

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

December 1996

## HISTORIC HOME TOUR IS HUGE SUCCESS!!!

A near perfect sunny autumn day is credited for a turnout of about three hundred tourgoers which was well above expectations. The first van departed at 9:00 AM with a steady and sometimes hectic pace maintained throughout the day by dispatcher Greg Venhaus and a crew of shuttle drivers until the last group returned about 5:30 PM

Following a delightful drive through colorful fall scenery the first stop was the 1879 gothic revival Lee Laughlin house in Yamhill. From there it was a visit to "Westerlook" set amid its spacious grounds at the south edge of Carlton. Returning to Lafayette, the Kelty House with its well kept gardens was next. Located just a short distance to the east was the interesting and secluded 1905 Fletcher Farmhouse which was visited before winding up the tour at the classic Queen Anne style Matthey Estate.

Meanwhile, back at the Miller Log Museum, a host of crafts people demonstrated their skills in such activities as quilting, knitting, spinning, weaving, tatting, embroidery, lace-making and much more. Refreshments which included cookies and other homemade tasties along with fresh apple cider were also served throughout the day.

If visitor's comments are any measure, the Society will be expected to repeat the performance in the near future. Such is the price of success.

With only one or two small bills outstanding, net proceeds from the activity are almost \$2500.00, a sum that will go a long way toward repair of the aging Poling Memorial Church building. In fact, the rest room floor and a storm damaged rear door have already been replaced while badly needed gutter and drainage work will begin soon.



Scott Fery turns down the screw as Shirley Kuykendall anticipates another batch of homemade apple cider. Set up outside the Miller Log Museum, the old press provided refreshment for many tourgoers as they waited to depart.



## A Very Merry Christmas to All

The morning of the Historical House tour dawned warm and sunny, just as requested. All volunteers were at their assigned posts. People began to arrive at 8:30 AM and continued until 3:00 PM. I am compiling a record of this event for our files. If we decide to hold this event again we will have a reference of does and don'ts. The tour was a success as far as funds raised for building repairs, and letting the public near and far know we exist. The support and response was encouraging.

A special "THANK YOU" to all who started meeting and planning last March, and were there until the end. Now, start putting your thinking caps on and plan the GARAGE SALE to be held in August 1977. Meetings for this will begin in March. It is important to continue yearly fund raisers to help repair and maintain our buildings, properly care for and display our collections and develop programs to heighten awareness of the Society. In addition to repair work already begun at the Church, we are hoping to add a sidewalk connecting the Church and Miller Log Museum.

It is wonderful to see these things being done.

We enjoyed having several owners of the homes on tour present at the general meeting. How many of you would say "Sure, come on over, see my house and bring 300 guests!!"? They were wonderful people to work with. THANK YOU seems very small for their part in the success of the tour.

A grant was applied for and received from the Oregon Tourism Commission. We were 1 of 78 to receive funding. The Oregon Tourism Commission wants to do all they can to encourage growth and development of Oregon historical heritage for the enjoyment of our visitors. The grant award was for \$336.81. We are now considering where we could best use these funds.

My 1996 Christmas Wish and Promise to all the Yamhill County Historical Society membership is to better know you, to continue serving the Society to the best of my ability and for a happy and prosperous year to come.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!.....Shirley

*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**

Shirley Venhaus  
472-7328

**VP/Program**

Barbara Knutson  
843-2069

**Secretary**

Betty White  
665-5376

**Treasurer**

Don Crawford  
434-9843

**Financial Secretary**

Lila Jackson  
472-8510

**Corres. Secretary**

Delores Robertson  
538-0767

**Board of Directors**

James Vincent  
472-7239

Robert Kuykendall  
662-3354

Ed Roghair  
472-6909

**Historian**

Jim Lockett  
472-5005

**Librarian**

Olive Johnson  
472-6070

**Newsletter**

John White  
665-5376

**Publicity**

Elaine Rohse  
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

**ANNUAL DUES**

\$7.50 per person

Mail to:

Financial Secty  
2430 North Baker  
McMinnville OR

97128



Shown above are Jack and Denise Seed, owners of the Matthey House, accepting Certificate of Appreciation from YCHS President Shirley Venhaus..

**TOUR HOME OWNERS HONORED**

At the November 12th YCHS meeting certificates of appreciation were presented to owners of the homes featured on the recent tour. Those attending were Jack and Denise Seed of the Matthey Estate and Jeff Barlow along with daughter Clare representing the Laughlin House. YCHS President Shirley Venhaus was also awarded an "historic teapot" in recognition of her numerous contributions to the effort. The evening concluded with John White delivering a few insights into the lives of the original owner/builders of homes on the tour.

