

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

April 2000

## John R. McBride's Diary

At the March meeting, Barbara Knutson twisted Dan Linscheid's arm to get him to read the second half of Mr. McBride's 1846 diary. As a 14 year old, McBride witnessed some events on the Oregon trail which would prove fascinating reading for generations to come. He told of herds of buffalo which went on for miles, numbering in the hundreds of thousands, as well as the friendly and not-so-friendly native Americans they encountered on the trail.

John went on to become Superintendent of Schools in Yamhill County in 1845, and was admitted to the Oregon State Bar the following year. He served one term as our Representative in Washington D.C., and was appointed the Territorial Governor for Idaho in later years. His diary makes for interesting reading.

## Historic Photo Gallery Online

About 250 images of city scenes, roads and highway photos and other interesting places in our county have been placed online for the world to see. The images are shown as very tiny "thumbnails" until you click on one, whereupon it will expand to fill your screen. These are suitable for printing with photo-quality ink-jet or bubble-jet printers. We need more images for Carlton, Lafayette and Willamina. Many thanks to Leighton Livengood and Jan Sander of Dundee for their help with photos of that final missing piece of the puzzle. The County Board of Commissioners were gracious in allowing us a 'home' in cyberspace for these images. Take a look at them at <http://www.co.yamhill.or.us>. There is also a link to this from our YCHS webpage at <http://www.onlinemac.com/users/dlin>. Feedback and additional old photos welcomed, with promises of quick turnaround and return to the donor. Please report any problems with dates, locations or other facts you discover with these to Dan Linscheid at [surveyor@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:surveyor@co.yamhill.or.us). With your help this project can grow and help us foster interest in our unique and rich heritage.

Iris Barr is allowing us to display the Native American Moccasin casts shown to the right. These are natural stones hunted by natives in the area and used to stretch leather over to form their footwear. The stones are different colored but share an approximate shape. If only these stones could talk !

An Anonymous Life Member has donated \$500 to our Society, said sum to be applied to help with our Audio-Visual equipment. We thank this donor very much!

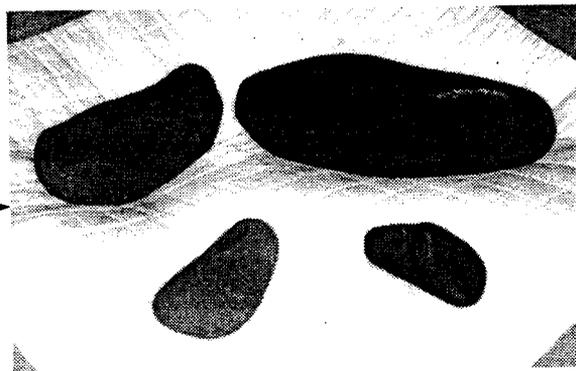
*The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit tax exempt educational and public service corporation established to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County*



We were happy to see two of our founding officers in Dayton at our last meeting, Life Members Bob Kuykendall and Dorothy Gunness. Dorothy traveled from her home on the Oregon coast to attend. We can never repay debts owed our founders for their tireless efforts in the past !

## President's Message

Dear Members, there is something about Daffodils and Primroses that just make you feel better!! If you don't already have them in your garden, you'll want to take them home. The Primrose with all the bright colored blossoms hidden close to the ground, as if you wouldn't notice them, and the Daffodil with its yellow, orange and white colors nodding their heads in the breeze. During the brief sunshine moments you are out digging, raking and planting, feeling the growing energy going on around you, and you feel refreshed and energized. It is a replenishing time for those who work the soil whether it be in yards or gardens or fields. It is a wonderful time for renewal and beginning. When I look at the gardens at the Museum I can still see Ruth Crawford working there with the intent to provide members and visitors a heritage flower garden to enjoy. Wouldn't it be fun to see her garden in Arizona? Maybe she would share some pictures. We miss you Ruth, but do enjoy what you left for us. Wishing all of you a happy spring and a happy Easter. Sincerely, Shirley.



**OFFICERS - 2000****President**

Shirley Venhaus  
472-7328

**VP/Program**

Barbara Knutson  
843-2069

**Secretary (Joint)**

Shirley McDaniel  
662-3528  
Eileen Crawley  
835-3673

**Treasurer**

Betty Brown  
472-7100

**Financial Secretary**

Lila Jackson  
472-8510

**Corres. Secretary**

Marjorie Owens  
843-3081

**Board of Directors**

Eileen Lewis  
835-7531

Ed Roghair  
472-6909

Robert Kuykendall  
662-3354

Dan Linscheid  
843-2625

**Volunteer Coordinator**

Maxine Williams  
472-4547

**Librarian**

Olive Merry Johnson  
472-6070

**Newsletter**

Dan Linscheid  
843-2625

**Car Pool Coordinator**

Joanne Watts  
835-5893

**MUSEUM HOURS**

Sept 1 to May 31:  
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM  
or  
By Appointment

605 Market Street  
Lafayette Oregon  
Phone: 864-2308

**ANNUAL DUES**

\$10.00 Individual  
\$17.00 Family  
\$125.00 Life

**Mail to:**

Financial Secty  
2430 North Baker  
McMinnville OR  
97128

**Summary of Board Meeting, March 14, 2000**

**Treasurer's Report:** Betty Brown submitted her report indicating an income of nearly \$200 and expenses of about \$2,025, with a net balance of about -\$1.25 for February.

