

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society



Shop Early for the Holidays!

Books make great gifts for friends and family. At the Historic Lafayette site we have many great books to choose from. I'll list just a few to get you thinking. Ray Bottenberg's books *The Bridges of Portland* and *The Bridges of the Oregon Coast* are just as interesting as his presentation during October's General Membership meeting. Three other local author's books would also make great gifts. Lorna Grauer's book about George Kirby Gay, and Gordon Zimmerman's *A Song of Yamhill* (and his music CD *Tenor Gordon Zimmerman Sings Again*) are of interest to County resident and outsiders alike. Also, Jim and Reita Lockett's *Tales from the Past* has always been a favorite! Come on out on a Wednesday or Saturday and get an early start on your holiday shopping!

~Jean Sartor (aka *The Publication Lady*)

George Fox University Share Day

Students participating in George Fox University's Share Day activities visited the Yamhill County Historical Society on September 5, 2007 and provided volunteers with much need assistance in tidying the Lafayette site, and packing up items left from the garage sale at the McMinnville site.



D. Hosington / YCHS

Pictured L-R, front row: Kurt Taylor, Maria Bautista, Janeth Gutierrez, Gloria Foltz (George Fox University Administrator), and Alison Comfort; back row: Mariah G. Carrillo, Amy Kluge, Abbie McCracken, Josh Enobakhare, Jake Weber, and YCHS volunteer Patsy Miller.

October Happenings

Historic Lafayette Site

A stop at the Log Cabin this month really puts one in an autumn mood. The ladies have cleverly used artifacts like old fruit jars, other dishes and old linens to create a fall atmosphere. Visitors who come for tours will find it very inviting as will those who come for research reasons.



K. Huit / YCHS

Durham Lane Site

On October 23, construction workers poured the concrete slab for two-thirds of the floor at the western end of the agriculture / timber building's exhibit hall. At press time, the plywood forms for the concrete walls were taking shape and by the time of our November 11 meeting, more steel framework will rise skyward. Site visitors will notice signs posted that read "Caution: Hard Hat Area", so if you want to walk around while the work is happening, be sure to check in at the office to borrow a hard hat.

You Never Know Until You Ask...

I'm always looking for answers for others in our Research Library, but now I need help! Do you have any of the following items for our Library?

- 📖 Pre 1950s phone books or directories relating to Yamhill County
- 📖 Pre 1950s obituaries or funeral programs we can keep or copy
- 📖 Yamhill County city or farm directories

Thanks for your help!

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Historic Lafayette Site

605 Market Street / PO Box 484

Lafayette OR 97127

Phone: 864-2308

yamhillhistory@onlinemac.com

Museum Hours:

October thru May:

Wednesday & Saturday

10 am to 4 pm

Or by appointment

Durham Lane Site

11275 SW Durham Lane

McMinnville, OR 97128

503-472-5130

ychsdirector@onlinemac.com

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday, 9 - 5

From Your President

Dear Members & Friends,

A group of volunteers serving on the Bylaws Committee have been working the last several months to update the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of YCHS. Remember, these are 50-years-old, so some just don't apply, some we've outgrown, and some required were not included. These two documents must be consistent with each and follow the laws of the State of Oregon. The Articles must be filed with the State of Oregon and the Bylaws with the Board of Director's Secretary .

The Committee first reads the comments or the contents page by page, then makes changes until a draft is completed. Then they do the process over again to get a proposed copy for members to approve. The Committee hopes to have the draft available at the December general Membership meeting so you can pick up your copy to review. If you have comments or questions you can contact me or other members of the Bylaws Committee (see Committee list below).

Haven't the fall colors been beautiful?

Sincerely, Shirley

Bylaws Committee

Frank Dummer, Chair: 503-864-2637

Shirley McDaniel: 503-662-3528

Colin Armstrong: 503-472-6489

Marjorie Owens: 503-843-3081

Tonia Beebe: 971-237-4378

Shirley Venhaus: 503-434-0567

Katherine Huit: 503-472-5130

Aaron Warkentin: 503-472-6359

Did You Know?

