



Yamhill County Museum, 6th and Market Street, Lafayette, Oregon  
Built in 1892 by Rev. C. C. Poling, Ph.D., president of Lafayette Seminary, the Yamhill County Historical Society purchased the building in 1969 for a museum. It is open every Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4:00, plus 4 days a week during the tourist season.

OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT Maxine Williams
- V.P./PROGRAM Barbara Knutson
- SECRETARY Eunice Noyes
- FINANCIAL SEC'Y Evelyn Nieman
- TREASURER Mike Boundy
- HISTORIAN Ruth Stoller
- BOARD
  - Harvey Stoller, Ed Roghair
  - James Vincent, R. Kuykendall
- MUSEUM CURATOR --
- NEWSLETTER Margaret Roghair

MUSEUM HOURS: Saturdays & Sundays, 1 - 4 o'clock (except by appointment)

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

1989

MEETING: WEDNESDAY NOON, February 15, Community Christian Church, 2831 N. Newby, McMinnville.

POTLUCK At 12 o'clock. Bring own table service. Guests welcome.

PROGRAM Patsey (Apperson) Miller will tell the story of the Apperson family in Yamhill County. Do you have an "oldie" valentine? Bring it to share.

BOARD MEETING

The president would like to have all officers and members of the board of directors remain after the meeting for an Executive Board meeting.

Message from the President -

By January 10, just 26 members of the County Historical Society had pledged \$1010 toward the re-publication of Old Yamhill. An additional \$160 had been pledged at that time by non-members. As we hear from the rest of the members, we'll have all we need. We all believe in the importance of keeping this Yamhill County history preserved and available - that is the main purpose of the Society. And by buying one or more of these books you'll not only be making an important contribution but you'll be getting something for yourself as well. Let us hear from you soon, using the attached form at the bottom of the reverse page.

## Museum Notes -

The museum was closed over the holidays and reopened on January 7. We have lost another small colored pane of glass on the office window. Frieda Schriber and her sister discovered the breakage when they arrived to open the museum on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 8. It is impossible to replace it in kind but perhaps we can find some kind of colored glass to replace it. We not only need storm windows for our heat situation but to protect our stained glass windows!

Celia Dromgoole has volunteered to work on our files. She has already started a complete alphabetization of our donor cards and will work on our file of museum items next. Did you know that almost every item in the museum has its own file card? (Some collections, like the buttons, do not, of course!) It can be a real problem to decide where to file some of them.

We still need all the help we can get--both financially and physically!

Society dues are due and are

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We are sorry to learn of the death of former board member, Austin Bowen, after a lengthy illness.

REMINISCENCES OF FRED L. TRULLINGER (Yamhill, Oregon)

I succeeded Harry Gist as Postmaster (1897), paying him \$40 for the office fixtures. Times were hard. A 4th Class Post Office depended upon stamp cancellation, of which there were very few. I received \$20 per month from the Government for transferring Tillamook County mail to the stage. The stage, in those days, was a horse-drawn buckboard that carried the mail over the coast range mountains to the town of Tillamook, a distance of 40 miles. The \$20, along with the cancelled stamps, paid me about \$40 permonth. My board and lodging cost me \$10 a month. So you see, being Post master wasn't bad considering the times. Men worked 60 hours a week on farms for \$10 per month and board. I had to get up at 5:30 A.M. to cancel the stamps and to make up the mail for the early train to Portland, due at 6:20 A.M. Up to this time, I had remained in bed until seven or eight o'clock, so I had to change my way of living.

After a year of Postmastership, I decided to put in a small stock of school supplies, which added a few dollars profit permonth. I also arranged to have a free reading room in the back room of the Post Office, in which local people gave magazines, books, etc. This proved to be very popular with all ages, the young folks, as well as the old folks, and all free.

The bicycle came in along about this time. None of the hardware dealers cared to sell bicycles. I decided to take on the agency to sell Columbia and Vedette(?) bicycles, two of the most popular brands at that time. The Columbia sold for \$150, the Vedette(?) for \$75. The first year I sold 33 Vedette(?). I advertised the number of sales by stacking the shipping crates on the top of one another, along side of the Post Office building. This same building was first built for a bank. In 1957, it was converted into a restaurant.

The sale of bicycles added considerably to my income, so much so that in 1899, I had saved seven to eight hundred dollars.

Next door to the Post Office was a hardware store, owned and operated by a Mr. Austin and a Mr. Willsey. Mr. Austin decided to sell his interest in the business, so propositioned me to buy him out. I told him I only had \$800, which was not enough to buy his half-interest. He accepted the \$800 as partial payment and said he would allow me one year to pay the balance, which amounted to \$2,000. I laid the proposal before my father and asked for his advice. After a few days of thought, my father advised that I not accept Mr. Austin's offer as the other partner, Mr. Willsey was an old man of 65 years and I should not get myself involved in such an undertaking. Their sales amounted to around \$8,000 per year and he didn't think it justified my propped investment, especially since I had only \$800 to pay down. He considered it too much of a risk, but after due consideration, I went against his advice and entered into the partnership. We called the adventure Willsey & Co. I did not wish my name to appear as the Post Office department might object to my outside interests. In the hadware operation, I kept the books and helped in the store part time as my sister, Grace, was my full time helper in the Post Office.

(To be continued)

We are indebted to Robert Kuykendall for these reminiscences of Fred Trullinger.

RS

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