

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

Summer 2004

## From our President

Where did time go? By the time this newsletter reaches you it will be late July. My 50 year high school reunion in Nebraska was held in May. We were unable to attend but did receive some wonderful pictures of those who did. I noted that the ladies looked pretty good but most of the men looked old. Talk about "Where has time gone?"

With a plan in hand, the move in the Log Museum took place without any major problems. Much consideration went into this move. Most of the change was accomplished in one day with the combined efforts of volunteers. The Research Library now occupies half of the downstairs of the building. Volunteers who work there agree that it is much more useable and accessible for those who wish to use the library. We are now able to have most of the research material in one location. Marjorie has reported that it is so nice to have some space and it has made access to records much easier. Take the time to stop in and see the changes. Also check out the "Old time Parlor", where the library was located previously.

With funds from the Historic Preservation Grant and the Miller Endowment, repairs on the Church continue. When the contractor installed the water removal system in the basement we were surprised to find a cement floor in good condition under the accumulation of several inches of dirt (mud in the winter). Then the floors, ceiling and exterior wall were fully insulated. Now the next big project is to repair and paint the exterior of the building. This has been a major restoration effort. We are very fortunate to have the funds available to complete all of the above. The total combined cost was over \$22,000. Research on the new museum building to be located on Durham Lane and Highway 18 continues. Consultants were hired to assist the committee with the layout of the building. We are considering a title of "Uniting Yamhill County in Preserving the Past": not too bad of a thought.

Keep in mind the picnic and garage sale. See elsewhere in this issue for details. May the rest of your summer be pleasant.  
Sincerely, Shirley

## Garage Sale

**Dates: August 12, 4-9 p.m. (members only presale), August 13, 14 & 15, 9 a.m.—4 p.m. general public**  
**Location: 1819 NW St. Andrews, McMinnville. To donate, call Millie at 472-6489 or Shirley at 434-0567 (pick ups of donations will be arranged)**  
**Included in this sale will be a 1977 Lincoln Continental Mark V, in good condition (\$4,000 OBO) and a Spinnet piano in good condition, \$300 OBO. Please help us with your donations and purchases.**

## Board Meeting Highlights

(The full minutes of the June Board meeting is posted in the Log Building)

The Board met June 8th at the Log Building with ten officers present. **Treasurer** Carol Reid gave her report, indicating a beginning balance of \$5,498, expenses of \$1,709 and deposits of \$743, with a resulting balance of \$4,492. Due to a lack of communication with the accountant, we have been forced to request an extension to the August 15th report to the IRS. **Correspondence Secretary** Marjorie Owens has responded to six requests for information. People asking for genealogical help have been very generous with donations. The **Membership Secretary** position has been vacant since Linda Miller left us, and with support from the Board, President Shirley appointed Kathy Peck to fill the void. **Volunteer Chair** Carol Reid mentioned the fact that we only need additional volunteers for three or four Fridays to fill out the summer schedule at the museum. She also reported on the Volunteer meeting held on June 2nd. The Nomadic Teacher program has wrapped up loose ends and returned artifacts to the Museum. **Oregon Preservation Grant Report:** With an inspection by an Oregon State Historic Preservation office representative came a recommendation that the Church receive additional surface water drainage work on the north side of the structure. **Malcolm Marquis, M.D. Grant:** it was moved and seconded to dedicate this \$500 into a fund for preservation needs. **August Garage Sale:** Millie Armstrong is collecting items for the garage sale in August and is asking for help with cashiering. August 12th will be a pre-sale day for members only. **Museum Report—**  
**Moving Status:** (after the Board Meeting, the Board and volunteers moved the office and reference library to the southerly side of the lower level of the Log Building. **Air Conditioning in Log Building:** awaits a dry day or two. (it is now installed and functioning—ed) **Annex Report:** **Results of Survey:** see elsewhere in this issue. Consultants Glen & Judith Mason met with volunteers after the June 2nd meeting. **Lumber & Fence:** Frank reported that the old lumber donated to the society has been delivered to the Durham Lane site. **Harvest Festival:** not being planned for this year. **Other Business:** Carol Reid will look into asking local newspapers to publish monthly articles to draw interest from the community. Shirley is still trying to get Morgan Magee to finish chinking the Log building. Marjorie is purchasing two more steel shelves for storage use in the log building. Dan asked if we would be willing to pay Lazer Quick \$9.90 to have the newsletter folded instead of asking our overworked volunteers to do this: the board responded affirmatively. Marjorie requested the purchase of a revolving rack to display our publications for sale at the new office, which was also approved. Annita Linscheid, Secretary.

