

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

January 1999

FRONTIER CHRISTMAS MEMORIES READ

In keeping with the season, Nancy Thornton read Christmas related excerpts from pioneer and early settler letters and diaries at the December 8th Society meeting in McMinnville. She began with recollections of an early Oregon winter from 'Finger in Every Pie' by Victoria Case in which a young girl attempts to overcome dreariness by writing letters. This was followed by 'A Christmas Ribbon', a tale about securing a ribbon for a nightgown. Then came a selection from a book of reminiscences published by the Portland Women's Club relating Christmas as it was celebrated on the frontier near Kalispel Montana.

The program concluded with storyteller Robert Ormond Case's impression of what the Christmas of 1844 might have been like at the Whitman Mission. This was the first Christmas the Sager children, orphaned on the Oregon Trail, would have spent at the mission with the story centering around their personal thoughts and feelings for the season as well as the adoptive relationship with Dr. and Mrs. Whitman.

Certainly a timely presentation and we thank Nancy for sharing it with us.



B. White photo

Nancy Thornton

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

A Few Thoughts About 1999



My, hasn't 1998 been busy and gone by quickly? I have been thinking about the things we have accomplished over the year and the tasks we wish to complete during 1999. It is such an exciting time for the Society and the museum!

With priorities in place we hope to begin some nice changes. By adding manageable storage upstairs in the church we can store some duplicates and change the look of the exhibits. When the barn is wired, insulated, and the lights and heat are installed we will be able to spend more time working there. The remodeling of the old kitchen in the church will add room for a lot of our kitchen articles including one of the stoves and a Hoosier cabinet. Shelves will be added for more display space. Now, if that's not exciting, what is?

You may have noticed that most of the exhibits and items in the church are in need of care and cleaning. This will be a major part of all this as we go along. We also need help with suggestions for better displays how to make the best use of the space that we have.

We must take better care of items already entrusted to us. It is our responsibility to care and preserve them to the best of our ability. This is where our volunteers are so important. We have three buildings with a lot of items in them. It is up to the Society and the volunteers to further the care and better the displays for the general public. If you are ever at the museum and feel there is nothing for you to do, please contact me. I would be glad to take the time to visit with you.

I would like to thank Betty Baltzell, Delores Robertson and Don Crawford whose terms expire December 31st. Their help and support have been greatly appreciated. We will miss them. I would also like to welcome new officers Betty Brown, Shirley McDaniel and Eileen Crawley. I hope all of you appreciate the work the Board and officers do on behalf of Our Society.

Thanks for a great year.

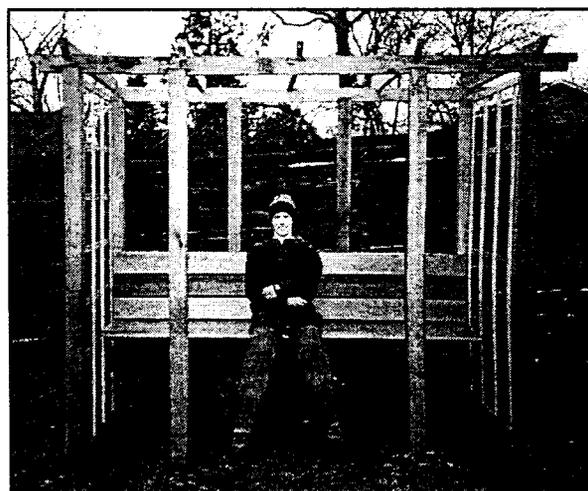
.....Shirley

ARBOR PROJECT COMPLETED

Under the direction of 15 year old Mike Eells, who hopes to gain Eagle Scout status for his efforts, members of McMinnville's Scout Troop 260 recently erected an arbor in the open space behind the Miller Log Museum. Eells both designed the trellis and supervised its construction with the YCHS participating by purchasing the necessary materials. It should also be noted Mike was able to bring the project in under budget as well.

