Oregon’s State Capitol Building

The Oregon State Capitol building that exists today was constructed from 1936 to 1938, and expanded in 1977 and is the third to house the Oregon state government in Salem. The two former capitol buildings were destroyed by fire, one in 1855 and the other in 1935.

New York architects Trowbridge & Livingston conceived the current structure’s Art Deco, stripped classical design, in association with Francis Keally. Much of the interior and exterior is made of marble. The Oregon State Capitol was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

Before the creation of the Oregon Territory in 1848, the Oregon Country provisional government, through legislation on June 27, 1844 and December 19, 1845, selected Oregon City as the capital. Thus Oregon’s first capitol was in Oregon City. One of the private buildings used by this government was constructed by John L. Morrison in 1850; it served as a capitol until the government moved to Salem. The designation of Oregon City as the seat of power was by proclamation of Governor Joseph Lane. In 1850, the legislature passed an act designating Salem the capital.

However, Governor John P. Gaines refused to relocate and remained in Oregon City along with the Oregon Supreme Court (except justice Orville C. Pratt) until an act of Congress on May 14, 1852 settled the matter in Salem’s favor.

On January 13, 1855, the Oregon Territorial Legislature passed a bill moving the seat of government from Salem to Corvallis. Governor George Law Curry and many others objected to the move, since public buildings in Salem were already under construction.

Curry sent the matter to the Secretary of the Treasury in Washington, D.C., where Secretary James Guthrie declared the move invalid unless acted on by the United States Congress. Thereafter, Curry and Oregon Secretary of State Benjamin Harding moved back to Salem.

On December 3, 1855, the legislature convened in Corvallis and quickly

Rural Life in Oregon in the 1870s

Rural Americans in the last thirty years of the 19th century had to be more self-sufficient than rural dwellers today. Miss Nettie Spencer grew up in rural Oregon in the 1870s. She recalled those times when interviewed by a federal writer in 1938. The following is an excerpt from American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers’ Project, 1936-1940.

...All of our shoes were made by a man who came around every so often and took our foot measurements with broomstraws, which he broke off and tagged for the foot length of each member of the family. The width didn’t make any difference and you could wear either shoe on either foot; for a long time, too, for the shoes wore well. Mother carded her own wool and washed it with soap she made herself. She even made her own lye from wood ashes, and when she got the cloth finished she made her own dye. Black was made from burnt logs and brown from the hulls of black walnuts. I think she got her green from copper, and peach leaves made the yellow. The red dye was made from leaves

IN THIS ISSUE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Capitol Building</th>
<th>1,6,9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Life 1870</td>
<td>1,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR Birthday Celebration</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Living</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar of Events</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Sale</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YCCC Grant</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating with Coal</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monthly Meeting Notice:

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2017
TIME: 1:30 pm Potluck, 2:00 pm Program
PROGRAM: YCHS’ Hidden Collection
LOCATION: Heritage Center Hwy 18 & Durham Lane, McMinnville

CONNECT WITH US:
♦ Visit our Website now at yamhillcountyhistory.org
♦ Join our Facebook Group yamhillcountyhistory.org/fb
♦ Email us at info@yamhillcountyhistory.org
Letter from the President

The society made a giant leap forward when it built the Heritage Center. The still growing complex along Hwy 18 just a little southwest of McMinnville has had important impacts on the preservation of artifacts from our past by providing a safe space to store and show them, on the tourism industry by attracting out-of-towners to tarry a while and on the education of locals as to the value of their history and the concept of preservation in general. The main building at the Center is close to being finished. Next up is a new storage building for some large equipment that needs more protection from the weather than it has now. As soon as possible, we would like to get back to our long range strategic plan to create a pioneer village on the ground.

In addition to opening the museums and ongoing education programs, our public events have grown to almost one a month, some involving thousands of people and up to 150 volunteers at a time. As a result of all that, the Society needs to take the next giant leap forward. We have gotten to be a size where we need professionals help organizing and managing it. It is just too much, too big to expect volunteers to do it all, especially given the number of events we put on at the Heritage Center complex and the Lafayette Museum complex.

