GROWING GARDENS ON THE OREGON FRONTIER

Clad in the costume of an 1850s Oregon Territory settler, Erica Calkins addressed the YCHS May meeting held at the Dayton Christian Church. She began by relating a tale of how a handful of flax seed carried to Clatsop County by a pioneer woman turned into a viable fish net weaving enterprise within just a few years. She then told of pioneer women preparing a sort of hominy from wheat or peas borrowed from the Hudson’s Bay Company. Since coffee was unavailable on the early frontier, ground wheat provided a substitute.

Turning to herbs, vegetables and flowers, Ms. Calkins outlined the many varieties of seeds and cuttings pioneer women brought with them across the plains. Some such as tansy, horehound, lemon balm, chamomile and yarrow were cultivated primarily as remedy ingredients. The typical settler kitchen garden would also contain food staples like kale, collard, turnips, chard, muskmelon and nutmeg. Flowers were also grown to inject a bit of color into a rather harsh existence and were often planted near the doorway so that some of their fragrance might be drawn into the house. Roses were a particular favorite. The later portion of the program was devoted to examining samples taken from several of the plants mentioned, and response to questions from the audience. With this presentation Erica Calkins demonstrated she has a deep appreciation for and is an avid promoter of what she terms “the

1998 HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday October 17th has been set as the date for the 1998 Harvest Festival. This is the day we will be showcasing the museum and other YCHS activities by inviting the public to join us in an old fashioned autumn celebration. We are working on encore performances from the two fiddle bands that played last year and expect the several craft displays to return with perhaps an addition or two. This year we are also asking that all members come dressed in period attire which shouldn’t be too difficult since everything made before 1950 is now considered “antique”.

VACATION GENERATED THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I recently spent time visiting the Hiwan Homestead Museum in Evergreen Colorado. For several years I was a member of the Jefferson County Historical Society which was responsible for the volunteer program at Hiwan. The museum is a seventeen room log structure built in the late 1800s. A banquet was held for the Society’s twentieth anniversary which honored past presidents. It was a pleasure to see friends from those years. It reminded me of lasting friendships made during the years I worked with these volunteers. One of the favorite topics was what fun we had doing so many of the projects, programs, activities and displays. The fact we worked long and hard hours was not what we remembered.

I hope that all of the Yamhill County Historical Society’s members can look back with fond memories and pleasure about our past events.

ANNUAL PICNIC SET FOR AMITY

The time is 12:00 noon and the place is the Amity City Park located just west of Highway 99W on Fifth Street (Bellevue/Hopewell Hwy). In addition to your potluck picnic goodies, bring an appetite and prepare to spend the afternoon visiting with old and new friends.

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
VP/Program President
Barbara Kautson
843-2069
Secretary
Betty Bultzell
472-7746
Treasurer
Don Crawford
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Financial Secretary
Lila Jackson
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Delores Robertson
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Board of Directors
John White
665-3376
Ed Robbair
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Robert Kuykendall
662-3354
Don Linscheid
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Volunteer Coordinator
Maxine Williams
472-3457
Librarian
Olive Johnson
472-6070
Newsletter
John White
665-5376
Publicity
Elaine Rohse
472-6827
MUSEUM HOURS
605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308
June 1 to Aug 31:
Fri & Sun 1 to 4 PM
Sat 10 AM to 4 PM
Sept 1 to May 31:
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM
or
By Appointment
ANNUAL DUES
$7.50 per person
Mail to:
Financial Secty
2430 North Baker
McMinnville OR

OFFICERS - 1998

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THE LADY WHO IS ALWAYS THERE
Working quietly in the background Shirley Kuykendall is a person that gets the job done. In addition to setting up tables and chairs plus whatever else it takes to get organized for our monthly potlucks as well as undertaking the less glamorous chores during museum clean-ups, she also helps fence and clears through briar patches as a member of our Heritage Tree Committee.

