Joanne Watts is chairing the Yamhill County Historical Society’s celebration of Oregon’s 150th birthday party. This event will take place on Saturday, February 14, 2009. February 14, 1859, Oregon became the 33rd state in the Union.

There will be a free open house from 10-4 at the Lafayette Museum Complex site as well as events at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center on Durham Lane near McMinnville. The preliminary plans include having music, tours, storytellers, and displays. Joanne will be contacting people to help with various activities.

The Genealogy Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution will be involved as well.

Docents in period costumes will be serving refreshments, answering questions, and guiding guests through the museums.

Thanks to the generosity of Marge Clevenger, the Tessman family and many others, we have a sawmill at our new Durham Lane site. About a year ago, Marge donated money to start the building that would house the 1910 circular saw donated by the Tessman family. With the combined skills of Chuck Kadell, Alan Tessman, Dean Tessman, Don King, Al Steinke, Jeff Clevenger, Ray Kauer, Haworth Construction, Dave Cruickshank, Jeff Kizer, Wade Miller and Farnham Electric, the sawmill is near completion.

The sawmill will be dedicated during the Farm Fest on Saturday, April 18, 2009. At that time there will be demonstrations on how it operates. The plan is to provide educational experiences for youth using antique equipment and to actually saw lumber as it was done in the early 1900’s. The lumber will then be used for other projects at the site.

Others that have donated invaluable time and/or materials to help make this project a reality are: Lumbermen’s, Parr Lumber, Forest Grove Wood Products, Meisel Rock, Kizer Excavating, Teena Industries, Hampton Lumber, Marty Gass, Brian Turley Farms, Kauer Farms, Ken Gross, Randy Seward, Ed Banke, Ken Haggard, Pat West, McMinnville Water & Light, Tice Electric, Cascade Steel, Patriot Fire Protection, Inc. and Kamph Rock.

Stop by and see what’s been done!!
President's Letter

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS:

As some of you know I am a real estate broker for Prudential in McMinnville. This is an interesting time in this market. Thank goodness for trustworthy lenders, title companies and brokers. Yamhill County is in better shape than a lot of areas. It makes you proud to work with these people.

The election may be over by the time you receive this. The new president will have a huge job getting this country back on its feet. Also a decision will be made on the landfill expansion. It would be sad to have such a great site for our new museum and then have it spoiled by a lot of garbage. Ramsey McPhillips has certainly put forth a huge effort of time and money trying to protect his homestead and the museum location. The Board voted to support him in his campaign.

The Durham Oversight Committee has almost completed their organization process and will have a full meeting in the coming week. These are civic leaders who are interested in helping the YCHS complete the buildings on the new site and be ready to open for business. With the help of the board members, society members and people of Yamhill County, they hope to accomplish this in the next few months. This is a major funding campaign and will need all of your assistance.

The volunteers at the Lafayette Museum have really been busy. They purchased some office equipment from the City of McMinnville and are rearranging the buildings to accommodate these items. Marjorie also used her First Federal funds recently awarded her to order 3 new file cabinets. The museum is now open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday. They certainly could use lots of extra volunteer help. Please contact Louise Heindl 503-476-2612 or any board member.

The Nominating Committee will be seeking nominees for president, secretary, and treasurer for the upcoming 2 years.

If you have someone in mind that might be interested in serving in one or more of these positions, please contact a board member.

Hope all of you are enjoying the beautiful fall weather.

Sincerely, Shirley Venhaus, President
Pioneer Days

Matt Weber and his fourth and fifth graders from McMinnville’s Adventist Christian School were pioneers for a day on Monday, October 13, 2008. All the activity took place at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center on Durham Lane.

These students experienced life as pioneers. Because work always came before play, the students first had to plant their winter wheat (donated by Dave Cruickshank) and harvest the pumpkins and sunflowers. Then they moved on to making candles—you know, the dark days of winter are coming. They made dipped and beeswax candles. While some were making the candles, some of the girls were washing clothes on a washboard with instructions from Tonia Beebe. The boys had hauled the water for them. The soap was made by JoAnn Watts. All of the students had a hand in churning the butter that would be used for the corn that was roasting in the fire.

