

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

September 2005

## From our President:

I knew the summer had gone fast when I was in Walmart and all the kids were buying school supplies. Sept we will begin our regular general meetings. So much has been going on with the Society it is hard to keep up. The picnic Aug. was well attended. Thanks to my husband Gene for directing parking. Everyone came and went without any serious happenings. We fenced the orchard for my flock of chickens so really cut down on the parking area. By the way we are getting 10 to 12 brown and green eggs a day. By changing the day to Sunday Gene & I celebrated another anniversary .

The Building Committee, which is working on developing the new site, now has a wonderful booklet with pictures and explanation of the plans. A mailing for all the members is scheduled to go out within the next 30 days. This will be a one-of-a-kind facility with something for everyone. We have received two beautiful quilts which were made in the 1800s. When you think of the conditions and difficulties of those times and see such beautiful work it really makes you admire the pioneer spirit of the women. You will be able to see these at a special Tea and Quilt Display on November 5th.

The Membership Chairperson is working on changing the format. The membership year will begin July 1st. This way all dues will be paid at the same time so you will have no doubt as to when yours need renewed. You will receive a membership card with information concerning the Society and the benefits of being a member. The Yamhill County Association of Realtor's auction is October 11<sup>th</sup>. Check for more information in the Newsletter. Harvest Festival is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>. Joanne Watts along with several volunteers are putting together this event.

If you attended the garage sale held at the Armstrong's residence last year you will be happy to learn that we are planning another for the summer of 2006. This will be held at the new building at the Highway 18 and Durham site. Donations will be accepted anytime as we now have room to store them. Contact any board member for more information. Looking forward to seeing you at the September general meeting . Shirley

## YAMHILL COUNTY ASS'N. OF REALTOR'S AUCTION

Each year the Realtors host an auction at the Golden Valley Brew Pub in McMinnville. Three names are chosen from a list of non-profit service groups. They are St. Barnabas Soup Kitchen, Yamhill Community Resource Center, and the Yamhill County Historical Society. This is a major fund raiser for YCAR and a lot of hours of hard work go into making this successful. Donations of everything you can imagine from trips to Hawaii, artwork, items large and small. Usually approximately \$15,000 is raised which is divided among the three chosen groups. There is a silent and open auction. The date for this event is October 11, 2005. Starting time is 5:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend as your support is appreciated. (submitted by Shirley V.)

## NEW BUILDING SITE UPDATE

Work on developing the new site continues. Letters explaining our proposed plans will go out in Sept. to the membership and everyone who may have an interest. I wish all of you could sit in on some of the meetings as you do deserve full knowledge of what the plans are. First off there is the need for more space. If you have been to the museum lately you could see the need for more room to display, work areas, and storage. This facility can only hold so much and still be usable for activities such as the Harvest Festival and like events. The church has been determined as unacceptable to house any fabrics, paper, photos or like items. Therefore all of these must be stored or displayed at the Log Museum. We are only able to accept smaller donations and this is becoming difficult. We need more volunteers to keep this museum open. What does a volunteer do when they work at the museum?

One of the major reasons for the new site is versatility. We would be able to provide space and activities for so many different groups. One of the main items we have considered is programs for our young people. Experiences that they could not get any where else: Farm equipment demonstrations, an original school house, blacksmith shop, covered wagon with emphasis on the Oregon Trail, restoration, preservation, and much more. All of these programs create interest from different groups who would be willing to volunteer.

Many people cannot understand why we would want such a large and expensive complex. To compete in the growth of the county and its activity we need to offer much more than just preserving and housing artifacts.

We now have a product that appeals to more than just that. Financing this will be a major task and take time. We will need the cooperation of not only the members but outside individuals, corporations, endowment funds, trusts and the list goes on. It is very important that we have the confidence and support from the membership. I know a lot of you doubt the need for such a facility. If you could just envision this county in 20 years or more think of the "Legacy" we would have left for future generations. Without room to grow we will remain ineffective. Serious consideration has been given all aspects of the site. The Steering Committee is not using funds from the Historical Society budget. We will not endanger the welfare or the future of the Society. If you read the Treasurer's report you will see the increase of income that has helped support our day to day activities. We are not going broke or on the verge of losing everything. Serious consideration is given by the Board of Directors to the daily activities and the budget. The Steering Committee answers to the Board of Directors. We have been given a wonderful opportunity to grow and be part of the future of Yamhill County. With hard work and your support this will happen. The Steering Committee. (submitted by Shirley V.)

