



OFFICERS 1990

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James Vincent, R. Kuykendall

PUBLICITY Elaine Rohse
NEWSLETTER Margaret Roghair

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

*Yam Hill County Historical
Museum. Purchased in 1969.*

SEPTEMBER

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS

1990

MEETING: Tuesday evening, September 11, at American Legion Hall,
125 Bridge Street, Sheridan

POTLUCK at 6:30. Bring own table service.

PROGRAM A member of the James B. Graves family will give a history
of this family, which settled in the area in the 1840's.
Visitors always welcome, and encouraged!

After the 3 month schedule of being open five afternoons a week, the
Museum will resume its schedule of being open Saturdays and Sundays,
except by appointment. Call Ruth Stoller 864-2589 Or Maxine Williams
472-4547, for special appointment.

Message from our president --

I probably won't remember all I should include in this-- there's quite a bit to tell.

First, back to the quilt raffle: we made over \$400 after paying \$75 for the quilt. Marge Menke of Yamhill won the quilt. She bought the ticket from Twila Byrnes, who, along with April Wooden of Willamina sold the most tickets. Twila and her husband Harry, and Lois Brooks, made most of the tickets. We have a number of them left over--maybe we should have another quilt raffle sometime?

While we haven't held regular summer monthly meetings, we did have an Executive Committee meeting in June and made some momentous decisions. Since we had over \$5,000 in our treasury we decided we could install protective acrylic covering over the windows in the museum. Ed Roghair got an estimate from local glass companies and found one for something over \$2,000 (Gil Ogden will report the exact figures at our meeting.) So this project has been accomplished. Also, it seemed necessary to have some work done on the foundation to prevent the steeple from leaning any more than it does. Yutzy Builders gave us an estimate of \$700 to \$800 for that work, so we authorized it to be done, too, and this has been completed.

In August we had an enjoyable picnic in Lafayette Lock Park. It was a perfect day, lots of good food, and at least 35 present. Ruth Stoller and George Williams gave us a little history of the lock. And others present reminisced. We missed Roma Sitton, who we are sorry to hear has not been feeling very well lately, and we also miss Mildred Renne and hope she will be back with us soon.

George had cheerful cooperation from all the volunteers who kept the museum open five afternoons every week during the summer, and will be signing up volunteers for weekends for the rest of the year.

We look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting.

M.W.

(45.00)

Membership dues are to be paid to Mary Ogden, P.O. Box 273, Amity 97101

One of our sometimes forgotten historic treasures is the remnant of the Yamhill Locks on the Yamhill River just below Lafayette. The locks were in use from 1900 to about 1954. An effort is being made to have it put on the National Register of Historic Places. The Oregon Historical Society has just published a history of the locks in its last two quarterlies. It was written by Suann Reddick of Yamhill County. The Oregon Historical Quarterlies are \$5 each. The set of two quarterlies is available at the museum in Lafayette for \$10. The Locks story is fascinating. It took so many years to get the locks that by the time they were built they had almost lost their usefulness. You will want to read the complete story. A McMinnville newspaper, THE YAMHILL REPORTER, on September 28, 1900, published an article about the opening of the Yamhill Locks. Here are some excerpts from that article:

LOCKS COMPLETED

CELEBRATION TODAY AND TOMORROW

Some Facts About the Struggle to Secure the Same by Congressional Appropriation

Ten years ago this September marks the date when the first earnest agitation for the construction of locks at Lafayette took form by petitioning through Hon. Binger Herman member of Congress. Our neighbors of Benton county could, by hauling their wheat to Corvallis, ship it to Portland, a distance of 100 miles, by rail, for 3¢ a bushel, while the rate from this city, a distance of 50 miles was 6¢. The secret was in the fact that boats could run to Corvallis, but not to McMinnville.

Mr Hermann took the matter before congress in dead earnest, and presented a bill January 11th, 1892, asking an appropriation for a preliminary survey. Republicans and democrats were alike interested and willing to deplete the national treasury to the extent of \$70,000, but as the years dragged their weary length, and the republican papers, filled with hope and faith, kept the matter under agitation, papers of the opposite political faith began to charge our representatives in congress with indifference and with using the locks project as a fence-building scheme. In fact, some republicans lost faith with the delay, and this fact may have had something to do with Mr. Hermann's ultimate defeat, though it is believed by the writer that Mr. Hermann never relaxed his efforts or lost faith in securing the appropriation. In this bill, \$3000 was appropriated to clear the stream and provision was made for survey for locks.

While the principal part of the congressional work fell to Hermann, he was seconded by Senators Mitchell and Dolph and when Mr. Tongue succeeded him, he took up the work just as faithfully in connection with Senator McBride and they have had the good fortune to be in at its consummation.

No local citizen did more or was quite so untiring in his efforts to keep the project before the delegation in Congress as Capt. A.J. Apperson, now Receiver at the U.S. Land Office at Sitka, Alaska. He never lost either hope or energy and will rejoice when he hears the good news.

The Captain (of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) with his steam launch made the first passage of the locks on Friday (Sept. 21) at 1 P.M. The Bonita, Capt. Hosford's boat, came through the locks soon after the launch and again on Monday. She is a trim little craft 125 feet long overall, and has a jolly and obliging crew. She came up from Dayton (to McMinnville) in 2 hours and 15 minutes. She will make two or three trips to the Locks during the Carnival for round trip rate of 25¢.

Ruth Stoller

August issues of the "News-Register" carried interesting feature articles by Elaine Rohse: one on the Dayton Evaporating Company, considered to be at one time the largest in the Northwest. Most interesting! The other on Ruth Stoller's research projects, directly involving our organization. Both articles with accompanying photos.