

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

September 1999

HIGHLIGHTS OF AN EVENTFUL SUMMER

Thursday & Friday June 24th & 25th



YCHS hosted the AT&T/Oregon Historical Society travelling exhibit "Treasures of Oregon" on these two days. Displayed in a climate controlled trailer were scores of priceless artifacts from the Oregon Historical Society's collection. Chairperson for the event was Barbara Knutson, shown above at the top of the steps.

Saturday July 10th



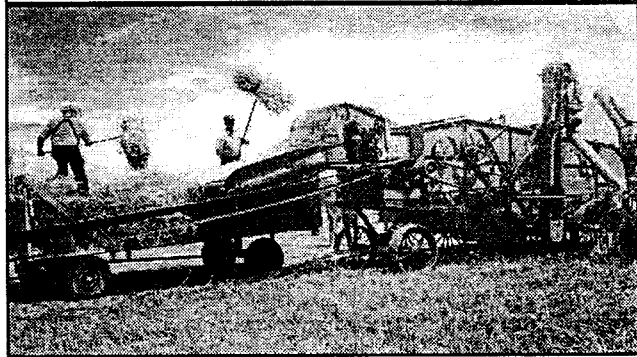
Certainly a date to remember for Harry & Twila Byrnes who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at the Yamhill/Carlton High School. In the picture above, Harry and Twila are flanked by Ellen O'Neill and Roger Christensen, bridesmaid and best man at the original ceremony. A large number of family and friends were on hand to help the couple celebrate.

Saturday August 7th



Inclement weather dictated a relocation of the Annual YCHS picnic from Yamhill Locks Park to the nearby Miller Log Museum. This forced change of venue did not deter festivities as shown by Barbara Hinman (r) and her daughter Ann

Sunday August 15th



Despite earlier contrary predictions the weather did cooperate to provide a near perfect day for the Watts Family Threshing Bee held on their farm between Briedwell and Bellevue. Scores of vintage tractors and farm machines were displayed, but the centerpiece was the Rumley thresher shown at work above. A bountiful potluck followed the demonstrations.

NEXT UP: THE HARVEST FESTIVAL ON OCTOBER 16th

Plans are well underway for the YCHS Third Annual Harvest Festival. A wide range of crafters will be on hand, two musical groups are scheduled, wagon rides for the young (and not so young) plus much more, including refreshments, will be on the program. This is the affair which shows our organization off to

the public and hopefully generates greater community interest as well as a few new members. The telephone committee will soon be contacting the membership to arrange for refreshments and schedule hosting duties, so dust off a period costume and get ready to pitch in and have a good time while doing it.

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 - 1999**President**

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472-7328

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843-2069

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835-3673

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Olive Merry Johnson
472-6070

Newsletter

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Joanne Watts
835-5893

MUSEUM HOURS

Sept 1 to May 31:
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM
or
By Appointment

605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308

ANNUAL DUES

\$10.00 Individual
\$17.00 Family
\$125.00 Life

Mail to:

Financial Secty
2430 North Baker
McMinnville OR
97128



Marjorie Owens

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Thanks to all of you who helped with gardens. As many of you know, we relocated to Phoenix AZ on the 23rd of July. Kathy Krieger will be taking over the job of head gardener. Kathy has quite a drive from Gaston to work in the garden so she is going to need some help with weekly grooming and checking to see that everything is being watered. Please call her to tell her you can help! Kathy's phone number is (503) 985-7802.

Many of you have asked about the moss rose at the front of the Miller Log building. A trip to the Heritage Garden in St. Paul revealed that our moss rose is called a Mme. William Paul. It is a very old rose variety that can live for hundreds of years. Mme. William Paul really is a shrub rose, but in order to contain its long tendrils, we made it a climber. Anyone knowing who planted this unique rose in our gardens, do let us know.

Again many thanks for your support in the past and I'm certain you'll do the same for Kathy. I hope to see you all again soon.

.....Ruth Crawford

HAVE YOUR TICKET(S) YET?

We are reliably informed the winning ticket for the quilt raffle has not yet been sold, so you still have a great chance to win. The quilt is on display in the Miller Log Museum. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 and maybe purchased there. The drawing will be held at the Harvest Festival October 16th with proceeds earmarked to help pay off the new sidewalks

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was good to see those who attended the annual picnic. It was a special time to thank board members and others who work so willingly for the Society. For those not present my thanks goes out to each and every one for their support and volunteer hours.