*The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit tax exempt educational and public service*

**OFFICERS - 2004**President

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472-7328

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843-2069

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843-2625

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472-9631

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662-3528

Volunteer Coordinators

Carol Reid

Newsletter

Dan Linscheid

Car Pool Coordinator

Joanne Watts 835  
-5893

Librarian

Jean Sartor

**MUSEUM HOURS:**

**Sept. thru June:**

Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

or

By Appointment

605 Market Street

Lafayette Oregon

Phone: 864-2308

Email: yamhillhistory@  
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YCHS

***What is the Wednesday Workgroup and what are they working on?***

The Wednesday Workgroup is composed of volunteers who show up occasionally or every Wednesday to work on various projects pertaining to the Museum, our artifacts, the research library, housekeeping and preparation for various events. This is a very motivated and hardworking group, who can have fun doing their favorite tasks, and they welcome additional volunteers to join them. The jobs range from the tedious (such as filing papers) to cleaning and processing artifacts to protect them and ensure their longevity.

Ever wonder who keeps the bathrooms sparkling clean, folds and labels newsletters, removes full garbage bags, etcetera at the Museum? While the original focus of the group was on preservation, it has grown to be a "do what needs to be done" group. Volunteers love working on preservation because they care about preserving our wonderful collection of artifacts. The group understands that from the moment of their creation, all artifacts are vulnerable to physical deterioration. This process can be minimized by careful handling and storage in a clean, stable environment. Even though we are constrained by limited finances and workspace, we perform exhaustive research prior to beginning preservation programs. This group does not pretend to be professional archivists, but it keeps in constant touch with professionals who have the training and experience with various artifacts to guide us.

All textiles have been properly labeled, indicating its donor number plus a second "accession" number to identify it. These were hand-sewn onto the fabric with cotton tape. They were each cleaned by vacuuming through a vinyl screen, then they were photographed for the computer file, and finally they were placed in archival storage boxes marked with contents for easy retrieval. Our quilt collection received the same treatment, thankfully in time for Elma Shuck to see the process through to completion.

The photos have been a work in progress for a long time. They are now in archival sleeves in appropriately marked boxes. These will be removed from these sleeves one more time, to be scanned into the computer and entered into our new database, which is called Past Perfect. Any photos that were removed from albums will be replaced with a high quality copy while the originals will be stored in a much better environment than the original album.

The Bible collection has been indexed and placed in properly constructed archival phase boxes made by the volunteers, and they can now be easily identified without handling these precious books beyond the bare necessity. Preservation of maps, ledgers, abstracts and other paper artifacts is now underway. Surprisingly, this is the most expensive project to date because there is simply no way to cut costs.. Some things simply cannot be improvised. This project will be placed on hold pending additional funding, and the workgroup may cease functioning until additional money can be found.

Most artifacts are now in a better environment than they were several years ago, in part due to relocation of those subject to severe damage from high humidity, pollutants, insects and temperature swings to the Log Building, which is now air conditioned. We are now storing artifacts in proper enclosures and the utmost care is used in handling, exhibiting and reformatting collections. This will continue to be a laborious and messy task. The most cost effective way to establish longevity for our artifacts is to prevent or at least retard deterioration. No artifacts should be unnecessarily handled or touched. Our group uses white cotton gloves when handling collections, and we try to use proper display practices, based on consultation with professional preservationists.

Please stop by on any Wednesday and feel free to ask questions of the workers or even volunteer for a while. Submitted by the Wednesday Workgroup.

**Recent Happenings:** The annual **Watts Threshing Bee** was another great success, with approximately 200 people in attendance. This year featured a Tractor Parade. The parade during **Lafayette Heritage Days** featured **Shirley Venhaus** and **Shirley Kuykendall** riding in a convertible. Over thirty visitors we welcomed to the Museum during this festivity, where they enjoyed lemonade and cookies.

**Upcoming Events:** The Harvest Festival this year will feature an apple pie contest, pumpkin painting and an array of dried plants suitable for floral arrangements, plus gourds and cornstalks. The lacers will be present again this year. Members are requested to bring finger food and be available as greeters and guides. To enter your favorite apple pie in the contest, please deliver your double crusted pie in a disposable pan to the Museum kitchen by 1:00. Every morsel of these entries will be consumed at some time during the afternoon. Contact **Joanne Watts** for additional information at 503-835-5893.