Shirley and her husband Bob have been married for nearly sixty years and reside in the historic Kuykendall family home near Yamhill. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. Before Bob’s retirement as an active pastor, Shirley undertook a multitude of responsibilities in support of her husband. Not the least of these was for many years operating a bible school at the Eola Hills Farm Labor Camp east of Whiteson. She still assists when Bob is called upon to preside at a funeral or other service. The couple are now active in the McMinnville Community Christian Church where Shirley serves as a volunteer for senior citizen assistance activities.

For her years of truly dedicated participation on behalf of the Society, we extend our hearty thanks to Shirley.

NEW MEMBERS
Welcome to the following new members. We hope to see them at the August 1st picnic.

Barbara Koch - McMinnville
Marian Gray - Carlton
Charles Long - Portland

30th ANNIVERSARY COMING UP
The year 1999 will mark the 30th anniversary of acquiring the Poling Memorial Church as our museum. To mark the event, the Board of Directors have tentatively set Saturday April 17th 1999 as the date for celebrating the event. As yet there are no specific plans other than this gathering should include a tribute to founding members and those who were instrumental in getting the church museum up and running. Note the date now and we’ll keep you posted on details.

FROM THE BOARD
At its May meeting the Board of Directors continued their discussion of Society long range planning and objectives. Such topics as organization, building maintenance, artifact storage, exhibits, fund raising and our responsibilities to the community had been touched upon earlier, but the top priority upon which practically all planning hinges was determined to be an active membership capable of undertaking and fulfilling some of these projects without placing a burden on just a few individuals. Any ideas on the subject?

INTERNET RESEARCH SUSPENDED
Don Crawford, who fields email genealogical inquiries for the Society, reports he has been forced to suspend this activity until such time as he can catch up on the large backlog of requests. Don also assures any and all offers of clerical assistance will be favorably considered. Apply at 434-9843 (computer experience not required).

EWING YOUNG OAK TREE
George Williams reports the YCHS Heritage Tree Committee will be nominating the lone oak that marks the site of Ewing Young’s grave in the Chehalem Valley for well deserved heritage landmark designation. Because it is located on private land without public access, the State Landmark Committee may hesitate to so recognize it even though it stands entirely alone and is quite easily visible from a public road.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER
We’ll be kicking off the new 1998-99 season at the American Legion Hall in Sheridan on Tuesday September 8th with potluck dinner beginning at 6:30 pm. A program discussing Yamhill County road and place names will be provided by our own Dan Linscheid, who you will recall compiled a book on the subject. It’s not all that long until September, so mark your calendars now and don’t forget to bring a guest or two along with table service and potluck fare.

DIGITAL COPIES OF PHOTOS
High quality reproduction of photos on file at the museum is a new service now being offered by the Society. Researchers and others may obtain attractive digital copies of photos of ancestors, home town, the old schoolhouse or whatever for a charge of $4.00 (up to 5x8 inches) or $6.50 (from 5x8 to 8x10 inches). YCHS member Mark Fery will be doing the work with the Society sharing in the proceeds.

IN MEMORIAM
With sadness we note the passing of the following members and supporters:

Hazel M. Kuhn - McMinnville
William Lucas - McMinnville

Remember, A Red Dot on Your Address Label Means Your Dues are Due
At the turn of the century North Yamhill was a bustling agricultural community with a population of around 350. The town also boasted several establishments and services usually found only in towns of larger size. There were electric lights, two schools providing grades 1 through 12, a newspaper, a dentist, at least a score of thriving retail establishments, a bank that withstood the "panic" of 1896-97, a planing mill, a tile factory and other numerous enterprises and organizations.

