

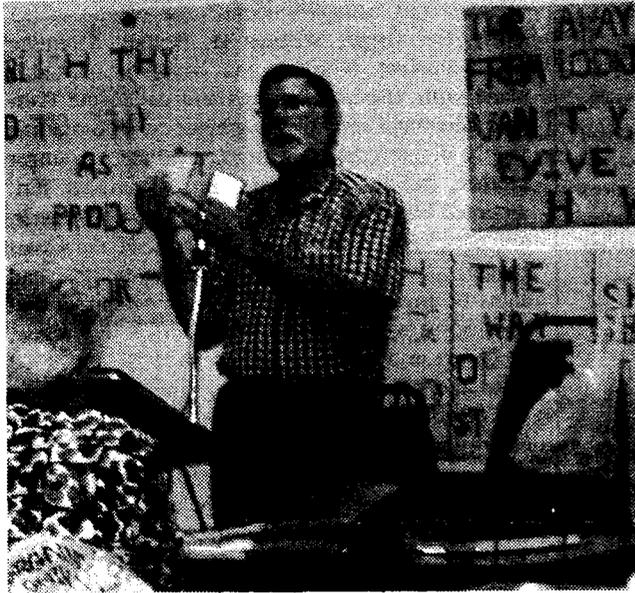
The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

October 2002

Darrell Jones, Retired Postmaster

With time on his hands, Darrell Jones has continued to build his postcard collection. Many in the audience were thrilled to learn that there is much information to be gained from these old cards, even if there is a minimum of handwriting.



Darrel Jones, retired Postmaster, discusses one of his many historic postcards.

Darrell donated a Post Card Research book to our Research Library. He explained how we can tell approximate time periods cards were made, sometimes down to within a year or two, based on the printer.

Postcard collectors have Swap Meets on a regular basis, as near as Rickreall. Collectors look for cancellation marks from DPOs, which are Discontinued Post Offices. Some of the earliest postcards were printed in Germany.

Undivided postcards were sold between 1901 and 1907, divided cards between 1907 and 1914. From 1915 to 1930 the government allowed only the official versions.... No more private photographs on the front, etc. Postcards were most popular between 1900 and 1930.

Some cards were especially created to show the (humorous) side of Oregon, such as the giant potato taking up an entire rail car, sent by Loy (Red) Snyder of Gopher Valley in 1913.

Darrell also brought along some fascinating photographs of McMinnville, Sheridan and Willamina. This was an interesting and enjoyable presentation. Thanks a lot for your efforts, Darrell !

From our President

Upcoming events: harvest festival, Oct 12th. Be sure and offer to donate finger foods and help for this event , special Christmas celebration with caroling, hot chocolate and old fashioned decorations. Watch for the date on this. We will need the donation of 2 Christmas trees. Hunt up your old or new favorite barn pictures for the year 2004 historical calendar. Check article elsewhere in the newsletter. Saturday, September 21st the museum was a busy place. The Boy Scouts were helping one of their members to obtain his Eagle badge by re-doing the front garden with stones, natural grasses and grist stones. Be sure and stop by and see the results.

Speaking of yard work, also check all the work done by the "share day" program sponsored by the George Fox University and coordinated by Patsey Miller.

There has been a delay with the painting of the church. As I suspected we need something in writing that we have the official national historical site designation before the funds can be dispersed.

We want to thank Cathy Peck and her team for identifying articles in the three museum buildings and entering this information into the computer. Thanks to the "Greenthumb" program we will be able to have Cathy with us until the end of the month.

Soon to be added: e-mail at the museum with OnlineMac. The email address will be History@onlinemac.com, and we are hoping some of our volunteers can assist with research and copying requests made via email. Have you enjoyed the extra page in the newsletter? See you at the October meeting. Shirley Venhaus



Shirley Venhaus addressing the September general meeting in Sheridan.