Jacob Hawn was born January 13, 1804 in Ontario County New York. As a young man he was an inventive, competent builder who had a special interest in grist mills. He apprenticed with a millwright and became a highly successful builder of mills. His specialty was water power but he was able to erect animal-powered mills as well. His talents proved to be a godsend to the new Oregon country economy.

Jacob married Elizabeth Pearson on November, 1833 in Newark, New Jersey. She was 14 years old and Jacob was 29. Since his work was spread out over the country, their children were born in different states. His first child, Laura, was born in 1835 in Wisconsin, Alonzo in 1837 in Missouri, Jasper in Texas in 1840 and Newton back in Missouri in 1843. His other four children were born in Yamhill County, Oregon.

Even though Jacob had been helping to build mills all over the Midwest and now owned part of a grist mill in Missouri, he was drawn to the West. By now Elizabeth was a strong 25-year-old lady who was able to provide great comfort and support to her husband. In this mood of success they decided to "hook their wagons" to the trains on the Oregon Trail. Selling their part in the mill, they loaded up their wagons, including a pair of mill stones, and left in the middle of May, 1843, part of the Great Migration. It is interesting to note that their baby, Newton, was only one month old when this trip started.

Jacob's supply wagon upset in the Burnt river near Farewell Bend and many of his tools were lost. However, they found the heavier tools that sank, plus the mill stones, and saved them to take on to the Willamette valley.

Arriving at Dr. Marcus Whitman's mission, they rested a few days and repaired their wagons. Dr. Whitman noticed the mill stones and asked Jacob if he was a millwright. Jacob of course was and asked if he could be of any help. Whitman had a small hand-powered grinder that was very slow. He let everybody use it but only for a short time so all would have a chance to grind some wheat. The stones were big enough so that Jacob could fashion them into good, even though small, millstones. He then devised a sweep that a horse could pull around working the stones and thus increasing the output of the mill several fold.

The Hawn's arrived in Oregon City early in the fall of 1843, hungry, wet and unsure of their future in this rain soaked land. However, Dr. John McLaughlin was aware of Jacob's arrival and rushed to Oregon City to meet this man. Dr. McLaughlin had ordered the machinery for his grist mill sometime earlier and had it in storage. However, he had not found a man that could build his mill. Glad to find Jacob, he hired him to build the mill on the river, using the water power of the falls. He put the family up in good quarters and provided food and clothing to see them through the winter. In the winter of 1843 and the year 1844, Jacob not only built McLaughlin's grist mill but also a water powered sawmill on an island in the Willamette. also helping build a bridge out to the sawmill. Both mills were very successful and would have made McLoughlin wealthy if control of the land had not been wrestled from him by the presiding political parties.

Jacob soon staked out his claim in Yamhill County, a nice spot in Moores Valley.

It was there in 1846 that he and Elizabeth had Mellisa. Soon after, however, he grew tired of farming and moved to Lafayette where he started a Mill and a Hotel. It is unsure whether this mill burned down or if there was not enough "fall" in the river to provide power. It was his first failure. His Hotel was a great success. He called it the Lafayette House but most people called it Hawn's Tavern. That may be the real reason for its great success.

He, as did many others made the expected trip to the Gold Fields in California where he was able to amass some wealth. However, he had left his wife in charge of the "Tavern" and she had put more money away than he had prospected. That was the usual story for those Lafayette families.

Joel Perkins, the founder of Lafayette and outstanding business man married Jacob's daughter, Laura, when she was 14 years old. This gave him another 1/2 section of land to claim. He had taken Laura and a company of men to California to gather supplies, animals and goods to sell in Oregon. On the way home they stopped to rest on the Rouge River for a few days. Joel's friend, John Malone and Joel's wife Laura had become romantically involved on the trip and decided they needed to make an escape. However, John, in a drunken stupor shot Joel. The pair were arrested and put in the Jackson County Jail where Malone confessed the whole crime but did not implicate Laura. He finally hung himself to escape further shame. Laura was released since there was no evidence of her involvement. Laura was pregnant on this trip and the family is not sure who the father was. However, Laura did enter a second marriage for a short time and finally on to a third that seemed stable, producing a strong family. This event has always been a bitter pill for the Hawn and Perkins families to swallow.

