

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

November 2003

## Photo tour of Historic Yamhill County

At our October meeting, there simply was not sufficient time to review each of the nine hundred photographs that have been scanned and made available on the internet. In fact, we were only able to visit Joe Dancer's McMinnville collection and the towns of Amity, Carlton, Dayton and Dundee.

With lots of audience participation, our members and guests were presented with a large screen display of some of our most precious commodities..... Pioneer people, buildings and places of Yamhill County.

We have had numerous requests for permission to use these photos in various publications. The only thing we ask is that the reproduced media be credited to our organization. A fairly high profile of this usage is in the movie "Sea Biscuit", released last summer. Last spring, one of the producers of the movie was looking through our photo website and spotted a photo of an antique car containing prominent local citizens who were participants in a parade in McMinnville in the 1920's. A high resolution scan of the photo was submitted and inserted into the movie, and our society's name can be seen scrolling in the credits along with the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library and the Smithsonian Institute. People from around the country noticed these credits and several of our members wanted to know what part we had in the movie, based on inquiries they were receiving. So now you know!

During the meeting Charlotte Filer, Opal Lehley, Patsey Miller, Jim Vincent, Jim Lockett and other history buffs were able to fill in some of the blanks concerning old time buildings, businesses and people. By 8:45 p.m. we agreed to visit the remainder of the photos in the same manner at a meeting next spring.

We were also very fortunate to have local cable channel 11 filming this presentation. Chris Benham, educator/producer for this local channel, operated the camera, and the presentation was edited and broadcast within a week of the meeting. Chris said they try to have a presence at most of our McMinnville meetings.

We take great pride in our old photos and we are in the process of indexing and placing all of them in archival envelopes. Scanning all of these will take even longer, should that become a priority. You can visit <http://www.co.yamhill.or.us> and go to the historic photo gallery to view these photos on a computer near you. Submitted by Dan Linscheid

## DAY DREAMING

Every now and then I find myself day-dreaming about the activities connected to the Historical Society. Such as: a gleaming, freshly painted "Poling Memorial Church" with pastel colored, shingled, front trim, The church with no water in the basement (nice & dry all year), Bright & shiny windows with UV coverings & no need for sheets over the cases, A belfry that is tight & O secure with no winged inhabitants, The Log Museum with a clean & neat upstairs storage all labeled with easy access, A well stocked store with all the things we have for sale in one place, including our publications, receipts & a wonderful, old cash register to use, The Barn used for storage, work area, changing exhibits, insulated & warm.

Then there is the new, proposed building located on 5 acres on the corner of Hwy. 18 & Durham. Now, that is where I can really get carried away. I've won the lottery so money is no problem. It would rival the "Evergreen Air Museum". There would be room for a wonderful display of farm equipment including items we used to have in the Barn, a meeting room to accommodate at least 100 people with kitchen facilities, audio & video equipment & etc, room for displaying Yamhill County pioneer items, safe & secure, an office for the use of the Historical volunteers & paid staff & other groups who will be working with us, a separate building for a work area, perhaps the building & covered wagon from the Fair Grounds, an old school or two we have saved & moved in for restoration, farming demonstrations such as combining, horse pulling, operating steam engines & old farm equipment.

Of course we would need an old "barn". The facilities in Lafayette would be the "research center & museum". No one would ever have to ask directions to the museum as everyone would know where we were located. We would have a huge number of ready, willing & able volunteers just demanding to be given tasks to help with the everyday tasks, programs & activities. THERE, WASN'T THAT FUN?? I remember when Ray Kauer said, "Shirley, sometimes a person's dreams can come true"! Thanks Ray for the thought. Happy Dreaming. Sincerely, Shirley Venhaus.

## 2004 Calendar available

At our next general meeting we will have copies of our new calendar available for general sale. These contain photos of historic Yamhill County as well as the dates of scheduled meetings.

