



# Garden Home History Gazette

*Tenth Anniversary Edition, December 2020*

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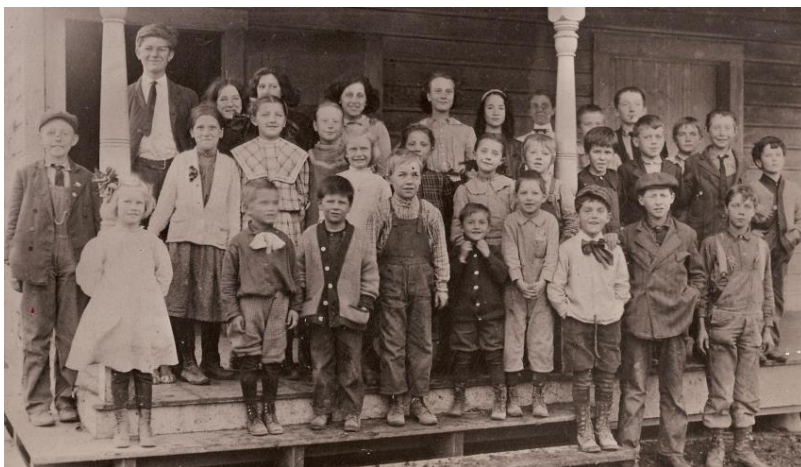
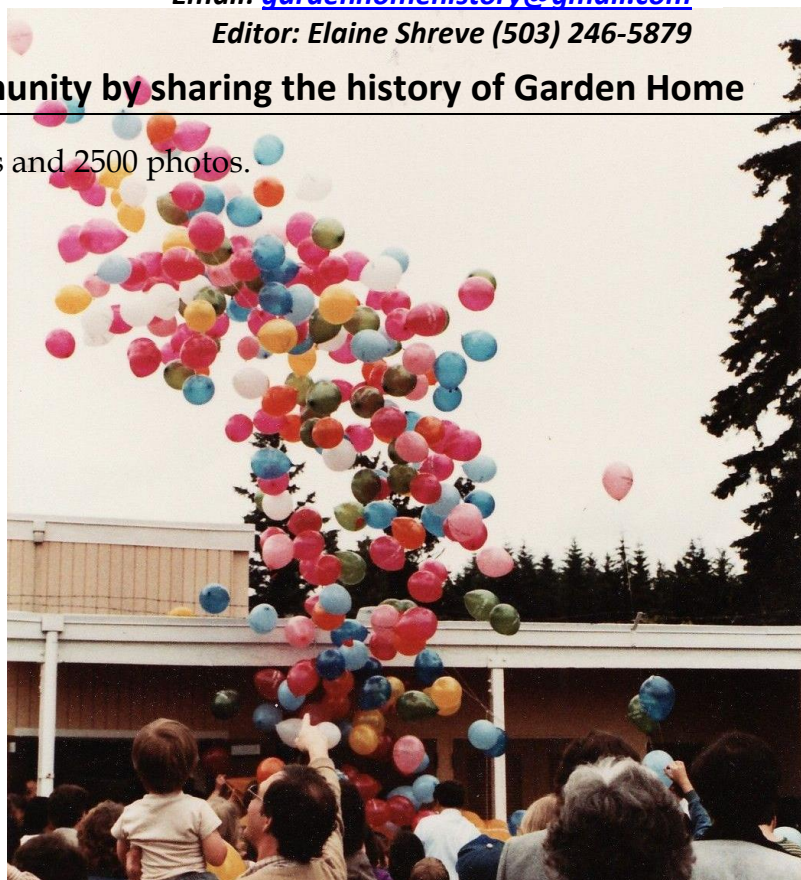
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**Mission: Enriching the lives of our community by sharing the history of Garden Home**

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**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 severe forest fires, and a fierce presidential election. Take the time to write some memoirs for your family, how life has changed, and what you hope for the future. This special edition celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our organization, and reminds us of the fascinating history of Garden Home!

**Garden Home School:** These balloons marked the closure of the historic Garden Home School, which began classes in 1911 upstairs in Chris Jager's store across the street. The Garden Home School building officially opened in 1912 with about 30 students in grades 1-8. As an independent district, students could choose to attend Tigard, Lincoln, or Beaverton High Schools. The school became part of the unified Beaverton School District in 1960, and was closed in 1982 (see the student body photo below). Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District purchased the school building in 1984 and it became THPRD's Garden Home Recreation Center. The building houses various preschools, the Garden Home Community Library, classes, recreation, and meeting rooms.





