

Feb. 75

YAMHILL

COUNTY

HISTORICAL

SOCIETY



D O L P H
by
Ray Albright

Out on the western border of Yamhill county where it joins the Southeast corner of Tillamook county once prospered the small community of Dolph. Today all that is left to remind the traveler that once a town existed is the highway sign.

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The town was named for Joseph N. Dolph who served as U.S. Senator from Oregon from 1883 to 1895. Lyman in his "History of Oregon", Vol. IV states: "He was a man of fine bearing and public appearance, and stood very high in the legal profession of his state, and was a statesman of national reputation". It is little wonder that in 1886 when a name was selected for the postoffice, the towns people chose Dolph.

Located on the top of a mountain where the Sourgrass creek joins the Little Nestucca, Dolph served as a toll station and an overnight stop for wagons and travelers going to the coast. The Tollgate was located just inside Tillamook county and was operated by Josie Short-ridge.

Currently living in McMinnville is, Chet Fredrickson who in 1914 was born in the house pictured on the front of our bulletin this month. The house was located part in Tillamook and part in Yamhill counties. Chets' father James William "Bill" Fredrickson was at that time operating freight wagons between Salem and Tillamook. Six horse teams were used on two freight wagons with two extra horses along to help get over the steep hills. Conditions in the winter were really bad and sometimes it was impossible to make more than a mile and a half a day. The mud and ruts were so bad that often it would be necessary to cut trees and branches to fill the holes to get the wagons through. Many times Mr. Fredrickson could have walked home for supper he was so close to Dolph but it was impossible to get the wagons through.

Gasoline was hauled in barrels and was available at Dolph and Hebo, Gasoline for Tillamook came in by boat. The winter schedule called for two days to go from Grand Ronde to Dolph and two days from Dolph to Hebo.

Mr. Fredrickson lived at Dolph from 1911 to 1914, at that time there were four other families living in houses and also families living in the general store and the Hotel. The postoffice was in the Hotel. There was a Blacksmith shop which also sold gas. There was a livery stable of sorts and a campground for those wishing to stay over night on their way to and from the coast. There was a saw-mill and a Stave and Barrel factory run by a German. The 1915 State of Oregon Almanac lists the population of Dolph as 28 and also states that a cheese factory was located there. This I have not been able to varify but would suspect it was located farther down towards Hebo. There is a cemetery with 10 or 12 graves and a couple of years ago it was still possible to locate them.

About 1916 a new and graveled road was put through which followed closely the Sourgrass creek and in so doing left the town of Dolph high on the mountain with no reason for being. A hotel was built at the junction of the present Little Nestucca road and on Oct. 31, 1921 the postoffice was closed.

Today even the hotel at the junction is gone and little remains to be seen even after you make the strenuous climb to the top of the mountain, where once honeysuckle twined around the porch of the little Fredrickson house.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Event..... February meeting
Time..... February 11, 1977:00 P.M.
Place..... Community Christian Church
Speaker..... Lee Perry will speak on Developments
in Electronics

Come and bring a guest or two, also your own table service and lots of food. The Community Christian Church is located behind the new Town Shopping center.

Museum notes

Many articles have come in to the Museum this past month. A kitchen Queen with cabinet above for spices etc. from Robert Kuykendall of Yamhill. This was his grandmothers and had been in continuous use in three generations for 100 years. Just a few weeks ago it was set aside and presented to the museum.

Mr. L.(Leo) Litscher, Dayton brought the ledgers of the Dayton Evaporating Co. Several boxes the dehydrated soup was boxed in, and one can eggs. Many names of Dayton people who worked in the plant. The wages they received and prices paid for products purchased is very remarkable compared to those of today.

Mrs. Marian Krake of Dayton gave us a pencil with the same plant advertisement. Mr. Ralph Farnham gave us a square of cloth 18" square with names of members of a club written in a fine hand and embroidered. Of the family names most now have passed on.

Crystal Rilee gave us two books from the Newberg Post Office 1887 Postal Laws & Regulations of the U.S.A. approved Mar. 30, 1886 by congress. In one book was a list of postmasters. The scales which weighed boxes and packages issued to Newberg by the Postoffice department.

Thanks one and all for your interest in preserving our history.

Museum is open Friday and Saturday 1:00 to 4:30. Tours anytime. Phone 472-7935,

Roma Sitton