



# REFLECTIONS

Newsletter of an East County Historical Organization

## President's Message

By Peggy Olin

### China Tea Pot

*1930 China Tea Pot* If you had lived in the Heslin House, you would have made yourself a pot of tea in a streamline Blue Art Deco teapot from Hall China. The Hall China Company was founded by Robert Hall in 1903 in China. His son took over the business and began researching glazing techniques leading to the development of producing vivid colors to America China.



**E.C.H.O.**  
P.O. Box 946  
Fairview, Oregon 97024  
503-618-0946  
www.echohistory.org

**E.C.H.O.**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Place to be announced**  
Jan, Mar, Jul, Sep, Nov  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.  
9:30 am  
Open to the Public

**1874 Zimmerman**  
**Heritage Farm**  
**17111 NE Sandy Blvd**  
**Gresham, Oregon**

**House Tour**  
To be announced

Volunteer in the Garden  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday  
9am to Noon

Volunteer in the House  
Call for Days & Hours  
503-618-0946 or e-mail  
info@echohistory.org

**1893 Heslin House**  
**60 Main Street**  
**Fairview, Oregon**

**House Tour**  
To be announced

Volunteer in the Garden  
Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday  
9:30am to Noon

*Interested in Volunteering for the East County Historical Organization Museum's*

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*Please join us for a get to know us! At either one of our museum's Volunteer Meeting*

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*Anytime between Noon to 3:00 pm Saturday March 18, 2023 we have lots of jobs available.*

~~~~~ *Inside and outside* ~~~~~

*If you can't make it to a meeting e-mail us  
volunteer@echohistory.org*

Upcoming events

**East County Historical Organization**  
**"Step into the past"**

Both of our Museum's will be open the third Saturday of each month  
Noon to 3pm

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**1893 Heslin House and 1915 City of Fairview Historical Jail**  
60 Main Street Fairview, OR 97024

**Our mission is to ensure the future generations of East County is to share the history of the  
Heslin Family and the surrounding area**

~~~~~

**1874 Zimmerman House Museum**  
*Filled with Zimmerman Family Artifacts*  
17111 NE Sandy Blvd Portland, OR 97230

**March 18th**

*Womens' History Tribute and Pine Needle Basket Collection*

**April 15th**

*Vintage Spring Fashion Show, Hats, Dresses and Jackets*

**May 20th**

*Bon Voyage off to Hawaii and More*

**June 17th**

*Annual Board Meeting location and Time TBA*



## **Progressive Farmer Hits the Road**

By Joan Stephenson

In 1910, George Zimmerman purchased a Chalmers-Detroit touring car, advertised at \$1500. According to an Oregonian article dated July 17, 1910, Mr. Zimmerman had been contemplating the purchase in order to make it easier to travel into Portland. Certainly, this revolutionized the family's transportation; no more reliance on horse power, nor the limitation of trolley routes.

It must have been a big day for the family when the automobile was delivered to their rural farm on Sandy Road. Had Papa surprised his daughters, having kept mum regarding his purchase from H.L. Keats Auto Company on Burnside and Seventh? Or had 10-year-old Isobel been counting the days till its promised arrival? Were daughters Olive and Mabel at home or were they away at college in Eugene? Eldest daughter Jesse, having been married four years earlier to Thomas Millar, likely rejoiced with the family, as she lived next door.

Gripping the wheel for the first time, did George conduct a test drive up and down Sandy Road, checking its safety before permitting his family aboard? Did the Keats Auto Company provide free driving lessons as an incentive to purchase? Today's young drivers have observed their parents behind the wheel for 16 years, but for George Zimmerman, this was nothing like reining a horse. Perhaps the young farm hand, Sven Gulli, a recent Norwegian immigrant, insisted on accompanying his employer. Thirty years younger, Sven must have thrilled at the auto's speed. Known to be light and nimble, the Chalmers touring car had been in production for two years.

1911 was the best year for Hugh Chalmers, who had formerly been in the cash register business. His company sold 6,250 automobiles: mid-priced and mid-sized. Portland dealer H.L. Keats enjoyed victory when one of his Chalmers-Detroit cars won Portland's big race in 1909, covering 102 miles of paved and dirt roads around the city; its average speed of 58 m.p.h. The success of this race surely paved the way when the following year, the Portland Automobile Club proposed a race from the city to Government Camp, with the expectation of 100 entries. Driving to Rhododendron was easy enough, but beyond that, the final 5 miles were treacherous and became an event not of speed, but of endurance.

