



# YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Yamhill County Museum, 6th and Market Street, Lafayette, Oregon

## YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, December 9, 1980 7:00 P.M.  
PLACE: First Christian Church, 1300 Brooks, McMinnville, Oregon  
POTLUCK: Bring your own table service  
PROGRAM: Christmas singing plus a "SHOW AND TELL" time. So everybody bring some interesting artifact of bygone days and your best singing voice, and we will get in tune for some early Christmas celebrating.

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### MUSEUM NEWS

Cleo and Pat Harding of Bellevue Community Hall gave us the large curtain from the stage with all the old company advertisements on it. This is on material but needs to be hung so it won't crack or mold. We were given several hundred bricks from the old Lafayette Courthouse by Mrs. Terry's daughter Helen Madison. They are now stored in the Tool Building, moved by Mr. Stoller and help. Thanks very much.

Mr. Stoller repaired all the gutters, some were too low, some blocked by leaves and dust. Our thanks to you, Harvey.

We need a crew to help at the Tool Building to finish cleaning and placing equipment

We still have school desks to sell, also books from District 7.

Did you sell an "Old Yamhill" book this month? If so, be sure the checks are made to Yamhill County Historical Society. These books would make great Christmas gifts. Oregon Historical Society just ordered ten of these books. Dayton has a book on their Centennial and history, which we will be selling for them. We also have county census record books and cemetery records of the western part of the county.

Dayton school children are studying Indian weapons, culture, household articles, trapping, old books, Pony Express - there we only have book reference.

The December meeting will include election of officers. Mr. Dromgoole resigned as a director as they moved to the coast. We are thinking of day meetings - noon to 2:30 P.M. - during two winter months. If you have any changes of address, please let us know as newsletters will not be forwarded. HELP US THINK OF A FUND RAISING PROJECT FOR EARLY SPRING. Bring your ideas to the meeting or send them in to the society.

Happy Thanksgiving to all, for appointments phone 472-7935.

ROMA SITTON

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## HISTORY NOTES

Our Museum library has just received a copy of the memories of Clarence E. Talbott, who was born at Bethel in 1875 and lived as a child near Sheridan and later in Dayton. Still later the family moved to Washington.

The book was sent to us by Mr. John Talbott of Moscow, Idaho. He had recently been in Yamhill County visiting the scenes of his father's childhood and trying to locate the grave of his grandmother, Mary Ann Talbott, who died in 1880, while the family was living near Sheridan. The following is taken from Mr. Talbott's book:

### CHRISTMAS

The celebration was a community affair and any or all denominations took part. A committee for arrangements and programmes took charge and a tree of ample size was cut and set up in the school house. There was singing by the children or anyone who could be urged to sing a solo or maybe a quartet could be arranged. There was no organ or piano and my sisters sang a couple of songs. I had learned to play the harmonica at an early age and Henry and I accompanied them with our harmonicas.

A collection had been taken to buy candy and nuts and of course the inevitable popcorn. The tree was decorated with strings of popcorn, chains of bright colored paper, apples and a few of the commercial decorations that we still are using.

Every child got a sack of candy and nuts plus whatever parents and friends were of a mind to present. If there was a minister present there was prayer and benediction.

### A PERSONAL TOUCH

I had twenty-five cents for spending money and went to the store to find what I could get for someone, no one in particular, just anyone the present might fit. When in the store I found a bright top with reeds that sang a harmony. It was so pleasing to me that I could not see anything else in the store. The price fit my money but there was a great question of ethics to settle. One was not supposed to buy a present for himself. The sisters were out of the question as a top was not a feminine toy, there was no younger brother and Henry was too big to want a top but there was the top and I had the money to buy it. The only solution was to buy it for a little neighbor boy. I adopted that idea as there was that evening and all the next day before I would have to part with it.

On the road home there were many holes in the road that had been recently filled with water and were now frozen over to a sufficient degree to hold my weight. What an ideal place to spin a top! So the top spun, and flared its bright colors and sang the beautiful song. I was thinly clad, so would stay at one hole till I got to a state of coldness that out-weighed the urge to spin the top, then run to another favorable place and stay there till I froze out.

The top was kept busy that night and the next day. Looking back on the situation I think my decision was probably a correct one as two boys had a joyous Christmas instead of one. But there remained the sting of a selfish act. Later in life I found a verse by Kipling that probably applies:

"If we slide in the race though we win  
The hoof print is scarred on the course,  
Though Allah and earth pardon sin,  
Forever remaineth remorse."

Ruth Stoller

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