

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

December 2001

Board Highlights

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by President Shirley Venhaus at 5:00 pm with the following signing in: Eileen Lewis, Shirley Venhause, Shirley McDaniel, Francis H. Dummer, Betty Brown, Lila Jackson, Marjorie Owens, and Barbara Knutson. Minutes of last months meeting were accepted, and an extra copy of board minutes will be sent to President Shirley to be posted at the museum.

Treasurer's Report: Betty Brown presented a written report for the month's activities, a year-to-date summary, an Assets Balance sheet, and a Portfolio Detail sheet. October income was \$807.67, expenses were \$1,265.51, net income of - \$457.84.. Report accepted.

Financial/Membership Chair: Lila Jackson sent 26 renewal-reminder postcards. Seven responded. Totals for the month, 9 renewals and one life member - Barbara Bodeen. Calendar sales - First printing 75 copies, second printing 50 copies. Only a handful are left. A proposal to sell calendars next year was made - a fifteen month calendar ready for sale at the Harvest Festival. Everyone is reminded to get activities lined up so dates can be put on the calendar.

Correspondence Secretary: Marjorie sent Thank You notes for Harvest Festival Participants. Crafters thank you notes have been sent including pictures taken and donated by Twila Byrnes. Our thanks to her for the pictures.

Volunteer Chair: Ben Frum has resigned. Lila will ask Patsy Miller to fill this role.

Old Business: Marjorie reported that there are still questions unanswered for some members. Earning money: We are looking for ways to earn money to reprint Old Yamhill. Plans are to put an article in our newsletter explaining the need for this printing - (Perhaps a kicker check or two to get the fund started). Shrub removal has been completed. Marjorie will send a card to Tom Genco. The Trask Toll Road project has taken a detour. It may take three to five years to do all of the paperwork before the task can be completed. Nominations Committee - has met but have not turned in a report. Budget Committee has met and has a rough draft nearly ready to present. Application papers for the National Historical Nomination for the Poling church is nearing completion. It must be turned in by December 1. It has cost \$96 for the reprints that have to be included in the application plus many volunteer hours of work. Dan Corrigan will check with an attorney to see what we need to set up an Endowment Fund for the Historical Society. Nomadic Teacher report has included \$70 to the society. Flyer - President Shirley will pay for the insert flyer to be included with the December newsletter to encourage membership in YCHS. New Business: Soroptomists will meet at the Log Building on December 13. In October of 1991, they paid for our first alarm system.

Available at McMinnville City Hall are House Inventories. Marjorie will pay for a copy of each to be added to our Reference Library. Articles: Lila will save articles from the Newberg Graphic to add to our information. Marjorie will get information from the Sheridan Sun for us. Audit: An audit Committee will be appointed to check our books at the end of the calendar year - 2001. Proposal - Barbara Hinman has proposed a low-shrubbery project for the fence line North along the barn area. The board is supportive of this project. Barbara will prepare an outline and check on donations from local nurseries. Letter We have received a letter from Jackie Mindling of Carlton who is looking into more information about the donated Symphonia from Belle Bryan Sparks. It has music rolls that may be very important and quite rare. Trees—President Shirley will ask for donations of a couple of trees to be set up at the Museum for the holiday season. Card: A card was received from member Fern Herring who now lives in Turner.

From our President

HAPPY HOLIDAYS: Suddenly it is December!!! Did we accomplish any of the goals we set for 2001? I believe we have more county awareness of the Historical Society, the Museum Volunteers are constantly busy returning inquiries concerning family records and history, the changing displays continue to be a source of pleasure, and we all work to maintain the buildings and contents. 2002 should be an interesting year. Hopefully the Church will be painted, the Antique Road Show will occur and who can foresee what other events will take place.

