

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS 1992

- PRESIDENTLois Brooks
662-3788
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- FINANCIAL SECRETARY . . . Mary Ogden
- TREASURER Gil Ogden
- HISTORIAN Ruth Stoller
- BOARD MEMBERS . . .Harvey 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)

OCTOBER YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1992
NEWSLETTER

- MEETING Tuesday evening, October 13, in Cafeteria of Wascher School, Lafayette, 986 E. 7th Extension. Enter either by front door or gym.
- POT LUCK 6:30; bring own table service.
- PROGRAM "Railroad Nostalgia," slides of trains in Yamhill County, presented by John White. This member previously gave a very interesting presentation on early postal history of Yamhill County, and we look forward to this program.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Eileen Crawley has replaced Alice Harris as our representative on the Oregon Trails Celebration committee. Thanks to Alice we have had excellent progress reports and are grateful to her for the time she devoted so faithfully to attending meetings and keeping the group informed. Since other commitments have kept her from continuing, we are fortunate that Eileen, another very capable and interested person, has graciously agreed to take over. Thanks Alice and Eileen.

Items left at the picnics can now be picked up from the office in the museum.

It is good news to hear that Chester Hall is improving.

The museum has been back on winter hours since Labor Day, but we are still getting lots of visitors. Ruth Stoller, curator, and Olive Johnson continue to keep very busy on Saturdays. They and the others who worked during the summer -- Bob and Shirley Kuykendall, Barbara Knutson, Alice Brandt, Elma Shuck, Edna Robertson, Crystal Rilee, John and Betty White, George and Maxine Williams, Roma Sitton, Mariam Blair, Lila Jackson, Eunice Noyes, and Sandy Syphers were a great crew of volunteers.

L.B.

We were pleased to open the museum for a special showing to the Linfield College anthropology students. Volunteers are glad to accomodate groups on days that the museum is not normally open.

Among the documents in our museum are copies of three letters written from Lafayette in 1850 by a man who had recently arrived in Oregon by way of the Oregon Trail. With the 150th anniversary of the Oregon Trail being celebrated next year, these letters take on new interest and significance. We print them here as they were written. It is difficult at times to tell where one sentence ends and the next begins.

Oregon Territory Lafeate October 5th 1850

My Dear Wife and Children

After a six months journey I arrived here safe in Oregon and I have seen a good deal of the country, and the way they farmet here. thes farmers raise a crop here in this country from the falling of the grain from from last harvest. All they got to do is to harrow it in the ground, in fact the land is very rich and will produce a good deal of grain. The cattle keep fat here on grass summer and winter. and the labor is very high here. A common laboring man can get from three to five dollars a day and board. A good mechanic from 10-15-20 Dollars per Dy. as far that I can see about the land here in Oregon, a man with famalia can do a great deal better here, in fact, they can get rich here in a few years. Every article the farmer raises, brings a high price. The law in this country is that every emigrant that settles in this country can get give them a good deal of land by living on it four years. A man with a family gets a half section for himself, a half section for his wife and a quarter for every one of his children.* All the expense there is to get that land is to come here and if a man has good luck with his cattle and horses he brings here, sometimes will pay for the out fit. My dear wife and children and grandchildren, if you have sold your place and some of your neighbors are coming here with a family, I wish you all would come with them. And I would advise every family that is in such circumstance, that come here, comfortable with their families, it takes a large pile of money to fit out well. There ought to be six yoke of cattle to every wagon, four yoke of oxen and two yoke of cows. I would advise Mr. Cooper from Rochester to come here with his family. I am sure he can make a fortune here in this country in a short time. Because there is a good chance here to build water power such as saw mills and grist mills and wagon making. A good two horse wagon what costs \$75 in Wisconsin will bring here \$200. Everything else is brot here from the states bring such price in proportion and the best^{is} the inhabitants of Oregon are very fine folks, very kind and obliging to the emigrants for mony, we need, and a man that comes here with a family, he can get plenty of improved land and provi-^psions until he raises such on the land. (to be continued)

R.S.

*Ed. note--Children did not receive land.

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P.O. Box 484
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