

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

February 2004

Century Farm Project

At our January meeting, Linfield students Kelly Stewart and Sara Gross presented their project studying our Century Farms. They worked in pairs, and each pair researched two farms. Kelly and her partner were in the Newberg area and Sara and her partner in the Carlton area. Most of these students, coming from the urban areas, had no real concept of any aspect of farming or the lives of farmers. Both Kelly and Sara expressed a newly gained perspective and respect for farming. They also enjoyed interviewing these families and hearing their stories. They were impressed with the positive attitudes and the farmers views on the goodness of hard work and facing challenges and failures with adaptability. They plan on doing much more work in the area of Century Farms using maps and GPS to create overlays indicating soil types, location, crops, water, and other variables. It was a very interesting program given by two very enthusiastic girls. As they ended their program they asked if any one in the audience lived on a Century Farm, there were three. These young ladies are working under the project headed up by Professors Jeff Peterson and Tom Love. We thank these ladies for a excellent presentation and look forward to an update from them in the future.

From our President

Dear Members, It is such a pleasure to stop at the museum, especially on Wed., and find ladies bustling around doing all sorts of jobs. Most of the tasks relate to preservation. It really shows the importance of our volunteers. Anyone is welcome to come by and observe or maybe become involved. Thanks to the Cultural Trust Program several people and organizations donated money to the Society before the end of the year. A total of \$4,150 was received. We thank them and we do appreciate these donations. We hope to see this program continued for another year. A letter is being sent to all members of the Society concerning the acquisition of the five acres on Hwy. 18. It gives the Society an opportunity to be an important part of the future of Yamhill County. We appreciate your support. Please note that the Security System is back in use in the Church Building. It has an extended delay system that allows you to use the front door. I hope many of you were able to visit the museum over the holidays. We thank the volunteers for the beautiful Christmas tree and the old fashioned decorations. We do appreciate their efforts to make the museum more festive. Sometimes I forget to tell you how much we appreciate the volunteers. So again a big THANK YOU!!!! See you soon. Sincerely, Shirley

Attention Volunteers!

We have set a date to start our "Sewing Bee": February 11th. We will be ready to begin sewing labels onto our collection of textiles, starting with items that have for the most part been in storage. These will be vacuumed, have labels matched to each item and sewn on, recorded and packed into appropriate archival storage boxes marked with a listing of contents for easy retrieval. No expert skills will be needed for this project. Materials will be provided, but you will want to bring a pair of small scissors for your own use. This effort will continue every Wednesday for as long as it takes to complete the project. Work hours will be between 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. If you can help, please bring a lunch if you can spend the day. If you can only come in for an hour, even that will be appreciated.. every stitch helps! If you don't like sewing but would still like to join in, we can find another place for your efforts. We are making every effort to have everything organized to insure a smooth process. Submitted by the Wednesday Work Group.

Quilt Storage & Inventory Project Completed

Volunteer Elma Shuck has been dreaming for years of a fully organized, inventoried and properly stored facility for our precious quilt collection. Following an eight month effort by a number of caring and concerned people, her dream was recently realized.

The archival boxes containing the quilts have color photos attached, and the entire collection will soon be in our computerized inventory, which will allow us to easily monitor their condition, use, changes, display, etc.

This effort is in keeping with accepted storage and inventory methods used by museums elsewhere. We are proud of the work of Elma and her helpers.



*The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit
exempt educational and public service*

tax

by Barbara Doyle

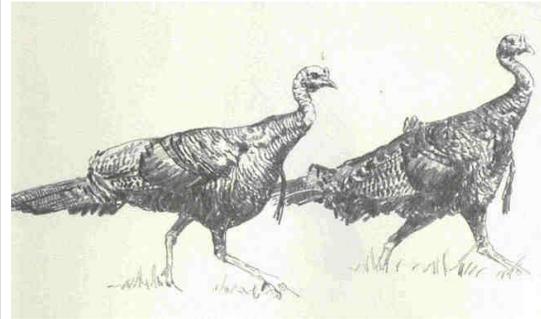
OFFICERS - 2004PresidentShirley Venhaus
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Shirley McDaniel
662-3528Volunteer CoordinatorCarol Reid
472-9631NewsletterDan Linscheid 843
-2625Car Pool CoordinatorJoanne Watts 835
-5893**MUSEUM HOURS****September 1 - May 31:**
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM**June 1—August 30:**
Fri-Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM

