic 1918 Community Church bell to thank the clerks and building staff for their dedication to our community. The vintage Post Office safe, bell, and the two associated brass plaques continue at the store for now. See the website for lots more photos.



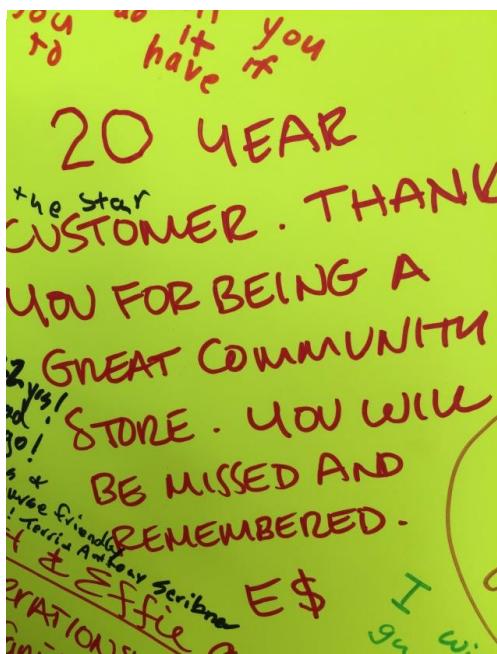
John and Marie Pacella talking with Bob and Sharon Cram in front of the history displays



Esta Mapes and Mike Babbitt visiting with customers



Little girl signing a Thank You board



Many heart-felt comments



About a hundred people rang the bell before we broke the rope!

## Hunt Club Childhood of Mike Norris, M.D.



Mike Norris, M.D.

For children growing up in the Hunt Club area in the 1940s and '50s, it often felt like a park. Mike and his friends could be found sneaking through the gate into the Frank farm, shooting pheasants in Gertsch's pond, ice skating on the swamp down the hill in winter, and cutting through yards to get to school. Mike Norris lived in Garden Home on Hunt Club Lane from 1943 to 1964.

This was a time and place when the homes or cars weren't locked in the Hunt Club area. The keys were often left in the ignition or at least over the sun visor. The Franks invited the local children to have swim lessons in their pool and an occasional free swim. The boys could play a few holes at the Portland Golf Club by entering below the hill where they weren't likely to be seen. Most boys had access to a BB gun and often a shotgun to practice on pheasants, ducks, and geese, sometimes walking to the farm areas where Washington Square is now located. Fishing in Fanno Creek was fun.

Gertsch's pond was south of what has become Vermont Street, west of Oleson. The land sloped down to the (now) Vermont area to cause swampy conditions which became frozen over the winter and fine for ice skating. Mike's mother worked at the Junior League's consignment shop and would buy the various ice skates as they came in so that most kids at the pond could find a pair near their size.

Mike and other neighbor kids often worked horse events with a lemonade and hot dog stand at the Portland Hunt Club with its 1/2 mile track. The 2-day Spring Meet was a huge regional equestrian meet with jumping, races, trotters, sulky races and more. Perhaps two thousand people came from all over to see the action from the grandstand and the grounds. The railroad was no longer running so cars were parked everywhere.

Mike's father served on the school board for Garden Home School and his name is on the brass plaque currently hanging beneath the old school bell outside the library entrance to the Garden Home Recreation Center building.

See the full story on [GardenHomeHistory.com](http://GardenHomeHistory.com).



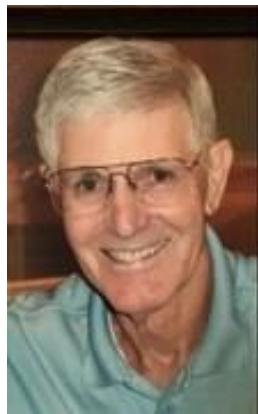
Norris home on SW Hunt Club Lane circa 1940s



Michael Dale Stevie Shane  
Bender Fauton Fauton Hayden

## Clark N. Stephens, March 10, 1930 to September 1, 2019

We were sorry to learn of Clark's passing. He was very helpful to us in writing a number of stories on Garden Home's history. Read Clark's extensive memoir on [GardenHomeHistory.com](http://GardenHomeHistory.com).



Clark, the son of Noble and Bessie Stephens, was born in Portland and raised in Garden Home adjacent to the Portland Golf Club. He started caddying there when he was 10 because all the older caddies were off to war. As a fringe benefit the caddies could play the course on Mondays. He worked on the grounds crew there throughout high school and college. Upon graduating from Tigard High School in 1947 he enlisted in the Army. After Basic Training he was assigned to entertain the troops, playing the trumpet in an Army dance band. Upon his discharge he enrolled at Lewis & Clark College where he played on the golf team and four years of football. He was a member of the undefeated 1950 L&C Team, Northwest Conference Champions. The team was ranked second in the nation among small colleges. A modest man, when asked about his trumpet and football experiences Clark said "He had the good fortune to surround himself with talent."

