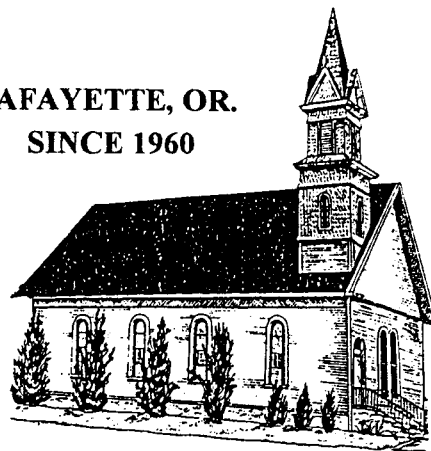


YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 1995

LAFAYETTE, OR.
SINCE 1960



MUSEUM HOURS:
SAT. & SUN. 1-4 PM
(Turn N. at the Post Office)

OFFICERS 1995

PRESIDENT.....	Shirley Venhaus	472-7328
VP/PROGRAM.....	Barbara Knutson	843-2069
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	Robert Kuykendall	662-3354
	Harvey Stoller	864-2589
HISTORIAN.....	Jim Lockett	472-5005
LIBRARIAN.....	Olive Johnson	472-6070
NEWSLETTER.....	Margaret Roghair	472-6909
PUBLICITY.....	Elaine Rohse	472-6827

MEETING Tuesday evening, October 10, at the Christian Church in Amity. (3 blocks to the right of the Methodist Church, where we have met previously.)

POT LUCK will be at 6:30. Bring table service. Visitors welcome!

PROGRAM follows dinner. Maynard Drawson, Salem, will talk about Interesting Oregon Trees.

Greetings Society Members!

The annual Y.C.H.S picnic took place on August 15th. Thirty-three members and guests met at the Lafayette Park. Good food, good people and good times (and not necessarily in that order)!

We wish to thank Marge Burgen for the beautiful quilt top she made for the Y.C.H.S. It will be in place at the Miller Log Museum to be quilted by late October.

The Historical House Tour scheduled for October 21, 1995 has been postponed until 1996. This was due to time restraints and the fact that two homeowners requested consideration of a later date for personal reasons.

New steps were built at the back entrance of the church by Deputy Lonnie Green and an assistant. Other members of the group worked several hours on the museum grounds. The continued help from the county is greatly appreciated.

The August 12th memorial for Verl Miller was well attended. We wish to thank all who helped make it a memorable afternoon. Verl's desire to honor his ancestors, and other pioneers who settled in Yamhill County has left us with a lasting legacy. Our thoughts are with Dorothy Miller, whose graciousness and continued support allows us to care for this legacy.

The September 13th meeting in Sheridan was especially interesting. Laisel Haas Bride told of her family life in Sheridan, and of her father, Ernest Haas, an early druggist. We wished Roma Sitton a happy 99th birthday!

The Y.C.H.S. must purchase chairs and tables for use in the Log Museum. A fund has been established for this purpose. Anyone wishing to donate to it would certainly help the cause!

Ruth Crawford is working on the December 4th, 1995 hosting of the Oregon State Historical Society's quarterly meeting. Gertrude Jette has offered to donate a Christmas tree to be up in time for this event. Ruth has asked that anyone willing to donate or loan Christmas ornaments please call her at 434-9843, or contact Shirley.

The next board meeting will be Monday, October 9th at the Log Museum.

Respectfully yours,
Shirley Venhaus

DUES for the coming year: Single or couples \$7.50

FAIRDALE AND R.F.D. MAIL

In 1896 the U.S. post Office Department initiated Rural Free Delivery (RFD) service on a limited trial basis. The scheme proved so popular in those areas where it had been tested that a campaign promise of incumbent President McKinley to expand the program into full nationwide coverage has been credited as a factor in his 1900 election victory over William Jennings Bryan. Although Congress generally approved of the plan, it balked at funding unless at least partially offsetting savings were realized by discontinuing costly smaller rural post offices which might be situated on or near a specific proposed RFD route.

It was not long until this reform reached Yamhill County as the July 31 1902 edition of the 'North Yamhill Record' relates:

"Inspector Clement of the Postal Department looked over the proposed Moors [sic] Valley rural mail route last Monday. This route includes Fairdale, Pike and Moors Valley, and it is understood that the department is determined to establish the route, and that it will be put in operation sometime in September. Chas. Walker and Don Hayes took the competitive examination of the inspector and one or the other of them will be put in charge of the route."

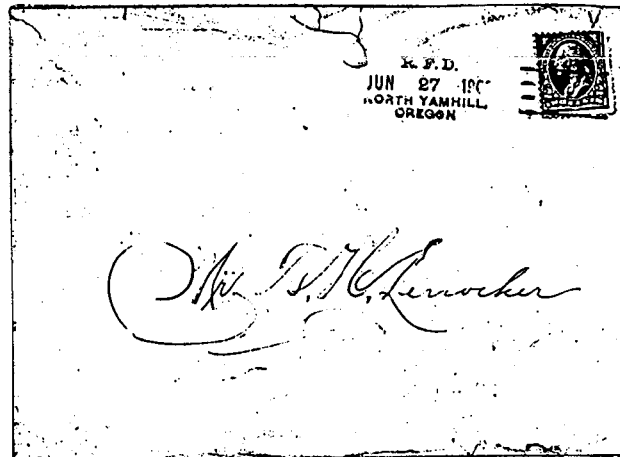
The January 22 1903 issue of the 'Record' indicates the September 1902 target date had been delayed and a possible down side to the plan was emerging:

"The Post Office Department has established a rural delivery route from North Yamhill through Pike, Fairdale, Moors Valley and return to this place by the Alex Miller farm

and Wright school house. This service will begin February 2nd., with Chas. Walker of this place as carrier, having received the appointment from the department.

"Considerable dissatisfaction is expressed by Fairdale over the order of the department to discontinue the Fairdale post office. This order was issued at the same time the one was made establishing the free delivery system. It is evidently believed by the department that the delivery system will accommodate the patrons of the Fairdale office. Citizens of that place, however, assert that this is not the case. It is said by them that the mail under the carrier system will be sixteen to twenty hours later in reaching a Fairdale patron than under the present system. One indignant Fairdalian

expressed it as his belief that unfair means had been employed to secure this system by someone. "I have made wide inquiry," said he, "and so far, have not been able to find a single patron of the new route who has signed or seen a petition for the route or had the slightest knowledge that it was to be established". He did not know who to blame for it however. He asserted that 25 families, patrons of the Fairdale office, were indignant at the discontinuance of that office. A petition is being circulated asking for the continuance of the Fairdale office."



Envelope posted June 27 1903 on the North Yamhill RFD Route

On January 31 1903 the post office located in Nelson Fairchiles' hotel at the Fairdale mineral springs was permanently closed. Two days later Charlie Walker made the first run on North Yamhill RFD Route No. 1 and continued on the job until 1907 when L.H. Kuykendall took it over. To all indications the objections to carrier service were short lived. (JW)

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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