

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

Summer 1998



B. White Photo

Erica Calkins displays her book
"Hatchet, Hands and Hoe"

GROWING GARDENS ON THE OREGON FRONTIER

Clad in the costume of an 1850s Oregon Territory settler, Erica Calkins addressed the YCHS May meeting held at the Dayton Christian Church. She began by relating a tale of how a handful of flax seed carried to Clatsop County by a pioneer woman turned into a viable fish net weaving enterprise within just a few years. She then told of pioneer women preparing a sort of hominy from wheat or peas borrowed from the Hudson's Bay Company. Since coffee was unavailable on the early frontier, ground wheat provided a substitute.

Turning to herbs, vegetables and flowers, Ms. Calkins outlined the many varieties of seeds and cuttings pioneer women brought with them across the plains. Some such as tansy, horehound, lemon balm, chamomile and yarrow were cultivated primarily as remedy ingredients. The typical settler kitchen garden would also contain food staples like kale, collard, turnips, chard, muskmelon and nutmeg. Flowers were also grown to inject a bit of color into a rather harsh existence and were often planted near the doorway so that some of their fragrance might be drawn into the house. Roses were a particular favorite. The later portion of the program was devoted to examining samples taken from several of the plants mentioned, and response to questions from the

audience. With this presentation Erica Calkins demonstrated she has a deep appreciation for and is an avid promoter of what she terms "the

1998 HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday October 17th has been set as the date for the 1998 Harvest Festival. This is the day we will be showcasing the museum and other YCHS activities by inviting the public to join us in an old fashioned autumn celebration. We are working on encore performances from the two fiddle bands that played last year and expect the several craft displays to return with perhaps an addition or two. This year we are also asking that all members come dressed in period attire which shouldn't be too difficult since everything made before 1950 is now considered "antique".

MEMBER INPUT REQUESTED

The Board of Directors will soon be taking up an evaluation of the artifacts and displays at the museum with the idea of making the best use of all three buildings. This is certain to include setting up new permanent exhibits as well as upgrading existing ones. Some of the suggestions so far include adding displays of a school room, a turn of the century kitchen, a Victorian parlor and/or a small office replica. What sort of exhibits do you think we should have? It's your museum so please offer your thoughts to the President or a Board member.

VACATION GENERATED THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I recently spent time visiting the Hiwan Homestead Museum in Evergreen Colorado. For several years I was a member of the Jefferson County Historical Society which was responsible for the volunteer program at Hiwan. The museum is a seventeen room log structure built in the late 1800s. A banquet was held for the Society's twenty fifth anniversary which honored past presidents. It was a pleasure to see friends from those years. It reminded me of lasting friendships made during the years I worked with these volunteers. One of the favorite topics was what fun we had doing so many of the projects, programs, activities and displays. The fact we worked long and hard hours was not what we remembered.

I hope that all of the Yamhill County Historical Society's members can look back with fond memories and pleasure about our past events.

The Board of Directors have discussed having a celebration next spring recognizing the thirtieth anniversary of the Society's acquisition of the Poling Memorial Church for a museum. We spend most of our times looking forward to needs and activities, but it is good to look back to the formative years and wonder at the things that have been accomplished.

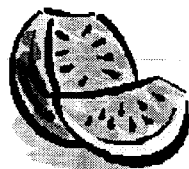
Along these lines we are looking for someone who would enjoy collecting the past history of the Yamhill County Historical Society. If you like history and are aware of the need for a condensed record of the Society, please contact me. It would take one person to start this project and I'm sure several others would be happy to help.

I enjoyed my vacation in Colorado and Nebraska and I am glad to be home in Oregon

.....Shirley

ANNUAL PICNIC SET FOR AMITY SATURDAY AUGUST 1ST

The time is 12:00 noon and the place is the Amity City Park located just west of Highway 99W on Fifth Street (Bellevue/Hopewell Hwy). In addition to your potluck picnic goodies, bring an appetite and prepare to spend the afternoon visiting with old and new friends.



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 - 1998**President**

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843-2069

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Betty Baltzell
472-7746

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Don Crawford
434-9843

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Lila Jackson
472-8510

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Volunteer Coordinator

Maxine Williams
472-4547

Librarian

Olive Johnson
472-6070

Newsletter

John White
665-5376

Publicity

Elaine Rohse
472-6827

MUSEUM HOURS

605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308

June 1 to Aug 31:
Fri & Sun 1 to 4 PM
Sat 10AM 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
Shirley Kuykendall

THE LADY WHO IS ALWAYS THERE

Working quietly in the background Shirley Kuykendall is a person that gets the job done. In addition to setting up tables and chairs plus whatever else it takes to get organized for our monthly potlucks as well as undertaking the less glamorous chores during museum clean-ups, she also hops fences and hacks through briar patches as a member of our Heritage Tree Committee.

