

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society



Schoolhouse Up and Running



Cutting Wood for Schoolhouse

Our one-room schoolhouse is up and running. A huge thank you goes out to the contributors and volunteers who made it happen. It began with a donation from **Mr. Marquis** through the Oregon Community Foundation. Our sawyers, **Alan Tessman, Dean Tessman, Don King, James Poindexter, Chuck Kadell, Mike Dubal, and Dean Holdahl** milled and planed the logs that **Dave Cruickshank** donated and Chuck hauled to their sawmill in Newberg. They brought the lumber back and **Vince Haworth** with the help of **Chuck Kadell, Tony Meeker, and Dale Kiem** constructed and assembled it. Vince also constructed the student's desks.



Schoolhouse Construction

We had the following items donated to complete the display:

(We have a larger bell that has been donated, but that will have to go out on the full-size school when it is constructed. It's too loud for inside.)

- Blackboard—Wayne Beckwith
- Washington and Lincoln pictures—Vern Duncan
- Revolutionary map—Karen Sitton-Saxberg
- Coal-burning stove—Vince Haworth
- 38-star flag—Carolyn Stastny



Schoolhouse in Action

The children who attended Pioneer Days were put through their paces as they would have been in 1880. Seeing to that task were our school marms, **Carolyn Stastny** and **Connie Duncan**. Carolyn developed the curriculum that was used. Some comments from the students: "Wow, she's strict." "That was fun." From the teachers: "I wish they would do that in the classroom."

It is so nice to see "a village" raise a schoolhouse.

Gloria Lutz, Education Coordinator

Buy A Brick Fundraiser



The Property and Development Committee is looking into a Buy-A-Brick Fundraiser where community members would donate money to have their names engraved on a brick. These engraved bricks will be incorporated into the architecture and landscape of the Yamhill County Heritage Center either on a walkway, nature path or wall. For a donation, the brick will be engraved to your specifications and become a permanent part of the Heritage Center, creating an amazing tribute to our ancestors, town fathers, loved ones, and Yamhill County families. If you have any ideas, comments or feedback, please contact Carolyn Meeker at (503) 835-8481



Summer Picnic

YCHS members and friends are invited to our summer picnic at the Heritage Center

Date: Sunday, August 15, 2010
Time: 1:30 pm
Location: Heritage Center, 11275 SW Durham Lane, McMinnville
What to bring: Bring table service and a main dish, salad or dessert.

Presidents Letter

Greetings, YCHS members,

I hope everyone has recruited at least one new member to join YCHS! Please remember to renew your own membership by June 31st. With the work going on to complete our new Yamhill Valley Heritage Center the society needs your support more than ever. We would not have gotten this far without your past and continuing support.

May is "Pioneer Days" at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center. Our Education Director, Gloria Lutz, has been very busy supervising several hundred school children along with their teachers and chaperones. YCHS has many volunteers there this month demonstrating skills such as making candles, lace, and churning butter. A display of a one room school house complete with schoolmarm gives the children an idea of how their ancestors lived.

There is a dedicated crew working out at the Heritage Center almost every weekend. Cliff and Glen Watts, Chuck Kadell, and Dave Cruikshank are just a few of the regulars who give up their weekends to work on the buildings at Durham Lane.

Our contractor, Vince Haworth, has also been very generous with his in-kind donations and wonderful support. Pam Watts has been a terrific asset to YCHS with her great organizational skills.

These are only a few of the people whose generous support is making the completion of our new Yamhill Valley

Heritage Center a reality. But, we need more.....we need YOU!

Yamhill County Historical Society's Treasurer, Ken Williams, will be resigning at the end of this month. Ken has served as treasurer for the past six years. The Board of Directors and the membership want to thank him for all of his hard work and his commitment to seeing the expansion of the new museum go forward and succeed. Ken and his wife, Pat, will continue to be active members of YCHS. Ken will also remain as a Director on the Board until the end of his term, and we will appreciate his counsel.

The new treasurer for YCHS will be Kim Courtin. She is from Dayton and has served as Secretary for the Board as well as volunteering at the Miller Museum in Lafayette. Kim has extensive bookkeeping experience and is also continuing her education.

Our sympathy goes out to Director Karen Sitton-Saxberg and her family. Karen lost her step-mother earlier this month.