*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*

**OFFICERS - 2003**

President

Shirley Venhaus  
472-7328

VP/Program

Barbara Knutson  
843-2069

Secretary

Annita Linscheid  
843-2625

Treasurer

Carol Reid  
472-9631

Financial Secretary

Lila Jackson  
472-8510

Corres. Secretary

Marjorie Owens  
843-3081

Board of Directors

Eileen Lewis  
835-7531

Francis Dummer  
864-2637

Dan Linscheid  
843-2625

Shirley McDaniel  
662-3528

Volunteer Coordinator

Carol Reid  
472-9631

Librarian

Olive Merry Johnson  
472-6070

Newsletter

Dan Linscheid 843  
-2625

Car Pool Coordinator

Joanne Watts 835  
-5893

**MUSEUM HOURS**

**September 1 - May 31:**  
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM

**June 1—August 30:**  
Fri-Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM

or

By Appointment

605 Market Street  
Lafayette Oregon  
Phone: 864-2308

New Email:  
yamhillhistory@  
onlinemac.com

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YCHS

**October Board Meeting Highlights**

Board member Barbara Knutson called the meeting to order with eight officers present (Shirley V. was running a few minutes late) The Treasurers' Report was given by Carol Reid with expenses of \$2,191.84, income of \$309.13 leaving a balance of \$8,912.43. Correspondence Secretary Marjorie Owens reported she had six-teen pieces of correspondence. Volunteer Chairperson Carol Reid stated she needs more information on regular volunteering hours on week-ends so she might get a better picture of what our situation for IRS reporting purposes. There was some discussion on the problem of newsletters not being received by some on the list. Dan has spent some time reviewing the mailing list and hopefully the matter will be resolved. On a motion by Shirley M. and a second by Frank it was agreed to send newsletters to Father Martinus on a permanent basis. George Fox Share Day was a very productive day with seventeen students and three adults from the college and four volunteers from YCHS.

In a report from our CPA, she lists some things we need to start doing as a matter of accounting and bookkeeping as a nonprofit organization. We need to inventory all sale items and issue receipts specifying each item and the price it sold for. It was also recommended that the financial portion of the membership/financial secretary's duties be transferred to the treasurer to stream line the process and to make it easier for the CPA to properly handle our account. There is also a need to keep better track of volunteer hours. Carol Reid reported that she is working on the 2004 calendars and they will soon be ready to sell. She also let everyone know the Mormon Church is once again putting on a program we are welcome to participate in. This year it will be "West they came across the prairies and mountains". This will be a fairly large function including native dancers and informative activities. They would like YCHS to provide several people who would be involved in story telling. Shirley has sent National Glass a very firm letter informing them that the work they were contracted to do must be finished by the end of October.

YCHS can no longer advertise that we have a potluck dinner at our meetings in the newspaper, this news coming from the County Health Department. It can still be included in the news letter for membership. Neva French was reimbursed \$30.00 for a food service permit for the Harvest Festival from the County Health Department.

Carol and Shirley continue to work on the 2005 barn tour and calendar. It was also decided to dedicate a \$1,250.00 donation from First Federal, Culture Trust to pay for the services of our CPA. Shirley requested that Dan might consider condensing the board minutes in the newsletter. Shirley will be calling on a nominating committee for this years' slate of officers and board members. A change in Art. V, section 5 of our bylaws must be adopted to accommodate the change transferring some of the financial duties from the Financial Secretary to the Treasurer. Dan will put together the proposed change and publish it prior to the December general meeting, at which time it will be put to a vote. There was also some discussion on the bylaws in regard to honorary life membership given by the society to a person who contributes to our cause in an exemplary manner.

Respectfully Submitted, Annita Linscheid

**New Vacuums purchased**

Two vacuums have been purchased for the Log Museum & the Church for a total of \$275.00. It would be greatly appreciated if anyone would like to donate any amount to help defray the cost of this purchase. Thank you very much. Shirley V.

**Quilt Project draws to a close**

Following several months of intensive activities by a small group of caring people, an effort to better preserve and care for our fine collection of historic quilts is reaching conclusion.

Under the ever-vigilant eye of our "queen of Quilts", Elma Shuck, this group has painstakingly cleaned, photographed and otherwise prepared this collection for it's continued storage and display.

Elma performed the preliminary research on proper cleaning and storage of these artifacts. Annita Linscheid, Marietta Rankin, Jean Sartor, and Marjorie Owens cleaned, photographed and indexed each quilt.

