



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

OFFICERS 1986

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	Harvey Stoller, James Vincent
Newsletter	M. Roghair
Museum Curator	Roma Sitton

MUSEUM HOURS: Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 o'clock  
(except by appointment)

NOVEMBER

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER

1986

MEETING: Tuesday, November 11, American Legion Hall, Sheridan, Oregon  
 POT LUCK SUPPER: 7 o'clock. Bring own table service. Visitors welcome.  
 PROGRAM: Marion Johnstone will give a history of the Fendall and Savage families. The nominating committee will report.

MUSEUM NOTES by Roma Sitton

We were pleasantly surprised that a large group from Eugene who were in attendance at the Baptist Convention at Linfield College, came to visit the museum. We had a group of school children near the end of October. I'm always glad for children to come and see what grandmother used in her early days. . . We have had good sales of our stationary and have had to order more. . . The Tillamook museum asks if there is a pattern for the stage coach and history of same. They have the coach that went to their town last. Does anyone know where the second one went? A Mrs. Benson from Kent, Oregon says relatives of theirs drove it for a time. I copied the photo of the stage coach going over the hill, and it came out good... The rental next to the museum is vacant again. Although we are normally only open weekends, can be open other times by appointment. Call 472-7935.

NORTH YAMHILL RECORD, September 20, 1902

THE FIRE FIEND

Disastrous Fire Visits North Yamhill Leaving Havoc and Destruction  
 Property Destroyed to the Extent of \$20,000  
 No Injury Sustained by Fire Fighters

North Yamhill was subjected to one of the most disastrous fires in the history of the town last Tuesday night. At 9:30 Earl Mann, who happened to be passing the large merchandise store of Messner and Volhiem, discovered that the interior of the building was in flames. The alarm was quickly given and the department responded promptly considering the hour, as well as all citizens of the town and surrounding community, but before any attempt could be made to subdue the flames the large store was a seething mass of fire throughout the whole interior. Parties who first reached the scene forced the doors of the building, but owing to the intense heat and smoke were driven away from the entrance, not being able to even enter the building.

It was seen at once that the building was past all hope, and the attention of the fire department and citizens was direct toward keeping the fire within as narrow confines as possible. It was quickly determined that with the apparatus at hand for fighting flame, the barber shop occupied by R.L. Mayhew, the grocery store of Daniel Busbee, both of which were to the south of the burning building were doomed as well as the old Exchange Hotel, which was occupied as an apartment house by several families, the saloon of John Lamar and the office of G.A. Douglas which stood west of it.

Therefore, all efforts of the fire fighters were directed towards preventing the destruction of the large general store of T.M. Witten to the south and the residence of J.W. Estes to the west. Owing to the intervening distance between the buildings of the burning district and the ones just described, and the wet condition of everything, the object was accomplished without much difficulty. The buildings which were burned were all practically joined together in the nature of a range except the old hotel which stood about twenty feet away. Had the store of Mr. Witten burned, fire would have unavoidably been communicated from it to the livery stable, in which case it would have burned its way entirely through the business district and would not have left a business house of any importance in town.

Fortunately, the wind was from the south which materially aided in keeping the fire within the limits. The contents of every building except the store of Messner & Volheim were saved, in a somewhat damaged condition however.

A few minutes before the fire was discovered, Sherman Blackburn and Ed Salficky smelled what appeared to be straw burning while passing the store, but their brief examination disclosed no fire. No one knows how the fire originated, but some incline to the opinion that it started from electric wires, while this is improbable, owing to the absence of any other reason this view is accepted by quite a few. The loss falls particularly heavy upon Messner & Volheim whose entire stock and buildings were a total loss. They place the loss at \$15,000 dollars upon which they carried \$7,000 insurance. The contents of the saloon, estimated at \$1500, were all saved. The building was worth about \$300. Mr. Lamar being absent it is not known if it was insured. The losses summarized are about as follows: Messner & Volheim, stock, building and barber shop building, \$15,000, insurance \$7,000; R.C. Mayhew, barber, \$50, no insurance; D. Busbee, building, \$700, insurance, \$500; Mrs. Bowers, hotel building, \$700, insurance unknown; J.S. Lamar, saloon building, \$300, insurance unknown; J.W. Estes, office building, \$100, no insurance.

People came in from as far as eight miles in the country to assist in fighting the fire. The townspeople feel very thankful for the faithful assistance of those who came in from the surrounding country.

Salt, woolen blankets and water were in demand after last week's fire, and each played an important part in preventing further destruction of property. But the good housewives of town have had considerable extra washing to do as a result.

Ruth Stoller