

## A Chat with Multnomah Basin Homesteaders

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If only for a few hours, history of the Multnomah Basin came alive as ZoeAnne Arrington joined Trails Club of Oregon (TCO) members at the Milne home in Oak Grove to share stories and information. Sylvia & George Milne, recipients of a 2006 service award honoring them for "outstanding leadership and extraordinary volunteerism in the construction of [the new] Nesika Lodge," hosted Life Member (Fern Anderson), published author Clarence Mershon and his wife Colleen along with past TCO Blazer publisher/editor Fendall Winston & a guest.

Fern shared memories of her first trip to Nesika in August of 1938 and accounts of times she visited Eva and encountered Mabel Arrington, the last Basin Homesteaders. Clarence shared a draft chapter from his next book entitled, ***The Settlement in Multnomah Basin*** He speaks to earlier settlers filing a homestead with the intent of establishing a religious colony and mentions how one young member left the basin to live in Portland and then returned after a tragic accident disfigured her face to live out her life in the natural world.

Sylvia read a letter from Paul Keyser, past member and early superintendent of Portland Parks, written to past TCO President George Blinco recalling his experience of working with the logging efforts. The meeting extended the understanding of the Trails Club connection to the Multnomah Basin and the people who lived and worked there.

More to follow in the up coming months...

Submitted by Sylvia Milne, Historian October 2012