

EVENT: November meeting
 WHEN: Nov. 9, 1976 7:00 P.M.
 WHERE: Sheridan Legion Hall
 PROGRAM: Mrs. Mildred Renne will tell about the Chehalis
 Valley Heritage tour to England.
 Come and bring a friend, notluck at 7:00 P.M., business meeting and program at 8:00.

MUSEUM NOTES

Our book, OLD YAMHILL, is in every town in the county, at banks, libraries, hardware stores, drug stores, and one variety store in Newberg. The price is \$5.00, extra .50 if by mail.

Our stationary is 10 folders and envelopes for \$1.--picture of museum and its history on it.

We are not responsible if your address has changed or is not complete. We are charged 25¢ for corrections. We are discontinuing corrections.

We are open Saturday and Sunday 1 to 4:30 P.M. Call 472-7935 for appointments on other days.

Roma Sitton

RECOLLECTIONS OF A PIONEER--FOUNDING OF McMINNVILLE

The credit for finding this account of the founding of McMinville goes to Larry Corff who discovered it in an old Daily Reporter dated January 10, 1887. He was kind enough to call it to our attention. The contributor of the article was Sebastian C. Adams.)

Some friend has kindly sent me a copy of your excellent paper, and I have perused it, advertisements and all, with particular and deep interest. As my eye fell upon many of the familiar names connected with the early days of "old Yamhill", and the founding of McMinville, memory was crowded with fond recollections of the beginning days and events of your young and prosperous city. There are few persons living, perhaps, who are as familiar with the incidents connected with the founding, and early days of your thriving town, as the man who drove the first stake of the town survey, built the first house on the first block surveyed, and was the first resident of the new town.

The race from Baker Creek to Cozine Creek was dug by W.T. Newby and E.C. Edson, and the mill with its "27 foot overshot wheel" was built in 1851 and 2, if memory serves me correctly. While Mr. Newby lived on the eastern side of his claim near the timber, Mr. Edson lived in a small white house on the bank not far from the mill, of which he was the chief miller.

A beautiful grove of oaks were just east of the mill, while a large expanse of virgin prairie stretched away to the eastward and northward. I remember very distinctly the first suggestion that was made of starting a town in connection with the mill upon that prairie so "beautiful for situation", which happened in this wise.

Soon after harvest in 1854, I think, I took a load of wheat to the mill to exchange for flour at the rate of 40 lbs of flour for 60lbs of good wheat. While making the exchange, I remarked to Mr. Newby that the vacant prairie stretching away to the east of the mill offered many inducements and advantages for a new town. A town that would be more central for the county and easier of access than either Dayton or Lafayette. I also urged that he ought to lay out and start a town at once, as in my judgment it was very possible to make it the focal point of interest and of business in the county.

(continued on the back)

FOUNDING OF MCMINNVILLE continued

I well remember the incredulous smile with which my suggestion was received, although he stated that if I was disposed to start the town and endeavor to build it up, that he would donate me with a half block of land. I immediately accepted his offer and began to prepare the material for a small dwelling at my ranch on Panther Creek, above and adjoining the claim of Doc Sitton. With some assistance from Wilson Carl, I completed my house and moved into it in the spring of 1855, if I remember correctly.

E.G. Edson was then living in the "miller house" on the mill lot, with whom I boarded while erecting my house. His house was subsequently owned and occupied by William Campbell.

My house was located near a large and grand oak and before any survey had been made, or the points of compass correctly determined so that with the best "guessing" I could do, the east end of my house was some two or three feet south of a due east line. It was a one story affair, 18x28 with a lean to or shed on the back side, some eight feet in width.

In the spring of 1855, my wife made a visit on horseback to some one of our neighbors, and her horse being constitutionally tired, she broke a good sized "gad" from a silver tree at the neighbors house in order to stimulate the movements of the weary animal toward home. On her arrival home the "gad" was thrown down upon the ground, but the next day, well knowing that Oregon soil and moisture could make most any thing grow, she stuck the crooked limb deep into the moist ground beside our front door, and that is the origin of the silver tree now standing in front of the first house build in the original town plat of your young city.

(continued next month)