

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 NEWS LETTER
 OFFICERS 1991

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MUSEUM, Lafayette, OR, since 1969
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Publicity Elaine Rohse
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October

1991

MEETING: Tuesday evening, October 8, at the Community Christian Church, McMinnville. POT LUCK meal at 6:30, so bring your table service. Guests always welcome. 2831 N. Newby St.

PROGRAM will follow the meal. It will be presented by McMinnville native, Ralph Macy of Portland. He will tell of early memories of his life here, and will have along copies of his book, WOODEN SIDEWALKS.

Thanks to Mike Bounty for computerizing our address labels. Be sure to keep your address up-to-date with Mary Ogden, financial secretary, at Box 273, Amity, Oregon 97101. Dues for 1992 remain the same: \$5. per year, per individual membership.

More from a Yamhill County newspaper in 1943, under the title of 60 YEARS AGO. The date of the original paper was July 12, 1883:

DAYTON

Thermometer stood at 104 in the shade at this place Friday July 6. With our sportsmen, pigeon shooting seems to be the favorite amusement. The Newberg band favored us with music as it returned from the Amity celebration.

McMINNVILLE

S. Cozine is building a barn on his premeises near the corner of A and Second street. (Ed. note: Second street is now Fourth.) Custer Post band on their return from Portland were met at the depot by the Amateur band. In arriving at their hall they were surprised to find a table spread with all the rich viands that would prove palatable. Mrs. Clark sent us a stalk of rhubarb eighteen inches in length and the leaf measures six feet in circumference.

Some of you have probably heard stories about the "Sink Hole" near Cove Orchard. In the past, I had heard some rather vague references to it, but not until I recently found an article in a McMinnville newspaper dated April 18, 1940, did I find some concrete evidence:

COVE ORCHARD'S MYSTERIOUS
"SINK HOLE" STILL ACTS UP

YAMHILL, April 18.--Memories of bygone incidents when the railroad and farmers met repeated difficulties at the mysterious "sink hole" near Cove Orchard were revived this week when Frank Deletiglio managed to free his tractor from the black mire Monday.

Part of the Deletiglio place is in the Cove Orchard-Wapato gap near old Wapato lake site, and is apparently on the edge of the sink hole which was once the despair of Southern Pacific railroad engineers.

Many tales are told of freight cars that went down in the "bottomless pit" under the tracks. For a long time the railraod kept a pile driver busy hammering long piling into the hole. The attempts were all fruitless, because they never reached the spongy earth.

Recently the sink hole seems to have revived its sinking habits, and is approached slowly by the wary trainmen.

Two years ago, it was reported, a section crew set the weeds along the right of way afire to clear the railroad property. For many months, thereafter, smoke issued from the hole in a mysterious manner, apparently having been drawn into the hollow earth spot.

Does anyone have any first-hand information on the "Sink Hole"--or know exactly where it was? Did the railroad really lose freight cars in it? Send us your stories or bring them to the Museum.

Ruth Stoller

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