

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

February 1997

## GEORGE TAKES A STROLL THROUGH THE WOODS



With wife Maxine wielding the pointer, YCHS member and professional forester George Williams guided an overflow audience through the world of trees at the January 14th YCHS meeting. He began with a bit of species identification background followed by an account of the principal types observed during his recent retracing of the Oregon Trail. Closer to home, he discussed a few of Oregon's "champion" trees, passing photographs of several around the audience. To conclude the remarks he explained the Yamhill County Heritage Tree program along with a few of its 22 dedicated specimens. (Maxine is chairperson of the selection committee with George as an advisor).

Whether conifer or deciduous, it is obvious this retired Government forester knows his trees!

*At left are speaker George Williams and his able assistant Maxine. (The red suspenders were provided by long time YCHS member Harold Lewis who was unable to attend.)*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Happy Valentine's Month!

The January General Meeting: at 6:20 PM, just a handful of members were present. by 6:45 PM we had over 60 members and guests with three tables of delicious foods of all kinds, even mince pie. You never cease to amaze me with your attendance and support. Now I may have to give some credit to the program on historical trees presented by George Williams for the size of the crowd. It may have been cold outside but the warmth of friendship and pleasure was present inside. It was good to see my friends and new members Kathleen, Wayne and Claudia present.

Speaking of warmth, Olive Johnson found very little at the museum a couple of Saturdays ago. We wish to thank Dwight Johnson for helping out, Mike Sweeney from Sweeney Electric for coming out after hours to diagnose the problem and Frank Webster for the repairs. The furnace is in working order again.

I am looking for someone to record on video our speakers at the general meeting. I have the equipment, all you have

to do is focus and turn it on. we have wonderful speakers and we need a record for reference in our newly started video library. Now, you can offer to help or I can delegate!! Yes, that is a threat!!

Kelly Highley from Newberg is attempting to save the Renne Middle School from demolition. If you have any interest in helping, please call Kelly at 538-8716. She would really appreciate it.

We would like to thank the editor of the *Dayton Tribune* for sending us a copy of his newspaper. We always enjoy reading it and appreciate their continued coverage of YCHS activities.

Thanks to those who have given me names and locations of historic barns in the county. A meeting has been set up with the photographer in March. Please call me or send the information to the museum address: P.O. Box 484, Lafayette OR 97127.

Have you recruited a new member lately??

....Shirley

## "FOUNDING DAY" CELEBRATION - JULY 5th

Building upon the popularity of handicraft demonstrations held in conjunction with our recent house tour and enthusiasm expressed by the crafters themselves, we will be presenting an encore performance on July 5th. The plan is for an "open house" featuring our three museums along with the handiwork demonstrations. Admission will be free with the idea being to promote greater community awareness of the Society as well as

affording us an opportunity to pitch for new members.

The date of July 5th was selected because of its historic significance. On that date in the year 1843 Yamhill County was formed by an act of the new Provisional Legislature meeting at Champoeg. Also, it just so happens that this year July 5th falls on Saturday in the middle of a three day week-end which might just aid attendance at such a family oriented event.

*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 - 1997**

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472-7328

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843-2069

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Don Crawford  
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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

**FEBRUARY MEETING & POTLUCK**

Venue for the February dinner meeting shifts to the Latter Day Saints Church in Yamhill at 6:30 PM Tuesday February 11th. We are all reminded that coffee is not to be served.

"Letters from Pioneer Mothers" will be the topic of the program presented by Nancy Thornton of Yamhill. With the aid of quotes from several original letters she will paint a candid picture regarding the life and times of early settlers. Considered an authority on the history of northern Yamhill County, Mrs. Thornton and her husband operate a cattle ranch in Moore's Valley.

There's plenty of room. Why not bring a friend or two in addition to your potluck offering and table service?

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome John and Virginia McLeod of McMinnville and look forward to seeing them at the February 11th meeting.

**HISTORIC HOMEOWNER TO SPEAK**

Jeff Barlow, owner of the Laughlin House included on our recent tour, will address the Yamhill County Landmarks Commission at 7:00 PM on Wednesday February 5th at the County Courthouse

**FEWER "RED DOTS" THIS MONTH**

A reduction in the number of "red dots" applied to address labels this month results in part by removal of some names from the mailing list as being significantly past due! It is tempting to comment that if you didn't receive this issue of "The West Side", it could be because your YCHS dues are too far in arrears, but we'll refrain.

