



Yamhill County Museum, 8th and Market Street, Lafayette, Oregon

## OFFICERS, 1986

|                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
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| Historian       | Ruth Stoller                  |
| Museum Curator  | Roma Sitton                   |
| Board:          | Austin Bowen, Ed Roghair,     |
|                 | Harvey Stoller, James Vincent |
| Newsletter      | M. Roghair                    |

MEETINGS: Second Tuesday of  
each month

MUSEUM HOURS Saturday & Sunday  
(winter hours) 1 - 4 o'clock

FEBRUARY

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1986

MEETING: Tuesday Noon, February 11, Christian Church Dayton, 12 o'clock.  
POT LUCK DINNER: Bring own table service. SPEAKER: Gordon Zimmerman,  
authority on Yamhill County Rail Roads. Visitors always welcome.

Yamhill County is one of the original counties in Oregon, and this is  
the month our state celebrates its birthday!

## Event celebrates Oregon's birthday

PORTLAND — An all-day celebration of Oregon's birthday will be held Feb. 14 at the Oregon Historical Center, 1230 SW Park Ave.

It will include birthday cake, family history workshops, archival films, guided tours of the "Presents of the Past: Collecting Oregon's History" exhibition and entertainment.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., and admission is free. The cake will be cut at 2 p.m. Exhibition tours will be at 10:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Workshops will be at 10 a.m., "Basics of Oral History," by Rick Harmon; 11:15 a.m., "What to Do With Family Photographs," Susan Seyl; and 12:30 p.m., "Researching Your Family History," Gordon Manning. The workshops will be in Beaver Hall, Broadway level.

The film and videotape schedule in the George H. Himes Interpretive Center, second floor, will be: 10 a.m., "James Cook Your Most Humble and Obedient Servant"; 10:55 a.m., "Logging in Southern Oregon"; 11:15 a.m., "Doorways to the Past, Timberline"; noon, "Looking Backward"; 12:45 p.m., "Eruption of Mount St. Helens"; and 3 p.m., "Status and Style."

## MUSEUM NOTES by Roma Sitton

We have a large collection of photos of early firemen, bands, ball players, surveyors, big wheel bicycles. County Commissioner Bishop has requested photos of all county judges, but we do not have same, just a list of names. Does someone have one, or a collection that could be copied? . . . We have recently received a pair of wooden shoes that were sent from Holland to a Lafayette resident, together with a photo of a Mr. Spoolstra - barber, watch repairman and poet who came to Lafayette by 1900. Also several of his poems. . . We still have calls for Old Yamhill, which has been sold out several months ago. Have the "Impressions of Carlton," compiled by school children of that community. . . . The eldest daughter of the prominent pioneer Poling family died recently in Salem, at age 97. Paul is the remaining member of this family, and lives in El Paso, Texas. The men were ministers. . . Cold weather keeps our electric bill high, as we must maintain at least 60° temperature. . . We were happy to have a group from the Christian Church tour the museum, and encourage others to do so. Weekends or by appointment, 472-7935.

QUIZ: Do you know the State Flower: State Bird? State Tree? State Fish? State Rock? Motto? Answers in upcoming Newsletter.

A continuation of Ellen J. Chamberlain's memorable Reminiscences, at the Yamhill County Pioneer Meeting, June 3, 1914:

As I think of it now no place on earth that I have ever seen, not even old England, its every inch of ground a p'dce of landscape gardening, nor Italy with its magic lakes, its classic streams and shimmering groves of olive trees, ever appealed to my fancy as did the beauty of Yamhill County more than half a century ago. Do you for a moment imagine that any rounded dome, or pointed cathedral spire of the old world can match in grandeur these snow-crested sentinels that guard our valley homes, temper for us the heat of summer and toss back upon our grateful fields the gentle rains that fain would cross their summits? Chide me not for dropping the thread of my narrative but all these are "Natures glory, sung in song and told in story".

One May morning not long after we had arrived we looked down the road toward Wiel's store and saw a troop of soldiers steadily marching toward us, their weapons glistening in the bright sunshine. Pausing at our gateway for a drink of water, which we speedily provided, we learned that a detachment of the Fourth U.S. Regulars had arrived at the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation, Lt. Sheridan and Capt. Russell being in command.

## Part II

The five following years were crowded full of shifting scenes. At one time we children were attending school at the Willamina schoolhouse that building being the only one by the bridge where the town now stands. Just two things do I remember having learned at that school--the multiplication tables and a rhyme we children composed and sang softly by ourselves, "Eliza McGuire, my hearts on fire".\* She was our teacher. Another summer in the Ramsdell schoolhouse, not far from Mr. Jim Brown's place, our gentle mother was teaching the district school.

After Mr. Ben Simpson's family had moved down into the settlement below the Fort, it was arranged that I should board with them and attend the neighboring school. Morning after morning such a flock of children started out for school that I often wondered then, and still is a mystery to me, how Mrs. Simpson ever managed to get enough cooked to fill those dinner pails. These were usually carried by a fair-haired boy called "Sam". You all know him by his beautiful poems now household words in scores of Oregon homes and schools. Photographed upon my mind is a picture of this shy, slender boy walking alone up the path ahead of us girls, to the top of the hill where stood the little unpainted schoolhouse in a grove of shady oaks, stopping and looking around, he would take off his hat to the beauty of the morning,--then stand rapt in thought, filled with admiration at the delectable scene stretched out before him, hill and dale, mountain and plain, bathed in God's early sunshine, rejoicing together at the return of another day. It may be only a pleasing fancy but who shall say that then and there some of the buddings of genius were not unfolding in the young man's mind. (To be concluded)

Ruth Stoller