Shirley and her husband Bob have been married for nearly sixty years and reside in the historic Kuykendall family home near Yamhill. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. Before Bob's retirement as an active pastor, Shirley undertook a multitude of responsibilities in support of her husband. Not the least of these was for many years operating a bible school at the Eola Hills Farm Labor Camp east of Whiteson. She still assists when Bob is called upon to preside at a funeral or other service. The couple are now active in the McMinnville Community Christian Church where Shirley serves as a volunteer for senior citizen assistance activities.

For her years of truly dedicated participation on behalf of the Society, we extend

our hearty thanks to Shirley.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members. We hope to see them at the August 1st picnic.

Barbara Koch - McMinnville
Marian Gray - Carlton
Charles Long - Portland

30th ANNIVERSARY COMING UP

The year 1999 will mark the 30th anniversary of acquiring the Poling Memorial Church as our museum. To mark the event, the Board of Directors have tentatively set Saturday April 17th 1999 as the date for celebrating the event. As yet there are no specific plans other than this gathering should include a tribute to founding members and those who were instrumental in getting the church museum up and running. Note the date now and we'll keep you posted on details.

FROM THE BOARD

At its May meeting the Board of Directors continued their discussion of Society long range planning and objectives. Such topics as organization, building maintenance, artifact storage, exhibits, fund raising and our responsibilities to the community had been touched upon earlier, but the top priority upon which practically all planning hinges was determined to be an active membership capable of undertaking and fulfilling some of these projects without placing a burden on just a few individuals. Any ideas on the subject?

INTERNET RESEARCH SUSPENDED

Don Crawford, who fields Email genealogical inquiries for the Society, reports he has been forced to suspend this activity until such time as he can catch up on the large backlog of requests. Don also assures any and all offers of clerical assistance will be favorably considered. Apply at 434-9843 (computer experience not required).

EWING YOUNG OAK TREE

George Williams reports the YCHS Heritage Tree Committee will be nominating the lone oak that marks the site of Ewing Young's grave in the Chehalem Valley for well deserved heritage landmark designation. Because it is located on private land without public access, the State Landmark Committee may hesitate to so recognize it even though it stands entirely alone and is quite easily visible from a public road.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER

We'll be kicking off the new 1998-99 season at the American Legion Hall in Sheridan on Tuesday September 8th with potluck dinner beginning at 6:30 pm. A program discussing Yamhill County road and place names will be provided by our own Dan Linscheid, who you will recall compiled a book on the subject. It's not all that long until September, so mark your calendars now and don't forget to bring a guest or two along with table service and potluck fare.

DIGITAL COPIES OF PHOTOS

High quality reproduction of photos on file at the museum is a new service now being offered by the Society. Researchers and others may obtain attractive digital copies of photos of ancestors, home town, the old schoolhouse or whatever for a charge of \$4.00 (up to 5x8 inches) or \$6.50 (from 5x8 to 8x10 inches). YCHS member Mark Fery will be doing the work with the Society sharing in the proceeds.

IN MEMORIAM

With sadness we note the passing of the following members and supporters:

Hazel M. Kuhn - McMinnville
William Lucas - McMinnville

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

ROYAL ACCOMMODATIONS

by John White

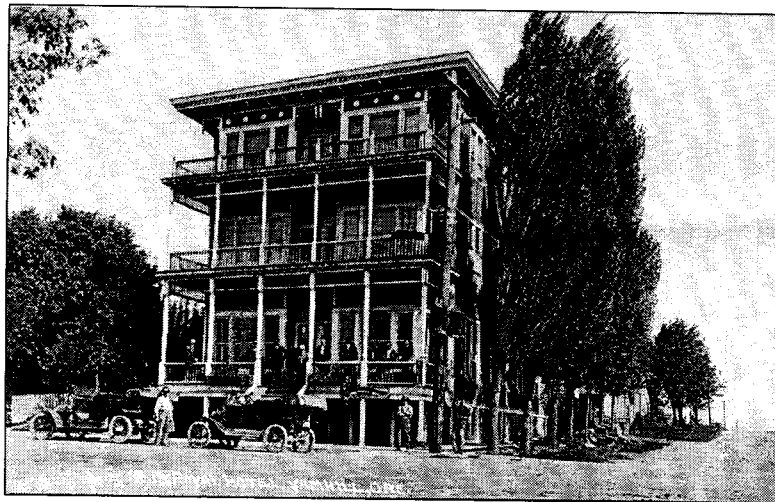
At the turn of the century North Yamhill was a bustling agricultural community with a population of around 350. The town also boasted several establishments and services usually found only in towns of larger size. There were electric lights, two schools providing grades 1 through 12, a newspaper, a dentist, at least a score of thriving retail establishments, a bank that withstood the "panic" of 1896-97, a planing mill, a tile factory and other numerous enterprises and organizations.

