



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
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- 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

APRIL

1989

- MEETING:** Tuesday evening, April 11, Newberg Senior Center, 502 E. 2nd Street, Newberg
- POTLUCK** Supper will be at 6:30. Bring own table service. Guests welcome and encouraged.
- PROGRAM** Doris Huffman, local Newberg author and historian, will talk about Newberg's first hundred years.

Are your dues up-to-date? The mailing list is to be reviewed in May. \$7.50 general; \$5.00 senior citizens. Only \$50. for life membership.

MUSEUM NOTES

Queries about Yamhill County ancestors and early county history continues to be a big part of our museum program. We are fortunate to have gathered as much family and county history (including photographs) as we have. . . In the next few weeks the museum will be hosting a group of about 35 from Monmouth, and a group of women from Portland. Both of these groups are interested not only in visiting our museum, but in visiting the antique mall as well. The Museum and Mall make a good tour combination!

OLD YAMHILL has gone to press! The Executive Board met at my house on March 20 and decided it was time to give the go-ahead. That means it's time to send your money, or pay at the next meeting. The books should be ready for distribution sometime next month. . . There is still time to get more orders in at the \$10. pre-publication price: remember children, other family members and friends who have lived here. The photos alone make the book a treasure. In addition there are maps of all the towns, and an early census listing all the families in each community. There's something of interest to everyone. Fill out the form below and send your money to Yamhill County Historical Society
P.O. Box 484
Lafayette, OR 97127

or make your payment at the next meeting. Maxine Williams, Pres.

REMINISCENCES OF FRED L. TRULLINGER (Yamhill, Oregon), Part III

Ben was just a farm boy and had little, if any, experience in selling hardware, or anything else. I really had my problems. We planned to have the building completed by July 1, 1903, and placed our orders for merchandise to be delivered on that date. In June Ben came to me saying he was not well-sold on our partnership agreement. We talked ~~it~~ over and I asked him what he would take for his share of the business. He said, "Pay me back all the money I have put into the business and \$500 more". I said, "OK, Ben", and sat down and wrote a check for the amount. He looked at the check, never said a word, and streaked out for the bank to see if they would honor the check. This ended my third partnership and I have never had one since.

The store opened on August 1, 1903 with a new, clean stock of groceries, shoes, clothing, dry goods, hardware and notions. I hired two clerks, Harry Gist and Kate Chamberlin. I paid Harry \$60 per month and Kate \$40. They were with me for five years, or until the time Harry got the idea that he could start in business, with Kate as his helper, and make a success as a competitor. His idea was a good one, so he opened his store next door to mine, putting in an identical stock as I had with the exception of hardware.

My business went along as usual. I brought a young man, Charlie Eustice, out from Wisconsin, who took Harry's place. A Miss Lottie Allan, an experienced dry goods clerk from Lebanon, Oregon, took over Kate's place. Everything worked out well, leaving all parties happy and satisfied. You could never tell from my sales volume that I had a competitor next door who wished to put me out of business.

In 1906 the Postal Department decided to try out the idea of a rural delivery service. North Yamhill was one of the first to try out the service, using Charley Walker as the first carrier. His route was through the Pike District, up the right bank of the North Yamhill River, as far as Fairdale, then back through Moors Valley on the left side of the river, via Frowdes, Millers, Nelsons, and Trullinger's mill. From there into town, amounted to a twenty-two mile round trip. This was, of course, by horse and buggy. The carrier provided his own transportation.

I could write a book covering the many small, out-of-line incidents that happened in my 15 years as Yamhill Postmaster. Eventually, they all caught up with me and a new 3rd Class Postmaster was appointed and the Post Office was removed from my store. I would not accept the job of 3rd Class Postmaster as I would have had to give my entire time to its management and operation. Instead, I took the Studebaker automobile sales agency for Yamhill and Polk Counties. I established a branch distribution at McMinnville and at Ballston. I held the agency for two years, selling E.M.F. and Flanders cars. I made more money from ~~this~~ venture than the Post Office would have paid me in ten years. On top of that, ~~I had a lot of fun selling and teaching farmers how to drive cars on a muddy, dirt road.~~ There was not a paved road anywhere in the Willamette Valley, so driving was limited to about six months out of the year, usually late spring, summer and early fall. I drove my first car out from Portland and it took me two days to drive 35 miles. I had to tear down several farmer's wooden fences to obtain the boards necessary to place over the impossible mud holes. (Since Fred was appointed postmaster in July of 1897, he would have acquired the car dealership about 1912.)

Ruth Stoller