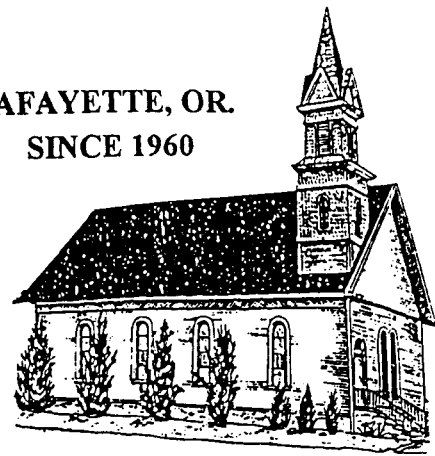


YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1995

LAFAYETTE, OR.
SINCE 1960



MUSEUM HOURS:
SAT. & SUN. 1-4 PM

OFFICERS 1995

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Saturday, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m. there will be a formal dedication of the Ruth Stoller Mem. Reference Library at the Log Cabin Museum. Refreshments will follow. Everyone welcome. Members: can you help out with a dozen cookies, or other finger food?

MEETING Tuesday NOON, November 14, at the Mormon Church, Yamhill: From Carlton, proceed thru Yamhill (toward Gaston), but turn left, and you are there.

POT LUK WILL BE at noon. Bring own table service. Please observe that no coffee is to be served on the premises. Guests always welcome.

PROGRAM to follow will be presented by Bob Kuykendall, on the Kuykendall family history.

Greetings!

The October 10th general meeting at Amity with speaker Maynard Drawson (subject: Oregon trees) was well attended and enjoyed. Some of us did a little extra driving in the rain to find the church, but it was worth the effort.

If you have any questions about your membership dues, contact Lila Jackson. Dues are \$7.50 each, \$15.00 per couple and life memberships are \$100.00 per individual. Life or yearly memberships are not transferable. Please notify Lila if you have a change of address.

We wish to thank Lois Brooks, and Howard and Petey Bird for their donations to the chair fund. Cost for the 50 chairs needed at the museum will be approximately \$550.00. We hope to have these purchased before the December 4th event.

The Yamhill County Historical Society will be hosting the Oregon Museum Association's quarterly meeting Sunday and Monday, December 3rd and 4th, 1995. This is your invitation to attend. The program will deal with computer systems for smaller museums. A reception will be held Sunday, December 3rd from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Chateau Benoit Winery (6580 N.E. Mineral Springs Rd., Carlton). Monday, December 4th's schedule at the Log Cabin Museum in Lafayette is as follows:

8:30 am Registration (no fee)
9:00 am Business meeting
10:00 am Program and panel discussion
12:00 p.m. Luncheon (cost per person: \$8.00)
1:30 p.m. Continued program activities and guided tours for guests

R.S.V.P. DEADLINE is November 27th. Contact Ruth Crawford at 434-9843.

Ruth Crawford still needs older Christmas tree decorations for the tree at the Museum. She will accept these anytime, but please let her know before November 27th if you have anything available for use.

I have estimated approximately 20 calls per month requesting information concerning historical facts and museum activities. We are pleased with the increased interest. This brings to mind last January's request that each of you recruit at least one new member in the Y.C.H.S. I'm waiting anxiously to meet them!

The next Y.C.H.S. Board Meeting will be Tuesday, November 14th at 10:30 a.m. at the Mormon Church in Yamhill.

Sincerely, Shirley

MUSINGS ABOUT MINA REDMOND

Y.C. Historical Member
100 Years young, 11-13-95

Mina Jean Redmond was born in McMinnville November 13, 1895. She is the daughter of John Harrison Redmond and Elsie (Minty) Redmond. Her mother was the sister of William Minty (Mina's "Uncle Willy") and the sister of Jean (Minty) Boyd. Mina had two sisters, Effie and Eleanor, who died as young girls during an epidemic of diphtheria in Yamhill County. Then there were Wesley, Mina, and Roy.

Mina also had three half-brothers and three half-sisters, children of her father's first marriage, which ended in divorce, because they were not able to resolve their religious differences. That first family consisted of John, father of Leon Redmond; William (Will); Matthew (Matt); Estelle Michelbook; Marguerite (Mrs. Arthur McPhillips) mother of Berney McPhillips; and Lauretta (Etta) Wheeler (Mrs. Del Wheeler)--the mother of Marguerite Wheeler and of Lauretta and her twin sister Lena.

