



*Yamhill County Historical
Museum. Purchased in 1969.*

OFFICERS 1990

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NEWSLETTER Margaret Roghair
MUSEUM HOURS Saturdays and
Sundays, 1 - 4 o'clock
(except by appointment)

MARCH YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1990
NEWS

MEETING: Tuesday evening, March 13. V.F.W. HALL, 1st & Main, Carlton

POTLUCK at 6:30. Bring own table service.

PROGRAM titled "Sheep," will be presented by member Dr. Elmer Million, retired from the history department at Linfield College. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Message from our president --

At our February meeting it was decided to hold a quilt raffle to raise some funds for the benefit of the Museum. It will fit in with the program planned for April when a woman from the Oregon Historical Society will bring the "Murder Quilt" to the City Library and will tell its story. This is a sensational and little known event in the history of Yamhill County and it will be open to the public. The story will be told and the quilt displayed in the Carnegie Room at the McMinnville City Library. Watch for newspaper articles and posters for further information.

At our March meeting, raffle tickets will be handed out to all members and we will try to sell 1000 tickets at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Some lucky person will win a beautiful comforter type quilt that was made by the McMinnville Seniors at the Community Center.

Several quilts from the Museum are on exhibit until the end of March at the County Court House in the display case on the main floor.

MUSEUM NOTES

The Museum has been given an outstanding piece of late Victorian memorabilia-- a surrey with a fringe on top. It was donated by the descendants of Ed Billick of Dundee. The surrey was made for Mitchell, Lewis, and Staver of Portland, Oregon, during the 1890s and purchased by Mr. Billick. It has a convertible seat that makes it possible to have either a front and back seat or just a front seat--a wonderful contraption! It has two beautiful carriage lamps, complete with beveled glass and candle holders that automatically rise as the candles burn down. The surrey is in remarkably good condition. We want to thank Florence and Glenn Huntley of Tacoma, Jack Billick of Sherwood, and Paul Billick of McMinnville. They even delivered it in person to our Museum Barn door, which we greatly appreciated.

At 101 years, member Pernilla Ditter enjoys receiving the Historical Newsletter. She lives at Columbia Manor Convalescent Center, 6010 Shattuck Rd., Portland, 97221. Do we have other centenarians in our membership?

From Rith Stoller -

Recently I ran across a note that Bill Perry had written and sent to one of our monthly Historical Society meetings when he was unable to attend in person. Many of you will remember Mr. Perry as a long time county agent and an early and faithful member of our Yamhill County Historical Society. Here is his note:

EARLY OREGON SAWMILLS

My grandfather and grandmother, Francis and Elizabeth Perry, arrived in Dayton in December 1845. They had a small water powered sawmill. My father said they hauled it across the Plains. Others have said it was shipped around the Horn.

Grandfather built the ferry to cross the Yamhill River at what is now Ferry Street in Dayton. After about two years he sold and moved up river to the present Morris Century Farm, west of Yamhill.

They built a small dam and set up the mill. Indian custom was to periodically burn the area to raise grass to feed game and so have better hunting. One result was there was much good-looking timber along the river. Trouble was, it was "second growth" and full of very hard knots. These hard knots quickly dulled the teeth of the soft metal saws.

Grandfather sold his "squatter's rights" to 317 Acres for two log chains, a yoke of oxen, and \$200. in gold. The sale was in 1850 or 51. The new owner, a Mr. Morris did not want the mill, so my grandfather took it to the mouth of Milton Creek near St. Helens. Two years later it was washed away by a winter flood.

The mill was moved up stream two or three miles to a better site and still better timber. Lumber was shipped to the California gold fields. When the price dropped to \$100. per M, it was no longer profitable, so the mill cut only for local trade. Wages were \$5. per 12 hour day in summer and less in winter time. The mill was washed away in a big flood in December 1876, nearly drowning two sons trying to save it.

I remember playing on the 8 or 10 foot high over-shot water wheel before it went out in a flood about 1905 or 6. The old wooden water boxes were large enough so that a small boy could hide in one.

Sorry I cannot be with you tonight.

William M. Perry