

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

March 1997



February speaker Nancy Thornton poses with handmade quilt to be raffled by YCHS August 23rd.

MEMORIES OF YOUNG PIONEER WOMEN RETOLD

Nancy Thornton, a long time resident of nearby Moore's Valley, provided the program for the February 11th YCHS potluck at the Yamhill Latter Day Saints church. From her collection of early writings, Mrs. Thornton presented the group with selected reminiscences of three young pioneer women.

First was Alice Webster who wrote of growing up at the Barlow trading post operated by her father. She told of everyday life in the small Oregon Trail community with considerable detail. Her mumps tale raised a round of laughter.

Next to be heard from was Sedalia Rucker whose mother passed away in 1898. Adopted by the Rinehart family she moved with them to a farm in the Moore's Valley area of Yamhill County in 1905. The recollection of her first encounter with glow worms was particularly entertaining.

The final reading was from the childhood memoirs of Marianna Hunsaker. Her father had gone to California in the 1849 gold rush leaving his daughters in the Catholic boarding school at Oregon City. Here she twice met Dr. John McLoughlin and encountered customs unfamiliar to a girl raised in a more casual lifestyle

Mrs. Thornton is to be commended for her choice of readings. Each well written account provided a broad look into early Oregon life as experienced by three rather observant young ladies.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

HI EVERYONE,

A couple of sun shiny days and we hope that spring is not far off. With that we need to start planning our summer activities. Friday March 21st will be a busy day. A WORK DAY at the museum will begin at 9 AM to 12 Noon. Come anytime. We need your help! At 1 PM will be a combined FOUNDING DAY and GARAGE SALE planning meeting. Please attend. We need all the input and suggestions we can get. After the Historic House Tour this job should be a lot easier. Bring a lunch and plan to spend the day.

Kathleen Mitchell, a new Society member, has expressed interest in working with the almost non existent ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM. Another person has mentioned this might be something he would like to do now that he is retired (I'll not mention any names). Now I need everyone to contribute names of people we need to include on our list of "those to be interviewed". Jot down names, addresses and phone numbers and give them to me or mail to the PO Box. Don't forget barn locations also. Without your help someone very important

could be missed and a wonderful piece of history lost. Let's give these people something to work with. Any one who still has a TAPE RECORDER, please let me know.

It was so good to have Barbara Knutson back. She does such a good job scheduling our monthly meetings. Thanks Barbara.

Did everyone read the February 13th TEMPO section in the *News-Register*? Olive Johnson and St. Joe were front cover news. Olive was surprised to note she had changed homes.

Don Crawford continues to provide us with excellent treasury reports. I always have some extra of these available at the General Meeting. We are able, at this time, to leave the interest earned on our Franklin Account in the bank.

Please note the new gutters on the Church Building. The system is working as the water is no longer draining into the downstairs. Our pool has almost dried up. That is some of your Historic House Tour dollars at work.

We are arranging storage for GARAGE SALE items so watch for the location. Start checking the attic and garage for items you would like to donate.

See you at the March 11th meeting.

.....Shirley

SITTON MEMORIAL FUND

Following consultation with Nada Dyer, Roma's daughter, the Board of Directors is exploring the possibility of using the memorial fund to provide a much needed sink, cabinets and counter in the Miller Log Museum work room. The Board has directed Shirley to obtain proposals and bids from local contractors for presentation at their March 11th meeting.

A NEW CAREER?

It would seem Grant Youngberg started something when he spoke of John Wennerberg and early Carlton at the transplanted YCHS picnic last summer. On February 18th he delivered a similar address to a retired teachers organization and has accepted another invitation to speak at a surveyor's gathering in the near future.

QUILT DRAWING

Shown at the upper left of this page along with Nancy Thornton is the hand made quilt to be raffled by the YCHS on August 23rd. Done in the "Ocean Waves" pattern, the quality of workmanship just has to be seen to be believed. The quilt will be on display at the March 11th potluck so come see for yourself. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00.

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**President**

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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

BOB & SHIRLEY KUYKENDALL

Bob and Shirley are charter members of the Society. I have been a member for the only the past ten years so I can't tell of all the work they have done for the group, but I know it is significant.

