Isn’t it exciting to plan for our Sesquicentennial celebration?

Plans are coming along very well for our YCHS event February 14, 2009. The open houses will be from 10-4 at both locations. Docents will be available in Lafayette and at the Durham Lane site.

Many ideas are still coming in, but we know we will have entertainment, demonstrations, refreshments and fun. Hopefully you will also learn a lot about the 33rd state to join the Union and its history. We will have people sharing their stories about Amity, Baker Creek, High Heaven, Newberg, Gibbs area, Moores Valley, Sheridan, Unionville, and Willamina so far.

If you would like to help, please call 53.864.2308 and leave a message if no one is there. You can also email: yamhillcounty@onlinemac.com. Your messages will be passed on to various committee people. You can also call General Chairperson—Joanne Watts 503.835.5893 or Yamhill Valley Heritage Center chair—Chuck Kadell 971.241.3246.

Several members attended the Oregon Encyclopedia Project presentation at the McMinnville Library October 18th. Go to www.oregonencyclopedia.org for full directions for contributing to this exciting project. Yamhill County has lots of stories to tell. All of you writers out there get busy and contribute your articles. It is an on-going project.
President's Letter

Hi Good Friends,

This is my last letter from the President. It does not seem possible that I have been in this position for fourteen years. So much has happened since 1994. I had only lived in the county for a short time. I knew very few people and had trouble finding my way around. My family had moved here from Southern California, looking for a nice place to raise two granddaughters. What a stroke of luck to have found Yamhill County.

Prior to moving here I had worked with The Jefferson County Historical Society just outside Denver, Colorado. I was born and raised in a small community in Nebraska. My mother actually came from Kansas to Nebraska in a covered wagon. My interest in history goes way back. Several in my family share this interest.

With membership and community support the YCHS has made great strides in fulfilling their Mission Statement: To protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County. For over 50 years this group of volunteers have worked to establish the museum in Lafayette that provides all of the above. Buildings were added and when more space was needed a donation of acres and funding provided the beautiful buildings at the new site. Educational programs have always had an important place as shown by the covered wagon program. The Ruth Stoller Research Library is one of the finest in the state.

It is with great pride that I list these accomplishments.

We now anticipate the completion of the buildings under construction at the Highway Durham and Highway 18 sometime in 2009. This will give the society the opportunity to carry out hands-on demonstrations of pioneer activities and space for many exhibits. This project has the capacity of becoming a major contributor to the county and surrounding area for many years to come.

I will remain on the board in an ex-official position for one year. I carry a Life membership and a Life interest in all of YCHS activities.

Thank you to all of you who have given me your support and friendship.

I remain truly yours,

Shirley Venhaus, President

Collections Committee Help Needed

We are looking for a few good friends to join the collections committee. Please feel free to join us if you were a member in the past.

This group will evaluate donations and help make decisions as to where that donation fits into the museum. If you are interested in antiques, or a long time resident who knows local history and families and would like to participate call Mickey Anderson (503) 474-9001 for information.

Ballots

The ballots have been sent out for the election of the board of directors for YCHS. Ballots were sent to all of those that were current with their dues as of November 17, 2008.

All ballots are due December 1, 2008. Please return them in the addressed envelope that is enclosed with the ballot. Please sign your name to the outside of the envelope across the flap. Directions are enclosed with the ballot.
SIX OPEN POSITIONS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By the time you read this you will probably have already marked and mailed in your ballot to fill the open positions.

Remember, they are due at the YCHS Office address BEFORE December 1, 1008.

As a reminder the candidates for these positions are:

Lea Burcham – owner of Third Street Antiques and a long time member. She is serving on the Board of the Yamhill County Visitors Association. What an excellent PR source for our museums!

Kim Courtin – volunteer at the Lafayette museum. Skilled in note taking, keeping books and computer use. All are skills which YCHS can always use.

Carolyn Meeker – member who has volunteered for many county and state wide organizations like Oregon Arts Commission, United Way, March of Dimes and others. An experienced volunteer who will bring much experience and talent to YCHS.

Karen Sitton-Saxberg – a beautician who probably gave you a great cut and a little history about the famous Sitton family who first came to Oregon on the 1843 wagon train. As a member of this family, she has lots of history and contacts that will be of great use to the YCHS.

