

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

January 2006

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

This year I received so many wonderful greeting cards with such nice comments and verses. It really is a time of the year for communicating with friends and family.

I would like to thank the Nominating Committee consisting of Pat Williams, Elaine Rohse, and Reita Lockett. The results as of the December General Meeting vote were: Dan Linscheid another term as a Director and Lorna Grauer as Vice President. We look forward to working with Dan again and welcome Lorna to the board.

In response to the mailings sent out concerning the new Museum Site we would like to thank all who have generously donated to this fund. Selecting a Director will be a major concern for 2006. With increasing responsibility being placed upon the Board and the Building Committee we can see the need for the assistance of a full time Director. We are now taking reservations for presentations of our future plans with the new site.

The response to Jim & Reita Lockett's new book was very exciting. We are pleased to have them for sale at the museum. Thanks Jim for all your many hours in putting this book to print for the enjoyment of everyone.

If you haven't attended the "TOY SHOW" at the Museum be sure and do so before it ends. Marjorie Owens will give you a wonderful narrated tour of all the displays. I'm hoping she will extend the show for another month to give you the opportunity to see it. I believe the toys will remain until at least February 11th which is the CHILDREN'S TEA. Watch for more information on the tea in this newsletter.

I'm heading south to visit family for a few days. Wishing you the best in 2006. Shirley Venhaus

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met at the McMinnville Seventh Day Adventist Church on November 8th. Our Treasurer, Carol Reid, was unable to attend, but reported a beginning balance of \$2,458, deposits of \$2,105, expenses of \$520 and an ending balance of \$4,043. Marge Owens issued seven correspondence items this month. A dues chart was submitted by Kathy Peck and Annita Linscheid, showing the prorated dues schedule for this next year, which was approved for insertion in the next newsletter. Marge gave the museum report.

Shirley Venhaus updated the board on the re-keying of our facilities and noted the resignation of George & Maxine Williams from the Heritage Tree Preservation committee. Ben Frum has volunteered to chair that committee. A Children's Tea Party will be held at the museum on February 11th.

We are looking for a few supporters to help us with some specific needs: we'd like to purchase three new obit cabinets, at \$30 each, and we are in dire need of a flat map cabinet.

Jim Lockett's new book has been published and will be available at the meeting tonight. The Frank M. Wiser estate has donated some handmade tools to the museum. Shirley noted concern that the size of the agricultural exhibit space for the new museum will not be large enough to hold our collection. Katherine Huit, Johnnie Edwards, Colin Armstrong, Shirley Venhaus and Frank Dummer will be making presentations out and about the county beginning next year to garner support for our new facilities.

Lois Brooks—on Alaska

Attendees at our last meeting enjoyed hearing Lois discuss her experiences in Alaska. She was assisted by three lovely ladies wearing genuine Alaskan native clothing: Shirley Kuykendall, Nancy Thornton and Lila Jackson. While keeping her presentation short, Lois was able to convey a lot of information about the native culture and her teaching experiences in the far north.

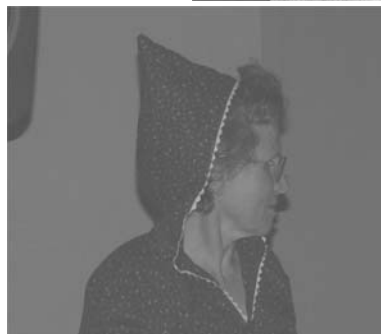


At the end of her discussion, Lois distributed some handmade toys and trinkets native times

humorous, at others saddened by the memories being related, but always

informative and interesting. Lois gave a good accounting of life in Alaska as she knew it

Lila Jackson, modeling the latest in native Alaskan Clothing..



At left, Nancy Thornton is dressed in clothing displaying a Russian influence.

We thank Lois and her assistants for their willingness to put on an informative and fun program.

The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit tax exempt educational and public service

OFFICERS - 2006President

Shirley Venhaus
472-7328

Vice President

Lorna Grauer

Program Director

Barbara Knutson
843-2069

Secretary

Annita Linscheid
843-2625

Treasurer

Carol Reid
472-9631

Membership Secretary

Kathy Peck
472-6562

CorrespondingSecretary

Marjorie Owens
843-3081

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Eileen Lewis
835-7531

Nancy Mahi
472-9272

Shirley McDaniel
662-3528

Dan Linscheid
843-2625

Volunteer Coordinators

Carol Reid

Newsletter

Dan Linscheid

Car Pool Coordinator

Joanne Watts 835
-5893

Librarian

Jean Sartor
472-6312

MUSEUM HOURS:

Sept. thru June:
Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
or
By Appointment

605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308
Email: yamhillhistory@
onlinemac.com

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YCHS

Attention-dues structure change

Our insert this month shows our new dues schedule, which introduces a July 1 renewal for all members. For the year 2006, individual and family membership dues will be prorated to allow a smooth transition to the new schedule. There is no dues increase included or contemplated at this time.