Please don't forget Harvest Fest on August 7th and 8th and our annual picnic on August 15th. These events will all be at the Heritage Center. I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Carolyn Meeker, President

Farm Auction A Great Success!



The April 24 Antique Farm Equipment Auction was a great success and raised over \$10,000 for the Heritage Center. Folks from around the area, and as far away as Sunriver, Newport, Scapoose, Ridgefield, WA, and Ukiah, CA, joined in the bidding encouraged by local auctioneer John Walton. The farm auction is one of several fundraising efforts for the Heritage Center complex. Many thanks to the auction committee -- it was a large project, and we appreciate the many volunteers who made it happen!

Pam Watts, Farm Auction Chair

Heritage Center News

This summer the Administration Section Building at the Heritage Center will be fully enclosed. Yes that means a water-tight roof, walls, doors, and windows! Work will be started in a matter of weeks, so come see the progress at the summer picnic in August.

Time for Membership Renewal

It is that time of year again. Be looking for the renewal notice the first week of June. Our membership cycle is July 1st to June 30th.

Gloria Lutz, Membership chair

Historic Lafayette Museum

605 Market Street/P.O. Box 484 Lafayette, OR 97127

Hours:

Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday 10 am to 4 pm
Or by appointment 503-864-2308

Heritage Center

11275 SW Durham Lane McMinnville, OR 97128

Hours:

Saturday—10 am to 3 pm

Board Meeting ~ A Condensed Version of Unapproved Minutes ~ May 12, 2010

- Photography Project— Jennifer Sokol-Blosser presented the proposed contract with Pacific Art and Framing Gallery. The board approved the contract with the understanding that it will be renegotiated after six months. The photograph duplication and usage fees were presented to and passed by the board. Jennifer will be putting together policies and procedures and will be starting a budget for the Photography Project to present to the board.
- Museum Report—Marjorie Owens asked that the light above the stairwell in the log cabin be moved to a safer and more useful spot. Currently the light cannot be changed for safety reasons. The board approved the expense. Volunteers have done a great deal of landscaping around the log cabin. It was discovered that there is a need to protect the south side of the log cabin from sun damage. Marjorie proposed that two new trellises be purchased and plants be bought to help shelter and protect the building from sun damage. The board approved the expense.
- Preservation Freezer—A policy and fee schedule is needed for the use of the preservation freezer. Anita Vandermeide and Phyllis McBride will be on the freezer committee. Gloria Lutz will provide the required reports and updates to the grantor.
- Treasurers Report—Discussion was held on the need to separate accounts for different committees such as book binding and the Photography Project so we can track funds more easily. Carol VanHouten agreed that tracking of each event or project is important for the future growth of the society.
- IRS Form 990—Carol VanHouten, our accountant, gave a presentation on the monthly accounting statement and the financial position of the YCHS. The board had a lengthy, informative and constructive discussion with Carol about questions raised on the IRS Form 990.
- Audit committee—The proposed Audit Committee Charter was reviewed by the board. The committee will research companies and pricing on the mandatory full audit. Kim will start preparing records from the last two years for the audit.
- Ken Williams has resigned as treasurer for the society effective May 31, 2010, so he can spend more time with his family. Ken will continue to serve out his term on the Board of Directors. Kim Courtin was elected to be the new treasurer, effective the last day of this month.
- Safety Deposit Box—An inventory list of items held in the safety deposit box was presented to the board. Discussion was held on the policies and procedures for adding or removing items from the box. It was determined that there will be a signature log in the box where there must be two signatures indicating who entered the box, the item taken, date, and reason for the removal and where the item is going. No one person will be able to remove an item from the box.
- Newsletter Advertising—Sizing and fees for advertising in the newsletter were discussed and approved by the board.
- The next board meeting will be at 4:00 Wednesday June 9th at the Lafayette Museum.

Lafayette Museum Happenings

Elder Hostel Tour

The tour bus pulled up to the Lafayette museum on a recent evening and 25 very friendly folks from Tacoma Washington, greeted Marge and Jean on the porch of the Log building. As they entered they were astonished at the interior of the building. One rather tall gentleman was reminded to "duck" as his head nearly collided with the beams. We hosted this group as part of their tour through the Willamette Valley Wine Country. Marge shared interesting and sometimes humorous historical information about the county, and they spent the rest of the evening touring both buildings and examining the artifacts. We hope they gained a new appreciation for our beautiful area and its history.