*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 - 2004**

President

Shirley Venhaus  
472-7328

VP/Program

Barbara Knutson  
843-2069

Secretary

Annita Linscheid  
843-2625

Treasurer

Carol Reid  
472-9631

Membership Secretary

Cathy Peck  
472-6562

Corresponding

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

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

Email: [yamhillhistory@onlinemac.com](mailto:yamhillhistory@onlinemac.com)

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YCHS

**Crystal Riley Smith  
89 Years Young**

On June 19th, approximately 200 people joined Crystal on the lawn of her beautiful Parrot Mountain homesite to celebrate her 89th birthday.



A live band played music from the 1930's and '40's, and there was seemingly no end to the food and hospitality. Crystals niece Elizabeth Rhode obviously worked long and hard at making this gala event a success, and she excelled at here endeavor.

Happy Birthday, Crystal !

When contacted at press time for this newsletter, Crystal proudly informed the editor that her farm will be added to the Oregon Century Farms listing during a celebration on September 3rd at the Oregon State Fair.



It did not take much coercion to get Crystal to tell a few jokes, and she reveled in the limelight of the day.

Next month Crystal will be visiting her boyfriend, Marion Retter, in Ellison, Iowa , as well as attending a family reunion in Red Cloud, Nebraska.



Above, Lois Brooks and Shirley McDaniel chat with Crystal under the huge tent at Crystals birthday party.

Left, Shirley Venhaus, George Williams, Elma Shuck and Maxine Williams join in with the birthday celebrations. Other YCHS members attending included Cathy Peck, Ferrel Fuerst, Dan & Annita Linscheid and Ed & Peggy Roghair. (Apologies if I missed anyone..... Dan)

### School Tours

**May 12th Tour:** for many years Carol Bacon has been bringing her 4th grade class from Saint James Catholic School, McMinnville, to visit the Museum following a year's study of Oregon. This year was no exception with one major difference—the second graders came too. The idea was to get the younger students familiar with the museum, and these second graders proved to be just as alert, interested and full of questions as the older children. The 35 well-behaved students were accompanied by Carol, another teacher, a student-teacher and several parents. After two hours in the Museum, the entire group headed to the park for lunch. Ed, Twila & Lois.

**On May 28th,** two classes of kindergarten students, one morning (16) and one afternoon (13) walked to the Museum from Josephine Wascher Elementary School with their teacher Katherine Elstrom. Among the 7 other adults who came with them was the English language learners teacher who brought 6 fourth graders from her class.

Weatherwise, it was not the best of days, but the little folks without umbrellas or raincoats, were well-protected from the rain with garbage bags. The 4th graders were very interested, most knew the Log Building was made from Douglas Fir, and one boy was sad because he didn't have time to count the rings.

The 5-year olds were harder to keep focused, but were a disciplined group anxious to tell what they knew. Ed had a neat experience when one little girl found the Farm Tools book in the barn and soon had the other children sitting on the floor around her looking at the pictures.

A heavy rain shower appeared just as the last group was ready to leave, so we had a little extra time to show things. Ed, Twila & Lois

Note: Lois Brooks inadvertently left her pie server at the May potluck and brought someone else's home. Does anyone know who this belongs to? Lois would like to get it back to its original owner.

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### A New Look

The next time you visit the museum be sure to stop by the Log building. Along with the newly reorganized office area, you'll find the Ruth Stoller Reference Library has expanded as well. Volunteers are arranging the collections and labeling shelves. Additional work tables and chairs make it more convenient for research and browsing. Publications may be purchased at the office as well.

Here's one of our recent additions: "Jacob Shuck and Susannah Jones Shuck—A life that Spanned a Nation", compiled by Lynda Ott and of course, our own Elma Shuck. It summarizes the life of Jacob and Suzannah as they migrate to Oregon. The book is interesting and enjoyable reading and filled with maps highlighting their journey. This is just one of many excellent books you'll find at your county museum.

The Book Lady (Jean Sartor)

### 2004 WATTS FAMILY THRESHING BEE

**Sunday, August 8, 2004, 1-4 p.m. (2 p.m. potluck)**

Please join us for an afternoon harvesting wheat and clover using binding, baling, threshing equipment from the 1920s and 1930s and a 1910 Altman Taylor clover huller.

Enjoy looking at antique farm equipment and vehicles and talking with folks who used them. Visit with friends and sing along with the old time fiddler!

Potluck at 2 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and your own table setting. To RSVP or for more information call Cliff & Pam Watts 503-835-1393 or Glen & Joanne Watts at 503-835-5893.

