

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

November 2001

## From our President

I do believe this year's Harvest Festival was the best one we have ever had. Wayne Beckwith and his 4 mules and covered wagon tied up in front of the Museum was such a great advertisement for our festival. Everyone enjoyed riding around town in the wagon.

We were sorry to see them leave early and hope next year they will be able to spend the entire afternoon with us. Bob Rankin with his bright red 1914 Model T was much in demand for motoring about town.

Thanks to Jim Lockett who offered to press apples for some wonderful juice. Thanks for the apples, Linda, and for the loan of the press. Patsy. The list goes on: Ed Roghair & Cliff Watts for manning the farm equipment building, Joanne Watts for soap making, An-nita Linscheid and her helpers for kitchen duty, Shirley McDaniels and all the other crafters upstairs, the musical group (Bob Bailey and friends), Barbara Doyle and her Nomadic school project display, and of course our renowned dancers, not mentioning any names.

Barbara Knutson played organ in the church museum and Jim Vincent joined in with guests on some old time gospel singing. Then add all the members who donated food, cleaned ahead of time and afterwards worked in the yard and were just where you needed them to be without being asked. It was good to see so many non-members attend.

One person from Willamina saw a flyer and attended. He said that we had made his day! Well, that certainly has to be a good thing. We were saddened to hear of the loss of a member of the local Old Time Fiddlers: they were very much missed. Remember: the purpose of the Harvest Festival is to share with and make people aware of our facility and have a good time in the process. Mission Accomplished! Shirley

## Hoover—Minthorn House

Loraine Hall, Curator for the Hoover-Minthorn House in Newberg, gave a presentation at our monthly meeting at the Friends Center in Newberg on October 9th. Two overlapping histories, one in West Branch, Iowa and one in western Oregon, were covered. Herbert Hoover was born in West Branch ( a Republican stronghold!) in 1874. He moved to Oregon to stay with Dr. & Mrs. H.J. Minthorn his aunt & uncle. The doctor was the first superintendent of Pacific Academy (now George Fox University). The house saw numerous modifications over the years, and it took monumental efforts to restore it to it's original configuration in the mid-1950's. When Herbert visited it in 1951, he said it was not even the same house, until he

## Board Highlights

Treasurer Betty Brown reported on our financial status, with a separate portfolio detail on our Franklin funds. Final resolution concerning our "Roma Sitton" file cabinet upstairs in the Log Building will soon be forthcoming, given recent communications with Nada Dyer. Our new calendars were ready for sale at the normal meeting and in time for the Harvest Festival. Given the costs involved, a \$5 price tag was set on these by the Board, with an additional charge of \$1 if sent through the mail.

A letter has been prepared and mailed addressing concerns brought fourth by one of our members concerning various issues and conditions faced by our society.

The matter of painting the church came up again. The grant that would pay for half of this cost will not be forthcoming after the fact. This means we will need to wait until the grant is actually approved and received before we can repaint the Church museum.

Shirley had a few remaining flyers announcing the Harvest Festival, which were handed out for posting. Partial payment for the pesticide work was approved: final payment will not be made until the final applications (if needed) are made.

Wally Brosamle and Ken Methvan have asked the society to join in their efforts to study the Trask Toll Road and memorialize this route, documenting it's location and history as soon as possible. The Board supports this effort wholeheartedly.

The nominating committee will soon be meeting and approaching prospective nominees for various positions within our organization. Also, a budget committee has been appointed by Shirley, to study and make recommendations concerning our budget. Barbara Doyle, Betty Brown and 2 additional members will serve on this committee.

Our By-laws were discussed. We need to determine the latest version of these and make sure they are up-to-date.

saw his old bedroom. The bedroom set in Herbert's restored room is the original. Loraine discussed early Quaker life in the community. Herbert enrolled in the Academy in 1885 and moved with the Minthorns to Salem in 1889. He later attended Stanford University in California, married and became a successful businessman, world traveler and eventually, our 31st President. We thank Loraine for her presentation.... she had plenty of facts and photographs to wow us with.