**Early Garden Home:** Garden Home was named and platted in 1881 in the Washington County records by T.A. Wood. In 1882, the Garden Home US Post Office was officially established, and Nichol Street (Garden Home Road) and Rex Street (Oleson Road) were dedicated as public highways.

Lumen Nichols is at his store and post office in the 1890 photo (left): In 1867 Lumen and wife, Anna, came to Oregon “by water” as did many other people who were not driving cattle and carrying farm equipment. He came to the Garden Home area in 1871 where he bought 85 acres of “rich land in a choice locality” on which he resided. “He built a good store, and in this he keeps a general stock of goods, and attends to the duties of the post office, as he has been the efficient Postmaster for the past ten years.”

The Red Store on Nichol Street (Garden Home Road) is viewed looking West in the 1911 photo (right).



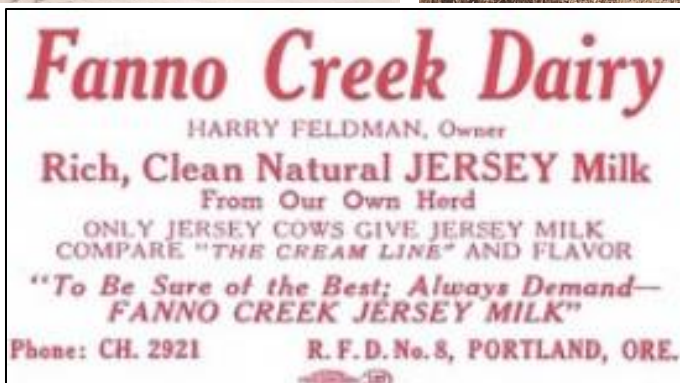
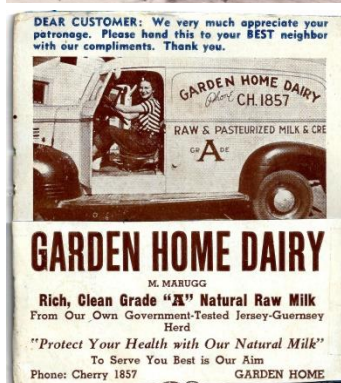
**The Oregon Electric Railway:** In 1908, the Oregon Electric train station in Garden Home was the junction of trains from Portland going south to Eugene, or west to Forest Grove. Passenger and most freight service out of Portland ended in 1941 with the advent of cars and trucks. The rail line from Portland to Garden Home was abandoned in March, 1944. The train tracks from Multnomah to Garden Home were pulled up, and the track bed was developed and opened as the current Multnomah Boulevard in 1949. At its peak, 51 trains passed through Garden Home daily. The Fanno Creek Trail follows the path of the rail beds west toward Beaverton.





**Garden Home Dairies:** The Gertsch brothers operated the Shattuck Dairy on land west of Oleson and south of Vermont Street. Over two dozen dairies were developed in the larger southwest area of Portland including the Fanno Creek Dairy at 88th and Garden Home Road, Marugg's Garden Home Dairy south on Oleson, the VonBergen Dairy north on Oleson Road, Schallberger Dairy, and Alpenrose on Shattuck Road. Milk was delivered to your door or sent into Portland on the Oregon Electric train.

Stan Marugg remembered the big earthquake of April 1949. He was sitting in one of their Garden Home Dairy milk trucks he'd driven to Beaverton High School and was bouncing up and down during the quake. His dad said he never seen concrete bend until then. He said it was like a wave moving through the concrete in the dairy barn.



**Garden Home Horse Culture:** My father, Aaron, bought the property because he wanted a place for his show horses. It was a perfect location since the land was adjacent to the Nicol Riding Academy, the Portland Riding Academy, and the Portland Hunt Club; and the Oregon Electric railroad came directly from Portland to Firlock Station where we could load and unload the horses from the estate. - Gerry Frank

Photo (left): Hunt Club harness races. Photo (right): Aaron Frank next to a horse at a railcar.





**George and Mae Babbitt:** George began his George Babbitt Plumbing business in 1953. In 1969 he built a large shop on the back of the property for his business and continued working until he sold the business in November of 2009. He did mostly residential plumbing and solved plumbing problems all over Garden Home. As such, he had a wonderful memory of many Garden Home residents.



**Doc Hickman:** Doc recalls that he lived on a small 21 acre farm with a few cows, chickens, and a special pig called "Old May." The lane they lived on became known as Hickman Lane which is located off of Miles Court. One time the Hickman barn caught on fire, they all dashed out and saw that the dad had put a light bulb in a can for heat and some straw got pushed into the can. Old May, the pig, was in the barn and they quickly let her out, the little pigs were safely out in a pen. The fire was quickly extinguished. Photo: Betty the St. Bernard with L-R: Cousins Bill Norris, Doc Hickman, Lou Anne Hickman and Eilene Norris.



