

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

March 1996

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members,

The February 13th General Meeting was held at noon at the Christian Church in Dayton. Speaker Jeff McClain was unable to attend. Barbara made a late night call and Jack White came to the rescue. He discussed in more detail the fourteen post office sites from the quiz answers listed in the February *West Side*. Everyone thanked Jack for an enjoyable meeting. The 1996 Officers and Board Members were introduced. ~~Olive Johnson, Barbara Kautson and Elma Shuck~~ were thanked for their continued volunteer efforts.

Hopefully some members of the Yamhill County Historical Society will be able to attend the Oregon Museum Association quarterly meeting hosted by the High Desert Museum in Bend on March 3rd and 4th. Information on this was received too late to be included in the February Newsletter.

Thanks to a donation from Glen and Joanne Watts the Chair Fund deficit now stands at \$159.00

The first meeting for organizing the October 1996 YCHS Historic House Tour was held on February 22nd at 1:00 P.M. in the Miller Log Museum. Overall arrangements, preliminary planning and a few committee assignments were discussed. Since this is going to be a major fund raising event for us, we will need the support of ~~our members. To help you can help please~~ give me a call at 472-7328.

It is suggested that the Yamhill County Historical Society seek the use of the old hospital in McMinnville as a future site for collections and activities. Something to think about—.

See you at the March 12th General Meeting.

Sincerely,
Shirley Venhaus



GETTING TO THE CHURCH ON TIME

When last meeting at the Amity Christian Church several members experienced difficulty in finding the location. To avoid a repeat, the following directions are offered:

From 99W in Amity turn East on the Bellevue-Hopewell road (Nursery Street) four blocks to Goucher Avenue. Turn right (south) on Goucher for about a quarter mile. The church is a new building on the left with a large parking lot.

RED DOTS PROVING SUCCESSFUL

The practice begun last month of placing a red dot on address labels as a dues reminder seems to be working well. Members will be able to stay current and the Society is spared the expense of mailing dues notices. Our thanks to those who brought their memberships up to date over the past month; your support is appreciated in these tight budget times.

Remember, if a red dot appears on your address label, your dues are due.



Newberg Steam Laundry
ANDREW PICKETT, Proprietor
A. N. PRESSNALL, Manager

Orders Executed with Dispatch
The Patronage of the Travelling
Public Solicited

Newberg, - Oregon

(From the Newberg 'Graphic' of April 16, 1905)

Tuesday, March 12th 10:30 A.M.

Board of Directors - Church of Christ - 1305 Goucher Avenue - Amity

Tuesday, March 12th 12:00 Noon

Potluck Luncheon & General Meeting - Church of Christ - 1305 Goucher Avenue - Amity

(See directions Above)

Bring Own Table Service Guests Always Welcome

Polk County Historian Arlie Holt will speak on the Scott Manuscripts

Thursday March 21st 1:00 P.M.

Historic House Tour Committee Meeting - Miller Log Museum - Lafayette

(An excellent opportunity to learn how you can help...Several choice assignments are still available)



OFFICERS - 1996

President

Shirley Venhaus
472-7328

VP/Program

Barbara Kautson
843-2069

Secretary

Betty White
665-5376

Treasurer

Don Crawford
434-9843

Financial Secretary

Lila Jackson
472-8510

Corres. Secretary

Dolores Robertson
538-0767

Board of Directors

James Vincent
472-7239

Robert Kuykendall
662-3354

Harvey Stoller
864-2589

Ed Roghair
472-6908

Historian

Jim Lockett
472-5005

Librarian

Olive Johnson
472-6070

Newsletter

John White
665-5376

Publicity

Elaine Rohse
472-6827

MUSEUM HOURS

June 1 to Aug 31:
Wed-Sun 1 to 4 PM

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

A SCENT OF REFORM

Solomon "Dutch" Beary (pronounced "Berry") opened McMinnville's first store during 1850 on the east side of what is now Adams Street between Second and Third. In addition to staple goods and general merchandise he also offered his male patrons the opportunity to draw a dram or two of spirits from a barrel kept at the rear of the store. There being no law to prohibit the practice and as yet no saloon located in the vicinity, Beary was certainly not about to pass up any trade having such a high profit potential. However, in deference to the sensitivities his lady customers, actual consumption was not permitted on the premises. Accordingly, beverages purchased in the store were passed out a window to be quaffed in a small rear **outbuilding** constructed especially for the purpose.

As the community began to grow the popularity of "Dutch's Back Parlor" kept pace. So much so that rather regular complaints of boisterous and unruly public behavior in the vicinity were being voiced. Also an increasing number of empty chairs at the head of family supper tables prompted talk of boycotting Beary's store, but there was no other merchant nearby with whom to trade. Although the situation was becoming tense in some circles no really satisfactory solution seemed in the offing.

Unexpected permanent resolution of the problem did come about however one chilly evening in the late autumn of 1852. Perhaps because of nippy weather, Beary was experiencing rather brisk trade in the little building out back on this particular day. Although the exact number of embibers is uncertain, it was said at the time there were at least eight to

ten patrons inside. Also the door had been closed snugly against the elements requiring ventilation to be provided by propping up the building's small and only window. It was through this open "smoke hole" and into the crowded shack that a highly outraged skunk was mightily tossed causing an abrupt and totally disorganized conclusion to the normal activity within.

Early the following morning Beary was obliged to burn down down his infamous outbuilding as well as remove all other traces of contamination. Also due consideration of a possible encore prompted him to post a prominent notice proclaiming an immediate and permanent end to all liquor sales.

Just who might have struck this mighty blow in the name of temperance as well as how a fully loaded skunk could have been safely transported to the site was never learned for certain. Some said there is an old Native American belief that a polecat securely suspended by the tail is rendered harmless until released; and others noted a particular patron on that fateful evening had often engaged in heated arguments with his part Indian wife over frequent visits to Beary's establishment.

Whether true or not, the lady in question occasionally received a quiet nod of admiration from some members of the community in addition to a measure of grudging respect from certain others. Solomon Beary remained in business for a good many years thereafter and became one of McMinnville's more prominent early citizens. The fate of the skunk is unrecorded.

(JW)



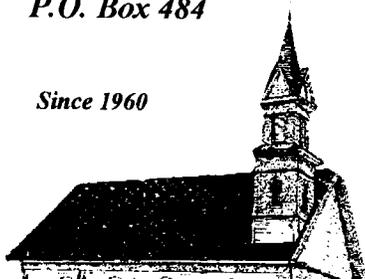
Solomon Beary - c 1870.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 484

Lafayette OR 97127

Since 1960



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