As a result, the board has authorized an Events and Rentals Coordinator. Duties will include marketing, organizing, and managing our events, working with our volunteers as well as insuring the rental space we have is fully rented and well maintained. It would be desirable if the person was not only good with people and organizations, but able to assist in finding grants for the further expansions we have in mind. The Board has set aside funding to pay for those duties with the priority on insuring our largest events remain successful. It is anticipated that the increased revenue possible will more than pay for the cost of a Coordinator. If you or anyone you know might meet those needs, please have them contact me immediately.

There is a separate specialist needed. The board is seeking a Grant Writer to write grants specifically to find money to save the old Poling Memorial Church in Lafayette. It's an important historical structure, but in poor shape. It probably would not survive the expected quake that is coming when the Cascadia Subduction Fault off the Coast finally shakes loose. We need funds for an engineer to assess the building, tell us what is needed in what priority sequence and what each renovation item might cost. The board suspects that it will probably take at least a million dollars and maybe double or triple that, especially if the historic Church is not just saved, but made to sparkle once more. There is grant money available for such projects and the board is willing to pay a professional, independent contractor, grant writer to start work on that project. An initial fund of $5,000 has been set aside to pay for the hourly cost. Again, if you or anyone you know might meet that need, please have them contact me immediately.

Money is coming in. About $35,000 in year-end donations arrived this January alone, but obviously far far more is needed if the Society is to accomplish its really important goals.

Charles Hillestad
YCHS President
Phone: (503) 687-1730
Email: charleshillestad@cs.com

Submitted: January 17, 2017
Election of Officers for 2017:
President Charles Hillestad, Vice President Dave Rucker, Treasurer Todd Holt, and Secretary Alex Botten.

Committee Reports:

- **Activities and Events Committee**—Pam Watts reported that the Heritage Center will be hosting the Chamber’s Women in Business group on the 17th. Cynthia Christensen will be presenting on Life on the Trail, a glimpse of pioneer women on the Oregon Trail and how their strength endures.”

- **Education Committee**—YCHS will be participating in the Mid-Valley Winter Ag Fest. Cynthia Christensen is requesting volunteer assistance.

- **Media Committee**—Michael Hafner has agreed to be the YCHS Web Administrator. Training on the new website will be happening in the next two weeks. The new website will be rolled out soon after the training is complete.

- **Merchandising Committee**—The committee is working on creating a Museum shop and developing products for sale.

- **Volunteer Committee**—Dave Rucker reported that the committee is working on a volunteer celebration. There is a need for a membership drive.

Unfinished Business:

- **Events and Rentals Coordinator**—Guest Waldo Farnham spoke to the Board about the urgent need to fill this position. The board allocated funds for a one year contract with the potential of bonuses based on performance. It was decided that a larger candidate pool was needed. The Board will reach out to local colleges and job search agencies and review the need for potential media ads.

- **Grant Writer**—The Board discussed the need for a paid grant writer. Areas of focus, and not limited to, saving the Poling Church. Funds were allocated for an hourly rate with the possibility of a bonus. The board will look for a candidate.

New Business:

- **Ken Roger’s unexpired term**—One year of Ken’s three year term is unexpired. The board appointed Steve Leonard to fill the remaining year to be served in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Botten, Secretary

Submitted January 15, 2017
The Telephone Register for July 18, 1919 contained an interesting article entitled “Comparative Cost of Living”. It read:

“Much is being said of the increased cost of living over 20, 30, and 40 years ago. Joe Mattey (of Lafayette) has an old book used by some merchants in Dayton, Oregon, in the year 1870, from which we are permitted to take the charges they made on many staple articles of household use and compare them with present-day prices. It will be observed from the following list that present day prices (in 1913) are really lower in most cases than they were 43 years ago.

Mr. Mattey is of the opinion that the cost of living is not as high now as it was then, and these figures prove his claim. A McMinnville man states that it is not so much the high cost of living as the cost of high living; that we are most of us living at too fast a pace.”

