



# Garden Home History Gazette

October 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.

## Hello Garden Home Friends

We are living through this historic year with the COVID-19 virus causing our worldwide pandemic, lives and properties lost with Oregon's most severe forest fires, and a fierce presidential election. Take the time to write some memoirs for your family, how life has changed, what you are learning, and what you hope for the future.

Thanks to many of you for your kind comments about our free monthly Garden Home History Updates email. This Gazette serves as our 2020 October and November Updates. Your stories are valued and so interesting. Send us your email to subscribe. Let's stay in touch! ~Elaine Shreve.

## Old Market Pub and Brewery

Thanks to Andy and Shelly Bigley, owners of the [Old Market Pub and Brewery](#), for displaying the historical artifacts that Colin Lamb has so generously given us from his Garden Home Thriftway store which closed in 2019. So stop by the Old Market Pub & Brewery for maybe a Famous Reuben or possibly Mr. Toad's Wild Red, a dark red ale. While you are there, look around the dining room to find our vintage Garden Home Post Office safe, the two large photos of the Lewis & Clark Centennial Fair of 1905, and three interesting train reliefs which remind us of our railroad history. The main building of the current Pub was built in 1945 by the [Garden Home Community Cannery Cooperative](#). The business was purchased in 1950 by [Mark and Leona Whitney](#), who continued the community cannery service, until Frank and Betty Comella opened a fruit and vegetable store here from 1978 into 1992. The Bigleys purchased the building from the Comellas in 1994.



Whitney's Custom Cannery sign on display inside the Old Market Pub and Brewery



Shelly Bigley and two of the large photos that were previously displayed in Lamb's Thriftway



Garden Home Post Office safe displayed in the Old Market Pub and Brewery

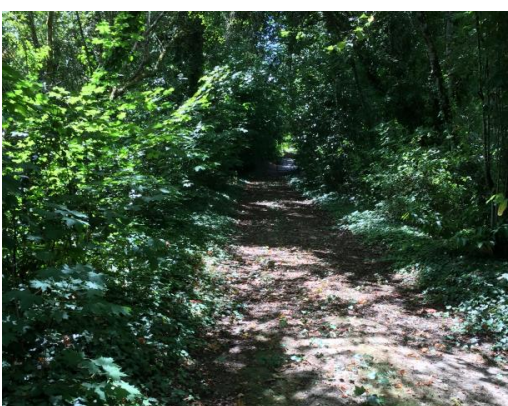
## Luke and Michelle Middlebrooks and the Oregon Electric Railroad Line

The rails and ties have been pulled up but the old [Oregon Electric](#) railroad beds from the early 1900s have forever carved their story into Garden Home. The junction of the Garden Home Rail Station was just east of what is now the Old Market Pub on SW Multnomah Boulevard. At this Station, the first Oregon Electric trains came through Garden Home in 1908, one line going west to Forest Grove and another going south through Garden Home to Tigard and down the valley.

Visible from SW 71st Avenue, the railroad bed, now private property, goes up to the [Middlebrooks](#) residence at the east end of Stewart Street, and functions as a play area for their children and a wildlife corridor. It is about 20 feet wide covered with grass, with ivy up the many trees, and the occasional apple, pear, and plum tree. The railroad bed is elevated about 10-15 feet from the properties on either side as was necessary to keep the railroad grade at less than a 2% incline. The Oregon Electric Railroad ceased passenger service in 1933 and continued with freight business until 1945 when the rails and ties were pulled up and rail business through Garden Home ceased.



View of the railroad bed from SW 71<sup>st</sup> Ave.



More railroad bed (west view)



Michelle Middlebrooks (east view)

## Library, local businesses, Beaverton Schools, and remembering Warren Cook

**Library:** Check out the website for the books and services available through our [Garden Home Community Library](#). Although the Garden Home Recreation Center is temporarily closed for now due to the pandemic, we can still get our reserved books and more!

