

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

April 2003

Wings over the Oregon Trail

At our meeting in March we were fortunate to have Lloyd & Viola Nisly of Dundee present their memories and photos of their treks over the Oregon Trail by air. During the 1980's they flew portions of the Trail in their 65 hp Luscombe, but for the 150th anniversary of the first wagon train, they flew their newer aircraft over the entire trail along with 40 other pilots. This trip called for lots of coordination with various entities and people, and they were welcomed everywhere they touched down.

Lloyd and Viola took an abundance of photos from the air, and sharpened their aerial photography interpretation skills by picking out the original wheel ruts, which continue to gradually disappear. Many times it was only the orange dot of the laser pointer on the screen which allowed the audience to pick out the faintest remnants of the old trail.

At times they were welcomed with speeches and celebrations, and while they were on a schedule, they were able to stop and enjoy the landmarks and visit with current residents.



Viola started the presentation dressed in Oregon Trail period clothing. She convincingly played the part of a very reluctant traveler, with a whole list of reasons why they should not partake this journey to an unknown territory.

These pilots covered in 4 to 5 minutes a distance which had at times taken the pioneers a full day to cover on the hot, dusty trail by foot.

We thank the Nislys for this great presentation, which they have given numerous times over the past decade. This was not their first presentation before our group, and we hope it was not their last.

From our President:

Hi Everybody,

As the year 2003 begins we find the Society involved in a lot of major projects:

1. Replacement of broken windows in the Church and a film added to the windows to prevent the UV rays from damaging articles on display.
 2. Placing old photos in appropriate sleeves and boxes for storage to prevent further damage to them.
 3. Properly storing and exhibiting clothing.
 4. Properly storing and exhibiting our valuable quilt collection.
 5. Building an addition to the farm building to store the "covered wagon" from the fair grounds to be used in the Oregon Trail exhibit.
 6. Replacing the old electrical wiring in the Church and fully insulating the building.
 7. Repairing the roof of the steeple, making it bird-proof, and painting the exterior of the Church.
 8. Converting the old kitchen in the Church into a comfortable work room.
 9. The replacement of the old computer in the Log Museum with a newer model with scanning capabilities.
- We are receiving more inquiries and requests and find this is a very necessary tool for the Society

These are all very important items that need our immediate attention if we are to continue to be an important facility in Yamhill County. All of these efforts need volunteers and of course funding to complete. If anyone would like to assist in any of these projects by giving of your time or by donating money, it would be greatly appreciated. The Historical Society Board of Directors has dedicated itself to bringing about the completion of all of the above mentioned items. We will seek grants, private donations and volunteer ourselves to this work. Join us in fulfilling our mission: "To Protect, Preserve, and Share the History and Heritage of Yamhill County". Thank You, Shirley.

Reminders and Ramblings:

Please check your mailing label to see when your membership expires. Most of our operating expenses are offset by your dues. If you go beyond your renewal date, the date of your renewal does not change.

Also, check out the expanded photos displayed at http://www.co.yamhill.or.us/pics/photo_album.asp... it now contains over 100 photos of old Sheridan (thanks to Darrell Jones and Dick Jordan) and 75 photos of Willamina (thanks to Bob & Charlene Brown and April Wooden, curators at the Willamina Museum). It is the continued efforts of folks like these who allow us to continue to build interest in local history.

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

OFFICERS - 2003**President**

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472-7328

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843-2069

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Annita Linscheid
843-2625

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835-7531

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Librarian

Olive Merry Johnson
472-6070

Newsletter

Dan Linscheid
843-2625

Car Pool Coordinator

Joanne Watts
835-5893

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

New Email:
yamhillhistory@
onlinemac.com

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

**Board Meeting Highlights for
March**

The meeting was called to order by President Shirley in the Yamhill County Public Works Department Auditorium, McMinnville. The following directors and officers were present; Lila Jackson, Barbara Knutson, Marjorie Owens, Dan Linscheid, Francis Dummer, Carol Reid, Shirley Vanhaus, Annita Linscheid. Also present Eleanor Mitchell, one of several being considered to replace retired board member Ed Roghair. The minutes of the February board meeting were approved as submitted. Shirley then pointed out a need for correction concerning the establishment of a McMinnville Museum. The Museum is not in the process of being established but rather is in the "talk" stage. A motion to correct the minutes was approved.

