

APRIL MEETING of
YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WHEN: May 10, 1977
WHERE: Yamhill Christian Church
PROGRAM: Yamhill County Schools of the Past

Don't forget that YOU are our program for the May meeting! Bring any information and old PICTURES of ANY school in Yamhill County--particularly our old one and two room country schools. If no one in your family attended school here, talk to your friends and neighbors and find some one who did. Every one who has any information or pictures to show will be given a chance to talk at the meeting--limit five minutes.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could find information and pictures for everyone of the 101 old school districts? (We would have to have another meeting!) A man in Corvallis was able to do exactly that for Benton County. It wasn't an easy job--he had to really work at it!

PUBLIC SCHOOL BEGINNINGS IN YAMHILL COUNTY

The first federal census of Yamhill County taken in 1850 showed four "common" schools in the county. The second census in 1860 showed ten school districts that were receiving money from public funds. Several of these first ten school districts were able to keep their original district numbers until consolidation did away with them. Amity was #4 from the beginning. The district #7 of 1860 was a direct ancestor of the district #7 of 1952, when it was known as the Briedwell school. Districts 1 and 2, Merchant and White Cloud schools, retained their identities for almost a hundred years.

The earliest report on the schools of the county, that I have found, appeared in the LAFAYETTE COURIER on January 8, 1867. According to John Spencer, county school superintendent, 35 districts reported. There were 33 school houses valued at \$5,160.00. The number of persons in the county between the ages of 4 and under 20 was 1,990. The districts had raised \$2,392.83 to pay teachers and the amount drawn from the Treasury for the same purpose was \$1,761.69. The number of male teachers employed was 25, female 15. The average wages paid males per month was \$39. and to females was \$26. "The books used are not so uniform as could be desired. To have the proper books would be a great relief to teachers and a still greater benefit to learners."

The number of districts in the county hit its peak in the 1930's and began its decline during the 1940's. Today all the rural schools are gone, leaving seven or eight school districts for the whole county.

Ruth Stoller

MUSEUM NEWS

There are many dues for this year still unpaid. There must be an increase in dues or a larger membership--or both--to carry on. It is up to all to help if we keep our museum growing.

The first of June we start the tourist season. We could use some donated time to help the finance problem.

Our museum group met in Eugene April 4, in the Lane County Museum library. We had a very good lesson on filing, preserving, and care of photos and papers. We had lunch after the meeting in the "Old Feed Mill" restaurant. The menu was on a feed tag--"Nutri-log". An old feed sacker was in the entrance, an unusual way to use an old building.

Our book OLD YAMHILL is still selling well. We have a few left at the museum, the Book Store in McMinnville, banks at Yamhill, Carlton, Amity and Sheridan. It is also at the Chamber of Commerce in McMinnville.

Call 472-7935 for appointments.

Roma Sitton