

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

September 2003

From our President:

Dear Members and Friends, it is hard to believe that summer is coming to an end. We have had three board meetings and instead of putting the complete minutes in I will give you a quick rundown. The full board minutes will be posted on the bulletin board at the Log Museum.

In June we accepted the Audit as well as the Preservation committee's reports. The latter continues to meet and plan preservation for our many artifacts, etc. Carol Reid and Shirley will co-chair the "Barn Tour" and calendar for the year 2005. They will need lots of help. The County Commissioners held a Town meeting at the Museum. The church has new electrical circuits and additional lighting.

In July the Preservation committee submitted their latest report (great work!) and the wedding dress was finally given it's new home. We have a new flag and welcome banner. The back room walls in the church were scraped and painted by a Boy Scout group. Once the carpet is down it will result in a much needed work room, which also sports new windows.

The August picnic was attended by a small, hardy, loyal (along with a few other adjectives) group in the Amity Park. Shirley has asked to have the picnic at her house next year. During the August board meeting, it was reported that we are still working on getting broken windows replaced in the church. Once completed, we can replace the Plexiglas on the outside and put in new UV polymer sheets on the inside of the church windows. We must also address the water problem in the basement of the church. Contractors will be consulted and bids requested for this problem. September 10th is the annual "Share Day" sponsored by George Fox University. This year the group will be asked to help clean the inside of the three museum facilities.

Also in August, a meeting was held by and for all those who volunteer at the museum. Problems and proposed solutions were discussed concerning the operations and procedures used in volunteering. Communication is a very important part of volunteering at our museum, and all the attendees agreed that our tasks can be made much easier if we'll just let each other know what is going on, where items were relocated, etc. There has been much activity in sorting and inventorying items lately and it appeared to the group that a display committee should be created, comprised of no more than seven members, who could plan and created various layouts, displays, etc., from our wide variety of artifacts. This was a very successful meeting and all attendees were thankful for the chance to express thoughts and concerns. Our

Historic Society has received the promised donation from the Oregon Community Foundation / Verl & Dorothy Miller. This is to be used for maintenance and repair of our buildings. This donation makes our job so much easier and we are very grateful to the Miller's generosity.

I hope this helps catch you up a little on our activities. This coming year promises to be a very busy and productive time. We continue to be in need of volunteers. There is so much to do and so few to do it. If you have not volunteered at our facilities in the past, please consider giving 3 hours of your life once a month to our cause in helping with the public at the museum. See you in September. Shirley Venhaus, President.

New Arrivals and other notices:

We welcome new members **Shirley O'neil, Janet Mautner, Alfred Jones and Cindy and Chad Robertson**. Renewing members include **Wally Brosamle, Gloria Lutz, Maynard Dawson, Jean Sartore, Kyle Swift, Eilene Crawley and Fred and Zella Hisaw**.

We were saddened to note the passing of the following members: **Blanche Yoast, Majel Warren, Margaret Duvall and Ernestine Shields**, who was one of our charter members.

Come to the Harvest Festival. Enjoy it!

The annual Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, 11 October, 10 am to 4 pm at the museum. For your enjoyment there will be music, food, crafters, demonstrations, antique vehicles, activities for the kids, and more. Ewing Young, a.k.a. Steve Strachurski, will delight the audience with tales of this famous mountain man who was the first Euroamerican settler in Yamhill County. Please donate your favorite finger food to this event (for everyone to taste) and bring your family, relatives, friends, neighbors—even your enemies. Guaranteed that you'll have a good time and it's free. Barbara Doyle (503-538-9721) and Neva French (503-474-3510) have been busily putting together an expanded event. Questions, call either Barbara or Neva. Submitted by Barbara Doyle.

The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit tax exempt educational and public service corporation established to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County

OFFICERS - 2003

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472-7328

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843-2625

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472-9631

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Lila Jackson
472-8510

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843-3081

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Librarian

Olive Merry Johnson
472-6070

Newsletter

Dan Linscheid 843
-2625

Car Pool Coordinator

Joanne Watts 835
-5893

MUSEUM HOURS

September 1 - May 31:
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM

June 1—August 30:
Fri-Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM
or

By Appointment

605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308

New Email:
yamhillhistory@
onlinemac.com

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YCHS

Nomadic Teacher program receives funding

The Yamhill County Historical Society will again receive a grant from Trust Management Services, LLC, in support of the Nomadic Teacher program. A total of \$6,796 will subsidize 160 classroom presentations in mostly elementary schools in Clackamas, Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties during the 2003-04 school year.

September marks the beginning of the third year of this program wherein trained educators present hands-on history programs concentrating on local history. The program has been enthusiastically received by many teachers—some have already signed up for the coming school year. A Salem third grade teacher wrote, “We loved your presentation.” Three programs are presented by Barbara Doyle—“The Kalapuya”, “On the Oregon Trail” and “Pioneer Life”. Jack Davis handles the “Mountain Men: Trappers and Traders” presentation.

