

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

October 2005

Shirley Venhaus Honored

At the monthly meeting of the Yamhill County Realtors held at Izzy's on September 19th our own president Shirley Venhaus was named Realtor of the Year! Ken and Pat Williams, Ray Kauer, Gloria Lutz, and Barbara Knutson had all been invited to be present as the surprise announcement was made.

Shirley lost no time in using the moment to tout the plans for the new museum, Ken having brought a copy of the new brochure. Congratulations, Shirley, we're proud of you!

Heirloom Quilt Show

On November 5th, the Museum will be displaying a number of quilts along with a brief history of each quilt. Several have quite a story to tell. Also, we will display collections of 7,000 buttons, thimbles, pincushions and other antique sewing items. There will be two presentations on quilt preservation in the museum, to help attendees care for quilts in their homes, at 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Admittance is \$5.00 which will help fund our preservation efforts at the Museum. Homemade scones, tea and other beverage selections will also be served.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met on September 13th, with the following discussions and actions being approved:

- Approved a \$2,000 amendment to the current budget to allow the efforts of the preservation (Wednesday Work) group to continue. This will occur based on a reduction in the next CD roll-over this month.
- Agreed to put the original By-Laws amendment proposal to a vote at the November general meeting. This action allows the timely notice to go out to all members (see more details on page 2).
- Granted permission to Ray Kauer to park additional antique farm equipment near the fence along Highway 18 on the site of our new museum facility.

Barbara Knutson will preside over our next Board and General Meeting due to the fact that Shirley Venhaus will be attending the Yamhill County Realtors Auction. The Ruth Stoller Library will be rededicated during the Harvest Festival, at 2 p.m. A discussion was held regarding the ownership of the covered wagon stored at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds. The County is not claiming ownership, and a letter requesting transfer to our society has been submitted to the Yamhill County Education Service District.

From our President

Good news in our family. Our granddaughter Tara reported that her husband Nathan returned from Iraq after a six month stay. Their daughter, Madilynn, who will be one year old Oct. 10th wasn't to sure just who he was but I'm sure she will figure that out. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who still have family and/or friends overseas. Of course there is the tragedy in Louisiana and other southern states and now Texas is taking a hit.

My, are we blessed here in Oregon or what?? Just a reminder about the garage sale next summer. We will pick up whatever you have to donate at anytime.

Also, NewToYou will give us a credit whenever we give the number "35558" to them when there is a sale on clothing you have put on consignment. (Thanks Millie!)

The Realtors have included the Yamhill County Historical Society as one of three societies to receive monies from their Auction, which will be held at the Golden Valley Brew Pub Tuesday Oct. 11 starting at 5:00pm.

Lots of planning and work has gone into preparing for the October 15th Harvest Festival to be held at the Museum. Every year we are becoming a little more crowded. It shows the need for a larger facility.

Don't forget the "Quilt/Tea" happening Saturday, November 5th.

Nine students and their team leader from George Fox University spent Sept. 7th helping with assorted tasks at the museum. General cleaning, rug shampooing, leather preservation and yard work were only a few of the jobs they did for the Society. Afterwards, they thanked us for letting them come to help!

The Building Committee continues work on plans for the new museum site. Anyone with input or a desire to be part of this group are welcome to contact a Board member for more information.

Hope you had a wonderful summer. Shirley

Change in membership dues payment scheduled

Beginning next January, renewing and new members will see a prorating of the dues structure, based on three month intervals. Renewals coming due between January and the end of March will pay one-half of the annual dues, and those renewing between April first and June 30th will pay one-quarter of the annual dues. A similar schedule will be adopted for new members during this transition period.

This change is necessary to move all dues payments to a July 1st deadline each subsequent year. After we get past this transitional year, everyone's dues will become payable on July first, and those new to our organization will pay on a similar quarterly pro rata basis unless they join between April first and June 30th. Was all that perfectly clear? No? Well, it's confusing to your Board members also, but we continue working out details. The end result will make life much easier for our Treasurer, Membership Chair and members.

