

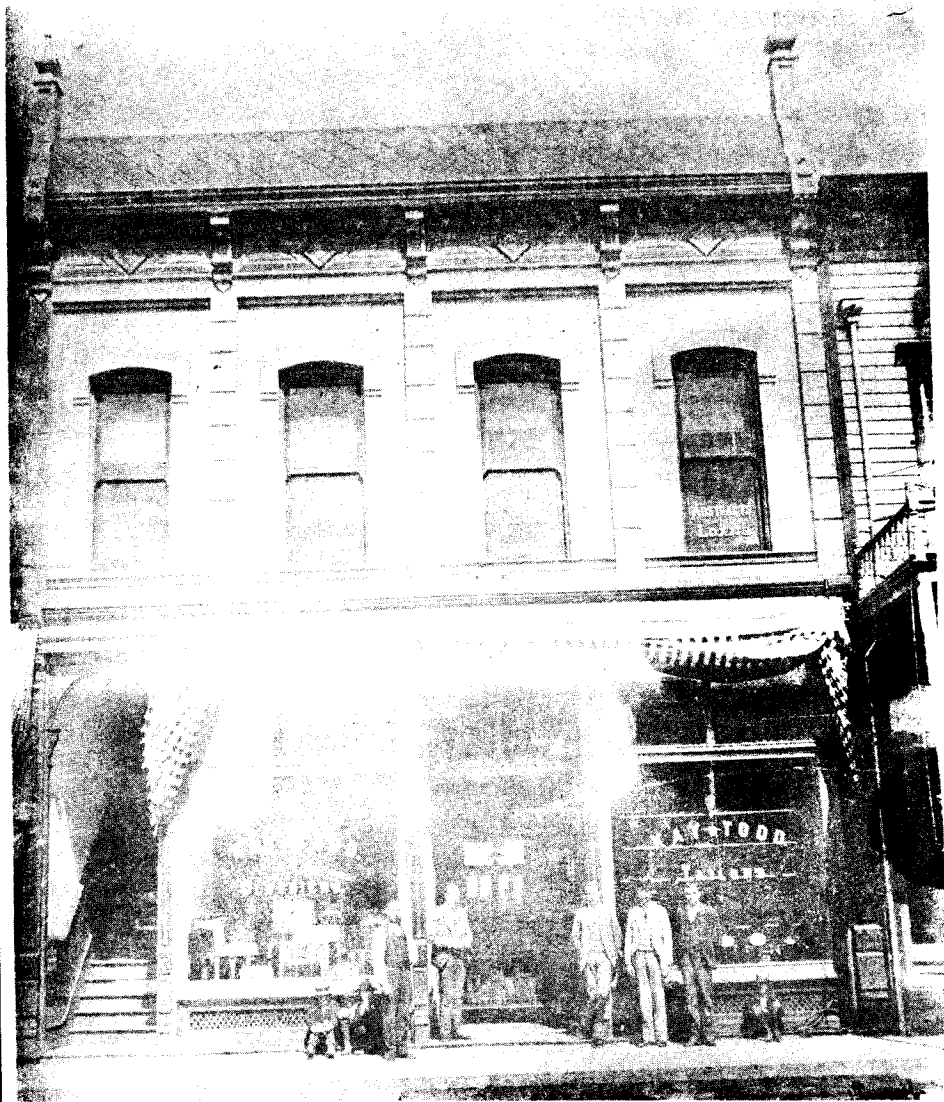
March 15

YAMHILL

COUNTY

HISTORICAL

SOCIETY



MCMINNVILLE 100 YEARS AGO

by
Ruth Stoller

The first newspaper to be published in McMinnville was the West-Side. Its editor and publisher was T.B. Handley who had started the paper in 1870. Polk, Benton, Washington and Yamhill counties were known as the West-Side country and Handley was hoping to spread his influence at least as far as these four counties. In the February 21, 1871 issue he answered a letter that had been sent to Yamhill County from someone in the east who was looking for a place in Oregon to settle. This is what Handley had to say about the town of McMinnville:

McMinnville is geographically the center of the county; surrounded by grain growing country accessible by water and prospectively on the line of the W.V.R.R. with a fine water power to use and a still larger one in process of construction, it claims to be the future commercial center of the West Side. The business of the place supports 5 general merchandise stores, 2 drug stores, 2 wagon shops, 4 blacksmith shops, 2 shoemakers, 1 furniture store, 1 barber shop, 1 saloon, 1 hotel, 2 boarding houses, 1 livery stable, 1 photographer, 2 doctors, 1 dentist, 2 lawyers, 1 general agent, 1 jeweler and watch maker, 1 butcher shop, 1 tin store, 1 saddle shop, 1 glover. There are two flouring mills, 1 steam and one water; 1 planer, sash and door factory, 1 warehouse, 1 college building in which a first class Academy is sustained, 2 churches, Cumberland Presbyterian and Christian, 1 Public hall, lodges of Masons, Odd Fellows and Good Templars, and one newspaper--The West-Side published every Tuesday, at \$2 per annum, in advance.

