

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

Summer 1999

EARLY SPRINGBROOK DAYS RECALLED IN DIARY

Guest speaker for the May 11th general meeting in McMinnville was Lori Cronan, a Beaverton based teacher having a keen interest in studying the changes of everyday rural lifestyles from the early settlers to modern times. The focus of her presentation was a diary begun in 1917 by Emma Kincaid, a matriarch of the early Springbrook community.

Ms. Cronan first outlined the Quaker beginnings of Springbrook and painted a vivid verbal picture of the village as it was during the early 20th century, with activities centering around a single general store, the school, Friends Church and a cooperative cannery. Against this backdrop excerpts from Emma Kincaid's diary were read. Eloquent entries offered rare insights into the thoughts of a woman experiencing her first opportunity to vote, serving her country during WWI through the Red Cross, engaged in numerous civic activities and a keen observer of her surroundings throughout her life.

The presentation left the audience with a feeling they actually knew Emma Kincaid with many wanting to learn more about this very remarkable lady.



B. White photo
Speaker Lori Cronin (r) discusses Springbrook
with YCHS member Bernice Brown.

YCHS ANNUAL PICNIC SET FOR NOON, SATURDAY AUGUST 7th, AT YAMHILL LOCKS PARK

Along with your potluck fare, bring a friend and prepare for a very pleasant afternoon
(In the very unlikely event of inclement weather, we will relocate at the museum)

STORAGE AREA PROJECT

Those familiar with the Poling Church building are no doubt aware of the so-called storage area located above the office. This loft has included boxes, bundles and stacks of materials long forgotten over a period of many years. All that has now changed thanks to the hard work of a few volunteers.

The entire "collection" was brought downstairs where it was sorted and inventoried. The upstairs space received a coat of paint and a carpenter built large bin-like shelves to fit a museum collection. After sorting, all the materials were cleaned, boxed, labeled and returned upstairs to an organized room. This completed Phase I of the project.

The east wall of the refurbished storage room is mostly artifacts while the west wall contains indexed newspapers, scrap books, state and county records as well as those of clubs, organizations and early businesses of the county. Textiles and store supplies complete this area. New lighting and heat plus the addition of two tables for sorting and packing should make this storage area much more workable in the future.

Those engaged in this project have been Julie Amen, Lois Brooks, Cathy Edwards, Eileen Lewis and Elma Shuck.

Phase II will involve the completion of a set of cards to be placed in each of our buildings indicating the type of reference and where located. Some items will also be entered into the computer. When this second phase is completed, museum volunteers will be offered tips for using the stored resources.

.....Elma Shuck

[Elma fails to mention that she and the others completed this mammoth task well ahead of a rather tight deadline. - ed]

SCHOOL DAYS AT THE MUSEUM

The team of Twila Byrnes, Lois Brooks and Ed Roghair ended the school year by conducting three groups of children through our facilities. Each resulting in a quite different experience.

On April 27th a small after school group from McMinnville Bethel Baptist Church visited. These children belong to the Amana Club, whose purpose is to investigate their community. They were escorted by Greg Reichenberger and Wesley Kouns.

Seventeen first graders from Ventas, a private school in Newberg, brought along five parents when they came to see us on May 19th. Their teacher, Kelly Shelton, took them to Lafayette Locks for lunch before arriving at the museum. These little ones were so bright, attentive and adorable in their school uniforms that we all agreed they were not too young to benefit from this field trip. Besides, they made our day with "good-bye hugs".

We were expecting about seventy students from Amity Elementary School at noon on May 21st. Half were to eat lunch in the Lafayette City Park while the balance toured the museums. When two huge school busses arrived at one o'clock and discharged a never-ending stream of kids we were in shock, but quickly recovered and managed to corral about twenty of the ninety three children who were willing to tour first and eat afterward. This first group had a good tour, but the rest was hit-and-miss as they soon had to board the busses at two o'clock. Ten adults accompanied this group who had visited the Trails End exhibit at Oregon City in the morning before coming to Lafayette. Mrs. Hinchman, the teacher in charge, said they would be back next year but realized a smaller group was needed if the children were going to gain anything from the visit. We agree!

