The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

1912 Peerless Steam Traction Engine Gets a New Look

If you have attended any of the Heritage Center's events, you may have noticed a large, quite "tractor". This is Yamhill County Historical Society's (YCHS) 1912 Peerless steam traction engine. The engine was built by Geiser Manufacturing Company of Waynesboro, PA and delivered to a farm in the Burns, Oregon area where it plowed fields. In 1949, it moved to a new home, but has lived in the Pacific Northwest all its life.

Now, after years of faithful service, the "steam team" will be in the restoration shop restoring the engine to its "original" colors and making minor repairs. The "steam team" consists of steam operators and trainees, Brian Ossenkop, Bri Kampstra, Mackenzie Kampstra, Eileen Brazil, Kyle Israel, Sharlene Whitaker, Bob Knytich, Vern Yeager, Jerry Gaiser, and Frank Schurman. This team disassembled part of the engine to prepare it for soda blasting on February 2 and February 16. Soda blasting is similar to sand blasting, but much more gentle. Our thanks to Greg Leonard of Leonard Soda Blasting for donating his time and labor.

The steam traction engine has been with YCHS for over a decade. A lot of work was done in the late 2000's to make it to operational. Look for more on its history and donor next month.

If you visit the Heritage Center, you can view the progress as we work towards a shiney, new finish.

Written by Eileen Brazil

More photos page 2

Steam Team, left to right, Mackenzie Kampstra, Eileen Brazil, Vern Yeager, Brian Ossenkop, Bri Kampstra, Kyle Israel, Sharlene Whitaker, and Bob Knytich. Absent is Frank Schurman and Jerry Gaiser.

Photo courtesy Tom Cattrall
Protecting our Yamhill County History and Heritage...

More Highlights of our 1912 Peerless Steam Traction Engine Restoration...

Vern standing and Kyle operating the steam engine in a “before soda blasting” event...

Greg Leonard (kneeling) and Brian Ossenkop (standing) start blasting thanks to a generous donation from Greg Leonard, owner, Leonard Soda Blasting.

In the Heritage Center Restoration Shop, the Steamer awaits the second round of soda blasting.

Photos: Tom Cattrall
Preserving our Yamhill County History and Heritage...

Early 1900’s Manure Spreader, From Waterloo Iowa to McMinnville Oregon

Leona Schrock gifted an early 1900’s Litchfield Manure Spreader to YCHS. This machine was manufactured by the Litchfield Company in Waterloo, Iowa and purchased by the Schrock’s at R. M. Wade Company in Portland. It was used on the Schrock’s farm near Tangent, Oregon. It was built to be pulled by horses. It is in good condition with some of the original lettering still visible on the side of the machine.

When it arrived, it was partially disassembled. The parts were all there, but we were unable to figure out how to reassemble the drive mechanism.

A search of the Internet found a picture of a completely restored machine. We contacted the person credited with taking that picture, Larry Shekel who lives in Tomah, Wisconsin. He told us that the machine in the Internet picture was owned by Don and Dolores Raspiller who live in Lyndon Station, Wisconsin. We wrote a letter to the Raspiller’s and asked if they would be able to send us some photographs of their machine. Within a couple of weeks we received a dozen photographs which provided us with the information we needed. The photographs showed us how to reassemble the machine and also showed us a couple of parts on the machine which were incorrectly installed.

Al Steinke found us a pair of buggy springs that we were able to use to replace the broken springs that support the seat. Volunteer Elden Nyquist did the repair work for YCHS.

So, with a little work and help from folks in Wisconsin, YCHS now has a fully assembled Litchfield Spreader. We plan to pull it through the parade at Harvest Fest this summer.

Written by Walt Stahlnecker, HC Restoration Shop

Chuck “why work on just one machine at a time” Kadell in the shop

Restoration Committee Chairs Chuck Kadell and Walt Stahlnecker admire the spring work done by Elden Nyquist and Al Steinke. Spread away boys!
Sharing our Yamhill County History and Heritage...

Secrets of the Past Invites You to our Celtic Heritage Presentation

Come join us for another great Secrets of the Past Presentation at the Heritage Center in McMinnville!

This one is sure to a great one and just in time for St. Patrick's Day. Our Presenter, Ray Mabey will share Scottish history with us and as he presents the History of the Highlands Games, I’m hoping we get some “show and tell” with a Saber Toss or throwing giant boulders around.