or

By Appointment

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YCHS

In 1850, Fendel or John Sutherlin, who settled in Douglas County, brought a crate of rather rangy turkeys from Indiana - in a covered wagon. The offspring of Sutherlin's flock was shared with other settlers. The turkey was on its way to becoming a domestic farm bird in Oregon. By 1930 Oregon had become the 6th largest US turkey producing state.



Commercial turkey operations took-off in Yamhill County in the early 1930s. Harvey and Wilbur Stoller arrived in 1932, coming from the family farm in Washington County where they raised turkeys. They settled in the Lafayette area. In Amity, Don Walker joined his father, Robert, in setting up their first turkey venture in 1934. Jim and Annie Munro, and Annie's brother, Alex Robb, got into this business later in the 1930s in the Yamhill-Carlton area. Menefees settled near Yamhill in about 1937, and concentrated on growing closed foundation flocks (breeder flocks) of broad breasted bronze turkeys on their 1300 acre turkey ranch. This bird was the ideal turkey with lots of meat on the broad breast.

Raising a flock was pretty straightforward. Get day-old poults (turkey chicks), keep them in a warm, safe brooder house for about 6-8 weeks and provide feed and water. After that, the turkeys were moved to the open range in late March or April to mature during the next six months. Then they were killed on the farm and shipped to markets or cold storage facilities, depending upon when the killing, delicately called processing, took place. Gradually, during the 1930s, on-site processing was abandoned and the live turkeys were taken to a killing plant. This general sequence of events continued into the late 1960s.

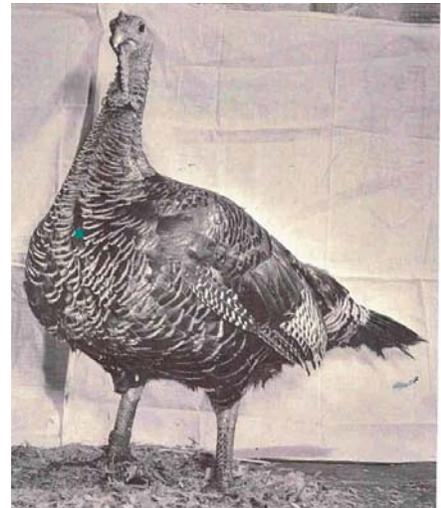
Selling turkeys profitably was almost more of a challenge than raising them. In 1927 the Yamhill County Extension Office handled negotiations with commercial turkey buyers in Portland - to get a better price for the local growers. They joined the Turkey Growers Association in 1930 for help with marketing.

But by 1932 they wanted out because they were able to market their own birds to better advantage at the Yamhill Street Open Market in Portland.

Verl Sauter's parents raised about 500 turkeys a year, selling some at the Yamhill Street Market. Unfortunately, the Yamhill Market closed in 1934. The growers rejoined the Turkey Growers Association.

Lots of good productive changes took place during the 1930s. Continuous feeding was introduced, as was rearing the birds in semi-confinement to encourage mating and installing lights to induce earlier egg laying. Hatcheries capable of incubating thousands of eggs came into existence. Commercial killing plants with artificially cooled rooms opened to serve the larger growers. Sanitary conditions improved leading to fewer losses due to disease. The Douglas County Cooperative Turkey Growers organization expanded beyond its borders and became the Oregon Turkey Growers in 1932. Still a co-op. The Pacific Coast Turkey Exhibit started in McMinnville in 1938 as a one-day turkey exhibit - with prizes. Indoors in December. Oregon was the 4th largest US producer by the end of the 1930s.