.....Twila Byrnes

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

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472-7328

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Newsletter

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835-5893

MUSEUM HOURS

May 31 to Sep 1
Fri & Sun 1pm - 4pm
Saturday 10am - 4pm
or
By Appointment

605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308

ANNUAL DUES

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

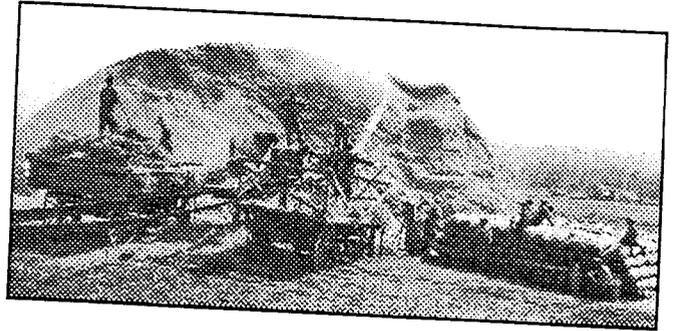
Mail to:

Financial Secty
2430 North Baker
McMinnville OR
97128

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OLD FASHIONED THRESHING BEE COMING UP

YCHS members are invited to enjoy an afternoon observing a 1936 McCormick-Deering binder and 1927 Rumley thresher at work. This event will take place at the Watts Family Farm, 16600 SW Christensen Road, on Sunday, August 15th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. In addition, a potluck dinner is set for 3:00 PM so bring your favorite dish and prepare for a real fun afternoon. For more information or to RSVP, call Glen and Joanne Watts at 835-5893 or Cliff and Pam Watts at 835-1393



Threshing crew at work near McMinnville - circa 1920s
J. White Collection

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following recently joined members:

Irene Oates - Tacoma Washington
Peter & Marilyn Shultz - Carlton
Margaret Benson - McMinnville (Life Member)

"SUNSHINE" CHAIRPERSON

One of the duties of the corresponding secretary is to send appropriate wishes on behalf of the Society to members who may be experiencing personal misfortune. Marge Owens reminds us that she stands ready but often needs to know when an occasion arises. A call to her at 843-3081 will do the trick.

A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS

The findings of a professional building inspector concerning the overall structural condition of the Poling Memorial Church has been received. The intent of obtaining this report was to assist in determining the extent of specific needs and establishing priorities for addressing them. Needless to say the final account is several pages in length and covers a number of potential problems from foundation to steeple peak.

First, foremost, and probably the most expensive, situation is the condition of the roof. The present one has endured twenty Oregon winters and holds little promise of surviving much longer. Because of its questionable status and the fact that a leak might easily ruin irreplaceable artifacts, the Board of Directors has appointed Dan Linscheid to contact roofers for bids.

QUILT DRAWING TICKETS

For those who may not have seen it, the "Ohio Star" handmade quilt donated by the Piecemakers Quilt Guild is now on display in the Miller Museum building. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The drawing will be held in conjunction with the Harvest Festival on October 16th. ...And speaking of the Harvest Festival, have you located your period costume yet?

CENTURY FARM PROGRAM

Rick Read, Field Services Coordinator for the Oregon Historical Society informs us the deadline for Century Farm applications has been extended to July 1st. If you know of a farm that has been in the same family for 100 years or more, please alert the owners about this special heritage program administered by the Oregon Historical Society. Rick will gladly provide guidelines and an application form. Contact him at the Oregon Historical Society, 1200 SW Park Avenue, Portland OR 97205 or phone (503) 219-2030.

FOR YOU A ROSE.....

Have you seen the moss rose growing on the trellis at the front of the Miller Museum? Transplanted there by our head groundskeeper, Ruth "Digger" Crawford, it has become a showpiece of color that rivals the nearby rhododendrons for beauty. Speaking of Ruth, we are informed her plans to relocate in Arizona are at least temporarily on hold, so we may still be seeing her tending the garden this summer.