*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 - 2001**

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Shirley Venhaus  
472-7328

VP Program  
Barbara Knutson  
843-2069

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Eileen Crawley  
835-3673

Treasurer  
Betty Brown  
472-7100

Financial Secretary  
Lila Jackson  
472-8510

Corres. Secretary  
Marjorie Owens  
843-3081

Board of Directors  
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835-7531

Ed Roghair  
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Dan Linscheid  
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Volunteer Coordinator  
Ben Frum  
472-7953

Librarian  
Olive Merry Johnson  
472-6070

Newsletter  
Dan Linscheid  
843-2625

Car Pool Coordinator  
Joanne Watts  
835-5893

**MUSEUM HOURS**

June 1 thru August 31  
Fri-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 Secretary  
2430 North Baker  
McMinnville OR  
97128

**November Meeting  
& Potluck Dinner**

Our November meeting will be held at the at the Dayton Christian Church at 6:30 p.m. on the 13th of November. Our guest speaker will be Carla Burton of Willamina, on the Civil War letters of her husband's great-grandfather. Please invite a friend and join us for great food and fellowship. Please bring potluck fare and your own tableware.

**2002 YCHS Calendar completed**

Less than a week after our Harvest Festival, a request was made to print out another 50 calendars. These have now been printed and delivered to Shirley Venhaus for binding. This second batch has an entirely different set of photographs than the first run of 75 calendars. The calendar is selling for \$5, with an additional \$1.00 charge if mailed. If you bought one, please ignore Thanksgiving this month falling on a Friday!!

All told, printing used up a number of inkjet cartridges and nearly 4000 sheets of 25 lb. Cotton fiber paper. The photographs were printed using a LaserJet process, grayscale only.

A number of people bought multiple copies, some no doubt to be used for gifts. Olive Johnson has offered to assist in the process next year, and God willing and the creeks don't rise,

**Student Visit**

Our first student visit this school year was a joy as always. Nancy Hart brought her 22 happy third graders from Carlton to the Museum on Friday, September 21st, for a sack lunch picnic out by the rose arbor and a tour of our facilities. Two mothers, Linda DeLong and JoAnn Sisto, were along to help and graciously agreed to take a few Harvest Festival notices back with them to place in their community. The children took back to school with them samples of homemade soap provided by Joanne Watts. Submitted by Lois, Ed, and Twila.

**From our Nominating Committee**

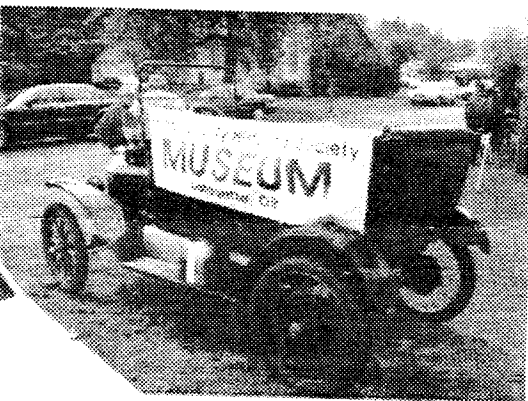
Maxine Williams, James Vincent and Lois Brooks, our nominating committee, met recently and approached Barbara Knutson, Lila Jackson and Eileen Lewis, all of whom agreed to continue in their respective offices if no one else wants to replace them. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at our next regular meeting, with the election of officers to take place in December. If you have too much spare time on your hands, and a burning desire to help with a good cause, please approach someone on the nominating committee and let them know.

**Harvest Festival Photos**



Jim Lockett, pressing apples for the crowd. This old press is still capable of putting out some great cider, not to mention building upper body strength! Thanks for your help on this, Jim!

