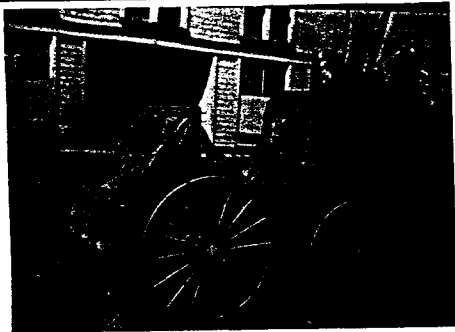


The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

March 2000



The Tillamook Mail & Stage Route

At our February Potluck, Eleanor Mitchell, Nancy Thornton and Marjorie Owens gave an excellent presentation on the Tillamook Mail and Stage Route. They obviously did a lot of research, and had a slide show of old photographs to compliment their dissertation. This 45 mile long road was the first regularly used wagon route to Tillamook, and meandered through very rugged terrain. A lot of credit for it's creation must be given to James Quick, who lobbied the Legislature for money for the road until a bill was passed in 1872, authorizing \$10,000 for the road's construction. By 1884, the route was completed, but there were no funds for maintenance. Mr. Quick later became the first postmaster of Tillamook. The first stage trip from North Yamhill to Tillamook took place in 1884, and the route was used regularly until it fell into disuse after 1911. This was due mainly to the construction of a railroad along the Trask River.

James Quick set the toll and collected it: saddle horses 50 cents, two horses, \$1.00, four horse teams, \$1.50, passengers, \$5.00 each direction. This was basically a private road, and was bought and sold several times between 1880 and 1900. There were two stage robberies on this route, one in 1902 and one in 1904.

Mail and stagecoach runs were often interrupted during the coldest stretches in winter months. Snowdrifts 20 feet deep near the highest points was not uncommon. Mail was sometimes rerouted via boat down the Columbia, and down the coast to Tillamook, due to these adverse weather conditions. Summit House was built in 1889 and operated by a couple named Rhude. Their home may also have served as the Post Office called Larch, since Clara Rhude was postmistress.

Space here does not permit a retelling of even one half of the fascinating facts these industrious ladies discovered as they put this tale together. Many thanks for the program!

Note: the four characters in brackets to the right of your name on the address label are the year (1st two digits) and month (2nd two digits) our records show you last paid your dues. If those numbers show its been more than a year, this will be among the last of your YCHS newsletters. A 90 day grace period has been approved by the Board: thereafter, sorry, but no more newsletters. For those who paid in November of 1998 (or earlier), this will be their final newsletter.

L.C. Academy Visits

Are you aware of the private school on Wallace Road in McMinnville called Life Christian Academy? The school contains elementary and secondary students who visited the museum on Thursday, January 27th. They arrived dressed in school uniforms; white shirts, ties and dark trousers for boys, white blouses, red pleated skirts for girls and red cardigans for all who felt the need of a wrap.

This is the first time we have had such a wide range of ages and grades but it worked out nicely as the children were very polite and really interested in all they were told and shown. Five mom/driver-escorts accompanied the 18 students who were able to make the trip. Lois, Ed and Twila guided the tour. Twila Burns

From the President

Dear Members, I recently found the following statement: "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you deal with it." I find this to be so true. These are some of the things that come to mind: How to deal with your 92nd birthday, your family, the loss of a loved one, the weather, house cleaning, going to work, school, homework, politics and elections, letters to the editor, children, senior citizens, your health or lack thereof, aches & pains, control or lack thereof, tempers, criticism, friends, enemies and the list goes on. It seems to be the popular thing to do: blame others for things that happen to you, but there are those like so many in the Historical Society who take what they are given and make the best of it. They have a smile on their face and are always willing to help where they can. I do appreciate all of you for your kindness, concern, friendship and support. You are always so ready to give and ask nothing in return. I am thankful for the opportunity to know you and work with you.

Sincerely, Shirley Venhaus.

Internet Access

Soon, those of you with computers and connections to the internet will be able to browse and download old photos of our cities as well as other places of interest, such as the Lafayette Locks. Stay tuned.....

