



Yamhill County Museum, 6th and Market Street, Lafayette, Oregon

OFFICERS 1987

PRESIDENT Gene Irvin
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HISTORIAN Ruth Stoller
BOARD: Austin Bowen, Ed Roghair,
Harvey Stoller, James Vincent
MUSEUM CURATOR Roma Sitton
NEWSLETTER Margaret Roghair

MUSEUM HOURS: Saturdays & Sundays,
1 - 4 o'clock
(except by appointment)

JANUARY

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

1987

MEETING: Tuesday NOON, ~~February~~ ^{January} 13, Dillin Hall, Linfield College, McMinnville. There is a ramp for easy access. After entering, turn right to the WALNUT ROOM off the S.W. corner of dining room.

POT LUCK is at 12 o'clock. Bring own table service. Visitors welcome.

PROGRAM: Malcolm Johnstone, manager of McMinnville's down town organization will discuss and show slides on the role of Historic Restoration in McMinnville's downtown area.

Welcome to our new president, Gene Irvin. Other officers remain the same.

MUSEUM NOTES

Christmas has passed. We have few visitors when the days are short and dark and people busy with the holidays. Our Christmas decorations are on loan at the McMinnville Public Library through mid-January. Also dolls, toys, blocks, and a little wagon! Also a display of our quilts.

Do try to take a look. . . The Museum has lost a good friend and donor with the death of Elizabeth Northrup, at 98 years. . . I hope you all have read in the "News-Register" the recent article on Lafayette and our Museum. Very, very good. Also the other articles on history of our county by itinerant journalist Bob Thomas. . . Along with my many Christmas cards I get membership dues. My best wishes for a bright New Year.

Roma Sitton, phone 472-7935

HISTORICAL NOTES compiled by Ruth Stoller

The following comes from a small scrapbook of newspaper clippings collected by Mae Sawyer in 1973 and given to the Yamhill County Historical Museum. This clipping came from the Sept. 10, 1912 issue of the TELEPHONE REGISTER published at McMinnville.

EARLY HISTORY OF McMINNVILLE

The first incorporation of the city of McMinnville was October 20th, 1876. Prior to this the town had got along without any organized city government.

The first election was held November 12, 1876, at the store of William H. Boyd, a druggist, who is now a practicing physician in Portland and a holder of land near this city. The inspectors of election were H.C. Burns, Henry Warren and Jeremiah Rowland. J.C. Cooper and W.H. Warren served as clerks of the election. The trustees elected were Andrew Shuck, C.D. Johnson, B.F. Hartman, T.J. Shadden and H.C. Burns. Henry Warren was elected city recorder and S.D. Gaunt marshal. Burns refused to qualify as trustee and David Lynch was chosen by the Board. But two of these trustees are still living; Hartman and Burns.

The first section of the first ordinance passed by these city officers was against being drunk or disorderly, and provided a fine not less than \$3.00 nor more than \$20 for each offense. Section 2, was against leading a horse or mule on the sidewalk or driving the same faster than four miles an hour. Other sections covered the use of obscene language or assault on the sidewalks. The marshall was given one dollar for every dog killed.

Among the first provisions for law enforcement was the construction of a lock-up. This building was erected on ground leased of Bernard McPhillips, father of our present mayor, Arthur McPhillips. It was a wooden structure, 30x50, erected by William Arthur for \$225. Its location was almost the identical spot occupied by Mr. Scott's blacksmith shop. The ground was leased for \$10 per year, with the privilege that at the end of the lease or at any time before, the board of trustees could remove the building, they to pay \$100 for the premises.

Henry Shadden was elected the first treasurer of the city, December 20th, 1876. J.C. Cooper was chosen assessor and collector Dec. 12, 1876. Both officers gave a bond of \$1000 each, for the faithful performance of their duties.

The first building erected in McMinnville stood on the corner of Third and A (Adams) streets, near where Rohr's paint shop now stands, just east of the site of the proposed Carnegie library. This was occupied by Solomon Berry (Beary), who, we understand, is still living in Portland, and must be a very old man. Probably in the 90's. His youngest son, Mr. Julius Berry, is now a resident of McMinnville. This first building was occupied by Mr. Berry as a general store. It is not understood that this building is the one now standing near that site and known as "Rohr's Paint Shop".

Ordinance No. 10, passed by the first trustees of the city, when Henry Warren was Mayor, and A.B. Baker, recorder, dated Feb. 28, 1883, contained this provision, which is still in effect among the city's ordinances: "It shall be the duty of the fire wardens (these were the fire chief and the city marshal) to visit every building within this city between the first and tenth days of Jan. and July of each year, to see if the provisions of this ordinance are enforced therein, and they shall be allowed \$1.50 per day for every day so necessarily employed". Among the principle provisions of this ordinance were that no stove pipe could be placed closer than fourteen inches of any ceiling or floor or closer than eighteen inches to any wall. It is believed that this ordinance has not been observed since Dan Feeley was fire chief some ten years ago. There is no doubt that in many homes of the city the provisions of this ordinance are violated. Another matter that the ordinance required to be looked after was keeping the roofs free from moss.

To be concluded.