

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society



Farm Fest a Great Success!



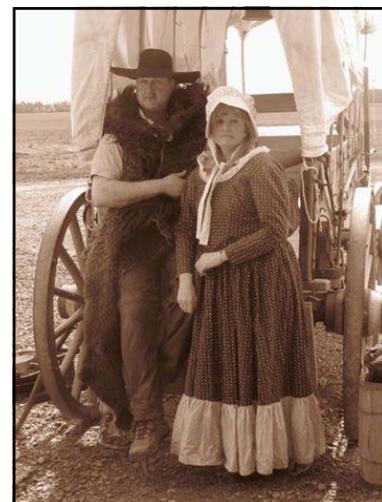
Over 600 people attended Farm Fest on Saturday, April 10, and all seemed to have a great time experiencing farming history, watching the parade of tractors and

- Rebecca Riggs and Linfield education students from Bob McCann's class who provided activities for our Pioneer Kids
- Yamhill County Mounted Posse for parking assistance
- Boy Scout Troop 260 for helping with parking and for cooking the food, including desserts made in old-time dutch ovens over coals
- Yamhill County Genealogy Society for providing coffee, pastries, and cookies
- Yamhill Fire Department for EMT services (thankfully none needed, but we're glad they were there!)
- Branch 15 for bringing over their stationary "hit and miss" engines to display, and holding their group meeting after Farm Fest with approximately 50 attending
- The sawmill and blacksmith folks who showed just what it took to do this type of work years ago!
- And to the Farm Fest planning committee... Cliff and Pam Watts, Gloria Lutz, Dave Cruickshank, Chuck and Carlene Kadell, Mel Kelchner, Wayne Beckwith, and Shirley Venhaus.

teams, eating great food, tapping their toes to old-time music, and checking out the displays in the Restoration Shop. The ground was too wet for plowing by tractors, but the horses, mules and their owners provided a great demonstration as they plowed the ground in front of the Heritage Center. Several new members joined YCHS that day and others made donations to the Heritage Center.

A special thanks to all the YCHS members who participated in making Farm Fest another great day for the community! In addition to our many members who helped, we very much appreciate these volunteers:

- Newberg VFW for the flag raising
- The Mavericks for providing old-time music
- Cynthia Christensen who brought chicks, birds, and a turkey for display and petting (a very popular area!)



May General Meeting and Potluck



Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2010
Time: 6:00 pm Potluck, 7:00 Program
Program: Karen Sitton-Saxberg
Location: 7th Day Adventist, 1500 Old Sheridan Rd., McMinnville

Book of the Month

Tales from the Past is Jim and Reita Lockett's readable collection of essays about Yamhill County Pioneers. This book was the basis for the YCHS's **Secrets of the Past—Third Street Unveiled**. It is for sale at the Museum for \$15.95.

- Nancy Thornton

Presidents Letter

Hello everyone! As usual, YCHS had a delicious pot luck at our general meeting this month. We also had a fine program given by Joyce Colling on the history of Dundee, Oregon.

I know I have mentioned this before, but it really is true that we could double our membership this year if each one of us would sign up just one new member! My husband and I have pledges from ten people so far this year.

Farm Fest was held on April 10 and was a huge success by all accounts! It was estimated that there were about 600 visitors. I want to thank the YCHS Board of Directors for manning both the information booth and the membership

table. We also had Milly Armstrong and Dina Nuxol doing volunteer duty. Dina and I were classmates at Linfield.....quite a while ago!

Shirley Venhaus will be having knee surgery and we all wish her well and a speedy recovery.

The May general meeting will be at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in McMinnville at 6:00 P.M. and Karen Sitton-Saxberg will be giving the program. She says it will be a surprise so you should plan on being there.....if you like surprises!