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 - 2000

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Shirley Venhaus
472-7328

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843-2069

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662-3528
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835-3673

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472-7100

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Lila Jackson
472-8510

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472-4547

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Olive Merry Johnson
472-6070

Newsletter

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843-2625

Car Pool Coordinator

Joanne Watts
835-5893

MUSEUM HOURS

Sept 1 to May 31:
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM
or
By Appointment

605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308

ANNUAL DUES

\$10.00 Individual
\$17.00 Family
\$125.00 Life

Mail to:

Financial Secty
2430 North Baker
McMinnville OR
97128

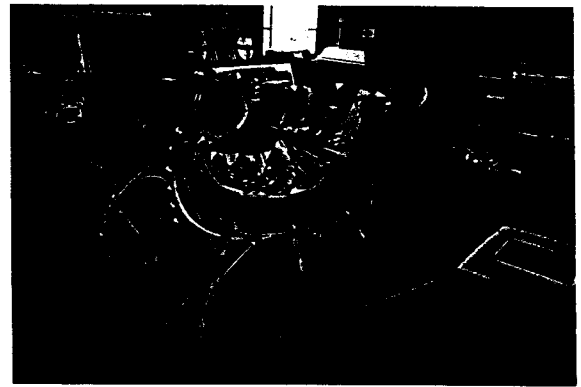
Proposed By-Laws Change:

The following addition has been proposed under Section VII of our By-Laws:

2. Vacancies

A.) Vacancies among the officers and directors of the Executive Board shall be filled by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board until the next annual election. If a vacancy occurs during the term of office of any officer, with the exception of the President and Vice President, the President with the approval of the Executive Board shall appoint a replacement to serve for the duration of the unexpired term. Should the office of the Vice President become vacant, the office shall remain vacant until the next annual election.

B.) If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President for the remainder of the unexpired term and shall serve as President for a full term the next year. Should a vacancy occur in the offices of President and Vice President during the same elective year the Secretary shall assume the duties until an interim President is appointed by the Executive Board.



Sleigh Display

The Christmas display in/on the sleigh in the church area has been replaced by an assortment of turn-of-the-century shoes. These are not your Nike, Adidas or Rebock comforts. We are talking narrow, sharp-toed lady's boots and dress shoes that would be sure to give any of us corns or bunions if we tried to work or play in them today.

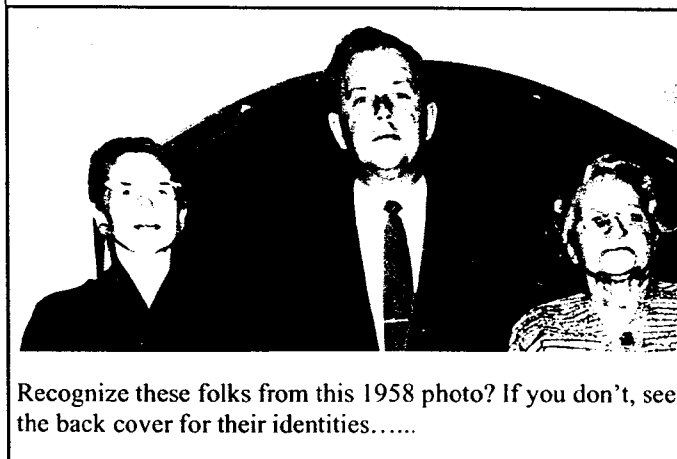
A neat pair of button tops, probably worn by a man with small feet, and some gray spats are nearby. A button hook, also on display, was likely needed to assist the wearer in fastening the footwear. The baby and toddler shoes on the other hand are adorable. - Twila Burns

Minutes from the February Board Meeting

Treasurer Betty presented written reports: January income \$542.33, Expenses \$834.74, for a net of \$-292.41. The Board reviewed the monthly operating expense and asked Shirley to check on the cost of installing insulation to reduce largest cost. Secretary Lila reported eleven renewals and gave a year-to-date report. Marjorie reporting seven cards and letters to members due to illnesses. Maxine reported that we have enough volunteers for the Museum for February. Olive is feeling better and hopes to be able to return as volunteer on a regular basis again.

Old Business: Roma Sitton's file cabinet is now in place upstairs in the Log Building. We are an affiliate of the State Society, and should be receiving quarterlies. A set-up Chair is needed for monthly meetings to line up volunteers for tables, clean-up, etc. We need a big coffee pot... anyone have one to donate? Or should we purchase one? Eleanor Mitchell has donated a set of Britanica yearbooks to our Society.

