

Cherry Holt Amabisca

13260 NW Bishop Road

Hillsboro, OR 97124

503-647-5334

To: METRO Reserves Steering Committee
Washington County Reserves Coordinating Committee

Date: 4 July 2009


RE: **Preserve Helvetia's Historical Heritage for the next 50 years**

The Helvetia area has provided a rich historical heritage to Washington County for the past 150 years. We need the Helvetia area to be placed in RURAL RESERVE status so that it can continue to provide ALL the residents of Washington County with a continuing connection to our earliest history.

As a past president of the Helvetia Historical Association, I came to appreciate the ongoing cultural legacy of the early Swiss-German settlers. A number of homes and sites in the Helvetia area have been recognized at the state level for their historical significance. These include:

Bishop Century Farm, 1875
Abraham Yungen Century Farm, 1890
Helvetia Community Church, 1899 (Oregon State Historic Building)
Korn-Buehler house, 1909
Pieren Century Farm, 1892
Tschabold homestead, 1892
Ritter/Grossenbacher house, 1898
Jackson Grist Mill Site, 1850's (Oregon State Historic Site)
Edward H. Lenox house, 1889
Bethany Baptist Church, 1881
Chambers house, 1859 (Oregon State Historic Building)
Jacob Yungen house, 1905
Zeis farmhouse, 1875
West Union Baptist Church, 1853 (oldest church west of Rockies)
West Union Cemetery, 1853 (oldest cemetery in Oregon)

This letter is to urge you to put the **HELVETIA AREA INTO RURAL RESERVES** so that Washington County's residents can continue to appreciate Helvetia's rich cultural and historical contribution to our lives.


Cherry Amabisca, former President
Helvetia Historical Association

Cherry Aileen Amabisca, B.A. Ed./Spanish, M.B.A.

13260 NW Bishop Road
Hillsboro, OR 97124
503-647-5334

To: METRO Reserves Steering Committee
Washington County Reserves Coordinating Committee

Date: 29 June 2009

RE: ***Helvetia's green belt de-stresses high-tech workers***

Recruiting and retaining the highly-educated and highly-experienced employees of Washington County's tech sector is key to the growth of high-tech companies with the county. The growth of high-tech companies is a stated objective of Washington County.

I was recruited from out-of-state by a major high-tech company in Washington County because of my international business experience and higher education. I was one of over 400 employees recruited from outside Oregon that particular year.

A major attraction to me and my family was the proximity of charming Helvetia, a delightful green belt only minutes away from the high-tech industry in Hillsboro. After a stressful week of 12-hour work days, what better way to relax than to take our children to the Jossey family strawberry farm, the Rice Geological Museum, the Bishop lavender farm or to the Roloff's pumpkin patch? Colleagues of mine who were avid bicyclists de-stressed on the weekends, and sometimes during lunch hours, by biking "the Helvetia Loop". During intense projects, we held brainstorming mini-meetings at the quaint Helvetia Tavern while enjoying tasty hamburgers in the calming countryside, light-years away from our sterile cubicles. After a visit to Helvetia, we always returned to work with renewed creativity.

This letter is to urge you to remove Helvetia from the Urban Reserve candidate list and instead ***PUT HELVETIA INTO RURAL RESERVES*** so that Washington County's high-tech employees can continue to enjoy Helvetia's creativity-enhancing environment and Washington County's high-tech companies can continue to recruit the best and brightest employees.



Cherry A. Amabisca, M.B.A.

Cherry Holt Amabisca

13260 NW Bishop Road

Hillsboro, OR 97124

503-647-5334

To: METRO Reserves Steering Committee
Washington County Reserves Coordinating Committee

Date: 4 July 2009

RE: **Helvetia's 4H Clubs Serve Washington County's Urban Dwellers**

Over the past fifty years, the Helvetia area has offered many young people and their families the opportunity to participate in various 4H activities. By policy, Oregon's Extension Service provides that all 4H Clubs be open to all young people - regardless of their residence. As a result, Helvetia's 4H Clubs have included many young people from Portland, Beaverton, Hillsboro and Aloha. We need the Helvetia area to be placed in RURAL RESERVE status.

As a former 4H leader, my Helvetia 4H club, "Helvetia Handcrafters", taught young people the joy of picking their own produce, preserving it in jars and cans, and preparing delicious meals using good nutrition and food safety. They received many blue ribbons at the Washington County Fair, reveling in the recognition they received. Many of my club members lived in apartments, some in low-income Section 8 housing, and relished the opportunity to come to the country.

My 4H club members would go to Helvetia's farms to pick peaches (at Glen Gossen's farm), buy corn (at Elmer Gossen's farm) and strawberries (at Dave Jossey's farm). The farms we visited and the farms where we picked our produce throughout the Helvetia area gave them an opportunity to appreciate a connection to the countryside they could not receive in town. Some of them were inspired to start their own container gardens on their apartment decks.

This letter is to urge you to remove Helvetia from the Urban Reserve candidate list and instead **PUT HELVETIA INTO RURAL RESERVES** so that Washington County's young people can continue to enjoy Helvetia's 4H clubs and farmland.



Cherry Amabisca, former 4H Leader
Helvetia Handcrafters