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**NEWSLETTER** Margaret Roghair

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

**SUMMER HOURS:** Wednesdays thru  
Sundays, 1 - 4 o'clock

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.

## YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MAY

1989

**MEETING:** Tuesday evening, May 9, VFW HALL, end of Main St., Willamina  
**POT LUCK SUPPER:** 6:30 p.m. Bring own table service. To car pool, meet at McMinnville Bi-Mart parking lot, in spaces nearest Baker St. no later than 6 o'clock.

**PROGRAM:** by Eula Petite of Grand Ronde. She grew up in a family of 14 children in Grand Ronde and taught school there and in Willamina for many years. She is a fascinating personage and you will not want to miss this program!

**MUSEUM NOTES** - This will be our last meeting before our summer schedule goes into effect. Beginning June 14, we plan to be open Wednesdays through Sundays from 1 to 4 o'clock. A lot of volunteers will be needed! Give some thought as to when you can help -- once a week, once a month, or whatever you can. Ruth Stoller will be signing up volunteers at the meeting. Its a fun job! Let's all give some time.

This is the final reminder to send your money for the OLD YAMHILL book. It will still be \$10. if your payment is made before May 15. Send payment to: Yamhill County Historical Museum, Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127. The local newspapers will announce when the books may be picked up after June 15, at the Museum. Others will be delivered locally or mailed.

This is your last newsletter until September. Our summer pot luck PICNIC is to be Tuesday noon, August 8. We will again meet at the Bi-Mart parking lot, to go to a surprise destination. Bring food and table service. Beverages provided. Do mark the date on your calendar, and keep this newsletter for reference.

In the Stagecoach, Pack Horse Mail Days of 1897 - Yamhill Route to Tillamook

(The following was written years ago by Helen Moe for the Portland Oregonian and was given to us by Bob Kuykendall.)

Yamhill, Oregon, was a busy trading center and there were many travelers going through. Dust rose off the street in summer and mud took over in the winter, but even Portland was like that in the 1800s.

In 1897 Grace Trullinger, sister of Fred, went to work for her brother who was the Postmaster. The Post Office was in the front corner of the hardware store. Her family, the Trullingers, are well-known in Oregon business.

The period after the Civil War found the country settling up fast, but the few roads were very bad. Tillamook and Yamhill were concerned with getting a mail route over the Coast Range. Tillamook was growing and more Dutch and Swiss farmers were being attracted to settle there by the green grass and mild climate.

The big bay, with its clams and fishing, was their pride and joy but the entrance to it was a death trap for shipping. Ships were reluctant to call often, unless they had large canoes; so the people largely got along without supplies or packed them in by horseback over the old Indian trails. Many a story is told of the mishaps and adventures of bringing in supplies that way. The mail was a very happenstance affair, but something needed to be done.

The shortest and most direct route from Portland and valley points to Tillamook was by Yamhill. The hills were low and not as rough as in some areas, so it was scouted for a possible road. In 1871 with the dubious blessing of the state legislature to the tune of a \$10,000 appropriation which somehow shrank to \$5,000 when the bonds were sold, a toll road was in the planning stage. It was a dream coming true, but there was a long way to go before it would be anything but a horseback trail. The money was totally inadequate and the road-building tools they had then would make us think now of someone trying to build a road with a garden hoe.

The timber stood tall and thick, the hills were not very rocky, but in the coast range they have their steep pitches and hog backs. The road was worked 13 years before it was finally passible by wagon. In 1884 after all those years of road building, the first stage went over.

In 1897 when sister Grace went to work at the post office, the stages had been going over the Trask Toll Road for a little more than 12 years. They ran all summer and into the fall--as long as they could get through the mud. There were only a few stretches of road that had been corduroyed.

The mail sacks were filled and piled high in the back of the rig and ready to go soon after 4 A.M. The horses were hitched to the rig and stood in the street switching flies and stomping. After the passengers were aboard the whip cracked and the horses moved out as the driver yelled "Ya-a-Wang". It took a certain amount of showmanship to be a good stage driver. (to be continued) - Ruth Stoller

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 484  
Lafayette, OR 97127

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