In the future, it will be easier for volunteers to locate both the quilt and it's particular history, to use in displays or in response to inquiries. The small storage area upstairs in back of the stairs in the Log Building will be the new archival repository for both the quilts as well as most of the textiles. This change is in keeping with one of our primary goals, to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County.

A data sheet on each quilt will be printed out, which will include the photograph as well as the history of the quilt. Storage and display of the quilts will be in keeping with archival standards. We thank these ladies for their dedicated efforts.

### **We Had Fun and We'll Do It Again Next Year!**

The Harvest Festival on October 11th was successful. We had some new activities - making corn husk dolls, making butter, two women who hooked rugs, another woman who crocheted rugs. Don Archer & Ken Austin each delivered beautifully restored 1920s Fords. The North Valley Cruzzers came with three hotrods of more recent vintage & Charles Haskell & a friend roared into the festival in 1930s cars that were modified to be hotrods. Ewing Young told lots of folks about his adventures as a trapper & trader from Missouri, thru the Southwest & his final settling in Yamhill County. There were three nifty pieces of antique farm equipment. The Youth Choir from the Lafayette Community Church sang toward the end of the program. The usual suspects were there - the craft ladies demonstrated their handiwork, Jim Lockett pressed lots of apples for some real good cider, Joanne Watts showed us how soap was made, Barbara Doyle got lots of help making some delicious chocolate ice cream, & of course, the Old Time Fiddlers had many people smiling & feet tapping. There were lots of opportunities to overload on sugar from all the good cookies & cakes that members contributed. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to this event. Barbara Doyle, Donis Fern & Neva French (the committee that organized the event) hope you all enjoyed it. We did!! Submitted by Shirley V.

### **Newberg Chamber of Commerce Leadership Group Visits Museum**

Twenty three members of this year's Newberg Leadership Class visited the museum on 21 Oct. They toured the church and log cabin buildings, saw lots of artifacts & learned some history about the county & especially about Newberg from Barbara Doyle. Most of all, they learned that there is a county historical society - something they didn't know. Several women noticed the "birthing chair". All of them indicated that they were glad they never used such a thing & wondered how it was used. There were many comments about what nice things we have. Submitted by Shirley V.

### **Yamhill County Historical Society Receives a Grant**

The Historical Society is the recipient of a \$2,000 grant from the Helen E. Austin Pioneer Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation to fund 50 free hands-on local history Nomadic Teacher presentations in the Newberg/St Paul schools during the current school year. The Nomadic Teacher program, now in its third year with this historical society, consists of four local history presentations given to schools in the northern Willamette Valley. The four themes cover the time period from Native American occupation thru about the year 1900. Barbara Doyle developed this program several years ago when she was the curator at Washington County Historical Society. She coordinates the program here and teaches some of the subjects. Submitted by Shirley V.

### **YCHS Harvest Festival Crafters**

The Crafters section of the Harvest Festival was a great success with twenty-four crafters coming to us from Aloha, Amity, Aurora, Carlton, Dayton, McMinnville, Milwaukie, Newberg, Portland, Salem, Sheridan, and Yamhill.

The following crafts and crafters were present: 1. Bobbin Lace: Joyce Clow, C.J. David, Carol Houser, Sabrina Houser, Alice Howell, Shirley McDaniel, Opal Shimm, and LeAnn Smith. 2. Crochet: Twila Byrnes and Barbara Pudlitzkie. 3. Needlepoint: Roberta Dorsey, Lynda Nyseth, and Marcia Yonker. 4. Quilting: Donna Emerly, Mary Phillips and Barbara Pudlitzkie. 5. Rug Making: Crocheted Rugs: Lorraine Rigdon; Rag Rugs: Reita Lockett. Rug Hooking: April Sheleter and Ann Swearingen. 6. Spinning: Theresa Homolac, Belinda Morgan, Carol Suzukawa, and Sue Wetzel. 7. Tatting: Sherri Campbell.

Our thanks go out to these crafters for sharing their time and talents with our many visitors.