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

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MUSEUM HOURS

September 1 - May 31:
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM

June 1—August 30:
Fri-Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM

or

By Appointment

605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308

Websites: YCHS is at
http://
sites.onlinemac.com/
history & historic
photo gallery is at
www.co.yamhill.or.us

WWII Observers in Yamhill County

At a lonely outpost in Moores Valley in north Yamhill County many decades ago, a lone sentry with binoculars scanned the sky for enemy planes. That observation post, strung with others across the county like clothes pins on a line, was a branch of the Fourth Fighter Command in World War II. The posts were manned, not by National Guard, Green Berets or Army, but by volunteers. Even as ships burned in Pearl Harbor, volunteers at Moores Valley were at their post. Von Seaton alerted workers Dec. 8, 1941, with this message: "Be ready to man observation posts on a minute's notice. We are at war with Japan." By noon on Dec. 8, W.V. "Billy" Williams was on duty for the first shift. Ernest Barker, Marjorie and Robert Thornton also saw duty that first day, according to information compiled by Nancy Thornton. Moores Valley Observation Post #40 was manned around the clock, with telephone system linking Robert Thornton's ranch and Portland Airport. If a plane was seen, the observer immediately reported description, identifying marks and direction it was flying.

A Telephone Register edit advised: "Every American's first and most important contribution to our nation's war effort in this time of crisis is to keep calm." Despite that advice, Carlton residents in their blacked-out bedrooms, slept nervously. They had received a phone call advising: "Be ready to fight at all times in case of a Japanese invasion by way of Tillamook or elsewhere on the coast." Carlton was a mere 40 air miles from that possible invasion site, according to information in "Carlton Reflections", published by Carlton Grade School in 1976. Kent McDaniel, chief observer and Stuart French, assistant, quickly set up two Carlton observation posts: one on a turkey farm west of Carlton and one on French's farm. Without even a protective lean-to, Carlton volunteers stood four-hour shifts in sleet, rain and cold—lacking even a weather forecast to suggest how to dress. Weather forecasts were banned for fear of giving helpful information to the enemy.

Later, after these two Carlton posts were combined into in north of reservoir hill, observers has a shelter of sorts. And then, a fine six-sided observation tower, high on stilts, was built so planes could be spotted from all directions. At Willamina, north of town, the observation post was housed in an outhouse-sized shelter built especially for that purpose. Maxine (Shetterly) Williams, now of McMinnville, remembers that it was cold when she served a few shifts. But her little brother Bob, then 12 years old, was a hero of that post. "I think he probably took as many posts as about anyone", Maxine said.

He could identify them quickly, even though he never had occasion to report an enemy plane.

In Sheridan, Bea Curry, beauty shop-keeper, took note of that need and with considerable vim headed the Sheridan observation post effort as a VFW auxiliary project. An unoccupied two-room house, with outhouse, on Red Prairie Road, became the post site and was manned on a 24-hour basis. Barbara (Brandt) Knutson, then in college, took a few shifts when she was home on vacation, and having missed training was worried about her airplane identification skills. "I was a very nervous college student," she recalls of her shifts. Her father, William H. Brandt, a regular post volunteer, who on one occasion spotted a plane with suspect markings and called the Portland command center, was greeted as a hero at the family dinner table that night. Barbara's younger brother, Bill Jr., was a volunteer of another sort: mounted horse patrol, organized by Bert Wepster. On horseback, those mounties combed the Coast Range, alert for incendiary or other bombs, and signs of enemy invasion. The Army required that their horse as well as all other horses in Oregon, Washington, California and Nevada be registered as to age, sex, color, whether riding or draft, broken or unbroken and whether the animal was necessary for the owner's use.

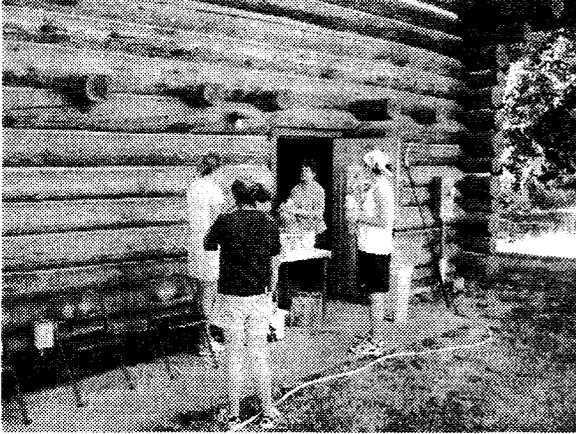
Ellen (Payne) McMurray of Yamhill, was then a student at Yamhill High, and she and her schoolmate Virginia Fouts often stopped on the way home from school to take a shift at the Moores Valley post. "Always", Ellen recalled, "there was a kettle of something on the stove for our dinner or anyone else on duty."