Spring Spruce-up at Lafayette

Keeping the grounds of the Lafayette site mowed, weeded and tidy is always a chore for the volunteers. But now, thanks to new volunteer Garry Coats, beds have been weeded, edged and shrubs trimmed. As weather permits, he

hopes to continue the spring clean-up. If you would like to donate a plant or perhaps a good used edger or even a mower please call the museum on Fridays and talk to Garry.

Meet the Authors

"Meet the Authors" has become a popular event and we were pleased to have several of our favorite authors at Farm Fest this year. Visitors to our events always enjoy meeting our local authors, and this year we added some new faces to our program. If you missed them at Farm Fest, their books are available at the Lafayette museum gift shop.

Thank you again to Gordon Zimmerman, Charlene Brown, Barbara Drake, Vera Sullivan, Lars Nordstrom and Laura McMasters. Nancy Thornton has been doing book reviews each month in our newsletter so watch for her reviews of interesting and informative books.

All for now.....Jean Sartor

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June 2010 Happenings



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	3	4 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	5 Lafayette Museum open 10—4 Heritage Center open 10—3
6	7	8	9 Lafayette Museum open 10—4 Board Meeting	10	11 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	12 Lafayette Museum open 10—4 Heritage Center open 10—3
13	14 Flag Day Covered Wagon to Dundee Elementary	15	16 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	17	18 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	19 Lafayette Museum open 10—4 Heritage Center open 10—3 Dayton Tour
20 Fathers Day 	21	22	23 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	24 Earth Day	25 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	26 Lafayette Museum open 10—4 Heritage Center open 10—3
27	28	29	30 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	Locations: 6/9: Board Meeting —Lafayette Museum		

YCHS Upcoming Events

- July 14, 2010—Board Meeting
- August 7-8, 2010—Harvest Fest
- August 11, 2010—Board Meeting
- August 15, 2010—Annual Member Picnic
- September 8, 2010—Board Meeting
- September 14, 2010—General Meeting
- September 18, 2010—Treasures in the Attic
- October 12, 2010—General Meeting
- October 13, 2010—Board Meeting
- October 16, 2010—Pumpkin & Plow Day
- November 9, 2010—General Meeting
- November 10, 2010—Board Meeting
- December 8, 2010—Board Meeting
- **DECEMBER 12, 2010—ANNUAL MEETING**

Harvest Fest 2010

August 7 and 8
10:00 am—3:00 pm
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
11275 SW Durham Lane, McMinnville, OR

HARVEST FEST ACTIVITIES

- Harvesting of oats using vintage farm equipment & mules
- Tractor and Teams parade at 1:00 pm
- Steam Engine, Sawmill, & Blacksmith demonstrations
- Pioneer Kids Activities
- Agricultural & Historical Displays
- Food, Old Time Music & More!

Admission \$3 per person
Ages 12 and under FREE
Members free with YCHS membership card

Please plan to attend and bring your family, friends and neighbors!

Can you help? Volunteers needed for admission, greeters, food booth, harvest team, kids' activities, logistics, and cleanup.

To volunteer or for more information, call 503-434-0490 or email pwatts@onlinemac.com.

Advertise in the Newsletter

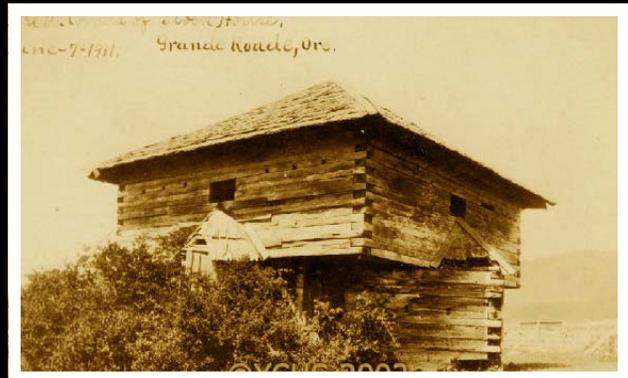
To help the historical society offset the expense of publishing this newsletter, we are now offering advertising space to local Yamhill County businesses. If you are interested in placing an ad, please contact the Newsletter Editor Tami Spears at tami@spearsintl.com.