Bob Vertregt – volunteer at the Durham Lane site and a man with a great interest in history in general as well as in the Yamhill Valley history.

Ken Williams – a board member who has served as treasurer this past session. Ken is dedicated and put in lots of hours for the YCHS. He has knowledge in several fields besides finance and can help the board in many ways.

Be sure to come to our December General Meeting where the results of this election will be announced.

YCHS - General Meeting - Nov. 11, 2008 McMinnville

*The meeting was called to order with 43 members and guests signed in.
*Colin Armstrong led the Observation of Veteran's Day with several attending Veterans sharing a bit of their history.
*The program on Northwest Black Pioneers was given by Dr. Mary Elizabeth Harper from Salem. A very interesting look into our past from 1788 to 1940.
*Guests, November birthdays and anniversaries were observed.
*Joanne Watts reminded us of the program to celebrate Oregon's birthday - February 14, 2009 at the Lafayette Museum and the Durham site. FMI contact her.
*The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved as corrected.
*Ken Williams gave the Financial Report. All Society bills have been paid and reports filed. The Building Funds have been expended.
*The Over-sight Committee is working on funding the $140,000 needed to complete the Ag-section at the Durham Lane site.
*Thanks were given to Ken and Barbara Knutson for their many years as set-up committee for our meals. We are needing new volunteers for this important job.
*Mickey Anderson of the Re-stated By-Laws committee presented changes, after discussion, a motion was made to accept the Re-stated By-Laws and to implement them on December 1, 2008. The motion passed - 14 yes, 9 no and many abstaining.
*Nominations for Director positions on the Board: Kim Courtin, Karen Sitton-Saxberg, Bob Vertregt, Lea Burcham, Carolyn Meeker, Ken Williams. Voting will be by mailed ballot.
*Milly Armstrong is looking for hand-made items and volunteers to work at the Christmas Crazy Bazaar that will be held at the A-Dec building on the Fairgrounds on Nov. 28, 29, and 30.
*The membership now stands at 314 members.
*Thanks were given to Jean Sartor for her work with visitors at the Log Building.
## December 2008 Happenings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</td>
<td>YCHS General meeting</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum open</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum open</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum open</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lafayette Museum open</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum open</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum open</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanukkah begins at sundown</td>
<td>Hanukkah</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Locations
- 12/9: 7th Day Adventist Church, 1500 Old Sheridan Rd., McMinnville
- Program: Frank Dummer and a sing-along

### December General Meeting and Potluck
- **Date:** Tuesday, December 9, 2008
- **Time:** 6:30 Potluck
- **Time:** 7:00 Program
- **Program:** Frank Dummer and a sing-along.
- **Location:** 7th Day Adventist Church, 1500 Old Sheridan Rd., McMinnville

### YCHS Upcoming Events
- Jan. 11th 2:00—Author Charlene Brown. She is the author of *Elizabeth’s Golden Land*, a novel inspired by a true story and *Fancy Work*, about the William Booth murder.
- Feb. 14, 2009—YCHS Sesquicentennial Celebration
African-Americans in Oregon

Did you know that the northwest (Oregon and Washington) had black residents as early as 1788? This was just one bit of information members learned when Dr. Mary Elizabeth Harper came to speak at our November 11th meeting.

Dr. Harper holds the following degrees: Doctor of Jurisprudence, MA in English and Education and MS in Education. She has served as Manager of Labor Relations for the state of Oregon and presently is working as a consultant for Keizer Permanente.

Dr. Harper spoke of specific black individuals and their place in Oregon history. Men such as Columbus Lewell, Abner Hunt, Daniel Waldo and Richard Bogle (ancestor of Dick Bogle a news reporter in Portland) who were miners, farmers, barbers, lumberman and preachers.

She described the conditions black people such as the men above faced as difficult and discriminating. There were laws that prevented the blacks from living in a town, even to the extent that they were not allowed to stay overnight. The blacks were forced to leave and often ended up living on the reservations with the Native American. This explains why some blacks have Indian characteristics.