In addition to being a trading center for the northern part of the county, North Yamhill was also the transfer point between the railroad and stage line for travelers going to or coming from the Tillamook area. Prior to 1902 the necessary overnight accommodations for travelers making this connection were limited to an aging 1870s vintage hotel plus a small rooming house or two. Prominent town people believed this lack of a good hotel reflected badly upon the entire community and during December 1901 they raised a sum of $2200.00 with which to entice an entrepreneur to build and operate a first rate facility. This need became even greater in the spring of 1902 when fire destroyed part of the old hotel requiring the entire structure to eventually be torn down.

Shortly thereafter a local jeweler, inventor and prune dryer owner, E. F. Schneider, took up the challenge of building a new first class hotel. The site selected was a conveniently located vacant lot on the northeast corner of Maple and First Streets and excavation of a 30x60 foot basement began in June of 1902. The August 2nd 1902 issue of the North Yamhill RECORD reported progress on the job as follows: "E. F. Schneider has a large force of men in the work of construction on the new hotel who are pushing the same forward to completion as rapidly as possible. The new building will be a skyscraper for this place and will be a credit to our town, and to Mr. Schneider the builder.

When completed this "skyscraper" would be three stories high with a full basement underneath. To insure an adequate water supply, a well was put down on the Sarah Williams property at Maple and Fir Streets. A gasoline engine and pump were then installed at the well head and an underground pipeline laid to carry the water four blocks west to the hotel.

Construction continued at a fast pace into the fall of 1902 while the RECORD related "Since the old hotel has been closed and pending the completion of the new hotel we hope those of our people who have spare beds place them at the disposal of the traveling public until such time as the new hotel is completed. People coming to our town must have accommodations and be shown every possible courtesy. We would suggest that families who have beds to spare would make the fact known to the liverymen who can direct travelers to them. It would be a credit to our town and to Mr. Schneider the builder."

In late November 1902 Ed and Mrs. Schneider moved into their quarters in the new building. Although construction was not completed, the kitchen, dining room, parlor and a few guest rooms were ready permitting some travelers an opportunity to spend the night. When the upper floors were finished in mid December, the brand new Royal Hotel had its official opening, an event the RECORD described as: "Ed Schneider has a large force of men in the work of construction on the new hotel who are pushing the same forward to completion as rapidly as possible. The new building will be a skyscraper for this place and will be a credit to our town, and to Mr. Schneider the builder."

The second and third floors were devoted to ten guest rooms each that were equipped with comfortable beds and "kept in a manner to please the most fastidious touring lady". None of the rooms had running water but "modern bathing facilities" were located on each floor. Although no reason for the difference was offered, contemporary ads quoted rates of $1.25 and $2.00 per night (meals not included).

A saloon accessed directly from Maple Street occupied the front portion of the basement with general storage and space for several cords of firewood at the rear. Later this lower level was converted into a shooting gallery.

Transportation of travelers to and from the railroad station was accomplished by a "carryall" drawn by two fine chestnut horses supplied by John Williams' livery stable and driven by "Dad" Gage. This connection was to last only until 1911 however when a railroad link was completed between Forest Grove and Tillamook that quickly put the stage line out of business.

For the next few years the Royal Hotel continued moderately prosperous operation, but loss of the Tillamook travelers took its toll. Ed Schneider eventually sold his hotel to the dentist, Dr. E. R. Flett. Ownership was subsequently passed on to several proprietors before the once elegant but by then decaying structure was torn down during September 1938 ending a colorful era of North Yamhill history.
YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
July, August & September 1998 Calendar of Events

Tuesday July 14th, 1:00 PM
Board of Directors - Miller Log Museum - Lafayette

Saturday August 1st 12:00 Noon
Annual Potluck Picnic - Amity City Park
(See page 1 for details)

Tuesday August 11th, 1:00 PM
Board of Directors - Miller Log Museum - Lafayette

Tuesday September 8th, 4:30 PM
Board of Directors - American Legion Hall - Sheridan

Tuesday September 8th, 6:30 PM
General Meeting & Potluck Dinner - American Legion Hall - Sheridan
Bring your Own Table Service - Guests Always Welcome
(See page 2 for details)