As you can see from the chart, prices have changed since 1870 and 1913.

### Cost of Living

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Items</th>
<th>1870</th>
<th>1913</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sack of flour (50lb)</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>48.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average suit clothing</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>229.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flannel per yard</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>6.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eggs per dozen</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>$1.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea, per lb</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>4.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat per bushel</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>3.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour per lb</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.025</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.325</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar of soap</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shingles per m</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>20.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spool of thread</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>3.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nails per lb</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>4.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallon of oil (coal oil)</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box of matches</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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</table>
# Calendar of Events

**February 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Wednesday</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Friday</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Saturday</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heritage Center Open 10:00am-3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Wednesday</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting - Lafayette Museum - 5:30pm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Friday</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Saturday</td>
<td><strong>Oregon’s Birthday Celebration—Lafayette Site</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heritage Center Open 10:00am-3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>General Meeting - Heritage Center - 1:30pm Potluck, 2:00pm Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Wednesday</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Friday</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Saturday</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heritage Center Open 10:00am-3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blacksmith Shop Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Wednesday</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Friday</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Saturday</td>
<td>Lafayette Museum Open 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heritage Center Open 10:00am-3:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Future Dates to Remember

- February 11—Oregon’s Birthday Celebration
- February 12—General Meeting
- March 8—Board Meeting
- March 12—General Meeting
- April 8—Farm Fest
- April 9—General Meeting
- April 12—Board Meeting
- May 1-30—Spring Pioneer Days
- May 9—General Meeting/Volunteer Celebration
- May 10—Board Meeting
- June 14—Board Meeting
- June 14-26—Pioneer Camp
- June 18—Father’s Day Celebration
- July 12—Board Meeting
- August 9—Board Meeting
- August 19-20—Harvest Fest
- September 10—Vintage Base Ball Game
- October 15-30—Fall Pioneer Days
- October 28—A Night at the Museum
- November 11—Veteran’s Day Event

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**Visit YCHS**

**Historic Lafayette Museum & Research Library**
605 Market Street, Lafayette, OR 97127
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm
Or by appointment (503) 864-2308

**Yamhill Valley Heritage Center**
11275 SW Durham Ln.
McMinnville, OR 97128
Friday & Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm

**Mailing Address:**
Yamhill County Historical Society
P.O. Box 484
Lafayette, OR 97127

www.yamhillcountyhistory.org ♦ Email: info@yamhillcountyhistory.org
volunteercoordinator@yamhillcountyhistory.org ♦ Facebook Group: yamhillcountyhistory.org/fb
introduced legislation to move the capital back to Salem. This bill passed on December 15, 1855. Three days later, the legislature re-opened debate about where to seat the capital. They decided to ask the people of the territory to vote on the question. A vote was to be held in June 1856, after which the two cities receiving the most votes would have a runoff. The initial vote set up a runoff between Eugene and Corvallis, but after some ballots were invalidated due to not being cast in accordance with the law, the two winners were Eugene and Salem. An October runoff gave Eugene the most votes, but the earlier vote-tossing led to a low turnout. With such low public participation, the election was ignored, and the capital remained in Salem.

A permanent resolution of the capital location issue came in 1864. In 1860, the legislature put the question once again to a popular vote. On a vote in 1862, no city received the 50 percent minimum required by law. In an 1864 election, Salem received 79 percent and was declared the state capital. The Oregon Constitution lists the seat of state government in Article XIV as Marion County, of which Salem is the seat.