Jacob Hawn was now ready to get out of the Hotel business and get back to his real love, building mills. He sold his Hotel to Tucker Scott, Abigail Scott Duniway's father, and went looking for work. He soon had more work than he needed. He constructed Newby's mill in McMinnville, the Jarvis grist mill, Derry mill near Rickreall, mills on the Long Tom River, a grist mill near Carlton, one on Ramsey Creek, also one on Willamina Creek and a mill on the Fort Yamhill Reservation. You can see that he was a busy man. Jacob Hawn died in 1860 as his youngest child of eight was just five years old. Even with his great building ability he didn't leave his family with much. His wife Elizabeth and family moved to The Dalles to be near her boys who had taken jobs to help support their mother.

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#### **Eunice Noyes passes on**

We note with sadness the recent loss of Eunice Noyes, at age 90, in Newberg. In addition to the many church and civic groups she served with, she was on our Board of Directors for 10 years.

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#### **Recent Accessions**

**We thank the following people for their donations to the Museum: Dean Werth (Photographic equipment), Ruth Cox (3 piece Tea service), Ron Ross (Kelty property Abstract), and Don Rivara (a number of items including shelving and a desk for the entry in the Log Building). Our organization thrives on the generosity of our volunteers, friends and members.**

# YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** **Effective May 31, 2002**

□ Individual	\$15
□ Family	\$25
□ Friend	\$50+
□ Supporter	\$100+
□ Community Builder	\$250+
□ 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, September 13th. Our next **regular monthly meeting** will be held 6:30 p.m., September 13th, both at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheridan. Our program will be presented by **Daryl Jones** on the Agee family, early Sheridan pioneers.

## **Future Events:**

- ▶ **Oct. 15, Harvest Festival at Museum**
  - ▶ **Nov. 5th, Quilt show/Tea party, " (note changed date from earlier report)**
- New Members/Renewals:** We welcome new members **Clifton & Sarah Thompson, Connie Jackman, Patty**. Thanks for supporting our organization. We invite you to attend our meetings, visit our museum and become more involved in our local history!



## Crystal's 90th

In response to the comment, "Your parties get better every year," Crystal said, "I wish I did." Well, she does -- and that's pretty high praise, as she's always been a special person involved in a myriad of organizations to which she donates not only her time and expertise, her jokes and inspirational pieces, but her money, too, when needed.

That she's a "jolly good fellow" can be testified to by the turn out of friends (at least 200 this year), who came to help her celebrate. Crystal doesn't ask for gifts (just a can of food for the hungry); she gives them. Everyone got a small jar of Parrett Mountain honey, poured into the jars by "her kids."

On top of this she provided a feast to go along with the pioneer theme-- prairie chicken, skunk cabbage, etc. -- followed by birthday cake. Her daughter Betty Rhode and Grand-daughter Elizabeth were in charge.

The gorgeous day, June 25, saw many guests wandering around her beautiful flower and vegetable gardens which had very intriguing figures tucked here and there; a plucked chicken hanging on a post, for example.

As if all this wasn't enough, the City Rhythm Kings quartet played for our entertainment, and Crystal also provided a pioneer lady to teach spool knitting who had many pioneer items on display by her tent, and a frontiersman in his hand-made fringed leather outfit who showed us his beaded knife sheaths and other hand-crafted objects. Under the redwoods Crystal planted 50 years ago, a banjo player strummed some great old tunes.

Books of photos and family history were arranged on a table for all to peruse, along with information re the Crystal Dawn Smith Rilee Foundation to which Crystal is donating her entire estate to preserve it for future generations.

Some society members present were *Shirley Venhaus, Eileen Lewis, Mina Hansen, Maxine and George Williams, Lila Jackson, Shirley Kuykendall, Shirley McDaniel Farrel Fuerst, and Lois Brooks.*

Happy 90th, Crystal !



From L to R: Maxine Williams, Lila Jackson, Shirley McDaniel, George Williams, Crystal, Shirley Kuykendall, Farrel Fuerst, Louise Heindl, Lois Brooks

### Board Meeting Highlights

(A full copy of the Secretary's report is posted monthly on the bulletin board at the Museum) The Board met August 9th at the Museum, with the following items being discussed and actions being approved: The Preservation Committee expressed concern regarding lack of sufficient funds to continue with their efforts. Shirley asked them to consider applying for a grant to allow them to continue. An Accessioning Committee was formed to consider refinement of our existing policies. Several community events around the county involving our society were discussed. (see elsewhere in this newsletter) Marjorie Owens reminded the Board of the approaching 10th anniversary of the Ruth Stoller Research Library. The Board agreed with a proposal to change annual membership dues payment for all paying members to July 1st of next year. Ken Williams will be authorized to have review access to our investments to allow him to better advise the Board on financial decisions. Changes to our By-Laws were discussed, and it is anticipated these will be presented to the membership for approval later this year.