**QUILT DRAWING**

Placed on view during the home tour, tickets on the superb handmade quilt done in the "Ocean Waves" pattern sold briskly at the price of \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 with proceeds going to YCHS. The drawing will be next August in conjunction with the rummage sale. The quality of this quilt has to be seen to be truly appreciated, so have a look and "feel" at the December meeting.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new members and look forward to seeing them at the December meeting:

Priscilla Cranmer - Carlton

Margaret Evans - McMinnville

Christine Fairin - McMinnville

Patricia Harding - McMinnville

Morgan Maghee - Yamhill

Kathleen Mitchell - McMinnville

Doug Nelson & Shannon Venhaus-Nelson - Mac

Gary & Nancy Owens - Dayton

Dale Schoenenberger & Shea Venhaus - McMinnville

Rosemary Vertregt - McMinnville

**V.P. BARBARA KNUTSON ON THE MEND**

Husband Ken reports Barbara is now at home following her recent major hip surgery and doing well in spite of his cooking. Her recuperation is expected to require another couple of months and she would enjoy hearing from friends. 29930 Mill Creek Road, Sheridan OR 97378.

**DECEMBER MEETING & POTLUCK**

The next regular membership meeting and potluck dinner will be 6:30 PM Tuesday December 10th at the Community Christian Church 2831 N. Newby St. in McMinnville.

Speaker for the evening will be YCHS Past President Lois Brooks who will tell of "Christmas and Other Exiting Adventures in Alaska" based upon her first hand experience as a teacher in some of the more remote reaches of the 49th state. It promises to be a great program, so bring a guest or two along with your potluck offering and table service.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The December membership meeting will include election of certain officers to begin their terms with the new year. The Nominating Committee has selected the following candidates for your consideration:

President - Shirley Venhaus

Recording Secty - Elizabeth "Betty" Baltzell

Treasurer - Don Crawford

Director - Bob Kuykendall (1997-2000)

Director - John White (1997-1998)\*

(\*Unexpired 2 years of Harvey Stoller's term)

Terms of office for President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer are of two years each while Directors are elected to serve for a period of four years.

**WINTER MEETING HOURS**

After due consideration of both pros and cons, the Board of Directors voted at its November meeting to hold **all monthly membership potluck meetings in the evenings.** It was also felt it might be best to have the meetings in McMinnville during the winter months and go to the other communities during the Spring and Fall. Should this change present any transportation difficulties for anyone, please contact Shirley Venhaus at 472-7328 to arrange for ride-sharing or other suitable alternative.

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Nominations are still open for the 1996 YCHS Volunteer of the Year award to be presented at the January 1997 general meeting. Jot down the name of your candidate along with a few supporting words and pass them on to our Volunteer Coordinator Maxine Williams at 472-4547 by the December 10th general meeting. We have many willing members who give a lot of time and service to the museums and the Society. They all deserve recognition and Maxine will elaborate upon this in the next WEST SIDE issue.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Long time YCHS member Dick Blenkinsop passed away November 24. He would have been one hundred next January 7th.

Remember, A Red Dot on Your Address Label Means Your Dues are Due

## FOR WHOM THE BELL OF APPRECIATION TOLLS

Success of the Historic Home Tour resulted from combined efforts of a great many individuals. **First and foremost were the owners who so generously offered use of their homes.** There obviously would have been no tour without their cooperation.

What follows is an attempt to recognize and express our gratitude to all those participating in and contributing toward the accomplishment:

### ON THE TOUR

**THE FLETCHER FARMHOUSE:** *Owner: Ann Helm.* YCHS Coordinator: Betty White. Guides: Susan Sprague, Stuart Brown, Denise Carmen, Shannon Venhaus-Nelson, Anna Dembach.

**THE KELTY ESTATE:** *Owners: Ron and JoAnn Ross.* YCHS Coordinators: Jim and Reita Lockett. Guides: Chris Murray, Marjorie Owens, Jim Durham, Gladys Hay.

**THE LAUGHLIN HOUSE:** *Owners: Christine Richardson and Jeff Barlow.* YCHS Coordinator: Twila Byrnes. Guides: Phyllis Blankenship, Joyce Sproal, Janet Van Hess, Evelyn Enger, Arlene Reimers, Evelyn & Irvine Teegarden, Barbara Bodeen, Clare Richardson-Barlow

**THE MATTEY ESTATE:** *Owners: Jack and Denise Seed.* YCHS Coordinator: Delores Robertson. Guides: Janet Wilder, Ann Sandoz, Beverly Fowler, Penny Durant.

**WESTERLOOK:** *Owners: Peter and Marilyn Schultz.* YCHS Coordinator: Maxine Williams. Guides: Eileen Lewis, Mina Hanson, Elaine Rohse, April Wooden, Audrey Lippen, Charlotte Filer, Juanita Axtel, Ruth Williams, Georgina Driba, George Williams, Gordon Zimmerman.