FIRST CAPITOL

The land developed for the permanent capitol building was Salem block 84, sold to the state for this purpose by pioneer and Salem founder W.H. Wilson. Construction of the first capitol building began in 1854, shortly after Congress confirmed Salem as the capital city. However, with the capital moving to Corvallis the next year, construction was temporarily halted. After the capital’s return to Salem, the building was nearly completed by late 1855. This territorial capitol, of Greek Revival-style, stood 50 feet wide and 75 feet long, with a stone façade and a 10 foot portico. Built of native ashlar blocks, the exterior walls, two stories high, ranged in color from a deep sky blue to white. The first floor was 19 feet tall and the second 15 feet tall with an eight-foot entablature. The building was decorated with four ionic columns on the front (west) end. The building housed a variety of rooms, including a federal courthouse with a chamber measuring 20 by 27 feet and an executive office of 18 by 20 feet on the first floor. Also on the first floor was the House chamber, measuring 36 by 46 feet and having three entrances. The first floor also held the main hall, which included an entrance 15 feet wide. On the second floor was the Senate chamber, 26 by 36 feet. Additionally, the Territorial Library was housed in a room that was 20 by 36 feet. The second story also had a gallery viewing area for the house, three committee rooms, and several rooms for government clerks. The capitol was designed by Captain Charles Bennet, who participated in the discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill in 1848, and construction supervised by William H. Richter at a total cost of $25,000.

FIRE OF THE FIRST CAPITOL

On the evening of December 29, 1855, a fire destroyed the first capitol building and many of the territory’s public records. Starting in the unfinished northeast corner of the structure, still unoccupied by the government, the fire was not discovered until around 12:30 am. Arson was suspected, but no one was arrested.

The site of the burned-out capitol building remained a pile of stones for several years after the fire. A downtown building, Nesmith’s Building (later named the Holman Building), served as a temporary capitol from 1859 until 1876. The legislature met on the second and third floors of that building, which also housed the other state offices.

SECOND CAPITOL

Plans for a new building began to take shape in 1872 when the state legislature appropriated $100,000 ($2 million as of 2017) towards a new capitol building. This second capitol, built between 1873 and 1876, was a two-story structure with an additional first level that was partly underground; the total cost was $325,000 ($7.3 million as of 2017). The cornerstone for the building was laid on October 5, 1873, during a ceremony that included a speech by Governor Stephen F. Chadwick and the music of several bands. Construction, on the same site as the 1855 building, was partly accomplished with convict labor form the Oregon State Penitentiary. Architects Justus F. Krumbein and W.G. Gilbert designed the building.

Built of stone and five million bricks, Oregon’s new capitol measured 275 by 136 feet with a dome of 180 feet. The ground story was of native Oregon sandstone from the Umpqua region. The structure had a square rotunda on the interior that was 54 feet tall. Also inside was a Senate chamber measuring 75 by 45 feet and a House chamber of 85 by 75 feet. On the top floor was a viewing gallery for the House. On the exterior were ornamental pilasters and two-story porticos on the east and west ends. The building included a lunch counter. Additionally, the building had million-windowed wings. The larger copper-clad dome was constructed with an iron and steel framework. This dome rose 54 feet above the rest of the building and was 100 feet tall. The building was of Renaissance style with Corinthian columns on the front entrance and was patterned after the United States Capitol. At that time, the capitol faced west toward the Willamette River. The government began using the building in August 1876, before the dome was built. Originally, plans called for towers on both sides of the dome (a tower on both ends of the building with the dome in the middle), but they were left out to save money. Oregon’s second capitol building stood from 1876 to 1935.

FIRE OF THE SECOND CAPITOL

On April 25, 1935 at 6:43 pm, a custodial engineer called the Salem Fire Department to report smoke. Citizens helped to remove items from the smokey building, but when firefighters arrived, they ordered everyone to leave the structure, which was soon engulfed in flames. Among the helping citizens was twelve-year-old Mark Hatfield, who later became governor. It was determined the fire started in the basement of the east wing and quickly spread to piles of old records. A strong updraft in the hollow...
she bought. The dresses were very full and lasted entirely too long… One of the things I remember most as a little girl were the bundle peddlers who came around. They had bundles made up and you bought them as they were for a set price. I remember that some sold for as high as $150. In these bundles were all sorts of wonderful things that you didn’t get in the country very often; fancy shawls and printed goods; silks and such other luxuries. It was a great day when the family bought a bundle.

