

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

November 1996

HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR REPORT DELAYED

Printing considerations plus recent experiences with the US Postal Service dictate this edition of the 'WEST SIDE' be in production before the tour actually takes place. Therefore it won't be possible to accurately report the event with full details until the next (December) issue.

Net proceeds from the house tour are being dedicated for badly needed maintenance and repair to the Poling Memorial Church. Timing for this objective could not have been cut much closer. It turned out an overdue overhaul of the museum's old rest room would be required before the tour in order to properly accommodate guests. If all goes according to plan, necessary floor repairs will have been completed on time and the facility given a bright new appearance for the event (yes, the picture remains).

QUILT RAFFLE

Raffle tickets for an exquisite hand-made 58 x 74 inch red, white and blue quilt done in the "Ocean Waves" pattern by a group of 15 ladies from the McMinnville area are now available. The drawing will be held in conjunction with the YCHS rummage sale next August with proceeds going for the benefit of the organization. Quilting coordinator Marge Bergan relates both the pattern and colors are faithful replicas of a Sitton family quilt dating back well over 100 years

PERSONAL LIFE OF JOHN McLOUGHLIN RECALLED

Focusing more upon personal and family affairs, Jim Lockett presented to the YCHS October meeting a sometimes overlooked view of the venerable Hudson's Bay Company chief factor. Touched upon were his medical apprenticeship in Quebec City, marriage to widow Marguerite McKay and wintering partnership with the Northwest Fur Company prior to its 1821 merger with the Hudson's Bay Company. Also related were McLoughlin's later personal tragedies and disappointments including death of his son John, the feud with his superior Sir George Simpson and loss of his Oregon City holdings. Lockett concluded his remarks with the observation that were it not for Dr. John McLoughlin, we might now be residing in a Canadian province.

ROMA SITTON

1896 - 1996

For many years a moving force within this organization, Roma was dedicated toward bringing the "early days" to life through our museum. We are grateful to have had an opportunity on the occasion of her recent 100th birthday to express our thanks while she was still here to receive them.

WHAT MADE THE GARDEN GROW



Many thanks to all museum volunteers that watered the gardens around the museum buildings this past summer. The flowers and plants are doing well because of your efforts.

A thank you to Lois McLoughlin of Amity for contributing spring flowering bushes which are now planted around the barn,—And a special thank you to two people; my husband Don who dug all those holes and fellow Master Gardener Charlene Olson, who I hope will soon become a YCHS member. Charlene spent a number of hours preparing and planting gardens as well as contributing plants and mulch.

Thanks again.

—Ruth Crawford

STUDENT INTERN AND NEW COMPUTER COMING TO THE MUSEUM

Anna Dernbach, a senior at Linfield College, will be earning class credit toward her anthropology degree by working a few hours each week at the YCHS museum with Eileen Lewis. A native Oregonian from Portland, she plans to return there before undertaking graduate study in art history. We welcome Anna and thank Linfield for setting up this mutually beneficial program.

Thanks also to our benefactress Dorothy Miller, we will

soon have a long needed modern computer with which to record accessions, track files and perform dozens of other little tasks at the museum as well. While the unit will be of the latest technology, programmer Don Crawford promises maximum "user friendliness"..

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 - 1996**President**

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472-6827

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

NOVEMBER MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER

The November 1996 potluck dinner and general membership meeting will be 6:30PM, Tuesday November 12th at the Community Christian Church, 2831 North Newby Street, McMinnville.

Special guests for the evening will be the present owners of homes on our just completed historic house tour who will be presented with appreciation awards. Following this John White will relate a few vignettes from the lives and times of the original owners/builders.

Along with table service and potluck offering, why not bring a guest? They're always welcome.

SAVE YOUR STUFF

Last month it was announced YCHS would be holding a garage/rummage sale next summer as a major fund raising event. The date has been tentatively set for Saturday, August 23rd 1997, but it not too soon to be setting aside items for donation.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

At the January 1997 general membership meeting a 'Volunteer of the Year' award will be presented to a member who has made a significant contribution to the Society through volunteer service. Anyone wishing to nominate someone for this honor should contact the committee chairperson Maxine Williams at 472-4547 prior to December 20th.

CHANGE FROM "DAYLIGHT TIME"?

At the October Board of Directors meeting it was suggested we consider conducting all regular monthly potluck meetings in the evening rather than switching to noon through the winter. It was pointed out that some members found it inconvenient to spare the time from their jobs during the day. The same situation also makes it much more difficult to attract needed younger new members. On the other side of the coin there are current members who dislike driving during dark winter evening hours. One possible solution to the dilemma might be arranging car pools to the night gatherings for those who wished. All are asked to give the whole subject some serious thought.

THANKS FROM MAXINE

The summer museum schedule included a number of new volunteers this year, along with the usual old reliables (what would we do without them?). It isn't easy to line up volunteers very far in advance during the summer because everyone takes vacations, has visitors, has more outdoor work to do, family reunions and various other unexpected activities and distractions calling for attention. But it was possible most of the time to keep the museum open five afternoons a week all summer.

There are days when no visitors come and we wonder if it is really worth our time being there, but if we weren't we might miss a book sale or an especially interesting visitor, and besides there are other things to be done around the buildings and grounds.