Despite Oregon’s law giving everyone a right to a free education, this did not happen. Around 1860 the blacks built a school since the children were not being educated and later a night school was started for black adults so they could learn to read and write.

The plight of the black population in the northwest was somewhat improved by the Reverend Obed Dickenson. He accepted 3 black people into his church much to the protests of the community. His wife held classes to teach the black ladies how to read and write. Unfortunately, there were few white people who were willing to take this kind of risk at the time.

Dr. Harper expressed thanks to the YCHS and its members for having her come and for sharing with her what information we had about blacks in Oregon. She encouraged us to help her research for more details on this project and she gave us the opportunity to sign up to receive notice of the coming events of the Oregon Northwest Black Pioneer society.
Louise Heindl has gathered a slew of volunteers to prepare for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar. They have been busy making wine cork trivets and other items that they will be selling at the bazaar that will be held at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds November 28-30.

We will also have pioneer clothing for sale there. Several volunteers have been busy sewing aprons, bonnets, and dresses. Member Jean Green from Kent, Washington read about our sewing efforts in the newsletter. She whipped out 8 bonnets, 3 dresses, and 8 muslin aprons all for little girls and sent them to us. They are on display and for sale at the museum. They will also be for sale at the bazaar.

Jean Sartor has done a fabulous job displaying items in our new gift shop. It is a must see and purchasing Christmas presents would be a great idea. With Oregon's Sesquicentennial coming up in two months, this would be a time to pick up your costume for all of the events that are going to be going on around the state.
December 2008

The West Side

Membership Growth

Membership continues to grow and grow. As of November 1st, our membership was made up of the following:

- Life—48
- *Senior/Student/Educator—2
- Individual—109
- Family—84
- *Senior Family—3
- Friend—26
- Supporter—32
- Community Builder—5
- Community Benefactor—3

*new categories

We have members from 12 states and one foreign country.

Gloria Lutz, Membership Chair

Yamhill Valley Heritage Center Update

The Restoration Shop and the Exhibit Hall section are enclosed on three sides. There will be a work party organized soon to enclose these areas from the elements. When more funding becomes available, the office/entrance area will be completed and we can move in. We are hoping for that sometime this spring or summer.

Thank You New and Renewed Members!

New members:

Individual:
Cathy Miller-Espinoza
Marge Clevenger
Mel Smith
William Seaton
Barbara Drake

Family:
Virgil and Sally Moon

Friends:
Ed and Cherie Ellingson

Members that have renewed:

Individuals:
Juanita Dean
Joan Davenport
Farrel Fuerst
Louise Gray

Family:
Everett and Winona Swain

Friends:
John and Nancy Larsen
Patsey Miller

Supporters:
Ron and Linda Davison
Tom and Sue Davison

Planning a Vacation?

Please notify Gloria Lutz (phone: 503-472-7563; email: glutz@onlinemac.com or write to YCHS, PO Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127). She can forward newsletters to your temporary address or hold them until you return home. Otherwise, your newsletter comes back to YCHS and we have to pay additional postage!!

DON’T FORGET...
Besides free admittance to the museum, your membership now allows you a 10% discount on Gift Shop items. Merry Christmas
Become a Yamhill County Historical Society Member Today!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership entitles you to:</th>
<th>Annual Membership Levels (July 1—June 30)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The West Side newsletter</td>
<td>Please Check One: ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission to the Museum &amp; Library</td>
<td>□ Senior/Student/Educator $15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to genealogical &amp; historical files</td>
<td>□ Individual $20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center</td>
<td>□ Senior Family $25 (age 65+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly potluck &amp; program for Members</td>
<td>□ Family (Basic) $30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification of events &amp; summer picnic</td>
<td>□ Friend $55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Supporter $125+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Community $250+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Community Benefactor $500+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make Checks payable to: Yamhill County Historical Society.  
Mail this form with payment to: YCHS, P.O. Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127.

Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Gloria Lutz at 503-472-7563 or email: glutz@onlinemac.com

Name: ____________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: _____ Zip Code: ________________
Phone (Home): ______________________ (Cell): ______________________ (Work): ______________________
Email: ________________________________________________________________________________

The Yamhill County Historical Society & Museum is a charitable 501 (c) (3) organization, tax i.d. #23-7090047.