**Membership / Financial:** Lila Jackson reported four new members, two new life members which added to our existing membership results in total membership of two-hundred and twenty-eight.

**Volunteer Chair:** Maxine Williams reported that volunteers are signing up okay. We now have a basket of "items that need to be done" by volunteers if time permits.

**Old Business:** Our security system is still needing some help in the Log Building, and will be fixed soon. Bids are being received for electrifying the Barn. Roma Sitton's files are still being sorted by Nada, and Scrap books are now in the file cabinets. Ed reports a hay fork is to be donated. There are now both Historic House and Century Farm registration lists available. By-Laws amendments will be voted on at tonight's general meeting. **Historic Tree:** the Black Walnut on Cleo and Pat Harding's property will be formally dedicated in April. Elaine Rohse recently published an excellent article on our historic trees in the News-Register.

**New Business:** Shirley will prepare a first right-of-refusal form for the property across from the Log Museum for delivery to Mrs. Stellflug's son. We are looking for a chairperson for the Harvest Festival, tentatively set for October 14th. Shirley McDaniel will lead the crafters part. Compliments were extended to Dan for the newsletter. We have periodic inquiries regarding use by other historic societies of articles in our newsletter, and Dan will check with Jim Lockett to see if he's willing to allow this. Patsy Miller has an excellent concoction of white vinegar, mineral oil and turpentine which she has been using to clean up wooden furniture in our Museum.— Shirley McDaniel, Co-Secretary

**April Meeting and Potluck**

Our next meeting will be held at the Church of Latter Day Saints in Yamhill, potluck at 6:30 p.m. Our program will be given by George Williams, relating his family history and interesting history behind the names Williams Canyon and Gerrish Valley.

Also from Iris are the rocking chairs below. These were owned by Samuel and Maria Ann Kinney, who immigrated to Oregon in 1847, taking up a Donation Land Claim East of Carlton, near the head of Wapato Lake.



Twelve members of the Antique Club and one small girl (Nancy Thornton's lovely little granddaughter) gathered for their monthly meeting and potluck in the Log Building on Thursday, March 23rd. Ed, Twila and I accepted the gracious invitation of the hostesses, Jackie Mindling and Joyce Iske, to eat with the group, one of whom came from as far away as Dallas, and one being our own member, Nancy.

Following the meal each member told about her most unusual collection, all of which were very interesting; among them were chopstick holders, curling irons, Crackerjack toys and advertising paperweights.

Then Ed took the group to the barn, Twila showed some through the church and others remained in the log building with me. These folks were well informed and we probably learned as much from them as they did from us. Unfortunately there wasn't time for everyone to see all three buildings, but they had met at the museum before.

Not only were we given a generous donation of \$21, but Jackie Mindling donated over 12 dozen Styrofoam cups. - Lois Brooks

**"Hats off to our Volunteers!"** is the theme of a tea party to be held at the Log Building on Thursday, May 11th at 1:30 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded. All volunteers invited... Contact Lois Brooks or Elma Shuck if you have questions.

One of the great Oregon Railroad stories took place right here in Yamhill County. It had to do with the dreams of the leading citizens of Dayton, Oregon. With wonderful dock facilities for loading boats for distant markets, they wanted a better way to get the abundant harvest to their area. As the railroad was the "wonder" and the "rage" of the day their first thoughts were to build a line right through the great wheat country and improve their business.

Under the leadership of B.B. Branson and Ellis B. Hughes the merchants and farmers in the area planned a route that would go southwest out of Dayton to just east of the present McMinnville airport. It then followed the river across the present Kauer farm and on to Whiteson. From there it stayed above flood level but followed the South Yamhill river to Sheridan and on to Willamina and Grand Ronde.

The name of the company (formed on November 14, 1887) would be "The Dayton, Sheridan and Grand Ronde Railroad Co." It would be a narrow gauge track with two steam locomotives and a dozen freight cars. They were able to raise enough money (to purchase the rolling stock and the rails. Getting the right-of-way and labor to build the track was another "kettle of fish." The bright idea that emerged was to pay the farmers for their right-aways and labor with redeemable transportation script that would be good for shipping their produce and for passage. So the people along the way sold (gave) the necessary land for the railroad and provided labor for construction. By the summer of 1878 the line was complete and the first train was ready to roll.