One night shift, in particular, Ellen remembers. Snow was on the ground and during the girls' three-mile walk home after their shift, they had an eerie feeling that something was following them. Ellen said, "Almost as soon as we entered the forest, there was a soft crunching sound behind us... we stopped to listen and could no longer hear it... we had only the kerosene lantern that gave a small circle of light. We stopped at Roosevelt's and had Bud walk the rest of the way home with us." Next morning Ellen's father, Bill, found panther tracks in the snow that followed the girls almost all the way to Roosevelt's home.

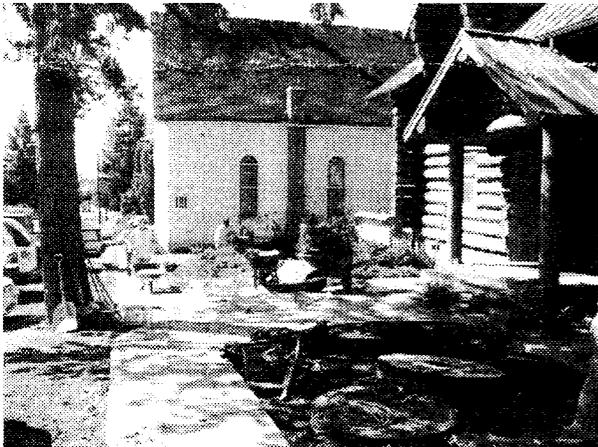
Then, the call-up of men by the military and the exodus for defense work, took its toll on volunteers, and a letter came from the Fourth Interceptor Command. It advised that in that isolated Moores Valley area there were not enough people to man the post on a 24-hour basis, and it would be necessary to suspend operations of Post #40 at noon, Oct. 12, 1942. During it 10 months of operation, Marjorie Thornton served 1012 hours, more than 50 neighbors took shifts and many walked several mile, regardless of rain or cold.

by Elaine Dahl Rohse, © News-Register,
Permission granted

On the 2nd Wednesday of September, George Fox college hosts what they call Share Day. Their faculty and students go in groups to serve the community by helping out various non-profit organizations in various ways. This year we were the recipients of their labor.



Patsey Miller coordinated and arranged everything for the day. At 9:00 a.m., Patsey, Shirley Venhaus and Colin Armstrong transported all the student workers and faculty from the College to the Museum. The group assigned to us that day were all girls, approximately nine of them, plus the adult staff members. They were very nice young ladies and all worked very hard.



As soon as everyone arrived, Colin got busy passing out doughnuts he brought to get things going. Patsey assigned people into groups with specific assignments. Each of our volunteers had a group to oversee, and then the work began, thanks to Shirley Venhaus who brought an amazing array of wheelbarrows, pruning shears, weed eaters, ladders and much more. We had all the tools necessary to get the job done.

The assignments were attacked in a flurry of whacking, raking, mowing and digging. The Historical Society provided lots of Gatorade and cookies. Colin also provided a cooler full of soft drinks and juices. Annita Linscheid was busy encouraging everyone to drink lots and keep hydrated as they slaved away in the hot fall sun. Marge Owens supervised and worked on the Rose bushes.

The students brought their own lunches for the noon break. Colin and Millie Armstrong also provided two super long sub sandwiches for the rest of the volunteers. Bob Emrick, with City Sanitary donated the use of a huge dumpster to haul away the refuse. Green Land Compost donated a load of compost to spruce up all the flower beds. Our thanks to these firms, their generosity was really needed.

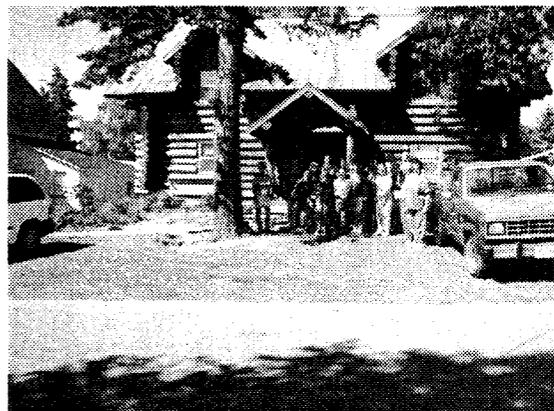


Our society volunteers also included Jim & Meredith Apperson, Mary Brillis of Newberg, Sara Frazier, Ann Hale. Dan Linscheid stopped by just long enough to show his wife how to run the camera, then skipped out.