The Historical Society receives a small payment for each presentation—in appreciation of the artifacts loaned for the program and for the additional financial records that must be maintained. This amounts to several hundred dollars annually. (We received \$800 for the first year of operation) - Barbara Doyle

School Visitation

The Current school year ended on Wednesday, June 4th, when Carol Bacon brought her 4th grade class over to visit the museum. She has been doing this for many years and we look forward to their visit as the children, from St. James school, come so prepared and enthusiastic. As the “Chinese Neck Yoke” was being modeled by one of the boys, another child remarked, “we should have come here before we wrote our reports, we are learning so much”. How rewarding. We are concerned that no public school children came by bus this year. All of the children were transported in private cars. They were from a parochial school, home schooled and several cub scout groups. Perhaps the school economy could not afford buses for field trips this year.

Guides helping this tour: Fred Hisaw in the barn, Lois Brooks in the Log Building and Twila Byrnes in the church. All of the children were given a sample of Joanne Watts’ homemade soap to try out and compare to their mom’s detergent. - Lois Brooks

Note: unfortunately, time and circumstances prevented additional reports from Lois on Crystal Rilee’s birthday and another tour. -Ed

Busy Summer for Volunteers

Activities at the museum this summer have far exceeded normal levels. Many visitors from out of state attending reunions or performing summer vacation research stopped by to make use of our research library and visit the facilities, and we thank those who gave of their time and efforts in keeping our doors open for our visitors. Tours by groups were hosted by Twila, Lois, Ed and Fred.

A group of dedicated volunteers have worked many hours on our preservation efforts. Kathy Peck, Eileen Lewis, Julie Amen and Elsie Lehman have continued the inventory effort and placed photographs and postcards in archival sleeves. Carol Reid assisted in entering these into a computer database, which was no small undertaking. Kathy’s Green Thumb grant expired, but that has not dampened her spirit or willingness to continue her efforts for the good of our society.

The Schreiber (Bridenstien) 1855 wedding dress now enjoys a beautiful home in a lighted and enclosed case made especially for it in the Log Museum. This display may on occasion be used for other items, but it’s primary purpose is to display the wedding dress.

The preservation work on the quilt project is also continuing. Elma Shuck, Marjorie Owens, Jean Sartore, Marietta Rankin and Annita Linscheid have cleaned each and every quilt by carefully vacuuming them on both sides and matching up the accession numbers against Elma’s master list. They will be stored in archival boxes upstairs in the Log Building and marked for easy identification and retrieval.

The goal of all this is to preserve and protect our artifacts to the best of our ability. Research into and funding for archival products to better preserve our artifacts has resulted in a flurry of activity in our museum this summer and the work is far from done.



Marjorie Owens displays some of our beautiful quilts.

The Origins of Highway 18

By Dan Linscheid

Highway 18, officially referred to as the Salmon River Highway by the Oregon Department of Transportation, started as a native American trail, evolved into an important route for our military and governmental administration, then as a bumpy way to the Oregon Coast for pioneers, and today serves as a vital economic and transportation link for thousands of vehicles each day.

With the establishment of the Grand Ronde and Siletz Indian reservations came the construction of Fort Yamhill in 1856, with additional blockhouses at the Siletz agency and Newport. In 1856-57 some 4,000 Indians were held on these reservations. Lieutenant Phillip H. Sheridan commanded the fort, later moving on to Fort Hoskins, near Philomath. He returned to Fort Yamhill as police patrol under Captain D.A. Russell.

Lieutenant Sheridan became fluent in speaking Chinook, which he called the "court language", meaning the common vocabulary of the tribal conferences. Sheridan came here in 1855 from Redding, California, where he served as a member of a railroad survey party. In April of 1856, Sheridan was sent from Fort Vancouver to Fort Yamhill as commandant and quartermaster by Colonel George Wright, who commanded the department of the Columbia. The journey took four days. After assuming command for only 2 months, he was transferred to Fort Hoskins to complete the blockhouse started by Captain Christopher Colon Augur.

The first recorded use of the trail occurred in August, 1837, when Jason Lee and Cyrus Shepard, Methodist Missionaries, accompanied by their brides, and Joseph Gervais, journeyed from the mission near Wheatland to the ocean. This trip took four days each way, and they spent a week at the ocean.

The reservations were established to provide homes for natives crowded out of southern Oregon and northern California by white settlers. This was a terrible burden to the natives, unused to restraints, the wet climate, and the lack of game for food. Just before the first arrival of Sheridan, the Rogue River Indians were placed at Fort Yamhill. These warriors, who were hungry and very discontent, put the test to Sheridan's patience in trying to keep peace in the area. Sheridan had his first cavalry command while stationed at this fort. Along with his previous experiences in the military, he learned the mastery that culminated in his brilliant exploits in the Civil War. His hot temper resulted in a fight with another cadet at West Point, which held his graduation back a year.