The company was able to purchase 2 small 2-4-0 locomotives of 12 tons each. They named them "The Pioneer" which became number 1 and "Progress" which became number 2. These locomotives were delivered by barge to Dayton. Now the river is quite a bit lower than Dayton so they laid temporary tracks down to the boats and with mules and a large windlass were able to get the steam engines up to the town level. The merchants and farmers had built a Round House and shops in Dayton so

the locomotives would have good maintenance and cover. Also several "depots" were built along the track. The first train steamed out of town on October 24, 1878 and ran the route clear to Sheridan. On its return it had a full load of wheat and other produce destined for Portland. The venture seemed to be a roaring success. However, the track never made it beyond Sheridan. An attempt to run rail to Dallas ended at Smithville.

By January the railroad was in receivership for debts to the Pacific Rolling Mill Co. With the amount of script out to the area farmers the company lacked cash flow and were unable to meet their financial obligations.

Control of the railroad was assumed by William Reid, who had served as American Vice-consul in Dundee, Scotland. With backing of the Earl of Airlie and several other capitalist in Dundee, Reid paid off the debts of the DS&GR and moved to Oregon to take control. He renamed the railroad Willamette Valley Railroad, then the Oregon Railway and finally the Oregonian Railway, Limited. While spending a good deal of time changing the name of the company he did a lot of work. First he moved the terminal at Dayton to Fulquartz Landing on the much larger Willamette river. The Company owned two river steamers, the "Salem" and the "City of Salem" and wanted rail connections for these boats to the mid Willamette Valley. Schedules were such that the steamers and the train would be at Fulquartz Landing at the same time for transfers. On the opposite side of the river he established Ray's Landing, another rail terminal. From this point trackage was constructed through St. Paul, Woodburn, Silverton and on to Brownsville and Coburg. The plan was to run this track on to Winnamucca, Nevada and connect with the Central Pacific to the East. Plans were also in the works to go to either Astoria or Newport, Oregon.

Fulquartz Landing was to be the headquarters, but realizing flood possibilities Reid moved to higher ground to a little "berg" called Aiken. He built a maintenance shop, office building and depot and changed the name of the town to "Dundee" to honor his Scottish friends. He also

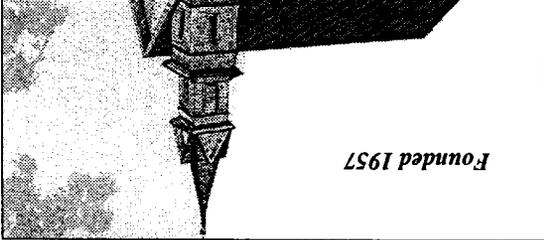
named the terminus at the Polk County end of the rail "Airlie" after the Earl of Airlie in Dundee, Scotland.

One exciting project was to construct a bridge across the Willamette at Fulquartz Landing. This Bridge was about one third finished when the competition put the "squeeze" on the company. Henry Villard, a representative of German capital, saw that the Oregonian Railway would be serious competition to his Oregon Railway & Navigation Co. He made a trip to Dundee, Scotland and met with the people that were underwriting Reid's venture. Villard offered to lease the Dundee, Oregon company and guaranteed a 7% return on their investment. Since Reid was only returning 4.5% the investors decided to go with Villard whose lease took effect on August 1, 1881. The word was that with the free-flowing cash from Germany Villard would finish the connection to the East and to the Pacific Ocean. It would have put an economic "feather" in Yamhill County's hat with such markets to capitalize on.

Henry Villard only wanted to eliminate a competitor. He immediately stopped the extension to Portland, stopped construction of the bridge and tore it down; tore up the tracks between Ray's Landing and Woodburn and Dayton and Whiteson and incorporated the rest of the track into his railroad company, the OR&N.

The Scottish capitalist should have stayed with Reid. In 1884 the OR&N repudiated the Oregonian Railway lease and the company became insolvent. Reid sued for lost funds and won 71,000 in back rentals. With these funds he attempted to regain his dreams but by then everyone was challenging each other to right-of-ways and Reid soon ran out of money. The Southern Pacific took over most of the route. The West Side of the Willamette River track became part of the SP's electrification plan and we find the Red Electric running through Yamhill County by the late 1890's and lasting until 1926. There is much more of interest to the Oregon Railroad story. However, the little Dayton, Sheridan & Grand Ronde Railroad surely was a wonderful dream and a risky venture started by men of vision.

By Jim Lockett



Founded 1957

Lafayette Oregon 97127  
P.O. Box 484

**YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Permit #3  
Lafayette Oregon

**YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*April 2000 Calendar of Events*

**Tuesday April 11th, 5:00 PM**

Board of Directors - Yamhill LDS Church

**Tuesday April 11th, 6:30 PM**

General Meeting & Potluck Dinner- Yamhill LDS Church

Bring your Own Table Service - Guests Always Welcome

*(See page 2 for details)*

Note: the four characters in brackets to the right of your name and address label are the year (1st two digits) and month (last two digits) our records show you last paid your dues. If those numbers show its been more than a year, this will be among your last newsletters. A 90 day grace period has been granted by the Board; thereafter, sorry, but no more newsletters. For those who paid in December of 1998 (or earlier) this will be their final newsletter.