

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

June-July-August 1996

A nonprofit tax exempt educational and public service corporation established to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thanks to all who helped on the May 16th Work Day. Cleaning, painting, window shades, repairs, yard work plus a Historical House Tour meeting filled the day. We are working with Ron Huber of the County Inmate Work Program to arrange mowing and grounds care on a regular basis.

Some special "Thank You's": to Mike Boundy for all the years of helping with newsletter mailings; to George Williams for a donation connected with finishing the gutter work on the barn; to Don and Ruth Crawford for compiling the second addition of our Membership Directory which is proving quite useful to those who need to keep track of or contact other members. Sometimes we forget to acknowledge the hours of time people give to the Society. Again we thank you all.

The following Memorial Donations were received over the past month: In memory of Jack Dyer: Mr. & Mrs. Roger Sitton, Mr. and Mrs. Orval Crimmins, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kuykendall, Lois Brooks and Joan Sitton. In memory of Evelyn Neiman: Ernest and Gladys Bickel. We are also sorry to hear of the passing of Life Member and past YCHS officer Florence Bridenstine. Our sympathy to all the families.

Please note we have a new membership application with a list of publications for sale printed on the back. Pick up some at the

Museum to pass along to friends or relatives who might be interested in joining. Also remind the of the newsletter and upcoming events.

Olive Johnson continues to answer letters seeking family information and requests for publications. She has just finished copying several video tapes of family interviews recorded in the Sheridan area during 1976. We will set up a system whereby these may be checked out for viewing at home.

Did everyone see the nice article in the June 1 News Register about Lila Jackson? She shared the front page with some very interesting people - hers was the smiling face.

A telephone committee is being set up to contact each and every member to learn where they would like to help on the Historic House Tour on October 26th. There will be a job for everyone so everyone should have a job. We need to set up shift schedules as soon as possible so that volunteers can also arrange to take the tour. This event is a fund raiser for badly needed maintenance of the Church. We are now in the process of inspecting the building for priority repairs that must be completed before winter.

These are busy times for the YCHS. We appreciate all who are involved in work and support of the Society. You are a great bunch of people and I thank you.

See you at the picnic.Shirley

During World War II Uncle Sam pointed his finger and said "I WANT YOU!" from billboards and posters all across the Home Front. The idea behind it was to motivate civilians to volunteer support to various war effort activities.

Although times have changed, the need for volunteers continues - especially for the Yamhill County Historical Society.

On October 26th we will be sponsoring a tour of five historic homes in nearby parts of the County. This is going to be a major fund raising project for us and will require support from the entire membership!

Also there will be a program at the museum which will include refreshments and a number of craft demonstrations. Tour Group



REMEMBER THIS FELLOW?

job for everyone. Some will require little more than sitting in a chair (early sign up is advised for these positions).

UNCLE SAM MAY NOT NEED VOLUNTEERS ANYMORE, BUT WE DO

Call Shirley Venhaus at 472-7328 or come to the July 18th meeting

dispatchers, hosts, servers, cookie bakers and museum guides will all be needed.

The plan is for groups to depart upon the tour at intervals from the Museum in Lafayette. Vans are being secured for this purpose. Upon arrival at the specific homes, tourgoers will be greeted by the owners and then escorted about the premises with the assistance of YCHS volunteers. As the President mentioned above, there will be a

PICNIC JULY 13TH AT CARLTON

Wennerberg Park, situated alongside the North Yamhill River at Carlton, is the site of this year's picnic on **Saturday, July 13th at 12:00 Noon**

To reach the park from downtown Carlton: Instead of turning north toward Yamhill at the traffic light on the west end of Main Street, go straight ahead (west) on Meadow Lake Road for a long two blocks. There is a blue sign on the left pointing to the park. Turn left at the sign for one block to Grant Street then turn right on Grant and you'll see Wennerberg Park straight ahead

Remember, it's potluck, so bring your favorite picnic fare along with table service and a hearty appetite. Also, guests are always welcome so bring some along.

Tuesday, July 2nd, 5:30 P.M.

Board of Directors - Miller Log Building - Lafayette

Saturday, July 13th, 12:00 Noon

Annual Potluck Picnic - Wennerberg Park - Carlton (Details Above)

Thursday, July 18th, 1:00 P.M.

Historic House Tour Committee - Miller Log Building - Lafayette

Tuesday, August 13th, 5:30 P.M.

Board of Directors - Miller Log Building - Lafayette

Thursday, August 15th, 1:00 P.M.

Historic House Tour Committee - Miller Log Building - Lafayette

MUSEUM HOURS

June 1 to Aug 31:
Wed-Sun 1 to 4 PM

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

By Appointment

Reminder: A Red Dot on Your Address Label Means Your Dues Due

See You at Wennerberg Park

NEWBERG'S FIRST ANNUAL BERRY FESTIVAL

by John White

For a good many years, summertime has spawned a number of community celebrations throughout the county. Here's a glimpse at one such event that took place 75 years ago

The festivities all began at 10:00 AM on the morning of Saturday July 9th 1921 with a grand parade winding its way down the length of both Main and First Streets returning on Second to an eventual destination at Tourist's Park. Along with several Newberg business and organization entries, parade floats from Dundee, Fernwood, Ribbon Ridge, Springbrook and Sunnycrest also participated. Former Chicago White Sox catcher Billy Sullivan brought considerable merriment to the event dressed as a "genuine hick" while proclaiming that "Anything grows in West Chehalem". By far the most elegant however was an ornate floral float carrying the **Newberg Berrian Queen, Miss Aubrey Lemon.**

Upon arrival at the park, officials and speakers took seats on the platform before a large gathering and formal ceremonies began. First came the grand entrance of Queen Aubrey and her court of six handmaidens marching to a tune played by the Newberg Berrian Band. Once seated upon her throne Queen Aubrey was officially crowned "Reigning Monarch of the Berrians" by Dr. R. W. Van Valin followed by a presentation of Keys to the City from Mayor C. W. Calkins.