**Bob Feldman:** Bob witnessed a huge cloud rise from the terrible train wreck at SW 78th near the Oregon Electric stop called Firlock Station. The train was going east when it suddenly stopped. The track buckled causing the engine to roll over. Portland Golf Club named their adjacent 15th hole Firlock Station. Photo: Bob in front of the former Fanno Creek Dairy's milking barn, 2011.



**Dorothy Johnson:** Dorothy's father, Gust, owned a Texaco gas station located on the SW corner of the intersection (now Buy2). In 1955, Dorothy was named Miss Beaverton and won the Miss Oregon pageant in Seaside. She and her mother traveled by airplane to the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City. For the talent competition at the Miss America Pageant, she performed Lady Macbeth's Sleepwalking Scene from Shakespeare's Macbeth. On the final night of the week-long Miss America competition, her performance was the only one televised live. She finished as Miss America First Runner-up in 1956.



**Ross Fogelquist:** Ross Fogelquist's lovely log cabin home on SW Oleson Rd was built by Henry Steiner, and has been accepted on the National Register of Historic Homes. The home is now part of the Nordia House cultural center, which includes an event and display center and the Swedish café, Broder Söder. Ross attended seventh and eighth grade at Garden Home School, and graduated from Beaverton High School.



**Pete Gertsch:** Pete Gertsch of the Shattuck Dairy was born in July of 1895, but when he was only six weeks old, his father died. Honoring the custom of their Swiss heritage, it was decided to send to Switzerland for his father's remaining brother, Christian, to come to America and marry his brother's widow, Katie. Pete's daughter, Shirley Gertsch Bartels, grew up in Garden Home and attended Garden Home School.

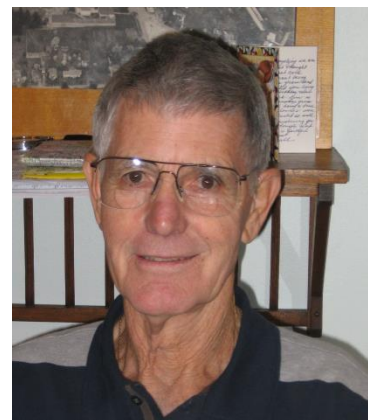


**James Bastien:** Generations of Americans have learned to play the piano using Jim and wife Jane Bastien's piano instruction books. Jim Bastien is pictured here with Garden Home School classmate Dorothy Johnson of Miss America fame. Jim's mother Dorothy Bastien wrote for *Scholastic Magazine* and young adult books as part of a writing group that included Peg Bracken, famed for her *I Hate to Cook Book* and other humor.



**Clark Stephens:** *We had a ceremony when we graduated from the eighth grade. There were nine students in our class. Don Steele went on to Benson High School in Portland. The rest of us went to Tigard High on the school bus that came thirty minutes after the Beaverton bus. The Coeys and Julia Vantzelfden went to Beaverton. The reputation was that Beaverton was more scholarly and more powerful in athletics and was a bigger school. It seemed like the community had more of a tie to Tigard.*

*Once when I was about 4 years old, a steam engine derailed on the trestle east of the train station. They had to bring in a derrick and get the engine back on the tracks. Steam engines were used to haul the logs. – Clark Stephens*



**Zora and Sharka Becvar:** In the early 1930s when the twins Zora and Sharka Becvar started school across the backyard at the Garden Home grade school, they spoke only Czech at home. "Our sister, Vlasta, took us the first day and left us with the teacher and went upstairs to her classroom. We sat for a little while and, since we did not understand what the teacher was saying, we got up and went home." Vlasta was sent home to retrieve them.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert Strong:** On June 13th, 1944, a Kingcobra fighter plane piloted by 2nd Lt. Robert Strong crashed in Garden Home. From his official report:

*I glided away from the town toward a wooded area and tried my fuel selector on all three positions, but the engine would not cut back in. At about two thousand feet I was over a wooded area, so I pulled the emergency release on the right door, took off my helmet, throat mike and unfastened the safety belt. I then trimmed the ship nose heavy and rolled it over to the right and pushed out. The tail surfaces passed over me and as soon as I saw the plane below me, I pulled the rip cord.*

On March 2nd, 1945, while executing a low strafing pass in Germany, Lt. Strong's P-38 Lightning was hit by anti-aircraft flak. He did not bail out before his plane crashed. The war against Germany ended two months later on May 8, 1945. He is buried in the American Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands.



