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April 2008

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society



## April Member & Board Meetings

This month's meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 8 beginning at 6 pm, at Amity High School in Amity (503 Oak Street). Marie Buckley, great-great granddaughter of Louis LaBonte, will make a presentation about her family. The Board of Directors will meet at 5:15 pm on April 15 at the First Federal Board Room in McMinnville.

## March Happenings

Last month during our General Membership Meeting, Volunteer Research Librarian and YCHS Board member Marjorie Owens spoke about President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1930s New Deal program and how it affected Yamhill County. You will find a recap on page 2 under YCHS March General Meeting. On February 29, staff and volunteers at our historic Lafayette site hosted the McMinnville Chamber of Commerce Greeter's event, which brought nearly 60 McMinnville business leaders to see the artifacts and exhibits in our three buildings. Thanks to everyone who helped with the logistics, planning and house cleaning!



Vintage farm equipment will plant oat seed during Farm Fest.

## Farm Fest 2008 - April 12 & 13

Put on your overalls and join us at the McMinnville site for this year's Farm Fest activities on April 12 and 13! Mules and draft horses, vintage tractors and plows, and human-powered equipment will all be on hand to demonstrate Yamhill County farming practices. Besides living-history activities, the 'Answer Man', Charlie Chegwyn will be available to respond to visitor questions about farming machines of yesterday and today. The Kiwanis will provide visitors the opportunity to purchase refreshments and the Yamhill County Farm Bureau will provide safety information about moving farm equipment. Grandma and Grandpa - Mom and Dad - get your camera ready for some great photo opportunities! Bring the kids along to experience breaking sod pioneer-style. They will also have the opportunity to get close to, touch and climb into the seats of vintage farm machinery. So, don't miss out on the fun - mark your calendar now for Farm Fest 2008!



McMinnville Chamber of Commerce Greeter's event.

Warehouse Work-Crew Day (March 8) saw volunteers hauling recycling and garbage away, rearranging farm machinery and sweeping the floor in preparation for Farm Fest activities. (Continued on page 7.)



L-R: Cliff Watts, Ray Kauer, Dave Cruickshank (on combine) and Chuck Kadell arrange machines in warehouse to prepare for Farm Fest 2008.

## Become a Yamhill County Historical Society Member Today!

Membership entitles you to: Annual Membership Levels (July 1 - June 30)

- ⊗ The *West Side* newsletter
- ⊗ Free admission to the Museum & Library
- ⊗ Access to genealogical and historical files
- ⊗ Access to the new McMinnville facility
- ⊗ Monthly potluck and program for members
- ⊗ Notification of events and summer picnic

Please Check One:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15          | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$50              | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100+            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Builder \$250+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Benefactor \$500+ |

Make checks payable to: **Yamhill County Historical Society.**

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

Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Gloria Lutz at 503.472.7563 or email: [glutz@onlinemac.com](mailto:glutz@onlinemac.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_ (Work): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Yamhill County Historical Society & Museum is a charitable 501 (c) (3) organization, tax i.d. #23-7090047.

*The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit tax exempt educational and public service corporation established to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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503-434-0567

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503-868-7311

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503-434-1581

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503-472-7563

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**Jean Sartor**  
503-472-6312

## Historic Lafayette Site

605 Market Street/PO Box 484  
Lafayette OR 97127

## Museum Hours:

**October thru May:**

Wednesday & Saturday  
10 am to 4 pm

Or by appointment

Phone: 503-864-2308

yamhillhistory@onlinemac.com

## McMinnville Site

11275 SW Durham Lane  
McMinnville, OR 97128

## Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday, 10 - 6

Or by appointment

Phone: 503-472-5130

ychsdirector@onlinemac.com

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Tax ID # 23-7090047

## From Your President

Dear Friends,



as significant and hope that they will remain in the community to inform future historians. Part of our legacy should be mentoring those who will follow us. Too few of us bother to draw in the next generation.

We are not retiring sorts. We can go on and on but we must be effective when we reveal the past, regard the future and be responsible for the materials we use and create.

Enjoy your hobby, whatever it is, and pass on the pleasures of collecting to the next generation.