In 1993, Verl and Dorothy Miller donated the Log Building to the Society. It was built on the Flying M Ranch and moved to Lafayette after a small rental belonging to YCHS was torn down. Many items belonging to the Millers are on exhibit in the Log Building. Verl's family owned a hop farm on the site that is now the Safeway Store in McMinnville.

We celebrated Verl's 90th birthday at the Log Museum. He passed away not long afterward. Dorothy passed away in 2002.

Unknown to the Society, the Millers set up an "endowment" with the Oregon Community Foundation that now maintains all three structures at the Lafayette site (the Poling Memorial Church, Log Museum, and Barn). This annual endowment allows YCHS to make many needed repairs. With a matching funds grant from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and careful use of the endowment money, we made several changes in the buildings. We re-roofed the Church, removed water from its basement, insulated it, rewired it, painted the exterior, and added window coverings. We also installed a cooling-dehumidifying system in the Log Building and recently had it refurbished and re-chinked.

We have indentified two major needs for the Church: a workable bathroom and a better heating-cooling system. We will address these issues in the future.

The Miller endowment allows for sustained operations of the three structures at our Historic Lafayette site. It pays the utility bills and insurance.

Benefactors, such as Verl and Dorothy Miller, are a blessing to a society such as ours.

Just thought you would like to know . . .

~ Shirley Venhaus, YCHS President

Newberg Church Uncovers Link to Its Past

By Patricia J. Ridenour

This year marks the Centennial Celebration of St. Peter Parish in Newberg, as well as several other parishes within the Archdiocese of Portland. A limited history existed at St. Peter's but no book published with details about the people and events that helped shape our church.

You never know where research for a book will lead you or whom you will meet in the process. Father Martinus Cawley, of Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey in Lafayette was a great source for a novice to begin their search. The local newspaper proved to be a good source and as did books recommended at a workshop on church history. At one point Father Martinus mentioned that he had come across a baptism in a book written by Harriet D. Munnich on St. Patrick Church in Muddy Valley. Father James Croke, a traveling priest recorded that he had baptized a six-month-old infant named Hannah Winters on "Chehalem Hill" on November 7, 1853.

Since Chehalem Hill was most likely referring to Chehalem Mountain in Newberg, the search was on to try to identify the family of the baptized child. The search led to the State Library in Salem, Yamhill County Historical Society, Yamhill County Surveyors Office, County Clerks Office and Tax Office in McMinnville, Gibbs Cemetery and a few internet sites.

All this research uncovered a pioneer family named Jacob and Anna Johanna Gubser, who emigrated from Switzerland in 1844 arriving on a ship called the Dublin in New Orleans. They settled in Davenport, Iowa for several years. Jacob and his brother, Anton, worked in the stone mason trade. In 1852 Jacob and Anna Johanna decided to move west with their seven children in search of land. They joined a wagon train formed in Des Moines, Iowa, using oxen to pull their two wagons, which carried their limited possessions and tools of his trade. Anna Johanna was pregnant when they left Iowa and had the child either on the way to or upon arrival in Oregon. After their arrival, she gave birth to seven more children, all of whom survived to adulthood. Along the way, their eldest daughter, Catherine, met her future husband, John Winters, a fellow traveler from Prussia. Once in Oregon, both Jacob Gubser and John Winters filed Donation Land Claims on Chehalem Mountain and began building their cabins. Additional research of land sale records helped in locating the site of the original homestead.

The search also led to family members who still live in Yamhill County and eventually to Lyn Gubser who currently resides in Virginia. Contact with Lyn Gubser confirmed the information already uncovered and the discovery that he had written an article containing the memories and observations of his grandfather and father, including an account of their trek west on the Oregon Trail.

St. Peter Church now has a book with a history that includes a family whose infant was, to date, the first child baptized within the modern boundaries of the parish. This year we are celebrating a milestone in the history of our church and now have a link to its beginnings. It is through the efforts of our former and current parishioners as well as the leadership of our pastors that our church continues to grow as we prepare for the future.

Welcome New Members!

Individual Debbie Clark, McMinnville Economic Development Partnership, and Eugene Stockhoff

Family Alan & Irene Tessman, Ed & Fran Savage, and John & Nancy Larsen

Friends Gary Crowell and John & Nancy Hare

Supporters Larry & Judy Anderson

Community Builders Kahren & Caroline Beniasians

Thank you Renewing Members!