New Business: Insurance costs \$913/year, does not cover contents. A Pauper Cemetery Plaque is to be installed near the Masonic Cemetery in McMinnville. Electrical work bid came in at \$2625, Shirley will get another one. By-Laws changes on vacancies will be put in the Newsletter so it can be voted on at the April meeting. Marjorie will work on a checkout system for working on various files. Some of our historic photos will soon be available on the Web, thanks to Yamhill County.



Recognize these folks from this 1958 photo? If you don't, see the back cover for their identities.....

March General Meeting and Potluck Dinner

In March we will meet and dine at the Dayton Christian Church—302 5th Street. The program will be the second half of the reading of excerpts from the 1846 diary of John R. McBride, early pioneer who was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court and later served as our congressional delegate to Washington, D.C. Please make a special effort to attend and join in the festivities.

The Role of Minorities in settling the Land of Promise

by Jim Lockett

March 2000

Page 3

In Yamhill County and in the State of Oregon we have trouble thinking about the role of minorities in settling our land. History before the 1950's tended to overlook people of different hues, people that added a vibrant cultural rainbow to our State. We usually believe that Yamhill County was a "white mans" settlement; our laws and zoning ordinances said so. When Reita and I bought our first house in 1957, Morey Parmeter of First Federal Savings and Loan went over the zoning regulations with us. He had crossed out one that he said the Supreme Court ruling in 1952 had outlawed. That zoning regulation said that if we ever sold our home it had to be to someone of theCaucasian race.

The Provisional Government and later the Territorial Legislature enacted laws to prevent black people coming to Oregon. Later, when Oregon was working on statehood, slavery was a big concern. If we wanted to be accepted by the Federal Government we needed to be a free state. Since over 2/3 s of the settlers were from the South and comfortable with slavery, that was a bitter pill to swallow. Jessie Applegate led the battle to outlaw slavery but at the same time we enacted laws to prevent "free negros" from living in Oregon. Even the federal decision in 1850 establishing the Oregon Donation Land Act was written to include whites only. Blacks did not become eligible for citizenship until 1927; Chinese in 1943 and Japanese immigrants not until 1952. (The Oregonian, March 14, 1993, "A Trail of Many Hues".)

As we worked on our genealogy we had an interesting rumor come to the surface. It was reported that my great grandfather, who was from Henderson County, Kentucky and had been an officer in the Confederate Army, came to Oregon in 1865 as Captain of a Wagon Train. With him, reportedly, were two "negros ". This was after the Civil War so they had to be "free negros." So how was this possible? Well the Oregon census of 1850 listed 207 blacks and in 1870, 346. Even then historians believe these figures were clearly under-counts since many blacks maintained a low profile.

In many cases the people coming from the South felt their slaves were too valuable an asset to leave or, possibly, that they were part of the family and didn't want to leave them behind. In one of Fred Lockett's interviews with pioneers we find another reference to slaves. He was talking to Judge William Marion Ramsey who was a McMinnville resident and had lived here for over 60 years. Judge Ramsey said, "You are always looking up unusual and out-of-the-way things. Why don't you go to the courthouse here and look up the old records? You will find some mighty interesting documents. When Lafayette was the county seat of Yamhill county there was filed in the courthouse there

the inventory of the estate of Miles Carey". (Carey was one of our 1843 emigrants and early pioneer living near Lafayette.) "I had occasion to look it up about 50 years ago and I noticed among his assets, which consisted of horses, cattle, farm machinery and other such equipment, the item, 'one negro slave named Bob'.

We don't have to look far to find blacks penetrating the Oregon Territory in the earliest of times. We know that York accompanied Lewis and Clark in 1804 and lived at the mouth of the Columbia River for half of a year. We know of Mountain men such as Moses Harris, a legendary trapper, trader, scout, storyteller and guide in the 1820's and 30's. Despite the racial-exclusion laws of 1844, Harris openly entered the state and listed himself on the Yamhill County rolls as a tax-paying citizen. Then there was Edward Rose and Canadian trapper, Francoise Duchouquette, both blacks associated with Wilson Price Hunt's ill-fated overland expedition to Astoria in 1811. We also know of Jacob Dodson, a free black pathfinder, cowboy and later congressional attendant. His name is found on several markers throughout the state as a scout with the famous Fremont expedition of 1843, which included Kit Carson and others.

