

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

Summer 2006

Board Meeting highlights

The board met on June 22nd in the Log building. Shirley Venhaus, Marjorie Owens, Annita Linscheid, Kathy Peck, Dan Linscheid, Ken Williams, Lorna Grauer, and Nancy Mahi were present. Marjorie Owens responded to twenty-six correspondence items. Louise Heindl sent word that our summertime volunteer schedule has been finalized. Kathy Peck has prepared letters to go with some newsletters advising members of dues owed because of the changeover to our annualized dues payment structure. She also reported two renewing and two new members. The Log building exterior renovation is completed, and we will next get an estimate for rethinking. Lorna Grauer proposed publishing a cookbook, which would contain not only favorite family recipes, but also family and local history, as a fundraiser.

An additional 25 newsletter copies will be printed up for the summer edition; Louise will be sending these out to known cemetery associations around the county. We received \$1,400 from the Malcolm Marquis, MD foundation, which will go to the preservation fund. The county lot line adjustment application has not been received from the adjoining property owners, so there will be no additional meetings with the architect until this is received and approved.

A bid of \$67,069 has been received for the disassembly and reconstruction of the old Muddy Valley schoolhouse. Haworth construction has agreed to donate \$26,000 in labor, and a grant will be applied for with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for the difference. A \$6,000 grant has been received from First Federal to help purchase a trailer for the covered wagon. The county fair has requested use of the covered wagon, and a contract will be formulated to address concerns. Nancy Mahi has resigned from the board immediately, and her resignation was reluctantly accepted.

Notice:

July is already here, and this month marks the transition to our annual membership fee dues structure. If you receive a notice in this newsletter with the date you are paid up to, together with the amount needed to bring you up to the July 2007 target date, please respond as soon as possible.

If there is no notice in your newsletter, you are already paid up through July of 2007, or you are a life member. We strive for accuracy, but if you think we have made an error or if you have questions on this, please feel free to call Kathy Peck, our Membership Secretary, at 503-472-6562.

Dear Members & Associates,

The garage sale that was June 29, 30 & July 1 & 2: I would like to thank Millie & Colin for the hours they worked putting together this huge sale. Also all of their friends and society members who spent hours setting up and helping with the actual sale. We were a little overwhelmed with the amount of items donated to us. To add to this on Sat. someone donated several pickup loads of additional things for us to sell. As a result of this we will continue the sale to Fri, Sat. & Sun. July 7th, and not only has this event added money to the "Building Funds", it also was a wonderful opportunity to let people know about our plans for the new complex. It was held in the existing building on Durham & Hwy. #18 so people could easily see what we were talking about. The enthusiasm and support of those attending the sale was very encouraging. The total amount cleared from this will be available in the next newsletter.

Was sorry Crystal Rilee had to postpone her birthday celebration. Will look forward to this event no matter how late it may be. Take good care of yourself, Crystal.

The Historical Society has received a grant of \$6000 from First Federal to build an enclosed trailer to transport the Covered Wagon to schools for a hands-on experience depicting travel over the Oregon Trail. We appreciate the generosity of First Federal and their concern for community projects such as the Covered Wagon. Thanks to the efforts of Gloria Lutz in requesting this grant. For information on how to obtain use of this wagon at your school contact Gloria at 472-7563.

Also, thanks to the "Malcolm Marquis Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation", we received a grant of \$1400 to be used for general support. The Board has designated these funds to be used for the ongoing preservation program.

The restoration of the Log Museum has been completed. I believe the building looks better than when it was new. Money from the Verl & Dorothy Miller Oregon Community Foundation was responsible for payment in full of this project. It is donations and grants such as this that show the support for the Historical Society and the projects that we endeavor to carry out.

Our prayers go out to Marjorie Owens whose daughter and husband were in a tragic accident on Highway #18.

Don't forget the annual PICNIC noon, August 20'' at the Ed Grenfell County Park on Baker Creek Road. Drinks will be provided by the Society. See you there. Love Shirley

Watts Family Threshing Bee

The annual threshing, binding and baling event at 16600 SW Christensen Rd, McMinnville, will be held August 13th between 1 & 4 p.m. Please bring a desert to share and your lawn chair. Feel free to invite others to attend and enjoy the old time music, antique farm equipment and car show as well as the tractor parade. Please call Cliff & Pam Watts at 503-835-1393 or Glen & Joanne Watts at 503-835-5893 for more information.

