

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS 1991

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662-3788
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- Board Members . . . Harvey Stoller,  
Ed Roghair, James Vincent,  
and Robert Kuykendall



MUSEUM, Lafayette, OR, since 1969  
 Hours - Sat & Sun 2 to 4 pm  
 (or by appt: 662-3788, 864-2589)

- Publicity . . . . . Elaine Rohse
- Newsletter . . . . Margaret Roghair

NOVEMBER YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS 1991

MEETING TUESDAY EVENING, November 12, at the American Legion Hall, Willamina. Potluck dinner at 6:30. Bring own twble service. Visitors always welcome.

PROGRAM following the meal, will be presented by Maxine Shetterly Williams, about her Willamina pioneer relatives.

Our president says -

Someone left a paper plate holder and stonewear cup at the picnic in July. I forgot to mention them at the last potluck, but if they're yours you can pick them up at the November meeting. A pint size plastic container also got left behind.

Now is a good time to pay your dues for 1992, either at the meeting or by mail to Mary Ogden, P. O. Box 273, Amity, Oregon 97101. If you pay by mail and require a receipt, you can really help by including a self-addressed stamped envelope.

We've had folks from Japan and a lady from Holland among recent visitors at the museum.

Gordon Zimmerman has been very successful selling "From Yamhill to Tillamook by Stagecoach" on the Oregon Coast Explorer between Banks and Tillamook on weekends.

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The mailing list will be reviewed early in the New Year. To show your interest in and support of our county's historical society, and to keep in touch through the newsletter, the dues should be up-to-date.

## HISTORY NOTES

Whenever we have unusual weather, I think of A.R. Burbank and his Lafayette Journals, He always recorded the unusual things that were happening with and because of the weather.

In June of 1885 he wrote that the season was very early. His entry for June 28th recorded that blackberries were ripening and wild ones had been ripe for over a week. On June 24th Mr. Hoskins, who lived near Newberg, had brought quite a lot of peaches from his farm and sold them at Lafayette. The Burbanks had picked ripe peaches from their own garden on June 26th. He noted: "Peaches never ripened so early in this county". It rained on the night of June 26th, which was to be the last general rain of the whole summer of 1885. On September 13th he wrote in his journal:

"Rain fell in light showers on the afternoon of the 8th (Tuesday) and some good showers through the night. This is the first general rain that has fallen in this part of the Willamette Valley for 74 days, which I presume the like was never before known here. In fact not to the oldest white inhabitants. So all are happy on account of the return of rain. The beautiful, beautiful rain!

"A great change of climate has come upon Oregon and she is becoming more tropical. We have had a great and long drouth.

"The strangest event of the season is the starting of trees, shrubs, and plants to produce a second crop for this season. Some apple trees have bloomed and have a new crop on--also some blackberries, raspberries, and strawberries. Potatoes are producing anew, while the dogwoods of the forest are blooming again. All this is wonderful and strange and more especially for a season of drouth."

Although there were occasional rains all through the month of October, Burbank continued to complain about the dryness of the season. He wrote on October 11: "The season is dryer than before known"; on October 18: "Dry and dusty and not suitable for plowing."; October 25: "Not wet enough for farming."; November 15: "All are behind and but little seeding in from fall plowing."; November 27: "Past week quite rainy and not suitable for planting. Sowing is about suspended for Fall and Winter seeding." However, on December 6 he wrote, "Some are still plowing and seeding".

1885 was a most unusual year!

Ruth Stoller