



HISTORICAL

SOCIETY

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

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
DATE: Tuesday, April 10, 1979, 7:00 P. M.
PLACE: First Christian Church, 200 S. College, Newberg, Oregon
POTLUCK: Bring your own table service
PROGRAM: Talk and pictures COVERED BRIDGES OF OREGON, by Ed Colvin

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MUSEUM NEWS

This has been a short month because of the week's delay in the March meeting.
We have received a combine at the museum from Mr. Paul Youngman. A DeLevall cream separator and a milking bucket have also been received. Mr. Hoff is doing a good job of cleaning and repairing.

Windows were broken in the front of the building by two boys in the area, who were later apprehended by City Police. The father said he would pay for the damage in the amount of \$95.00.

The museum is open Saturday and Sunday, 1:00 P. M. to 4:30 P.M. Phone 472-7935 for a tour any time.

Roma Sitton

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In 1905 the school children of the county made notebooks of their school work to exhibit at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland. One of the few notebooks still in existense belongs to the Newberg Public Library. It is filled with interesting bits of history. Among them is a history of Newberg and Chehalem Valley, the basis of which seems to have been an interview with Josiah Nelson who came to Oregon in 1844 as a youth of seventeen. Here are excerpts from one of the compositions:

The first settlers of Chehalem Valley came over Chehalem Mountain or up the Willamette River. There were no trees in the valley, as the Indians burnt them off each year. The valley was covered with bunch grass, and stock raising was the principal industry until fields could be fenced off. To fence the fields off took a long time and the rails had to be split and brought from across the mountains. After the fields were fenced in, wheat and oats became the principal products.

There were many deer in the valley, as many as fifty being counted in one days ride in the valley. These at first were the principal food of the settlers.

In 1830 more settlers located here in the valley, and a few came each year.

In 1844 when J. C. Nelson came here, there were to white families, six other families were white ment who had married Indian women, and two bachelors. Oregon City was the principal trade center. The

settlers first had a trail there and later made a road.

There was no money in the valley. A day's work was considered \$1.00 and \$1.00 was paid in one bushel of wheat. Most of the wheat that was not used was sold to the new settlers or taken to Oregon City.

The common dress of the men was buckskin breeches and a blanket for a coat. The women wore calico dresses.

Ewing Young built the first sawmill and Ramsey and Rogers the next , both of these were water powered.

The first town was near Roger's Landing on the Willamette River. The first settler was a Frenchman named Plasee

Newberg is fast becoming a manufacturing town. The C. K. Spaulding Logging Co. sawmill has a capacity of 100,000 feet of lumber per day. The Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Co. can turn out 2,000,000 faced brick a year, and is the best establishment of its kind in the state. We also have two handle factories, ice plant, furniture factory and several fruit dryers and packers. The town has a population of from 1500 to 1600, and is rapidly growing, one hundred and fifty buildings have gone up in two years. Newberg is one of the most thriving towns in the Willamette Valley. The town is without saloons, and with its high standard of citizenship, it is one of the most desirable places in the state to live.

(Written in 1905 by Rodney Durst, Newberg 8th grade)

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If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so now. Dues are \$2.00 per year, payable to Yamhill County Historical Society, c/o Mrs. Henry Nieman, 1501 S. Baker St., McMinnville, Oregon, 97128. (State dues \$7.50; life membership in the County Society \$50.00).

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Yamhill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution is continuing the project of collecting genealogy charts of county residents, especially ones leading to pioneer families, as well as other related historical information. Perhaps one of the ways of sharing this data would be to insert some of it in space available in this newsletter. We would be happy to hear from anyone with a story to tell.

Yamhill Chapter, DAR
Mrs. Dale W. Jones, Regent
Rt. 2 Box 24
McMinnville, Oregon, 97128
ph. 472-6226

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Notice of Meeting: GENEALOGY WORKSHOP 10: A.M., Saturday, April 7, 1979, McMINNVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY basement.

10:30 A.M. Organizational Business Meeting

11:00 A.M. Beginner class

For information phone Dorene Bony, 472-7560

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