



Yamhill County Museum, 6th and Market Street, Lafayette, Oregon  
built in 1892 by Rev. C. C. Poling, Ph.D., president of Lafayette Sem-  
inary. The Yamhill County Historical Society purchased the building  
in 1969 for a museum. It is open every Saturday and Sunday, 1 to  
5, plus 4 days a week during the tourist season.

#### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Gene Irvin
PROGRAM CHMN.	
SECRETARY	Mildred Renne
FINANCIAL SEC'Y.	Evelyn Nieman
TREASURER	Mike Boundy
HISTORIAN	Ruth Stoller
BOARD:	Ed Roghair,
	Harvey Stoller, James Vincent
MUSEUM CURATOR	
NEWSLETTER	Margaret Roghair

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

#### YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

1988

DECEMBER

MEETING: Tuesday, December 13, Community Christian Church, 2831  
N. Newby, McMinnville.

POT LUCK SUPPER: 7 o'clock. Bring own table service. Guests welcome.

PROGRAM: "A Yamhill County Christmas." Please bring a Christmas holi-  
day decoration with a personal or historical significance  
to you. These will be displayed at the meeting. Be prepar-  
ed to tell the history, or story about your special family  
holiday decoration.

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Please send your dues to the Financial Secretary, Evelyn Nieman,  
1501 S. Baker, Sp.49, McMinnville, OR 97128. \$7.50 per individual,  
except over 55 years \$5.00.

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Message from the President:

As my term as president of the Society comes to a close, I  
would like to briefly reflect back over the past two years. I feel  
that certainly a highlight was this last summer's picnic and Mission  
Mill Museum tour. I believe the great time had by all who attended  
this event merits more field trips in the future. Please let your  
new officers know of ideas for future trips.

I feel that the increase in yearly dues for persons under 55, in  
particular, was a positive step to insure the future of the Society.  
However, I do feel that declining membership levels and the future  
of our county museum should be of great concern to the Society.

Finally, I would like to again thank Roma Sitton for her years  
of dedicated service to the Society and her museum. Gene I.

## MUSEUM NOTES

HELP-The museum needs every ones help. All of us knew that when Roma retired it would be impossible to replace her. Perhaps the answer to our dilemna is to delegate the responsibilities of running the museum to several people. We need someone to work on our files; someone to catalogue our scrapbooks and family histories; someone to organize our school record books and land abstracts; someone to organize our pioneer file and our family photographs; someone to come in once a month for an hour or so to dust and sweep; we could use someone who would work on displays and rotate them occasionally so we could show some of the things that have had to be stored away.

We especially need to photograph and catalogue our quilt collection. We have requests from all over the U.S. asking for copies of our holdings in special quilt categories. We have a very fine quilt collection and it should be more easily accessible to those who wish to study it.

If those who could, would give an hour or two of their time each month, a lot could be accomplished. If any of this interests you call Roma at 472-7935 or Ruth at 864-2589.

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A number of people have asked for copies of our book, Old Yamhill County, the early history of its town and cities. Binford and Mort Publishers in Portland will re publish this book if the Historical Society will purchase the first 500 copies in advance of publication. Price of the book will be \$15. but in lieu of any royalty payment the

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discount to the Society will be 50%, or only \$7.50. However, if each of us would commit ourselves to pay \$10. per copy, we could meet the advance purchase price with no sweat in this way.

There are approximately 200 member families in the Society. If each would buy two books at \$10. per copy, we would have \$4,000. That would give the Society a profit of \$250. and we would still have 100 additional books to sell for an additional \$1000. profit, or more. How can we refuse to meet this challenge? It is important that the information in this book be preserved and available to present and future generations. And all it will take from us --whose chief concern must be the preservation of all Yamhill County historical information, is to reach in our purses and pull out a twenty dollar bill or write a check and these books will again be available for as long as there is a demand for them.

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#### HISTORY NOTES

Newspaper headlines haven't changed all that much over the years. After the forest fires of the past summer, it was interesting to read these lines from the NORTH YAMHILL RECORD for September 18, 1902. The towns of Springwater and Palmer are mentioned in the article. Springwater is in Clackamas County about three miles south of Estacada. Palmer was a postoffice in Multnomah County near Bridal Veil Creek in the hills about three miles east of Bridal Veil. The office was near a logging railroad and was named for L.C. Palmer, president of the Bridal Veil Lumber Company.

#### WHOLE TOWNS WIPED OFF THE MAP AND MANY LIVES LOST IN FOREST FIRES OF TWO STATES

Within the last ten days the timbered districts of Oregon and Washington have been visited by the most destructive forest fires known to the history of the two states. The number of lives lost will probably exceed one hundred in the two states. The property loss is incalculable and is known to have run into millions of dollars. The state of Washington has been the heaviest sufferer, both in loss of life and property. Many people were driven into the streams of water to protect their lives, and were compelled to submerge themselves in the water while a deluge of fire passed over them in the timber. So intense was the heat in some instances, it is said by those who passed through the trying ordeal, that the water flowing in the streams actually became warm. Instances of whole families perishing together are coming to light as relief parties are enabled to enter the burned districts. Many small villages in the burned districts have been entirely destroyed not a vestige of anything remaining. Many families are homeless and penniless; bare, naked, burned ground only remains where previously stood prosperous homes. Much distress prevails. The large saw mill at Bridal Veil, which employed over two hundred men was entirely destroyed together with all of the company's tenement and other buildings. Two men perished in this fire. The towns of Springwater and Palmer are completely destroyed. Tillamook City had a narrow escape and was only saved by a fortunate shift of the wind during the fire which, in spite of all possible human effort to stem its progress, was creeping down upon the city. Many miraculous escapes from death are reported. In Yamhill County, with the exception of the destruction of a considerable body of timber in the mountains near Fairdale, no heavy losses have occurred. There have been a number of fires, however, which only the most trying work kept under control. A fire raged for several days in the hills five miles North of North Yamhill and one about the same distance Northeast. Burning of numerous fences is about the net result of these fires. Fortunately the fires, everywhere, are said to be subsiding and it is hoped there will be no further serious losses.

Ruth Stoller