

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

April 2007



March Board Meeting Highlights

The board met on March 13th, with eight Directors present and our new Director present. Under the Treasurers Report, Ken Williams reported a general fund balance of \$8,560.32, a Building fund balance of \$52,752.21 and the Miller fund balance of \$13,085.67. We also have three CDs amounting to about \$100,000. We are seeking a CPA to perform a professional audit of our finances. The board authorized Shirley to sign a contract with the architect ex post facto. Ken encouraged volunteers to use the forms in the museum which allow him to know which funds are to receive donations, and from which funds payments are to be made on invoices. Under the Museum report, the board approved acceptance of a baby grand piano (donor David Inman) and a restored Reed pump organ (donor Col. Russell Barner). Storage of these items will temporarily be at other locations. Membership chair Gloria Lutz reported 186 members, with 52 of those being life members. Nancy Mahi inquired about the cash register which was purchased some time ago, wondering why it has not been put to use. Katherine Huit said she will look into training on the unit, so it can be used in the future. Nancy also asked about researchers paying admission fee at the museum and the board confirmed that all non-member visitors to our museum are expected to pay our admission fee. Dan asked about artifacts from foreign countries, and the board will be preparing a list of these and making a new policy regarding how they are handled in the future. Shirley reported some water and rodent damage in the basement of the Church. She also mentioned she is looking for someone to replace the secretary's position vacated by Annita Linscheid recently. Gloria reported on the Spirit Mountain grant request. There was some discussion on installing a wireless network in the museum. Katherine gave her Director's report, along with a number of proposed action items, but time restraints did not permit the board to take any action on them. A special board meeting was scheduled to give consideration to her proposals. Katherine Huit, Secretary pro tem.

A Remembrance

The Ruth Stoller Research Library is grateful to the Champoeg Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution for a gift of \$50.00 donated in the name of the late Crystal Rilee. The research staff decided on three books which would be most useful for research projects: "Clackamas County Pioneers - Volume I & II" and "Polk County Pioneers". Along with these books we added "Benton County Pioneers" all from author, Shirley O'Neil. Our Research Library continues to grow and we think Crystal would be pleased. Again, we thank the Champoeg Chapter DAR. Jean Sartor - Book Lady

From Your President

Hi Everyone,

Saturday, March 17th I had the pleasure of attending the dedication ceremony of, "The Evergreen Compass Rose and Patriots' Plaza" at the new Evergreen IMAX site. The compass rose, has been used by navigators since the 1300's. In aviation, the compass rose is used to help the pilot dial in their onboard compasses before takeoff. It was a beautiful day with all the dignitaries: a general, a congressman, the Portland Highland Guard Police Band. Mr. Smith and etc. With all of these the people that impressed me the most were the VOLUNTEERS!!

Their presence was very obvious but also their pride in their product and their part in this museum. They had on their green vests with patches that probably denote their length of service and other specified fields. It shows that no matter where you volunteer, whether it be a large or small, an expensive or lesser facility, one of the most important aspects of the a museum or organization is and always has been, the VOLUNTEERS!!

As if the Society didn't already know that!!

The Covered Wagon program that Gloria Lutz, Shirley McDaniel and Carolyn Stastny have been promoting has been so highly received that they find themselves almost over committed. It is not so much that they can't handle the requests but they desperately need help with the program. It is a very wonderful job which only requires you to sit in a rocker, visit, knit or just observe or perhaps direct the students and answer questions. If you are looking for a pleasant morning or afternoon and would dress the part of a pioneer lady, gent. or child, please give Gloria a call - 503/472-7563 or e-mail her at glutz@onlimemac.com. She has the schedule and would be glad to talk to you. Be a part of this great program and with your help it will continue to grow.

Thanks. Shirley

New Books Available for Purchase

Next time you visit the Museum stop in the Research Library and take a minute to look at these new additions to our books available for purchase: Our own Lorna Grauer has compiled a comprehensive book of interesting facts and pictures about her ancestor, George Kirby Gay, an early Willamette Valley pioneer. A great deal of research has gone into this book and she includes original documents, photos and personal accounts from the family. Look for this book, "George Kirby Gay - A Scrapbook of Memories".

