

# YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 1975

Editors note:

The article in the February issue of the YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY bulletin brought forth some very valuable information from two brothers who lived at Dolph when young. The notes from Luther Huffman appear on this page, those of his brother Frederick are on the next page.

"I lived at Dolph from 1915 to 1918. I drove a U.S. mail stage between Dolph and Hebo and made the round trip in eight hours, horse and buggy. The trip to Willamina, about twenty miles, was one day each way.

My mother and stepfather Mr. & Mrs. Asher Stem operated the hotel meals were 35 cents and rooms were 75 cents. A Mr. Dill owned and operated the store and postoffice across the road. His house and barn were also on that side of the road.

If there ever was a sawmill or barrel factory there it had all disappeared before 1915, the only cheese factory at that time was in Hebo. I planted trees with the U.S. Forest Service on big and little Hebo also on the mountains down by Castle Rock.

In the town there were: Pete and George Baxter, Mr. Cornill, Mrs. Shortridge (they lived down on the little Nestucca) Mr. and Mrs. Dill - son in law and daughter Mr. and Mrs. Asher Stem and myself."

Luther Huffman

MORE ABOUT DOLPH  
by  
Frederick Marion Huffman

In the summer of 1912 Asher L. Stem bought the Dolph hotel from the Shortridge family. The hotel was located about two miles west of the summit of the coast range mountains at the west end of three miles of toll road. Toll was no longer being collected as the maintenance of the road was taken over by Yamhill county. However, the county did nothing to improve the road and it was kept open only through the efforts of the local residents. At that time many dead snags were standing near the road and every time a wind storm hit the area some of the snags would fall across the road. It was then up to Mr. Stem and other residents to saw the snags into lengths which could be removed with a team of horses.

In August of 1913 my mother went to work as housekeeper and cook for Mr. Stem and the few customers who stopped at the hotel and we moved from Lafayette, where we were living, to Dolph.

The post office was no longer in the hotel as it had been moved to the grocery store directly across the road from the hotel. Jim Bodyfelt, who lived near Hebo was the mail carrier and when the road was passable he drove a horse and buggy. In winter he rode a horse and carried the mail in his saddlebags.

When we moved there in 1913 Dolph was, even then, on it's way out. Only two families lived there. One was the Fredrickson family and I no longer remember the name of the other family. The blacksmith shop, the sawmill and the stave mill were all closed. The grocery store and the school were still there but the grocery store closed in 1915. School was still being held in what had once been a three room residence and was kept open until 1919. In the 1917-1918 school year Vivian Marr, who I later married was the school teacher. She had five students and she received thirty dollars a month for teaching. She stayed at the hotel where she paid fourteen dollars a month for board and room.

In 1914 my Mother and Mr. Stem were married and they continued to keep the hotel open. Then in the summer of 1915 work started on the Sourgrass road which would miss Dolph by about a quarter of a mile. The road, which is about five miles in length, was built entirely with wheeled scrapers pulled by horses and by men using wheelbarrows and shovels. Most of the hand work was done by Italian laborers who lived in a camp which was located about midway of the project. The contractor and other men in charge of construction stayed at the hotel until work was completed in 1916 and, as Mr. Albright stated in his article, Dolph was left with no reason for being there.

In 1920 Mr. Stem traded the hotel for forty acres of land near Creswell Oregon and moved to Forest Grove. The new owner never did open the hotel and in a few years all that was left was a memory and a few bricks and rocks which had been the foundation for the  
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EVENT: May Meeting <sup>1975</sup>  
When: Tuesday May 13, 7:00 P.M.  
Where: Fernwood Grange Hall, Newberg  
Speaker: Professor Elkington, will be speaking on  
"Early History of Yamhill County".

Come, bring a friend petluck at 7:00 meeting at 8:00 P.M.  
To reach the Fernwood Grange Hall go thru Newberg towards Portland  
turn right at the Springbrook junction go a short half mile the  
hall is on the left.

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### MUSEUM NOTES

Tours anytime -- phone 472-7935

There are many groups to visit this month and next. There has  
been several scout groups, one of twenty from Cook school.  
The 7<sup>th</sup> of June we are to host a travel group from McMinnville  
sponsored by Garden clubs Arts and Library, who will see the  
museum at 10:30 and two homes in McMinnville. We expect 200  
visitors.

Joyce and Stan Maver of Wilsonville, Ore. came to the Museum a  
few weeks ago. She is a granddaughter of Mr. Poling. She is to  
bring us a home made trunk box of her grandfathers and a collection  
of his sermons and photos.

The school children of Dayton are to plot the two cemeteries there.  
We need the Sheridan, Willamina, Amity ones also. Bill Hills of  
Lafayette said he would do the two there. Newberg area should  
be covered also. If there are plot maps that help if not would  
some one take on a project.

Roma Sitton

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concluded from previous page.  
Dolph hotel.

You may note that some of the dates in this article differ  
slightly from those written by Mr. Albright. For instance, the  
State of Oregon Almanac lists the population of Dolph as 28, this  
is probably due to the fact that there were several other homes  
near the actual community of Dolph and who gave their address as  
Dolph.

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This will be the last bulletin till meetings are resumed in  
September, have a nice summer.

Ray Albright