Portland Rose Festival dignitary J. E. Gratke, then took the podium to explain why he, and not the expected speaker, venerable Julius L. Meier, would be delivering the principal address. Starting with a theme of civic pride, Mr. Gratke then diverged to considerable extent regarding the scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge and eventually wound up with lengthy praise for the academic record of Pacific College (now George Fox). By the conclusion of Mr. Gratke's oration, the bulk of a once large assembly had dispersed itself elsewhere in favor of lunch.

A major attraction for this first ever Berry Festival was an offer of free berries and cream to all comers. Set up behind the old bank building at First and Meridian Streets, wives of local dairymen and berry growers were reliably reported to have dished up over 5000 plates of the home grown delicacy before the day was over. New 'Graphic' co-owner and editor,

Chet Dimond, reported witnessing one of Newberg's prominent citizens devour no less than six platefuls and suggested that if the culprit didn't immediately subscribe to the newspaper, his name would appear boldly in the next issue.

Over at Calkins' Garage on Main Street were competitive exhibits of Black Caps, Loganberries, Gooseberries, Strawberries Currants, and Red Raspberries, along with Royal Ann, Bing and Lambert Cherries. Also being judged were Juice, Dried Fruit, and Canned Vegetable entries as well as over a dozen Decorative Exhibits. The competition was keen for the many ribbons and prizes but the real show stopper and overall grand award winner was an especially tasteful Berry Salad produced by Mrs. Edward Binford.

A major athletic event of the day was the tug-of-war which took place at 5:00 PM in what is now Hoover Park. The bottom of Hess Creek canyon provided an excellent tournament field and its sloping walls offered a superb vantage point for spectators as did the new highway bridge nearby. Plans had originally called for a single match between the Newberg Berrians and the Salem Cherrians but the Prunarians of Vancouver Washington appeared some forty strong to challenge the winner. Each of the first two pulled mightily with valiant effort and the Newberg team was eventually able to defeat the Salem group with some difficulty, but their great expenditure of energy in doing so left them easy prey for the Vancouver interlopers. Despite not having a winner the local crowd did however enjoy themselves at the expense of Charles Wade and D. P. Shaw of the home team when each lost suspender buttons at the height of their most courageous effort.

A long awaited showdown baseball game between the combined Newberg-St. Paul team and one composed of McMinnville-South County players took place on the diamond at Pacific College during mid afternoon. According to most reports each team committed nearly as many errors as they collected hits and to the dismay of Newberg-St. Paul sports fans, the home team came out on the short end of a 12 to 10 final score. Were it not for umpire Billy Sullivan's experience as a major league player and reputation for being a fair minded individual and all around good fellow, the game might well have concluded with a less than sportsmanlike attitude on the part of some

locals.

Later in the afternoon another competition pitted the fire departments of McMinnville and Newberg against each other in a water fight on the west end of newly paved First Street. Each side was able to withstand repeated frontal assaults launched by the other with several spectators suffering deluges easily equalling those received by the actual contestants. This match was mercifully called a draw when organizers were reminded a lower than normal water level existed at the Newberg reservoir

Throughout the day concessionaires plied the public from the perimeter of Tourists Park. Among the favorite delicacies offered were ice cream, "caramelized" popcorn and a very spicy German sausage. Several of the local growers took booths from which they sold fresh produce. There was also what the 'Graphic' described as a "dog-and-pony circus" and the Baker Stock Company of Portland provided a merry-go-round, Hawaiian dance group and other side shows; all competing for a share of the visitor's purse.

Evening festivities began with a sold-out banquet at the Friends Church where Queen Aubrey presided over a program well endowed with visiting dignitaries. At the conclusion of several brief remarks, the entire gathering joined in singing a verse or two of "They say that old Newberg, she ain't got no style, but she's there all the while, all the while" The good ladies of the Pacific College Auxiliary provided a royal feast with more than ample portions of chicken and dumplings topped off with a choice of pies. All agreed the meal was well worth the charge of 20¢ per head - although some had expressed doubt earlier.

As the Berrian Band concluded the day's official activities with a concert in the park, the organizers, "Chief Black Cap" Ralph Butt and "Keeper of the Patch" W.H. Woodworth, heaved sighs of relief. Not only had the first ever Berrian Festival brought Newberg to the front as a growing and prosperous community, but the net proceeds managed to cover their budgeted expenditures of \$412.00! Truly an all around success.

EPILOGUE: Eight years after her coronation Berrian Queen Aubrey I became the writer's mother.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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