This will make Treasurers job much easier. Please take a minute to look the schedule over to see how you fit in.

As an example, if you have an individual membership, and you paid your \$15 dues in October of 2005, next July your prorated dues will be \$11.25. If you pay your dues in February of this year, your prorated dues will be \$6.25, which along with the next year's dues of \$15 brings the total to \$21.25, dues paid up through June of 2007. This schedule will also be used in prorating future dues for new members.

Family membership dues are prorated in a similar manner. We've done everything we can think of to minimize the impact to our members, and if you have any questions on this, please let your board know so we can help you.

Wow—2006 !

Here's wishing you and yours a happy and prosperous 2006. May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hands

**Wish List**

Our volunteers are seeking some help with the following: three financial benefactors willing to donate \$30 each for three new obituary cabinets, and a flat map file cabinet capable of holding 36" wide by 30" high maps without being folded. If you know of someone who might be willing to help us purchase the obit cabinets, or even a lead on a used but serviceable flat map file, please let an officer or board member know.

Our organization is greatly benefited by people who are willing to give their time, money and efforts to help us collect, retain and display our common heritage.

Children's Valentine Tea Party Scheduled

We're happy to announce a Tea Party has been scheduled for February 11th, at 1:00 p.m. at the museum. As you may know, our volunteers have gained a great reputation for putting on a good tea party, and this will be no exception.

The antique toys currently on display will remain at least through this event. These include new arrivals to our collection, such as wooden animals from the 1930's, miniature articulated metal soldiers made in England, and an actual working toy electric oven. We're told it works, anyway— we're not about to plug it in to find out.

A tour of our collection of toys, some very old, and some not so old, will be part of this event. Tickets are \$15 each, and they must be purchased by February 8th from Kathy Peck or Annita Linscheid. Tickets will be available at the January general meeting and at the museum on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

If you know of a young girl who might enjoy this event, please consider joining us. The focus will be on the children, honoring them and making them feel special.

This promises to be a great time for young and old, so be sure to mark down that date.... Saturday, February 11th, at the museum.

**Member Updates**

Crystal Smith Rilee recently developed problems with kidney stones. In November she went in to have the stones removed at OHSU. It took her a while to recuperate at the Friendsview Manor Health Care Center. She thanks all those who sent her cards, calls and emails, as they help keep her spirit up.

George Williams' has recently been under the weather, and he and Maxine have resigned from the Historic Tree Preservation Committee. And although we've not received an update on Eileen Crawley's recovery, we are wishing her the best.

Sherwood Historic Society Visitors

We were honored to host a visit of some representatives of the Sherwood Historic Society at the museum on December 17th. They donated a music CD containing folk music performed by their members. They were thrilled to have a chance to view our collections and our preservation efforts. They ran out of time and promised to return in the future.

The fall of 1887 brought excitement to our citizenry for a number of reasons. In August, a locomotive engine slid off the ferry as it was being moved across the Willamette at Ray's Landing, headed for Dundee. A hotly contested election to locate the seat of county government had been ordered by the Oregon Legislature. But the execution of Richard 'Gus' Marple was focus of much attention in early November.

Marple had been convicted of the murder of David L. Corker, a carpenter and storekeeper from New York. The brutal act took place over a year earlier, on November 1st, 1886. Corker was well liked, thought to be a hard worker, and kept to himself. He had moved to Lafayette from Amity, and had set up a store with his living quarters in back. His business sold caskets and general merchandise at the time.

Lafayette, the county seat, had numerous businesses, three lodge halls, a town hall, and the county jail, which housed a number of malcontents and criminals. Sheriff Thomas "Jeff" Harris and Deputy Bill Wilson were charged with keeping the law on a county-wide basis.

