

Barn Raising and Barn Razing



The massive three story Klinger-Sagert barn was built in 1900, with a gambrel roof, board and batten exterior and put together with dowels, not nails.

BY LOYCE MARTINAZZI

“Big as a barn”, “Were you born in a barn,” and that gratefully whispered hint, “Your barn door’s open” are often repeated phrases that probably came from generations who maybe did not live in a barn, but nonetheless spent a great deal of time working in that rural edifice. How many youngsters coughed and sputtered as they learned to smoke a swiped cigarette out behind the barn. And we all have heard hints of young lovers frolicking in a barn’s hay loft.

Barns were part of most every farm, and Tualatin had a lot of farms in the old days. Farming has nearly disappeared in Tualatin, and we note that one especially beautiful and historic barn is slated for demolition. Gerald and Kathleen Sagert, whose parents Earl and Margaret have passed away, are developing their property on 65th Avenue into housing units. Some of we old timers still call 65th Meridian Road.

My dad told me a lot about the barn, although it was built two years before he was born. His father told him all about it. John and Catherine Barngrover sold the land to Seraphim and Katie Klinger in 1897. Klingers built the barn with help from the community. A real barn raising. According to my dad, the walls were laid out on the ground and pushed up into place with poles.

Although Klingers’ property abutted the land to the east where George Saum had dammed the Creek and operated a sawmill, Klinger got his lumber from the Smith sawmill located where the community park is now. Reason being a fight over Saum’s dam. Klinger claimed the creek backed up and flooded his land and filed suit in District Court. He lost.

Because the Klinger barn is on the city’s historical list, the historical society



Joe Byrom’s barn on Boones Ferry Road.



The Blank dairy barn still stands on Tonka street.

was notified of the planned demolition of the building. Art Sasaki, Yvonne Addington and I visited with Paul Hennon of Community Services as well as the developers and found that the barn was in too poor condition to be saved. We had hoped it could have been moved and turned into a living history museum or some other community use. So we can save it in pictures and by telling its story. Earl and Margaret used the barn for milk cows and later for Angus beef cattle. The hay loft was enormous.

The barn in Brown’s Ferry Park and the Blank barn on Tonka Street are two of the remaining barns in the Tualatin area, along with the Jurgens barn on Shasta Drive.



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



Tualatin Road - The barn at the left belonged to the Smith family, who housed the horses that pulled the wagonloads of logs to the mill. On the far right is the frame store that Smith built, which was later moved to make way for the brick Robinsons’ store. As a point of reference, the Tualatin Heritage Center is now close to the corner on the left.



Grace Van Mere raised race horses in this barn on the west end of Hazelbrook Road.



Art Martinazzi barn on Jurgens Road had been vacant for several years. It was built in 1945 from lumber cut on the place. Toni, Rochelle and I milked cows there.



Fred Sagert’s barn on Sagert street, being renovated into a church. Still standing.



Three generations hauling hay to the Lee barn. Left-Bob Leber, Art Martinazzi, Robin Lee, Lila Lee, Larry Lee, Tim Lee. The barn was located in the current Sequoya Ridge development.