



# Garden Home History Gazette

May 2020

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

Visit [GardenHomeHistory.com](http://GardenHomeHistory.com) for over 200 stories and 2000 photos.

## HISTORIC GARDEN HOME

October 2011  
through  
December 2012



Gertsch farm showcasing their success: prize bull being led by nose ring, wagons with full milk cans, plus cows, horses, new barn, and log road to combat the mud.

Circa 1900  
Photo courtesy Shirley Gertsch Bartels

The cover of our first calendar - October 2011 to December 2012

### Our 10th Anniversary Year of the Garden Home History Project!

This farm scene was common all over Garden Home in the early 1900s with four major dairies. Shirley Gertsch Bartels provided an early history of Garden Home. Stories about the Marugg's Garden Home Dairy, Feldman's Fanno Creek Dairy, the Von Bergen's Dairy, and more on the Shattuck Dairy soon followed. Dorothy Johnson sent photos and stories about her Miss Oregon and Miss America competition. George Babbitt called to say we needed to talk with him - he could remember the names of all the neighbors and their children! Virginia Vanture and I found ourselves deep into interviews and fascinating history. Chris Gilson and Bob Cram helped us on some early research. We read Ginny Mapes 1980s book *Garden Home-- the way it was* and *Traces of the Past*. We'll be looking back on some of these stories during this Anniversary year.

## History Presentations Are Suspended For Now

In response to COVID-19, we have suspended our slide presentations for now. We're still very busy – see our website for updates. Take good care of yourselves. Remarkable history is happening right now!



### Garden Home Cooks!

See our History display in the Garden Home Community Library: Garden Home recipe books by the Garden Home School's Parent Faculty group, two recipe books from the Methodist Church, and wonderful recipe books by Isolda Steele and Shirley Bernard. The vintage kitchen appliances include a coffee grinder, butter churn, toaster, chopper and more!

Our busy Garden Home Community Library is an important resource for our residents and is a vital component of the Washington County Cooperative Library System (WCCLS). Look for the proposed levy for countywide library services, Measure 34-297 on the May 19, 2020 ballot.

<https://www.wccls.org/libraries/gardenhome>

## 1936 Aerial Photos of the Garden Home Area

Visit [GardenHomeHistory.com](http://GardenHomeHistory.com) to see our updates on our aerial photographs. We have added annotations to them to make it easier to find landmarks. Where exactly was the Garden Home Railroad Station? Where did the Oregon Electric and Red Electric railroad tracks run? Find your neighborhood in our annotated 1936, 1954 and 1957 aerial photos. This 1936 photo spans from Maplewood, Alpenrose Dairy, Portland Golf Club, and includes the original train station.



## The Oleson Gardens Are Blooming

We thank the Garden Home Gardeners for the beautiful daffodils blooming along Oleson Road. This group began in the 1990s with the small gardens at the intersection, and has continued to plant and care for the fifteen median flower beds on SW Oleson Road. Check out their website for some wonderful photos of their work: <https://gardenhomegardeners.weebly.com/gallery.html>



## Garden Home History Project Board of Directors

This hard working Board is busy researching our Garden Home history, documenting and sharing this information with the community and preserving Garden Home history artifacts. We organize frequent slide shows, speakers, veteran events, ice cream socials, and other events with the Recreation Center.

We are a fun group, and *we invite you to get involved!* Email us at [GardenHomeHistory@gmail.com](mailto:GardenHomeHistory@gmail.com) or call Esta at (503) 246-5758 or Elaine at (503) 246-5879.



**Esta Mapes**, Co-chair: Maintains the display in the Garden Home Library's history cabinet. Chairs meetings. Former: Classroom Assistant, Beaverton Schools.



**Stan Houseman**: Stewards our public displays, colorized photos, vintage safe. Develops some printed material, technology consults, bulletin boards, documents our inventory of artifacts, resources and special gifts. Active with CPO3, Garden Home Gardeners, Nextdoor Garden Home, CERT and Quake Up! Currently: Principal Broker/Realtor/Consultant: (503) 679-3691.



**Elaine Shreve**, Co-chair: Research, writes most stories on the website, newsletters, email notifications, etc. Former: RN, Beaverton Schools. Son Tom is webmaster, develops posters, edits my writing!



**Susan Houseman**: Chair of Christmas Bazaar activity, assists with bulletin board displays and other history activities. Currently: Professional Medical Coder for OHSU Pediatric medicine.



**Sharon Vedder**, Secretary: Writes meeting minutes, and maintains official minutes notebook. Former: Classroom Assistant and special projects, Beaverton Schools.



**Jan Fredrickson**: Develops and maintains the Garden Home History display adjacent to the Fanno Creek Trail at SW 78th Ave. Mails the newsletter to our postal subscribers. Storage and repair of various history artifacts. Former: Food service supervisor for 38 years at OHSU.



**Marie Pacella**, Treasurer: Manages finances, maintains our database of almost 500 names of present and former Garden Home residents, sends out email notifications, and sends thank you notes to donors. Former: computer programmer, school volunteer.



**Kevin Mistler**: Audio-visual technician. Assists Jan with artifacts, newsletters and History Bulletin Board at 78th Ave. Former: construction, photography.