Sincerely, Shirley Venhaus

## YCHS March General Meeting

At 2:00 pm on March 9, 2008, President Shirley Venhaus welcomed 44 Yamhill County Historical Society members to the General Membership Meeting held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in McMinnville. After a delightful meal, Venhaus reported on a wonderful turn out for the McMinnville Chamber of Commerce Greeters event, asked new members to introduce themselves, and recognized member birthdays and anniversaries for the month of March. After introducing Development Consultant Mike Scoggins to the membership, Venhaus asked Joanne Watts to talk about the genealogy workshop, scheduled for March 15 at the Log Cabin in Lafayette. Treasurer Ken Williams then gave the Treasurer's report, which is available upon request. Executive Director Katherine Huit also gave a brief report of the SW Durham Lane activities, which is also available upon request. Next, Program Director Barbara Knutson introduced Marjorie Owens who presented the afternoon's program titled "FDR and His Programs".

The presentation began with a discussion about the 1929 Stock Market failure, and Franklin D. Roosevelt's pledge to try to improve the nation's economy. Using a large visual aid filled with acronyms like AAA, CCC, NYA, PWA, FHA, CWA, RFC, REA, RDP, WPA, SERA, and so on, Owens' told the story of how FDR's New Deal Programs helped Yamhill County. She shared a scrapbook, provided by Member Eleanor Mitchell, that contained images and written information about a local Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp near Mitchell's home in Yamhill. She also told about buildings constructed through several of the New Deal Programs, including the Grand Ronde Catholic Church, city infrastructure projects - like water pipes installation in Amity, and the building of recreational facilities like Carlton's swimming pool - the first heated pool in the County! New Deal Programs also made school construction projects possible throughout the County, including Amity Grade School (now the Middle School), Dayton High School, the old Lafayette School Gym, Linfield's Northup Library, and Faulkner School in Sheridan. New Deal funds helped build McMinnville's Post Office and provided for local clean up projects around the County. Overall, members received excellent information about FDR's New Deal Programs and how they helped Yamhill County during the Depression. *Thank you Marjorie!*

At the close of the meeting, members learned that Marie Buckley will present April's program on the subject of the Louis LaBonte family. President Venhaus adjourned the meeting.

Coming Soon: [www.yamhillcountyhistory.org/](http://www.yamhillcountyhistory.org/)

In the meantime, watch live construction activity at the SW Durham Lane site by visiting <http://camera1.onlinenw.com> and enter **login** in the user name field, and **yammus** as the password. Other websites of interest include: <http://sites.onlinemac.com/history>, [http://www.co.yamhill.or.us/photo\\_album.htm](http://www.co.yamhill.or.us/photo_album.htm), and [www.oregonmuseums.org](http://www.oregonmuseums.org).

Unlike real estate agents, dentists, or mailmen, local historians do not have to retire. Local history might actually be good for longevity. Local historians come in all sizes and colors, and certainly all ages. For the good of the historian and the community, it is in no one's interest to shuffle local historians into retirement. While some local historians fit the outmoded stereotype of dotty old ladies (and men) in tennis shoes, you will notice, I am sure, that tennis shoes are quite in fashion these days, and what was old fifty years ago is looking pretty young today. We live in interesting and fortunate times.

So the question is, "Just what are we to do with all that stuff we have accumulated?" Most collectors regard their collections

## Sheridan - The Years After the War

(Continued from page 6)

Philip Henry Sheridan does not seem to have experienced controversy with his own conscience. He seemed to see the nation in terms of his military service. Once assigned to a task, he completed it as ordered as best he could given the tumultuous military and political landscape he lived in throughout his life. From a practical standpoint, one must also factor into his most extraordinary life experiences his abilities as an equestrian. His physical strength must have surpassed most ordinary men. Accounts of his life, riding and living outdoors as much as he did, and seemingly never running out of energy to perform the physical and mental tasks of managing battles after being deprived of sleep and having ridden extraordinary distances are amazing.

On November 1, 1883, Sheridan became Commanding General of the U.S. Army, a role he held until shortly before his death. On June 1, 1888, through an Act of Congress, he achieved the same rank as Generals Grant and Sherman - the equivalent of a four star general in today's army. At age 57, Sheridan's heart failed him and he suffered a series of heart attacks.

Few citizens have influenced the course of this nation in so many arenas as Philip Sheridan, and have had such a lasting legacy for so many, both inside the nation and around the world. Buried at Arlington National Cemetery, ironically the former plantation of General Robert E. Lee, Sheridan is, after all, the man who brought Lee to bay by his determination and horsemanship in his relentless pursuit of his foe in the spring of 1865. The modern world has over time rejected slavery as a result of the War of Secession and few people in world history did so much to free so many as Philip Henry Sheridan. Since he fought to preserve the Nation's first national park, it is truly fitting that Oregon is developing a park in his memory.

