

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

May 2004

## From our President

Hi Members, This is the last issue of the Newsletter until September. Keep this handy to help you remember important dates for the summer. The PICNIC IS AUGUST 7TH and the GARAGE SALE IS AUGUST 12,13,14, & 15TH. Your Board will continue to have monthly meetings and the committee working on the new building on Hwy. 18 will also be hard at work. The volunteers will continue to work on the preservation projects. Major rearranging of the Research Library will also take place. Anyone interested in helping with this is invited to contact someone on the Board or attend a work session on any Wednesday. May your summer be filled with pleasures and happiness. Sincerely, Shirley

## New Grant Received

The State Historic Preservation Grant Foundation has awarded the Yamhill County Historical Society \$10,892.50 which is part of a matching grant. The funds for our share will come from the Verle & Dorothy Miller Subfund of the Oregon Community Foundation. The society applied for the grant for the purposes of: Removal of all water seepage in the basement, Full insulation of floors, exterior walls and ceiling, repair of dry rot, roof of steeple and painting the exterior of the Church. The State Historic Preservation Office received 71 applications for the Preserving Oregon Development Grants this year; the requests totaled \$1,004,604, with only \$250,000 available. The difficult situation resulted in funding for only 21 applicants, and many received reduced funding for their projects. The Society is very pleased to have been chosen to receive a part of these funds. The work will be completed this summer. This is a giant step forward in maintaining the Church. Our thanks to Kimberly Dunn who is the Grants & Survey Coordinator and her committee.

## Visitation

A group of seven young parents and one grandpa brought their 18 eager-to-learn home-schooled students for a tour of the museum on Friday, April 2. Ed, Lois, and Patsey (substituting for Twila) found conducting them through the three museum buildings a very pleasant experience.

They were from various parts of the county, getting together to share this outing; the children encompassed a wide range of ages. All promised to return someday. Submitted by Lois Brooks

## Board Highlights

(Note: a complete version of these minutes is posted in the Museum and can also be found on our website.) The meeting was called to order by President Shirley Venhaus in the Amity High School The Treasurer's Report: given by Carol Reid, showing a beginning balance of \$8,319.73, expenses of \$1,838.01, and income of \$232.08, resulting in a balance of \$6,716.77. Correspondence Secretary: Marjorie Owens reported nine items of correspondence. Membership Secretary: Linda Miller reported she is working on a list of members for an up-to-date accounting, and she requested some assistance in the use in the computer program used in tracking the members. Volunteer Chairperson: Carol Reid reported she still needs to find someone to work with Patsey Miller on the second Sunday of each month. Joe and Coral Dancer have agreed to volunteer the first Sunday of each month (formerly filled by George and Maxine Williams).

Old Business: Museum Report: Kathy Peck presented the board with an outline of several things that can be done in the museum to better protect the textiles. She has done a lot of research and talked to professionals in this matter. After her presentation and some discussion a number of decisions were made in the interest of preservation. New Building Committee Report: Shirley V. reported on current events with this project. Shirley has contacted Morgan Maghee to have to finish calking the upstairs of the log cabin: he said he would be working Mondays and Tuesdays but volunteers who were there on those days stated he was not there. Dan asked if Shirley had received bids on a heat pump to help with the humidity control in the log building. She said only one bid has come through and that was for \$2,248.00.

Lafayette City Hall Water/Sewer Bill: Shirley V. talked to the city council on the matter of the high sewer & water bills and was told nothing could be done no matter the usage because no exceptions are granted. The new copy machine has been installed. By-Laws: Walt Gowell has recommended we go over the by-laws completely with an attorney and bring it up-to-date because it has been amended so many times, and state laws have changed regarding not-for-profit by-laws. New Business: First Federal Gift: YCHS has received \$395.24 from First Federal. Next month the board will consider the moving of all sales, research and administrative functions into one central location in the Log building. Annita Linscheid, Secretary

*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 - 2004****President**

Shirley Venhaus  
472-7328

**VP/Program**

Barbara Knutson  
843-2069

**Secretary**

Annita Linscheid  
843-2625

**Treasurer**

Carol Reid  
472-9631

**Membership Secretary**

Linda Miller  
434-1886

**Corresponding**

Secretary  
Marjorie Owens  
843-3081

**Board of Directors**

Eileen Lewis  
835-7531  
Francis Dummer  
864-2637  
Dan Linscheid  
843-2625  
Shirley McDaniel  
662-3528

**Volunteer Coordinator**

Carol Reid  
472-9631

**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

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Lafayette Oregon  
Phone: 864-2308