Lunch was fast approaching so Mr. Weber and some of the students found a safe place to make a fire with flint and steel. They used real buffalo chips! The students said this was their favorite part because they felt like they were actually on the Oregon Trail. After the students ate the lunch they brought, they ate the roasted corn. Pretty good stuff!

Next it was time for a little fun. The girls met with Marjorie Owens and made cornhusk dolls. Using a brace and bit, the boys made candle holders for the candles.

What a day. Just like the pioneers, the students went home tired, knowing they had accomplished many of the tasks that needed to be done by children in the mid 1800’s.

This type of experience is what the educational division of the museum hopes to offer to all interested schools in the near future.
### November 2008 Happenings

#### YCHS Upcoming Events

- Dec. 9th 6:30 pm—General Meeting & Potluck. Program: Frank Dummer and a sing-along, 7th Day Adventist Church
- Jan. 11th 2:00—Author Charlene Brown. She is the author of *Elizabeth’s Golden Land*, a novel inspired by a true story and *Fancy Work*, about the William Booth murder.
- Feb. 14, 2009—YCHS Sesquicentennial Celebration

#### Locations

11/11: 7th Day Adventist Church, 1500 Old Sheridan Rd. McMinnville
11/28—30: Christmas Crazy Bazaar—A-dec building Yamhill County Fairgrounds, McMinnville

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**Yamhill County Historical Society & Museum**
More on Harvest Fest August, 2008

I was asked to report how many hours our family and friends spent preparing for Harvest Fest, attending to and getting equipment put away for another year.

I am not doing this for praise or glory, but to urge all members to keep track of their VOLUNTEER HOURS that support our society and museum. Knowing these facts is often needed when applying for grants.

Turn in your hours to Louise Heindl, volunteer coordinator (503.662.4218).

You can count time making arrangements for the event, invitations, calls, creating press releases, shopping for food and supplies, cleaning and hauling equipment, making signs and being on the site. Several of us had three to five ten-hour days there.

I kept track of 729 hours and I know it was more.

Seeing all the people pour through the gates with smiles on their faces was wonderful and made all of the effort worthwhile. Seeing children crying because it was time to leave was a good barometer of the event.

Thank you all for helping,
Joanne and Glen Watts
Pam and Cliff Watts
Janelle and Ian Hizzey
Kathi and Bob Pilcher
Cousins and Friends

Sincerely, Joanne Watts

Christmas Crazy Bazaar
A Handcrafted Only Bazaar
The Largest Holiday Show in Yamhill County!

The Yamhill County Historical Society will have a booth at the Christmas Crazy Bazaar. This bazaar will be held at the A-dec Building on the Yamhill County Fairgrounds. It will feature handcrafted items. The dates for this event are November 28th through the 30th. The times are Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 8 pm. Sunday from 9 am to 4 pm.

If you have any questions and/or wish to participate, please call Milly Armstrong at (503) 472-6489. For general information about this bazaar, go to their website www.christmascrazybazaar.com.

*** New Museum Hours ***
The museum is now open three days a week!
Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
10 AM to 4 PM
We still need volunteers on those three days to help
Become a Yamhill County Historical Society Member Today!

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<th>Membership entitles you to:</th>
<th>Annual Membership Levels (July 1—June 30)</th>
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<tr>
<td>☐ The West Side newsletter</td>
<td>☐ Senior/Student/Educator $15</td>
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<td>☐ Free admission to the Museum &amp; Library</td>
<td>☐ Individual $20</td>
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<td>☐ Access to genealogical &amp; historical files</td>
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<td>☐ Access to the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center</td>
<td>☐ Family (Basic) $30</td>
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<td>☐ Community Benefactor $500+</td>
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Make Checks payable to: Yamhill County Historical Society.
Mail this form with payment to: YCHS, P.O. Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127.

Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Gloria Lutz at 503.472.7563 or email: glutz@onlinemac.com

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ______ Zip Code: ______
Phone (Home): ____________________________ (Cell): ____________________________ (Work): ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

The Yamhill County Historical Society & Museum is a charitable 501 (c) (3) organization, tax i.d. #23-7090047.