In parting with 2001 I am reminded of a writing I read in a publication I receive: It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad. It is the regrets over yesterday and the fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who rob us of today. So, stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefoot more often, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more, cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. "Relish the Moment"! Sincerely Shirley

The Sawtelle Letters

The November meeting program was about the Daniel Withum Sawtelle letters, written to his sister during the Civil War. His memoirs and letters tell of the war from Petersburg, Florida to the Appomattox Court House. Daniel was born in April, 1838 in Maine, and passed away in November of 1931 in Willamina. He came to the McMinnville area to farm in the mid-1890's, and following the death of his wife in 1925, moved in with his son Claude, of Willamina. Carla Burton of Willamina gave the presentation on her husband's Great-great-grandfather. Daniel suffered for decades after the war with chills and fevers. He began writing his memoirs fifty years after the war, and they form the basis for a newly published book entitled "All's for the Best—The Civil War Reminiscences and Letters of Daniel W. Sawtelle", compiled and edited by Peter Buckingham, with the History Department at Linfield College. This 361 page hard-bound book was sold after the presentation by Carla for \$29, an excellent buy for the attendees. Thank you for the excellent program, Carla!

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

<p><u>OFFICERS - 2001</u></p> <p><u>President</u> Shirley Venhaus 472-7328</p> <p><u>VP/Program</u> Barbara Knutson 843-2069</p> <p><u>Secretary (Joint)</u> Shirley McDaniel 662-3528 Eileen Crawley 835-3673</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> Betty Brown 472-7100</p> <p><u>Financial Secretary</u> Lila Jackson 472-8510</p> <p><u>Corres. Secretary</u> Marjorie Owens 843-3081</p> <p><u>Board of Directors</u> Eileen Lewis 835-7531 Ed Roghair 472-6909 Francis Dummer 864-2637 Dan Linscheid 843-2625</p> <p><u>Volunteer Coordinator</u> Eileen Lewis 835-7531</p> <p><u>Librarian</u> Olive Merry Johnson 472-6070</p> <p><u>Newsletter</u> Dan Linscheid 843-2625</p> <p><u>Car Pool Coordinator</u> Joanne Watts 835 -5893</p>	<p><u>December Meeting & Potluck Dinner</u></p> <p>Our December meeting will be held at the at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in McMinnville at 6:30 p.m. on the 11th. The program will feature "Music by the Mavericks", including Christmas carol sing-a-long. Please invite a friend and join us for great food and fellowship. Please bring potluck fare and your own tableware.</p>	<p><u>Short-Lived Iron Horse of Dayton</u></p> <p>Dayton went through decades of river transportation before she could boast of railroad service. Then in less than one decade she had lost the rail service, but this phase of her history was a rapidly changing and interesting one. In 1853 the Astoria and Columbia Railroad Company was organized. Joel Palmer, J.H. Miller and others were incorporators. The Willamette Valley was the scene of a bitter struggle between two rail lines in the late 1860's and '70's.</p> <p>Two rival lines began to build south from Portland, both calling themselves the Oregon Central R.R. Co., as a law involving the land grants designated that as the name. These two companies were known as the East Side and West Side lines respectively. The West Side Oregon Central reached St. Joseph on the Yamhill in 1872, via Yamhill and Hillsboro. This was the first rail line into Yamhill County. One of the chief promoters of this road was Joseph Gaston. When the East Side line was given the grant, they absorbed the West Side Company. Gaston then began to stir up the residents in Yamhill and Polk Counties to build a rival line of their own. After a series of public hearing, a group of county residents incorporated the Dayton, Sheridan and Grand Ronde Ry. Company on November 14, 1887. Stock was sold locally, with some of the farmers accepting transportation script for their cash or labor.</p> <p>Ground was broken at Dayton and soon around 600 Chinamen were at work grading. Mr. B.B. Branson of Sheridan was elected as first President. The road was designed as a narrow gauge, I.e. three feet between rails. Standard gauge is 4 feet 8½ inches. Bird Parrish hewed ties for the line and carried them out to the grade on his back. The company ordered a locomotive, which was brought up from San Francisco to Portland on the side-wheel steamer, Great Republic, then to Dayton by steamboat. But within a few years, narrow gauge rails were being converted to standard. The line from Whiteson westerly was thus converted, but sadly, the route easterly to Dayton was simply abandoned, the right-of-way going back to the farmers over whose land it crossed. Thanks to Henrietta Foster for this data.</p>
<p><u>MUSEUM HOURS</u></p> <p>June 1 thru August 31 Fri-Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM or By Appointment</p> <p>605 Market Street Lafayette Oregon Phone: 864-2308</p>	<p><u>Antique Club Meets in Museum</u></p> <p>On October 24th, fourteen members of the Antique Club met in the log building for their monthly get-together. They were joined by Ed and Peggy Roghair, Twila Byrnes, Lois Brooks and Farrel Fuerst of the Historical Society, who were there to guide them through the museum complex.</p> <p>After a salad potluck, the ladies told about the antique ice cream paraphernalia some had collected. Colleen Wilcox brought Victorian ice cream plates; Sharon Hill, milkshake and ice cream soda glasses; Dana Keyes, ice cream sandwich dippers; Leota Burch, "black and white" dishes, separated for chocolate and vanilla ice cream, and ice cream scoops and holders; and Ann Wood, little parfait glasses.</p> <p>Peggy Roghair brought a little table and chair set from the 1930's made of tin cans, which resembled ice cream parlor furniture. After a short talk on wheat weaving by Dana Keyes, ice cream was served and the meeting adjourned. The remainder of the afternoon was spent touring the buildings, with the ladies assisting in cleanup. One member, Jackie Mindling, was very interested in the museum's music box and volunteered to do research on it.</p> <p>- submitted by Lois Brooks</p>	<p><u>National Coast Trail Association</u></p> <p>Al Le Page, with the National Coast Trail Association was a recent visitor to our Museum. He spends a lot of time tracking down native American and pioneer trails in the great northwest. He spent some time perusing our reference library, remarking that some of these volumes from Ruth Stoller's collection are considered very rare by historians and collectors.</p> <p>Al has been researching these ancient trails for years. He offered to give a presentation of some of the pertinent trails through our area. He prefers giving these presentations between May and August, which may present a challenge to our organization, since these months represent our summer break.</p>
<p><u>ANNUAL DUES</u></p> <p>\$10.00 Individual \$17.00 Family \$125.00 Life</p> <p>Mail to: Financial Secretary 2430 North Baker McMinnville OR 97128</p> <p>© 2001 YCHS</p>	<p><u>Museum Decoration Help Needed</u></p> <p>Anyone interested in helping decorate the museum for the holidays, please feel free to participate. Trees are to be available after thanksgiving for both the church and the log museum. We do have some decorations but if you have something to donate or lend, we would welcome it.</p> <p><u>YCHS Financial Statements</u></p> <p>The financial statements and minutes from the board meeting will be posted on the Log Museum's bulletin board within one week following the meeting. The purpose of this is to help inform the membership of the Board's activities. Copies are available upon request. The Board Meeting is always open to the membership and you are welcome to attend. The meeting is always held just prior to and in the same facilities as the Potluck , the 2nd Tuesday of each month.</p>	

