

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

December 1997

## HARVEST FESTIVAL ENJOYED BY MANY

Once again the weather cooperated by presenting a perfect autumn day for the festivities. All three of the museum buildings were open with the Miller Log Building being the focus for much of the activity. Upstairs demonstrations of spinning, weaving, quilting, tatting, lace making and other home spun crafts were taking place while downstairs refreshments were being served to the many visitors. Throughout the entire day strains of fiddle, guitar and accordion music filled the building and even drifted next door to be enjoyed by those visiting the farm equipment displays. With several YCHS members dressed in authentic "period" outfits, the entire affair offered a real old fashioned good time for all. With well over 150 signing the guest book, it would also seem the goal of making the community more aware of the YCHS and its facilities was achieved as well.

*And from the Refreshment Coordinators:*

"We wish to thank all the wonderful members who were so generous with donations of cookies, sweet breads and relishes for the Harvest Festival. Plus a special note of appreciation to all those who helped in the kitchen, particularly Betty Baltzell and Twila Byrnes who not only managed the kitchen, but arranged those delightful trays of goodies, and then stayed afterwards to wash up and put away."

.....Elma Shuck and Lois Brooks



B. White photo

*"The Mavericks" played the afternoon set with delightful toe tapping arrangements featuring guitar, fiddle, accordion and mandolin.*

## ORAL HISTORY TEAM UPDATE

Project Coordinator Kathleen Mitchell reports the group has completed its first round of interviews and will soon be starting a new series. Also collaboration has begun with the Oregon Historical Society through an exchange of tapes. They have several recorded interviews given by people with Yamhill roots and we trade copies.

Kathleen can still use some assistance in indexing the growing

YCHS collection along with new members to assist in preparing questions for upcoming interviews. The next YCHS interviewer training session will be held this coming January and the next Oregon Historical Society interviewer's workshop is tentatively scheduled for April.

Members interested in joining the team or wishing to suggest an interview candidate should contact **Kathleen Mitchell at 474-0534** as soon as possible.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I want to talk about twelve people who work very diligently, thoughtfully and constantly on behalf of the Yamhill County Historical Society. They are your Board of Directors and Officers. Everyone who partakes in any way in our programs and services should be



B. White photo

*After the Harvest Festival President Shirley*

aware of and most grateful to these extraordinary friends. It is the Board that is legally responsible for the Society's well-being, even its continued existence. At the core of everything we do at the museum and in the community is a carefully considered decision or policy set by the Board.

Just a few of the demands of being a Board member are: be an enthusiastic member, supporter, advocate throughout the community, know the YCHS history, mission and purposes, goals policies, programs, services, strengths, and needs. Support YCHS fundraising efforts, serve on committees, prepare for attend and participate in meetings and special events, and understand financial statements.

Our Board members are drawn from all parts of the county, all sorts of professions and backgrounds, ages, genders and styles motivated to work on behalf of your organization for an amazing variety of reasons.

It all adds up to a serious commitment. The reward is a good feeling of truly making a difference to the preservation of our heritage and to a museum that serves all of Yamhill County. The next time you meet up with them you might thank them for their efforts. A list of their names will be found on the next page.

On another matter: Someone said to me one time that, "when you aren't having fun doing something, it is time to quit doing it". Well, no one can say we didn't have fun at the Harvest Festival. What a great day!!!

.....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 - 1997****President**

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472-7328

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Betty Baltzell  
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**Treasurer**

Don Crawford  
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**Financial Secretary**

Lila Jackson  
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Ed Roghair  
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Robert Kaykendall  
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**Volunteer Coordinator**

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472-4547

**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



B. White Photo

Lila Jackson is shown above selling historic courthouse bricks at the

**GOOD NATURED BILL COLLECTOR**

As YCHS Financial Secretary for the past four years Lila Jackson has been collecting dues and maintaining membership rolls for the Society as well as keeping our records pertaining to gifts, donations, memorials and sales. In addition to her well ordered record keeping she also has been a regular Sunday afternoon volunteer at the museum since the early 1980s and can always be found helping out with all of our special activities

A lifelong Yamhill County resident Lila has seemingly unlimited ties to many of the early pioneer families and her late husband Charles served as assistant postmaster for McMinnville. In addition to the YCHS, Lila is quite active in the D.A.R., Retired Federal Employees organization and avidly pursues genealogical research into her broadly rooted family tree and its many extensive branches.

When she occasionally reminds us of annual dues owing, please remember Lila is truly a very nice person, always has a happy smile for everyone and is just doing her job.