POLICY COMMITTEE AT WORK

At their June 8th meeting the Board of Directors set up and appointed a committee to establish policy and rules for the loan of museum artifacts to other organizations. Composed of several members having a responsibility for or close interest in specific items, this group is to develop firm guidelines to insure the security of museum artifacts on loan, public display at other sites or taken to schools, etc.

BY-LAWS REVISION

Under the direction of Maxine Williams, the drafting of updated by-laws is moving ahead. Rough revisions have been presented to the Board of Directors and discussed at their last two meetings. Tentative plans are to have a final form ready for a membership vote in conjunction with the election of officers at the December 1999 general meeting. Members wishing to view a draft and/or make comments should contact a board member.

Remember, A Red Dot on Your Address Label Means Your Dues are Due

U. S. NATIONAL BANK OF McMinnville "NATIONAL CURRENCY"

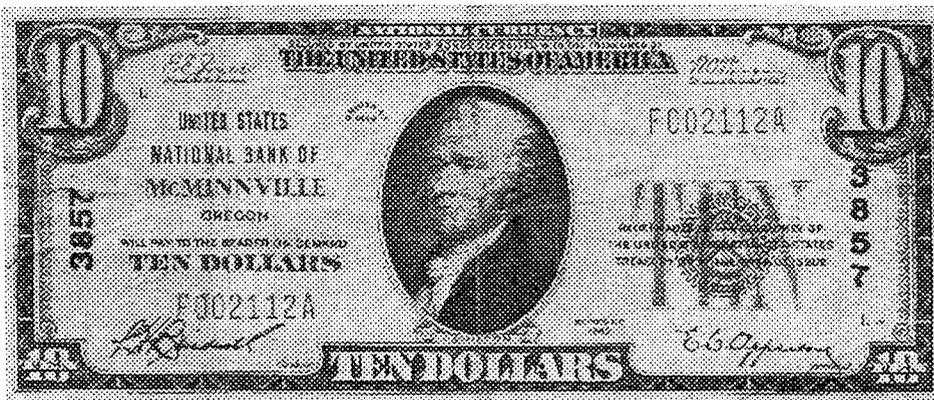
by John White

As the conflict wore on, the cost of waging the Civil War had forced the Federal Government into a deficit financing situation resulting in inflation of consumer prices as well as foreign balance of trade difficulties [sound familiar?]. In an attempt to stabilize the economy and relieve increasing pressure upon the Treasury, Congress passed the National Currency Act in 1864.

Simply stated, this act required nationally chartered banks to purchase Government bonds and then deposit them with the U.S. Treasury. In return, the Treasury Department would permit these banks to issue their own currency up to an amount equaling their bond deposit. Although backed indirectly by U.S. Government bonds, these "greenbacks" were redeemable only at the issuing bank.

Needless to say, such notes, with little more than a specific bank's reputation and a piece of paper held in Washington D.C. to back them up, did not meet with widespread public approval for quite some time. Depending upon the general economics of a particular time and locale, "greenbacks", or "shin plasters" as they were sometimes called, were often discounted rather heavily by merchants. Over the next several decades, various changes were introduced to stabilize and improve public acceptance of paper currency, but it was not until after enactment of the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 that such goals actually became feasible.

One of the Federal Reserve Act provisions was that currency issued by national banks would be retired from circulation over the next 20 years. As the supporting Government bonds matured or were redeemed, a like amount of "greenbacks" would be removed from circulation by the issuing bank, and in 1933 the Federal Reserve Bank would assume full responsibility to guarantee all National Currency Notes still outstanding.