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 - 2004President

Shirley Venhaus
472-7328

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843-2069

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843-2625

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Carol Reid
472-9631

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472-6562

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843-3081

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Dan Linscheid
843-2625
Shirley McDaniel
662-3528

Volunteer Coordinators

Carol Reid

Newsletter

Dan Linscheid

Car Pool Coordinator

Joanne Waits
835-5893

Librarian

Jean Sartor

MUSEUM HOURS:

Sept. thru June:
Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
or
By Appointment

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Phone: 864-2308
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YCHS

George Fox Serve Day

It was a whirlwind of activity again this year, when nine young ladies converged at the Museum in Lafayette to perform annual clean-up duties, general maintenance and a few extra chores. They removed the fifty year old carpeting near the podium in the Church, treated artifacts containing leather in the Barn, practiced their landscaping skills and got busy with brooms and dustpans everywhere.



From left to right, Team Leader Patti Cooke, Katelin O'Malley, Breanne Jackman, Valerie Schull, Lacy Wade, Andrea Bryan, Fay Thirkill, Jamie Dozier, Sara Ritchey and Tina Coffman, all residents of Riley House. YCHS is certainly appreciative of these young ladies from GFU for all their efforts.

By-Laws Change Proposed

During the November general meeting we will be voting on a proposed change to our By-Laws, under Section IV, Officers, subsection 2. Vice-President, item c. (duties). This subsection currently reads,

“Shall perform such additional duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors, the president or these by-laws, including acting as program director.”

The proposed amendment would delete the last five words of the sentence, relating to program director. This proposal was submitted in writing to the Board in March of this year by Barbara Knutson and Dan Linscheid. Barbara, who currently serves as our V.P., would like to step down from that position, while retaining her duties as program director.

Activities of the Wednesday Work Group

The group will continue working on preserving paper documents (abstracts, pamphlets, loose paper) in the near future, thanks to an emergency allocation of \$2,000 by the Board of Directors. This will allow for the purchase of needed materials which will enhance the longevity of these precious documents. It will be exciting to have another category of artifacts in the process of preservation. Thanks to a donation from the Unity Community Club, the Ruth Stoller Research Library files will be neater and better organized in the future. Their donation allowed purchase of hangers for all of our file folders. The Club recently disbanded and donated \$350 to the museum in memory of Ruth Stoller, their first President and long term member.

Harvest Festival

Volunteers are working hard in preparation for this October 15th event and we hope to have a record turnout this year. We are looking for a few more people to donate finger food (cookies-bars-fruit, etc.). The Ruth Stoller Library will be rededicated during the Harvest Festival, at 2 p.m.

Henry Lever was the Linfield Coach who put the athletic program into high-gear. He was praised by many of his colleagues as a "highly energized and dedicated man." According to an article in the McMinnville News Register, Linfield President, Harry Dillin, said Lever had a "wide range of talents and abilities. He was an indefatigable worker. He was a great person, one of the most tremendous persons I have known. He was gracious and talented. He had a great sense of humor." Paul Durham added: even more important than Henry Lever's ability as coach was "his contributions to the character development of the students with whom he worked.

Lever was the Linfield Wildcats' football coach from 1930-1938 and 1940-1942. His 1935 team was the first to win a Northwest Conference football championship. He also served as men's basketball coach for 15 seasons compiling an overall winning record. He coached men's track and field from 1932-1935 and 1941-1943. He also was the baseball coach and served as a scout for the Cincinnati Reds during this time.

Paul Durham reports that during the Lever Era: Henry was mainly responsible for lifting the performance of Linfield athletic teams to a respected position in the Northwest Conference and on the Pacific Coast. His ability to get consistently strong effort from players with abilities in many cases not comparable to that of opponents, gained him the utmost respect of his players, the people of McMinnville and the opposing coaches, players and fans."

The wonder of the Lever Era is how Henry concentrated on character building. This training gave the Wildcats an edge in all their games. This tradition has been carried down through the years as an important and satisfying part of the game.

Where did this man come from? Well, he had a life time of career changes that are very interesting. Born in Loveland, Ohio on October 4, 1883, his genealogical "roots" were English and German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania in the 1770's. He survived a near fatal burst appendix at age 15 with a life-saving operation on the kitchen table in his families' home. His will to survive this trauma was a forerunner for Henry Lever to be a fighter, determined to succeed.

Henry graduated from Loveland, Ohio High School in 1901 and continued on at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, graduating in 1908. His daughter Margaret Lever Dement of Madras, Oregon, reports that her father studied "Engineering, Math and Football. In those early days, football was extremely rough and tough with practically no uniform or head-gear protection." However, he did have many other interests; as: Sports Editor, Literary Society, Scientific Literature Club and the YMCA. He was also track team captain and Phi Delta Theta fraternity president. Dement said that Henry was a "Big Man on Campus!"