.....Maxine Williams

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

It's that time of year again and a Nominating Committee composed of George Williams, Eileen Lewis and Dan Linscheid have submitted their recommendations for those elected offices expiring at the end of 1997 (\* indicates incumbent):

Vice President: Barbara Knutson\*

Financial Secretary: Lila Jackson\*

Corresponding Secretary: Delores Robertson\*

Board of Directors: Dan Linscheid

(replacing Jim Vincent who declined to run again)

Additional nominations may be offered from the floor prior to holding elections at the **December 8th general membership meeting in Amity.**

**LINFIELD COLLEGE INTERN**

Space considerations have previously precluded introduction of Polly Parmalee. A senior history and anthropology major from Las Vegas Nevada, she been assisting at the museum over this past fall semester. Apologies and belated thanks to Polly for a job well done.

**NOVEMBER POTLUCK DINNER A PLEASANTLY COZY AFFAIR**

Well over 60 members and guests attended the Society's first dinner meeting held in the Miller Log building requiring some to be seated upstairs for the meal. Later tables were removed and chairs set up downstairs for the program.

Sharing with us his hobby of collecting county postal history, John White started by telling how post offices were sited, and why so few site records still exist. He explained how the job of postmaster was acquired (politics usually being involved) and the use of Sanborn Maps in finding old office locations.

Beginning his slide presentation with Rex and ending with railroad post offices which ran through Yamhill County, John kept up a steady flow of well researched information which included post offices no longer in existence such as Dewey, Faidale and

**DECEMBER MEETING & POTLUCK**

The **Amity First Methodist Church** at 201 Nursery Street (1 block east of Hwy 99W on the Hopewell road) is the venue for the **Tuesday December 8th meeting.** A program entitled "First Methodist Memories" celebrating its 151st anniversary will be presented by church historian Opal Lahley following **potluck dinner at 6:30 PM.** As always, guests are encouraged to attend.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome these new members joining us over the past month and hope to see them at the December meeting:

Colin Armstrong - Yamhill  
(Life Membership)

Mary E. Baker - McMinnville

Wilbur Baker - Newberg

William & Nadine Blum - McMinnville

Laurel L. Spencer - Carlton

Mrs. Dean (Pat) Werth - Newberg

(Life Membership)

Gopher. Most early postmasters were also businessmen engaged in all sorts of other enterprises. The remuneration for the postmaster job in some cases must not have been all that great as Lafayette had 7 different postmasters in its first 7 years and Cove Orchard had 14 during its existence in the general store between 1912 and 1953.

The current Newberg post office and McMinnville's former building on Evans Street were two of 36 Oregon WPA postal projects built during the Depression. Out of work artists were hired to paint murals for each building, but for some reason the McMinnville office was missed and, alas, the general public will never see Newberg's, as it was painted in a room to which only postal employees are admitted.

Good show, John!

.....Lois Brooks

# 1997 Y.C.H.S. HARVEST FESTIVAL HELD OCTOBER 25th



"Woodsman George" and President Shirley dance the Yamhill Two-Step



Shannon Venhaus-Nelson (l) and Tonya Venhaus model party dresses from bygone eras.



Linfield Anthropology Professor Joel Marrant with students (l to r) Polly Parmalee, Marcia Gerdes, Heather Springer, and Angela Wieben examine Native American basket exhibit in Miller Museum during festivities.



(Above) Master Hostess Lois Brooks tends the refreshment offerings



Shirley McDaniel demonstrates her lace-making skills

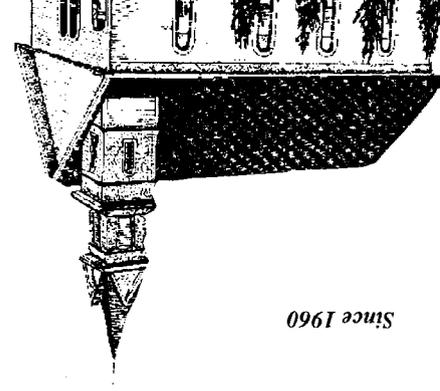


Bob Bailey's band from Amity played the 10:00 am to noon set on the bandstand.

(Below) One of the several classic autos on display draws admiring attention.



Elma Shuck (l) and Ruth Crawford (r) decked out in high fashion of different earlier periods



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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*December 1997 Calendar of Events*

**Tuesday, December 8th, 5:00 PM**

Board of Directors - First Methodist Church - 201 Nursery Street - Amity

**Tuesday December 8th, 6:30 PM**

Potluck Dinner - First Methodist Church - 201 Nursery Street - Amity

*Bring Your Own Table Service      Guests Always Welcome*

*(See page 2 for Program Details)*

**Worth Putting on Your Agenda:**

Native American Basket Exhibit: An Exhibit comparing regional differences and their effect upon the design of Northwest and Southwest Native American baskets will be on display from November 12th through the end of January at the Anthropology Museum in Walker Hall on the Linfield College campus. The exhibit is composed of the John Dulin Southwest collection plus additional Northwest examples on loan from the Yamhill County Historical Society. Admission is free.