Another Oregon author, June Reynolds has written an interesting book entitled "Sherwood: A sense of Time and Place". Starting with the first settlers, she traces the history of the Sherwood area to World War I. She discusses many of the pioneer families and I notice that several of the photos used in the book come from Crystal Rilee's collection. Jean Sartor

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 - 2007**President**

Shirley Venhaus
472-7328

Vice President

Lorna Grauer
843-3251

Secretary

(Position vacant)

Treasurer

Ken Williams
835-3110

Membership Secretary

Gloria Lutz
472-7563

Corresponding Secretary

Marjorie Owens
843-3081

Board of Directors

Eileen Lewis
835-7531

Shirley McDaniel
662-3528

Dan Linscheid
843-2625

Colin Armstrong
472-6489

Program Director
Barbara Knutson
843-2069

Volunteer Coordinator

Louise Heindl
662-4218

Newsletter
Dan Linscheid

Car Pool Coordinator

Joanne Watts
835-5893

Librarian

Jean Sartor
472-6312

**MUSEUM
WINTER HOURS:**

Sept thru May:
Saturdays &
Wednesdays 10 a.m. to
4 p.m. or by appointment
605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308

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YCHS

Email: yamhillhistory@onlinemac.com

Twila Byrnes

Always ready to participate in any YCHS event, Twila made us all a part of her active life. She was a member of our organization for about 20 years, and began giving tours of the church building for school children in 1994.

Twila taught third, fourth and fifth grade students in an earlier life, and she was highly respected and loved by her students. Our own Marjorie Owens was a fourth grade student of Twila's in 1943. One of Beverly Cleary's books contains a photo of the author together with Elma Shuck and Twila in a 1927 parade float.

Twila spent time growing up in the historic Lee Laughlin house in Yamhill, and as a young lady, she married Harry in the living room of that house.



Soft spoken and never critical of anyone, she was said to have always been able to see the point of view of others. Twila also worked in constructing and changing various displays in the church,

most recently with Jean Sartor. Jean has expressed her friendship and respect for Twila and considers herself blessed for having known her.

Active and long time volunteers of this organization have become very much like family members to each other, sharing in both the joys and grief we encounter in our day-to-day experiences. When one of us is called away it is like losing a family member. We will all miss the kindly disposition and loving demeanor of Twila Byrnes. Our thoughts and prayers are with Harry and the family.

Oregon's Sesquicentennial Celebrations

Note from the Executive Director: *We are developing plans to participate in Oregon's Sesquicentennial Celebration both at the Historic Lafayette Site and the New Museum Complex! If you have ideas or suggestions – or if you would like to be a part of a special event committee for the opening our new complex, please let me know . . . Katherine Huit*

On March 13, 2007, Governor Ted Kulongoski officially launched preparations for the 150th anniversary of Oregon's admittance into the Union. The nonprofit Oregon 150 will plan the 2009 celebration to appreciate the past, celebrate the present, and imagine the future. The celebration will begin February 14, 2009 and last through the fall of 2009.

"In 2009, Oregon will celebrate 150 years of statehood. The sesquicentennial will be a unique opportunity to honor our past and all of the people who created the quilt of natural beauty, urban and rural communities, diverse economy, and original thinking that we call Oregon," the Governor said. "But just as important, our 150th birthday is a chance to look forward and share with each other our hopes and dreams for Oregon's future."

To prepare for Oregon's 150th birthday, the Governor created Oregon 150, a nonprofit organization, led by motivated citizens from across the state serve as its Board of Directors. The goal of this volunteer Board is to inspire people across the state to remember, experience, and celebrate Oregon and, together, create a robust and sustainable future.

"This milestone birthday celebration should encourage Oregonians to explore the fascinating history and rich bounty that makes our state so special," said Barbara Sidway of Baker City, newly elected President and Chair of Oregon 150.

The Board's mission statement is supported by a strong set of values, including ensuring that Oregonians across the state of every age, income, and ethnic background participate in the sesquicentennial, and that the sesquicentennial will contribute to the welfare of Oregon through sustainable legacies in our communities.

"Although the Oregon 150 Board will help guide critical program and funding decisions for our 2009 sesquicentennial, my vision is for community organizations, schools, town and tribal governments, and individual citizens on the local level to come up with ideas and plan celebrations that fit their needs," said Governor Kulongoski. "Oregon's 150th birthday should reflect the rich diversity and history that has shaped who we are today."

The full roster of the Oregon 150 Board, including 29 citizen Board Members and 24 Ex Officio members, as well as additional information about the group, can be found on their website: www.oregon150.org.

As I take on the position as the Yamhill County Historical Society & Museum's executive director, I wish to thank the Board of Directors for their faith in my abilities. I also wish to thank the membership and volunteer corps, without which there would be no Yamhill County Museum.