Harold Davis got involved because of turkey feed. Beginning in 1941 at Buchanan-Cellars Grain Company, he improved feed for high-producing turkey breeders and for fast weight gaining market birds. Harold and Dan Smith went into partnership in 1948 taking over Max Lyons turkey operation producing



broad breasted bronzes and purchasing the Menefee site. Later they developed a strain of white turkeys. Both men were extensively involved in the turkey organizations and attended national turkey conventions.

(Turkey Story cont.)

The Walkers expanded. By 1942 they were processing (killing) birds on their farm. Later they established another plant in Silverton. Walkers set up a hatchery near Broadmead with brothers-in-law, Shorty Camp and Al Wilson, running the operation. That lasted seventeen years as they raised their own breeders to improve the broad breasted bronze turkey. Walkers were the only Yamhill County growers involved in all facets of the industry - hatching, breeding, growing and processing

The local growers put together a terrific marketing idea in November 1949. They sent a turkey to the governors of all 48 states. They sent one to President Harry Truman at the White House. Gene Malecki, manager of the Pacific Coast Turkey Exhibit, personally delivered Richard Reyne's live champion turkey, to President Ismet Inonu of Turkey in Istanbul. The Voice of America covered this for worldwide broadcast.

To maintain interest in the local event (the PCTE), a turkey dog contest was introduced in 1949. Dogs got orders from their owners on how to drive a group of turkeys thru a specified routine within an enclosed pen. The winning score was based upon both the human's and dog's performance. It was broadcast on the national radio net-work. This event was eventually canceled due to complaints about cruelty to animals.

In the early 1950s with turkeys grown in every Oregon county, the state was in the top ten turkey producing states. Yamhill County had become the leader in Oregon because there was a rapid shift of the turkey business from central and southern Willamette Valley farms to market areas closer to Portland. Douglas County growers had discovered that their timber had more value than their turkeys. Harold Davis convinced Richard and Patsey Miller to switch from raising chickens to raising turkeys.

Wilbur and Harvey Stoller opened their own killing plant. Jim Munro died and his widow, Annie, worked with her brother until sometime in the '70s. Charles Evers jumped in with 5,000 turkeys in 1954 or '55. Both Stollers and Evers were written up in national industry publications about their farsightedness in growing, handling and processing turkeys.

Several significant changes occurred during the 1950s. Federal law required turkeys be eviscerated. Turkey eggs for hatcheries brought a better profit than turkeys for meat. Harold Davis and Dan Smith began sending their eggs to far away places using the "Flying Tiger" Cargo service from Portland Airport. There was an industry-wide consensus to market turkeys as year round food. Yamhill County's turkey celebration promoted that idea by introducing turkey burgers, even though they only became a commercial product later. Rustlers - turkey rustlers - appeared on the range. (to be concluded next month)

Illnesses

Our thoughts are with Maxine Williams (shattered hip replaced, now back home & using a walker), Crystal Riley (gallstone removal, getting back to her normal self) and Eileen Lewis (eye surgery, excellent prognosis). We hope to see all three ladies attend our February meeting.