### Questionnaire Commentary

A quick review of the enclosed responses to our questionnaire in the May newsletter will disclose a fairly clear trend of thought running through our society.... Most members 1.) support the move to a new facility on new property, and 2.) like what our volunteers are doing with preservation of artifacts.

Treasurer Carol Reid was given the task of putting these responses together, and I think she has done a wonderful job, given the gray areas not addressed by the questions and the wide range of comments returned.

It is clear to the most casual observer that we have members who would have liked nothing better than to retain our collection and facilities in the same condition and display arena they have been in for decades. The volunteers who have been working diligently on preserving our precious and irreplaceable artifacts can show many examples of damage caused to them by exposure to direct sunlight and mishandling, and this is not in keeping with the stated mission of this society.

To those adherents to the idea that our museum positively needs to be in Lafayette, it is suggested they read the April 30th, 1970 edition of the News Register. An article about how and why our (new) museum is currently sited in Lafayette starts out by saying that "the only reason the Yamhill County Historical Museum is located in Lafayette is that a suitable building at the right price became available at the right time." The article was authored by Ruth Stoller.

Our Historical Society in some ways mirrors our nations culture in general: change is inevitable, and it is hoped by your Board that the changes being contemplated and implemented at this time are in keeping with the goals of the majority of our members.

One comment by a respondent addressed the failure of calling for a membership vote on each and every decision considered by the Board. Were we to do that, our evening meetings will grow to all day meetings, based on the time the Board spends on the various issues. However, one vote is still periodically up for grabs: your Officers and Board Members. You can oust us all and start fresh if you can find folks willing to step in with the time, resources and willingness to do things exactly the way you'd like to see them done. Dan Linscheid

# YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 484

Lafayette Oregon 97127

Non-Profit  
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Lafayette Oregon



*Dated Material - Return Service Requested*

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Effective May 31, 2002**

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

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 "dot" on your label, you're at the end of your membership term!

## **YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **Summer events**

#### **Meetings**

*Our Board of Directors continues to meet monthly, but the next regular monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheridan. Our program will be given by Janet Graves Smith, on the Graves family, early Sheridan pioneers.*

#### **Annual Picnic**

*To be held Saturday, August 7th from Noon to 4 p.m., with a potluck, at the home of Gene & Shirley Venhaus, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Come and enjoy the picnic and help Gene & Shirley Celebrate.*

Membership Questionnaire Response – May 2004  
42 Responses = approximately 25% of membership

1. Do you think a long-range goal of relocating the entire YCHS Museum facilities to a new structure on our new property is a good idea?

YES – 21 NO - 19 NO RESPONSE – 2

2. Would you prefer we develop the new property on as an antique farm implement museum? Or possibly split our collection between the two locations?

YES - 9 NO - 20 SPLIT – 11 NO RESPONSE - 2. Additional comments: Split at first. Split and bring in rotating things from Lafayette. Split -How? Wants further explanation. Yes -If we\* are foolish enough to go ahead with this. We\* being the board, of course, since members are no longer allowed to vote on most issues. One checked Yes and wrote “OR NO”.

3. Do you think a new facility will result in more volunteers to help with operations?

YES - 24 NO - 10 NO RESPONSE - 7 Additional comments: No idea. Don't know. No- question mark. Not necessarily. I doubt it. Maybe. Yes- question mark. Don't know.

4. Do you think better facilities (i.e., a controlled environment) will result in the donation of more artifacts?

YES – 27 NO – 10 NO RESPONSE - 4 Additional comments: Ditto “Not Necessarily. No response – question marks. Hope not, no more room.

5. Do you think our artifacts need a better environment for display & storage?

YES - 29 NO -10 NO RESPONSE - 3 Additional comments: No Response w/ Question Mark. Yes w/ question mark.

6. Do you think we need additional storage room for artifacts?

YES – 27 NO – 12 NO RESPONSE – 3 Additional comments: They need to be seen. Yes w/ question mark. No- we need more room to display.

7. Would you encourage the concept of having a display of artifacts, photos and histories on each of our cities in the county?

YES – 27 NO - 13 NO RESPONSE - 2 Additional Comments: No Response – YCHS doesn't have enough. No – too many towns.

8. If a new facility is erected do you think it would be a good idea to include a meeting room for our monthly meetings as well as for rental to other organizations?

YES – 31 NO – 8 NO RESPONSE - 3 Additional comments: Yes w/ question mark. If it could display the farm machinery. Question mark – rental to other organizations. No Response – for our meetings- yes, for rental – no, I don't want to put our artifacts at risk.

9. If a new building is constructed, would you support hiring a curator or a director?

Full or Part-time?