Bob Rankin gave rides in his 1914 Model T Ford. A color photo would show the bright red of Bob's car. This car was one of several big draws to this year's Festival, our biggest and best yet.



With Barbara Knutson at the keyboard, many Old Time Gospel Songs were sung by young and old alike.



**Addendum:**  
Last month's article on the Nomadic Teacher should have included a note concerning the funding of the program, by Trust Management Services, LLC.

Joel Palmer was a remarkable emigrant, pioneer, Indian agent for the United States and an empire builder. He became "General" Palmer after the Whitman massacre in 1847. Governor Abernathy appointed him quartermaster-general. He filled this post throughout the Indian wars and was commonly called "General" the rest of his life.

Joel's parents were native New Yorkers but he was born on a trip to Canada in 1810. His boyhood and youth were spent in the Empire State where, at age nineteen, he married Catherine Caffey, whom he lost with their second child at childbirth. In the meantime, Joel was developing his ability as a master builder and soon was managing large projects. While on a job in Birch County, Pennsylvania, in 1836, he met and married Sarah A. Derbyshire.

After Joel and Sarah's marriage he was contracted to build the White Water canal and to complete the locks at Cedar Grove, Indiana. While successfully completing the locks, he was twice elected to the Indiana State Legislature and was, at the same time, running a small farm. This gives us some idea of his managerial and political abilities.

You would think that success in Indiana would be sufficient to keep him there, but the "Oregon Story" captured his imagination and he was bound to see for himself if the "Eden of the West" was real. Leaving his family with adequate support, he went west on the 1845 wagon train to see what opportunities were there for the Palmers.

One of Joel's great contributions was a straight forward and informative journal. He called it, "Journals of Travels over the Rocky Mountains." This was published in 1847 and became one of the excellent guides for later emigrants. (Recently re-printed by Ye Galleon Press, Fairfield, Washington and is found in most bookstores.)

The journal demonstrates Joel's optimism and wonder about this new country. He was glad to be one of the 2500 people on the trail that year which, incidentally, doubled the population of the Oregon Territory.

Travel through the Blue Mountains was a highlight. He described the Elkhorn and Wallowas and their encampment in the Grande Ronde valley. Here they met and admired the Cayuse and Nez Perce Indians. One Indian chief in particular caught Joel's eye. He called him Aliquot. To us, it sounds like the respected Olokokot who rode with Chief Joseph, the younger. In any case, Joel became quite friendly with Aliquot.

One evening, Joel visited the chief's tent to see if Aliquot's wife could help mend his moccasins. She was happy to do so and, while waiting, he and the chief exchanged pleasantries. After a while, the chief seriously asked Joel if he were a "Christian." Joel, of course, said "yes." Later that evening, when Joel was back in his tent where some friends engaged him in a game of cards, Chief Aliquot appeared at the door of the tent. Shocked at seeing Joel playing cards, he stood transfixed as though he couldn't believe his eyes. The chief then chastised Joel and pulled him away from the game. Joel wrote: "you may have guessed my astonishment at being thus lectured by a 'wild and untutored savage,' twenty-five hundred miles from a civilized land. I inwardly resolved to abandon card playing forever."

In what is now "old town" La Grande, Oregon, Joel and his fellow emigrants met hundreds of Indians and were impressed with their appearance and sociability. As before, the Indians had wheat, corn, potatoes, peas, pumpkins, fish and horses to trade for articles of clothing, cloth and cows. Joel gave the missionaries credit for this behavior of the supposed savages.

When Joel Palmer arrived in the Willamette Valley that fall, he was impressed and knew that he must bring his family to Oregon. So, in the summer of 1846, it was back to Indiana! That next winter, he put together 400 wagons known as the "Palmer Emigrant Train". Joel served as captain of this wagon train consisting of 4000 persons.

Joel Palmer was back in Oregon with his family in October and located a claim that would become Dayton, Oregon. It was about this same time that he was appointed "General" Palmer.