*Editor's note: We mistakenly wrote that Sue Sherman's article that appeared in the February issue of The West Side was the final installment in her series about General Phillip Sheridan. The article published above is, indeed, the final installment. We regret the error.*

*Sue Sherman owns and breeds historical type military horses and tracks equestrian genealogy. She recently acquired a descendant of General Grants horse. As an historian and writer of military equestrian history, she has had many articles published in magazines including Law Enforcement Technology, Paso Fino World Magazine, At A Gait Magazine, and Gaited Horse Magazine. She is currently researching and writing a book about the horses of the War of Secession.*

## Did You Know?

It's tax time. Did you know that by planning wisely you can enrich your family, enrich charity and reduce your taxes? The Internal Revenue Service now allows up to \$2 million from one's estate to pass tax-free. Charitable Deductions, Bequests, naming a charity as a beneficiary of your IRA or Retirement Plan, or creating a Charitable Trust are examples of ways you can accomplish these goals. See a charitable gift planner or your tax consultant for further information.

## Welcome New Members!

**Individual:** Kareen Sturgeon

**Families:** Marilyn Ragg

Arnie Hollander & Susan Watkins

Gerald & Jackie Painter

Russell & Kathryn Miller

**Friends:** Nancy Knickerbocker Halford

Marian Peterson

Leonard Rydell

Ken & Kellie Whiting

**Supporters:** Sally Godard and Ronald Olisar

Mark and Jennifer Trumbo

Nita Wiebke

**Community Builder:** Carol VanHouten, CPA

## Thank you Renewing Members!

Ken and Pat Myers

**Planning a vacation?** Please notify Gloria Lutz (phone: 503-472-7563; email: [glutz@onlinemac.com](mailto: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!!

## March Happenings (Continued from page 1)

Thanks to the crew: Dave Cruickshank, Bob Frazier, Steven Huit, Chuck Kadell, Ray Kauer, Mel Kelchner, Wendell Martin, Dave Roberts, Mark and Kim Sheridan Al Steinke, Alan Tessman, Cliff Watts and his dog Bud!

Haworth construction crews continued work during the month of March on the roof and walls of the Restoration Shop and Exhibit Hall portions of the Agriculture and Timber Building. On March 7, the Sawmill Building got a roof. Ken Gross led volunteer roofing crew members Dave Cruickshank, Steve Huit, Chuck Kadell, Ray Kauer, Don King and Al Steinke in undertaking the task. Don King and Alan Tessman belong to the volunteer team that is restoring 1910 Deloach Sawmill. Stay tuned for updates!



Volunteers installed the sawmill roof.

## Sheridan - The Years After the War

By Sue Sherman

After forcing Lee to surrender, General Grant stated, "I believe General Sheridan has no superior as a general, either living or dead, and perhaps not an equal." This opinion seems to have held throughout Grant's professional life, for wherever he went in the future General Sheridan was a central part of his plan.

Upon the sudden assassination of President Lincoln panic ensued in the federal government. General Grant assumed the task of not only winding down the war but also guiding the nation into an era of managed peace. Among the first things Grant did was appoint General Sheridan commander of the Military District of the Southwest, on May 17, 1865, to end the fighting in Texas. The last of the Confederate Generals, General Edmund Kirby Smith, surrendered before Sheridan arrived, effectively bringing a formal end to organized fighting in the south.

Grant worried about the French army forces occupying Mexico and ordered Sheridan to keep the border of Mexico secure. Appointed military governor of the Fifth Military District (Texas and Louisiana), Sheridan implemented new rules, which included allowing black men to participate on juries, a very controversial change.

During his administration, Grant sent Sheridan south twice to restore order in areas that were experiencing political unrest. Residents, still politically opposed to the results of the war, saw Sheridan as a power monger. His style of keeping the peace was a mixture of the reconstruction era and his interpretation of military law. Right or wrong Grant leaned on Sheridan's abilities to help manage the unrepentant areas of the south and to get those areas on track to go forward with the whole nation.

One of the greatest controversies in Sheridan's ever-controversial life might well be his administration of the west when assigned to ensure movement of the native populations onto reservations. The ensuing use of army units wrote a tragic chapter in this Nation's history - as group after group of Native Americans found themselves forced onto reservations.

