

Tualatin... in the 1960s

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Between 1960 and 1970 Tualatin's population rose from 359 to 922. The Hervin Company's trucks were proclaiming "Tualatin—Going to the Dogs", and the freeway was making Tualatin a desirable place to settle.

In May of 1962 John (Bob) George dug up a mastodon in the swamp behind where the Fred Meyer store is now. John was taking a geology class at PSU and remembered old Charlie Roberts telling him there used to be elephants roaming around Tualatin. The bones now grace the Tualatin library, and a tusk and molar can be seen at the Heritage Center.



The fiercest windstorm ever recorded in the Northwest tore through Tualatin on the afternoon of October 12, 1962, Columbus Day. Winds up to 116 miles per hour raged up from the south and blew out to sea near Seattle. The storm lasted two hours in Tualatin and when it subsided, uprooted trees were lying across buildings and roads, power poles lay snapped in half with their live wires sending out sparks. Several homes caught fire and the Fire Department summoned all hands to help in the emergency. Dr. Merle Pennington set up shop in the Fire Department to treat injuries. Electricity was out for a week, and since there were still some dairy farms around, cows had to be milked by hand and the milk dumped on the ground as there was no refrigeration.

The city was \$30,000 in debt and a toilet tank float topped the flagpole at City Hall when Yvonne Addington was appointed to be treasurer in 1964, an

office to which she was later elected. The city well, dug in 1939 was going dry, and septic tanks were draining into the Tualatin River, which was named by Life magazine as the most polluted waterway in the country. The DEQ stopped all growth in Tualatin until a sewer system was could be built. Tualatin lay in the path of a ring of growth, and expansion was inevitable. For growth to occur there must be water and sewer. Tualatin certainly was going to the dogs.

Lee Gensman, a civil engineer was elected to the mayor's position in 1966. He opened city hall for business. According to Yvonne Addington, four businesses got together and lent the city \$100,000 to fund a water connection to Lake Grove Water District, who got their water from Portland's Bull Run. Those businesses were: Hervin Company (Blue Mountain Pet Food), Peerless Trailer, Harry Driver (Ramada Inn), and Conrad Veneer.

The town was run down and seedy, and it was time for a change. Washington County Sheriff's office provided full time police protection, and Yvonne Addington was appointed as judge. She has told many humorous anecdotes about her time as judge. In 1968 the city hired CH2M Hill to design a major water system and a tertiary treatment sewer system. In 1969, the city adopted a new charter, creating the position of City Manager and appointed Yvonne Addington.

But all was not well. Protests against the unpopular Vietnam War, race riots, rebellions, sit-ins, love-ins, the assassination of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King all impacted the way people felt.

Brother Speed, a motorcycle group moved in, often parking their bikes in front of The Spot tavern.

Norm Sundholm, bass player for the Kingsmen, the band that made the song Louie, Louie, incredibly popular, decided that his bass amp was not powerful enough to be heard in large auditoriums, so he talked his brother, Conrad (Con) into designing a better amp. Working first in his garage, Con opened up Sunn Music Company in 1964 in the location of Bill Amburn's prior swimming pool along Tualatin-Sherwood Road. Many locals (including myself) worked there. And musicians from all over the world bought Sunn amps.

Joe Strode, who lived in the Tonquin area, had a septic tank pumping business called "Ye Olde Honey Bucket" and blew himself up when he was using a blow torch to solder a joint in his truck. Poor Joe is buried in Winona Cemetery.



Loyce Martinazzi was born and raised in Tualatin and is passionate about Tualatin History. She is currently Master of Winona Grange, Co-Founder of the Tualatin Historical Society and Co-Author of *Tualatin... From the Beginning*.

John George holds the mastodon tusk he and a friend dug up in 1962. The tusk can be seen at the Tualatin Heritage Center.



Maxine Addington, "Little Miss Tadpole" in the 1967 Crawfish Festival, bottle feeds the Addington family pet raccoon, "Rango".



Johnny Baur's service station is now Celia's Mexican restaurant.



The Odd Fellows Hall was on the south side of Southern Pacific railroad station. It was originally the Home Hotel, owned by Mrs. Lydia Wendell, and served overnight travelers.



City hall housed the Fire Department trucks until the new fire hall was built. Built in the 1923 and heated by a potbellied stove (note the wood pile), City council meetings and elections took place in the building. The hall stood along side the Methodist Church on Boones Ferry Rd.



Sunn Music Company made bass amps. Several rock bands, including The Beatles visited the factory, staying at the Ramada Inn.

Photos courtesy of Yvonne Addington