**SHOWCASES ADDED AT MUSEUM**

Thanks to the sharp eye of President Shirley Venhaus, two showcases were recently purchased by the Society from the Pack Rat Trader in Lafayette. These will probably be used to build a display of presently packed away clothing in the back room of the Poling Church.

**BOOK REVIEW**

The recent 150th anniversary of the Amity United Methodist Church prompted Opal Lahley to compile a history of the parish with emphasis upon memories of past ministers or their families who occupied the parsonage. To this end she was remarkably successful in her research and the resultant 74 page book not only offers rare glimpses into the parish past, but contemporary Amity life as well. A recommended read.

Copies are \$6.50 each and in limited supply. Call Opal at 835-3664 to reserve.

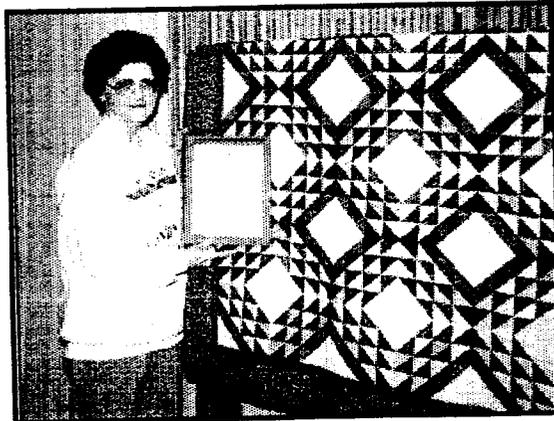
**RUMMAGE RECYCLING REMINDER**

Although the August 23rd sale date is still some months hence, it is none too soon to be at least thinking about what you might have to donate. Just about anything in clean and serviceable condition is welcome although clothing articles will be limited to "period" or "costume" items only. Committee meetings are set to begin in March and some storage space has been set aside in the log museum to receive early contributions.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Long time member Alice Brandt passed away January 17th at home. She was 91 years old.

**BRISK TICKET SALES CONTINUE FOR HANDMADE QUILT**



Opal Lahley displays the beautiful hand made quilt currently being raffled to benefit the YCHS. This 58 x 72 inch masterpiece done in the "Ocean Waves" pattern using shades of red white and blue is the product of a McMinnville quilting group who have donated it to the Society. Project coordinator Marge Bergan also informs portions of the quilt have sentimental ties to the Sitton family as well. The drawing will be held in conjunction with the YCHS rummage sale on August 23rd. Ticket prices are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. ....Have yours yet?

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

## ENFORCING McMinnville's TEMPERANCE ORDINANCE - 1909

Not long after the turn of the century the citizens of McMinnville exercised their local option and narrowly voted to become a "dry" town. The issue had evoked strong divisive sentiments on both sides which continued bitterly for some time after the election, but by 1909 all concerned seemed to have come to terms with prohibition. Temperance League followers rejoiced that only non-alcoholic "near-beer" could be legally served to the public, but at the same time, some saloonkeepers were quietly dispensing the genuine article right along with "near-beer" (since they both looked the same in a glass). Law enforcement officials accepted this status quo as long as bartenders exercised a measure of prudent restraint in serving their patrons and no formal complaints were filed by citizens.

Trouble began when patrons of a saloon operated by Carl Fuchs were increasingly observed boisterously leaving the establishment in what appeared to be an intoxicated condition. Several efforts to resolve the matter quietly off the record with Fuchs proved unsuccessful finally leaving Constable A. F. Arthur no choice but to raid the establishment. Very likely thinking ahead to his next re-election bid, Arthur opted to enlist Fred Robbin, a detective for the Oregon Anti Saloon League, to lead the investigation and make any necessary arrests.

Thus on the evening of Sunday September 12th 1909 Detective Robbin entered Fuchs' saloon posing as a construction worker engaged on a nearby job. It did not take long for him to become satisfied genuine beer was being dispensed on the premises, whereupon Robbin identified himself and called in Constable Arthur from outside to collect samples for evidence. However, to the surprise of all, the detective deferred any arrests pending chemical analysis of the confiscated specimens.