The structure is equipped with a bench for seating, and when vines are planted it will add a restful "summer house" appearance to the museum grounds. "I'm glad I did it" stated Eells, "It's something that will be here for a long time".

While on the subject, how many have noticed the southeast corner of the log building? Head Groundskeeper Ruth Crawford is urging an old fashioned climbing rose to grow up a trellis there and the prospects for summer blooming seem quite promising.



S. Venhaus photo

Eagle Scout candidate Mike Eells poses with the completed YCHS arbor project.

The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit tax exempt educational and public service corporation established to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County

OFFICERS - 1999

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472-7328

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Eileen Crawley
835-3673

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Betty Brown
472-7100

Financial Secretary
Lila Jackson
472-8510

Corres.
Secretary(temp)
Delores Robertson
538-0767

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472-6909

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662-3354

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843-2625

John White
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472-4547

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Olive Merry Johnson
472-6070

Newsletter
John White
665-5376

Car Pool Coordinator
Joanne Watts
835-5893

MUSEUM HOURS

Sept 1 to May 31:
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM
or

By Appointment

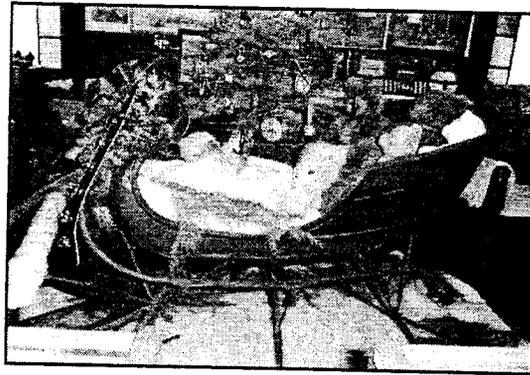
605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308

ANNUAL DUES

\$10.00 Individual
\$17.00 Family
\$125.00 Life

Mail to:

Financial Secty
2430 North Baker
McMinnville OR
97128



O. M. Johnson photo

SLEIGH TO REMAIN ON DISPLAY THROUGH JANUARY

A Christmas sleigh exhibit spearheaded by Delores Robertson is being held over by popular demand and those who have not yet done so are urged to drop by the Poling Church museum to enjoy it. The old one-horse cutter has been cleaned, polished and fitted with a live Christmas tree for the occasion. Thanks to generous loans from several of our members a full complement of Teddy bear and doll passengers repose inside. This exhibit truly reflects the Christmas spirit and is a real credit to Delores and her "elves".

YCHS CRAFTERS & TRADITIONAL HOMEMAKING SKILLS REGISTRY

All members who enjoy homemaking crafts as a hobby (quilting, canning, food drying, candle and paper making, crocheting, etc.) are encouraged to register their interest with the Society. Display space at the museum is being made available to exhibit members' handiwork on a rotating basis and if sufficient interest develops for specific crafts, "bees" or learning sessions can be arranged at the museum as well. Persons interested should contact the project coordinator:

Laura Compton (503) 864-4682
6995 Webfoot Road SE
Dayton OR 97114

NEW DUES SCHEDULE IN EFFECT

As of January 1st YCHS membership dues were increased to the amounts shown at the lower left of this page. The Board of Directors regrets having to impose this hike, but rising printing and postage costs leave no other option and even at these increased rates, the "value received" from YCHS membership can still be considered a bargain.

YCHS MEMBER HONORED

George Complair was recently recognized as Volunteer of the Year by the Oregon Alliance of Senior and Health Services at the organizations annual meeting in Eugene. A well deserved award and congratulations to George.

WEDDING DRESS TO BE RENEWED

At the December meeting of the Board it was decided to have the marvelous 1855 wedding dress of Solomea Bender Schriber restored to its original condition before putting it on display at the museum. Recently donated to YCHS by the Schriber family, the dress requires a bit of touching up after 144 years.

