

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MUSEUM, Lafayette, OR. since 1969  
Hours - Sat & Sun 2 to 4 pm  
(or by appt: 864-2589; 472-9140)

FEBRUARY YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER

1994

MEETING: Tuesday NOON, February 8, at the Community Christian Church, 2831 S. Newby St., McMinnville

POT LUCK at 12:00. Bring own table service. Visitors welcome.

PROGRAM Betty Shawver Orr, Dayton native, will acquaint us with history of the Holman-Burnett families.

From Our President:

I am planning on attending two different happenings this month, before the next meeting but after this Newsletter is issued. One is a seminar on Museum Administration, which John and Betty White will hopefully also attend, presented at the Oregon Historical Society. The other is a celebration of the completion of the log cabin. As many of the Executive Board members as possible, as well as other interested parties, will attend this event. Therefore, we will have a lot to talk about at our meeting in February, plus a great deal to report.

AGAIN - DUES ARE DUE!!!!!! Please give or send \$7.50 (for the year 1994) to Lila Jackson 2430 N. Baker, McMinnville, OR 97128. However, Lila is leaving for a trip to Hong Kong on February 4th, so your dues may be given to me at the meeting or mailed to Lila at her home address. If you want a receipt mailed to you, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

MB

If you have one, bring an old favorite VALENTINE for Show Tell.

*Eileen*  
Six NEW MEMBERS at last meeting. A nice start for the New Year. A historical society necessarily loses old members, and it is encouraging that new members take their places.

## HENRY BILLICK'S DUNDEE

In 1980 THE NUT WORLD at Dundee published a small newspaper that had an interview with 81 year-old Henry Billick in it. He was a son of the original owner of our surrey with the fringe on top. Here are excerpts from that interview. Remember that this was done in 1980.

Few residents of present-day Dundee remember town when it had boardwalks, but P.H. (Henry) Billick is one who does. Billick should-he has lived in Dundee for 77 of his 81 years, long enough to witness many of the changes that hve taken place.

Henry Billick's father moved his family to Dundee shortly after the turn of the century so that he could farm that land he bought west of the Dundee school.

Henry's father commuted from Portland for three years, not an easy task by horse and buggy. Billick recalls: "We only had dirt roads then, and the wagon would go a foot down in the wintertime. We went to Portland on what we call the back road, over Ramsey Hill, which used to be the main road to Newberg".

Billick recalls that it used to take a day to go to Portland from Dundee. The family took produce into the farmer's market in Portland, and then would spend a day or two shopping before returning.

Dundee had little more than Theilman's store and a saloon in the early days that Henry Billick remembers, although there was a railroad turn around that the kids played on.

The Dundee school had only two teachers during Billick's youth. One taught the grade school children, while the other conducted the high school classes.

Although started as a railroad town, Dundee soon became an agricultural center. Henry Billick remembers: "Prunes were a major crop. Thomas Prince had the largest orchard, with over 400 acres. Every farmer had his own dryer. I helped put in the orchard behind the school. I wheeled in small trees in a wicker baby buggy". (A "1904-05 Yamhill County Handbook of facts" boasts that Dundee had the largest Italian prune orchard in the world. Billick believes it was Prince's.)

Prunes were steamed and packed in 25 pound boxes for shipping all over the world. Bags of prunes weighing 300 pounds were shipped to Germany. Henry Billick recalls: "Local farmers ran a co-op for prunes at the same place Westnut is now. The farmers dried and delivered their prunes. But the place was burned down by kids playing with matches".

When the market for prunes dried up, Dundee farmers switched to nuts.

(to be continued)

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P.O. Box 484  
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