We were interested in doing a pioneer Thanksgiving story but had difficulty finding any mention of this day in our pioneer literature. Thinking about the debt we owed our early settlers, a good friend, Smoky Husted, loaned us a book that included a thanksgiving message. We want to share that with you. We know that you will be reading this after the holiday but it is still appropriate considering our Historical Society's mission.

We Owe Our Thanks To Brave Pioneers*

by William Edelen

In the book of Deuteronomy is a pungent reminder for this Thanksgiving season: "You drink here from cisterns that you did not dig ... and you live in cities that you did not build ... and you eat from vineyards and orchards that you did not plant."

Last week, I was again thinking of our Western pioneers, and I became overwhelmed at our indebtedness to these magnificent and hardy people. I am so proud of our pioneer heritage and of our people. I am remembering in this season the debt we owe to their quest, their dreams and their vision. And I remember...

I remembered that in the 1800's the great plains were bare and windswept. There was the wind, the heat, the cold and the unbelievable hardship. But the broad valley of the Platte River and the Columbia called to men and women to come to this country and make a home.

After the mountain men had passed through, and the trappers had migrated to the Western mountains, the prairie schooners came in to settle the land. Along the valley of the Platte they came. There was the Platte River, running muddy from the feet of more buffalo than the eye could count. It was, they said, a mile wide and a foot deep.