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YCHS

**Planning of new facility continues**

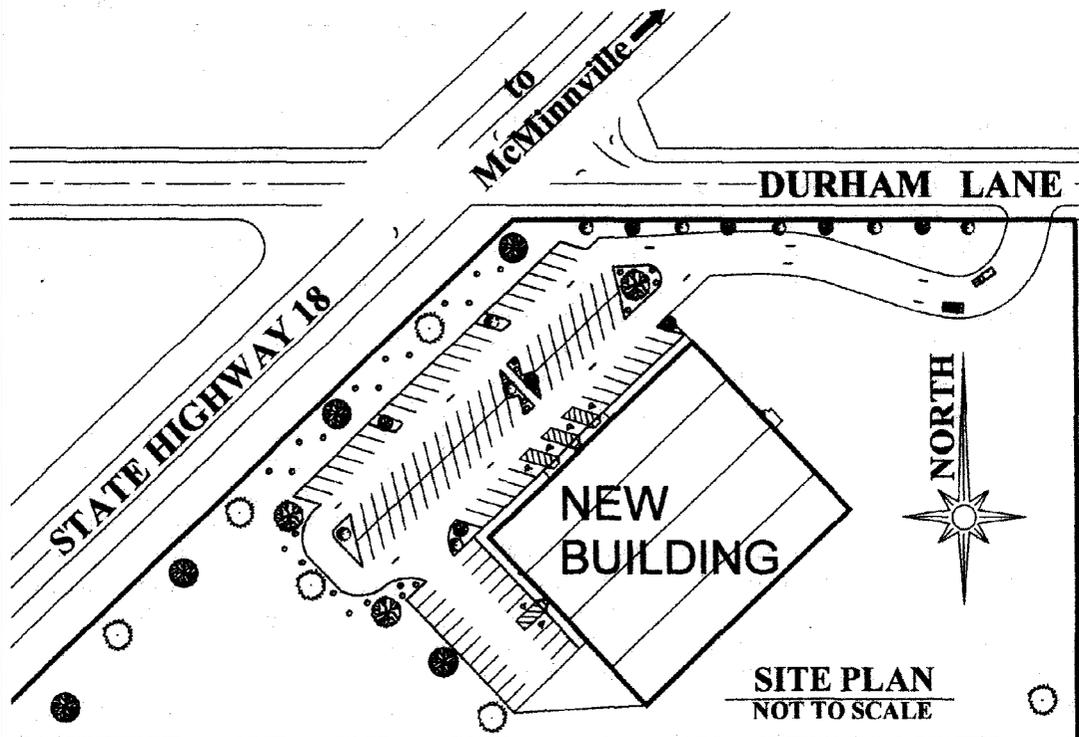
At a recent meeting of community leaders and interested society members, we rolled out our preliminary building plans, accepted input and attempted to strategize our short and long-range plans for facilities construction. Attendees brought forth many excellent suggestions and ideas to help us accomplish our goals.

Without exception, everyone supported the direction we are going with this proposal. Several of the attendees represented the Yamhill County Genealogical Society, and their support and involvement may be crucial in succeeding with this project. Both societies share many common goals and interests. Johnnie Edwards, President of the Yamhill County Genealogy Society, was very forthcoming with his support and desire to see a facility that will benefit that group as well as ours.

We hope to encourage the participation of our cities by dedicating specific areas for presentation of their particular histories, including artifact and photographic displays.

A large meeting room, with kitchen facilities, would not only allow us to hold our monthly meetings but could also be rented out for other meetings or functions to responsible groups or entities. Storage of our artifact collection, as well as a display area basically twice the area of our current facilities in Lafayette will allow for future expansion. The storage of our farm implements as well as the ones that Ray Kauer is proposing to donate to our society is a major initial concern, and will be addressed in any grant proposals. A separate, smaller building could be used for restoration of these implements. Ray suggested a possible display of a modern tractor alongside an early twentieth version to give visitors a comparative historical perspective.

The requisite lowering of the water table to allow installation of a septic drain field, the drilling of a well to allow storage water for a sprinkling system and other general requirements of a new facility were also discussed. We would like to see the new facilities open at least six days a week, which will require a director or curator, at least full or part time. Our proposed facility is larger than the relatively new Polk County equivalent, and their electricity bill runs \$600 monthly, so we will most likely need to institute a fixed, required admission fee, which when combined with room rental revenues, will help defray operational costs. Please give your thoughts and comments to your Board members and officers regarding these issues.



Above is a preliminary site plan of our proposed building on the five acre property southwest of McMinnville. Our society has a long way to go in fulfilling our vision, and much will depend on the receipt of grants from various sources. Please give us your thoughts regarding this matter by completing the questionnaire inserted in this newsletter. Responses will assist us with long-range planning.

