

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PUBLICITY Elaine Rohse
 NEWSLETTER. Margaret Roghair

MUSEUM, Lafayette, OR. since 1969
 Hours - Sat & Sun 2 to 4 pm

MAY YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 1994

MEETING Tuesday evening, May 10, in Yamhill. At the Yamhill-Carlton High School Cafeteria, which is behind the main building.
 POT LUCK Begins at 6:30. Bring own table service. Visitors welcome.
 PROGRAM Barbara Bodeen, formerly of Yamhill, will relate the story of the Andrew Smith Family on the Oregon Trail. (1842)

The high School is located on N. Maple Street, Hwy. 47

President's Message: Just a reminder that annual dues are \$7.50 PER PERSON. In other words, it costs \$15 for both Mr. and Mrs. to belong to the Yamhill County Historical Society. This has been mentioned at our meetings, but it seems to be overlooked.

Our new schedule starts at the museum in June. We will be open from 1 to 4 on Wednesday through Sunday, starting June 15, 1994 and continuing through the day before Labor Day. If anyone is interested in working during that time, please contact Maxine Williams, 472-4547.

Our picnic this year will be on August 9th at Lafayette Locks in Lafayette. If we don't luck out and have nice weather, we will go to the Community Center there. Same instructions - bring your own service and favorite food - and come prepared to have a good time. Don't forget, friends are welcome. We'll even let a husband and wife attend for the same price.

Ruth Stoller has been in the hospital for the past three days on account of Asthma. By the time you read this, she will be home and feeling much better, we hope.

See you at the next meeting. The program will be Barbara Bodeen on the "Story of the Andrew Smith Family on the 1842 Oregon Trail." MB

Keep those articles coming for future Newsletters.

MORE BILLICK HISTORY

Both Jack Billick and his cousin Paul Billick sent us more interesting information on early Dundee and the Billick family. Henry Billick, a son of Ed Billick, had a brother Ed, Jr, and a sister Frieda. Frieda is still living in Anchorage, Alaska, (her name is Frieda Graham) and, Jack tells us gets the historical society's newsletter. Ed, Jr, was Jack's father and Henry was Paul's. Jack was kind enough to contact Paul and have him send us the information below:

My father, Henry Billick, often mentioned how black with ashes the ground was from camp fires on the land southwest of the new city hall (Dundee) between 5th and 7th streets.

Henry and his brother, Ed, helped their father clear this area of large firs. The stumps were large and some took a couple of days to chop and dig out. They recalled that someone had found a cache of rock bowls and pestles in a rotten stump.

We--myself, Jack Billick, Florence Billick, Dorothy Billick and other kids--played in the orchard that was planted in this cleared land. There were enough arrowheads around that it wasn't hard to find them. If they were broken, we would let out a "war hoot" and throw them at our playmates. After heavy rains we would follow the ditches that had washed away the top soil--this was prime area for finding arrowheads. There were a number of glass beads that would show up but we thought they were from cheap necklaces. In 1980 I contacted the Oregon State Highway Parks division to document this Indian camp. When they sent an archeologist out to look the area over he was interested in finding beads more than arrowheads.

According to stories told to me by Myrtle Hagey and others, this camp was a trading camp and there had been many Council Fires there, whatever that meant, I suppose some kind of meeting to discuss affairs. Myrtle told that as a child people had told her that the Indians from across the river would tie trading goods on a pile of brush or some logs and swim across pushing their floats ahead of them. They headed for the tip of Ash Island and then traveled across the slow water on the west side of the island. According to her stories--among the items traded were squaws, captured or traded for by the Shoshoni and brought across the river to this camp. The squaws were then traded to coast tribes for a high value.

A trail led up over the hill north of the cemetery. Fifty years ago it was still very prominent and was called the "Paren Springs Trail". It was worn down a foot and a half in places. The trail went down the hill, across the creek and up the Red Hills to just below Homer Worden's place. Here it divided, with one branch heading down toward Gaston. The other branch went down the hill to the west and forked to follow the route of the highways to Carlton and Yamhill, then on over the Coast range to the Tillamook Country.

It is too bad that the stories of the Old Timers were not written down and preserved. I'll try to write a note about the stills around Dundee and the running of "moonshine" my Dad used to tell, and send them to you.

Signed: Paul Billick

(We certainly hope Paul does send us more stories. RS)

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P.O. Box 484
Lafayette, OR 97127

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