Along the Platte they came with their flour, quilts, bacon, dried stuff, meal, coffee and a little keg of vinegar. Names were on their lips - names such as Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Sioux, Nez Perce, Blackfoot and Shoshone.

On they came with dry, hot winds, grasshoppers and drought, sickness and disease, blizzard and hail. And they stayed and built a land.

They dug stumps and planted fields. They dug cisterns and planted orchards and vineyards. They built one room schools and churches. They started a town. They had babies and more babies. They raised families and worshiped God.

Their children played with dust swirl, horned toads and tumbleweed. They played at the edge of rushing river and mountain stream. They played in forest glade and alpine meadow. And they grew. They grew as hardy and as courageous, as brave and as visionary as the parents who gave them birth.

And so today, you and I, "drink from cisterns that we did not dig, and we live in cities that we did not build, and we eat from vineyards and orchards that we did not plant."

In this Thanksgiving season I am remembering the debt that we owe to those magnificent people, the debt on which no payments have been demanded. There are times when I am ashamed of my acceptance of myriad contributions without a thought of those who gave them.

How little time we spend, remembering with gratitude and thanksgiving, all that we owe to others who have contributed to our growth and existence. Lest pride kill our memory, let us remember those who have helped us and encouraged us along the way. We can remember that no child can ever repay the debt they owe to wise and loving and caring parents.

Do you not remember the teacher who opened your eyes and enlarged your vision and exposed you to worlds of knowledge that you never even knew existed? How well I remember such teachers in this Thanksgiving season with a gratitude that is beyond measure. The only way we can possibly repay the debt we owe them is by passing it on to others.

How thankful I am for the great thinkers of civilization and all of the great ideas that have enriched my life and fed my spirit.

All of these blessings that flow into our lives, from the mystery that sustains our days and the beat of our heart, to those we receive from one another, we can call ... grace.

In this Thanksgiving season we can never repay all of the debts that we owe for there are so many.

We can only respond in gratitude and gratefulness to this ... grace ... that we have received by passing it on to our neighbor.

We swallow our pride. We open our hard hearts. We realize our debts, and we say "thank you" to many for all of the graces that have been so freely given.

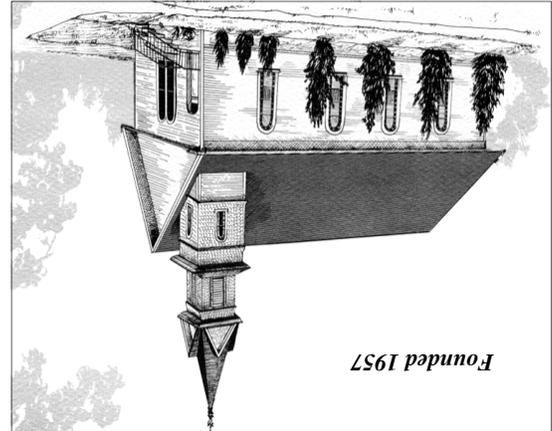
In gratitude we say to our neighbor-grace-peace.

And a silent voice "overheard by the soul" comes to us, saying "grace, and peace to you."



It seems to us that this speaks to our Historical Society, honoring our debts to our pioneers and passing on their contributions to the future.

*Taken from the book "Toward The Mystery" by William Edelen. Published by Joslyn-Moms, Boise, Idaho. Mr. Edelen is the minister of the Community Congregational Church in McCall, Idaho. he and his wife founded THE SYMPOSIUM of McCall, an organization to promote the humanities and adult education. He is a regular columnist for THE IDAHO STATESMAN of Boise, Idaho



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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Fall 2001 Calendar of Events

Board of Directors - Tuesday, December 11th, 5:00 pm
Seventh Day Adventist Church, McMinnville

Monthly Meeting & Potluck—December 11th, 6:30 pm
Seventh Day Adventist Church, McMinnville

(See page 2 for details)

*Visit our Historical Photograph Album at <http://www.co.yamhill.or.us> and our
YCHS website at <http://www.sites.onlinemac.com/history>*