Carolyn Meeker, President

Board Meeting ~ A Condensed Version of Unapproved Minutes ~ April 14, 2010

- Photography Project—Jennifer Sokol-Blosser gave a presentation about the cataloging of photographs at the Lafayette Museum and the selling of copies of the photographs. Jennifer stressed the potential for commercial clients. She will be putting together policies, procedures, will be starting a budget as well as drawing up a contract for the proposed partnership with Pacific Art and Framing Gallery. All this will be presented to the board on May 12th.
- Volunteer Report—There will be a large group of 25 visitors coming from out of state. Marjorie has been participating in a presentation at the Newberg library.
- Farm Fest—Carolyn received information from Pam Watts. We had at least 600 guests and took in over \$900.
- Treasurers Report—This month's report included the budget worksheet for 2010 with the check register showing all payments. Discussion was held on the need to separate accounts for different committees such as book binding and the Photography Project so we can track funds more easily. It was decided to dedicate \$8000 for future grant writing by Cascadia Consulting.
- The Child Protection Policy was adopted—“No volunteer can ever be alone with a child who visits one of our activities, events, or museums.”
- Conflict of Interest Policy—(The conflict of interest survey was added to the policy.) Annually all board members will fill out a conflict of interest survey, sign, and return to the secretary to be filed.
- Grant Writing Policy—Kim agreed to chair a grant review committee. Shirley will work with Kim to create a policy for this committee.
- Whistleblower Protection Policy—Discussion was held on the creation of a Whistleblower Audit Committee that would be responsible for investigating any situation that arose. The policy was amended to include the audit committee.
- Insurance Report—The insurance committee purchased our new policy on March 15, with Philadelphia Insurance Co. The annual premium is \$11,101. For this we are covered for \$4,625,000 on property, \$1,000,000 on artifacts and farm equipment, and \$1,000,000/\$2,000,000 for general liability.
- IRS Form 990—The board went through the 12 page form and Schedules A, B, D, and O. Questions were noted, and Carolyn will present them to Carol Van Houten. Carol, our accountant, is scheduled to attend our May 12th board meeting.
- The need for outdoor lighting was discussed for the Miller Museum. Don Hurlless will acquire and install a new motion sensor light.
- Audit committee—The new business plan states that we are to have a mandatory audit. A show of audits are needed when applying for large grants. Discussion was held and a motion passed to establish a standing audit committee to research and present information on prices and services available for a full audit. Money was set aside for the cost of the audit. Kim will start preparing records from the last 2 years for the audit.
- It was clarified that while the Miller Museum is open, at least two volunteers are required to be present.
- The next board meeting will be at 4:00 Wednesday May 12 at the Lafayette Museum.

Historic Lafayette Museum

605 Market Street/P.O. Box 484 Lafayette, OR 97127

Hours:

Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday 10 am to 4 pm
Or by appointment 503-864-2308

Heritage Center

11275 SW Durham Lane McMinnville, OR 97128

Hours:

Saturday—10 am to 3 pm

Meet the Board

Shirley E. McDaniel grew up near Cherry Grove, Oregon and went to school in Cherry Grove and Gaston. She graduated from Oregon College of Education (now WOSU) and taught first grade at Central School in Newberg for three years. She taught in McMinnville for 31 years, first in a second grade class at Columbus for one year and then at Adams School's first grade until she retired in 1991.



During her retirement she has learned to do bobbin lace (taking some lessons in Belgium). She now demonstrate this skill at county fairs, the state fair and area festivals. Other hobbies include quilting, knitting, crocheting, tatting, and reading.

She lives on a hazelnut farm in Yamhill with her food processor husband, Byron. They have one son, Mark, who lives in Portland and works at Reed College Library.

Shirley has belonged to the Yamhill County Historical Society for many years and has served on the board off and on during that time. Her current term is completed in December 2010.



Theresa Berthelsdorf: Hi! Being new to the area, I joined the YCHS to learn some of the history of the area and to make new friends. My husband, Victor grew up in Portland and our Muddy Valley farm has been in the family since the 1960s. We married and moved here from Florida in 2006, but my folks are still in Florida, so we go back and forth a lot. The house we live in was built in 1870 but I haven't had the time to research it yet. I know there must be some information in our Miller Museum archives. Thank you for voting for me- I love Yamhill County and am enjoying my involvement as secretary of the YCHS.

Book Review:

Kaleidoscope, by Laura McMasters and Wendy Thompson, is a handy reference book with maps, natural drawings, and guides for outings in our local area.

Laura and Wendy grew up in McMinnville and enjoyed a childhood playing in Cozine Creek. They have many child-friendly ideas—yet information that adults would welcome as a reference book. The book sells for \$25 at the Lafayette Museum.

- Nancy Thornton

My Morning Walk

My morning walk begins in the dark.
We greet each other then proceed with our three mile trek.
Our flash lights mark the narrow beam that we follow.