**Polly Philena Patton and Ole Oleson:** Ole Oleson, the namesake of SW Oleson Rd, and his wife, Polly Philena Patton, were married October 22, 1878, and were early pioneers in Garden Home. They owned a number of properties in the north Oleson Road area. Polly Philena's father was John Patton (whose family is the namesake of SW Patton Rd) who suffered an early gruesome death when his feet caught on fire while sleeping in front of the hearth. Polly Philena's great grandson recalls that she always carried a small purse gun.





**Garden Home Churches:** The Community Church, 1918-1959, was an active presence in the community and many old-timers recall the youth group activities, the choir, and the ladies' fellowship circles. Women raised funds by providing sandwiches and plum puddings for sale at the Community Cannery. The sanctuary building of the Community Church was moved to the Unitarian Fellowship in 1961 (center photo). When the Methodist church (right photo) closed in 1994, the bell from the original 1918 Community Church was installed in the clock tower of Lamb's Thriftway. The plaques commemorating the church tower dedicated to Lyle Tate and the bell are both hanging in the entry of the grocery store.



**The Cannery, Comella and Son, Old Market Pub and Brewery building:** The Co-op Cannery was founded across from the Red Store in the mid-1940s. In 1950, Mark and Leona Whitney bought and operated the cannery. In 1978, Frank Comella converted the property to a fruit and vegetable store. In 1994 Andy and Shelly Bigley opened the Old Market Pub and Brewery in the same building.



**Invention of the artificial heart valve by M. Lowell Edwards:** The long low industrial building at 6611 SW Multnomah Boulevard, now the home of Power Plumbing, was formerly a research lab where the famed Starr-Edwards heart valve was developed by retired engineer M. Lowell Edwards and Dr. Albert Starr. Edwards Lifesciences Inc. in California now has a market value of \$60 billion. Photo: M. Lowell Edwards at his Garden Home lab, 1955.

*Engineer Lowell Edwards was collaborating with Dr. Starr and developed the first ball/cage heart valve and in 1963 we did the first successful triple heart valve replacement. - Sally McLaughlin, O.R. nurse for Dr. Starr.*





**Lamb's Garden Home Thriftway shopping center:** In the 1957 aerial photo by Otto Arndt below, SW Garden Home Rd runs vertically through the photo, cut diagonally by SW Oleson Rd. Lamb's Garden Home Thriftway, the mini-mall, and Texaco station on the NE corner are recently constructed. The Upchurch store on the SE corner of the intersection has recently burned down (1956). On the NW corner, Garden Home School still has the original building attached. Gust Johnson's service station is on the SW corner. The Community Church is in the lower left quarter of the photo. After many years roofless, the Seed and Feed building (today the Dugout), across SW Garden Home Rd from Thriftway, now has a partial roof.

The 1994 photos below show Lamb's Thriftway plaza, prior to remodel. The new grocery store was built behind the pictured plaza building (see yellow and white sign in background). The foreground buildings formerly contained the original grocery store and have since been torn down and replaced with a parking lot and Shari's restaurant and other businesses.



**Garden Home today:** New tenants will soon be announced for the now closed Lamb's Thriftway store! The other businesses in the shopping center mall include Starbucks, Ploys Thai Restaurant, Great Clips, Envy Nail & Spa, Garden Home Cleaners, and Hyperion Computers. Also at the intersection are the Garden Home Recreation Center/the Community Library, Shari's Restaurant, Dairy Queen, and the Buy2 Shell Station. The Garden Home Dugout Restaurant is across from the shopping center with Local Leaf (cannabis) upstairs. Old Market Pub & Brewery is in the former Cannery/Whitney's/Comellas & Son Fruit and Vegetable store at the confluence of Multnomah Blvd. and Garden Home Road. The Black Rock Coffee modular building was installed in December, 2017 on Garden Home Road at SW 76th.



**Garden Home History Project  
7240 SW 82nd Ave.  
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*Gathering the stories of our Garden Home families*

### **Garden Home History Project**

The Garden Home History Project is a tax-exempt non-profit under IRS 501(c)(3). Our 2020 officers are Co-Chairs: Elaine Shreve and Esta Mapes, Treasurer: Marie Pacella, Secretary: Sharon Vedder. Other Board Members: Stan Houseman, Susan Houseman, John Pacella, Jan Fredrickson, and Kevin Mistler.

We'd love to have you work with us on our Advisory Board or Garden Home History Board. It is a great way to get to know people, businesses, and groups in Garden Home. Thanks to a very generous donor for the printing and mailing of this special edition!

**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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