



Garden Home History Gazette

March 2022

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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: Welcome to our Spring Gazette! We remember Gerry Frank. We're excited about our new businesses, Recreation Center re-opening, our history displays in the Garden Home Library, and a special thank-you to our generous donors.

Gerry Frank - September 21, 1923 to March 13, 2022

We were sorry to learn of Gerry Frank's passing on March 13, 2022, aged 98. Gerry was born on September 21, 1923 in Portland to Aaron and Ruth Frank. They lived in SW Portland and Gerry attended Ainsworth and Lincoln High School. In the 1920s, his parents bought the Frank Farm property here in Garden Home (now the Frank Estate condos) so that they could send their show horses to events around the nation. Aaron Frank had a siding developed beside the railroad tracks, near the Firlock Station train stop, now SW 78th Avenue. They could then load the horses into the special cars to travel to California or New York's Madison Square Garden and elsewhere. The Frank Farm was part of the "horse culture" in Garden Home, along with the Hunt Club, and the two riding academies, all along SW Oleson Road, south of the school.

Our first interview with Gerry was in 2010 when Virginia Vanture and I met with Gerry in his two-room office in Salem. His walls were covered with photos of him meeting with various world leaders, part of his role as Chief of Staff for our U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield for twenty years. His family began the Meier & Frank Department store and he was the Manager of the first store in Salem. He served in Patton's Third Army during WWII, and helped liberate the first concentration camp in Ohrdruff, Germany.

[Our Gerry Frank story on our website](#) tells the incredible story of Gerry's life and his commitment to Oregon and to our nation. See our display memorializing Gerry in the Garden Home Community Library. He has honored us with the gift of 50 special horse photographs and the guest book with hundreds of names from the notable Frank Farm stables here in Garden Home.



Gerry Frank, 2010 in his Salem office



Gerry Frank judging a chocolate cake contest for the Garden Home Library, 2001

The Garden Home Recreation Center Re-Opening: The Recreation Center is fully operating now, 8-8 pm weekdays. Our Garden Home History Board will be working with them to provide a walking tour of Fanno Creek Trail and other historical items for their summer programs. The colorful Activities Guide in the front lobby lists all of the programs, schools, child care, dance, parenting, gym, and so much more. This former Garden Home School continues to serve our families!

We hope to soon resume presenting speakers and slide shows about our Garden Home history.



We have our two new businesses in the former Lamb's Thriftway building. Check out the excellent murals in the Trader Joe's store that feature themes of Garden Home's history. The Ace Hardware store in the northern side of the building has the things we need to get our gardens going. We are lucky to have such excellent stores providing service to Garden Home.



Mural inside Trader Joe's featuring the Oregon Electric Railroad



Ace Hardware

March is Women's History Month! So let's hear about some of our Garden Home women. I've enjoyed reading the packet of Minutes from the Helping Hand Circle of the Garden Home Methodist Church. Thanks to Judy Stevens Holt for this donation!

On May 14, 1957, the Circle met at **Gladys Fyock's home** with the co-hostesses being Mable Cook and Mary Arndt. They voted to buy another church table with the \$43.98 they earned at the Easter Breakfast. They also planned to use \$15.00 to purchase baseball equipment for the Babe Ruth Baseball League.

More discussion centered on the sandwiches to be sold at the Cannery to raise money for the new organ at the church: *Then we went back to the sandwiches. It was decided to make them and for each day of the week, one of 6 persons will have charge of the same day of the week all summer. Calling people to make the sandwiches.*

The cannery, at the junction of Multnomah Boulevard and Garden Home Road, was Whitney's cannery, then Comella's fruit and vegetable market, and now the Old Market Pub. The meeting concluded with a triple baby shower for Dorothy Wood, Ardella Couch, and Jeanette Honegger.

A page from the May, 1955 Minutes notes that Leona Whitney, a church member, suggested the sandwich bar during July, August, and September. Sandwiches to sell for 25 cents apiece.



Fyock (now Shreve) home on SW Holly Lane



Canning tomatoes at Whitney's Cannery, 1967

[Editor Elaine Shreve: Gladys Fyock's home is now my home at 8550 SW Holly Lane! I can picture these ladies in my living room. I have an email after a visit with Dr. Dan Nebert, writing to Jan Bartels, where he states: Turns out she LIVES IN the house that I saw get built, on the lane I saw get graded and made into a road, and the first owners of that house (who actually built it) were the parents of Tad Fyock." Dan Nebert grew up on Westgard, now SW 87th Ave, at the corner of SW Dolph St.

Our son, John, worked for the Whitneys in about 1973-74. He worked in the floral department and delivered flowers for Whitney's to Portland mortuaries where he had his first experience seeing dead people. This was back before cell phones and GPS were common. He would call us occasionally to report that he was at Stark and some cross street. "Where am I?" We would quickly pull out a map and help to direct him.]

In memoriam: Max Ray Webster, Aug. 13, 1931- Sept. 16, 2021. Max was well known in Garden Home, served as a missionary in the Phillippines for a number of years.

In memoriam: Warren Z. Biden, January 1936-Dec. 6, 2021. Warren was a contractor building houses in Garden Home. He lived in the Raleigh Green and Hunt Club areas.

History Displays in the Garden Home Library: Our current display features a memorial to Gerry Frank with photos, books and the Frank Farm stables guest book.



We change the display cabinet about every six to eight weeks. Some of our previous displays include:



Pop-up books



Historic Garden Home calendars



Vintage toys



Garden Home Cooks



Garden Home authors



Old things

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Remember: President Biden writes that “*March, Women’s History Month provides an opportunity to honor the generations of trailblazing women and girls who have built our Nation, shaped our progress, and strengthened our character as a people.*” Take a moment to remember the women in your life.

Discover Garden Home: Our history displays in the Garden Home Community Library. You’ll enjoy and learn about our history, our collections, and retell your own stories.

Garden Home History Project
7240 SW 82nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97223



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 board 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.

Other community members serve on our Advisory Board. Whatever your interest or talents, or if you just wish to learn and advise, we'd love to hear from you.

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