Like a photo or view gradually develops.
Vague outlines in gray and black
With reflections of light.
—A rosy tint on the horizon.
A gradual lighting of the sky.
The crest of the Cascades outlined the east;
True colors on the tree tops;
Seeping down
To chase the night away.

What treats will there be the rest of the day?

Hope your day goes well.

Nancy Thornton

Mission Statement

The Yamhill County Historical Society (YCHS) is a not-for-profit educational and public service organization engaged to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County.

Vision Statement

YCHS provides residents of surrounding communities the opportunity to play an enthusiastic and informed role in activities that result in an appreciation of local history and an on-going dialog about current issues.

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Preserving our Past, Enriching our Future

May 2010 Happenings



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Locations: 5/1-30: Pioneer Days—Heritage Center 5/11: General Meeting —7th Day Adventist, 1500 Old Sheridan Rd., McMinnville 5/12: Board Meeting —Lafayette Museum						1 Lafayette Museum open 10—4 Heritage Center open 10—3
2	3	4	5 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	6	7 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	8 Lafayette Museum open 10—4 Heritage Center open 10—3
9 Mothers Day 	10	11 YCHS 6:00 P.M. General Meeting	12 Board Meeting Lafayette Museum open 10—4	13	14 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	15 Lafayette Museum open 10—4 Heritage Center open 10—3
16	17	18	19 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	20 Earth Day	21 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	22 Lafayette Museum open 10—4 Heritage Center open 10—3
23	24	25	26 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	27	28 Lafayette Museum open 10—4	29 Lafayette Museum open 10—4 Heritage Center open 10—3
30	31 Memorial Day 					

YCHS Upcoming Events

- June 9, 2010—Board Meeting
- July 14, 2010—Board Meeting
- August 7-8, 2010—Harvest Fest
- August 11, 2010—Board Meeting
- August 15, 2010—Annual Member Picnic
- September 8, 2010—Board Meeting
- September 14, 2010—General Meeting
- September 18, 2010—Treasures in the Attic
- October 12, 2010—General Meeting
- October 13, 2010—Board Meeting
- November 9, 2010—General Meeting
- November 10, 2010—Board Meeting
- December 8, 2010—Board Meeting
- **DECEMBER 12, 2010—ANNUAL MEETING**

Preparing for Harvest Fest



If you want to get in on all the fun, join us by volunteering for Harvest Fest August 7 and 8. As we e x p a n d

Harvest Fest activities, we need more folks to help. Contact Pam or Cliff Watts at 503-434-0490 to learn more about how you can have fun helping. You can be on a committee and help with planning, volunteer prior to the event for set up, or help the day of the event.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us at Harvest Fest. It is a great opportunity to visit the Heritage Center, experience old-time farming, visit with friends, and learn more about the rich history of our area!

A Visit to the Heritage Center

Some international students from George Fox University came to the Heritage Center on March 19th to learn about Oregon and Yamhill County history. Shirley McDaniel and Gloria Lutz showed them around the museum and explained a little about our young (compared to their) history and culture. Five of the students are from China and one is from Korea. Their teacher is Katrina McConaughy.



Secrets of the Past—Third Street Unveiled a Great Success!



On Saturday, April 17th, the Secrets of the Past tour committee had their first presentation, *Secrets of the Past—Third Street Unveiled*. There were over 40 in attendance for this wonderful show presented by YCHS's Kory Knutz.

Kory talked about John G. Baker, the Star Mill, the arrival of the first bank, railroad and pressured water system, then talked about several of the historic buildings on McMinnville's Third Street. After his presentation, Kory led an animated guided tour of Third Street.

A very special thank you to Cindy from Third Street Pizza for donating the use of her facility.

Please mark your calendars for our next tour; *Secrets of the Past—A Walk Through Dayton's Infamous History* on June 19th, 2010. More information to follow in the next newsletters.

Advertise in the Newsletter

To help the historical society offset the expense of publishing this newsletter, we are now offering advertising space to local Yamhill County businesses. If you are interested in placing an ad, please contact the Newsletter Editor Tami Spears at tami@spearsintl.com.

We certainly do appreciate the business people who support the Yamhill County Historical Society. **Please support our advertisers.** These are local people who can benefit you with their service/products and help the historical society as well.