Before the 1840's the only women around were Indian. During this time the Canadians, French Canadians, the White trappers, the Blacks, the Explorers and even some Hispanics, courted and married Indian women. Some examples of this were Helen Meek and Mary Bridger, both half breed daughters of Joe Meek and Jim Bridger, They were left with Whitmans for their care and were victims of the Whitmans Massacre.

There also were many children sired outside of marriage. One of these was Joseph McLoughlin, son of Dr. John McLoughlin. Joseph was the product of an liaison with an Indian woman that Dr. McLoughlin was attracted to back in Canada. She died in childbirth and Joseph became the eldest child of the Doctor's family. Joseph went on to farm on land he claimed in Yamhill county in the middle 1830's. That land is now the Riverwood Golf Course. This property was taken from him in the 1840's as he was not "white" nor a citizen. Also of that family was Thomas McKay, half-breed son of Margaret McLoughlin and step son of Dr. John McLoughlin. He was to leave a positive mark all over the state. Thomas's son David became a doctor and made significant contributions in Umatilla County. A dam there carries his name.

One of the most notable people to have been born by an Indian and fathered by a black was Kilchis of the Tillamook tribe. Kilchis was a powerful physical, intellectual and emotionally stable man who became Chief of the Tillamooks. He was able to help this tribe improve their living standard and was also highly respected by the whites. A river

in the area was named after him.

Asians, Hawaiians and Hispanic migrants contributed immensely to the growth of the Northwest during the Oregon Trail era. Untold numbers of Hispanics trekked to the Northwest and they were to play vital roles in helping settle the region.

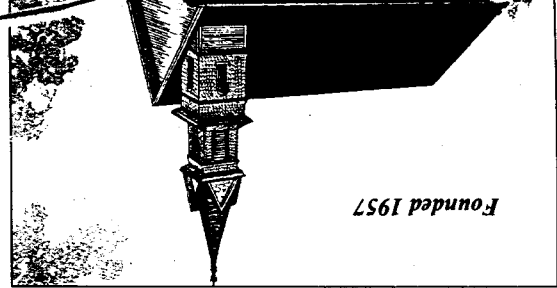
The Chinese may have done more to help us settle this land than anyone. We know that our own William Newby hired 300 Chinese coolies to dig his mill race and canals to run his grist mill and hopefully to provide transportation. After Canal building many of these people became the muscle to build the railroads. In mining countries they were hated because of their ability to find every last ounce of gold in the diggings.

The Oregon census of 1870 showed a Chinese population of 3,330, less than 100 of them were women. The Chinese made up the largest urban-minority population in the state. Many of these people went back to China but, considering the problems they faced an amazing number stayed on in Oregon. Many became workers in homes or, as in the case of McMinnville, started a laundry. The Chinese laundry was located about where the McMinnville aquatic center now stands.

The Indians may have been the most important catalyst that made it possible for the emigrants to reach the land of promise. It was the Indians that fed and clothed the overlanders in the Grande Ronde Valley, helped them over the Blue Mountains and on down the Columbia. Without the Indians it might not have happened. History books are full of stories of Indians providing sustenance and motivation to reach the end of the trail. Problems yes, but the help was real.

Then the great "White Father" Dr. John McLoughlin., Canadian, Catholic and powerful was to step in and help. He was undeniably the ruler of the Oregon country. He and his wife, an Indian, his children, halfbreeds and his company of French-Canadian trappers had shaped a good life for themselves. In the 1830's Americans began to challenge his rule and in the 40's he saw the end coming with the great migration. He did all he could do to help these people get settled. The Hudson Bay company forbid any help to the Americans but Dr. McLoughlin provided extensive help and soon was out of favor with his superiors. He was to claim land in the Oregon City Area, build a home, a saw mill and had other property to develop. He also became an American citizen beforehis death.

So in our past, especially if we are descendents of the people who lived here in the 1800's, we find the many "hues" of the world embedded in our lives, ourselves and in the life that we lead. We need to honor every race's contribution of the past and to forgive every race's misdeeds that we continually hear about.



YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 484
Lafayette Oregon 97127

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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 2000 Calendar of Events

Tuesday March 14th, 5:00 PM

Board of Directors - Dayton Christian Church

Tuesday March 14th, 6:30 PM

General Meeting & Potluck Dinner-

Dayton Christian Church—302 5th St.

Bring your Own Table Service - Guests Always Welcome

(See page 2 for details)

Founding Officers: L-to-R: Dorothy Guinness, Robert Kuykendall and Nita Terry