On the part of the College, faculty members included Sue Weishan, Dianne Weirich, Deborah Worden, Mike, Wirta, Mary Brillas and Karen Bell (Coordinator). Students included Tara Tabott, Amy Fitch, Emily Ruggles, Lauren Stelzenmueller, Darby Cane, Rachell Tanner and Rachellie George.

At about 2:30 things were really looking good and it was time for the George Fox group to call it a day. A group of very tired and dirty girls and staff loaded into cars and were whisked back to the College by Patsey, Colin and Shirley.

When all of the equipment was loaded up and everyone looked back at the Museum, the amount of improvement was obvious. It is amazing what a hard working group with dedication and a purpose can accomplish in a day. Our thanks to everyone who assisted in this effort. These pictures cannot do justice to the end result... please stop by and check it out yourself.



William Lysander Adams

by Jim Lockett

Page 4

Joseph Gaston in his "Centennial History of Oregon", Vol I, reports that W. L Adams was a 1847 pioneer who started the "Argus" newspaper in Oregon City. He also reports that Adams was a remarkable character with good common sense but a caustic, bitter, sarcastic writer always ready for a battle. Actually, he was with the 1848 wagon train and arrived in Oregon at the "ripe old age" of 27. Considered a gifted preacher and outstanding teacher, he was a graduate of Bethany College in Virginia and was the first of that college's students to migrate to the Pacific Northwest.

William Adams, sometimes known as "Parson Billy" for his constant moralizing, married Frances Olivia Goodell in 1844. They had two daughters, Inez, almost three, and Helen, a babe in arms, when they crossed the plains. Later young Will and Julia were added to the family.

While crossing the Cascades over the new Barlow Trail they lost the third of their four oxen. They were able to yoke Rose, their-14-year-old milk cow, up to the remaining ox. Adams credited the cow with saving their lives. She not only teamed well with the ox but supplied five gallons of milk each day as well. She was to lived another 10 years and was treated with great respect as a family pet.

William and Frances planned to join the Christians, people, usually called "Campbellites" by early historians, living in Yamhill County. They claimed (bought) the land just south of the Dr. James McBride and Thomas McBride's property, both famous Christian** preachers. Dr. James McBride and his wife Mahala invited the Adams to spend that first winter with them. Inez Adams Parker* reported years later that the McBride log house had two moderately sized rooms and a loft. As the McBrides had ten children and the Adams two small girls, you wonder where twelve children and four adults slept during that long winter. There was a double bed in each downstairs room for the adults. The seven McBride girls slept in the loft and the boys slept in the room with their parents. The Adams all had their own room. William reported that about the only food that winter was boiled peas for every meal. They browned the peas and ground them for coffee.

In the same area other Christian families had taken their claims. The Sheltons and Woods were part of this neighborhood. Actually, the families were related. Mrs. Shelton and Mrs. McBride were sisters and Mrs. Woods was a sister to Dr. McBride. While they had a goal of bringing the entire area under the Christian umbrella they also had strong beliefs about education. Dr. James McBride brought 141 classical books over the trail just for this purpose. That winter they set up a school in McBride's home and William became the teacher. Of the 20 children in the school, their success as graduates was phenomenal. From this school came a future Governor of Oregon, four very successful Physicians, a Representative to Congress, a Supreme Justice of Oregon, an Oregon Senator to Congress and a State Superintendent of Schools.

That next year most of the men in the valley were headed south to the gold fields. Frances Adams took over the teaching duties while William was gone. She was a trained botanist well prepared to teach.

Being a botanist it appears that Francis was the perpetrator of an idea to bring pear trees to Oregon. She and William took starts from a favorite pear tree back home in Ohio, stuck them in potatoes, and planted them on their place near Panther Creek. Eight of those trees still survive at the end of Gass Lane.

