

Fern Anderson & Brooke Milne's 1st visit to Nesika



In 1938, on Fern's first trip to Nesika, she is encircled by family in front of the original cabin. Back row from left to right: Martha Pfaff-Becker (Fern's mother); Melvin Becker (Fern's dad) and Freda & husband Ed Neubauer (Melvin's mom & Ed's dad were sister/brother).

This trip occurred after Melvin served as auditor (1934) and during his term as president (1938), which preceded Ed's term (1936-1937). Other note worthy facts 1) Dec 5, 1977, as notary, Melvin signed an exchange deed for the club, which named the Forest Service as the agency to acquire 80 of the club's 120 acres originally purchased on September 30th 1922 from Evelyn Nicolai, unmarried 2) January 1, 1979, the year after his cousin died at age 90, Melvin, recorded his 50th trip to Nesika at New Years.

In 2007, Fern Becker-Anderson was awarded the Henry Waespe Distinguished Service Award which recognized her time as treasurer and efforts to save Nesika, to cook for work crews on the wood stove (refurbished by Walt Ruse and Everett Beauchamp), to welcome people visiting Nesika (Indian name for OUR) by bringing flowers/cookies, to be a second grandma to the kid's of those who invested in the rebuilding of early TCO cabin, to reestablish & maintain a fern garden in front of the new lodge, to care for the woodstove & outhouses and to keep the rats fed.

In her later years, Fern has written memories of earlier days, some of which are being recorded in Clarence Mershon's latest book which will include a chapter on the Multnomah Basin.

In a quiet and unassuming way, Fern serves as the club's evangelist, one with 444 trips into Nesika as of September 2012. In addition to greeting visitors with her now famous chocolate chip cookies, she often shares the depth and breadth of her TCO experience by bringing out her special pictures and documents tucked inside a 1934 TCO Schedule bound by a rubber band to keep it together and safe.

Though Fern is not recorded on the Mary Lou Green High Miler or the Una Davies High Traveler awards, in September she celebrated a personal victory. Her trips to Nesika finally exceed Ed Neubauer's legacy of 442 trips, including 23 at New Years.



Photographer: Lynn Cochran

Brooke Eileen Milne (born April 20, 2012) sets a record for being the youngest to visit Nesika. She attended the May 2012 work party along with her grandparents George & Sylvia, parents Matt & Breanna and brother Christopher. This photo portrays G'ma Sylvia carrying on a tradition Fern began with the rebuilding of Nesika. The cookie is from Fern, delivered in her absence by Lynn. One might wonder how the magic of Nesika's natural beauty, the camaraderie and family ties will influence Brooke's decision to carry the TCO tradition forward for future generations.