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Article from The News Register January 11, 2005

1850—1890: Glory days of river steamers

One transportation mode we often overlook in Yamhill County is the steam-powered riverboat of about 1805 to 1890.

Reminiscent of the days of the Mississippi River stern wheelers, Oregon's riverboats provided a needed and fairly luxurious form of travel for our early pioneers.

By 1850, abundant crops were being grown in the upper Willamette Valley. But getting them to market posed a serious problem.

Roads were not good, particularly in the wet months. During the fall harvest season, when crops needed to reach Oregon City and beyond, wagons were constantly becoming mired in mud.

James D. Miller of Linn City, aware of this problem, saw a way to help—and also to make some money for himself. So he started a water transportation service on the upper Willamette and Yamhill rivers in spring 1850.

He started with a 65-foot flatboat capable of carrying 350 bushels of wheat. The boat was manned by four Indian oarsmen who received \$16 a trip, taking one day downriver and two back.

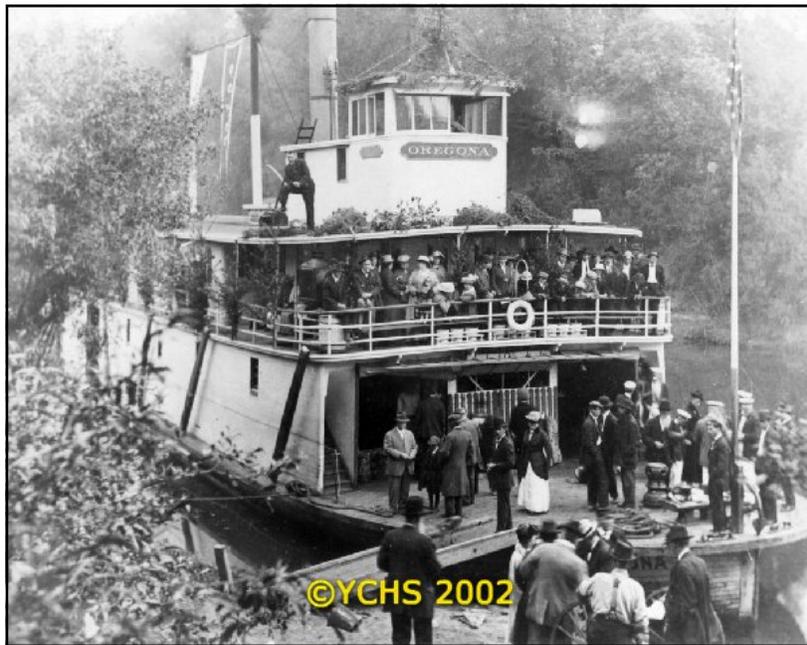
Charging 50 cents a bushel to carry wheat downriver to Canemah, and \$35 a ton to ferry other goods upriver on the return trip, became the foundation of a lucrative business.

Canemah was located just above the falls at Oregon City. From there, the goods could be portaged down the river easily.

During the first year, Miller made many profitable trips, running both ways with full loads.

In the summer of 1850, George A. Pease jumped into the business. The two men enjoyed racing each other up and back on the Yamhill and Willamette, each making great profits.

Unfortunately for them, the "Hoosier" a crude steamboat, appeared on the scene in May of 1851. The



Steamer "Oregon" at the Dayton Landing

bigger, faster, more efficient craft put Miller and Pease out of business.

The appearance of the "Hoosier" at Dayton and Lafayette was a great event for county residents, and they flocked to see it dock.

It was able to haul more freight cheaper and faster than the flatboats. And it was also able to transport people.

But the "Hoosier's" monopoly was short-lived. It lasted only one month.

On June 6, the "Washington" churned up the Yamhill to grab a share of the great wealth of grain bound for the lower Willamette River flour mills. For several months, they competed fiercely.

In September, the larger "Canemah" was launched at its namesake port. It was soon joined by the "Multnomah", an equally spacious side-wheeler.

These two steamers immediately began offering first-class accommodations for upper river residents bound for the Portland area.

In the next two years, the steamers "Oregon", "Shoalwater", "Portland" and "Wallamet" were added to the fleet plying the Yamhill and Willamette Rivers.

A boat ride was a great adventure for the early pioneers. Good food and lodging were enjoyed on an easy trip to Oregon City.

About this time, John T. Apperson became a pilot on a riverboat plying the lower Willamette between Oregon City and Portland—the "Clinton".