The Portland Automobile Club had, by 1912, built an impressive 8-room rustic clubhouse on 28 acres on the south side of the Sandy River Bridge at Stark Street. For travelers along the historic highway, these grounds were the first rest stop. They had installed a water pump, offering sparkling mountain water to thirsty motorists and picnickers. Later developed into Viking Park, it is now private property, but the club's original stone gate support still stands today.

Only a few miles from their farm, the Zimmerman family must have picnicked on the grounds and later driven their touring car along the winding historic Columbia River Highway. Under construction from 1913 to 1922, the highway became famous, but sadly, George Zimmerman did not live to see its completion. What began for the family as convenient transportation into Portland, the automobile brought the entire world to enjoy the beauty of east Multnomah County.



**ECHO's Women's History Tribute**  
**from our newsletter Spring 2016 edition**

*March was the national celebration of Women's History. We at ECHO would like to pay tribute to a few women of who contributed to our society's creation and were the saviors of our local history; whether they know it or not.*



*Drusilla Heslin - As a child, Drusilla traveled to Oregon in 1850 with her parents. In 1864 she married John Heslin, and they lived most their lives in Fairview. Unperceived to herself, it is through her diary that we get an invaluable glimpse of what it was like to live in our area from 1867 - 1910. No textbook can describe the everyday life of Fairview's early pioneers like Drusilla's diary.*

*Isobel Zimmerman - Isobel was born in 1899. She was raised in the Zimmerman house built by her grandparents, which is located in the Gresham/East Wilkes area. She was well-educated and became a math and science high school teacher. Having never married or had any children, Isobel had the foresight to save her family home by putting it on the National Register of Historic Places, and then leaving it and all its contents to ECHO upon her death in 1993. Her family's home is an irreplaceable treasure chest of information of the local area and is a reflection of her lifetime.*

*Ruth Dulin - In 1987, Ruth felt Fairview should have its own historical society. She inspired others from Fairview and the surrounding Rockwood/Wilkes areas, and together they formed what is today the East County Historical Organization (ECHO). We are entirely grateful to her for our existence.*

*Nancy Hoover - Nancy was born and raised in the Fairview area and is a descendant of Fairview pioneers. She is passionate about saving and sharing Fairview's history, and has been involved from ECHO's inception. Nancy's father, William Stone, wrote and published a book in 1970 called "A History of Fairview". The book was out of print for many years, until Nancy's determination saw it reprinted with additional information in 2011. Her father's book is referenced and enjoyed by all. Today, Nancy continues to donate family treasures and shares her knowledge of the Fairview area with us. (Her book can be purchased through ECHO for \$10.00. Contact us and mention the newsletter to receive 10% off, ECHO Members will receive 15% off.)*

*Sharon Nesbit - Sharon is many amazing things - a local journalist, historian, and a published author. She is also the one who was instrumental in helping Isobel nominate her home to the National Register, assisted in forming our society, and coordinated ECHO's ownership of the 1874 Zimmerman House. Sharon continues today to mentor us on all aspects of... well, just about everything! We are forever in her debt.*

*ECHO sits in the shadows of these amazing women, and we honor their legacies every day, but especially during Women's History month. To learn more out Isobel and Drusilla please come and visit our museum or for tidbits please visit our website [www.echohistory.org](http://www.echohistory.org).*

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## **Fred Meyer Community Rewards**

Don't forget, you can link your Fred Meyer Rewards card to ECHO and every time you shop, Fred Meyer will donate to ECHO! This is at no cost to you, and you will continue to earn your reward points as usual. Just visit [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) and use our organization number RT522 to link your card to ECHO.

## **Amazon smile**

"AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases "...to our organization! you can find us under the East County Historical Organization Fairview OR!

## **Donations**

If you like to donate there are two ways you can submit your donations. You can go to our website and click on the orange donate button at the top of our website [www.echohistory.org](http://www.echohistory.org) You can also send a check or money order payable to E.C.H.O. and mail to E.C.H.O P.O. Box 946 Fairview, Oregon 97024.

## **We have History Books for SALE**

### **A History of Fairview**

by William Stone & Nancy Hover  
\$10.00

### **Fairview on Duck Lane**

Oral History by Helen Guyton Rees  
\$10.00

### **A Pictorial History of East Multnomah County**

by the Gresham Outlook & the Four Local Historical Societies  
\$30.00

### **"Schoolmarms"**

by Helen Guyton Rees  
\$10.00

**Thank you for your support!**

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[www.echohistory.org](http://www.echohistory.org), Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

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