**Thanks to our community stores and businesses** for staying open during this pandemic. Our patronage makes a difference for them. The wheels are turning, but no published news yet on what will go into the former Lamb's Thriftway building. Thanks for staying open: Starbucks, Ploy's Thai restaurant, Envy Nails & Spa, Great Clips, the Cleaners, Hyperion Computerworks, Shari's, 7-11, Dairy Queen, the Dugout restaurant and other small businesses.

**Beaverton Schools** started school on September 14 with a choice between FLEX, which is a fully online program, or a hybrid model which is a combination of online and possibly some time at the school after November 13<sup>th</sup>. This all may be adjusted to follow state COVID precautions.

Our Garden Home students go to Montclair Elementary or Raleigh Hills (grade K-8). Students on the western side of Garden Home go to Raleigh Hills, then Whitford Middle School and Beaverton High. Students on the eastern side of Garden Home in the Montclair district will go to Whitford Middle School and then Southridge High School.

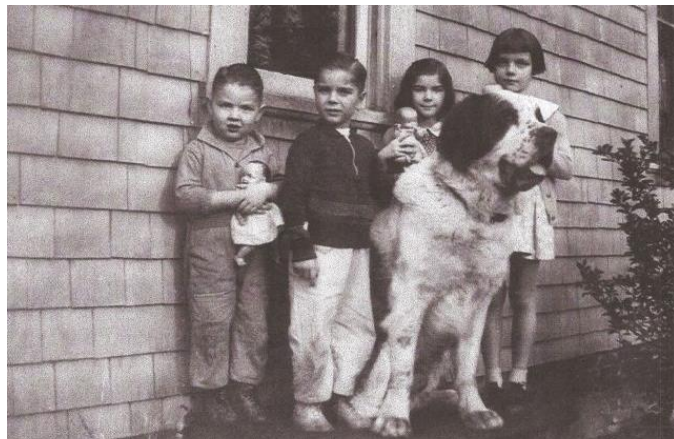
**We remember [Warren Cook](#)**, June 16, 1946 to August 28, 2020, who attended Garden Home School.



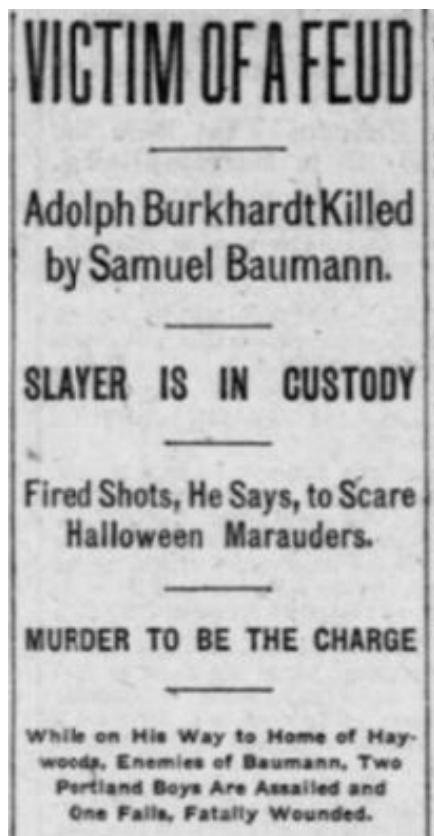
## A Look Backwards at some of our stories for our 10 year anniversary



A special **Halloween graveyard** in Garden Home a couple years ago



[Doc Hickman](#) was so helpful with early stories and this great photo. I was carefully trying to identify the children when all at once, Betty the St. Bernard appeared!



The "Other Garden Home Road" led us on to a surprising and shocking [1903 Halloween murder!](#)



[Lyle "Toad" Tate](#), our Vietnam hero, is remembered on the brass plaque with the 100 year old church bell still hanging in the former Thriftway store.



Our [1944 Plane Crash story](#) reminds us that this is the 75th anniversary of World War II

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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 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, 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**

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