

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS 1991

- PRESIDENTLois Brooks
662-3788
- VP/PROGRAMBarbara Knutson
- SECRETARY Eunice Noyes
- FINANCIAL SECRETARY Mary Ogden
- TREASURER Gil Ogden
- HISTORIAN Ruth Stoller
- BOARD MEMBERSHarvey Stoller,
Ed Roghair, James Vincent,
and Robert Kuykendall



- PUBLICITY Elaine Rohse
- NEWSLETTER Margaret Roghair

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

MARCH YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1992
Pot Luck

MEETING: Tuesday Noon, March 10, Dundee Methodist Church, 11th & Hwy 99W,
Dundee. Bring own table service. Visitors always welcome. Donna Landauer
King will give the program, on the History of the Gibbs School.

Notes by our President, Lois Brooks:

At the February meeting, Barbara Knutsen, our representative in the estate of Anthony Thompson from whom we inherited the Amity house, announced that the estate had finally been closed and presented a check in the amount of \$9,559.19. This sum is what we realized after all real estate and attorney fees were paid. Barbara placed many calls and made several trips to Salem on our behalf, plus inventorying the contents of the house and arranging for its sale. Her efforts are much appreciated and I'm sure we all agree she was the right person for the job.

Maxine Williams presented the first tree certificate to be awarded. Ken Croteau accepted the certificate for a black walnut growing at the Federal Correction Institute in Sheridan. Remember, if you know of a tree you consider worthy of nominating contact Maxine, Shirley Kuykendall, Marguerite Lewis, or Elaine Rohse.

Opal Lahley suggested we take pictures of the old Church of Christ building on the corner of Trade and Church Streets in Amity, as it will soon be torn down. Who will volunteer to do this?

Ed Colvin of the covered bridge slides is trying to find pictures of Yamhill County's no-longer-in-existence covered bridges. His address and phone number are: 7415 S.W. 31st Ave., Portland, Oregon 97219; 245-5590.

Three eighth grade classes from Dayton visited the museum Tuesday, February 18. They asked some astute questions and showed a great deal of interest and enthusiasm. Members John White, Ruth Stoller, Twila Byrnes, and Maxine and Geroge Williams stationed themselves in various areas of the museum and told about the displays there, while Ed Roghair guided the students around the barn.

YAMHILL COUNTY LOCKS

by Evert Wise

(Evert Wise grew up in Lafayette and has many interesting stories to tell about the Lafayette he knew years ago.)

During my boyhood, I remember the old Yamhill River. Newt Hembree and I were together in everything and the river was the scene of much of our lives. Del Gray taught us to "plug" for bass and very few people alive today know the great numbers of bass in that river. We had a rule of releasing any bass under 2 lbs. The water was deep and the river was wide then. While the dam was in and before the fish-killing detergent was present, the trout and pan fish were also plentiful. Fish like the chub and the yellow perch are gone now.

The locks were the location of many activities. Logging, swimming, and fishing. Mr. Johnson was the operator of the locks and was friendly to us boys, allowing us to help operate the valves when we followed Fritz Groth as he put a log raft through to the lower river. Sometimes we followed Frank Lieberman, crayfish man, when he moved to the lower river and to the Willamette to fish for crayfish. We borrowed row boats from Fritz Groth, Buck Bosworth, and Gene Radke--rowing to us came as natural as breathing.

The federal government owned the locks for many years after the fish ladder rotted out but nothing was done about it. Immediately after the county became the owner the federal guys jumped them to either put in a fish ladder or tear out the dam. Well, the small minds that ran the county (especially those that were in office back in those days) could only see tearing out the old locks. They found out that what appeared to be an easy, economical solution wasn't that at all. The ones who tried to blow the botched the job and left them hanging. The 30-ton crane couldn't even shake the old gate piling in the dam. Finally, after spending much more than repairs and a fish ladder would have cost, they got enough fishway to satisfy the government. However, we lost all that irrigation water and the recreation value is gone. We need all the water we can get stored up against the rapidly falling water table. The tributaries have dried up just in my short lifetime till I am saddened by memories of frog ponds and wet spots where water birds used to be plentiful.

R.S.