President’s Corner: Nancy Tongue
“History: It’s who we are! “ - David McCullough

OHC’s heart is our membership! It is the people. It is us - plus those who have come before us, those who will come in the future, and the events that shape our lives and community.

All of us together make up this intriguing, educational, many-faceted community jewel known as The Oswego Heritage Council.

From the glamour of the car and boat show, to highlighting preservation as shown through our Historic Home Tour and placement of historic plaques, to the elegance of our Art Show, our annual events continue to be resounding successes.

The First Wednesday series has educated and delighted us with fascinating topics and speakers.
Our archives are being carefully documented and supply endless gems for our museum exhibits.
We are working with the schools to educate our next generation about the importance and excitement of Lake Oswego’s history and preservation.

We are forming a large volunteer group to help with many projects, including recording oral histories, changing museum displays, and our historic garden.

*Cooking Up Oswego Memories* is our wonderful new cookbook, which combines recipes, photos, historic tidbits and stories. Special thanks go to Executive Director, Jude Graham, who worked endless hours researching and creating this lovely book. The books are $20.

Thank-you to our enthusiastic, hard-working board of directors and members for a great year of helping accomplish our mission “to assure and promote the preservation of our history and culture.”

Please continue to be involved and invite your friends and neighbors to join OHC! Stop by to view our changing historic displays, share stories, or lend a hand! See you at the annual meeting on Saturday, Feb 18.

**ANNUAL MEETING**
**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2012 10:00AM**
**Guest Speaker: Anne Rutherford**

*“Calling Oregon Home“*

Please join us for Anne's enthralling historic tales about *Calling Oregon Home*. (Tales of the land and her people)

History, folklore and folk wisdom come alive in this program celebrating the Oregon state of mind! Webfeet, frozen rattlesnakes, hot springs and local lakes are just some of the elements storyteller Anne Rutherford mixes in her engaging, fun and informative presentation. Why is it called Oregon? Where do we get webfeet? Who chopped down her local flag pole to make a point? Quirky events, real-life Oregon personalities combine in entertainment for rain or shine!

Ever since her mother read her *The Wizard of Oz*, Anne Rutherford has loved a good story. She grew up in a small Pennsylvania town (part Norman Rockwell, part Stephen King), went to college in New England and came to Oregon with a volunteer-service program in 1983.

Since then, she’s written and performed dozens of original stories plus vintage short fiction, poems and songs for audiences of all ages. Anne's specialties include Northwest history and folklore in story, song and poem.

Anne is a teaching artist in the schools with Young Audiences of Oregon and SW Washington, a teacher with Saturday Academy and a member of the Portland and Seattle Storytellers Guild and the National Storytelling Network.

Education
*Mediation Certification* Clark County Dispute Resolution Center, 1996; *Master of Public Administration* Lewis and Clark College, 1992; *Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society* Brown University, 1983
Freedom, Friendship, Charity
Improved Order of Red Men
Kasseah tribe No. 39 Oswego Oregon

The written history of any town is incomplete without knowledge of the individuals who started the town, the personalities of the individuals composing Oswego are closely interwoven with every detail of our history. It seems to have been that Oswego and its fraternal organizations were founded on the principles of benevolence and charity, and these organizations were organized by men in humble ranks of life.

The founders of the Improved Order of Red Men sought to bring together kindred spirits and united efforts.

The Improved Order of Red Men traces its origin to certain secret patriotic societies founded before the American Revolution. They were established to promote liberty and to defy the tyranny of the English Crown.

Among the early groups were the Sons of St. Tammany, the Sons of Liberty and, later, the Improved Order of Red Men. The Sons of Liberty and, in turn, the IORM, emulated the League of the Iroquois or “Six Nations” in their organization, philosophy and regalia.

To the Revolutionary War and the causes of Freedom and Liberty, these groups pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honors. Following the American Revolution various secret societies founded before and during the conflict continued in existence as brotherhoods or fraternities.

The Oregon order of IORM began its work through the institution of the Oregonian Pocahontas Tribe in Jacksonville.

Freedom, Friendship and Charity planted the seeds of the fraternity. At the writing of the history of the Improved Order in 1897, Mr. Litchman of Maryland was in possession of the Minute Book of the Society of Red Men in Philadelphia. From this he learned that, on August 24, 1824, when American Revolutionary General Lafayette of France visited the United States, the Society of Red Men held a procession with a Red Men’s Rifle Corps to honor the illustrious visiting patriot.