Size	Price Per Issue	Price for Year (10 Issues)
Business Card Size	\$20	\$180
1/4 Page	\$35	\$315
1/2 Page	\$65	\$585
Full Page	\$125	\$1,125

We certainly do appreciate the business people who support the Yamhill County Historical Society. **Please support our advertisers.** These are local people who can benefit you with their service/products and help the historical society as well.

**This newsletter contains paid advertisements. The Yamhill County Historical Society does not endorse or favor commercial products, processes or services. Opinions or views expressed by third parties are not the opinions or views of the Yamhill County Historical Society.*

Yamhill County Historical Society Presents



Fort Yamhill Block House 1911

Secrets of the Past Dayton's Infamous History...

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For Ticket Information visit
www.yamhillcountyhistory.org

- Come join us at
 The Dayton
 Bandstand
 in the
 Courthouse Square
 Park
 on Ferry St.
- ◆ *Light Hors d'oeuvres*
 - ◆ *Walking tour of historic homes*
 - ◆ *Photo display*
 - ◆ *Local historians share stories of Dayton's early days*
 - ◆ *Wine tasting at The Joel Palmer House*

11 ~ 2
 SATURDAY
 JUNE 19



Article from The News Register October 23, 1953 by Jim MacLean
Old Lafayette Gypsy Curse Thought Finally Exorcized After Series Of Disasters

Lafayette's infamous hanging tree has been chopped down. The courthouse and jail where the last man was hanged here has vanished. And the graves of both murder victim and his killer are lost beneath a tangle of undergrowth.

With their passing, old-timers here are convinced that a gypsy woman's curse on the town of Lafayette has finally been exorcized.

Not many old-timers dismiss that curse lightly. And old memories of the brutal murder that preceded it and the hanging that followed are still common topics of oldsters' get-togethers.

Lafayette resident Arthur Laman was just five years old when the murder took place, but his memories of the killing are still clear. The date was November, 1886.

The victim was D. I. Corker, a Canadian-born, partially deaf hardware store owner, aged 57. Corker was brutally slain and dismembered with an axe by a marauder who broke into the store, apparently aroused Corker in his adjoining sleeping quarters and killed him in the ensuing struggle.

Grabbed 'Bum'

"Jeff Harris was sheriff at the time and they grabbed a no-good town tough by the name of Gus Marple for the murder. Evidence was all circumstantial, though. The sheriff said he followed peculiar boot tracks from the scene to Marple's place," Laman said.

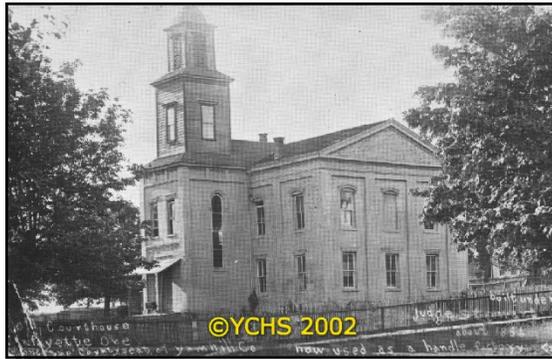
At that time, Lafayette had given up the use of its hanging tree in favor of a regular gallows built beside the Yamhill County Courthouse and jail then located in Lafayette. According to records kept by Lafayette old-timer Mrs. Della Lunger, the very first court in all the Oregon country was held in Lafayette beneath the so-called "Council Oak," for want of a room for the jury. The big oak since has fallen beneath the axe.

"Stake the foreman out under that tree—and I guess the rest of the jury will stay around," pioneer Judge A. A. Skinner was reported to have instructed the sheriff.

Law Still Simple

That was in 1846, but even at the time of the Corker murder 49 years later, processes of law still were relatively simple.

"My father had pointed Marple out to me a day or



Lafayette Courthouse

two before the killing and warned me to stay away from him as he was a bad man. Marple, at that time, was making a living doing odd jobs and trapping, and was suspected of several thefts, although it wasn't proved," Laman recalled.

The gypsy curse entered the picture when Marple's mother—herself thought by many to have accompanied her son to the murder scene—screamed it at the executioners as they hauled Marple to the gallows.

McMinnville resident Clint Hembrez was 11 years old at the time and sneaked in under adults legs and through a hole in the gallows enclosure fence to see the hanging.

Last Hanging

"It was the last hanging in Lafayette. Marple was an ordinary-looking man, about five feet eight. They brought him out a window in the courthouse to the gallows without a struggle as far as I could see," Hembrez said.