Working with him were his brother, A.J. Apperson, and an engineer named Edwin Fellows. The route was expanded to the upper Willamette, and the business prospered.

Fellows and John Apperson were on the "Clinton" when it burned to the water line in an explosion and fire in 1861. They bought the hull, rebuilt the "Clinton" and went into business as partners.

They soon added two other boats, the Yamhill and the "St. Clair". They used their fleet to haul freight and

Continued on page 7

Article from The News Register January 11, 2005
 1850—1890: Glory days of river steamers—Continued

passengers between McMinnville and Portland.

They usually had to stop at Dayton on the upriver leg. But during the winter, the water ran high enough to enable them to reach McMinnville.

It was a lucrative business. Soon they were able to add the "Union", a shallow draft boat that could more easily serve Yamhill County's largest city and seat of government.

The Civil War was under way, and Oregon businessmen were not prone to showing favorites. However, as the boat lay in dock at Lafayette one night, the partners decided to show their true colors and add an "n" to the name.

It didn't seem to hurt their business. They managed to conduct a booming trade on the Union through the first half of the 1860s.

At the time, Yamhill County wheat was selling in San Francisco for \$2 a bushel. But the farmers who raised it were getting only 74 cents of that. The rest was going to steamboat companies to cover shipping costs.

The farmers couldn't get look to the railroads for relief. Rail shipping was even more expensive in the Civil War period than steamboat shipping. So they



Steamer "Bonita" in Locks September 1900

looked for ways to reduce the cost of waterborne commerce.

The Yamhill Locks and Transportation Company was incorporated in December 1869 with capital stock of \$75,000. The goal was to build two locks, one near the mouth of the Yamhill and one at the falls below Lafayette, to foster faster, more efficient river commerce out of McMinnville.

But they needed help from the federal government. And Congress didn't get around to appropriating the money until June 4, 1897—almost 30 years later.

The locks, each 275 feet long with gates at each end, opened for business on September 21, 1900. But by then, the railroads were speeding passengers and freight to distant points more quickly as well as more cheaply.

By rail, a merchant could actually get to Portland, conduct his business and return home the same day. The wonderful era of the river steamers was over.

Boats continued to traverse the Yamhill into the 1920s but in ever-diminishing numbers. The glory years were gone, leaving few traces.

Written by Jim Lockett

Thank You New and Renewed Members!

New Members

Friend

Laurel & Janet Adams

Individual

Rebecca Riggs

Senior Family

Pat Rongey
 Marcie Rosenzweig & Lee
 Hendricksen
 Sandy & Chuck Lausche

**Senior/Educator/
 Student**

Sarah Frazier
 Sue Rohde
 Denise Murphy

**Renewing Members
 Family**

Walt & Jan Stahlnecker

Supporter

Donald Christopher

Senior Family

Pat & Ken Myers
 Leonard & Catherine
 Whitlow

Planning a Vacation?

Please notify Gloria Lutz
 (phone: 503-472-7563;
 email: glutz@onlinemac.com
 or write to YCHS,
 PO Box 484, Lafayette,

OR 97127). She can forward newsletters to your temporary address or hold them until you return home. Otherwise, your newsletter comes back to YCHS and we have to pay additional postage!!



*** If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please let Gloria Lutz (glutz@onlinemac.com) know. If you do, you receive the newsletter first, and you help the society save money on printing and postage.**



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Future

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Membership entitles you to:

- The West Side newsletter
- Free admission to the Museum & Library
- Access to genealogical & historical files
- Access to the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
- Monthly potluck & program for Members
- Notification of events & summer picnic

Annual Membership Levels (July 1—June 30)

Please Check One:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student/Educator \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family \$25 (age 65+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Basic) \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$55 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$125+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Builder \$250+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Benefactor \$500+ |

Make Checks payable to: **Yamhill County Historical Society.**
 Mail this form with payment to: **YCHS, P.O. Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127.**

By filling out this form, the member(s) give(s) the Yamhill County Historical Society the right to release their name and contact information to other members, to the Yamhill County Cultural Coalition, and/or for the purpose of obtaining grant funding. Member information will never be sold or released for any other purpose unless written consent is provided by the member. If the member does not wish to have their name and contact information released, please check here.

Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Gloria Lutz at 503.472.7563 or email: glutz@onlinemac.com

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