

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Yamhill County Museum, 6th and Market Street, Lafayette, Oregon

## YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Date: TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1979 7:00 P.M.

*(Please note: This is one week later than usual due to inability to reserve a meeting place at earlier date)*

PLACE: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 1300 Brooks St., McMinnville

POTLUCK: Bring your own table service and lots of good food.

PROGRAM:

\* \* \* \* \*

### MUSEUM NOTES

We are a month behind with news of the Museum owing to the weather. Our February meeting showing pictures of the Grand Island floods, as told by Pauline Fowler who has lived on the island many years, was fine. One wonders how, after all the high water, a farmer could stay with his property. I couldn't one flood and I would be on high ground.

We have been having 10 to 25 visitors per day regardless of weather. We still have school desks to sell. The tools are being cleaned and there are more donations to move in as space clears.

Almost every week we pick up a new member at the Museum. We hope schools will come soon as their time will be limited soon. Bluebirds and Brownies come most anytime, clubs too. Call 472-7935 for time and date.

We have just had a donation of a desk type Western Union Telegraph unit from O.M.S.I. It had been used in the Newberg Western Union Telegraph office. As O.M.S.I. does not take antique articles and the donor wished it to be in Yamhill County, we were the lucky ones. Thanks to Mr. Dennis Hewitt of Portland.

The wagon and other large pieces are being cleaned for display. As other articles come, we are to steam clean to save so much hand work.

There will be yard work to do soon, if anyone would like to donate their efforts it would be appreciated.

Now we are only open Saturday and Sunday, 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. After June 10th we will open every day except Monday.

ROMA SITTON

\* \* \* \* \*

Research on the early schools in Yamhill County often turns up interesting background on some of our present communities. Bellevue is one of these.

In 1857 Aaron Lynch deeded an acre of ground off of the northern boundary of his donation land claim to the directors of school district #24. The directors mentioned in the deed were Reubent Gant and Robert Henderson. The site of this school was less than a mile due east of the present Bellevue store.

A little earlier, in 1855, the Muddy post office had been established in the same general area, with George Davis as postmaster. Why George Davis chose to call the post office Muddy when he lived on Deer Creek and not on Muddy Creek, is one of those intriguing questions that will probably never be answered. The next year George F. Hebler became postmaster and, no doubt, the office was moved to his home which was on Muddy Creek. In 1858 it moved back to about the present side of Bellevue where Thomas Morris had purchased property off of the northern end of the Danforth DLC and had established a store on it.

Even though #24 was very close to the Muddy Post Office, I do not think it was called the Muddy school, at least not for long. By 1860 a school had been built several miles up Muddy Valley, which was called the Muddy School. Early Methodist Church records show that services were held in this schoolhouse and that those attending were the William T. Joneses the Greenwood family, the Benefields, the James P. Yocums, and the Jesse Yocums - all of whom lived farther up Muddy Valley.

Methodist Services were also held at a Fairview School. The exact location of this school is still a mystery. It could have been #24 or it could have been across the South Yamhill River in Polk County. But it is highly improbable that the Methodists of this part of Polk County would meet in a schoolhouse when they had just put up a church at Pleasant Hill, which was in Polk County, in the same area.

When the Lynch property was sold in 1873 the acre of ground for #24 was still set aside. However, a short time before, two interesting things had taken place. In 1867 Thomas Morris, who had the store and was again the Postmaster of Muddy, changed the name of the post office to Bellevue, which is French for Fairview. Then in 1872 an acre of land was purchased by the directors of district #51. This land was at the point at which the main road between Sheridan and McMinnville crossed the east boundary of the Caleb Payne donation land claim - on the north side of the road. This was very near, if not on the same ground on which the old Bellevue School sits today.

The next we hear of old district #24 the number and oddly enough, the name Fairview are applied to a school on Three Mile Lane a couple of miles east of McMinnville. I have found nothing to indicate when the change was made.

RUTH STOLLER

\* \* \* \* \*

In observance of the month of February as American History Month, the Yamhill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, invited you last month to fill out and return genealogy charts to be preserved in Yamhill County - either in your museum or some other suitable location. The DAR also had a table at The Book Shop in McMinnville February 22, 23, & 24th where information and assistance in recording family histories/ furnished to many local people who were also asked for information on their families. We hope to provide this information that is gathered as a link between the history of our county and our present citizens. Many interesting stories and artifacts are turning up in the process that will prove of value in the preservation of our county history. Anyone that missed the February meeting where the charts were distributed and wish to contribute information or have a chart to fill out and return, may contact the chapter at the below address.

Yamhill Chapter, DAR

Julie Jones (Mrs. Dale W.), Regent

Rt. 2 Box 24

McMinnville, Oregon, 97128, ph. 472-6226

\* \* \* \* \*

For information on a Genealogy Society now forming in the county - watch your local newspapers or contact:

Dorene Bony (Mrs. Melford A.)

1233 N. Ford

McMinnville, Oregon, 97128 ph. 472-7560

\* \* \* \* \*