Clark worked as a firefighter the last two summers he was in college. To do that it was necessary for him to take the civil service exam and apply for the job. In 1953 he was surprised when the Fire Bureau called and said he was number one on the list for appointment. Asked if he would take the job he decided to say, "Yes." He had been planning on teaching and coaching. Clark frequently said he was lucky and his accidentally becoming firefighter was his best piece of luck yet. He loved his job. He worked for the Portland Fire Bureau 35 years, rising through the ranks to Deputy Chief. He was active in the IAFF serving as Secretary/Treasurer of both Local 43 and the Portland Firefighters Beneficiary Assn.

Clark was a devoted father. Camping, razor clam digging and swim meets were family activities. He spent many hours officiating at Portland Northeast YMCA competitions. He continued to support his grandchildren in their personal lives and all their athletic endeavors. He was always a patient teacher. Almost 30 years of family reunions at Sunriver allowed his children to reconnect and the cousins to get to know each other better.

After his family was raised Clark took up the golf he loved again. He and his wife, Connie, embraced the RV lifestyle and made several trips across the United States and Canada. They bought a RV lot on a golf course in Surprise, Ariz., where they enjoyed 25 winters along with many of their firefighter buddies from Portland and a number of new friends. They lived full time in their RV for five years. After a long hiatus Clark enjoyed playing his trumpet again in local bands. In his late 70's Clark took up bicycling in earnest and completed Cycle Oregon with his lifelong friend, Bob Peters, four consecutive years. In 2010 he was the oldest person on the ride.

In their retirement he and his wife traveled widely in Hawaii, Mexico, South America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Their most memorable trip was three weeks touring China shortly after China opened to tourism in 1996.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years; his son, Cliff (Rhonda); daughters, Jill Vaughan (Darrell), Shelley Stoyanov (Petar), April Meyer (Raymond); and nine grandchildren.

## **Visitors are welcome at all Board meetings and presentations**

Each person brings unique interests and skills to enhance our sharing of our Garden Home history. Our regular meetings on the second Monday of the month begins again on February 10th at 6:30 pm. This will be a planning meeting and a great time to bring new ideas.

## **THANKS for your donations**

The Garden Home History Project is supported entirely by donations from our generous community and our Holiday Bazaar fundraiser. We are registered with the Federal Internal Revenue Service and the Oregon Secretary of State's office as an official 501 (c)(3) non-profit Association. Colin Lamb and Nathalie Darcy helped us with this process in 2015. Marie Pacella, our Treasurer, sends our required documentation to the IRS and the State each May.

## **Printed Gazettes**

We send our free email newsletter to over 450 people, and send our printed newsletter to 60 recipients via postal mail. We receive an annual \$10 fee for the printed newsletter mailing from some families, but we continue to mail the printed newsletter to all 60 people on the list. Most of these folks are older and we feel they appreciate the news. Many like to keep their printed copies for reference and to share. Please let us know if you'd like the printed newsletter mailed to you for the \$10 fee. Thank You!

## **Treasurer Marie Pacella**

Marie Pacella is our Treasurer and submits a detailed treasury report at each meeting. We are so lucky to have Marie and her excellent computer skills. I send the monthly updates and newsletters to Marie who then does the magic to send them out to our database which she also keeps up. Marie and John Pacella have lived in Garden Home since 1972 and both serve on our Board of Directors. John retired from his long-time position with the Veteran's Administration in downtown Portland. Currently Marie and John provide daily care for John's parents. Busy people!

**The new year of 2020 will be the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Garden Home History Project.** In just this past year we've had a variety of programs and activities including:

- Rescued the 600-pound vintage Garden Home Post Office safe, with Denny Parent's help.
- Stan Houseman presented the history of Garden Home Post Office hosted by Garden Home Growlers.
- We were honored to have Senator John K. Lim (former Oregon legislator) and Jenny Kim present a slide story of the Korean Society of Oregon. This Society purchased the former Garden Home Methodist Church on SW 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue (off of Garden Home Road) after it closed in 1994.
- Presentation and special display at the Nordia House on Oleson Road. Followed by an Open House and tour by Ross Fogelquist of his unique Scandinavian filled log home.
- Spinner Game (and prizes!) on Garden Home history at the Recreation Center's annual late summer Mini-Market event.
- Bell Ringing and closing activities at the grocery store.
- Show and Tell program honoring all things old.
- Upcoming Holiday Bazaar.



**John and Marie Pacella**

**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, Carole Vranizan, and Louise Cook Jones. 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!**

**Name/Business** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

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**