The Treasurer's Report was submitted by Carol Reid. Income was \$200.40 with Expenses of \$1056.36 for a net loss of \$855.96. Over half of this deficit was caused by our decision to pay the Newberg Graphic for our half of the cost of the publication "A Pictorial History of Yamhill County". Financial Secretary Lila Jackson reported nine renewals. There was a discussion about including names of not only new members, but also names of current members renewals, in the newsletter. It was the consensus to proceed with publishing these renewing members names. Correspondence Secretary Marjorie Owens reported twelve mail replies and thirteen E-Mail replies. Volunteer Chair Eileen was not present, but Marjorie related to the Board that Eileen was in the process of putting together a "Volunteer Book". This will include recognition of volunteers and suggested tasks that need to be done when volunteers attend the museum. Preservation Committee: Marjorie read the minutes of preservation committee meeting to update us. The committee will be ordering \$900.00 worth of archival sleeves and boxes for our original photographs. Elma is getting quotes on display case for wedding dress, and the group is getting quotes for the purchase of UV shielding for, and repairs to, the existing windows in the Church.

Ken Williams and Gloria Lutz are in the process of doing the audit. They need all the statements on the Nomadic Teacher account. Based on concerns expressed by Carol Reid it was moved and approved to freeze the Nomadic Teacher account for 30 days or until things are straightened out to the Boards' satisfaction.

The Mormon History Fair entitled "They Came By Ships" will be April 26th from 10 am to 4 pm at the Mormon Church. Shirley and Marjorie attended a planning meeting and were very impressed with the program. We will have a table there and information about our museum and resources. We need some volunteers to be there to help out. The Cultural Trust was discussed and a decision was made not to join MACA due to several factors. The Board agreed to "wait and see" on this. New Business, We still need a chairperson for the June 28th Recycle Sale. New clauses in our insurance policy stipulate that attacks of terrorism will not be covered. Premiums totaling \$835.00 will be paid for this next year. Shirley is still working on bids for electrical system improvements for the church. Her son fixed the water drainage leak into the basement of the church with some trenching and sealing up around the window well.

Annita Linscheid, Secretary

A Visitation

A small group from Cascade College, Portland, composed of six students, instructor Bonnie Miller, Jerry Rushford from Pepperdine College (author of Christians on the Oregon Trail), and one other gentleman visited the museum on Thursday, March 6th.

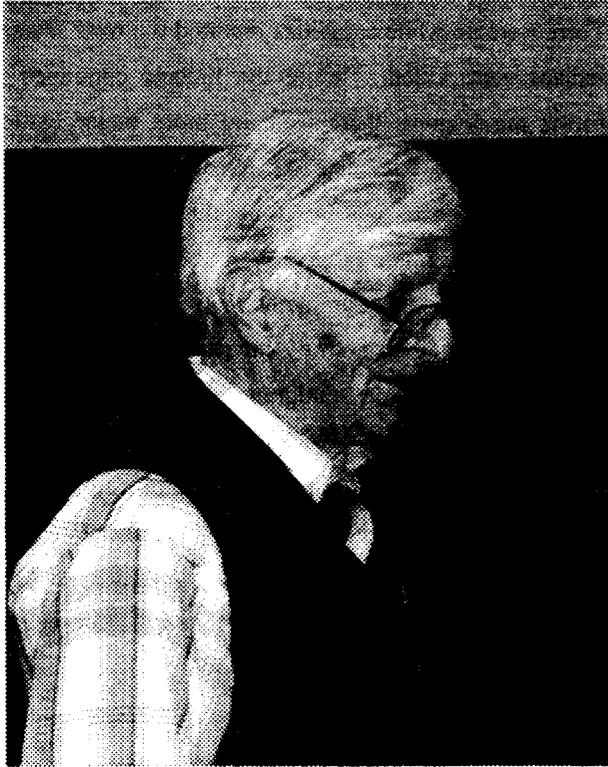
This was a history class already well versed in the early Christian history of Yamhill County. The group seemed delighted with the museum, asked many questions, and also contributed information. Sometimes it takes an outsider to make one realize just how precious our exhibits are.

They had just come from touring the McBride Cemetery where they noticed the many Sitton Graves.