In addition to being a trading center for the northern part of the county, North Yamhill was also the transfer point between the railroad and stage line for travelers going to or coming from the Tillamook area. Prior to 1902 the necessary overnight accommodations for travelers making this connection were limited to an aging 1870s vintage hotel plus a small rooming house or two. Prominent townspeople believed this lack of a good hotel reflected badly upon the entire community and during December 1901 they raised a sum of \$2200.00 with which to entice an entrepreneur to build and operate a first rate facility. This need became even greater in the spring of 1902 when fire destroyed part of the old hotel requiring the entire structure to eventually be torn down.

Shortly thereafter a local jeweler, inventor and prune dryer owner, E. F. Schneider, took up the challenge of building a new first class hotel. The site selected was a conveniently located vacant lot on the northeast corner of Maple and First Streets and excavation of a 30x60 foot basement began in June of 1902. The August 2nd 1902 issue of the North Yamhill *RECORD* reported progress on the job as follows: "E. F. Schneider has a large force of men in the work of construction on the new hotel who are pushing the same forward to completion as rapidly as possible. The new building will be a skyscraper for this place and will be a credit to our town. and to Mr. Schneider the builder"

When completed this "skyscraper" would be three stories high with a full basement underneath. To insure an adequate water supply, a well was put down on the Sarah Williams property at First and Fir Streets. A gasoline engine and pump were then installed at the well head and an underground pipeline laid to carry the water four blocks west to the hotel.

Construction continued at a fast pace into the fall of 1902 while the *RECORD* related "Since the old hotel has been closed and pending the completion of the new hotel we hope those of our people who have spare beds place them at the disposal of the traveling public until such time as the new hotel is completed. People coming to our town must have accommodations and be shown every possible courtesy. We would suggest that families who have beds to spare would make the fact known to the liverymen who can direct travelers to them. It would be



Royal Hotel circa 1916

Author's Collection

unfortunate for travelers and give our town a black eye if we should fail to provide for them while they are in town."

In late November 1902 Ed and Mrs. Schneider moved into their quarters in the new building. Although construction was not completed, the kitchen, dining room, parlor and a few guest rooms were ready permitting some travelers an opportunity to spend the night. When the upper floors were finished in mid December, the brand new Royal Hotel had its official opening, an event the *REPORTER* recalled with

glowing praise: "The upper story of the Royal Hotel is entirely finished and is magnificent. There is no better equipped hostelry in Oregon for the entertainment of guests than this one, save perhaps for Portland. It is equipped with all the furnishings requisite to making it a neat and creditable building throughout and is filled with appointments making it a first class hotel in every particular."

The main entrance was located on the first floor facing Maple Street. At the front on the main level were the public parlor and a jewelry shop. To the rear were the laundry, kitchen and dining room. Later the Tillamook stage ticket office and, briefly, offices of a venture called Ashwood Gold and Silver Mining Co. (an enterprise in which Ed Schneider was also involved) occupied portions of the first floor.

The second and third floors were devoted to ten guest rooms each that were equipped with comfortable beds and "kept in a manner to please the most fastidious touring lady". None of the rooms had running water but "modern bathing facilities" were located on each floor. Although no reason for the difference was offered, contemporary ads quoted rates of \$1.25 and \$2.00 per night (meals not included).

A saloon accessed directly from Maple Street occupied the front portion of the basement with general storage and space for several cords of firewood at the rear. Later this lower level was converted into a shooting gallery.

Transportation of travelers to and from the railroad station was accomplished by a "carryall" drawn by two fine chestnut horses supplied by John Williams' livery stable and driven by "Dad" Gage. This connection was to last only until 1911 however when a railroad link was completed between Forest Grove and Tillamook that quickly put the stage line out of business.

For the next few years the Royal Hotel continued moderately prosperous operation, but loss of the Tillamook travelers took its toll. Ed Schneider eventually sold his hotel to the dentist, Dr. E. R. Flett. Ownership was subsequently passed on to several proprietors before the once elegant but by then decaying structure was torn down during September 1938 ending a colorful era of North Yamhill history.

Since 1960



YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Lafayette Oregon 97127

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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July, August & September 1998 Calendar of Events

Tuesday July 14th, 1:00 PM

Board of Directors - Miller Log Museum - Lafayette

Saturday August 1st 12:00 Noon

Annual Potluck Picnic - Amity City Park

(See page 1 for details)

Tuesday August 11th, 1:00 PM

Board of Directors - Miller Log Museum - Lafayette

Tuesday September 8th, 4:30 PM

Board of Directors - American Legion Hall - Sheridan

Tuesday September 8th, 6:30 PM

General Meeting & Potluck Dinner- American Legion Hall - Sheridan

Bring your Own Table Service - Guests Always Welcome

(See page 2 for details)