The laboratory report arrived a couple of days later indicating the samples submitted did indeed contain a significant quantity of alcohol. Carl Fuchs was subsequently brought before Justice of the Peace Hopfield, a prohibitionist, who with righteous indignation levied the maximum sentence of ten days in jail along with a fine of one hundred dollars. Most observers viewed this rather stiff penalty as being intended to warn other saloonkeepers to mind their ways-or else. Before the day was over, an appeal was drafted and filed on Fuchs' behalf which in effect nullified these Justice Court proceedings and sent the case to Circuit Court for a trial by jury. The affair was indeed escalating and the whole bitter temperance issue was again surfacing in the community.

Circuit Court convened to hear the case Monday March 28th 1910 at 1:00 PM with Judge Burnett presiding. The McMinnville courthouse was jammed to the walls with citizens demonstrating support for one side of the question or the other, but bailiffs and a deputy sheriff called in for the occasion were able to maintain order.

Proceedings began with jury selection. Each candidate was given lengthy and thorough examination by both prosecuting and defense attorneys. Those found to have ever been acquainted with, or even casual patrons of defendant Fuchs were challenged by the State and excused. Likewise, those with either a family member or close friend of known temperance leanings were challenged and removed by the defense. By 4:00 PM the entire panel was exhausted with only two actual jurors having been selected. The clerk was ordered to provide another pool and have them available by morning.

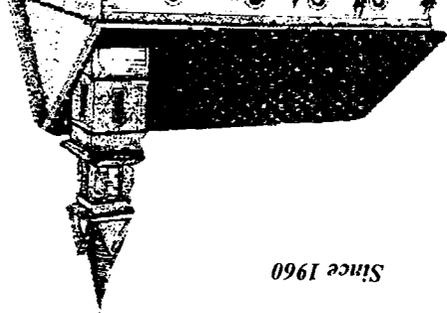
When court reconvened on Tuesday morning, an obviously irritated Judge Burnett informed the attorneys that unless an otherwise qualified prospective juror was an officer of a temperance organization or close kin to Fuchs, he would be seated. The first ten called met these requirements and the trial began with little further delay.

Prosecutor R. L. Conner followed up the testimony of Constable Arthur and Detective Robbin with that of Professor Van Osdel, chemist at McMinnville College (now Linfield) who testified the samples given him had contained 3.4 to 3.9 percent alcohol. A report from the chemistry laboratory at Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) fully verified Professor Van Osdel's findings.

Faced with what seemed conclusive evidence, defense attorney W. T. Vinton could do little but raise the question that perhaps the samples tested were other than those collected during the raid. To do this he produced the sales manager and a delivery driver from the brewery who swore that Mr. Fuchs purchased only "nymph" or non alcoholic beer at all times. Then came a parade of saloon patrons on the night in question who testified to having consumed five to twelve glasses of the subject beverage without a hint of intoxication. Most also added the brew they had been served didn't even taste like beer.

The case went to the jury at 2:30 PM with both sides expecting a favorable verdict within the hour. At 10:40 PM the jury returned to inform the judge they could not reach agreement. After assuring himself this was indeed the situation, Judge Burnett officially declared a hung jury and set the case over for retrial during the next Circuit Court session.. Neither faction of the many assembled spectators was pleased with this turn of events and all loudly expressed disapproval.

Before the matter could come to trial again some strings were quietly pulled within the business community. Regardless of personal feelings on the question, it was in not in the best interest of the town to gain a reputation for acrimonious public squabbling. Therefore, when he again faced the judge, Fuchs plead guilty to all charges and accepted a fine of \$25.00 with no jail time. Justice had apparently been served as all sides seemed satisfied with the outcome. (JW)



Since 1960

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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**YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*February 1997 Calendar of Events*

**Tuesday, February 11th, 5:00 PM**  
Board of Directors - Latter Day Saints Church - Yamhill

**Tuesday February 14th, 6:30 PM**  
Potluck Dinner - Latter Day Saints Church - Yamhill  
(Highway 47 and Pike Road at the North End of Town)  
*Bring Your Own Table Service      Guests Always Welcome*  
(See page 2 for Program Details)