The water power "in process of construction" was the ditch that was to bring water from the South Yamhill River, above Sheridan, to McMinnville. The ditch never got farther than Sheridan and later issues of the West-Side carried the reports of law suits and legal entanglements that helped put a stop to the project.

Advertisements in the newspaper and the 1870 census give us a clue as to the owners of some of the businesses that Handley refers to. Solomon Beary supposedly had the first store on the town site and in 1871 he was still in business there. Lazarus Bettman and Harrison Burns also were merchants in McMinnville. James Bean sold everything from ladies' dresses to agricultural implements. Luther Newby and Dr. J.H. Myers had the New Drug Store; Dr. H.V.V. Johnson was not only the town's postmaster and its chief doctor but owned the other drug store.

William Coleman ran large ads in the West-Side, drawing attention to his Wagon and Carriage Making Shop. I.M. Johns, William Campbell, and Samuel Cozine were all well-known blacksmiths. The McMinnville Hotel was run by J.W. Shull and next door was the shoe shop of P.F. Browne. The other shoe shop was owned by Ezra Eccleston.

The stage from Portland to Corvallis stopped every day at the Livery Stable of W.L. Toney and W.J. Garrison to take on passengers and change horses. Francis Ford was the town photographer at the time but within a month he had sold out to Wm Starkey.

(Concluded on back page)

Event: March Meeting 1975
When: Tuesday March 11, 7:00 P.M.
Where: Dayton Grade School Cafeteria
Speaker: David Duniway, Executive Secretary of the
Mission Mill Museum, Salem.

Come, bring a friend potluck at 7:00 meeting at 8:00P.M.

DUES

There has apparently been some misunderstanding about membership classes and the dues that apply to each class. In the January issue the three memberships were listed as Non-Voting, Voting and Honorary. Only persons under 18 years of age can be Non-Voting members and their dues are \$1.00 per calendar year. All persons 18 years of age and older are classed as voting members and their dues are \$2.00 per calendar year. All dues for 1975 are now due if you have not paid yours please mail

to: Mrs. Florence M. Bridenstine
1029 East 4th St.
McMinnville, Ore. 97128

Make all checks payable to: YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

MUSEUM NEWS

We have been quite busy the past weeks with visitors and school classes. Mrs school children should be aware of the museum and the collection of pioneer articles. We set up tables for them to card wool grate nutmeg and grind coffee. One class I took my bell collection as I had been to Carlton grade school the day before. Other times I take my own articles for them to examine as they can't handle articles in the museum.

Our organization needs a tape recorder for interviews of historical value as many of the pioneers left can't write their history but love to talk to anyone who will listen. We need a fire proof safe to house our valueable papers.

We need records of the old cemetarys. Maps if there are any or lists of the early graves. So many come looking where the grandparents had lived and the dates of their passing. Our donation land claims are to be recorded by Tom Ballard of the News Register with history and photo's and a copy of all for us at the Museum. There are now 56 farms in Yamhill county.

Museum open Friday and Saturday 1:00 to 4:30. Tour any day call 472-7935

Roma Sitton

(concluded from page 2)

J.M. Bewley, of the Sheridan Bewleys, had his dental office upstairs in Dr. Johnson's Building. T.B. Handley not only published the paper but was one of the town's two lawyers and the general agent (real estate) as well. The watch maker was F. Pilot Jones who lived with Dr. Johnson. John Bird had tin shops in both McMinnville and Lafayette.

The water-powered flour mill was owned by Sax and Bangasser. This was the same mill that Newby had begun in 1853. Their competition was the steam-powered mill of G. Nelson and Co. and was known as the Commercial Flour Mills. Adams and Jones owned the sash and door factory and brought their lumber down from the Mohawk Mills on Panther Creek, which they also owned.