WANTED

A canister type vacuum cleaner equipped with a long wand and in good working order is badly needed for permanent duty at the museum.

JANUARY 1999 MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER

The quartet of Lois Brooks, Twila Byrnes, Shirley Kuykendall and Maxine Williams will present a program entitled "Treasures from Roma's Attic" at the Tuesday January 12th meeting to be held at the Community Christian Church in McMinnville. The evening begins with a potluck dinner at 6:30 pm after which the ladies will display and discuss various items they have uncovered during their inventory of the Sitton Family's recent donation to YCHS of Roma's private historic artifacts collection. Some of these items date back to the 1843 Oregon Trail migration of her ancestors. It should be a memorable meeting, so plan to attend and bring a guest along with your appetite and table service.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members and hope to soon greet them at Society activities:

Reliance Carlisle - Salem
Victoria Charbonnier - McMinnville
Bob Cullen - Lafayette
Frank & Teri Eckrode - Yamhill
Judy Hammer - Yamhill
Bonnie Hawks - Newberg
Lucy King - McMinnville
Gene Lambert - McMinnville
Cyndie Mason - McMinnville
Bill Reid - McMinnville

Life Memberships:

Francis & Bernice Dummer - Dayton

V.I.P. RECEPTION SCHEDULED

May 8th 1999 has been set by the Board of Directors as the date the YCHS will welcome the county commissioners, various city officials and certain other civic leaders to a by-invitation-only reception at the museum. The purpose of this gathering will be to better acquaint them with our organization and perhaps explore the possibilities of mutually beneficial endeavors in the future.

Remember, A Red Dot on Your Address Label Means Your Dues are Due

RANDOM CLIPPINGS FROM THE PAST

Compiled by John White

During the course of plowing through old newspapers in the name of research, peripheral items unrelated to the subject at hand often attract the eye. Here are a few such recently observed tid-bits thought to be interesting:JW

McMinnville 'West Side Telephone' - August 31, 1886

"A couple of young fellows up toward Sheridan whom we will call Will and Ed, knew of a melon patch and they wanted some of the fruit. They had been told that the owner would shoot, but they didn't believe it. So the boys made a raid; but no sooner had they entered the patch than "bang" went a gun and both danced "juber" for a moment and then took for the brush. They didn't get any melons, but carried home with them several bird shot each, which the doctor picked out of various portions of their bodies the next day. No serious results. But they say the boys know to a certainty that the owner of that melon patch is a man of his word."

Lafayette 'Oregon Register' - August 19, 1887

"While one of the narrow gauge engines was being brought across the Willamette River from Ray's Landing [to Dundee ed.] it slid off the ferry and now its smoke-stack bobs out of the water about a foot".

Newberg 'Graphic' - March 23, 1889

"Dr. Watts is making an effort to get the State Reform School established near Lafayette. There could be no nicer or healthier location found in the state for it. Besides, that town could furnish them a few charter members to start in with."

Dayton 'Herald' - December 8, 1893

"On Saturday and Sunday the Yamhill river at this place was on a rise. It overflowed its banks, and the water was up over the first floor of the red warehouse, but as all the wheat, potatoes and other articles stored on that floor had been elevated to the upper stories on Friday, there was no damage done. The water was not as high by 16 feet as in 1890. The Toledo warehouse was kept from floating away. C. W. Powell, the agent, had ropes attached to it which were tied to trees, and along with the cable that was already attached to it, the building was kept from washing away."

Yamhill County 'Reporter' - March 2, 1894

"The abyss on north B street has been repaired. Someone from the country created a surprise by fixing a pair of shoes in the mud with the appearance of a man having gone down beneath them"

North Yamhill 'Record' - August 21, 1902

"Two cows were impounded by Marshal Douglas last Friday night. The duty of the marshal calls him to do this when cows are known to be out after 9 o'clock. Complaint has been made to the officer of late, often times, when parties had searched for their cows and been unable to find them, and later they appeared, and complaint was made. There are people who make some of these complaints who can and do, apparently with perfect complacency, violate the ordinances. These same people would consider their neighbor very ungrateful if complaint should be made of their infringement of the law."

