Board Highlights

The Board met on January 8th, with 11 officers and members present. Betty Brown presented a printed Treasurer’s Report, showing December income at $1839.11, expenses at $944.82. Correspondence Secretary Marjorie Owens sent out two sympathy cards, four Thank You notes and two inquiry responses. Eileen Lewis, Volunteer Chair, reported that sufficient volunteers for the Museum signed up for January.

Under Old Business, we have received information on the photo of the street arches in McMinnville... it was 1898 and the photo came to us via the GAR. The pesticide process used in the Museum needs to be set up on a cycle to insure we keep the pests at bay. Oral Histories grant monies have been received; this is a pass-through grant. The Nomadic Teacher has completed 19 presentations at 10 schools, with more scheduled in the next few months. The Oral Histories project will start soon. A quilt storage grant proposal is under study. The Antique/Collectable Appraisal Day has been scheduled for June 29, 2002. Joanne Watts is working on this project. The publisher of Old Yamhill requires a 500 copy run at $10 each = $5,000. Shirley suggested that they deliver and bill us for the first half, hanging onto the second until we can afford it. Some suggestions were heard on how we can come up with the initial $2,500. We currently have $600 set aside for this now. Obviously the price on the new books will need to be higher than the earlier charge.

Our calendars cost $270 to produce and generated $584 for a net profit of $314. Olive is looking into printing process used in the Museum needs to be set up on a cycle to Insure we keep the pests at bay. Oral Histories grant monies have been received; this is a pass-through grant. The process used in the Museum needs to be set up on a cycle to Insure we keep the pests at bay. Oral Histories grant monies have been received; this is a pass-through grant. The Nomadic Teacher has completed 19 presentations at 10 schools, with more scheduled in the next few months. The Oral Histories project will start soon. A quilt storage grant proposal is under study. The Oral Histories project will start soon. A quilt storage grant proposal is under study. The Antique/Collectable Appraisal Day has been scheduled for June 29, 2002. Joanne Watts is working on this project. The publisher of Old Yamhill requires a 500 copy run at $10 each = $5,000. Shirley suggested that they deliver and bill us for the first half, hanging onto the second until we can afford it. Some suggestions were heard on how we can come up with the initial $2,500. We currently have $600 set aside for this now. Obviously the price on the new books will need to be higher than the earlier charge.

From our President

Words a Volunteer Board Loves to Hear:

When someone says, "These are potential new members and they want to work at the museum - I wouldn't mind putting in a few hours at the museum - How can I help - I have a suggestion - Have you ever thought about - Would it be ok if I contacted PGE for suggestions on conserving electricity - I know someone who might donate money toward... - I am a life member and here is a contribution toward... - Here is a contribution but keep it anonymous - Would it be ok if I helped with (any event)." We seem to be experiencing a wonderful reawakening in our membership. They realize that this is a group of people, including the Board, who are all working toward the betterment of the society and the museum. We need every bit of help we can get no matter how large or small. The membership is interested and concerned and want to know what is going on. It is the duty of the Board to inform them. In thought and deed this is wonderful. The Historical Society and our Museum is blessed with dedicated volunteers. They see what needs to be done and do it without fanfare or thanks. This keeps the museum operating. Now, we have others who see the need and are stepping forward to offer assistance. Thank goodness!! We are open to suggestions, offers to help or even complaints. Go easy on the complaints as we are very sensitive (Ha) Please contact Shirley, Eileen, Marjorie, or anyone who is on the Board or membership. It is great to see the enthusiasm and the desire to keep this a fun and pleasurable process. Love you all. Shirley
TREASURES IN THE ATTIC

YCHS is preparing to bring "TREASURES IN THE ATTIC" (an Antique Appraisal event) to Yamhill County on June 29th, 2002. This will be held at the museum complex and will be open to the public. Appraisals from many different areas of expertise will be on hand. This is a fundraiser for the society and a small charge will be made for the appraisals.

There are many details left to plan and we are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping please call Joanne Watts 835-5893 or Shirley Venhaus 434-0567.

Special Presentation Scheduled

August 13th of this year will see a very special presentation for our society. In mid-August of 1826, Alexander Roderick McLeod passed through the Yamhill valley on his way back from the central Oregon coast. He and Peter Skene Ogden were Chief Fur Traders for Hudson’s Bay Company. Mr. Ogden’s travels took him easterly and southerly, while Mr. McLeod went south and west from Fort Vancouver.

Al Le Page, Executive Director of the National Coast Trail Association, will give a two hour presentation focusing on the trails and experiences of Mr. McLeod’s trip through Yamhill County 176 years ago, almost to the day. Al has a one hour slide show, which will be followed up with another half-hour of general discussion and wrapping up with a question and answer period. You will need to mark this one on your calendar, since it was scheduled too late to be published earlier. More details (time & place) will follow in next month’s newsletter.

Oral History Interviews

How has Yamhill County changed in the last 75 years? That represents about one-half of the time period since settlement by Euro-Americans. To answer this question, Barbara Doyle has initiated an oral histories project concentrating on economic changes. She submitted a grant application to the Dal L. Baker Charitable Lead Annuity Trust for funds to cover costs of doing 12 interviews, duplicating and indexing tapes and writing articles for YCHS, the West Side and local newsletters based upon the interviews. This grant has been approved, and YCHS received a pass-through check in the amount of $3054 last December. We have a list of potential businesses and individuals to interview. Please contact the museum if you wish to suggest another interviewee. It will be checked against the existing list and added if appropriate.