While Mr. Mabey covers the Scottish connections in our area, Mel and Debbie Kelchner, along with your YCHS volunteers, will be serving up presentation appropriate appetizers and beverages.

Bring you friends, family and neighbors, hear from a genuine MacLaren/McLean and a Scottish Heavy Events athlete, and maybe share some of your heritage and history with us as well.

This event is free, donations are accepted, and we’ll see you there Tuesday March 12 at 6:00pm.

Yamhill Valley Heritage Center and Museum

Neither Sleet nor Snow keeps the YCHS from celebrating a grand 160th Birthday for Oregon

Celebrating a few days early, our YCHS volunteers held the annual Oregon Birthday Celebration at the Heritage Center this year. While many across the county closed shop, we hearty locals turned out in numbers to eat cake, learn and share our history, and work our way through a couple cakes while the Old Time Fiddler’s entertained. Great job folks!

Pam Watt’s with birthday cake for all...

Carol Williams helps our guest learn how our founders loaded their wagons for their 1843 voyage to Oregon

Special Birthday guests The Old Time Fiddler’s Dennis Brutke, Marie Bailey, Johnnie Williams, Dee Thomas, Jan Nugent and Ted Hunt.
Pioneer Days at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center

A Scheduling Correction for Pioneer Days from last months issue:

The contact person for scheduling is Raylinda@yamhillcountyhistory.org, and the cost is $5.00/student. The list of activities is not set in stone. They vary depending upon the season, our available volunteers and the weather.

HISTORY

Yamhill County, Oregon School District #15 was formed in 1854 and a small one-room schoolhouse was raised on Caleb Woods' property along the Tillamook Trail.

in 1877, District #15 decided to build a new school, the old one being too small. John Hutchcroft gave the district one acre of land on a knoll South and East of his home. Here was constructed a frame school house 20 feet by 36 feet.

By the 1930's enrollment at #15 became low. During the 1933-34 school year, twelve children were enrolled. Grace Farnham Campell was the teacher. In 1934-35 Beatrice Martin taught eight children. The last year (1935-36) that classes were held at Hutchcroft School, Florence Johnson was the teacher and she had only four pupils.

Thereafter, school was suspended and the children were transported to Yamhill at district expense. Final consolidation with Yamhill came in 1946.

After 59 years of dedicated service, the one-room schoolhouse was forced to close it's doors and sat empty for nearly 77 years. The school beckoned to be once again filled with students.

In 2012, Raymond Whitlow donated the schoolhouse to the Yamhill County Historical Society in hopes that the deteriorating building could be restored. By September 2012, the newly formed Hutchcroft School Committee had raised enough funds to have the school building raised and moved to its current location at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center on Highway 18 and Durham Lane in McMinnville, Oregon.

Dear Heritage Museum Volunteers,

thank you for letting us wear the costumes all day and giving us a chance to see what school was like in the 1800's. I really enjoyed it.

Sincerely, Mirabel J. 11'
Call to order: President Charles H. called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The remainder of the meeting was led by VP Dave R.

All Directors in attendance save Pam Watts, Stan Primozić, Jack Maxwell
Member/Staff guests: Shirley Venhaus, Tony Meeker, Raylinda Price

Motion #1
Todd H. moved and Walt S. seconded to approve the previous Board minutes as submitted. Unanimous

Committee Reports:
-Lafayette Site: could use more volunteers, an email requesting volunteers was sent out by Raylinda.
-A&E: 2019 budget is ready for review. Next Secrets of the Past program will be Celtic Heritage in the Willamette Valley.
-Rentals: YC Soil and Water native plant sale is coming up.
-Media: Michael has been working through the new website.

Motion #2
Sarah M. moved and Alex B. seconded to approve committee reports as submitted. Unanimous

Treasurer’s Report:
-3 more storage containers have been purchased. To be delivered by the end of March.
-several donations for Cleo Harding who passed have been coming in.

Motion #3
Todd H. moved and Peter D. seconded to approve a Marketing and A&E budget for 2019 of $8250. Unanimous

President’s Report:
Peter D. checked in with legal counsel Tyler regarding an updated employment contract, it has been given to Charles.

Unfinished Business:
-Raylinda would like a new email server, there have been many server issues lately. The website company can also provide email services. She will let Jack know about this so he can investigate options.