Henry Lever's first job was at Valley City State University in North Dakota. During this time he also served as Assistant Athletic Director at Ohio University, At Valley City he met Marguerite E. Sherburne. They were married in 1909 and raised a family of nine children.

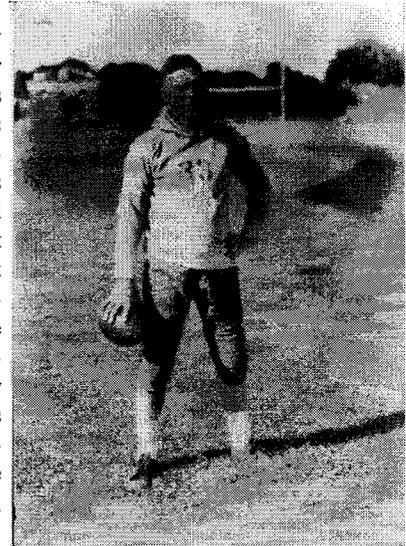
After three years in "frigid" North Dakota the Levers moved to Missouri to farm which didn't work out. He then got a job coaching at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. About 1916, the family moved to Alberta, Canada with dreams of becoming rich in the newly irrigated dry land prairies. Dry weather made farming difficult so Henry used his engineering abilities working on the Lethbridge Northern Alberta Irrigation Project.

After 5 years in Canada the family moved back to the States, settling in Yakima, Washington to farm. However, teaching and coaching kept surfacing so they moved to the Oregon coast finding a home and teaching job in Myrtle Point. Here he taught Algebra and Geometry and coached football, basketball, baseball and track at Myrtle Point Union High School. His work there did not go unnoticed by Linfield College. President Leonard W. Riley hired Lever in 1930. It was a wise decision. Henry served the college until 1949 as Athletic Director and coach of all sports. He became known as the "Grand Old Man" of Linfield athletics and to some, "The Fox". Some said his initials, H.W. stood for "Hard Work".

During summers, he helped recruit Linfield students, including Irene Hartman, who later became the wife of Linfield President Harry Dillin. She remembered Lever serving during World War II as Linfields' purchasing agent and college commons manager.

Margaret Lever Dement said her father was blessed with good assistant coaches during his time at Linfield. They included Orile Robbins, Wayne Harn and Hal Smith. Robbins is best known as a successful head football coach at McMinnville High School.

Henry Lever died July 1, 1980, after being hit by a truck as he was running across Highway 97 in Madras, Oregon. He was 97 years old and had spent his retirement years as the oldest active real estate broker in Oregon. The motto for his real estate firm, The Henry Lever Agency, was "Service with Integrity." That could have been a Motto for him all of his life.



Information provided by Tim Marsh, Pullman, Washington

A Great Mystery Remains Unsolved

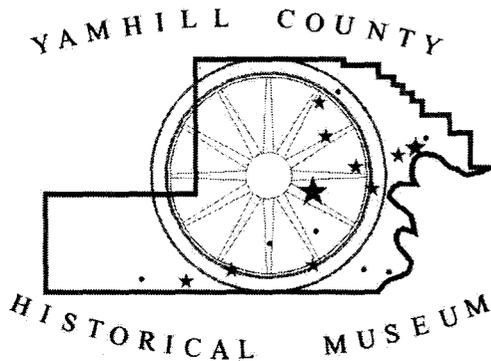
Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the box of beige #20 11"x17" paper used in publishing this newsletter is encouraged to disclose the location. It was last stored in the Library in the Log Building. We were forced to purchase a new box of paper for this purpose, and due to the disappearance, the new supply will not be stored in the museum. If you know what happened to this paper please let a Board member know.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Lafayette Oregon 97127

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Effective May 31, 2002

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15
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<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 notice inside your newsletter, you're at the end of your membership term!

Calendar of Events

Board of Directors: 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 11th. Our next regular monthly meeting will be held 6:30 p.m., October 11th, both at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in McMinnville. Our program will be presented by Katherine Huit on the Barlow, Gaines and Johnson families, some of her pioneering ancestors.

Future Events:

► **Oct. 15, Harvest Festival at Museum, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.**

► **Nov. 5th, Heirloom Quilt show/Tea party at the Museum 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**

New Members/Renewals: We welcome new members Trudy Dick, Kyle Swift, and Ruth Killius and renewing members (County Commissioners), and Trish Zakocs. Thanks for supporting our organization. We invite you to attend our meetings, visit our museum and become more involved in our local history!