William arrived home from the gold mines in the fall of 1849 with enough gold to buy the place across the road from the McBrides. On this land, once claimed by the Careys, there was a nice log house. Inez reports there were two fair-sized rooms, a small bedroom and a front porch. "How quickly father and mother, with not one cent of money, at first, got a comfortable start, and a comfortable living, on that place. He earned money for his trip to the mines by teaching school the winter of '48 and mother earned more teaching in his absence. He brought home from the mines dust to pay for the place, \$900.00, and almost from the first year, there after my recollections are of abundant vegetables, crops of wheat, oats, and hay, and plenty of milk and butter, six or seven cows and a number of hogs."

It was in 1850 that William's younger brother, Sebastian, arrived at the home place. He claimed a section of land adjoining William on the east and was soon an important member of the community. The next year found Oliver Adams, William and Sebastian's brother, locating on land just to the west of William. Now three sections of land were under the care of the Adams Families. As the Adams brothers moved into other careers they all sold their property to R.R. Thompson. Mr. Thompson also bought the James McBride place and became a very large farmer in the area.

William Adams found his place in the political world by starting a newspaper, the Oregon Argus, in Oregon City. This became the supporting paper for the emerging Republican Party in Oregon. William gained the proud title of "Father of the Republican Party in Oregon". Early reports say that there were no libel laws to bring possible embarrassment to plain-speaking editors and epithets flew thick and fast. William became a feared and hated Republican editor during his time with the Argus.

It was William that called together the first Republican Convention in Albany in February 1857. It was William that supported Abraham Lincoln to the fullest. The interesting part of the story is that Lincoln subscribed to the Argus and was greatly moved by "Parson Billy's" editorials. Between Dr. James McBride, William and other friends, Oregon went with Lincoln and helped prevent Oregon from becoming a slave state. Adams and McBride were appointed to special positions for their work in supporting Lincoln. Adams became the Collector of the Port at Astoria and McBride served as United States Minister to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaiian Islands)

William Lysander Adams (1821 - 1906)

* "Early Recollections of Oregon Pioneer Life" by Mrs. Inez Eugenia Adams Parker. An unpublished paper.

** Christian refers to members of the Disciples of Christ Church.



Board Meeting

September 10, 2002

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 5:09 PM by President Shirley Venhaus with the following Board members signed in: Barbara Knutson, Dan Linscheid, Ed Roghair, Marjorie Owens, Francis Dummer, Shirley Venhaus, Betty Brown, Shirley McDaniel and Lila Jackson, along with member Barbara Doyle. The minutes of the August Board meeting were corrected, and a motion was moved by Barbara, seconded by Marjorie, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed. Treasurer's Report: Betty presented printed reports. August income \$980; total expenses \$588.45; net \$391.89. A CD is due this month. Francis moved, Dan seconded a motion to renew the CD for six months. Motion passed. The total from the Nomadic Teacher for YCHS was \$790. Marjorie moved, Barbara seconded a motion to accept the reports. Motion passed. Financial/Membership: Lila reported one new member and no renewals. We mail 219 newsletters, have 225 printed. Correspondence Secretary: Marjorie reported seven pieces of correspondence including Thank You's and Get Well's. Volunteer Chair: Eileen was absent. Old Business: The Church Painting is on hold again because of a glitch in the grant monies. Apparently the grant request had to be re-typed (without our knowledge) and has been delayed. Total for painting \$9,300, with one-half to be financed from the grant. \$1,700 estimate to repair and re-roof the leaking cupola. Dan moved, Francis seconded a motion to repair the cupola. Motion passed. \$300 for cleaning out the inside of the cupola and heavy wire screening it. Dan moved, Francis seconded a motion to complete the job. Motion passed. Electrical work will be included in the next grant request including the replacement of the old, expensive lighting, which should pay for itself in electric savings in a couple of years. Green Thumb program has been extended for one more month. Harvest Festival-October 12- Marjorie is going to work on advertising. Many volunteers are involved in preparations for the event. Crafters are being lined up. Serve Day - September 11- is directed by Patsey Miller. Twenty-seven George Fox students are volunteering this community service work.

E-mail is in the works with Dan Linscheid. Eagle Scout project is scheduled for September 21 with Chris Malloy (Barbara's grandson) who will be working on the front bed by the Log Building. A grant of \$355 from the Oregon Roadside Council will pay for the materials. This project will be completed by Harvest Festival. October 19 - Amity - (in my notes, no info). New Business: Barbara Doyle is writing a grant request from Spirit Mountain. Also a request for \$7,000 for Electrical work (a direct line for the humidifier, replacement/addition of efficient lights) for future electric savings.