Bob has served as president at least once and has been on the board of directors for many years. Both have served on countless committees and Bob always offers the blessing before every potluck dinner. They both put in many hours at the museum, are always ready and willing to help with any project and as lifetime residents of the county have been of service to the society in more ways than any of us know.

Many may not have noticed how Shirley regularly takes on the responsibility of setting up for the potluck suppers, making the coffee and cleaning the kitchens afterward. She also serves on the historic tree committee and I have seen her climbing hills and tramping through blackberries and poison oak to locate a tree. She is always smiling and it would be hard to find a more willing worker.

The Kuykendalls provide transportation to the meetings for members who need it and are always on hand to greet everyone with a smile.

.....Maxine Williams

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the YCHS and hope to have the pleasure of their company at the March potluck dinner.

Chuck Fagan - Portland
Karen Goddik - McMinnville
Jo McIntyre - McMinnville
John J. Rowland - Seattle

WANTED

Video camera operator at YCHS meetings.
No prior experience required. Call 472-7328

MARCH MEETING & POTLUCK

The site for the YCHS March gathering will be the **Amity Church of Christ, 1305 Goucher Street at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, March 11th.** The program for the evening will be Commander Stanley Miller of Turner who will speak on "History of the American Flag". As always, guests are encouraged.

Turn east off Highway 99 on the Hopewell Road (Nursery Street) for four blocks to Goucher Street then right (south) on Goucher for about a quarter mile. The Christian Church is a new gray colored building on the left with a large parking lot

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

New member Kathleen Mitchell, an experienced historian and archivist, has volunteered to shore up and coordinate our oral history program. We already have the audio recorders and now Kathleen to provide instruction and tips on interview technique. All that's required are a few members who would enjoy spending a very pleasant hour or two in conversation. Remember, every day more of this heritage is being lost forever. Call Shirley at 472-7328 to sign up.....Now!

SCHOOL KIDS TOUR MUSEUM

On Wednesday February 5th promptly at 9 AM a bus from McMinnville's Cook School arrived at the museum. Out poured thirty one 3rd and 4th grade children, their teacher Don Callahan and four parent helpers..

YCHS members Ed Roghair, Lois Brooks and Twila Byrnes assembled the group in the log building for a briefing and division into three groups. One group remained in the log building with Lois where they viewed the artifacts and had a history lesson. Ed took his group to the barn to show and explain things our young visitors had previously only heard about. The third group followed Twila to the church and were intrigued by the myriad of things to view and learn about. During the next two hours the groups rotated in an orderly way between buildings. Several had money clutched in their hands and wanted to know where the gift shop was. About all that was available were postcards and museum button/pins.

Good kids, who came well prepared and motivated, made for a fun and satisfying morning

.....Twila Byrnes

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

DAYTON'S GOLD NUGGETS

by John White

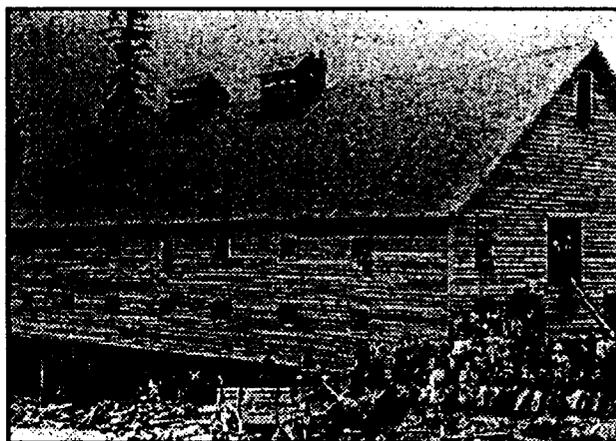
In 1885 Dayton resident Douglas A. Snyder, then 22 years old, set up a small commercial fruit dryer on the Alderman property across the Yamhill River from town. His business steadily increased to such an extent that in 1890 Snyder erected a much larger plant near what is now the intersection of First and Alder Streets in Dayton. At first apples were the principal commodity to be processed with potatoes added to the product line in 1896. Over the course of the next 50 plus years many other fruits and vegetables would be processed through good times and bad at this same location.