Oregon’s Pathfinder for Women

At the June 14, 1993 school board meeting, a ceremony, closing the McMinnville Middle school-by name only, of course-and opening the new Fred Patton and Abigail Dunway Middle schools, was held. Many wondered, “who is Abigail Dunway?”

Abigail Scott Dunway was an 1852 Oregon emigrant and Yamhill County pioneer. Her family settled in Lafayette in November of 1852. It was there that her father, Tucker Scott, rented a building from Amos Cook and started a hotel. He named it the Oregon Temperance House. This proved very profitable as board and room was a hefty $8.00 per week! Of course, his six girls provided free help and, as they married, the hotel became less profitable.

At this time, Abigail was seventeen years old and wise beyond her age. Actually, her family called her Jenny. She didn’t use the name Abigail until she began writing and speaking, later in her life.

It is reported that Mrs. Scott, Jenny's mother, wept bitterly when Jenny was born and her father, Tucker Scott, was “cross” about her being a girl. Later, it was explained to Jenny that her mother felt the birth of a girl “a grievance almost too burdensome to be borne.” It wasn’t that Mrs. Scott didn’t love her little girl: she knew in her heart that a women’s life was hard in these times and that a man had a much better chance to enjoy life and determine his own destiny. This was a “hurt” that Jenny never forgot.

Jenny was the third child in a family of twelve, three of whom died before the trip west in 1852. The family consisted of John Tucker Scott, 43, father and driving force of the family; Ann Roelofson Scott, 40, mother, an invalid who found the trip very hard, died of cholera on the trail near Fort Laramie; “Fanny” (Mary Frances), the oldest living child, age 19, married Amos Cook at Lafayette; “Jenny,” (Abigail Jane), the second child; “Mag,” (Margaret Ann), age 15; “Etty,” (Harrriet Louise), age 11; “Sonny,” (John Henry), age 9; “Chat,” (Sarah Maria), age 5, became a musician and married James Kelty of Lafayette. The youngest was "Willie" (William Neil), age 3, who died and was buried near the Burnt River on the Oregon Trail.

The Scott caravan consisted of five wagons—two painted green and gold, six yoke of oxen (thirty-two oxen) plus ten more belonging to cousin Levi Caffee. The provision wagon was drawn by five yoke of oxen.
But a long line of pioneer experiences led me at last into the light, which, when it burst upon me found me willing to take up the burden. In looking backward, it seems strange to me now that I didn't sooner see the need of votes for women."

Abigail's first flurry into politics of the time was right there in "Old Lafayette," Oregon, known as the "Athens of the West," where many excellent orators held forth from its stage. When E. D. Baker came to town to campaign for Abraham Lincoln, she decided to go hear him. She needed Ben to take her since "Ladies Were Not Expected" at these meetings. Off-color stories, smoke, and swear words usually filled the room so this was no place for a "Lady." Even though the assembly hall was filled with several hundred men-many rudely hissing as she walked in-Abigail prevailed and heard the speech.

Having tasted the men's world of ideas and discussions, she wanted to be a part of this "world," so, with several women friends, she began attending meetings at the courthouse. The men were shocked! Abigail responded by saying, that if they would put away their "unwholesome ways," they could expect "ladies" with new and helpful ideas. (It was at the Yamhill County courthouse in Lafayette, Oregon, where women were first noted attending political meetings in the Oregon Territory.)

Abigail's next move was to ask the church for time to present her cause. She was surprised that the clergy was so upset. Imagine, a "brazen woman" advocating that women were every bit as equal as men. She was refused the right to speak at church meetings. They even accused her of neglecting her children, drinking, smoking and swearing like a man and even whipping Ben.

When some ministers found it hard to deny Abigail's request to offer a prayer, she would have a twenty-minute conversation with the Lord about Women's Suffrage! This tool was not only effective but satisfying.

Her brother, Harve, was now the esteemed Editor of the Oregonian and Abigail was sure he would support her cause in his paper. She was wrong. Many bitter conversations occurred between the two of them, although it is said that they both maintained a respect for each other. So, Abigail decided to publish her own paper to "spread the word." She and her family moved to Portland and began publishing "The New Northwest." Abigail felt that "half the women were over-taxed and underpaid while the other half were frivolous, idle and expensive. Both of these conditions of society are wrong." This became the underlying theme of her salty paper.

In 1912, Abigail finally saw the successful results of her long battle. A constitutional vote of 61,000 to 57,000 carried the day for Women's Suffrage. In her autobiography, at the age of 81, Abigail Scott Duniway was the first woman to vote in the State of Oregon.

Abigail states: "the young women of today-free to speak, to write, to choose their occupation-should remember that every inch of their freedom was bought with a great price. It is for them to show their gratitude by helping onward the reforms of their own time by spreading the light of freedom and truth still wider. The debt that each generation owes to the past it must pay to the future."  

Jim Lockett
YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2002 Calendar of Events

Board of Directors - Tuesday, February 12th, 5:00 pm
Seventh Day Adventist Church, McMinnville

Monthly Meeting & Potluck—February 12th, 6:30 pm
Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1500 Old Sheridan Rd., McMinnville

Our February Program will be the Nomadic Teacher, presented by Barbara Doyle. Please join us for dinner and potluck fare; bring your own dinnerware.

Visit our Historical Photograph Album at http://www.co.yamhill.or.us and our YCHS website at http://www.sites.onlinemac.com/history
email: History@starband.net (Dan Linscheid)