Our food was pretty plain most of the time and we didn’t have any salads like they do now. The menu for a fine dinner would be: Chicken stew with dumplings, mashed potatoes, peach preserves, biscuits, and hominy. We raised carrots for the stock but we never thought of eating them… We didn’t have any jars to put up reserves in, like they do now, but we used earthen crooks instead. The fruit to be preserved was boiled with brown sugar—we never saw white sugar; when we did, we used it as candy—and then put in the jars which were covered with cloth that was then coated with beeswax. Another good cover was a hog bladder—they were the best. Sometimes we had molasses pulls and once in a great while we would have some real striped candy. That was a treat!

Most of our medicine was homemade too … There wasn’t much social life on the farm and I didn’t pay any attention to it until I was older and moved into Salem and Corvallis. The churches didn’t have any young people and they were dead serious with everything. Sermons lasted for hours and you could smell the hell fire in them. We never had church suppers or the like until way past my time. The only social thing about the church was the camp meetings. That was where most of the courting was done. When a boy would get old enough for a wife the father would let him use the horse and buggy for a trip to the camp meeting to get him a wife…

Most of these people came to church on foot over the muddy roads. The ones who came by wagon used a hayrack, and mother and father sat in a chair at the front while the children were chummed about in the straw strewn in the wagon bed…

After a long service “meeting” was out, and neighbors had a grand hand-shaking party, and then families often invited other families to dinner. This crude church, located where Alfred Station now is on the Southern Pacific Railway, a few miles north of Harrisburg, which then was a small village, was the only public gathering place, except perhaps on the Fourth of July, when families went on mass, with shiny new shoes to Corvallis, to “the Celebration”…

The games played were: ante over, crack the whip, base, hide and seek, tag, ring around the rosy…

The big event of the year was the Fourth of July. Everyone in the countryside got together on that day for the only time in the year. The new babies were shown off, and the new brides who would be exhibiting babies next year. Everyone would load their wagons with all the food they could haul and come to town early in the morning. On our first big Fourth of July at Corvallis, a girl was chosen as the Goddess of Liberty. She was supposed to be the most wholesome and prettiest girl in the countryside if she wasn’t she had friends who thought she was. But the rest of us weren’t always in agreement on that. She rode on a hayrack and wore a white gown. Sometimes the driver wore an Uncle Sam hat and striped pants. All along the sides of the hayrack were little girls who represented the states of the union. The smallest was always Rhode Island…

Just before lunch, and we’d always hold lunch up for an hour, some Senator or lawyer would speak. These speeches always had one pattern. First the speaker would challenge England to a fight and berate the King and say that he was a skunk. This was known as twisting the lion’s tail. Then the next theme was that anyone could find freedom and liberty on our shores. The speaker would invite those who were heavy laden in other lands to come to us and find peace. The speeches were pretty fiery and by that time the men who drank got into fights and called each other Englishmen. In the afternoon we had what we called the ‘plug uglies’ funny floats sad clowns who took off on the political subject of the day. There would be some music and then the families would start gathering together to go home. There were cows waiting to be milked and the stock to be fed and so there was no nightlife. The Fourth was the day of the year that really counted then. Christmas wasn’t much; a Church tree or something, but no one twisted the lion’s tail…

Excerpts from American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers’ Project, 1936-1940
And found on http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/riseind/rural/life.html

Yamhill SWCD Native Plant Sale at YCHS!

We are happy to announce that the Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District is renting the Heritage Center Activities Building again this year for its 2017 Native Plant Sale to be held on March 2-4, 2017. Proceeds benefit Miller Woods. They are now accepting orders (pre-sales) online! You will enjoy their amazing collection of over 50 species of native trees, shrubs, and understory plants. Bare root and container plants will be available. Check their website for more details.

www.yamhillswcd.org
March 2&3 9:00 am—6:00 pm
March 4 9:00 am—3:00 pm
—Yamhill Valley Heritage Center—
YCHS will be participating in the 2017 Mid-Valley Winter AgFest February 25th and 26th from 10am-4pm at the Polk County Fairgrounds.