Amity 'Standard' - May 12, 1910

"Rumors of small pox at Amity are untrue says M. B. Hendrick, president of the Yamhill County Pioneers Association, who was in town during the forenoon Tuesday making final arrangements for the Pioneers Picnic to be held a week from Tuesday and Wednesday. He viewed the situation thoroughly and after consulting with Dr. Matthis and Wood came to the conclusion there was no cause for either fear or alarm in that regard, and that the conditions did not sustain the reports."

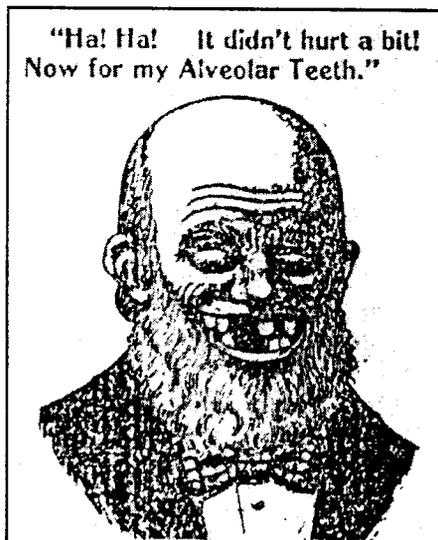
McMinnville 'Telephone-Register' - August 15, 1911

"Farmers along the Dayton Road have armed themselves with loaded shotguns for the purpose of protecting their chickens and a general warning is out for the thieves who have been infesting this neighborhood for the past few weeks. Chickens have been stolen from yards and coops by the wholesale and so cleverly have the thefts been accomplished that no trace of the thieves has been discovered.

"More than four dozen valuable fryers have been stolen alone from the chicken houses of Marion Palmer on the Dayton Road. Reports all along the line are to the effect that farmers have been missing their chickens with startling regularity and are helpless to prevent the depredations. Only last week Mr. Palmer, while sleeping in his tent near the hen house, was aroused from a sound sleep by a noise made by a supposed chicken thief. He armed himself with a shotgun and ran toward the wood from whence came the sound of someone fleeing through the bushes. Palmer called upon the unknown to halt. Being unable to see clearly in the darkness he fired two shots in the direction of the noise but brought nothing to earth. On examination the next morning it was discovered that four chickens had been added to the missing list."

McMinnville 'Telephone-Register' - January 6, 1912

"It is said Willamina will have but one mail a day now. This is due to the fact that the Sheridan & Willamina Railway Company will pull off its night train to this place, leaving only a noon mail arrival. This turn of affairs is the result of the city council a short time ago demanding that the S & W build a depot for the protection of passengers and freight. Mr. Edwards, manager of the road, ignored the council as an official body by refusing to reply to it in a written or verbal statement, but he says he will not comply with the demand. The chief reason he gives for his refusal is the poverty of the road, alleging lack of patronage and general support on the part of the town."



The above advertisement for a Portland dental clinic appeared regularly around the turn of the century in McMinnville newspapers. Accompanying prices indicated the cost of replacement teeth was \$3.50 each, a gold filling would run \$1.00 and painless extraction would be 50¢ or at no charge if done in connection with other work.

Founded 1957



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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
January 1999 Calendar of Events

Tuesday January 12th 5:00 PM

Board of Directors - Community Christian Church - McMinnville

Tuesday January 12th, 6:30 PM

General Meeting & Potluck Dinner- Community Christian Church - McMinnville
(2831 NE Newby Street)

Bring your Own Table Service - Guests Always Welcome
(See page 2 for details)

HAPPY NEW YEAR