While at Fort Yamhill he attended dances in Lafayette and Dayton, which were then the centers of social, political and commercial activities in the western part of the Willamette Valley. He tried to "spark" the daughter of Joel Palmer, the founder of Dayton, but Mr. Palmer put a stop to any such liaison. Sheridan came to know Colonel James W. Nesmith and General Joseph Lane, both later to become United States Senators. At the time, however, Sheridan was both too young and obscure to get to know these two notables very well.

It has been related that at one time he was overtaken in our county by a heavy rainstorm, which swelled the streams they had to cross on horseback. When urged by his companions to return, he declared: "I never turn back."

After being stationed at Fort Hoskins for about a year, he was directed back to Fort Yamhill to serve under Captain Russell. Russell was called east in 1861, leaving Sheridan in command until September 1, when Sheridan was also called east. Upon his departure, he stated "I am going into this (Civil War) to win a captain's spurs, or die with my boots on. Goodbye, boys, I may never see you again."

James Quick, the Tillamook pioneer, was probably the first white man to lead his family over this trail, in 1852. His daughter, Rhoda Quick Johnson, was an honored figure at the celebration on July 19, 1930, when this highway was formally opened. In the 1860's the trail became a toll road, officially regulated by Tillamook, Polk and Yamhill counties. In 1908 John Boyer undertook to improve this route using the toll revenues. He maintained the route as well as resources would permit, but in winter months it became nearly impassable, due to deep mud and streams which overflowed their banks. In 1922, Lincoln County designated this route as a market road, and during the following four years it was graded and surfaced for a distance of 5 miles between Otis and Rose Lodge.

With the construction of the Coast Highway (101) in 1925, the improvement of a Salmon River Cut-off rose in priority. Highway engineers from the United States bureau of public roads, the forest service and the state highway commission made a reconnaissance survey for a forest road. In November of that year a citizens meeting was held in Taft concerning highway improvements for this road, and this meeting led to another conference the following year attended by the courts of the three counties and the state highway commission. Subsequent to these meetings the route between Otis and Polk County was designated as a forest road and the Salmon River—Grand Ronde highway improvement district was formed to build the highway from there easterly.

With the formation of this improvement district, ratified by voters in 1926, came improvements between Grand Ronde and the Tillamook County line. The road was placed on the federal aid system in the fall of 1928. On Sunday, October 14, 1928, a total of 53 vehicles travelled this road. On Sunday, August 13, 1933, this number had increased to 2,545 vehicles. The Oregon Department of Transportation counted 14,500 vehicles at Durham Lane last year.

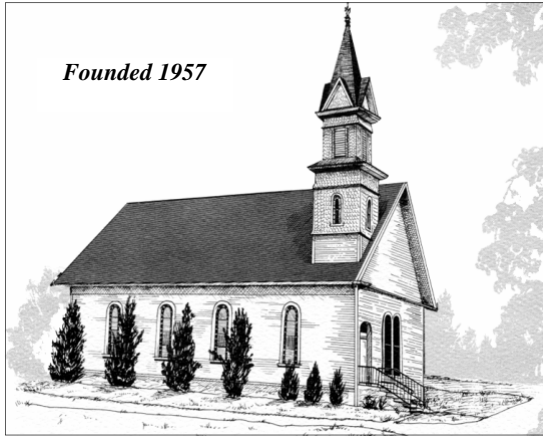
From a footpath used by Native Americans to a major thoroughfare connecting the Willamette Valley to the Coast, Highway 18 has seen considerable change over the past 200 years. Some of the background information for this article came from the Oregon Historical Society.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Effective May 31, 2002

□ Individual	\$15
□ Family	\$25
□ Friend	\$50+
□ Supporter	\$100+
□ Community Builder	\$250+
□ Community Benefactor	\$500+

Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society. Annual membership gifts are tax deductible.

Members receive the Westside newsletter and access to our research library free of charge. We are an all volunteer organization, and are constantly on the lookout for new helpers. If you can assist us in any way, financially or with your time or talents, it will be greatly appreciated. If you are not sure if you have paid your membership dues, please contact Lila Jackson at 472-8510. Alternatively, check your mailing label, which should show this information also. (The month and year indicate your "paid through" period according to our records.)

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meeting Notice

Board of Directors:

Tuesday, September 9, 5:00 pm

Monthly Meeting & Potluck:

Tuesday, September 9, 6:30

**Both at the Sheridan Trinity Lutheran
Church on Schley Sreet**

This meeting will feature guest speaker Nancy Klinemahi, who will discuss her Faulconer family roots as well as her uncle, Grant Teats, who gave his life in the Battle of Midway. Please join us for dinner; bring potluck fare and your own eating utensils.

We Hope to See you There!