His responsibility was supplying the military. However, money and help came slowly from the U. S. Government during those territorial days. Even though Joel was known for his ability to provide for the military, few people knew of the times when supplies were charged to his own personal account.

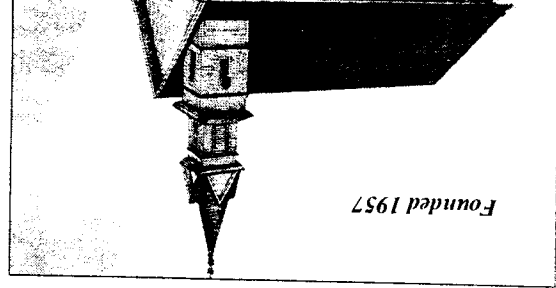
The records show that, at one point, Joel provided escort services for Governor Wilson of California. He was impressed and offered Joel a large tract of land. However, Joel liked this country better and decided that farming and building a sawmill would offer more opportunity. History shows that he and his son-in-law, Andrew Smith, built a mill and laid out the town of Dayton.

In 1853, General Joel Palmer became Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Oregon Territory. This was an extremely important responsibility since the Indians were on the war path and the settlers were frightened. He set out to provide treaties that would appeal to the Indians and provide protection for the whites. It was a hard time for Palmer. He not only had the whites and Indians to deal with but he also had to lobby his treaties and ideas through Congress. At times, he published treaties as fact before Congress ratified them, thus creating confusion for both natives and settlers.

Since gold had been discovered in the Rogue River country, one of Palmer's major problems was "unprincipled and ungovernable white men from all countries." They took advantage of the Indians—ever ready to shoot or encourage shooting them. They even dressed as Indians and committed atrocities to the settlers to get the government to move the Indian off the land. Palmer reported that "arrests are evidently useless, as no act of a white man against an Indian, however atrocious, can be followed by a conviction." Even the Oregonian was against any sympathy for the Indians, stating that they needed to be: "yes, EXTERMINATED." (Oregonian, Oct 20, 1855)

General Joel Palmer was considered the "Father" of the Reservation System. Feeling that the two cultures could never live together and must be separated from each other, he developed the "reservation" concept to deal with the Indians. He accomplished the "great work" of gathering all the Indian tribes of western and southern Oregon on the Grand Ronde (Yamhill, County) and Silitz Reservations. This was done in 1856, resulting in the *Trail of Tears* for the Indians as they were marched North. It was a tragic time for the Indian Nations. However, it was reported that the General was able to assimilate them, assign homes, and turn the Indians attention to agriculture and move them toward more peaceful and thrifty ways. Subtly, Palmer's efforts were under attack. The government was lobbied by religious groups to develop a policy of "Christian Conversion." This was in conflict with Palmer's policy of providing for profitable farming and the development of social responsibility. Various churches were put in charge of the reservations and young preachers set out to convert the Indians while complaining that Palmer did not support them. Soon, General Joel Palmer found it wise for his own health to resign from the position of Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

The General returned to his home in Dayton, Oregon and concerned himself with "white man's" affairs. He became a politically important leader in Yamhill County and in the state: running for governor in 1870 and serving in the legislature several terms. General Joel Palmer died in 1881, leaving his wife, Sarah, and seven children. He had traveled the Oregon Trail twice (three times if you count the return trip in 1846), developed a prosperous farm, a sawmill, and promoted important treaties with the natives. But, most of all, he savored the beauty and challenge of his chosen state, OREGON!



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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### *Fall 2001 Calendar of Events*

**Board of Directors - Tuesday, November 13th, 5:00 pm**  
**Dayton Christian Church**

**Monthly Meeting & Potluck—November 13th, 6:30 pm**  
**Dayton Christian Church**

(See page 2 for details)

Visit our Historical Photograph Album at <http://www.co.yamhill.or.us> and our  
YCHS website at <http://www.sites.onlinemac.com/history>