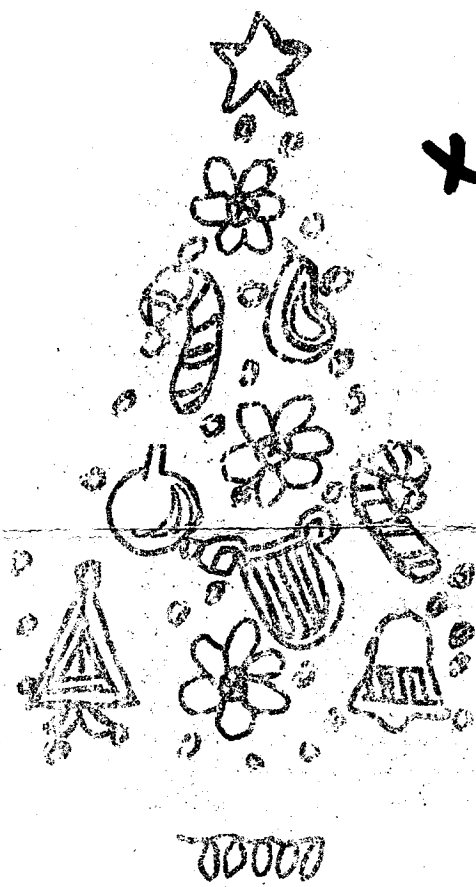


YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL MEETING
December 13, 1977 Potluck 7:00 PM
First Christian Church, 1300 Brooks
Street, McMinnville, Oregon



The oldest record of a Christmas tree for Christmas time was in 1825. A German, Charles Fallin, is given credit for the first Christmas tree in America in 1832. The first glass balls and icicles came from Germany and were used in America in 1836. In 1870 glass flowers were produced. America made its silver glass balls and chains of tinsel in 1900. Only one family in five had a tree at this time. Information from The Christmas Tree by Phillip Snyder and Roy Joggia, Viking Press, 1976.

We are planning a Christmas decoration or a tree display as of the year when Lafayette was settled in 1845 and then as it was ten years later in 1855. Lafayette is the oldest town of our Museums group. Our display will be open to the public on regular Museum open days, December 10, 11, 16 and 17th and will be closed Christmas.

Roma Sitton

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from the REPORTER OF April 9, 1874

Remember the annual school meetings? This is the newspaper report of a District 40 meeting before the first public school was built. Children were sent to the Academy.

SCHOOL MEETING--According to regulations the voters of School District #40 comprised principally of the town of McMinnville and vicinity assembled at the College for the purpose of electing three directors, one for three years, one for two years, and one for one year, and a district clerk; also to take a vote on levying a tax for the purpose of building a district schoolhouse and to aid in supporting a free school at this place. There was an unusually large attendance and much interest manifest. The meeting being called to order, secretary read minutes of last meeting which were approved. Then came reading report of treasurer for past fiscal year. After skimming some little time on some peculiar propositions of different ten, the treasurer's report was adopted. Proceeding to the election of directors then "came the tug of war". To report all that was moved, seconded, amended, withdrawn, suggested, iterated and reiterated would take more room than we have to spare, and we will attempt no more than to say that the meeting after a time came suddenly out of an inexplicable mesh of jumbled ideas, bungled constructions, and peculiar interpretations of law, with the agreement that a plurality of votes should elect. Voting began, and also challenging of votes. Here another point of law, and the meeting went into a perplexity over the question of property qualification requisite to make a man a voter at the school meeting. The only point one could actually keep trace of in the discussion was whether a "bob-tailed cow" would be sufficient property to allow a man to vote. The "bob-tailed cow" seemed to be the criterion in the thread of argument and was the polar star which led the wayfaring out of their wilderness. That opinion prevailed and all were allowed to vote. Everything was straightened out again--and the ballot was taken in the following manner and the following results; the three directors were voted for at once. The person having the highest number of votes should be declared director for the term of three years; the person having the next in number should be elected for two years, and

the person having the next in number should be elected for two years, and the person receiving the next highest votes should be declared elected for one year. Mr. Gustof Wilson having received the highest number of votes was declared elected director for three years. Messers Chas. Handley Sr and J.J. Collard having received a tie vote, was not settled by that vote which was for two years but subsequently it was decided that Mr. Handley serve two years and Mr. Collard serve one year. W.E. H. Boyd was elected clerk. It was evident at the commencement of the meeting and even before that public spirit was considerably aroused. This was occasioned by the proposition of voting on the tax question. The vote stood 15 for and 45 against the tax. Some remarks were made on both sides of the question before voting. New officers took their oath of office and the meeting adjourned.