Janis Tebow and Johnny Edwards

Do you have a question or comment related to YCHS Membership? If so, please contact

Gloria Lutz at 503-472-7563 or glutz@onlinemac.com.

Executive Director's Log

Contemplating upon a subject to write about this month, it occurred to me that we celebrate two holidays in November – and that both holidays bring forth thankfulness. Early November brings Veteran's Day. Late November brings with it the American Thanksgiving holiday – a traditional meal featuring favorite recipes handed down from generation to generation, and the gathering of family and loved ones.

Proclaimed 88 years ago, in 1919, Veteran's Day commemorates the end of World War I at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of the year 1918. President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation on that first anniversary, eulogizing allied soldiers lost during the war, referring to November 11 as Armistice Day. Also recognized as a holiday in the United Kingdom (Remembrance Sunday) and Canada (Remembrance Day), Armistice Day garnered its present moniker, Veteran's Day, in 1954, extending an honor to the veterans of World War II and Korea. Today, Veteran's Day honors veterans of all wars. I salute all YCHS Members who have served in our armed forces. Thank you!



As an historian, I often find myself documenting my surroundings – especially the changing countryside and wildlife – for future generations. Yamhill County agriculture used to feature the turkey industry. It is my understanding that wild turkeys disappeared from our rural areas quite some time ago; however, a few years

back, some enterprising souls reintroduced the turkey and today they once again roam the hills just outside McMinnville. Last fall, on my way home, I stopped along Peavine Road to photograph a wild Tom Turkey putting on quite a display for a number of hens. It wasn't until I downloaded the digital images onto my computer that I noticed the irony of what I'd captured. I'm sure the turkeys, if they could read, would fully appreciate the image – and if they were marketing executives, they might very well include the image in a clever advertisement promoting ham or beef for Thanksgiving dinner!



Seriously, though, we certainly have much to be thankful for this November. Our YCHS membership has increased and, in fact, our esteemed Treasurer, Ken Williams, noted during our last general meeting that our membership revenue is nearly twice that anticipated in the 2007 budget! Our members really do make a difference in our ability to preserve our past and enrich our future. Thank you so much to our new members and to those renewing their memberships.

We've been spreading the word about the good things happening in Lafayette and at our new site and recently spoke to the Yamhill County Farm Bureau about our plans. I am very happy to report the receipt of a \$10,000 donation from that organization dedicated to our new restoration and maintenance shop! Huge thanks goes to Dave Cruickshank and the Board of the Yamhill County Farm Bureau for this wonderful gift. A Restoration Committee, consisting of Dave, Cliff Watts and Chuck Kadell will begin meeting on November 9. If you are interested in becoming an active restoration and / or maintenance volunteer, please let me know by calling 503.434.5130 or emailing ychsdirector@onlinemac.com.

(continued on page 4)

Executive Director's Log (continued from page 3)

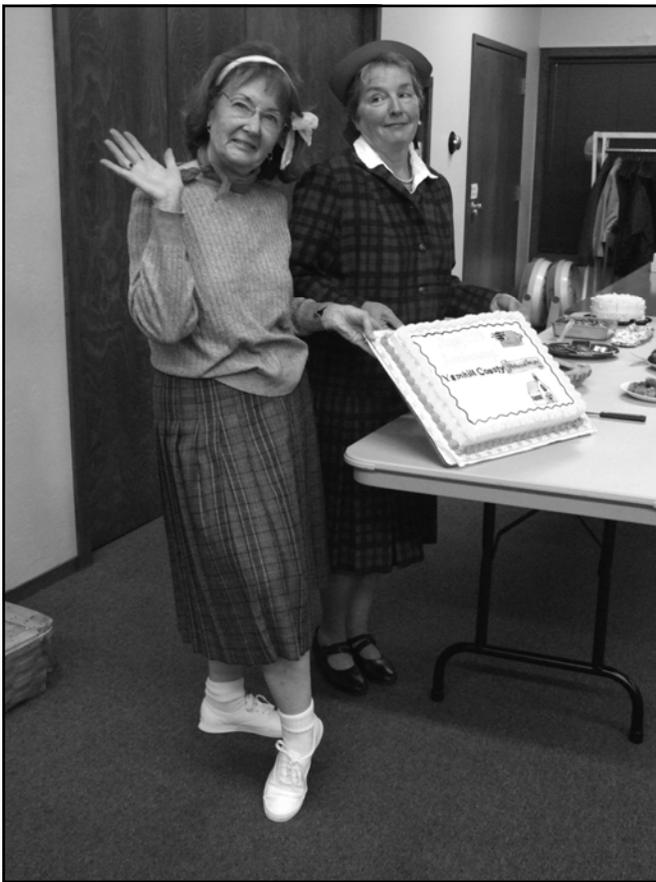
We've also seen an increase in the receipt of in-kind services and materials, including four tons of steel from Cascade Steel Rolling Mills of McMinnville, and a Holt Fork Lift from Kevin Durham, which will help immensely with moving heavy equipment and materials in our warehouse building and restoration shop. This support is truly appreciated and will go far in helping to realize the construction and operation of our new facility.

