

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS 1991

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 Financial Secretary Mary Ogden
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 Ed Roghair, James Vincent,
 and Robert Kuykendall



MUSEUM, Lafayette, OR, since 1969
 Hours - Sat & Sun 2 to 4 pm
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Publicity Elaine Rohse
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DECEMBER

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS

1991

MEETING TUESDAY EVENING, December 10, at the Amity Methodist Church,
 203 Nursery Street. Potluck dinner at 6:30. Bring own table
 service. Visitors always welcome.

PROGRAM following the meal, will be presented by Marion Johnson, of
 Sheridan. Subject is Christmas in Alaska years ago.

From Our President -

At the November meeting we adopted the Heritage Tree Program, begun
 by Marion County. George Williams, with his experience measuring trees,
 will use this expertise to identify and measure tree candidates. If you
 know of a tree of unusual historical interest and importance, or size,
 contact Maxine Williams, chairman of our historical trees committee, or
 members Shirley Kuykendall, Elaine Rohse, or Harold and Marguerite Lewis.
 . . . Vice president/program chairman/ Thompson estate representative
 Barbara Knutson, has received the check for sale of the house. It will
 remain in a Salem bank until the estate is declared legally settled. A
 big thanks to Barbara for the time and effort she has expended on this,
 and to Mike Boundy for handling the sale of the property. The committee
 involved with the phonograph records inherited from this estate, is open
 to suggestions and will keep us informed of developments. Members are
 Charlotte Filer, Maxine Williams, Eunice Noyes and Mary Ogden. Thanks to
 Gil and Mary Ogden for storing the records. . . Ruth Stoller's endeavor
 in putting together and getting published the TRASK TOLL ROAD book, and
 Gordon Zimmerman's excellent salesmanship are bringing money into our
 savings account. Gordon presented a check for \$794.50 for books he re-
 cently sold on the Oregon Coast Explorer. These efforts on behalf of
 our historical society are very much appreciated. . . We will be voting
 at the upcoming meeting on positions for vice president, financial sec-
 retary, and for one board member. . . A Merry Christmas and a Happy
 New Year to All!

L.B.

DUES for the new year should be sent to Mary Ogden, Financial Secretary,
 P.O. Box 273, Amity, OR 97101.

HISTORY NOTES

The McMinnville TELEPHONE REGISTER for July 16, 1920 reported the building of the first "market road" in the state of Oregon. When completed it was to be designated Market Road No.1 and was to be the connecting road link through the West Chehalem Valley between the towns of Newberg and Yamhill. The new road was to cut off four miles between these towns, as well as eliminating a steep hill up which the old rounabout road climbed

The newspaper included an account of the new state market road, its importance and part of the history of its valley, written by John U. Smith, one of the men whose efforts brought about the building of the road:

"Three years ago a mass meeting was held at No. 61 schoolhouse in the Chehalem Valley, Yamhill county, Oregon, to act on the proposal to build a hard-surfaced road through the valley. Present were representative citizens of Yamhill, Carlton, and Newberg and W.W. Cotton and W.L. Boise of Portland. J.U. Smith was appointed chairman of a committee of seven with authority to name six others, with authority thereafter to take all steps necessary to promote the building of a road from Newberg to Carlton and Yamhill.

"The first efforts were made to obtain a route to Carlton. The project drifted until an article in the Yamhill Record stated that Byron B. Shuck and W.R. Bunn had found a gap through the hills, up one stream and down another, whereby almost on a water grade and in an almost straight line, a road could be built from Yamhill to Newberg.

"Many plans were laid and efforts wasted until the committee hit upon the "state market road act". With the hearty support of S. Benson, chairman of the state highway commission, and the Yamhill Commercial Club, the Yamhill County Court last fall, following the statute, designated the road from Newberg through the south side of Chehalem Valley, past No. 61 schoolhouse, to Yamhill, as "state market road No. 1", and appropriated \$20,000.

"Due no doubt to lack of faith in the ultimate success of the undertaking, there was no opposition to the work of the committee until six months thereafter, when an effort was made to divert the route from a straight line, even after the state engineers had made their survey. The effort was not without results, however, because an additional \$10,000 was appropriated to build another market road from 61 schoolhouse northwesterly to Wapato Lake.

"The Chehalem Valley is a rich and fertile dairy and fruit producing country without rail or water transportation. We have here large apple orchards, prunes, walnuts, cherries, and all kinds of berries. In front of No.61 schoolhouse the traveler will see a sign which orders him to 'Stop and view the beautiful Chehalem Valley'.

"One-half mile north he will observe M. Patton's silo, 20x50, said to be the largest silo in the entire northwest; one mile northeast is the celebrated White Sox apple orchard, owned by Billy Sullivan, the has-been and still-is catcher, who for 11 years had a greater reputation as a catcher for the White Sox of Chicago than John L. Sullivan had as a prize fighter. Having spent his youthful prime in 'playing', now in his old age (he is past 40), he has to put in eight-hour days holding the nozzle of the spraying machine against the foliage of his apple trees. Last year he raised more apples than he could eat and shipped some to Europe."

(To be continued)

R.S.

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