New Business:
-Tony M. gave a proposal for the acquisition of a second steam tractor, it is completely restored, it originally operated a sawmill in Yamhill County. All committees involved agree that this is a great opportunity for YCHS.

Motion #4
Sarah M. moved and Walt S. seconded to release up to $28500 for the purchase of an Aultman & Taylor 1912 model 20-60 s/n 8301 steam traction engine and water trailer. Unanimous

Guest Shirley Venhaus spoke about the Murder Quilt history, and had some questions and clarification of how the quilt may be loaned out and the process and responsibility involved.

The Board discussed the need to have Thank You letters sent out in a timely manner. Many donors are expecting this letter for tax purposes, and several have expressed concerns that they haven’t received letters.

Motion #5
Todd H. moved and Peter D. seconded to transfer the duties of Thank You letter writing for donations of over $250 from the President to the Secretary. Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 6:33pm

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Botten, YCHS Secretary, formatted for space; Dave Rucker
The 32nd annual Oregon Ag Fest 2019 is coming up! Saturday April 27th - Sunday April 28th at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. Last year over 21,000 people attended Ag Fest to touch, taste and experience the incredible world of Oregon agriculture, in a fun-filled, festive environment. This two-day event, aimed to help families better understand where their food, fiber and flora come from, is a unique learning experience, where hands-on exhibits make learning about Oregon’s agricultural industry educational and entertaining.

Ag Fest strives to bridge the gap between urban and rural life, and to share the wonder and abundance of Oregon’s bountiful and diverse harvest. Most importantly, this is done in a family friendly way, where kids 12 and under receive free admission, and virtually all activities at the event are free of charge. Yamhill County Historical Society is proud to be a participant at this event. Thanks to Ag Fest’s sponsors; kids ride ponies, plant seedlings, watch sheep get sheared, pet farm animals and much more! Come check it out for yourself. As you can see from the pictures we need more volunteers to help us keep our exhibit safe.

Contact Cynthia Christensen if you are interested in helping out.

Cell: 503-421-5303 or email at cynthialehuachristensen@gmail.com.

http://oragfest.com/
Mark your calendars now for **FARMFEST 2019!**

Yamhill County Historical Society & Oregon Draft Horse Breeders Association

**PRESENT**

**FARM FEST 2019**

and Plowing Competition

**Saturday, April 6, 2019, 10am-4pm**

Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, McMinnville, Oregon

(Intersection of HWY 18 and Durham Lane)

Enjoy a day of family fun & old-time farming activities!

Largest plowing competition on the West Coast with draft horses & mules, Pioneer Kids’ Activities, Vendors, Exhibits, Food, Music, & More!

Opening Ceremonies - 10:00am
Demonstrations - 10:00 - 4:00pm
20+ Team Plowing Competition - 11:00 - 2:30pm
Parade of Teams and Awards - 3:00pm

For information visit: www.YamhillCountyHistory.org
email: events@YamhillCountyHistory.org or call: (503) 472-2842
YCHS EVENTS

MUSIC & DANCING
4th SUNDAYS AT THE HERITAGE CENTER
LIVE MUSIC
by Joe Justin and Janet Kay
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
11275 SW Durham Ln., McMinnville, OR
www.YamhillCountyHistory.org
2:00 - 4:00PM

2019 DATES
January 27
February 24
March 24
April 28
May 26
June 23

July 28
August 25
September 22
October 27
November 17
December 15

* Special 3rd Sunday Holiday Dates

$7 Adults
$5 Children 6-12
Kids under 6 FREE

Visit our new Website for a full color CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

2019 Events
Yamhill County Historical Society

Events take place at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center Museum
11275 SW Durham Lane, McMinnville, Oregon, 97128

February 9, Saturday 10am-4pm
OREGON’S BIRTHDAY
Celebrate with us!

April 6, Saturday 10am-4pm
FARM FEST & PLOWING COMPETITION
Largest plowing competition on the West Coast with 20+ teams of draft horses and mules. Blacksmith, Sawmill, Farm demos, Food, Music, Pioneer kids’ activities, Vendors & More
$8 adults - free for kids under 12

June 16, Sunday 10am-4pm
FATHER’S DAY
Special activities to help celebrate Dad
Free - donations gladly accepted

August 17-18, Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm
HARVEST FEST
Old-time harvesting with antique farm equipment & draft animals. Blacksmith, Sawmill, Steam engine, Pioneer kids’ activities, Food, Music, Exhibits, Vendors & More
$8 adults - free for kids under 12