## Bob Kuykendall

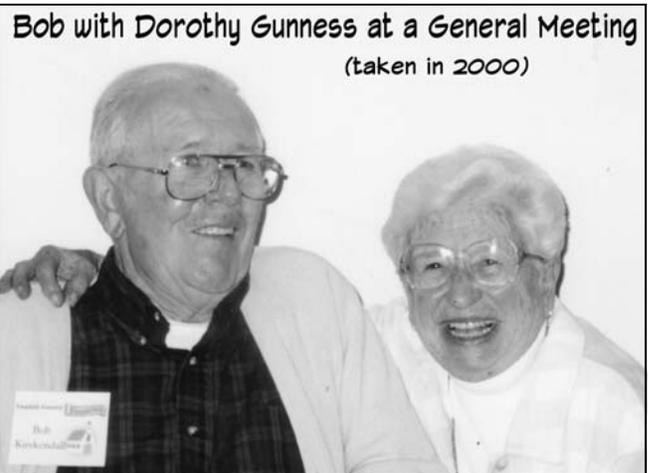
I've missed Bob Kuykendall at the potlucks for the past couple years— he was such an integral part of the group who rode with him (and later with Shirley McDaniel after Bob's health barred him from being chauffeur). There were unintentional "scenic tours" (Bob and Roma in the front seat were avid talkers), but we arrived early anyway. Bob had a thing about being late. He made sure all was ready for the meetings; tables and chairs were set up, floors vacuumed, whatever was needed.

His life as a school bus driving minister furnished him with lots of humorous anecdotes, and his memory of historic facts of people and places in the Yamhill area was incredible. His service was an inspiration and a blessing to many. There were other ministers in Yamhill, but when an "old-timer" died, the family called on Bob to have the funeral.

We can be grateful there is a Yamhill County Historical Society due to the efforts of Bob and others. The first meetings were held in the fireplace room of Bob's church, with him officiating as President. He later preceded Barbara Knutson as program chairman, and then served as a director until May of 2000. Thoughts of all the hours he put in as a museum volunteer, and his faithfulness on clean-up days and any other projects, are almost overwhelming.

A Good man was Bob Kuykendall. Submitted by Lois Brooks.

*Editors note: When I entered Lois' article on Bob, I recalled the first time I ever met Bob. His firm handshake, warm and friendly manner, and interest in me as a person struck a deep chord with me. Bob will be missed for all the things he stood for and was, not only by our Society, but also his family, his church and our entire county as genuine nice guy. As I expressed my condolences to his wife Shirley during our May potluck, she just smiled and softly said "I know he is in a better place now". I have no doubt of that, and agree wholeheartedly with Lois and many others that Bob Kuykendall was truly a Good man. Dan L.*



Bob with Dorothy Gunness at a General Meeting  
(taken in 2000)

## A Song of Yamhill and Oregon's Northwestern Willamette Valley

by Gordon Zimmerman

Member Gordon Zimmerman has been busy for several years researching and writing this collection of historical facts, memories and trivia of Yamhill and other areas of our county and state. With over 200 pages, numerous appendixes and a bibliography, Gordon gives his readers a wealth of history of people, events and places in our county. Titles of chapters are an interesting read in and of themselves: "Is there a Ghost on Alex Butte?", "Marketing Hogs by Moonlight", "Prunes Reign Supreme", "The Carlton and Coast Goes to War" and "The Nestucca Road: Thirty Seven years in the Making, washed away in an Hour", among others.

The Foreword was written by Jeffrey Barlow, Professor of History at Pacific University, who says in part, "Gordon's story of Yamhill from its frontier beginnings to its current troubled place between the wild coastal range and the edges of Portland growth boundary embraces more than a century of history. Gordon's family was in a remarkable spot from which to view not only the initial developments of the country, but also the terrible impact of the depression. Gordon ably weaves together social, economic and cultural history. The remarkable citizens of the remote and recent pasts come alive in his narrative. He was also fortunate that his sister, Mrs. Celia Dromgoole, was a collector of early photographs of the Yamhill Area."

Gordon has kindly donated a number of his books to our Museum, and these will be available to members for \$15. After January 1, 2006, the price on these will be \$20. We will have these available at the September meeting in Sheridan. If you enjoy reading about the history of Yamhill County in general, you will not be disappointed with this book. Gordon's generosity is much appreciated by our society.

