

# The 1980s : Big Growth for Tualatin

WRITTEN BY: **LOYCE MARTINAZZI**

On Saturday evening, May 17, 1980, Tualatin's Winona Grange hall was decorated with spring flowers and filled with jolly folks as the Crawfish Festival court was being chosen. Princesses, dressed in formal gowns, made little speeches, and a panel of judges chose Sena Enger as Queen. Lori Hughes was princess that year, and queen in 1981. It was a fun time, but was really holding people's attention was the smoking mountain up north. Next morning Mt. St. Helens blew up, a column of ash spewing 6,000 feet above the raging volcano. It was the most deadly and economically destructive volcanic eruption in U. S. history.

Trees on the mountain were destroyed by the rushing lava. My husband Norm Parker, owned Western Helicopter Services, and his company did the first aerial seeding of the area.

A little trivia: Mt. St. Helens was named by George Vancouver to honor Baron St. Helens of the British Royal Navy.

With the Urban Renewal project cleaning up Tualatin's business district, new companies began investing in the area, and the population jumped from 7,483 in 1980 to 14,664 by 1990.



Most of the old farms were gone, as land values rose and farmers subdivided or retired. Sagerts' cows got out one day and ran down to the freeway, so off to the stockyard they went after they were rounded up. But three farms remained: Wilhelm Farms along 65th Avenue, now growing homes, Lee Berry Farms on Borland Road and 65th Avenue, and Century Farm Christmas Trees off Jurgens Road on Hazelbrook. I was a partner in the Lee farm, and I helped my sister Rochelle

start her Christmas tree farm on our great grandparents' Century Farm. The seventh generation of my family is still farming in Tualatin.

The three farms all centered around direct marketing. With labor laws prohibiting kids from working on farms, the old method of hauling fruit to a cannery was not going to work, and anyway, all the canneries and processing plants in the area had moved down the valley several years previously, so retailing with the public worked well. U-pick—whether strawberries, pumpkins or Christmas trees drew in customers from as far away as Portland, and made farming a viable business for those families.

I mentioned the Grange being the location of the crowning of the Crawfish Festival Court. For 118 years Winona Grange has served the community in various ways. And now the grand old hall will be the location for a gala dinner/dance to celebrate the 100th year of Tualatin's incorporation. On Saturday, October 26, doors open at 5 pm. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 with dancing from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Chef Perry Perkins will prepare a fine gourmet dinner, using local meats and produce. Upstairs, the PDX band will play oldies for dancing and artisans will present their beautiful handcrafts. A lovely handmade Queen size quilt will be raffled off with tickets at \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Tickets for the dinner and dance are \$40 each, and \$25 to enjoy the music and dancing. Purchase your tickets through Brown Paper Tickets. Profits will be used to renovate the dated restrooms and make them handicap accessible. The Grange is located at 8340 SW Seneca Street, close to the west entrance to the Commons. See you there!



**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*.



Elizabeth (Lizzie) Smith Robinson Jones and her first husband Newt Robinson lived in this house until she passed away. They owned the Robinsons brick store. The house, with its cupola, was across Boones Ferry road from The Spot tavern, now C. I. and was torn down piece by piece and reassembled somewhere in Central Oregon.



The site of the first Methodist church in Tualatin. The church burned down in 1925 and Lou Francis built this house as a rental. The Manloves lived here at one time and Mrs. Manlove led the Sunday School singing. She had a high shrill voice. It was kitty corner from the current Heritage Center, and now a beauty shop sits on the site.



The Thompson house sat along Nyberg Road, close to the current entrance of Fred Meyer.



These buildings were along Tualatin Road just south of the Southern Pacific crossing. Hazel Crim worked as the station master for a while, and also ran a millinery shop in her home. There was another house which was converted into two apartments. Notice the outhouse. An apartment complex occupies the site now.

*Tualatin Centennial*

## DINNER AND DANCE

**OCT. 26, 2013**

**Doors** open at 5:00 pm  
**Dinner** served at 5:30 pm  
**Dancing** until 9:30 pm

**Tickets:**  
 Dinner & Dancing: \$40 ea.  
 Dancing only: \$25 ea.

• Live Music by PDX Express  
 • Handmade Quilt Raffle

**hautemeaiz.com**  
 We make the plan, you make the meal!

**The Winona Grange • 8340 SW Seneca • Tualatin, OR 97062**  
 Please go to [www.winonagrang271.org](http://www.winonagrang271.org) for more information.





Metro West Realty, originally owned by Peggy Gensman, then her daughters, Randy Ausland and Leanne Bennett. The building was on the north side of Nyberg Road. Further west was the old Tiffany house. Tiffany sold to the principal of the school, Thacker. The Hoffman's purchased the house later. Finally it became a deli owned by Randi Ausland.