On this subject, we are in serious need of volunteers to keep the museum open to the public. On a recent Sunday it became necessary to close the museum because there were no volunteers available. PLEASE CONTACT MAXINE WILLIAMS WITH YOUR OFFER TO HELP!!

.....Shirley

MEET OUR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Born in Carlton, Marjorie Owens attended school in Yamhill and now resides in the Sheridan area. Widowed about twelve years ago she has three children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren; all of whom live in Yamhill County. She was employed with the Sheridan School District for 23 years as a cook and later librarian. Marj loves to travel the state with a friend to learn more about our history and seldom passes a garage sale or flea market that might provide an item to add to one of her collections.

An important part of her job as Corresponding Secretary is to be the "sunshine lady" for our membership and she asks to be notified when sending a card would be appropriate.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER

The evening will begin at 6:30 pm on Tuesday September 14th at the Sheridan First Christian Church located at North Bridge and Yamhill Streets. (just across the street to the north from the American Legion Hall). Plenty of parking can be found to the rear of the building. Bring a guest or two to get the new season off to a good start.

BOARD MEETS DURING THE SUMMER

Although the YCHS does not meet regularly during the summer, the business of the Society goes on. Important Board actions taken over this past summer include:

Adoption of a new accession agreement for receiving artifact donations as proposed by the Policy Committee. Also established at the Committee's recommendation was a strict policy regarding the loan of museum artifacts for any off-site display. The Policy Committee was then instructed to continue with guidelines for displays within the museum.

A long overdue study and revision of the By-Laws was undertaken. The final document will be presented to the membership in time for a vote during the scheduled December general elections.

Bids were gathered and considered for replacement of the aging roof on the church building. A selection was made and work should be commencing in the very near future.

KNOWLEDGE PAYS OFF FOR YCHS

Recently our member Elaine Rohse participated in a 'Jeopardy' type quiz program sponsored by the Mac City Club. The topic was little known tid-bits of McMinnville history and she handily quashed her competition. The prize was \$100 cash which Elaine then donated to YCHS. Thank you!

IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret we note the passing of three long time members:

PEARL MILLER
HAROLD LEWIS
MIRIAM BLAIR

McMINNVILLE COPES WITH SMALLPOX IN 1888

By John White

During the last days of summer 1888 Yamhill County experienced a very real smallpox scare. The disease was first reported at McMinnville and in less than two days' time, the rest of the communities in the area were taking preventative measures. Some towns like Amity, Dayton, Lafayette and Sheridan closed their boundaries to everyone attempting to enter from the outside, employing special deputies under the direction of the city marshal to patrol the streets and strictly enforce the ban. In fact, a fatal shooting occurred in Sheridan when a special deputy attempted to banish a town resident who had briefly visited his farm in the country and then attempted to return home later the same day. (See *'Fatal Enforcement of a Quarantine'*, November 1994 YCHS Newsletter).

In McMinnville however, the question was not one of keeping people out, but rather one of stopping them from leaving while Dr. E. E. Goucher, the hastily appointed Public Health Officer, and city officials courageously attempted to prevent further spread of the disease. The *'West Side Telephone'* of September 21st 1888 states McMinnville "might well be called a doomed city presenting a very dismal aspect" as many of the business houses were closed with the proprietors seeking to avoid infection by removing themselves to the mountains or other locales considered to be a safe distance from town. In fact, the newspaper itself could barely muster an adequate number of employees to publish and apologized to readers for a lack of content.

It would be difficult to condemn those departing the town under these circumstances. They were only doing what they thought best for themselves and their families. However one individual received severe criticism for his hasty departure as reported by the *'West Side Telephone'*

"Among those who emigrated was City Councilman William Campbell. The work of the council has been arduous and the absence of one of them told on their strength. It seems as though Mr. Campbell could have "stayed with it" It certainly was all right to take his family away from contagion but being a public officer, it was his duty to return and do all he could for the city. But no, he went and stayed. Now we ask the people of this city if Mr. Campbell is a fit man for the position to which he was elected. He filled it (in a manner) when there was no danger, but when his help was most needed, he deserted. He will most likely be a candidate for the same office which he now holds, but the people of this city will remember his present loyalty (?) and act accordingly.