Shirley McDaniel, Crafter Chair

### **Attention all Members & Volunteers**

Last July we held a volunteers meeting to address some concerns and share knowledge, ideas and goals. We discussed organization and coordination of our efforts. Much progress has resulted from that meeting. We also agreed to hold meetings every six months or so to help in our communication efforts and put final touches on some things discussed at the first meeting. Our second meeting will be held at the first meeting. Our second meeting will be held in the Log building on **Saturday, November 15th at 10:00 a.m.** Everyone is invited to attend. If you would like to be a museum volunteer but have reservations concerning what's expected or what the job might entail, please come to this meeting and learn how easy this important job can be. We'll help you get acquainted and become comfortable with the museum and our display of artifacts.

Our small core group of volunteers is very dedicated to our cause, and our society could not exist without their efforts. We are in desperate need of new volunteers, due to attrition and some new projects in progress. Even if you can't find the time to volunteer, we invite you to attend and learn what we do. We have prepared an agenda, and will seek input from all attendees. We want to listen and make change for the better.

The museum will be open at 1:00 on that day, and you are welcome to stay and see firsthand how volunteers function and help our visitors. Coffee and snacks will be available. If you plan on staying after the meeting you might want to bring a lunch.

Join us and we'll work together for the museum and have a nice time doing it. We hope to see you November 15th.

## Wheat Harvest, Oregon Pioneer Style

by Jim and Reita Lockett

As harvest time rolls around, almost without notice by many people, I wonder at those mammoth machines stirring up the dust. One man in air condition comfort harvesting 50 or more acres each day. Each acre may yield up to 100 bushel or more, 5000 bushels of relative clean wheat ready for the market all in one day.

Our first settlers in Yamhill County, from 1835 to the late 1840's, were wheat growers. They got seed from the Hudson Bay Company. Wheat grew well in the Willamette valley. About 250-300 labor-hours were required to produce 150 bushel of wheat. This usually required about 4 or 5 acres of land. Today it would take one-half man-hour to harvest that amount.

Planting, of course, was an annual event. The earth was prepared by plowing behind a horse or oxen with a one-bottom plow. Then the ground was smoothed with a bush harrow. When the ground was just right, the farmer threw a bag of wheat around his neck and walk through the field, broadcasting the seed by hand. Then came the time of hoping for the right rain and warmth to germinate the seed. Our valley was able to produce both for excellent wheat growth. Area farmers bragged that a yield of 40 bushel was not unusual.

In the fall, wheat harvest was an exciting time. It was necessary to cut and store the wheat before it was too ripe. All the handling would "separate the grain" as they worked, causing great loss. The men, each taking a swath as wide as could be reached with the swing of the scythe, went around and around the field. A cradle attached to the blade of the scythe held the loose straw to be dropped in a wind-row at the edge of the swath. Behind the cradlers came the men who raked the straw in piles as large as would make a bundle. Then came the bundlers, catching up a handful of straw, twisting it and fashioning it into a band that they twisted around the rest of the pile. The bundle was ready to be shocked into groups of five or six bundles and left to dry in the sun.

Charlotte Matheny Kirkwood in her book, "Into the Eye of the Setting Sun", reported "It was a thrilling sight, for the greatest rivalry existed among the men. The cradlers would watch each other and swing the scythes. Swish, swish, swish. We could hear them go. (A man especially skilled with a scythe could make the big blade fairly sing.) Their backs would bend with each stroke and the muscles would swell on their bare brown arms; the sweat poured from them till their hickory shirts reeked with it. From time to time, they would stand the scythes on the handles and swing their whetstones back and forth along the blades---such a clatter it would make. But not a stroke was wasted, for every man watched his neighbor and meant to outdo him if he could. Reputations were at stake and must be maintained at any cost to muscle or endurance, so it was seldom that a man stopped longer than was needed to sharpen the blade or wipe the sweat out of his eyes. "

When the cutting was all done and the grain fully cured in the shocks it was hauled to the barn and stored; protected from the rain.

There it waited for threshing. Now threshing was a community effort as several farms would help each other. When one farm was ready each farmer took his wildest horses to that farm where they were corralled next to the threshing floor.

