



# YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN OF THE YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Edited by: Ray Albright, Rt. 1 Box 277 Dayton

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Membership in the Yamhill County Historical Society is open to all. We earnestly solicit your active participation in the activities of the society.

Membership dues are: Junior membership \$1.00 per calendar year  
Adult membership \$2.00 per calendar year  
Life Membership, \$50.00

Payment may be made to the Financial Secretary:  
Mrs. Florence M. Bridenstine  
1029 East 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
McMinnville, Ore. 97128

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Museum located at 6<sup>th</sup> and Market St. in Lafayette is open Friday and Saturday afternoon in the winter and Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons in the Summer, check with Mrs. Sitton for the hours.

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#### OFFICERS

President.....	Dr. G.A. Odgers	Treasurer.....	DR. J.A. Jonasson
Vice-Pres.....	Charles Teegarden	Financial Sec....	Florence Bridenstine
Recording Sec....	Mrs. Mildred S. Renne	Membership Sec...	Marie Winters

## DAYTON SHERIDAN NARROW GAUGE

Several articles have been written about the little narrow gauge railroad that was conceived through the desire of Yamhill and Polk county farmers to secure an easier means of conveying their grain to the steamboats at Dayton. But I had not read of any serious accidents on the line until the Yamhill County Museum recently received a donation from the estate of the Burton family of Yamhill. Among the articles received was a large scrapbook of news clippings from various newspapers ranging from 1875 to about 1900 and compiled by Midge Burton. Many of the clippings are not dated nor do they tell from which newspaper they are taken. But still it is loaded with valuable information of the era. Such is the case of the clipping about the accident on the Dayton, Sheridan narrow gauge. It apparently occurred about 1880 in the vicinity of present Ballston and graphically tells of the laxity on trains of those days.

In an article in the Sunday Oregonian Sept. 17, 1961 Tom Madden states: "Engine No. 1 and her twin No. 2 which arrived in August, were built by the National Locomotive Works, Connellsville, Pa. Each had a 2-4-0 wheel arrangement with 31 inch drivers, and weighed just over 10 tons. A number of flatcars completed the rolling equipment of the little road. Scott somewhat caustically describes the finished track between Dayton and Sheridan as "poorly constructed and not ballasted." He adds that speed "did not exceed twelve or fifteen miles an hour." It was a railroad none the less, and an excited group of Dayton area residents rode the first train to Sheridan on Oct. 24, 1878.

Lack of ballast or a little too much speed could easily caused the accident described in the following article:

### SERIOUS RAILROAD DISASTER

We have just received the particulars of a serious railroad accident which occurred last Sunday on the Dayton and Sheridan narrow gauge railroad. The accident occurred near Ball Station. There was no turn-table, and the train was backing. The first car was a caboose which was separated from the locomotive by a number of platform cars. The caboose was partially filled with wheat. There were several passengers in the same car. By some means the caboose was ditched and capsized. The grain was scattered about and caught some of the passengers, who were badly injured. A Mrs. Martin and an old gentleman named Ball sustained what are feared to be fatal injuries. Mr. Martin the husband of the lady, was badly bruised about the head and face. Miss McMullan, Miss Banson and Miss Graves who were in the caboose, also received slight injuries. A number of persons were on the train, but most of them occupied the platform cars and thus fortunately escaped injury. The train was moving slowly at the time, or the accident would have been attended with far more disastrous results. The passengers were extricated from their position of peril as soon as possible and everything was done to alleviate the sufferings of those who were injured. No particular blame is attached to any one for the unfortunate disaster.

by, Ray Albright

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSCAST, JANUARY, 1974

Important: There will be no January meeting of the Society. This action was recommended by the Executive Board and approved by the members present at the December meeting. The suggestion has been made that during 1974 the society meet in alternate months.

