

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS 1995

- PRESIDENT . . . . . Shirley Venhaus  
472-7328
- VP/PROGRAM . . . . . Barbara Knutson
- SECRETARY . . . . . Betty White
- FINANCIAL SEC'Y . . . . . Lila Jackson
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BOARD MEMBERS: Ed Roghair, James Vincent  
 Robert Kuykendall, Harvey Stoller  
 NEWSLETTER, Margaret Roghair; PUBLICITY, Elaine Rohse

**MUSEUM HOURS:**  
 Sat. & Sun. 1-4 p.m.

FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER

1995

- MEETING Tuesday NOON, February 14, Community Christian Church,  
2831 S. Newby St., McMinnville
- POT LUCK 12 o'clock. Bring own table service. Visitors welcome.
- PROGRAM Jim Lockett, on OREGON'S BIRTHDAY.

Dear YCHS Members,

The Society wishes to thank out-going officers: Miriam Blair, Gil Ogden & Eunice Noyes for all their contributions during their term in office.

The mailing address of the Society is once again P.O. Box 484, Lafayette, Or. 97127.

Over 20 members recently met to discuss upcoming activities. We need volunteers in many areas. New activities are being planned and we need people to help.

Olive Johnson, Harvey Stoller and Jack White agreed to research location and needs for the Ruth Stoller Library.

Work continues on the Log Cabin grounds, handicapped driveway and drainage. We still need floor coverings for use in the Log Museum.

Remember, I'm waiting for each of you to let me know how many new members you have recruited!

Be sure to attend the February 14th meeting to hear about the Log Cabin Rug Making project and the new Oral History Program.

Can you make a "Walking Man" out of this figure with 2 straight lines?

1130

Wear your best bib and tucker to the February meeting. You may be on TV!!

Respectfully Yours,  
 Shirley Venhaus  
 President YCHS

DUES. Jan. - Dec. \$ 7.50

Oregon became the 33rd state, Feb. 14, 1859



## 1871 YAMHILL COUNTY AS SEEN BY AN AMBITIOUS EDITOR (Part 2)

The February 24, 1871 Yamhill County remarks of WEST SIDE editor G. W. Snyder continued from last month:

"**LAFAYETTE**, the County seat, is on the Yamhill river seven miles above its confluence with the Wallamet, and 11 by water below McMinnville. This place has suffered a sort of stagnation for years but business seems to be reviving, and with a chance for the railroad to pass by there instead of McMinnville as at present surveyed, property holders are confident of a bright future. There are 4 general merchandise establishments, 2 drug stores, 1 tin shop, 2 blacksmith shops, 2 saloons, 1 hotel, 1 wagon shop, 3 doctors, 7 lawyers, There is a court house and a good school building, in which is kept a first class Academy, 1 church, Methodist Episcopal, 1 steam flour mill and 1 warehouse, a Lodge of Masons and one of Good Templars.

"**DAYTON**, on the Yamhill river three miles from its mouth, is practically the head of navigation during the summer and autumn months; there is a larger quantity of grain shipped here than any other point on the river. There are 2 general merchandise stores, 1 saddler shop, 1 saloon, 2 blacksmith shops, 1 reaper manufactory, 1 iron foundry, 2 livery stables, 1 hotel, 1 doctor. They have a school house, a church, Methodist, 1 flour mill run by water, 1 steam saw mill, 2 warehouses and a bridge across the Yamhill river. There is a Lodge of Odd Fellows who have a fine hall, and one of Good Templars who have a hall of their own. Dayton is noted for the fine style and guise of its buildings. The dwelling houses average better than anywhere in the County; the Odd Fellows Lodge room is claimed to be the best furnished and decorated in the State outside of Portland, and the stores are without exception the best constructed, lit and furnished of any village in the County.

"**AMITY** is on the South Yamhill river seven miles from McMinnville, in a fine grain country that has suffered from being too far from water carriage. We have been favored with the following statement of the business of that place by W. W. Brown, one of the leading merchants: We have 3 dry goods stores, 1 grocery store, 1 boot shop, 3 blacksmith shops, 1 tin shop, 3 Churches, namely: the Baptists, a new one costing nearly \$3000, the Christian Church building; not quite complete; they have paid out \$2000 and it will cost when finished \$3300; the Methodists own the old Church—the first built in this place, which at present is being occupied by Prof. C. M. Blake for a private school with 35 scholars in regular attendance. Also the District

School under charge of A. C. Comegge has 40 regular scholars. There was purchased here last year about 80,000 bushels of wheat by merchants besides a great many hogs and a large quantity of bacon and oats. Our place is growing. Amity is surrounded by a rich farming country and is on the direct line of the West Side Railroad from Portland to California.

"**SHERIDAN**, sixteen miles southwest of McMinnville, lies at the base of the coast mountains and among some of the most fertile lands in the world. There are 2 general stores, 1 wagon shop, 2 blacksmith shops, 1 hotel, 1 boarding house, 1 photographer, 1 church, a good school, 2 doctors. At this point the McMinnville Ditch is filled by water from the South Yamhill and when completed will afford a fine water power.

"**NORTH YAMHILL** is ten miles north of McMinnville. The settlers of this valley claim that it is the garden spot of Oregon and there is some basis for their claim. The village which concentrates the trade contains 2 general stores, 1 wagon shop, 1 blacksmith shop, 1 machine shop, 1 saloon, 1 shoe shop. There is a fine college building at present unoccupied, but not likely to remain so; and a Church, United Brethren. The line of railroad passes through this valley and there is sure to be an important village somewhere within its limits.

"In addition to these "towns", there are post offices, stores, blacksmith shops, mills, warehouses and other places of business spread over the country, but no collection of any number together. Some of them are conducted on an enterprising and liberal system, as may be seen by referring to our advertising columns, while some are never heard of excepting among personal acquaintance. This is a good county to settle in and there are frequent opportunities to invest a small capital to good advantage. Lands sell lower than similar land in other counties owing to circumstances which will no doubt be changed in a year or two, so that the present is the best time to invest in real estate that will ever be.

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(JW)

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P.O. Box 484  
Lafayette, OR 97127

Non-Profit Organization  
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