The threshing floor was usually just a nice, level, hard dirt area with a good fence or wall around it. The bundles of wheat were hauled to this floor and spread out. Then the horses were turned in and encouraged to run wild. When it was felt that the grain had been well separated from the husk the horses were taken out, the loose straw on top pitched out and new bundles spread on the threshing floor. On and on this went until all the bundles were gone. Then the chaff and wheat that lay thick on the ground was sacked and stored. It was on to the next farm to repeat the threshing procedure.

The next stage of threshing took place when the farms were all through with the horse tramping. A high platform had been built with some type of catch basin below. The sacks of wheat and chaff were handed up to a man standing on the platform. When a good breeze was blowing he slowly emptied the sacks and the wind would carry away the chaff and the wheat would fall into the bins below. Many times this procedure had to be repeated but in the end they had nice clean sacks of wheat. It was reported that the Mathenys usually realized about 1000 bushel of wheat. This converts to about 30 acres of tilled land. While that doesn't seem like a lot of wheat, they were selling it for \$5.00 a bushel, which for the Mathenys meant \$5,000.00; a small fortune in those times!

One great step forward for the Willamette valley wheat grows was the arrival of the Cyrus McCormick reaper. McCormick had invented his reaper in 1831 but it was in the 1850's before it was available to the West coast. This machine was a giant step and laid the basic foundation for future machines, culminating in the large efficient machines we see in the fields today. The McCormick reaper actually only replaced the cradlers but that was a big step. The machine was pulled by a horse and had a reel to position the grain, a reciprocal knife to cut the grain and a platform to catch the grain. The machine was powered by a master wheel rolling along the ground and could cut as much wheat as four or five men with cradles.

As the wheat piled up on the platform it was raked off by a man walking along beside the reaper. Then came the bundlers to tie the wheat and put the bundles into shocks. Then it was the same old story of threshing.

Soon an arm was attached to the reaper that rake the wheat off the platform in bundle size. The next great step was the wonderful binder, the magic machine that cut, bundled, tied and dropped off several bundles in one place to be shocked. It seemed that for hundreds of years wheat was harvested by hand with scythes or sickles. All at once with the invention of the McCormick reaper the mechanization of harvesters grew by leaps and bounds. Soon we find large Separators operating on wheat farms. Usually one Separator would be pulled from farm to farm to thresh the wheat.

### Wheat Harvest, cont.

The first ones were horse-powered but soon the giant steam tractors and internal combustion tractors took over the work. During this time a "header" was developed that cut the grain, loading it into wagons and hauling to the separator. Most of the wheat was sack by skilled sack sewers.

Then Levi T. Davis, who lived in Yamhill County on Peavine road, wanted to do more so he "combined" the header and the separator, put them on wheels, hooked up ten horses and hired 3 men to work the machine. With this he was able to thresh between 1200 and 1500 bushel of grain a day. Area farmers were awe struck at Levi's success and finally convinced him to patent the machine. He chose to call the contraption a "Combine". His was the second patent for such a machine filed in the United States.

With many improvement this combine set the methods for threshing wheat up through World War Two. After the war we began to see the self-propelled combine; a machine that one man could run and harvest an unbelievable number of acres.

### By-Laws Change Proposed

At the October Board Meeting a fairly major change to the By-Laws of our organization was proposed. As Lila Jackson, (Financial Secretary) and Dan Linscheid (Newsletter Editor) will attest, keeping up with membership additions and renewals, changes of address, etc., is a major task in and of itself. Lila has also been responsible for tracking all money received by our society from many sources. She has been doing an excellent job with this dual responsibility position for many years. Carol Reid serves as our Treasurer, disbursing the funds of our society and maintaining accounts of all monies received and paid out, and reporting to the Board and at our general membership meetings on the financial health of the corporation. Recently, our CPA as well as our auditing committee proposed that the financial aspect of Lila's position be shifted over to the responsibilities of our Treasurer.

Another By-Laws amendment was discussed, regarding Article II as it relates to honorary members. Currently, our By-Laws addresses three classes of membership; non-voting, voting and honorary. Non-voting members are those under 18 years of age (we probably don't have any of these), while voting members fall within the following categories: annual, life and honorary. An honorary member is currently a one year status, bestowed upon deserving persons in recognition of achievement or for services rendered to the Society. This status must be recommended by the executive board and receive a two-thirds approval of the members present at any regular meeting. The board would like extend this honorary membership into a lifetime status, so that we can properly acknowledge those special people who have given exemplary service to our society.