This is an exciting time in Agriculture with the resurgence of the Family Farm and Saturday Markets, it is reminiscent of the family Truck Farms of the 1940’s. It is the perfect time to reconnect rural and urban life through an event that will both promote small farms and be fun and educational for kids. In February 2017 the Mid-Valley Winter Ag Fest will do just that.

The Mid-Valley Winter Ag Fest will give Saturday Market Vendors and Local Farms a place to sell food and hand-crafted products in winter, to reconnect with their summer customers. The show is early enough in the season for folks to purchase their early stock, diversify existing stock, place orders and make connections with local vendors for future purchases.

The Polk County Fairgrounds will be open to 4-H, F.F.A. and other interested youth organizations to host self-directed events relevant to them and promote fundraising activities. Local 4-H/Extension will host a number of fun events and contests.

For more information, visit www.mvwagfest.com

Awarded YCCC Grant

The Yamhill County Historical Society would like to give a HUGE thank you to the Yamhill County Cultural Coalition for awarding us a grant of $1200. The funds will be used to finish our new website.

Founded in 2002, the YCCC is one of 45 county and tribal coalitions established by the Oregon Cultural Trust to increase public participation in culture by supporting and enhancing local cultural resources. YCCC distributes funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust to organizations like the YCHS and individuals through an annual competitive grants process. YCCC supports programs that enliven and give access to the arts, heritage and humanities throughout Yamhill County. Since 2004, YCCC has distributed over $130,000 to local cultural projects.

YCHS has benefited greatly from the YCCC. Thank you!
Oregon’s State Capitol Building Concluded

columns enclosing the dome’s eight supporting steel lattice girders pulled the flames through the rotunda to upper stories. The intense heat burned even the copper dome and lit the night sky.

Flames could be seen as far away as Corvallis. One volunteer firefighter, Floyd McMullen, a student at Willamette University, died in the fire, which drew firefighters from as far away as Portland. Salem sent seven fire trucks to the scene; three more came from Portland. Only the outer walls were left standing after the fire was extinguished. Losses were estimated at $1.5 million ($26.2 million as of 2017) and the state did not carry insurance. The losses, which included historic artifacts such as the portraits of all the governors, could have been worse had the state not used fire-proof vaults in the basement to store valuables such as more than $1 million ($17.5 million as of 2017) in stocks and bonds. During the blaze, firefighters poured water on these vaults to help keep them cool and prevent the contents from disintegrating. Years earlier, the state had turned over many historical documents to the Oregon Historical Society in Portland for preservation, and those records were preserved. Although the Supreme Court had moved to the Oregon Supreme Court Building in 1914, the two buildings were connected by underground tunnels used for electricity and heating. At the time of the fire, the Oregon State Library was in the basement and first floor of the Supreme Court Building. Many books in the basement suffered water damage when water used to fight the fire flooded underground tunnels and seeped into the Supreme Court Building. Offices previously housed in the capitol were moved to other government buildings and to leased spaces in downtown Salem until a new building was built.

THIRD CAPITOL

Construction of the newest building began on December 4, 1936. The third state capitol was completed in 1938 and is the fourth-newest capitol in the United States. The capitol was dedicated on October 1, 1938, with speeches from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Leslie M. Scott, Robert W. Sawyer, and Oregon Governor Charles Henry Martin. Chosen from 123 entries in a country wide competition, the design of the new building deviated from the normal design of state capitol buildings. The design was labeled a combination of Egyptian simplicity and Greek refinement. Overall it is Art Deco in style, and is one of only three state capitols in the United States constructed in that architectural style. Controversy occurred before construction began with Governor Martin suggested the new building be sited on a hill south of downtown and away from the busy center of town. Another proposal called for the purchase of the Willamette University campus and relocation of the capitol to that site. However, downtown merchants were able to keep the capitol building in downtown at the original location, though some Victorian homes were subsequently leveled to make way for the building. Another early complaint about the structure was that the cupola resembled a “paint can” rather than traditional domes on other capitols, including the earlier Oregon structures. It was even called a “squirrel cage”, lacking in majesty. Additionally, the public was slow to admire the gold Oregon Pioneer atop the dome. Installation of the statue began on September 17, 1938, and took several days and heavy-duty equipment.