The Board gave thanks to Barbara for her work in preparing these grant requests. Barbara and her husband are also donating the visqueen that will be installed under the church. Next Year's Project suggestions: The calendar for 2004 will feature Barns of the county. Members will be asked to bring family barn pictures and get permission to publish them. The 2003 calendar will be ready for sale at Harvest Festival, Oct. 12. Suggested a Barn Tour for July 2004, maybe have a farrier shoe horses at one of the barns. Marjorie moved, Shirley M seconded a motion to begin planning for this project. Motion passed. Nominating committee will be appointed to bring a slate to be presented to the Board at the October meeting. Vote in November. Install at the annual meeting in December. Officers needed: President, Secretary, Board Position two. Budget Committee Appointed Barbara Doyle, Francis Dummer, Shirley McDaniel. Donation of \$200 from First Federal, from their "Hearts and Hands" program - in honor of Barbara and Ken Knutson for their many hours of volunteer work. Congratulations to the Knutson's! Oregon Cultural Trust program is Wednesday, September 25. Shirley V will attend.

December 8 - a Holiday Happening at the Museum/Log Building will be held with hot chocolate served and children invited to make decorations for our holiday trees.

Newsletter deadline: September 20. Several positive comments have been received about the addition of the extra page in the newsletter.

Next Meeting - Oct. 8th at the County Public works Building in McMinnville on Lafayette Avenue. Dorothy Gunness will be the speaker.

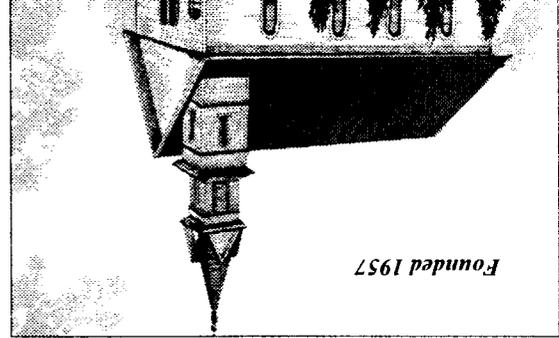
Respectfully submitted, Shirley McDaniel, secretary

We Need Barn Photos

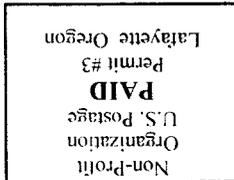
The historical society is looking for photos of Yamhill County barns - old (metal roofs are OK), new (metal walls are not OK), patched, beautifully maintained, in dire need of repairs or no longer existing ones are all good candidates. We would like to highlight 12 of them in the society's 2004 calendar.

You must provide precise location of the barn. If it is not on your property, you will need to obtain permission from the owner for possible inclusion in calendar. A committee will select the images for the calendar. The remaining photos will be displayed in 2004 at the museum. All images must be submitted to YCHS, PO Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127 by June 1, 2003. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope so that images can be returned, if desired.

The Board would like to schedule a barn tour during 2004, possibly including those on the calendar. This project is just beginning, so some details - particularly the tour - have not been settled. We're in the feasibility stage now. Questions? Call Shirley Venhaus at 503-434-0567.



Founded 1957



Lafayette Oregon 97127
P.O. Box 484

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Effective May 31, 2002

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$50+
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$100+
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Builder	\$250+
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Benefactor	\$500+

Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society. Annual membership gifts are tax deductible.

Members receive the Westside newsletter and access to our research library free of charge. We are an all volunteer organization, and are constantly on the lookout for new helpers. If you can assist us in any way, financially or with your time or talents, it will be greatly appreciated. If you are not sure if you have paid your membership dues, please contact Lila Jackson at 472-8510. Alternatively, check your mailing label, which should show this information also.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meeting Notice

Board of Directors - October 8, 5:00 pm
Monthly Meeting & Potluck—October 8, 6:30
Both at Yamhill County PWD Auditorium,
2060 Lafayette Ave., McMinnville

Our October meeting will feature Dorothy Gunness discussing the beginnings of the Yamhill County Historic Society. Please join us for dinner; bring potluck fare and your own eating utensils.

We Hope to See you There!