Jewels of the Quilt World
by Jean Sartor

December is a great month to visit YCHS at the Historic Lafayette site any year, but this year you will be treated to a special display of the Crazy Quilt Collection.

These elegant one of a kind quilts were popular in Victorian homes. The quilt makers would use random pieces of silks, satins, and velvets, which were sewn to a backing and then embellished with decorative stitches and ornamentations.

We will be sharing more than thirty quilts throughout the Poling Memorial Church and the Miller Log Cabin during the month of December. Stop in any Wednesday or Saturday and let these "jewels" put you in a very merry holiday mood!

November Happenings

On November 11th Carolyn McGanty treated Society members to a fascinating story about her grandfather Abraham Blackburn, beginning her talk by saying, "You never know what skeletons you might find in your family's closet..." This interesting story took place in Dallas. A man named Oscar Kelty shot his wife, Clara, after she left him due to his drinking. He injured his six-month old son, held by his mother at the time of her murder, in the process.

A group of vigilantes lynched Kelty a short time later for the murder. Arrested on suspicion of being the ringleader in the lynching of Kelty, McGanty's grandfather Blackburn received a reprieve and acquittal due to lack of solid evidence linking him to the crime.

McGanty concluded her talk by telling about how Dr. Norris Perkins recounted the story years later, pointing to the powder burn scars on his face. You see, he was the small child in his mother's arms that horrible day 120 years ago.

Be sure to attend December's meeting, when we will share stories about our favorite childhood Christmas toys!

Invest Your Kicker!

Our Lafayette site is cared for through a generous endowment established by Verl and Dorothy Miller. YCHS is establishing an endowment fund for the operation and maintenance of its Durham Lane site. Won't you consider helping us reach our goal of a sustained future by investing your Oregon tax 'kicker' check in the YCHS endowment?
The West Side

December 2007

From Your President

It seems like Thanksgiving got lost between Halloween and Christmas. I'm hoping Thanksgiving was a time of family gathering and thanksgiving for you. Someone said you consume an average 5,000 calories on that day. I believe I did my best to maintain the average.

I'm not going to do a wrap-up of YCHS activities during the year as it would take up the whole Newsletter. What a busy year!!! For those who have kept track, the construction on the new site is on-going. I counted 16 meetings I will have attended in the month of November. When you consider that includes members of the board and committee people, that counts up to a lot of volunteer hours. Then add to Katherine’s list all the presentations she makes, city and council contacts and non-profits the total really increases.

An Oregon State communication stated that a Volunteer is rated at $16 an hour. If you were to total all the volunteer hours from the Lafayette site and volunteer activity from the new site which would include the garage sale, planting and harvesting, the covered wagon, parades, and then multiply that by $16 . . . WOW!!!

I hope you get my message of the importance of our volunteers. Whether members or not they are the backbone of this organization. I want to take this opportunity to “THANK” everyone mentioned and the ones I have missed.

Wishing you and your families the best of Holidays and A Happy New Year.

Sincerely, Shirley

Slate of Nominees

For VP:

YCHS member Bill Roll is interested in preserving the past for the future. Raised on a farm he realizes many people today don’t know what commitment and sacrifice the pioneers had to make to survive. Bill served in the US Air Force and retired from the construction trade in 2000. He belongs to Toastmasters, Rotary, and OSU Master Gardeners.

For Corresponding Secretary:

Member Mickey Anderson has been working at the Lafayette site on accessions, museum records management, and artifacts inventory projects. Retiring from AT&T in 1990, he moved to Carlton where he served on the City Planning Commission and City Council. Upon moving to McMinnville he joined the City Planning Commission, where he is serving his second term.

For Director at Large:

Shirley McDaniel is currently serving in this position and would like to continue to help the Society become more organized and complete her commitment to Board and Committee projects. She is a retired elementary teacher, is very active in a local craft guild and some of her beautiful work is on display at the Log Cabin. Shirley is also a life-long resident of Yamhill County and resides in Yamhill.
YCHS November General Meeting

Members attending the November meeting of the Yamhill County Historical Society enjoyed a tasty potluck dinner and received an update about recent Society activities from President Shirley Venhaus.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to a very large American Flag brought by Marjorie Owens in honor of Veteran’s Day. Marjorie received the flag in honor of her late husband, a veteran, and fellow veteran Ken Williams led the membership in prayer and thanksgiving for all veterans in service to the United States – both past and present.

Fifty-three members attended the meeting, which took place on a Sunday afternoon as a result of our Membership’s request that meetings be held earlier in the day during winter months to accommodate those not able to drive at night during inclement weather. We met some new members; saw many familiar faces, and several members that we had not seen in a very long time!

According to the YCHS Bylaws, the annual meeting must occur on the second Tuesday in December; therefore, next month’s meeting will take place in the evening of Tuesday, December 11, 2007. Member meetings will revert to the second Sundays of the month during January and February, beginning at 2 p.m.

Treasurer Ken Williams presented his report followed by Executive Director Katherine Huit's report on new facility progress and Marjorie Owens' report on activities at the historic Lafayette site.

The Nomination Committee (Patsy Miller, Elaine Rohse, Reita Lockett and Frank Dummer) reported the slate officers in accordance with the Society’s Bylaws, recommending three individuals to serve terms in the positions of Vice President, Corresponding Secretary and Director at Large.

Members will have the opportunity to cast their vote for the selected nominees or additional nominees from the floor at the Annual Meeting, December 11, 2007.

Jean Sartor reported that the volunteers are busy creating holiday related exhibits at our historic Lafayette site. The Society will feature the ‘jewels’ of the Permanent Collection: the phenomenal crazy quilts! We will display these beautiful textiles for a limited time, so be sure to stop by the Log Cabin to enjoy these treasures while they are on exhibit.