### Existing Facility concerns

Recently, our dedicated volunteers have been moving nearly all of our artifacts from the upstairs in the Church building to better storage areas.

We hope to insulate and paint this structure, as well as dewater the basement. Even if we take these steps, this building will not be considered an ideal environment for the collection, preservation, storage or display of artifacts. Some of our finer silk textiles should not be exposed to sunlight in even limited quantities or durations, and steps have been taken to ensure their protection from damage caused by the sun's rays.

This building has seen the installation of a new roof, improved electrical and lighting, new front doors (thanks to Betty White), UV filters on exterior windows and a remodeled back room. The proposed dewatering of the basement will probably not remove all or even a majority of the moisture, which is detrimental to the storage of nearly all of our artifacts. Is the steeple on the church leaning? We will be finding out soon, with the help of an engineer, who will evaluate the structural integrity of this precious old structure. There is no fire protection in any of our buildings, beyond the automated dial-up smoke detection system in the church and log building.

The log building also has its share of problems. Morgan Maghee, who helped construct the building, is still scheduled to caulk in the cracks in the logs, which allows cold, moist air direct entry to our collection. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity are of major concern with this building also, and we are evaluating the installation of a heat pump, which should help in this regard. We also have a pest (bugs & bats) problem to deal with in this building.

One of our members has pointed out the fact that over the years, various supposedly knowledgeable people have recommended completely different processes and strategies for the storage and preservation of our collection. While this may be cause for concern, it should not stop or even delay us from taking steps to insure that future generations can enjoy the artifacts that have been so meticulously collected and stored by our members over the past forty-five years.

### Wednesday Work Group

Last year a very small group of volunteers decided to address a specific preservation need—the care and preservation of our collection of quilts. Following exhaustive research into the proper cleaning, storage and display of quilts, they began meeting every Wednesday to meticulously clean, photograph, store and document the history of each quilt. Along the way, they discovered a need to implement a standardized method of categorizing and documenting various facts about the quilts...their donors names, date of donation, history of the quilt, condition, retrieval, etc., etc. The internet came to their aid, as well as the purchase of a couple of well-known publications on the subject. The method they implemented will easily be recognized by curators and archivists around the world, since it is in substantial compliance with industry standards.



After the quilt preservation project was completed, the newly expanded group moved on to textiles. There are lots of tasks involved, from sewing on ID labels, to cleaning, photographing, archival storing and finally, entering data into our computer database. As they recently neared completion of their work on textiles, they agreed unanimously to continue their group efforts with additional groups of artifacts. Kathy Peck has been very instrumental in researching the proper care, display and storage of our artifacts, and her efforts are appreciated. To date, over 1,000 photographs, over 130 quilts and nearly 2,000 textiles have received treatment and care. The ladies in this group continue to be delighted and surprised by not only the number, but also the styles and variations in our collection. Each item is being photographed as part of the process, and is additionally entered into our computer database.

### Museum conditions effect artifacts

The environmental conditions of the building housing the display and storage of artifacts is of major concern to our society. Fluctuations in light, temperature, and humidity should be strictly controlled. Some artifacts require a unique environment and special handling care and display conditions.

Of major current concern is the daily fluctuation of humidity and temperature in both the church and the log building. These variations tend to be far more damaging to artifacts than seasonal changes, and they should not vary more than plus/minus 3% on a daily basis. Temperature should average 68° F, daily, year in and out. A 60% relative humidity level is considered the damage threshold by most conservators, and many of our textiles exhibit 'foxing', which is a form of mold attributable to a poor storage environment.

We have extremely limited area for storage of new articles. A recent inventory disclosed over 8,000 articles in our collection, and the preservation, storage and display of these is a major responsibility for our society. We have a big responsibility to "protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County", as our mission statement declares. It is this burden which drives our current attempt to improve our facilities. The time and efforts donated by our volunteers in achieving this goal is critical and much appreciated.

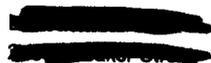
# YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 484

Lafayette Oregon 97127

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## Special Museum Edition



McMinnville, OR 97128

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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 Carol Reid at 472-9631, or check your mailing label, which should show this information also. (The month and year indicate your "paid through" period according to our records.) If you see a colored "dot" on your label, you're at the end of your membership term!

## YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### *Meeting Notice:*

**Board of Directors:**  
Tuesday, May 11, 5:00 pm

**Monthly Meeting:**  
Same day as Board meeting., 6:30 pm  
Both at the Willamina Free Methodist Church,  
'D' Street, Willamina

This meeting will feature April Wooden  
(daughter of Maxine Williams) sharing her collection of antique hat pins.

*We Hope to See you There!*