This Museum holds a treasure trove of artifacts, library and archive materials! The collecting accomplishments over the last 50 years – from the founders on down the line to our current membership and volunteers – are truly astounding. In the museum world, volunteers are among the greatest assets – a successful organization's heart and soul, so that they too are treasures like the artifacts, library and archive materials.

Over the last several years, the Yamhill County Museum volunteers have done some outstanding preservation work, which is one of the most important steps in stewardship of museum collections. A core group of volunteers also provide research assistance to Museum patrons – both in person and remotely – and serve as tour guides through the Church, Log Cabin and Barn buildings at the Lafayette site. Volunteers conduct educational opportunities through outreach programs – such as the Covered Wagon site visits, while others plan our member programs, bringing in speakers on a wide range of topics relating to our local community.

Another group of volunteers continue the planning necessary for the development of a new museum complex in which to house the Museum's treasures for the enjoyment of future generations. It is truly amazing what this group has accomplished over the last three years – they have provided the Museum with a roadmap into the future! In short, the membership should be very proud of *all* of its volunteers – they all deserve a strong round of applause for their accomplishments!

Over the next several months I will divide my time between the historic Lafayette site and our future museum complex. I will get to know our volunteers - their areas of interest and responsibility. I would like to exchange ideas with members and volunteers alike as we work toward development of future exhibits at the new complex.

My priorities and primary goals, as we begin this journey, are to raise awareness about this fabulous organization – within the greater Yamhill County community – and develop the new site. When I am not in Lafayette, I will be working off-site to develop an increased corps of volunteers, members and supporters that will help us build our new complex and operate both sites at least five days out of seven – especially weekends! We will need more tour guides, some restoration workers, and those interested in exhibit, marketing, and fundraising work– as well as additional volunteers with preservation skills. Do I have any takers?

In essence, we are building a team who will work together synergistically in support of our mission as a non-profit educational and public service organization engaged

to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County.

This team will help the Museum accomplish its goal of building and operating a new complex, which will serve as a Museum and place of learning, while at the same time maintaining the historic Lafayette site for special events and exhibits.

Thus far the Yamhill County Historical Society and Museum has done a fabulous job of collecting and preserving – tasks which shall continue into the future and which fulfill the *protect and preserve* portions of our mission statement. The new complex will enable the Museum to serve as a community resource for learning – to achieve the *share the history and heritage* portion of the mission statement, through interpretative and interactive exhibits and programs, using its Permanent Collection to illustrate the story of Yamhill County.

I look forward to getting to know our members and volunteers better in the coming months – and years! Stay tuned for opportunities to participate in the exciting activities and developments. The best is yet to come!

It's a beautiful day in Yamhill County!



Groundbreaking Ceremony And Farm Equipment Activity

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Date: Saturday, April 14th

A group of 15 volunteers, coordinated by Chuck Kadell, using antique farm machinery, will be planting an oat crop on the original 5 acre parcel. The Volunteers will plow a portion of this tract using vintage Allis-Chalmers, Minneapolis-Moline, John Deer, Farnall, Oliver, Ford and Cockshutt tractors and implements, followed by planting seeds for a new crop of oats. When the time is ripe, volunteers will return with additional equipment to harvest the crop for delivery to market. All proceeds from the sale of the crop will go to the Historical Society.

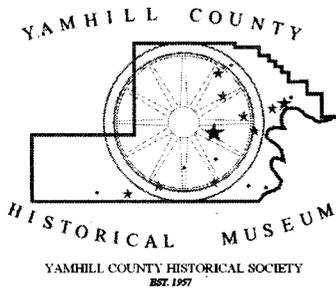
A ceremony at that time will also mark the start of the first phase of new museum improvements: the Agricultural Building.

You are invited to attend this get-together!
If it is raining that morning, the event will be postponed to a later date.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Lafayette Oregon 97127



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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
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<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15
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<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. New members can prorate dues monthly from the above table. Membership dues, artifact donations and gifts are tax deductible.

Members receive the Westside newsletter and access to our research library and museum 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 paid your annual membership dues last July, please contact Gloria Lutz at 472-7563. Rates Effective May 31, 2002.

Whats Happening

Our next regular monthly meeting will be held 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 10th, at the Christian Church in Dayton. Our Board meets at 4:30, same place and date. Our program this month will be, "Old Dayton Houses", by Judy Girard.

Other Events:

► **April 14th:** Groundbreaking Ceremony and Farm Equipment activity at the new museum site on Durham Lane will start at 10:00 a.m. (weather permitting—see details in this issue)

► **May 8th:** General meeting at the Yamhill Mormon Church, featuring Gordon Zimmerman on "Memories of Yamhill"