At the meeting these matters were discussed at length and a motion was passed recommending this change in the title and responsibilities of our officers to reflect this change as well as the change in definition of an honorary member. Our By-Laws require that any change to our constitution be proposed in writing and filed with the recording secretary by any three members. Upon approval of the Executive Board, the recording secretary is to notify all members in writing of the proposed amendment, which may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular meeting, provided two weeks shall have elapsed after the sending of the notices.

### By-Laws cont.

Notice is given to all members that the following changes to our by-laws will be given consideration at the December general meeting of our society, reflecting the changes discussed above: (strikeout verbiage to be deleted, bolded and italicized to be added) Unlisted portions of current by-laws are to remain as currently adopted, and are not included below.

### Article IV. Officers

1. The officers shall be a president, vice-president, past president, recording secretary, **membership** ~~financial~~ secretary, treasurer, and corresponding secretary.

### Article V. Duties of the Officers

#### Section 5. Membership /Financial Secretary

- ~~A. Shall keep record of all money received by the Society; dues, donations, memorials, sales and all others.~~
- ~~B. Shall be responsible for the Society's funds and shall deposit all sums and all valuable effects in the Society's name in such depositories as may be designated by the Executive Board.~~
- ~~C. Information of all deposits will be transmitted to the treasurer.~~
- A. **Shall be responsible for maintaining a current listing of the names and addresses of all members.**

#### Section 6. Treasurer

1. Shall cause the funds of the Society to be distributed in accordance with the directives of the executive board.
2. Shall maintain full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements, submitting written reports at the executive board meetings and at the general meetings.
3. Shall serve on the Society's budget committee if such committee is appointed.
4. Shall perform such additional duties as may be prescribed by the executive board, the president, or these by-laws.
5. **Shall keep record of all money received by the Society; dues, donations, memorials, sales and all others.**
6. **Shall be responsible for the Society's funds and shall deposit all sums and all valuable effects in the Society's name in such depositories as may be designated by the Executive Board.**

### Article II. Membership

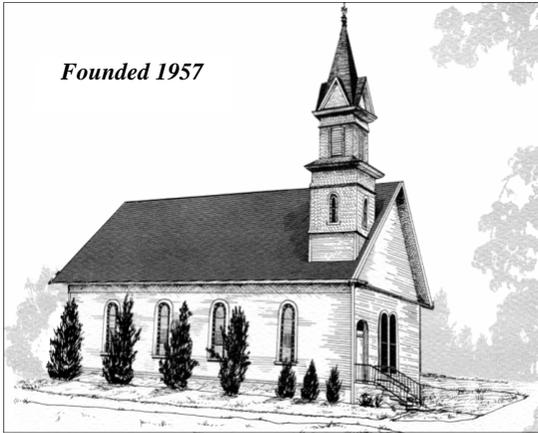
1. The Society's membership shall be composed of three classes; non-voting, voting and honorary. Persons under age 18 will be classed as non-voting; persons 18 years of age and older, voting; annual, life and honorary **life** members, voting.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Executive Board, a person may, in recognition of achievement or for services rendered to the Society, be elected an honorary **life** member ~~for one year~~ by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

# YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 484

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 Lila Jackson at 472-8510. Alternatively, check your mailing label, which should show this information also. (The month and year indicate your "paid through" period according to our records.)

## **YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*Meeting Notice*

**Board of Directors:**

**Tuesday, November 11, 5:00 pm**

**Monthly Meeting & Potluck:**

**Same day as Board mtg., 6:30 pm**

**Both at the Seventh Day Adventist**

**Church, Old Sheridan Road**

**McMinnville**

This meeting will feature a history of the turkey industry in Yamhill County, by Barbara Doyle. Please join us for dinner; bring potluck fare and your own eating utensils.

*We Hope to See you There!*

We welcome returning members Bernice Payne and Diane Kroll and new members Elizabeth Rhode and J. W. Weeks. Your continued support helps keep our organization a vital and prospering part of Yamhill County culture and a historic focal point for our area.