The building cost $2.5 million ($43 million as of 2017), of which the federal government paid 45 percent through the Public Works Administration. Upon completion, the new capitol was 164 feet wide, 400 feet long, and 166 feet tall and contained 131,750 square feet of usable space. The exterior was finished with Vermont marble. The lobby, rotunda, halls were lined with a polished rose travertine stone quarried in Montana. The rotunda’s staircases and floor used Phoenix Napoleon marble quarried in Missouri and have borders of Radio Black marble that, like the exterior stone, is from Vermont. 158 names of notable Oregonians are inscribed on the walls of the legislative chambers; of these, only six are women. The original cost estimate for the building was $3.5 million ($60 million as of 2017), but the state legislature only appropriated $2.5 million; committee rooms were subsequently removed from the plans. These rooms were added in 1977 as part of a $12.5 million ($49 million as of 2017) expansion project to add new wings containing legislative offices, hearing rooms, support services, a first floor galleria, and underground parking. This addition doubled the space of the capitol building. In 2002, the wings were remodeled at a cost of $1.3 million ($1.7 million as of 2017) to upgrade items such as antiquated wiring and to install new carpeting and lighting.

Written by Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., And found at www.en.wikipedia.org
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_State_Capitol

The structure was soon engulfed in flame...among the helping citizens was twelve-year-old Mark Hatfield, who later became governor.
Heating with Coal

It is not surprising that in the 1940's most of the houses in Salt Lake City heated with coal. For Utah is a desert country and has more coal than wood in its hills.

Most of the houses at that time had basements. There was usually a metal door in the foundation of the house that was for the coal to be delivered by a dump truck. The gravel sized coal was shoveled down a chute to the "coal room". By experience one quickly learned that the door to the coal room should be tightly closed when the delivery arrived -- for coal was dusty.

The coal room had a "stoker" -- a hopper-- that fed the coal into the furnace. Ashes and clinkers had to be routinely cleaned from the furnace. This was done with a flat shovel and the clinkers removed with a long rod that had movable tongs on the end. (I remember papa manipulating the tongs and me thinking it was like when grandpa pulled the tendons of a turkey's claw.) The ashes were stored in a metal can and were set out with the garbage to be picked up.

Grandma had a wood stove that burned coal. Once her fire was going, she stoked the fire with coal she kept by the stove in a scuttle (a lipped bucket). Coal kept us warm, but it polluted. We lived up on the "East Bench" --one of the bathtub rings left by ancient Lake Bonneville. In the winter we could always see a layer of dirty haze in the valley below us.

Come spring time, house cleaning was a ceiling to floor project. It was tedious work to remove the accumulated grime. Wall paper cleaner--a pliable pink putty that was used to erase the coal smudged walls.

I certainly don't miss the old coal furnace.

Written by Nancy Thornton

Events/Rentals Coordinator Update

Several months ago, the Board of Directors named a Selection Committee to interview and recommend a person to fill the new position of Events/Rentals Coordinator. The Board decided to look for a part-time, paid coordinator after Pam and Cliff Watts gave written notice that they would be paring back their normal long hours volunteering and stepping back from managing the rentals at the Heritage Center.

The Board and Heritage Center committee members want to find a person who could do the work that Pam Watts has been doing for the past several years. She and Cliff have worked diligently on numerous projects at the HC for many years and are ready to take on other challenges.

On November 2, the Board met in a special meeting to discuss drawing up a job description and name an official Selection Committee. The committee members named were Charles Hillestad, Sarah Miller, Steve Leonard, and Dave Rucker.

The Selection Committee faced its own challenges. Writing a job description turned out to be more complex than they originally thought. However, eventually a help wanted ad was created and placed in various county media and newsletters.