While walking by Corker's store on the evening of the murder, two teenaged young men heard what sounded like someone yelling for help. They summoned the Sheriff, who upon arrival discovered the grisly murder scene. Corker was discovered lying naked on his bed, drenched in blood. On the floor nearby were his clothes and a bloody axe. The 27 year old Marple joined the crowd which had gathered in front of the store to discuss the commotion. Marple, who held various small jobs around the county, was suspected of being involved in a number of robberies in the area. He had apparently bragged to folks in the area that it would be fairly easy to rob Corker.

Marple lived with his mother, Anna, his wife Julia and their children in a small shack on the edge of town. The day after the murder, the Sheriff discovered bloody boot tracks leading to the Marple residence. As they interrogated Marple, they noticed he had blood on his coat, and made him take it off. They discovered a small piece of bloody paper in one of his pants pockets, as well as tools in the house which would be useful for breaking and entering. They arrested both Richard and his mother Anna, who was thought to be an accomplice to the crime. Marple maintained his innocence from day one, blaming instead a conspiracy of five men, led by Sheriff Harris.

In April of 1887, a grand jury handed down an indictment of Marple for the murder of Corker. His mother Anna was also indicted for the burglary. Her charges were dropped within several weeks due to a lack of evidence. At trial, prosecutor and district attorney George W. Belt admitted that the case against the defendant was circumstantial, but said he could convince the jury of Marples' guilt. The defense attorney, a Mr. Thompson, tried his best to undermine the case against his client. Much damaging testimony was given to the jury regarding the defendant, but that given by the Sheriff was crucial. The whole trial lasted less than three days, at the end of which the jury returned a verdict of "guilty as charged in the indictment". On the morning of Saturday, April 9th, Marple was brought before the judge, Reuben Boise, for sentencing. The judge asked the convicted murderer if he had any-

thing to say. Marple turned to the audience and began a long diatribe against those who conspired against him, again proclaiming his innocence, and admitting to shooting at a man from China, one Sam Lee. Having heard enough, the judge ordered Marple to stop. Turning to the judge, Marple advised the judge he was about to sentence an innocent man. He then defiantly folded his arms and awaited the sentencing.

The judge was compelled under the laws of the time to issue a sentence of hanging, based upon the conviction of first degree murder. The hanging was ordered to take place on June the 29th. An appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court found no error in the proceedings, but due to a technicality the date was pushed back to November 11th.

New scaffolding was constructed adjacent to the jail, and Marple was heard to sarcastically state that all the hammering and sawing was for the construction of a new sheep corral. In those days it was considered acceptable to allow convicted murders approaching their final hour to partake of copious amounts of whiskey laced with opiates, and Marple took advantage of the offer for the week leading to the event.

Marple refused to cloth himself on his final appearance, so the sheriff had to dress him. After this was done, Marple commented that he was now wearing the best suit he'd had on for ten years. After being escorted from the jail, past the waiting coffin and on to the scaffolding, he was given a final chance to enjoy a few gulps of whiskey. The sheriff had to hold the flask to his lips, since the convicted mans hands were tied behind his back.

Even though the actual execution took place behind the boarded-up enclosure, many citizens, young and old, sought cracks and knotholes in the fence through which they could see the 'grand finale' with their own eyes. A number of newspaper reporters were also present to describe the events in gory detail. Some accounts later stated that Anna Marple, a suspected gypsy, shouted curses on the city and threatened to burn it down. Another account said she got down on her knees and said "Three fires will visit this old town and the last will destroy it." A third account stated that Anna proclaimed her curse just prior to the hanging. The truth of this 'gypsy curse' may never be discovered.

While in the jail, Marple had admitted to the murder to fellow inmate W.H. Hess. He said that he hated the sheriff and would do everything in his power to ruin his reputation. He said his mother (who was sleeping with Corker at the time), had administered a sleeping potion to Corker to make her sons work easier.

In her book, "Necktie Parties—Legal Executions in Oregon 1851 –1905, Diane L. Goeres-Gardner found reference to only one official hanging in Yamhill County. The above information came primarily from her book. However, many years ago Ruth Stoller discovered an earlier hanging here, which occurred in our county in 1863.

Zebulon Griffith, a local blacksmith was convicted of murdering Franklin B.B. Shane by shooting him with a pistol and was dispatched on June 9th of that year. Mr. Griffith, apparently believing Shane was out to kill him, shot the deceased without warning in one of the merchandise stores in Lafayette.

By the early 1900s, all future executions were to take place behind Oregon Penitentiary walls.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Lafayette Oregon 97127



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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES Effective May 31, 2002

<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+

Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society. Annual membership gifts are tax deductible.