Saturdays and Sundays were mostly filled by the old reliables - Olive Merry Johnson, Elma Shuck, Lila Jackson, Lois Brooks, Roma Sitton, Laverna Gutbrod and Ruth & Don Crawford

Ruth, along with Ellamae Oliver plus other helping hands and some donated plants, is also largely responsible for the landscaping that has been done around the museum buildings and grounds this past year

George and I want to extend our appreciation and many thanks to all our willing and able volunteers.

- Maxine Williams

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following who have joined the YCHS over the past month and hope to see them at the November meeting:

Wayne & Claudia Moore - McMinnville
Richard & Dorothy Ulrich - McMinnville
Ann Helm - Lafayette
Denise Carmen - Portland

PRESIDENT SAYS "HI"

It's been a busy few weeks putting the final touches on the historic house tour and a great big THANKS is due to all who helped with the project. One thing noticed in getting around promoting the tour was that a lot of people didn't know there was an historical society, or if they did, weren't aware we operated a museum. Projects like the tour help, but it's up to all of us to spread the word. Thanks again, Shirley

SQUARING UP THE BALLOT BOX

by John White

The current election campaign serves to remind us that prior to ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, one-half of our adult population was not permitted to vote in a national election. It is also recalled that a long standing champion of women's suffrage who worked tirelessly to advance the cause throughout the Northwest was a rather sharp-tongued lady from Lafayette Oregon.



YCHS Photo
Abigail Scott Duniway

Crossing the plains with his family in 1852, John Tucker Scott arrived at Lafayette where he and his daughters took over management of the Oregon Temperance House Hotel in 1853. Abigail, now 19, did not favor the cooking and cleaning chores required of an innkeeper's daughter and secured a teaching position in Polk County. It was here she met and married Benjamin C. Duniway.

For the next four years the couple proved up Benjamin's land claim near Needy. During this time Abigail expressed in letters and poetry sent to the newspaper her thoughts concerning the isolation and drudgery suffered by frontier women. She was elated when they sold the farm and moved back to socially active Lafayette where her sisters lived.⁽¹⁾ Soon after settling on a farm in the Red Hills near Lafayette, Ben Duniway cosigned a note for a friend starting up a warehouse business. The great flood of 1861 washed away the warehouse and the friend hastily departed leaving Ben to settle up with the bank. The Duniways lost their new farm along with most of their savings in satisfying the debt. Abigail was enraged that as a married woman she couldn't enter into such agreements but in default could be bound by the terms and thus lose her home and furnishings.

Misfortune struck again in 1862 when Ben suffered a serious accident that left him a semi-invalid for life. To make ends meet, Abigail returned to teaching and again angered when told she would receive a lower salary "because she was a woman". She then opened a successful private school at Lafayette which experienced much ridicule from the local all male educational establishment. In 1866 she sold the school at a profit.

During 1870 she founded the State Equal Suffrage Association at Albany. In 1871 Abigail moved her family to Portland where she set up a print shop in her home and for the next 16 years edited and published the 'New Northwest', a newspaper dedicated to defending human rights, exposing fraud and keeping track of legislative matters. During this same period she also conducted lecture tours throughout the Northwest. Both her

speeches and editorials were delivered in a forceful, unpolished and down to earth manner that could either delight or infuriate.

She was responsible for getting a suffrage amendment referred to the people by the Oregon Legislature in 1880, but with the opposition paying \$2.50 per vote, it was defeated in the 1882 election. Her Washington efforts produced much the same result in 1887 when a rigged court case overturned a law passed by the territorial government. Finally, an 1896 campaign prevailed handily in Idaho, giving rise to another Oregon effort in 1900 which again failed. More Oregon election defeats came in 1908 and 1910, but the campaign of 1912 finally brought victory for women's suffrage in Oregon. An ironic twist is that for most of these years the principal voice of opposition was the 'Oregonian' edited by her brother, Harvey W. Scott.

Plagued by ill health for some time, Abigail Scott Duniway died in 1915 before she could see her cause become a reality on a national basis in 1920.

Footnotes:

(1) Sarah Scott Kelty lived in what is now the Kelty House Bed & Breakfast at Lafayette and Fannie Scott Cook's home still stands just across the river on the present day Stoller Farm.

**WOMEN
PAY TAXES!!
WOMEN
OBEY THE LAWS!**

Women and Children suffer from
dirty streets, impure milk, adulterated
food, bad sanitary conditions,
smoke laden air, underpaid labor.

**WOMEN CLEAN THE HOMES:
LET THEM HELP CLEAN THE CITY**

VOTE 300 X 'YES' AMENDMENT NO. 1, NOV. 5, 1912

It will give the women a SQUARE DEAL.
It will give your girl the same chance
as your boy.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

COLLECT EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE, 406 SELLING BLDG.

1912 election poster prepared by Abigail Scott Duniway

Since 1960

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #3
Lafayette Oregon

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Lafayette OR 97127
P.O. Box 484

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
November 1996 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, November 12th, 5:00 PM

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

Community Christian Church - 2831 NE Newby St. - McMinnville

Tuesday, November 12th, 6:30 PM

POTLUCK DINNER & GENERAL MEETING

Community Christian Church - 2831 NE Newby St. - McMinnville

(See Page 2 for Program Details)

Bring Your Own Table Service Guests Always Welcome