Sheridan, to his credit, understood the huge changes underway on the continent. Prospectors invaded traditional hunting grounds and had no qualms about shooting native people who got in their way. Those making policy at the time saw reservations as the best hope of securing native populations and protecting them from speculators, prospectors and ranchers who flooded into the west after the Civil War. Whether a cold-hearted policy by the U.S. government or an attempt to provide a secure future for Native Americans facing an inevitable change to their culture is open for debate; however, the mismanagement of the reservations resulted in additional - yet avoidable

tragedy.

Tribal cultures saw women taken as prisoners and often treated as slaves - such as Sacagawea. As Native Americans came to the reservation that part of their culture ended and a new era for Native women's rights began. We do not know how much of Sheridan's early years in Yamhill County influenced his future thinking; however, one may recall that Sheridan lived with a Native woman for several years while living here. He commented years later that when he saw Native people dressed in non-traditional clothing and shopping in the towns created by settlers he felt they were achieving equality, although they paid a terrible price over the years.

Promoted to lieutenant general on March 4, 1869, Sheridan went to observe the Franco-Prussian War. He found himself in Chicago during the Great Fire in 1871 and organized relief efforts there. Impressed by Sheridan's activities, Chicago's mayor asked him to assist in restoring order to the city. Sheridan lost his entire collection of professional and personal papers in the fire - a huge loss in documentation about Sheridan's role and influence in shaping our Nation's history.

Sheridan had a deep love of the Yellowstone area, a fact that has gone mostly unnoticed over the years. With a foresight rarely recognized by modern historians, Sheridan advocated military control of the area to preserve it and protect it from developers. In 1882, Sheridan worked to oppose a plan to build a railroad into Yellowstone and sell land to developers. In 1886, observing mismanagement of the park, he sent in the 1st Cavalry, which operated it until the National Park Service took over in 1916.

(continued on page 7.)

## Barn Calendars Available Soon!

The barn calendar project that is underway as a fundraiser for the Yamhill County Historical Society's new Museum is moving right along. We plan to have them available for purchase during Farm Fest in April. They are 15 month calendars and are sure to sell like hotcakes!

The barns chosen for the project are not necessarily historic, but we chose them for their photographic qualities and to make a sellable product. Professional photographer Marilyn Affolter, of Amity, donated her photos and expertise to get this project off the ground. If your barn, or a barn that you know of, is not represented in the calendar, make a list, get some photos together, and you can have a chance to produce the next calendar!

~ Judi Hammer, Calendar Committee Chair

## Executive Director's Log

On March 1, it was delightful to observe several youngsters immersed in research about their local communities at the Ruth Stoller Research Library, housed in our wonderful Log Cabin Museum building in Lafayette. Alan Erickson and Ted Zurcher brought their daughters Eva and Shelby to the Library and Museum. Both girls attend the Veritas School in Newberg, where they chose to do a report about the City of Lafayette. Another child rode his bike to the Research Library to discover why the old Lafayette Schoolhouse building has an exterior door with no steps leading to it.



Volunteer Research Librarian Marjorie Owens provides Eva Erickson with assistance in locating research materials and volunteer Ursula Doud helps Shelby Zurcher photocopy documents for a school research project. The girls conducted their research at the Museum's Ruth Stoller Research Library.



Attending the Oregon Museum Association meeting at the Douglas County Museum in Roseburg recently, I listened to a speaker who reinforced my belief that kids love to explore history if given the opportunity. Even though today's kids seem addicted to the use of technological gadgets (cell phones, hand-held computers, etc.), research shows that they crave our 'useable past'. Not only does the 'useable past' connect them with a different time, it may just enhance their future by teaching them to use the tools or methods of the past.

With the advances in technology, how many of us know the old methods of preserving vegetables or fruits - or how to plant and grow a garden? Even if we have grandma's recipes, will they work with the tools and methods we use today or will the recipe fail because we don't use her methods? By focusing on preserving her parent's heritage, did grandma forget to pass on the methods of her "present"? How will my generation (the "Boomers") pass our experiences on to the future? What items that we see today as un-valuable will future generations seek as invaluable? What tools that we use today will become part of the 'useable past'?

As we plan static and living exhibits for our Lafayette and McMinnville facilities, we will seek to place Yamhill County's artifacts in a 'useable past' context that tells the Yamhill County community story in a meaningful way. For example, during this year's Farm Fest, our educators will provide visitors the opportunity to experience history by using pioneer-style tools to plant crops. They will experience the "usable past".

I hope to see many of you at Farm Fest this year! Stop by and experience Yamhill County's history . . . Until then, enjoy April's showers and the warming sun of spring!