The story actually begins a few weeks earlier when McMinnville resident Charles Bynum became ill. Dr. Goucher was called in, immediately recognized it to be smallpox and placed the house under quarantine. In addition to his wife and children, Mr. Bynum's sister Annie, who had been visiting at the time, received vaccinations and were ordered to remain confined to the premises. Dr. Goucher and Jonas Howell closely monitored the case as the disease took its course. When the incubation period appeared to expire without any appearance of infection to other family members, the nurse was dismissed and barricades surrounding the house were removed, but the family was not yet allowed to go out.

There being no further indications of smallpox infection at the Charles Bynum residence or elsewhere in McMinnville, the community began to believe any threat to the general public had passed. This turned out to be a false sense of security however as

a few days later two more cases of smallpox appeared.

The eight year old nephew of Charles Bynum, who lived directly across the street from the first case had somehow contracted the disease. This time it was the home of Frank Bynum, Charles' brother, that was under the yellow flag while Jonas Howell and city officials attempted to learn how the lad had become infected. After a thorough investigation it was believed that germs carried by dogs with which the boy had played were the cause. This theory soon gained considerable credence when the young son of a Mr. Bodle who lived in the rear of the Henderson and Logan stables also became sick with smallpox.

It was at this point that the City Council and Dr. Goucher swung into action. Every person remaining in McMinnville would receive a vaccination against smallpox and to better isolate and treat those contracting the disease, a "pest house" was to be immediately constructed. There is no way of knowing the exact count, but local druggists estimated that slightly over a thousand vaccination points were administered under city supervision during the next two days.

A site for the pest house was selected on secluded property owned by Samuel Cozine about a mile southwest of the city. Construction began immediately with as many able-bodied men as could be found. The project was completed in just two days. Located near a spring the building was large and constructed to be comfortable as well as serviceable for the purpose. A separate kitchen building was also built nearby.

As vaccinations were being conducted and the pest house built, Andy Annis, a boarder at the Eccleston home, became ill. The whole family in that house was immediately placed under quarantine. Along with this came a report, later confirmed by Dr. Goucher, that G.C. Morgareidge, who lived near Lafayette, was seriously ill with the disease. With a high sense of urgency city officials ordered all those under quarantine be immediately moved to the pest house. An Amity resident named Mills, who had survived smallpox as a youngster and was thus considered immune, was hired for the serious job of transporting the patients as well as their bedding and personal items to the pest house with his wagon and team. (It seems Mr. Mills had been turned out of Amity when he attempted to return home the previous evening and was in need of funds to tide him through his banishment).

The Bodle family was moved first. The parents of the young child had not wished to leave his side and elected to accompany him to the pest house. Andy Ennis was taken next followed by the young Bynum boy. The Eccleston family, with whom Mr. Ennis had been boarding, continued under strict quarantine at their home as did the Frank Bynum family. Mr. Morgareidge apparently was not taken to the pest house but remained under enforced isolation at his farmhouse.

The following several days were anxious ones for the citizens of McMinnville. Had mandatory vaccinations and isolation been enough to prevent a real epidemic? Worries deepened as the condition of Andy Ennis in the pest house worsened daily, eventually resulting in his death. Fears became alleviated however, as the quarantine period finally ran its course and no new cases had occurred. The quick and decisive action of Dr. Goucher and city officials had successfully prevented a disaster.

The two young boys who had been incarcerated in the pest house fully recovered and the Bodles, who stayed with their son, somehow escaped infection. Mr. Morgareidge also survived his ordeal with smallpox, postponing his demise for nearly twenty years until 1907.

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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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September 1999 Calendar of Events

Tuesday September 14th, 5:00 PM

Board of Directors - First Christian Church - Sheridan

Tuesday September 14th, 6:30 PM

General Meeting & Potluck Dinner- First Christian Church - Sheridan

Bring your Own Table Service - Guests Always Welcome

(See page 2 for details)

Saturday October 16th, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Third Annual YCHS Harvest Festival - Lafayette

WORTH PUTTING ON YOUR AGENDA:

Saturday & Sunday September 25th & 26th - 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Oregon Historical Society "Wintering In" Festival - Sauvie's Island

Bybee-Howell Territorial Park

Suggested Donation: \$3.00 Adult \$2.00 Children