Jerry Rushford asked to be remembered to Olive Johnson, Lila Jackson, Bob Kuykendall, and Jim & Reita Lockett, all of whom he said were helpful to them when he wrote his book. Jim took the slide of the pioneer statue used on the front cover. A copy of the book has been donated to the museum. Submitted by Lois Brooks.

A tribute to Ed Roghair

With the recent resignation of Ed from our Board of Directors, we've lost a dedicated and knowledgeable benefactor to our Society. He recently celebrated his 91st birthday, and will no doubt find more endeavors to take up his time. Ed has been donating his time and labor to our mission for decades. He will continue to serve as our resident expert on farm implements at our museum facility, and will likely continue to attend our monthly meetings with his wife Peggy. Thanks for your past and present efforts, Ed, and we look forward to your continuing support in the future!



Channel 11 Cable films our historical presentations

We'd like to thank local Channel 11, a cable television serving McMinnville and surrounding communities, for filming and broadcasting our last general meeting presentations. Several people have advised the editor that they enjoyed these presentations and look forward to future showings.

Recuperating:

Dedicated Board member Francis Dummer is healing following recent back surgery, and our thoughts are with him. Get well soon, Francis!

Also, we look forward to Rieta Lockett's return to one of our next meetings. Jim reported last month that she continues to improve, but that she did not feel up to attending that meeting.



As you can see from this photo, we continue to have large crowds attending our monthly meetings. The mix of good food and fascinating programs makes for a fun night out for members and guests alike. We appreciate Barbara Knutson for putting together these monthly meetings and the programs. Her husband Ken is a big part of each meeting also... without his assistance in setting up, and helping in the background during and after these meetings we'd be in trouble! Please help us offset our costs of providing coffee at these meetings... that's what those donation cups on each table are for.



We welcome the following new and returning members:

New: Steve Agee, Jane & Ed Stauss, Robert Laughlin, Kathy George, Kathy & David Ray and the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners.

Renewals: Louise Tupper, Dina Nuxoll, Pat & Ken Williams, Jim Vincent, Leighton Livengood, John Dowty and Ernesting Shields.

Alderman Farms - a place that we became acquainted with over 50 years ago. A place where hundreds of our school children worked, earning money for school and developing good work habits. We wager there are many Yamhill County families who have had a personal experience with Alderman Farms. Today's article features Albert L. Alderman, an 1846 emigrant, pioneer and original developer of Alderman Farms.

He was born in Connecticut in 1820 and taken as a child to New York, where he lived until he was twenty-one. By this time, he had caught "Oregon Fever" and started working his way west. Arriving in Quincy, Illinois, in the fall of '45, he began to put together an outfit that would take him to Oregon. By Spring he was at the rendezvous ready to go. Joining a company of five hundred wagons, he helped to organize the train. After leaders were elected, a complete inspection was made of all wagons and equipment. (Those considered unfit were not allowed to go). The group also elected a judge and appointed a jury of 6 men. They were one of the best organized wagon trains to head into the "setting sun."

This train traveled with little difficulty to Fort Hall. Their major problem was swollen streams, but few supplies were lost. However, after Fort Hall, things changed! It was here that the train split- half going the southern route to California and the others north to Oregon. The California- bound group, known as the "Donner Party," gave the Nation reason to weep when the story was reported. The Oregon- bound party was met by Jessie Applegate. He convinced them to take the "easier" route through Southern Oregon. This became known as the Applegate Trail. Troubles on the Applegate Trail were almost as terrible as those met by the Donner Party. The trail did take the emigrants away from the Blue Mountains, which had been a serious barrier to wagon travel, but the desert, between Malhuer and Klamath Lake, took its toll.

Also, unfriendly Indians in that area were a serious problem. One evening, on the shores of Klamath Lake, the Indians managed to stampede the whole band of cattle right over the camp. Wagons were destroyed, people injured, and supplies trampled. It was several days before the company was ready to go on. The Indians had set up a line of defense that was difficult to penetrate. Finally, the group organized sixty fighting men to go ahead of the train to clear the path of Indians. There were no white casualties reported but over seventy Indians were killed. While the Indians continued to harass the wagons, there were no more major battles. The men were required to remain on guard duty, however, so there was no time for hunting and the emigrants were running out of food. Now they must add "hunger" to their list of problems.

