



Yamhill County Museum, 6th and Market Street, Lafayette, Oregon

COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, December 12, 1978, 7 p.m.

PLACE: McMinnville Presbyterian Church, Second & Davis

POTLUCK; bring your own service

PROGRAM: Laurence Schreiber will tell about the Schreibers
and the area in Yamhill County where they settled.

MUSEUM NEWS

Those who were at our Birthday Party at Sheridan met some of our older members who were the spark that started our Historical Society and have helped keep the history of this county alive.

Approximately a dozen Charter Members attended. Rev. James Alley, who started the society at Amity Christian Church, was present, and his wife gave a short program of bell ringing which all enjoyed.

If anyone's name was missing from the list of Charter Members in last month's News Letter, please let us know. We want a complete list for our records. The records of our first ten years of existence have been lost and that has hampered us in many ways.

We had a nice group of women, a Study Group, from Portland November 15. They had a sack lunch and we made coffee for them.

They were very happy to see all the lovely old articles we have.

Several books have been purchased the past few weeks. Christmas is a nice book-giving time.

We have a new supply of donation maps, and also Museums of the Willamette Valley Tour Brochure Guides.

If there are snow storms on weekends the Museum will not be open. We don't have many, if any, visitors during bad weather and the roads are often too bad for us to be out.

We had many nice compliments on our new building.

Am sorry our Measure 13 didn't pass. Am sure many more people in the county are now aware that we have a fine collection of pioneer articles. We had a display at First National Bank and the McMinnville City Library, and a full-page spread in the News-Register.

We will carry on and hope we can be remembered in your wills or by contributions to support our vast collections of cemetery and school records and history of our county and its family records.

Anyone is welcome to be a member. Our dues are only \$2 per person per year and dues are the only thing I can think of that haven't gone up during these 21 years. What a bargain! (Life membership is \$50.)

Tour groups call 472-7935 any time for a date. We are open on Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4:30 p.m., during winter months.

ROMA SITTON

Christmas in Yamhill County in 1851 was surprisingly similar to Christmas as it is in 1978, 127 years later.

The Lafayette correspondent for the Oregon Statesman, who signed himself, Uncle Ned, sent in a report of holiday activities at the county seat for the December 31, 1851, issue of that newspaper. It read:

"After a few weeks of most provokingly dull and uninteresting times, the annual return of the holy days has been particularly welcome. As usual, Christmas came amid wind and rain and a general commotion of the elements. According to the custom among Christian nations, the people in this vicinity spent the day and much of the night in celebrating the advent of the Redeemer according to their various tastes and predilections -- some in the Church with prayer and anthems, others in the yearly gathering of the same blood around the family hearth, from the gray-headed sire and matron of the past to 'the toddling wee thing' of the present.

"The ordinary quantity of 'wild oats' were 'sown' by the youngster under the influence of the grape. 'The beauty and the chivalry' had a dance at the Lafayette House at night, where 'they chased the glowing with flying feet' until the gray dawn of day.

"For the first time, I believe in the county, the day was commemorated by Divine Service. Rev. Mr. Richmond of the Episcopal Church officiated. The services were pleasantly varied by the marriage of Capt. Underwood and Miss Louisa Young of this place, according to the ordinances of that church."

UNCLE NED

(Louisa Young was a daughter of James R. and Catharine Young. The Youngs were English and had come to Oregon from Australia by 1850. Catharine Burton Young was a sister of James Burton who settled in the Yamhill area. The Youngs did not stay in Oregon but soon returned to Australia.)

RUTH STOLLER

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Historical Society is held at the December meeting. As outgoing president I should like to thank all of you for your help the past two years -- especially officers, board and chairmen. Many things I had hoped to do during the past two years were not accomplished, particularly passage of the levy. But we have much to be thankful for. We have a new Museum Building. Thanks mostly to generosity of our members it is completely paid for. Our membership is growing. Sales of OLD YAMHILL, now in its second printing, are going nicely. The Historical Society is fortunate to have dedicated and loyal people among its members. So we have much to be thankful for. And I am thankful to all of you for your fine help. I appreciate having had the opportunity to serve as your president. Thank you.

ELAINE ROHSE