Another Lafayette witness, Curt Jones, said that even up to the last second, both the sheriff and his deputy were reluctant to take Marple's life, because of his conviction on circumstantial evidence.

"Deputy Ben Collard told me later that he flatly refused when Sheriff Harris asked him to drop the trap. Harris himself didn't want to do it, but Marple made a mistake. At the very last he accused the sheriff of killing Corker and planning Marple's execution as a cover-up," Jones recalled.

"That made the sheriff mad, and he sprang the trap," James said.

Screamed Curse

As Marple died, his mother screamed out a warning that Lafayette would be ravaged three times by fire and virtually wiped out. That dire prediction soon was to be virtually fulfilled.

Hembrez recalled that the first of three fires wiped out the murder victim's store and six other buildings along one side of Lafayette's main street. The second fire hit the other side and destroyed buildings for a distance of two blocks.

In 1888 McMinnville literally stole the courthouse from Lafayette, ending the town's position as country seat.

Old-timers felt that the move had support in

Article from The News Register October 23, 1953 by Jim MacLean Old Lafayette Gypsy Curse Thought Finally Exorcized After Series Of Disasters — Continued

Lafayette by landowners who feared their taxes would go up if courthouse activities continued to boost the size of the town.

Marple, meanwhile, had been buried in an unmarked grave in the now-abandoned Oddfellow's cemetery. Corker's headstone now is almost obscured by undergrowth in the Masonic cemetery. No trace of Marple's grave can be found today.

In 1899 Jones' family bought Marple's old house and in it discovered further evidence that the right



Third Street Lafayette After One of the Fires

man had been hanged despite his protest of innocence. Spoons and shears which Jones is sure were stolen from the hardware store were found hidden away.

About 1946 some previous property owner cut down the old hanging tree, and in 1953 the owners blasted out the stump that remained.

No further disasters have occurred in Lafayette, and old-timers feel that the gypsy curse—for whatever it was worth—has finally run its course.

Book of the Month

Emily's Runaway Imagination by Beverly Cleary. This book is a fictionalized version of Beverly's early life in Yamhill (referred to as Pitchfork in the book). The house she describes is actually the historic Bunn House on West Third Street in Yamhill. Though the book is written for grade school children, it is entertaining for any age. It sells for \$5 at the museum.

- Nancy Thornton



Thank You

Thank you to Ron Miller for donating a golf cart to the Heritage Center. This cart, which once belonged to Coach Ted Wilson, will be used to ferry our guests around the facilities during our festivities.

WANTED

- Edger—An edger is wanted to trim the grass out at the Lafayette Museum.
- 6 inch reader board letters for the Heritage Center. Call Cliff 503.435.9700 or Gloria at 503.472.7563.

Thank You New and Renewed Members!

New Members

Family

Fred and Christine Suhr

Senior Family

John and Anita VanderMeide

Renewing Members

Family

Patsey Miller

Senior Family

Bob and Mary Lou Fraser

Planning a Vacation?

Please notify Gloria Lutz (phone: 503-472-7563; email: glutz@onlinemac.com

or write to YCHS,

PO Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127). She can

forward newsletters to

your temporary address or hold them until you return home. Otherwise, your newsletter comes back to YCHS and we have to pay additional postage!!

*** If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please let Gloria Lutz (glutz@onlinemac.com) know. If you do, you receive the newsletter first, and you help the society save money on printing and postage.**



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- The West Side newsletter
- Free admission to the Museum & Library
- Access to genealogical & historical files
- Access to the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
- Monthly potluck & program for Members
- Notification of events & summer picnic

Annual Membership Levels (July 1—June 30)

Please Check One:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student/Educator \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family \$25 (age 65+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Basic) \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$55 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$125+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Builder \$250+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Benefactor \$500+ |

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 Mail this form with payment to: **YCHS, P.O. Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127.**

By filling out this form, the member(s) give(s) the Yamhill County Historical Society the right to release their name and contact information to other members, to the Yamhill County Cultural Coalition, and/or for the purpose of obtaining grant funding. Member information will never be sold or released for any other purpose unless written consent is provided by the member. If the member does not wish to have their name and contact information released, please check here.

Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Gloria Lutz at 503.472.7563 or email: glutz@onlinemac.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Cell): _____ (Work): _____

Email: _____

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