Curator – yes - 9 no – 7, Neither Selected - 7 Director – yes - 13 no - 7 Full Time – Curator -2 Director - 4 Part Time – Curator -11 Director -11

Additional Comments: If there was money. Our funds should determine this. 4 people checked Part Time without a selection. One No Response w/ question mark.

10. If you answered Yes to number 9, do you foresee any problems with coordinating the new position with our volunteers?

YES-9 NO-9 NOTHING WE CAN'T WORK OUT-23

NO RESPONSE - 7 Additional Comments: Maybe. Question Mark.

11. Do you think the current efforts by volunteers to better preserve our artifact collection is a good idea that need to be expanded to our entire collection?

YES -34 NO - 5 NO RESPONSE - 3 Additional Comments: No Response- If we have the woman power. Yes- definitely.

12. Do you prefer we not consider expansion of facilities (status quo)?

YES- 7 NO-27 NO RESPONSE - 8 Additional Comments: No Response – you need to expand with good planning. No Response – It depends on our funds.

**COMMENTS: (anonymity retained for respondents)**

I don't think we have enough willing volunteers.

Can't get volunteers – and ruining what we have had – on display.

Lafayette is a historical city; the church building is historic. And we are a historical society. Visitors have been charmed with the museum – the way it WAS. I doubt if many people would stop at a facility between Mac and Spirit Mountain and the coast.

Not well enough informed to make positive answers here. I liked the “old, nostalgic” atmosphere of the museum as I first knew it. Not intended as a financial project but certainly needing upkeep. I appreciate the work in progress but concerned about growing too large and losing the original intent.

The single site is a good idea, but I worry about finances. I think that having all the possessions of the society in one building is a goal the group should have. With three separate building, it spreads the volunteers too thin and there have been times that I have entered the log building with no one there. Anyone could go in and pilfer things. That would prevent me from donating anything precious to the museum. My biggest worry is that we will not have enough money to build then operate the new building. I think we need to have a more-than-full war chest before we begin to build. It should be a building built to be a museum with humidity and temperature control. It should be designed so it can be staffed with the minimal number of volunteers. A paid curator is yet another expense that I worry about paying for. Of course it would be a great thing, but can we afford it? We can only bleed so much money from our donors. I say it's a good LONG RANGE GOAL, but let us work on fundraising a LONG TIME before we commit ourselves to the actual construction.

What is the difference between Curator and Director?

Develop the new site. Keep & maintain our existing site. Don't bite off more that we can chew. Keep Millers in mind. Time and circumstances will dictate. New building plan is good. Go for it.

You didn't leave much space here. Question number 10 – You had problems before with volunteers.

Our main problem is not enough volunteers. Maybe retired farmers or some farm organization could help with this.

Consider alarm system against vandalism if moved to new rural area. )Rural schools were often victims of vandalism. Do you keep open catalog of all donations?

More, by city display, I have a small amount of Wilson Carl's journal & daily diary in the 1874 era. Would like to display!

----- We need profession advice and comments on building(s) to be built now & in future. An exhibit of real farm animal would be great in future. Having visited a (unable to decipher word) in other states & countries – very effective. -----

If you build a new building, what will become of the log building and the church building? Have you considered selling the old property to invest in the new museum?

These questions? If they are used as a basis from which to draw conclusions we could get in trouble. At this point, we need much much \$, much input from many people. Example! I have a backhoe. I could install the septic system free! If the Jehovah Witnesses can build a new church in three day, why can't we? When do we start? When we get enough money? One year/two years/ 3 years.

When you get a contract for the new building, GET A PERFORMANCE BOND & Don't get stuck the library did – spent \$1 million for effective work & the contractor left the state. The visibility factor alone is worth more. Attendance will go WAY up!

I think it's important to have a full time director but a curator is necessary as well. Perhaps at part time or share time with director. The museum is moving in the right direction.

More visibility will help the dollars flow.

We have to be a progressive organization, not stagnate. If the new property is exclusive farm use what else can it be used for? I wonder about renting for other events. As far as a curator or director – there has to be someone in charge to answer questions/ not wait all time for a board discussion. Policies clearly written. We have to have more awareness of the museum. If we get more members, potential for volunteers.

Since when has it ever made a difference of what the general membership wants regarding the museum - (comment deleted by editor for being inappropriate) - what happens when the money runs out? We are not IBM.

The Yamhill Co. Genealogy Society truly needs to combine their research files and books with the YCHS. Both groups of volunteers are hindered by research info housed at 2 different locations, Sheridan Public Library and Lafayette Log Museum.

Too much money is being spent on the old church.

Questions 9 & 10 need more consideration.