January Board Meeting Highlights

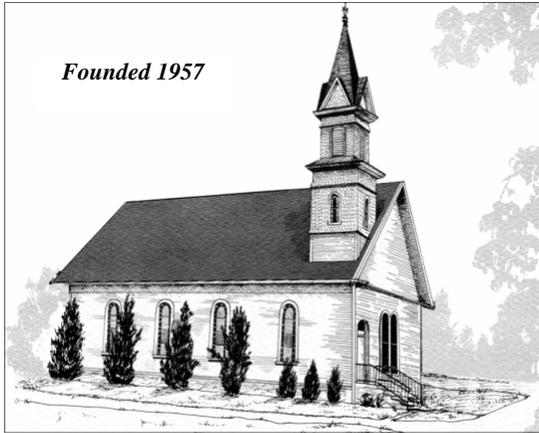
(The full Board Meeting minutes can be viewed on the web at [HTTP://www.sites.onlinemac.com/history](http://www.sites.onlinemac.com/history)) The following Board Members and Officers were in attendance: Barbara Knutson, Shirley Venhaus, Francis Dummer, Dan Linscheid, Marjorie Owens, Eileen Lewis, Annita Linscheid, Carol Reid, and Shirley McDaniel. Also present was member Kathy Peck. Treasurer Carol Reid reported an income of \$1684.96 and expenses of \$3,137.86, resulting of a balance of \$4,707.13. After discussion, a "Building Fund" was created to allow our organization to properly set aside moneys to be used only for maintenance and capital expenses relating to our structures. **Membership Secretary:** Lila Jackson has sent word of her resignation. We will start thinking of someone to replace her position. **Volunteer Chairperson:** Carol Reid she has found three new people interested in volunteering. Lorna Grauer has been working Saturdays with Marjorie Owens. **Old Business: Morman Church Event Report:** Carol stated we need more people to volunteer to staff our booth at the event. Shirley M., Shirley V., and Marjorie agreed to help out. Dan will handle the picture display. **Budget Committee:** Frank reported the committee met several times and the report is very nearly complete, they will meet one more time just to polish it up, and have a report next months board meeting. **New Business: Board Liability, By Laws and Insurance Policy:** The board went over some of YCHS portions of the insurance policy to better understand our coverage. Some points brought out related to what kind of coverage we have for board members, officers and volunteers while on YCHS business. **Safety Deposit Items:** Marjorie has inspected the contents and stated that everything that was in the box needs to kept in it except several keys which are unmarked We will take these to the museum and try and match them to locks. Several coins in the box should probably be appraised sometime. The contents will be replaced into the box this week. **Cultural Trust Donations and thank you letters:** Shirley V. read thank you letters being sent to Ron Davison, Willamette West, and Mike Bounty, who donated \$2,000, 750 and 500.00 respectively, via the Cultural Trust. This money will be put into a money market account to be used as needed. **Five- Acre Donation:** Shirley read a letter she is planning to send to the general membership concerning the five acre donation located on highway 18. **Oregon Museum Association Membership Approval:** It agreed to renew membership for the next year. **Garage Sale:** It was agreed by the board to ask Millie Armstrong to start the process of gathering items and find a place to store them for a summer garage sale, and also to be in charge of the garage sale. (She offered to do this) **Librarian:** The board approved Jean Sartor to be our new librarian.. **Nomadic Teacher Contract:** This was discussed and the conclusion was to get further legal guidance before proceeding with the contract. **IRS Letter:** Shirley read the board a letter received from the IRS concerning some bookkeeping of the past couple of years. A \$1,500.00 fine has been imposed on the society for errors made relating to the Nomadic Teacher Fund. Shirley read a letter she is sending to the IRS explaining the situation. She will keep the board informed on the status. **Preservation:** Kathy Peck had a question for the board concerning her project on photo preservation. Annita Linscheid, Secretary

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society. Annual membership gifts are tax deductible.

Members receive the Westside newsletter and access to our research library free of charge. We are an all volunteer organization, and are constantly on the lookout for new helpers. If you can assist us in any way, financially or with your time or talents, it will be greatly appreciated. If you are not sure if you have paid your membership dues, please contact Carol Reid at 472-9631. Alternatively, check your mailing label, which should show this information also. (The month and year indicate your "paid through" period according to our records.) If you see a colored "dot" on your label, you're at the end of your membership term!

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meeting Notice:

Board of Directors:

Tuesday, February 10, 5:00 pm

Monthly Meeting:

Same day as Board meeting., 6:30 pm

Both at the Co. Public Works Bldg.
Lafayette Avenue.
McMinnville

This meeting will feature Virginia Johnson, descendent of Joel Perkins, and founder of Lafayette. Please join us.

Renewing and New Members:

We welcome returning members **Roelie & Johannes Goddik, Rosemary Vertregt, Bettyt Sherman, Judith Hammer, Victoria Charbonnier, Mina Hansen, Neva French, Mary Jo Capps and Mary Ellen Schwartzmann** . Your continued support of this organization is deeply appreciated.