<u>Officers:</u>		term ends
President.....	Dr. G.A. Odgers.....	1974
Vice-President.....	Charles N. Teegarden.....	1975
Recording Secretary...	Mrs. Mildred S. Rennee.....	1974
Treasurer.....	Dr. J.A. Jonasson.....	1974
Financial Secretary...	Mrs. Florence M. Bridenstine.....	1975
Membership Secretary..	Mrs. Marie B. Winters.....	1975
Directors.....	Mrs. Dorothy W. Guinness.....	1974
	Elton F. Jones.....	1975
	Ernest B. Shelburne.....	1976
	Laurence E. Schreiber.....	1977

1974 Stated Committees (The President of the Society is ex-officio a member of each committee. The first named person is committee chairman.)

Finance: Charles N. Teegarden, Florence M. Bridenstine, Dr. J.A. Jonasson Wm. D. Rutherford, Rudolph A. Schaad.

Membership: Mrs. Marienne B. Winters, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Lee, Robert Kuykendall, Roy Lietz, Mrs. Ivan Shields, Roy Will.

Memorials: The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the Directors.

Museum: Laurence E. Schreiber, Mrs. Clarence Bryan, Ernest B. Shelburne, and Mrs. Roma C. Sitton ex-officio.

Program: Dr. G.A. Odgers, Albert Bridenstine, Chester Hall.

Publicity: Mrs. Roma C. Sitton, Crystal S. Rilee, Elaine Kihse.

1975 Special Committees (First named person is chairman)

Landscape: Charles N. Teegarden, Ernest B. Shelburne, The President.

New Building: Ernest B. Shelburne, Laurence E. Schreiber, the Vice-President and Treasurer.

Appointments by the Executive Board:

Director of the Museum....., Mrs. Roma C. Sitton

Editor of The Newscast..... Ray Albright

Auditors..... Laurence E. Schreiber and Ernest B. Shelburne.

The Newscast mailers: Mrs. Edith Sohrweid and assistants.

Membership Classes: Non-voting, voting, Honorary. Non-voting, persons under 18 years of age. Voting, persons 18 years old and older: Annual, Life, Honorary: Sponsor, Donor, Patron, and Benefactor.

Dues: Non-Voting, \$1.00 per calendar year payable in advance; Voting, \$2.00 per calendar year payable in advance, or Life, a single payment of \$50.00; or Sponsor, a single payment of \$500 to \$999.99; or Donor, a single payment of \$1,000 to \$2,499.99; or Patron, a single payment of \$2,500 to \$4,999.99; or Benefactor, a single payment of \$5,000 or above.

Dues are payable to the Financial Secretary and may be mailed to her:  
Mrs. Florence M. Bridenstine  
1029 East 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
McMinnville, Ore. 97128

## MUSEUM NOTES

A very old hand made childs rocker was donated by Mrs. Ivan Lebold of Dallas Ore. It had crossed the plains and had been handed down to several families. The ox logging photo taken in 1892 and donated by an Amity family has been identified. It appeared in the News Register and a few days later I was called to come see Mrs. Turner at the Yamhill Hotel who knew every one in the photo. Many thanks for the help. We have a few maps of Yamhill County donation land claims at the Museum. If we need more I can order from Mr. Marsh at Dallas. We receive one dollar profit as well as the pleasure of owning the map to location of the early pioneers. Let me know how many more will be needed.

We have very few visitors this time of year. Gas shortage will be a problem for many of us. We need to do much to rearrange articles at the Museum. We had 2457 visitors in 1973. We need a large fireproof safe to keep valuables in. If any of you know of one would you please let us know. We also need a legal size four drawer file cabinet, for photos and documents.

We will have a new renter January 1st. The garden club erected our new Museum sign at the south side of the entrance. Thanks ladies it is very nice.

We will not have a meeting in January thinking we might have some very bad weather. And the gas is also a problem. The board meeting produced some new officers---please cooperate with them all in their new jobs.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas as I did and have a very happy healthy New Year.

Roma Sitton

phone 472-7935