The road across the Umpqua Mountains became worse than what the emigrants found in the Blue Mountains, but there was no turning back! With the serious food shortage, Albert Alderman decided to do something about it. He took a small company of men and rode right into an Indian village! Imagine their surprise when one of the women there gave them dried camas- almost a ton of it! It was dirty and full of hair, but Alderman took it back to the train. The people said it would be better to starve than eat such stuff, but Alderman, after washing and soaking the filth off, cooked a batch. They all declared it was the "best meal they ever had!" Later, they found a Hudson Bay camp with a store of dried venison. The Indian squaw there gave them all they could eat and sold them more for the other emigrants.

Another time, still looking for more food, Alderman and four other men were glad to meet up with a provision train. Alderman bought 50 pounds of flour, right there on the spot! He mixed it up in the bags, and cooked it on sticks over a campfire. He said, they feasted on that bread all night and it was one of the best "feeds" he'd ever attended. It was chilly December before they reached Oregon City.

By a stroke of luck Albert found a brother, M.R. Alderman, who came out West earlier. At first, they didn't recognize each other, but ended up happily spending the winter together.

That spring, they went looking for a piece of land to farm. Impressed with land owned by Louis La Bonte, a French-Canadian trapper who apparently was Yamhill County's first settler, they asked how much land he owned. Louis reported: "begin in the morning on a Cayuse horse; go west until the sun is very high; then go south until it is around towards the west, and then back to the river." That was Louis's farm. Actually, it included most of the land between the Willamette and Yamhill Rivers. The brothers bought a claim from him for 100 cows and immediately planted little apple trees, plowed 60 acres of land, planted wheat and hired a man to split 18,000 rails for fence. Guess he wanted to fence in the whole farm!

One time, Louis La Bonte rescued Mr. Alderman from the Indians. They had built a sweat house near Alderman's cabin where they doctored themselves and held barbarous services day and night. It was an intolerable nuisance so he asked La Bonte how to get rid of this "nightmare." La Bonte told him to wait 'til they were gone, gather up the shakes used to make the sweat house and tie them into bundles. Then clean up the rest of the area and stack any other materials in a neat pile. When the Indians returned they were obviously riled. (Alderman hid in his house, hoping they wouldn't burn it down). For some strange reason, when La Bonte explained the problem to the Indians, they left, never to bother Alderman again.

Later that year, Albert's brother decided that farming wasn't for him. He wanted to try his hand at mining so he signed his share over to Albert and headed south. (He was later killed at Sutter's Fort). Farming was for Albert, however, getting \$4.90 for a bushel of wheat, \$7.00 for his potatoes, and his apples eventually brought \$16.00 a bushel.

In 1848 he paid Sheriff Hembree his taxes with cattle hides, which were legal tender.

Alderman did have a short stint in the gold mines in '49. In thirty days, his claim yielded \$3600.00. He brought this money home, built a sawmill on his place and felt secure enough to launch into matrimony.

In 1850, Albert married Miss Mary J. Burns. They had three daughters and one son - Margaret, William, Marita, and Medorum. After 14 years of marriage, Mary died. Two years later, he married Miss Charlotte Odell. Their five children, Edwin, Ennis, Lewis, George and Eva increasing the family to eleven.

Mr. Alderman stayed in farming the rest of his life. At one time, he had the largest orchard in the state. In 40 years of farming, he never had a crop failure. He was proud to report (in 1886) that the "land he first broke 40 years ago still produced thirty-five and forty bushels of wheat per acre." Wouldn't he be surprised if he knew today that same land can produce 100 bushels per acre.

We somehow hope that he and his family know the important role Alderman Farms has played in the lives of so many Yamhill County residents.



Above is a portion of the original General Land Office map, approved in 1861, with the boundary of the L. Alderman Donation Land Claim highlighted

Dated Material - Return Service Requested

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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. (The month and year indicate your "paid through" period according to our records.)

**YAMHILL COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Meeting Notice

Board of Directors:

Tuesday, April 8, 5:00 pm

Monthly Meeting & Potluck:

Tuesday, April 8, 6:30

**Both at the Free Methodist Church on S. 'D'
Street in Willamina.**

This meeting will feature member Maxine Shetterly Williams telling about her grandfather, John Shetterly.

Please join us for dinner; bring potluck fare and your own eating utensils.

We Hope to See you There!