**John Pacella**: Assists with all of the above! Former: Portland Veterans Administration, early CPO3 president.

## Remembering Our First 10 Years

Our Garden Home History Project was first begun in late 2009 by Elaine Shreve and Virginia Vanture. We reviewed the history books by Virginia Mapes, found people who knew Garden Home history, and consulted with Gary Olson, Bob Cram, Terri Bertell, and Stan Houseman about creating a website. Stan stepped up and developed the first website (Tom Shreve took over as the webmaster in 2011). We developed and sold four years of calendars filled with Garden Home history, with assistance from Bob and Delia Day. Read these excerpts from our web stories about Garden Home's fascinating history:

**George Babbitt:** "George dug a partial basement to the Canfield house in the 1960s. He first jacked up the side of the house that was eight inches off level and then placed concrete blocks under that section and then around the house. He started in with a shovel and a bucket and a kid's wagon attached to a pulley rope, then building a ramp and using the little wagon to haul dirt out. Any kid he could get to help haul the dirt speeded things along. Finally the whole basement was dug with a shovel."

**Mildred Stevens:** "As a result of that tragedy (mother's death in home fire) a committee of neighborhood men, including Austin, organized to establish what would later become the Tualatin Valley Fire Department but which operated initially as a local volunteer Fire Department. A volunteer ambulance that served the community was stationed in Multnomah and a fee for membership guaranteed a ride to the hospital when a medical emergency occurred. The Hickman's and Ole Oleson helped start the volunteer ambulance service."

**Bob Feldman:** "Back in the 1940s, you might have seen young Bob Feldman riding his bike home from Garden Home School precariously toting a pail of slop from the cafeteria to feed his new baby pigs. He sold his first set of 10 weiner pigs and hoped for a new business. 'Weiner pigs' are sold young for pork. However, he and his family were shocked to find the second set of baby pigs dying from what was believed to be poisoned pig feed. It had been purchased from the feed store in Progress. That was the end of the pig plan."

**Doc Hickman:** "Doc spent a good deal of time at the Feldman home. Mrs. Feldman drove the milk route and son Robert Feldman and Doc would run the bottles up to the homes as she drove along. Doc's father-in-law had a business with a mobile truck washing business. They were hired to wash out the swimming pool when Aaron Frank would have it drained at his farm."

**Don Smith:** "Don attended Garden Home School and graduated from the eighth grade in 1941 in a class of five students. Mr. Taggart was the Principal. The gym was newly built for the seventh and eighth grade students. He went on to Tigard High School because the Tigard bus came to the Red and White Store. He had the choice of riding the train into Lincoln High School or going to Beaverton High School. He played baseball at Tigard High."

**Ward Nelson:** On having his morning Oregonian route, "I recall picking up the papers one morning and reading that the Russians had launched a satellite, Sputnik, and being scared to go on the route that day! Speaking of the Russians, we had a civil defense drill every Monday: the siren would go off at 12:05, and I recall always stopping when I heard it to make sure it was Monday and that it was 12:05. I had seen a super scary movie entitled "Invasion USA," about the Russians invading and blowing up New York City. Those were the heady days of the cold war."

**Hal Pallay:** "Before they married, Mom worked at Lipman Wolfe & Co. as an elevator operator. She was 15 and Lipman Wolfe & Co. had just had an elevator installed. The store had the distinction of being the first department store in Portland to have an elevator. Later she was asked if she would like to take the job of cashier for the main floor. But she declined. She was planning on getting married and didn't think a married woman should work."

**Shirley Gertsch Bartels:** About the Shattuck Dairy, "A son whom they called "Pete" to distinguish him from his father, Peter, was born to Katie and Peter but in July of 1895, when the child was 6 weeks old, his father died. Honoring the custom of their Swiss heritage it was decided to send to Switzerland for the remaining brother, Christian, to come to America and marry his brother's widow. Katie and Christian Gertsch were married and had two sons, Albert and Christian, who were half-brothers to Pete. Katie and Christian raised Pete and the dairy was later passed on to Pete who ran it until the mid-1950s."

## Garden Home History Through The Years



1890 - Lumen Nichols and his Garden Home store and Post Office, at the location of today's Dairy Queen.



1909 - Garden Home depot and junction of the Oregon Electric Railway.

1920s buggy race at the Portland Hunt Club quarter-mile oval track.



1920s - Shattuck Dairy wagon. The Shattuck Dairy was located in or near the Arranmore neighborhood and Montclair School.



1949 - Mark Whitney in front of Whitney's Cannery. This building later became Comella's Market, and is now the Old Market Pub & Brewery.



1956 - Aerial photo (looking east). Garden Home School (NW corner), future location of Lamb's Thriftway (NE corner), the White Store (SE corner), and Gust's Johnson's Texaco (SW corner).



1982 - Last day of Garden Home School's final year. The school was founded in 1911.



2015 - Lamb's Thriftway grocery store, founded in 1957, was sold to the owner of Bales Markets, and later closed in 2019.



The Garden Home Post Office, officially established 1881, closed in 2019. Postmistress Lana Smith at the window.

**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 2020 officers are Co-Chairs: Elaine Shreve and Esta Mapes, Treasurer: Marie Pacella, Secretary: Sharon Vedder, 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, Louise Cook Jones, and Harold Gjerman. 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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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**