



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

OFFICERS, 1986

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

MEETINGS: Second Tuesday of each month

MUSEUM HOURS Sat. & Sun. 1 - 4
Summer Hours, Wednesday thru Sunday, 1 - 4 o'clock

MAY

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

1986

MEETING: Tuesday, May 13, Methodist Church, 203 Nursery, Amity.
 POTLUCK SUPPER: 7 o'clock. Bring own table service.
 PROGRAM Elaine Rohse will tell of her recent trip to Portugal, and contrast it to her earlier trip to Spain. Visitors always welcome.
 ANNUAL PICNIC is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, at the Lafayette City Park, which is close to the Museum. POT LUCK DINNER will be at 12 O'clock. At this time we wish to celebrate the birthday of our faithful curator, Roma Sitton.

MUSEUM NOTES by Roma Sitton, Curator

Visitors to the Museum vary; one Saturday we had no callers, then on Sunday about 15 people spent the entire afternoon. We are usually closed on Mothers' Day, but I have agreed to stay open that day, as there will be a historical walking tour of homes in McMinnville, and extending to an open house at the Matthey House Bed & Breakfast, just outside Lafayette. We hope the museum will draw visitors at that time, and will be expecting a busier than usual summer due to Expo. Summer hours begin Wednesday, June 11, and I will need help for at least one day a week. Please be ready to sign up at the May meeting, when you can help. Tours are scheduled for April 30 and June 4, from Tillamook and Eugene. . . A gardener has agreed to keep the grass cut and clean around the tool museum thru the summer, for \$10. a month. . . I had a lovely time in Vancouver on my vacation with my granddaughter and family. . . Call anytime. Phone 472-7935 for appt.

The Museum is in need of assistance in sharing the many responsibilities Mrs. Sitton performs. What is your special interest? The large or small articles exhibited, the tools or farm equipment, or historical records? Perhaps you prefer to meet the public and tell them of things in the past. With a rich county heritage, and two colleges with history departments, there should be those in the historical membership, or the county at large, who would assume more of this responsibility to preserve this heritage. Inquire of an officer, board member or the curator, where you can fit in.

Membership is \$3. per year, or you may join those who have life membership. Memorials welcome, too.

Have you updated your Yamhill County rural route address?

1914 Reminiscences of Ellen J. Chamberlin--Part IV

A few years ago it occurred to Mr. J.G. Lewis, a native son of Yamhill Co., that the old wooden fort or blockhouse, long a land mark at the agency, should be moved down to the city park donated by Joel Palmer to the town of Dayton. After numerous delays and, at considerable expense, this was done and it now stands, linking the peaceful present to the troublwsome past, an honor to the man who piloted it from its old foundation and a monument to the menory of a historic character of the northwest, Gen. Joel Palmer.

It is a just pride and a worthy ambition that prompt these annual meetings of yours, for without question Yamhill County is a leading one in the industrial and agricultural interests of the state. This came forcibly to mind when one day a year ago, our friend, Mrs. Gilkey, drove me over to see an apple orchard of several hundred acres on the hill slopes not far from Lafayette. It was indeed "a feast of apple bloom" and has become already one of the fine show places of the state.

It is safe to say that the first collection of books for a public library west of the Willamette River and second in the Territory was made at Amity in 1849. Think of it! That year when nearly every able-bodied man in the thinly populated country was rushing off to the gold fields of California, some one was sane enough to give a thought to literature and learning. On the fly-leaf of one of these books, I read the other day, these lines, "The money for this library was raised in the vicinity of Amity, Yamhill County, in 1849 by the secretary and first county superintendent, A.S. Watt. Glenn Burnett bought the books in California and placed them in Enos Williams house for the use of the subscribers in 1850".

The 500 volumes collected by Capt. Harris of McMinnville and bought by the Oregon Historical Society is by all accounts "held to be the most valuable collection of publications relative to the Oregon country, its discovery, expeditions, and development, gathered in the U.S."

The men and women, be they farmers, teachers, ministers, merchants, judges, or editors, who have gone out from your midst into the busy world's activities, stand ever ready to defend their homeland. Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway, the mother of Oregon's woman suffrage movement, the first woman I ever saw who had written a book or made a public speech, never misses an opportunity of referring to the place where "she got her start in life" and scores of others are just as patriotic.

You still have with you Father and Mother Hoberg, dearly loved friends of my student days. Choicest blessing on their heads frosted by the silvery touch of time.

Your child of other days has come back to rehearse to you some of the brightest scenes of her life before the stage of earnest effort and struggle had closed her brief childhood.

Ruth Stoller, Historian