The drying plant itself was constructed to Snyder's rather rigid specifications for the wood-fired brick ovens and drying compartments above. The result was a model of fuel efficiency that took maximum advantage of the hot air draft produced. The machinery that prepared raw products for dehydration was also designed by Snyder who built much of it himself. In short, this was a state of the art facility which served as a standard for others in the area that later followed.

During 1898 there were two occurrences on the world scene that had profound effects upon the Snyder dryer. First came the outbreak of the Spanish-American War and the U.S. Army's need to feed troops deployed in both Cuba and the Philippines. Evaporated potatoes and onions in massive quantities were delivered from Dayton to both the Army and Navy during 1898 and 1899. On top of this, gold was discovered on the Klondike during 1898 and the following spring thousands of prospectors headed north, many with a large supply of Snyder & Son dried vegetables tucked away in their packs. In fact, the products were so well accepted in the goldfields that the brand name "Gold Nugget" was adopted. The Dayton Oregon product was now on its way to being known and accepted internationally and Douglas Snyder was boasting that

"wherever there's wilderness and clean water, we've got customers".

In March of 1898, with this large volume of business at stake, Snyder's plant caught fire and burned to the ground. Salvaging the ovens, and with financing obtained by virtue of extensive orders on hand, a considerably larger plant was quickly built on the same site resulting in only moderate delivery disruptions. However, to meet the rapid growth begun during 1898, Snyder took in two prominent Dayton



1908 photo of Dayton Evaporating and Packing Co. plant.

businessmen, John Nichols and B.C. Gabriel, as partners in 1901. In 1904 they incorporated the business as "Dayton Evaporating and Packing Co." with Snyder as the president.

Despite another major fire in 1912, business remained quite good for the next several years. Actually this second fire afforded the opportunity to upgrade and modernize a main plant that had been hastily rebuilt 14 years earlier.

World War I again presented the Army with a significant need for dehydrated foods and the Dayton Evaporating Co plant was commandeered by the Government. Throughout most of 1917 and 1918 the evaporator worked day and night producing huge quantities of dried potatoes for the armed forces.

After the armistice "Gold Nugget" production shifted again to a wide range of domestic offerings. One of the most popular products was a vegetable soup mix composed of potatoes, carrots, turnips, onions, parsnips, cabbage and celery. Throughout the 1920's and early 1930's just about any locally produced vegetable or fruit was processed and could be found in dried form under the "Gold Nugget" brand. Even dehydrated eggs were offered.

World War II should have brought another boom for the Dayton Evaporating Co. but following delivery of an initial order of dehydrated vegetable soup mix for the military in 1943, Douglas Snyder was unable to come to what he considered satisfactory terms with the Government and shut the plant down refusing to reopen it during his lifetime. Following Snyder's death in 1946, the plant was acquired by Frank Foster who resumed production drying walnuts and filberts in addition to the former standard lines of vegetables and fruits.

With frozen foods rapidly dominating the market during the 1950's, the Dayton Evaporating and Packing Co. plant discontinued dehydration operations to become a receiving station for produce destined for freezing elsewhere. Thus-closed a major chapter in the County's rich agricultural history.



Label from 2 ounce carton of Gold Nugget dehydrated vegetables. About the size of a pack of cigarettes, the contents were sufficient to prepare a gallon of soup.

Since 1960

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

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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 1997 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 11th, 5:00 PM

Board of Directors - Church of Christ Christian Church - Amity

Tuesday, March 11th, 6:30 PM

Potluck Dinner - Church of Christ Christian Church- Amity
1305 Goucher Street

*Bring Your Own Table Service Guests Always Welcome
(See page 2 for Program Details and Directions to Church)*

Friday, March 21st, 9:00 AM

Spring Cleaning Day at the Museum - Lafayette
Bring a Brown Bag Lunch and Plenty of Elbow Grease

Friday, March 21st, 1:00 PM

Planning Meeting for Founding Day & Rummage Sale - Miller Log Museum
No Previous Experience Required