

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS 1992

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 662-3788  
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 BOARD MEMBERS . . . . . Harvey Stoller,  
 Ed Roghair, James Vincent,  
 and Robert Kuykendall



PUBLICITY . . . . . Elaine Rohse  
 NEWSLETTER . . . . . Margaret Roghair

MUSEUM, Lafayette, OR, since 1969  
 Hours - Sat & Sun 1 to 4 pm  
 (or by appt: 662-3788, 864-2589)

DECEMBER YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1992  
 NEWSLETTER

MEETING Tuesday evening, December 8, in the Cafeteria of the Grade School at Willamina, 11 Oaken Hills Drive. (This is about a block beyond the Legion Hall.) *Dues for next year, still \$5.00.*

POT LUCK 6:30. Bring own table service. Visitors always welcome.

PROGRAM Jerry Easterling returns to us with homespun philosophy.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SOCIETY'S PRESIDENT:

We will be voting for president, recording secretary, treasurer, and one director at the December meeting. A raise in dues from \$5.00 to \$7.50 beginning January 1993 for all individual memberships, as suggested by the board, will also be voted on. Pay now, if you haven't already, and you can still get by with only \$5.00!

Congratulations to John White whose article on Lafayette has recently been published in Western Places. There will be a copy of the magazine at the museum. Also, thanks to John White, the newly acquired typing table at the museum now holds a typewriter. John donated his!

Some delightful folks from McMinnville Residential Estates visited the museum on the 11th. How nice it was to see Jean Slater, who, when able, came faithfully to meetings and was a regular museum volunteer, among the group. I miss our members who can no longer meet with us -- Mildred Renne, Ron Eborall, Chet Hall, and others -- and want them to know that they are missed. And I am very sorry to hear that Marian Johnston, long-time member and twice our speaker, had a stroke and requires hospital care. She is or will be at Meridian Park Hospital.

Don't forget that Old Yamhill (\$15), From Yamhill to Tillamook by Stagecoach (\$5), and Schools of Old Yamhill (\$5) make great Christmas gifts.

I hope you saw Elaine Rohse's article on the library's historic redwood in the News-Register November 18, "Christmas Tree Tradition Chronicled." The Heritage Tree committee; Maxine Williams, Shirley Kuykendall, Marguerite Lewis, and Elaine Rohse, along with George Williams who does the measuring and much of the research, keeps busy checking trees referred for the program.

A big thanks to all of you for being so supportive during my term as president. A very special thanks to Alice Brandt whose encouraging words always made a bright spot. I hope she is able to meet with us again soon.

This is the second letter written by John Ward who had arrived in Yamhill County in the fall of 1850 by way of the Oregon Trail. It is not dated but was probably written the first part of November.

Oregon Territory, Yamhill County

Dear Wife,

I take this opportunity to address a few lines to you, and hope they may find you all in good health, as they now leave me. I wrote you a letter soon after I arrived in this country, informing you of my reason for not going to California. I understood that it was very sickly there at that time of year, so I came to Oregon. I am very well pleased with this country. I like Oregon much better than I do the states. The winters are mild and cattle live during the whole of the winter without any feed and in tolerable order in the spring and it is a very good farming country, the best wheat that I ever saw in any country I saw here. Times are good here and money plenty. I went a claim hunting last Tuesday and I found one that is excellent, and I marked off my section of land, and I have engaged a man to build me a house and I also expect to go to work on it myself this winter and in the spring I expect to go to the mines with a company that starts from here the first of May and I only expect to be absent three months. I wish you to sell the place and come here next spring if you can possibly do it. Bring an oven and skillet and some tin ware to use on the road. They will be usefull after you get here. Bring every thing (nothing?) over the Missouri River but provisions and your bedding and necessary clothing for the way, there is plenty of crockery ware and glass and clothing here. If Lucy and her children come you will need about 800 wght of flour and about 200 weight of good bacon and about 25 lbs of coffee, and if you can aford it, bring 50 weight of sugar and a few poinds of rice and some dried fruit will be very usefull and also a few bushel of beans. You will need the above provisions from the Missouri River. You can bring most of them from home. The wagon that you have will do by getting bolts in the tires and you will need two yoke of oxen and two yoke of cows--cows work as well on the road as oxen. If you can trade the place off for cattle and settle the mortgage, do so, if not perhaps you can borrow money from some persons who are coming. I will play the money back again with interest when they get here. You will need \$20.00 for ferriage. If you come you had better bring a few extra link pins. When you leave home you must first come to Rock Prairie and from there to Rock Island and then to Musketeen and then to Askalaus, and from thereto Caneville and then you must ferry the Missouri River at Winter Quarters and then you must keep up the north side of the Platte River as the road is good and grazing plenty that way and do not cross the river at Fort Larame but continue up the north side as it will save you \$12.00 ferrage and road is better and grazing plenty, and you will find wood and water in abundance twelve miles from there.

(continued next time)

R.S.

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P.O. Box 484  
Lafayette, OR 97127

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