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 - 2006

President

Shirley Venhaus
472-7328

Vice President

Lorna Grauer

Secretary

Annita Linscheid
843-2625

Treasurer

Ken Williams

Membership Secretary

Kathy Peck
472-6562

Corresponding Secretary

Marjorie Owens
843-3081

Board of Directors

Eileen Lewis
835-7531

(#2 position vacant)

Shirley McDaniel
662-3528

Dan Linscheid
843-2625

Program Director

Barbara Knutson
843-2069

Volunteer Coordinator

Louise Heindl
662-4218

Newsletter

Dan Linscheid

Car Pool Coordinator

Joanne Watts 835
-5893

Librarian

Jean Sartor
472-6312

MUSEUM HOURS:

July and August:

Fridays and
Saturdays. 10 a.m. to 4
p.m. or by appointment

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Lafayette Oregon
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YCHS

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River Reflections Quiz Answers

(questions in our last newsletter)

1. 1964
2. Wm. T. Newby
3. Mill creek
4. Daniel Matheny V
5. St. Joe
6. To move boats upriver to McMinnville
7. Good, cheap transportation, small crew, bad floods, dam up water supply, lost logs, damage to land.
8. Hallow, Hess, Hatchett, Hanna, Hutchcroft, Haskins, Holdridge, Hawn, Harvey
9. None— It was Willamina Maley
10. South Yamhill
11. Roger's Landing
12. Deer, Beaver, Buck Panther, Snake
13. Log holding pond

Ed & Peggy Roghair move south

Within a year or two of the founding of this society, Ed & Peggy Roghair joined our society. They recently moved to North Bend to be near their daughter and to live in a better assisted care facility.

Ed Roghair was born Oct. 28, 1912 in Osceola, Iowa. Peggy was born October 14, 1916 in Timber Lake, South Dakota. They were married in her hometown on June 8, 1941. They farmed in Okaton, South Dakota for a number of years before moving to McMinnville in the 1950's. They had four children, all of whom survive to this day. Son Jim was born in Evanston, Illinois, Gene was born in Grass Valley, California, daughter Crystal Shoji was born in Pierre, South Dakota, and son Wally was born in Portland, Oregon.

Peggy served as publisher of this newsletter for a long period, and Ed served on our board of directors for at least a couple of terms. He was always available for tours of our barn & farm equipment.

When they moved, Ed gave us his collection of brochures and technical documents on farm equipment, some of which date to the 1920's! This collection is now being sorted and is a welcome addition to our collection of antique farm equipment, the bulk of which was donated to us by Ray Kauer.

At nearly 94 years, Ed is now slowed down with stomach cancer, which keeps him fairly inactive.

Ed and Peggy would love to hear from their friends, so they requested we publish their address here. They are at Inland Point Assisted Living Residence Apt. 32, 2290 Inland Drive, North Bend, Oregon, 97459.

We'll all miss this active couple, and wish them the best.

Yamhill County Parks

Mark your calendar! On September 10, 2006, there is going to be a wonderful celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Yamhill County Park system. On that day many events will be held to honor the anniversary. Various events will be scheduled through-out the summer. Watch for ads and announcements of these events.

History tells us that our pioneers could picnic and camp in most any area of the county. Then, as population increased and NO TRESPASSING signs went up, the favorite spots disappeared. By the 1950's it was almost impossible to find suitable day sites to enjoy. About this time is when the Huber family stepped up to the plate and donated property for a County Park. On June 5, 1956, Edwin and Ruth Huber donated a 3.6-acre piece of land that was to become "Huber Park"- Yamhill County's first park! In spring of 2004, volunteers from the Yamhill Basin Council planted nearly 100 native trees and shrubs in the park. As they mature, they will shade the stream, improving conditions for native fish in Baker Creek and providing picnickers with a cool respite from the summer sun. The site of the old Happy Valley School is adjacent to the park. The Huber family started a park system that has grown to 17 parks and open space areas totaling 126.4 acres.

A favorite is the Blackwell Park, located 4.5 miles north on Willamina Creek Road. Mr. & Mrs. Pearl Blackwell and Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blackwell donated the land to Yamhill County in 1957. Nest to the park Willamina Creek runs around a grove of Oregon white oak before cascading over bedrock formations. The creek pools are invitingly and restful and shady picnic sites are abundant.

Currently Yamhill County Parks has initiated several upgrades to Blackwell Park: new accessible restroom, six new picnic sites, new signage, and several smaller enhancements. This work is to provide visitors and citizens of Yamhill County increased opportunities to picnic and enjoy the wonderful park settings that the County has to offer.

The Yamhill Locks Park is rich with the history of the days that riverboats provided the main source of transportation for the early pioneers. Abundant crops were raised in the upper Willamette Valley and getting them to market was a challenge. By the time of year when farmers needed to get crops from the fall harvest to market in Oregon City and Portland, any wagon that ventured forth were soon mired in mud. James D. Miller of Linn City, seeing a way to make some money and provide a needed service at the same time, was one of the pioneers of river-borne commerce. In the spring of 1850, he launched a water transportation service on the upper Willamette and Yamhill rivers, with a 65-foot flatboat capable of carrying 350 bushel of wheat. Four Indian oarsmen who were paid \$16 a trip operated his boat. It took one day downriver and two days back. Charging 50 cents a bushel to carry wheat downriver to Canemah and \$35 a ton to ferry other goods upriver on the return, earned Miller a nice profit.