New member Theresa Berthelsdorf presented the Society with an aerial image she took of our new facility that she photographed in October.

Marjorie Owens, substituting for Barbara Knutson who was in the hospital recovering from surgery, introduced featured speaker Caroline McGanty. (We miss you Barbara!)

President Shirley Venhaus adjourned the meeting reminding members to bring a special Christmas toy and an accompanying story to share during the December 11, 2007 meeting.

2007 Charitable Giving Tax Credit

Don’t forget! If you make a cash gift to the Yamhill County Historical Society, and make a matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust you will receive a 100 percent tax credit for your gift to the Trust.

It’s simple! Contribute to YCHS. Match your gift with a contribution to the Oregon Cultural Trust. Then, claim your tax credit – up to $500 for individuals, $1000 for couples filing jointly or $2,500 for corporations – when you file your Oregon State income tax returns.

To learn more about this important program visit www.culturaltrust.org or call the Trust at 503-986-0088.

Thank You Members!

Renewed membership:
Don Porter

New members:
Individual:
Curtis Grubbs

Family:
Martin and Rowena Gass
Richard and Ruth White
James & Tami Compton-Spears
Mark Sheridan

Supporter:
John and Gail Price
First Federal Savings and Loan

Community Builder:
City of McMinnville
The Holiday Season is upon us! A group of volunteers enjoyed the late fall sunshine and a ride aboard the YCHS float in McMinnville’s Christmas Parade. Members of the Two Cylinder Club joined the fun with their John Deere tractors towing trailers filled with YCHS volunteers, children and musicians.

Traveling down Third Street from McMinnville City Park, the parade of agriculture equipment celebrated the centennial anniversary of Case Plows. We walked the opposite direction during this year’s Christmas Parade, turning left on Cowls at this very corner. If you look closely, you will notice baton-twirlers following the machine at the rear. I also found the Columbia Food Store intriguing... Remember the smell of Rutherford’s popcorn, sold from the same building... or visiting the rent to own store in the same location? Now the small grocery store is back (Harvest Fresh) – and it was neat to see the fabulous group of farm equipment you have to love John Deere! once again featured in the parade...! Do you have a memory of a parade in Yamhill County that you’d like to share? If so, let us know!

Just how many parades have traveled the same route over the years I cannot tell you; however, I know parades have been a part of our heritage here in Yamhill County for many years. Ron Davison recently shared some photos that show agriculture equipment on parade seventy years ago! Featured machines came from Bruce Chalmer’s Implements, a Case dealership located on the corner of Third and Galloway. The 1937 McMinnville parade shown in the image to the right featured farm machines from the late 1800s, 1909, 1919 and 1937.

Photograph courtesy of Ron Davison
This year passed so quickly! We conducting public presentations, outreach and networking activities with heritage associations, city and county government, and service organizations. We achieved local, regional and statewide media coverage via newspaper, radio, community television, and the Internet.

We more than doubled our membership dollars this year! Thank you, Members, for your continuing support of YCHS projects and programs!


With the generous gift of land from the McPhillips and Kauer Families we began a journey toward a new facility! Cash donors contributed over $1.2 million toward this dream as of November 2007. We are incredibly thankful to Ray and Barbara Kauer their considerable contributions to our building fund. Many thanks as well to the Yamhill County Women for Agriculture, Bob de Forest, and Jo McIntyre for education program and exhibit funding; the Yamhill County Farm Bureau for Restoration Shop funding, and Mrs. Marge Clevenger for funding dedicated to our 1910 Sawmill.

From breaking ground in April to the steel framework partially in place at press time in late November 2007, we’ve come a long way! Haworth construction crews brave the cold weather and continue work on steel framework that will create the exhibit hall in the agriculture and timber building. Materials for our 1910 Sawmill are in place and construction will soon commence. We continue to evaluate and modify our future construction plans.

Gigantic thanks to all of our volunteers - from those working on the garage sale and raising $14,000; to those providing visitors’ access the County’s rich cultural heritage housed at the historic Lafayette site, to our volunteer educators who operated our Covered Wagon Program, bringing history to schools and other organizations throughout Yamhill County; to those collecting and transporting agricultural and timber artifacts to our new site, and to those dedicated to fund raising activities - thank you!

Reflecting back upon the year, it is also important to note the loss of several special people who contributed their time and skills to the Society, including Twila Byrnes and Annita Linscheid. Our Museum is a better place because of them, and we will not forget their contributions.

In anticipation of increased activities at the Durham Lane site during 2008, we are forming several new volunteer committees. Do you like restoring equipment and machinery? Would you like to be part of the YCHS Restoration Team? If so, please join us for an informational meeting at the YCHS warehouse on Durham Lane, December 15, 2007 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Watch this column in future issues of the West Side for other opportunities to participate in upcoming activities and events. Until then, I wish for you a wonderful Yamhill County holiday season surrounded by the love of family and friends.

Cheers, Katherine
**Upcoming Events**

**Annual Meeting:**
Date: December 11, 2007
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Seventh Day Adventist Church
Subject: Christmas Share & Tell
Bring a childhood toy & accompanying story for sharing during the program!

**January 2008 Meeting:**
Date: January 13, 2008
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: TBD
Subject: TBD

**February 2008 Meeting:**
Date: February 10, 2008
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: TBD
Subject: TBD

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**Annual Membership Dues**

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Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society and mail them to YCHS, PO Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127. Annual memberships are tax deductible.

Members receive *The West Side* newsletter and access to the YCHS Museum and Ruth Stoller Research Library free of charge. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Gloria Lutz: 503-472-7563 or glutz@onlinemac.com.