Members receive the Westside newsletter and access to our research library free of charge. We are an all volunteer organization, and are constantly on the lookout for new helpers. If you can assist us in any way, financially or with your time or talents, it will be greatly appreciated. If you are not sure if you have paid your membership dues, please contact Carol Reid at 472-9631, or **check your mailing label, which should show this information also. (The month and year indicate your "paid through" period according to our records.)** If you see a colored notice inside your newsletter, you're at the end of your membership term!

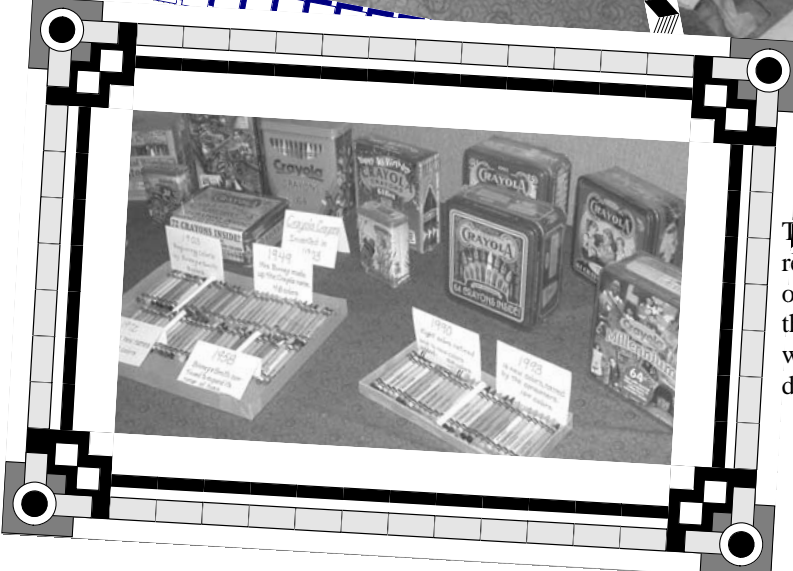
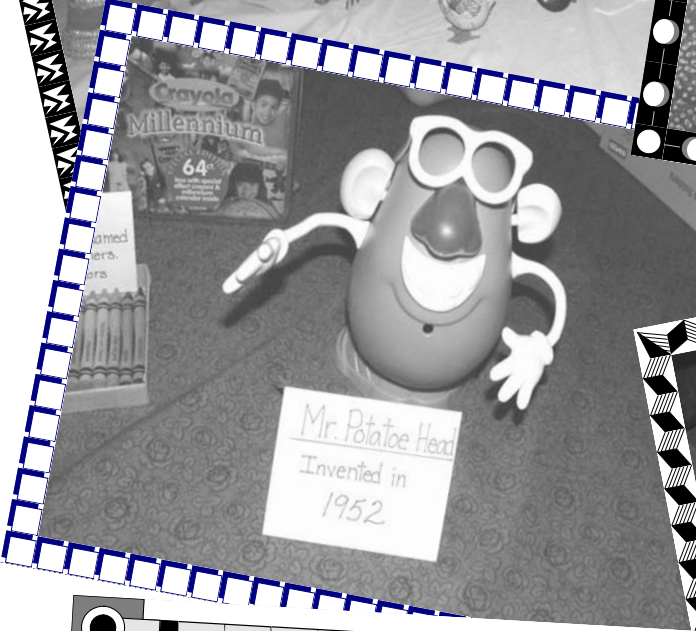
Calendar of Events

Board of Directors: 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 10th. Our next **regular monthly meeting** will be held 6:30 p.m., same day, both at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in McMinnville. Our program will be presented by Sirpa Peterson, Linfield student, an update on the Century Farm Program.

- Childrens Tea Party—Feb. 11th

New Members/Renewals: We welcome renewing members Chris Hedgecoke, Kathleen Franz, George & Maxine Williams, Kathryn Robinson, Lorraine & Steve Housedholder, Ed Roghair, Lynda Ott, Kathy Bruden, Kathy Peck, Farrel Fuerst, Dona Horine (Friend), Ben Frum and Opal Lahley. Thanks for supporting our organization. We invite you to attend our meetings, visit our museum and become more involved in our local history!

TOY COLLECTION ON DISPLAY



The toy collection in the upper left photo was recently donated to us by Becky Beales on behalf of the Margaret Wood Trust. The remainder of the collections are owned by various members, who graciously allowed them to be displayed during December, January and into mid-February.