A 1920 series \$10 National Currency Note issued by the U. S. National Bank of McMinnville. This bill is still considered legal tender and may be redeemed at any national bank

The United States National Bank of McMinnville (not to be confused with the U.S. Bancorporation into which it later became absorbed) opened its doors for business on Wednesday July 6th 1910. There were already two institutions, the First National Bank of McMinnville and the McMinnville National Bank, serving the community but the area's rapidly growing economy virtually assured success for a third since only locally owned and operated banks were at that time permitted by law. The founders and principal officers, who raised initial capital of \$50,000, were Arthur McPhillips, president; E. D. Hendricks, vice-president; George W. Briedwell, cashier and Lynn Lancefield, assistant cashier.

Situated on Third Street in the Union Block, the new U.S. National Bank of McMinnville occupied part of the space now taken by Pointek's Bakery. A "late pattern" Mosler safe had been installed within a specially constructed vault room and the bank's founders confidently assured the community that their deposits would be secure.

It was not long before the bank moved to larger quarters a few doors east in the old Oddfellows Building on the northwest corner of Third and Evans. When the U.S. Bank again moved to its present location, First Federal Savings & Loan took over the Third and Evans site which is now occupied by Northwest Title Co.

By the late 1920s groups of independent bankers in Oregon began exploring the possibility of combining into "holding companies" to improve their financial strength and circumvent then current regulations against branch banks. In November 1928 the United States National Corporation, later known as "U.S. Bancorp", was formed in Portland for the purpose of "buying, acquiring, selling and dealing in stocks, bonds, investment securities and other business...". This maneuver allowed the holding company to buy stock in local banks, thus turning them into what amounted to branches of the larger organization.

Now faced with the situation of competing against large consolidated banks with greater capital and loan capabilities, many small local banks opted to become part of a holding company on a stock exchange basis. On April 3, 1930 the U.S. National Bank of McMinnville joined with U.S. National of Salem, First National of St. Helens, Bank of Mt. Angel, First National of Camas and three independent Portland Banks; Citizen's National, Union State Bank and Peninsula National to become part of the "U.S. National Group" and thus begin a merging trend which continues on a somewhat larger scale to this day.

Charter No. 9008
Condensed Report of

UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK

of McMinnville, Oregon, at the Close of Business, November 10, 1910

RESOURCES	LIABILITIES
Loans and Discounts .. \$41,069 15	Capital
U. S. and other Bonds 33,442 60	Circulation
Banking House and	Deposits
Fixtures	
Cash and due from	
Banks	
\$152,156 78	\$152,156 78

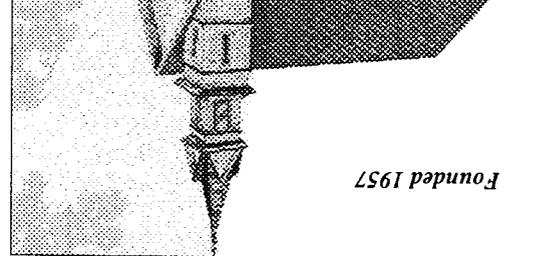
We offer all accommodations consistent with prudent management.

ACCOUNTS SOLICITED

ARTHUR McPHILLIPS, Pres.
E. D. HENDRICKS, Vice-Pres.

GEO. W. BRIEDWELL, Cashier
LYNN LANCEFIELD, Asst. Cash.,

1910 statement of the U.S. National Bank of McMinnville indicating under Liabilities that \$25,000 in National Currency Notes were then in circulation.



Founded 1957

Lafayette Oregon 97127

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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 1999 Calendar of Events

Tuesday July 13th, 2:00 PM

Board of Directors - Miller Log Museum - Lafayette

Saturday August 7th, 12:00 Noon

YCHS Annual Potluck Picnic - Yamhill Locks Park - Lafayette

Bring your Own Table Service - Guests Always Welcome

(See page 1 for details)

Sunday August 15th, 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Old Fashioned Threshing Bee and Potluck Dinner - Watts Family Farm

(See page 2 for details)

Tuesday September 14th - 6:30 PM

General Meeting and Potluck Dinner - First Christian Church - Sheridan

Bring your Own Table Service - Guests Always Welcome

(Details will appear in the September issue)