Two applicants applied, but the committee had not met by the time of the December meeting. The Board realized that time was running out and interim President Charles Hillestad suggested that the Selection Committee be given authority to make the hiring decision/offer for the Board.

After a robust discussion, the Board voted 4-3 to give the Selection Committee that authority and to "draw up the contract for employment, provided there is a consensus of the Selection Committee."

To be continued when the Board receives report from the Selection Committee.

Written by Jo McIntyre

Old-Timey Slang

Here are some old-timey words and phrases you should awkwardly shoehorn into conversations from the Dictionary of American Slang (1967 edition).

1. In the ketchup: Operating at a deficit.
2. Lobbygow: One who loafs around an opium den in hopes of being offered a free pipe.
3. Happy cabbage: A sizable amount of money to be spent on self-satisfying things.
5. Give someone the wind: To jilt a suitor with great suddenness.
7. Cluck and grunt: Eggs and ham.
9. Happies: Arch supporters (shoe salesman use).
10. Flub the dub: To evade one's duty.

Written by Jason English
And found on www.mentalfloss.com
http://mentalfloss.com/article/12266/19-old-timey-slang-terms-bolster-your-vocabulary
2017 Membership Dues Renewal Notice

Dear Members,

THANK YOU for being a Yamhill County Historical Society member! Your contribution to the Society goes directly towards our activities, events, educational programs, building improvements and daily operations, all of which greatly benefit our community. We ask for your membership in the YCHS so we may continue with the valuable activities and events to increase and support our existing membership, and to foster potential visitors and new membership in our community.

Thank you for your continued support of the YCHS. You are important to us! It’s members like you that make all the difference.

RETURN THIS ENTIRE FORM WITH YOUR REMITTANCE

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Members receive The West Side newsletter (10 issues per year), free admission to the Lafayette Museum and Library, access to genealogical and historical files, access to the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, monthly potluck and program for members, invitations to special programs and events, and 10% off photo orders and gift shop purchases.

The membership year runs from January 1 (or date of new membership) to December 31.

Dues for 2017

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I AM A NEW MEMBER

I AM A RENEWING MEMBER

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________
City: __________________________________________ State: ______ Zip Code: ______
Phone: ____________________________ Email: _______________________

I would prefer to receive the YCHS newsletter via:  □ Email  □ Postal Mail

I would like to volunteer to help with activities of the YCHS. Please contact me.

Please click here if you do not wish to have your name and contact information released to the Yamhill County Cultural Coalition and/or for the purpose of obtaining grant funding. Member information will never be sold or released for any other purpose unless written consent is provided by the member.

Please make checks payable to YCHS and return with this printed form to:
YCHS, P.O. Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127

Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Carlene Kadell (503) 474-0480 or email: amity1956@yahoo.com
Yamhill County Historical Society was founded in 1957 to encourage an appreciation and understanding of the events, customs, and traditions of the Yamhill County community by protecting, preserving and sharing its history and heritage. The society operates and maintains museums, historical properties and research facilities, advocates for preservation, and presents educational and public services in accordance with its mission.

COLLECTIONS: Yamhill County Historical Society’s collections include genealogical materials, letters and documents from the late 18th century on, documents from schools, businesses, and other community organizations, and well over 5,000 photographic images. The Lafayette Museum and Heritage Center collections include furnishings, household artifacts, tools, agricultural and manufacturing equipment, dairy, logging and other transportation vehicles, a steam engine, quilts, textiles, historically significant landscaping showcasing native plants and other items that illustrate the history of Yamhill County.

FACILITIES: YCHS operates two facilities: a museum and research library, and the Heritage Center. The Lafayette Museum and Research Library contains the historic Poling Church and log cabin which house an exhibit hall and research facility. The Heritage Center includes a one-room schoolhouse, exhibit hall, activities building, blacksmith shop, sawmill, space for educational programs, meeting and event spaces. Both locations are open year-round on a regular schedule.