### TRANSPORTATION

Special thanks are in order for Chuck Colvin Leasing who came through in an hour of real need. Thanks also to the Yamhill County Commissioners for their support and assistance - and of course to the drivers: Shea Venhaus, Barb Rockow, Shannon Venhaus, Mina Hansen, Hazel & Claude Jenkins, Joyce Lundeen, Coy Howard, Judy Hammer, Victoria Charbonnier, Christina Sairin, Becky Rae, Linda Miller, Gene Venhaus. First order recognition is also due Greg Venhaus for his masterful handling of the dispatching duties.

### ACTIVITIES AT THE MILLER LOG MUSEUM

Ruth Crawford was in charge of arranging crafts demonstrations and admirably fulfilled the bill with:

**QUILTING:** Chehalem Park & Recreation Quilters Betty Smith, Mardi Eggers, Divanna Crecelius, Ruth Warnock, Doris Pilkenton, Joyce Wolff. Also Marge Bergan was in attendance displaying the quilt to be raffled next August.

**TATTING:** Louise Tupper.

**BOBBIN LACE:** Shirley McDaniel, Alice Howell and Jane Koler.

**RUG BRAIDING:** Marietta Rankin.

**SPINNING:** Lynn Lazlo plus several others from the Mac Spinners organization.

**KNITTING, NEEDLEWORK, Etc:** Six ladies from the Artistic Needles Shop in McMinnville.

### REFRESHMENTS

Lois Brooks and Elma Shuck co-chaired the refreshment committee with assistance from: Peggy Roghair, Betty Baltzell, Eileen Lewis, Betty Mitchell, Pauline Schultz, Joanne Watts. Of particular note was the cider press and its product-courtesy of Bob & Shirley Kuykendall. With over 25 persons providing various tasties Lois offers the following in lieu of individual thanks:

*"Such a wonderful display of cookies, sweet bread and fruit were donated for the house tour! We heard favorable comments from our "tourists" who seemed to appreciate that most of the goodies were homemade. A special thank you to all the members who made such generous contributions, and to non member Linda Johnson who baked the log cabin ginger cookies. Thank you all!"*

### THEY WHO ALSO SERVED

**GUEST BOOK & GREETER:** Eileen Crawley

**CASHIER & TICKET SALES:** Lila Jackson

**POLING MEMORIAL CHURCH MUSEUM HOSTS:** Olive Johnson, Mark Fery, Jo Azzarelli

**IN THE BARN:** Ed Roghair, Jim Vincent.

**SPECIAL SERVICES:** Scott Fery.

**ADVANCE SALES & RESERVATIONS:** Don & Lesli Lutz along with the whole crew at Oregon Stationers.

**TOUR BOOKLET:** John & Betty White.

**PUBLICITY & ANYTHING NEEDING ATTENTION:** In addition to organizing and running the whole show, Shirley Venhaus pitched in wherever and whenever a little (or a lot of) help was required. That success was achieved is most certainly a tribute to her management ability.

*Note:*

*With so many individuals involved in such a far-flung and busy activity it seems perhaps likely that recognition of one or more deserving persons may have been inadvertently omitted. If so, please accept our apologies and be assured a future issue will correct any such oversights brought to our attention..*

## A GLIMPSE OF CHRISTMAS PAST

**HOLIDAY GOODS--USEFUL and ORNAMENTAL**

**AT THE LAFAYETTE FURNITURE STORE!!!**

Parties intending to purchase Holiday Goods should not fail to call and examine my stock before doing so. I have fine Toilet Cases, Shaving Sets, Whisk Brooms, Plush Towel Racks, Christmas and Birthday Cards, Escels, Music Holders, Mantel and Clock Shelves, Stereoscopes and Views, Brackets, Paper Holders, Albums, Plush Cabinet Frames, etc., etc. I also have a complete stock of Furniture, Bedroom Sets in Antique Oak, Ash and Maple, Wash Stands, Center and Extension Tables; fine assortment of Rockers, Walnut Chairs, Parlor Sets, Baby Carriages, etc. I also carry in stock Hygenic Kalsomine, the best sanitary wall finish in the world, put up in 50 cent packages. Also a good assortment of glass in stock. Coffins and Caskets furnished on short notice. I wish to thank the citizens of Lafayette and vicinity for their liberal patronage in the past, and hope to deserve a continuance of the same in the future.

VERY TRULY,  
W. I. WESTERFIELD.

The advertisement reproduced above originally appeared in the Lafayette Oregon Register of December 21 1888. From this it would seem commercialism of the Holiday Season is not altogether a product of the twentieth century.

(One wonders how many coffins or 50¢ bags of Kalsomine were ever placed under the Christmas tree - JW)

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**YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*December 1996 Calendar of Events*

**Tuesday, December 10th, 5:00 PM**

Board of Directors - Community Christian Church - McMinnville

**Tuesday December 10th, 6:30 PM**

Potluck Dinner - Community Christian Church - McMinnville

2831 North Newby Street

*Bring Your Own Table Service      Guests Always Welcome*

*(See page 2 for Program Details)*