When Mina was only five, her mother died, and a maiden aunt in Portland took care of her for a while. The first Mrs. Redmond also was nice to her, when she no longer had a mother, and Mina used to visit her. To keep his little family of three together, Mr. Redmond hired a housekeeper, and Mina came back to McMinnville. When she was twelve, her father died, and Mina from then on lived with her Aunt Jean and Uncle Alec Boyd and grew up as a sister to Harold and Robert Boyd.

After graduation from high school in 1915, Mina worked for DeHeven Hardware for a number of years but wanted very much to continue schooling so went to Oregon State for a year. She was planning a second year. Mr. Milton McGuire, Manager of the Water and Light Department, knew of her good work at DeHeven's and persuaded her to come to work for the Water and Light Department instead. They offered her more money than the \$60.00 a month she had received at the hardware store--and she took him up on it and came to work on September 3, 1924 as the first Clerk of the Water and Light Commission.

My first acquaintance with Mina was in 1929. I was a sophomore in high school and also keeping records and collecting accounts for City Sanitary Service. Since my aspirations were to become a secretary, I was interested in what went on in various offices, and the stop at Water and Light was always a pleasant one.

While working in a mission in Seattle, Mr. McGuire wrote to me, offering me a job at the Water and Light Department. Mina and Laura Armstrong were the office force at that time. It was September 3, 1941, just before Pearl Harbor and World War II. At that time Mina's salary was \$150.00 a month, and that was considered good pay for a woman. We worked forty-eight hours a week, no retirement benefits of any kind, increases in pay few and far between. The city grew as did also the office work. If we could not get it done, we came back in the evening, and there was no such thing as overtime/^{pay} for office girls. When we wanted to get in a late session, Mina would have me stay all-night with her at the Boyd's, so Dad would not have to come after me.

She was faithful and diligent, respected in the community. Our office equipment consisted of manual typewriters, a very old hand crank adding machine on the front counter, and a duplex adder on a stand to add kilowatts and water and light billing and collections. Customer bills were figured and added manually, billed with pen and ink--but Mina made very sure that we did it right and that the figures balanced. She was in on the ground floor of so much that developed at the power plant and our water dam.

In 1940 we had begun to purchase Bonneville power, with our diesel engines for stand-by. We were promoting the sale of electricity, and our customers were the life-blood of the department. Mina was reluctant for us even to make a telephone call, until she was very sure we would do and say just the right things. She was frugal to a fault and permitted no waste of any kind, for it was the public's money. She saved her own money and went on a vacation/^{trip} once a year and came back to tell us about it. There was time for wholesome humor. On the shelf for reference there was a dictionary, a grammar book, rules for letter writing and such--and Mina added a Bible.

When it came to her family, the children of Wesley and Roy, they adored her--for it was she who remembered them all on their birthdays and for Christmas and in times of need. She bought things for the Boyd household, so her Aunt Jean could have it easier, helped with weddings and other celebrations--a vital part of their family gatherings.

A new era was ushered in, when our first billing machine arrived. We were at war and fortunate to be able to take delivery before Uncle Sam "froze" such equipment. Mina got a new electric adding machine for her desk, since she was doing the accounting. It cost \$325.00, and she impressed us with that fact and that it was for her use only. When later we were supplied with electric typewriters, she did not want one. She and I worked side by side, and life centered around being ready for the monthly meeting of the Water and Light Commission. I often was going out the back door at 7:30, when they were coming in the front door, helping with last minute tasks. She was a welcome guest at our home. Mom would have me invite her, when we were having something especially good.

Retirement day came on October 1, 1962, after thirty-eight years of service. She had a trip planned and left immediately. Upon her return, we were trying to recover from the Columbus Day storm. She would stop by and see how we were doing. Occasionally she came back to work--like the year we refunded a month's electric bill to all our residential customers--and had the fun of handing those checks to our customers. Through the years--over fifty of them now--we have kept in touch--shared our experiences and have often laughed, when we could recall how it was long ago.

By friend and co-worker, Mary Koch

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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