The Improved Order of Red Men’s Great Council of The United States was chartered January 30, 1847. In addition, “At the very time when the South was closing its collective mind on the slavery issue, the Charleston, South Carolina Order of Red Men stated that no person owning or holding a slave could be admitted into their organization.”

With the formation of a national organization, the Improved Order of Red Men soon spread, and within 30 years there were State Great Councils in 21 states with a membership of over 150,000. The Order continued to grow and by the mid-1920s there were tribes in 46 states and territories with a membership totaling over one-half million.

The only time the Native American regalia were worn was during the Adoption Degree ceremony. Occasionally, the tribal officers may wear Native American regalia at various public affairs, but then only with discretion.

On March 1, 1933, the Waluga Temple Builders held discussions regarding the opportunity to secure Red Men Hall from Kaasseah Tribe IORM. The Hall had been used as a community hall and for showing motion pictures. It is now Waluga Masonic Lodge, and is being refurbished.

If you are in Jacksonville take a moment to visit the Jacksonville Cemetery. It has a wonderful section dedicated to the IORM.
Murder at the Hunt Club

On December 16, 1941, two stable hands were playing cards in the bunkroom of the Oswego Hunt Club when, at approximately 3:00 A.M., an argument broke out between Clarence McPherson and David Smith over the honesty of the game. Smith accused McPherson of cheating and demanded his money back. When he refused to return his winnings, Smith reportedly struck McPherson with a bucket. McPherson left and returned with a .22 rifle which he used to shoot Smith, who would die eight hours later on an operating table at the Oregon City Hospital.

Reported in the Oswego Review and other local newspapers, the arrest, indictment, and trial of Clarence McPherson would involve a number of individuals who were significant to the history of Clackamas County and the State of Oregon. Included were a judge, trial lawyers, jurors, and witnesses for the prosecution and defense. What began as the discovery of a newspaper article published in the Oswego Review on December 19, 1941, has turned into an unexpected and often surprising research project which demonstrates just how quickly a small tidbit can lead to a huge search for information which stretches over a wide geographic area (in this case from Oswego to Arizona).

The results of the research will be presented at the April 4th talk of the “First Wednesday” series presented by the Oswego Heritage Council. We are using this opportunity to ask if any of our members have any information regarding the crime or the individuals involved in this event. Included were the following:

The Judge: E. C. Latourette, University of Oregon quarterback and Law School graduate who would later become the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court
The D.A.: Fred A. Miller
The Assistant D.A.: Robert M. Mulvey of Oregon City whose house still stands on 10th Street
The Defense Attorney: William H. Hedlund
The Defendant: Clarence McPherson, a WWII vet and Buffalo Solder in the 10th Cavalry stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona
The Victim: David A. Smith
The Witness: John Henderson
The Jury: A. W. Blanchard of New Era Pct.; Ruth Wivesick of West Linn; Vernon Neely of Needy; Arthur D. Paddock a retail merchant and druggist who was elected Mayor of Gladstone; Reverend A. W. Brown of Oregon City; Herbert Clarke, a farmer in Clackamas; Otto Krueger of Canby who owned a furniture store with his brother; Richard James Zivney, a farmer in Hazelia (later Oswego); Earl Roland Heft, a bridge worker in Beaver Creek; Sidney A. Cordill, a farmer in Molalla; Stella M. Riggs of Mackburg Pct.; Claude Winslow, a farmer in Colton
Witnesses for the Prosecution: Dr. Guy Mount of the “Mount Doctors” who founded the Oregon City Hospital; Dr. Joseph Beeman who started the forensics unit of the Oregon State Police; Noble Fred Reaksecker who served as Clackamas County Sheriff; Jackie Pat Spooner who owned the murder weapon; Frederick J. Hollingsworth Hunt Club Manager; Lawrence Hopp of Oregon City

Witnesses for the Defense: Oscar Wanker of Hazelia (later Oswego); Walter Squire Matthews; Frederick Hollingsworth, Hunt Club Manager; Ted Banford

We are seeking any knowledge, materials, or photographs you may have. Please contact Jude at the OHC (503-635-6373) or Steve Dietz (503-381-6447) if you can help. Thanks!