September 14, Saturday, 2 pm
VINTAGE BASE BALL
Cheer on the local McMinnville Gristmillers as they play an exhibition vintage Base Ball game, using rules from the 1800’s
Free - donations gladly accepted

September 21, Saturday, 10am-5pm
TREASURES IN THE ATTIC
Quilt Show, Appraisal Fair, Vintage Market, 120+ quilts on display, Vintage & collectible vendors, Antique equipment, Food, Music & More
$5 admission

October 26, Saturday, 5-8 pm
A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
Special tours of museum, Kids’ activities & some surprises
For all ages (children need to be accompanied by adults)
$5 per vehicle

November 8-9, Friday and Saturday, 10am-4pm
VETERANS’ DAY SPECIAL EXHIBITS
Free - donations gladly accepted

December 7-8, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-4pm
HANDMADE HOLIDAYS BAZAAR
50+ vendors, Local artists, Silent auction, Food, Decorated tree auction, & Food drive for YCAP
Free - donations gladly accepted

Save the Date...

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION
Join us for the annual
Yamhill County Historical Society
General Meeting and Volunteer Celebration!

Dinner provided by our one and only Keichner Family Kitchen!

Come thank your fellow volunteers, meet new members, and learn about upcoming volunteer events.

Tuesday, May 14, 2019
6pm to 8pm
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
11275 SW Durham Ln, McMinnville
Welcome to our newest members since our last newsletter... a warm “howdy” to you all.

Joyce Anderson
Stan & Janice Primozich
Sharlene Whitaker & Kyle Israel
Joseph Smothers
Bob Knytych
Lynda Larsen
Teresa White
Bill & Carol Hall

Remember, if you haven’t renewed your YCHS membership for 2019, your dues are now past due. Please send your renewal in as soon as possible, so you don’t lose out on all the benefits your membership gives you.

Also, I am deleting my yahoo email, so if you need to contact me, please email me at: membership@yamhillcountyhistory.org.

Please remember to let me know if you are away on vacation or gone for an extended period of time. The Post Office will not forward your newsletter, so we have to pay to get it back if you’re not at your home address.

Thanks so much for your continued support.

Carlene Kadell
Membership Coordinator

YCHS Membership Services now available online

Thanks to our new Website Administration Chairperson, Jack Maxwell III, your Historical Society now has a brand new, active and live, YCHS website. This site can now process your membership renewal and sign on your family and friends as new members of our Society. It is incredibly easy and took this luddite only a few minutes to renew for 2019. Check out the many other updates and new features while you’re there. See the link below for membership services…

https://yamhillcountyhistory.org/about-us/join-today/

Our Current Volunteer Positions Available:

**Heritage Center Docents, Greeters and Hosts** – Work with the greatest people in the County. Meet folks from across the street and across the globe. No experience needed, we’ll train you on site. Each Weds, Fri, or Sat of the week 10am-4pm.

**Rental Events and Party Set Up** – Set our exhibit hall and meeting rooms for public gatherings from 20 to 100 guests. Some lifting required, schedule is according to Rental and Events Calendar.

**Lafayette Miller Museum Hosts** – Operate our research center in the Miller Log Cabin. No experience required, genuine warmth and fondness for history recommended. Open positions may include each Wed, Fri, or Sat 10am-4pm.

**Volunteer Coordinator** – Meet with new volunteers, assign positions, schedule orientations, schedule volunteer groups and event volunteers. Work with the greatest volunteers in the County. Some coordination skills needed and time commitment required.

**Merchandise Committee** – Set up shoppe in at our Historical Society events and in both Museums. Help design, market, and sell and share YCHS shirts, cups, blacksmith wares and anything else YCHS you think our community will enjoy.

These are a few of our PRIORITY volunteer needs. To sign up or ask questions about these volunteer positions email volunteercoordinator@yamhillcountyhistory.org or visit our new website and click the Volunteer Tab for more info...
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

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.

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<th>Yearly Membership Categories</th>
<th>Dues for 2019 (January 1 - Dec. 31, 2019)</th>
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<td>Senior/Student/Educator</td>
<td>□ $15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Family</td>
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<td>Community Builder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Benefactor</td>
<td>□ $500.00 +</td>
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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 make checks payable to YCHS and return with this printed form to:

Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Carlene Kadell (503) 474-0480 or email: membership@yamhillcountyhistory.org
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.