I look forward to seeing you on Veterans' Day for our Membership meeting and I send warm wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving from beautiful Yamhill County!

Cheers,

Katherine

50th Birthday Cake!



Tonia Beebe and Gloria Lutz provided a blast from the past for attending October 9, 2007 Membership meeting.

Our founders would be proud to know that their vision and passion for preserving Yamhill County's history lives on in all of us.

Happy Birthday
Yamhill County Historical Society!

Donations Keep Coming!

New agricultural artifacts recently joining the YCHS Permanent Collection include a 1930 Wilde Crawler Tractor donated by Robert Heater. This wonderful machine features a Model A engine and is one of 20 manufactured by the Wilde Machine Shop in Newberg for orchard work in Yamhill County. Also joining the Collection is a 1940 International WD-9 tractor donated by Gene Kerr of Lake Oswego. Larry Waide, of Newberg, contributed a wooden ladder used in local cherry orchards to access the tasty fruit. Thanks to these gentlemen for considering the Yamhill County Museum as a suitable home for these remarkable artifacts of local history, which will help to illustrate Yamhill County's rich agriculture stories in future exhibits.

Bud Mather of Sweet Home brought us an old splitting maul in mid October 2007. Robert Browning of Marysville, Washington, discovered the maul near the worksite of the Flora Logging Company before it was destroyed during the Tillamook Burn in the 1950s. This maul will help to illustrate Yamhill County's Logging history in a future exhibit at the new site and we are very thankful for receiving it as a donation.

YCHS also received an extraordinary collection of bound Harper's Magazines, dating to the 1850s! This gift came from the Viola Francis Trust through Judy Anderson, daughter of the late Senator Carl Francis and his wife Viola. Last month, readers learned that Senator Francis served upon the Society's original seven-member advisory committee.

We are truly fortunate that the above donors cared for these treasures over the years.

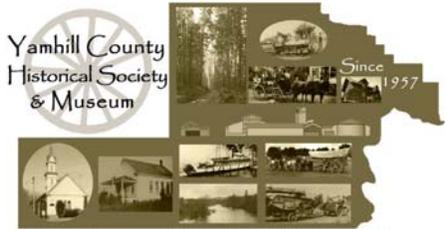
~Katherine Huit

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 484

Lafayette Oregon 97127

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

July 1 - June 30

Individual	\$ 15
Family	\$ 25
Friend	\$ 50+
Supporter	\$ 100+
Community Builder	\$ 250+
Community Benefactor	\$ 500+

Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society and mail them to YCHS, PO Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127. Annual memberships are tax deductible.

Members receive *The West Side* newsletter and access to the YCHS Museum and Ruth Stoller Research Library free of charge. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Gloria Lutz: 503-472-7563 or glutz@onlinemac.com.

Upcoming Events

November Meeting:

Date & Time : Sunday, November 11, 2 pm

Location: Seventh Day Adventist Church

Speaker: Carolyn McGanty

Subject: Murder Quilt

Note: The Board of Directors will meet at the Log Cabin on November 7, 2007 from 2-4 pm.

Annual Meeting:

Date & Time : December 11, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Seventh Day Adventist Church

Subject: Christmas Share & Tell

Bring a childhood toy & accompanying story for sharing during the program!