Cheers,  
Katherine

P.S. I almost forgot to thank the 96 people who voted for YCHS as one of 58 Yamhill County non-profits recognized through First Federal's Customer Ballot Program. Thanks to these individuals, we've received \$1,002.35 out of \$40,000 distributed this year! Many thanks to First Federal, which has contributed \$360,225 to local charities through the Customer Ballot Program since 1999.

## Name That Tool!

Think you know all there is to know about tools and their uses? Up for a challenge? Our volunteers have set up an exhibit of tools and other gadgets in the Poling Memorial Church that is sure to stump visitors to the historic Lafayette site. The objective is to provide the correct name and use of the item. There are some very interesting guesses so far! Come on by on Wednesday or Saturday and give it a try! Better yet, do you have a tool that could stump your fellow members? Send in a picture of it and we'll publish it in the next issue along with a chance for members to guess how it was used. Then, we'll publish the results in the September issue of *The West Side*.



# April 2008 Happenings

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Lafayette Museum open	3	4	5 Lafayette Museum open
6	7	8 Member Meeting* 6 pm	9 Lafayette Museum open	10 Events Committee Mtg.* 4 pm	11 	12 Farm Fest* 10 am -3 pm Lafayette Museum open
13  Farm Fest* 10 am -3 pm	14	15 Board Meeting 5:15 pm First Federal Board Room*	16 Lafayette Museum open	17	18	19 Lafayette Museum open
20	21	22 Earth Day 	23 Lafayette Museum open Covered Wagon Newby School	24	25 Covered Wagon Grandhaven School	26 Lafayette Museum open
27	28	29 Planning Committee Mtg. 5:15 pm First Federal Board Room	30 Lafayette Museum open	<b>Locations</b> 4/8: Amity High School, 503 Oak Street 4/10: McMinnville: Hwy 18 & Durham Ln . 4/12&13: McMinnville: Hwy 18 & Durham Ln. 4/15: 3rd Street across from bank, McMinnville		

Don't Miss the Fun!

*Farm Fest 2008*

April 12 & 13, 2008

10 am-3 pm

Highway 18 & SW Durham Lane



K. Hunt / YCHS

## Farm Fest 2008

Highway 18 & SW Durham Lane

### Saturday, April 12

8-10: Teams and Tractors arrive  
 10:15: Flag Ceremony  
*Katherine Colvin sings "America"*  
 10:30: Parade of Teams & Tractors  
 11:00: Pioneer Kids begin working the ground  
 11:00: Mule and Horse Teams begin plow work  
 11:00: Mechanized Plowing begins  
 12:30: Lunch  
 1:30: Parade Teams & Tractors  
 2:00: Continue field work  
 3:00: Close

### Sunday, April 13

11:00: Flag Ceremony  
 11:30: Equipment Parade  
 12:00: Field work and planting until finished

### Experience History!

- ☉ Pioneer Farming Activities
- ☉ Mule & Draft Horse Demonstrations
- ☉ Vintage Farm Machine Demonstrations
- ☉ Activities and Fun for Kids of All Ages!
- ☉ Kiwanis Food Booth

### Special Thanks to:

Kauer Farms  
 Select Seed  
 Valley RV  
 Les Schwab Tires  
 Oregon Vineyard Supply



*Join us to harvest the crops during Harvest Fest, August 9 and 10, 2008!*

### Century Farm & Ranch Program Applications Available

Applications are now being accepted for the 2008 award year of the Century Farm & Ranch Program, a statewide recognition program honoring farmers and ranchers who have worked the same land for at least 100 years. The program, celebrating its 50th year, is administered through the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation and is partially funded by the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Oregon Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, various county farm bureaus, agriculture-based organizations, and individuals.

Family farmers and ranchers throughout Oregon are encouraged to apply by the June 1 deadline. Successful applicants receive a personalized certificate, with acknowledgment by the Governor and the Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. A durable metal road sign to identify the family's farm or ranch as having historic Century Farm status is also available. Each family will be honored during a special ceremony and reception at the Oregon State Fair in September.

Since the start of the program in 1958, 1,076 farms and ranches have been registered. Oregon has one of the oldest agricultural heritage programs of this type in the nation. This year, the program inaugurated its Sesquicentennial Award, presenting it to 14 families who have continuously worked their land for the last 150 years.

To receive the application guidelines and the official form, please contact Glenn Mason, Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Coordinator at (503) 297-5892 or [orcentury@juno.com](mailto:orcentury@juno.com) or you may download the application guidelines from the Department of Agriculture website at: <http://oregon.gov/ODA/cfr.shtml>.