By Jim Lockett

However, a year later, steam-powered vessels - the Hoosier and the Washington - were working the river system and took over most of the freight. These steamers also provided luxurious passenger service to the lower Willamette river.

Due to the success of river transportation, in 1869, a group of men formed the Yamhill Locks and Transportation Company. Their long-term goal was to establish a dam and locks on the Yamhill River. Establishment of the locks would increase the water level and extend the navigable waterway. The Army Corps of Engineers, advising the feasibility of improving the waterway on the Yamhill River, submitted several reports. During the 1896-97 sessions, Congress appropriated \$200,000 under the Rivers and Harbors Act for improvement to the Yamhill River. The appropriations were to be spent for locks 275 feet in length with a dam that would raise the water level 16 feet to allow for year-round transportation to McMinnville.

The Locks were a great success but improved roads and railroads soon put the River Steamers out of business. Finally, in 1959, the Yamhill Locks were acquired from the United States for ten dollars! Oregon State Fish Commission investigations determined that the locks and dam were a barrier that kept native fish from migrating upriver to spawn. A fish ladder had to be installed for the locks to continue in use. The County determined that the expense of constructing the fish ladder was greater than the benefit of the functioning locks. Therefore, in 1965, Yamhill County dynamited the dam and removed the lock doors. Today the area is well manicured and provides an excellent peaceful spot for family outings. There was a time when swimmers found an excellent swimming pool below the locks. However, today, swimmers would be ill advised to swim in this polluted river.

Dave Hanson, of Friends of Deer Creek Park, reports: "in 1962, Cecil and Delores Gross donated the six-acre parcel along the creek that became Deer Creek Park. The additional 23-acre prairie was purchased in 1978. It was only in the 1990's that people began to recognize the value of the prairie parcel. A 1992 assessment by The Nature Conservancy identified the site to be one of the largest areas of wet prairie remaining in the Willamette Valley. In the developed area of the park, the ash grove was allowed to go "natural" and has since awed park visitors with a display of camas (a staple food for native peoples) and other wildflowers. Gopher Valley's open prairies and densely vegetated riparian corridors were occupied by the Kalapuyan people, who periodically set fires to maintain conditions favorable to their needs, as people did throughout the Willamette Valley's fire-dependant prairies and oak savannas. The strong force of floodwater and debris were dissipated by riparian vegetation and dispersed over the adjacent floodplains. The seasonal inundation of the floodplains recharged groundwater crucial for maintaining cool stream flows during summer months.

"The settlers' arriving in Gopher Valley in the mid-1800's brought land-use practices that eventually produced major changes in the landscape. They began ditching and draining the wetlands and prairies to make cultivation possible. Nevertheless, the most profound change was the

suppression of wildfire. When the Kalapuyan seasonal burning practices ceased, natural processes changed the prairies and into forests.

"The prairie at Deer Creek was used as a pasture for livestock and for hay production. To make it produce annual crops, ditches were constructed along the edge of the parcel, and it was plowed into a series of raised berms and drainage channels. Still, persistent wet soils made farming difficult on the site; farming was abandoned in the 1950s."

This is only three of the 17 parks available for your pleasure. Yamhill County Parks offer facilities for day-use activities, such as picnicking, boating, bird watching, fishing and experiencing the County's unique natural, cultural and historic heritage. The parks are open from dusk to dawn. At this time, there is no overnight camping.

Yamhill County Parks Passport June to September

Participants will have an opportunity to purchase a passport; then travel to various parks and find stamps (via clues) for their passports. Those with completed passports will be eligible for either entry into a prize drawing - to be held at the Parks Day event - or each will receive a prize.

This information taken from the Yamhill County's Park website by permission of Ken Huffer, Yamhill County Parks Coordinator and from "Tales from the Past" by Jim and Reita Lockett.



Lafayette Locks on opening day, September 28th, 1900. The Lafayette Locks county park lies on the left (easterly) bank of the Yamhill River, a mile southeasterly of the town of Lafayette.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 484

Lafayette Oregon 97127



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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

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□ Family	\$25
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□ Supporter	\$100+
□ Community Builder	\$250+
□ Community Benefactor	\$500+

Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society. Membership dues, artifact donations and 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 annual membership dues in July, please contact Kathy Peck at 472-6562. Rates Effective May 31, 2002.

Calendar of Events

Our next regular monthly meeting will be held 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 12th, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheridan. Our program this month will be Chuck Fagan speaking on Yamhill County Postcards.

- ▶ 8/13, 1:00-4:00 Watt Family Threshing Bee (see inside for more details)
- ▶ 8/20, noon, Ed Grenfell park west of McMinnville 4 miles on Baker Creek rd.
- ▶ 10/14, YCHS Harvest Festival

New Members/Renewals: We welcome renewing member **Alfred Jones** and new members **Wayne Vanosse, Vickie Caines, Sally Foshaug, James & Donna Dowlen and James Kuhn**. Thanks for supporting our organization. We invite you to attend our meetings, visit our museum and become more involved in our local history!