



COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1978, 7 p.m.

PLACE: COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 2831 N. Newby, McMinnville,
(near Careousel Care Center)

POTLUCK: BRING YOUR SERVICE AND LOTS OF GOOD FOOD

GUEST NIGHT: Make a special effort to bring a guest to our October meeting. Remember, the table with the greatest number of guests, will lead the way to the food!

PROGRAM: Mrs. Ann Ford of Rt. 1, Amity, will tell about the old Bockes house which she and her husband, Richard, purchased a couple of years ago and are in the process of restoring.

The house is a handsome old country home, the original part of which was built by the Sanders, Oregon pioneers of 1851. The Bockes family acquired the house in 1894 and built on a large addition. The Fords have traced down much of the history of the house and the people who built it.

MUSEUM NEWS

The history of Chehalem Valley and the Rogers-Fendall families presented by David and Beverly Fendall at our last meeting, was enjoyed by all. We need many more such programs to gather our early-day history, and hope to go to the Chehalem Valley again to gather the school history.

A group of 40 Senior Citizens from Forest Grove visited the Museum recently after first eating lunch at Pioneer Pantry in McMinnville.

The Library at Monmouth had the school records of #51, Bellevue. I copied 30 pages of expenses for the new schoolhouse 1917, teachers' salary and other records. One of the letters on file was from Yamhill County Superintendent S. S. Duncan to C. J. Payne and contained his report of bond of Delmer Branson approved and filed.

Vern Duncan, Oregon State School Superintendent, is the son of S. S. Duncan.

The envelope copied had a 2¢ stamp and there were many receipts of hardware stores at Sheridan, Bellevue and McMinnville, long since gone.

Teachers' salary was noted at \$60; \$4 was paid for holding the 8th grade examinations which were sent from the State Office. Two cords of wood were \$6. The census of the children of the district from 1912 to 1917 also was noted. This is the only record of #51 that we have.

If you were a teacher or student at that district and have photos we could copy would you please contact Ruth Stoller, Rt. 2, Box 149, Dayton, or Roma Sitton, Rt. 2, Box 173, McMinnville.

We need this material for the collection of rural schools. We hope to gather information regarding all 101 rural school districts for a book.

We had a very good tourist season but now are only open Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4:30 p.m.; by appointment for clubs or school groups. Call 472-7935.

ROMA SITTON

VOTE "YES" ON THE HISTORICAL FUND LEVY

(THE FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION THAT PERHAPS MAY HELP YOU TO "SELL" THE HISTORICAL FUND LEVY THAT WILL BE VOTED ON AT THE GENERAL ELECTION.)

The Sioux have an ancient and revered saying: "A people without history is like the wind on the buffalo grass."

The Yamhill County Historical Society is working diligently to unearth and preserve the county's rich historical lore and artifacts, which once forgotten or lost are irretrievable. Since its organization in 1957, the County Historical Society has established Yamhill County Museum in former Poling Memorial Church, 6th and Market Streets, Lafayette.

That building, now completely paid for, houses thousands of relics of Yamhill County's past from cream skimmers to oxen yokes that came across the plains. Those items were donated to the museum, collected, sorted, cleaned, catalogued and are now preserved for viewing. Regular hours are maintained for visitors. No admittance fee is charged although donations at the door are appreciated.

Since the Museum was established in 1969, it has had visitors numbering approximately 19,000 from all states and many foreign countries. Many classes of local students and youth groups, as well as other organizations, have toured its premises. Additionally, Historical Society volunteers have taken the story of the Museum and of Yamhill County's past to the school room and to many organizations.

A second building, adjacent the Museum, was constructed this year and is completely paid for, largely by donations of members, and memorials. The building adjacent the Museum is on land bought by the Historical Society in conjunction with the church. The new building was named Museum Farm Tools as a result of a contest among Historical Society members and Yamhill County students. It will house old farm machinery and tools.

Because of the current interest in genealogy and visitors seeking information about their forbears, the Historical Society is presently plotting all county cemeteries recording names and dates of persons buried therein. A McMinnville High School Social Studies Class last year received credit for assisting in this project.

A book, "OLD YAMHILL", published by the Historical Society is in its second printing. It records early history of Yamhill county towns and cities.

Now an effort is being made to gather information about early-day Yamhill County schools which perhaps may result in a second publication. (At one time 101 rural Yamhill county schools existed, none of which are now in operation.)

The Historical Society has approximately 150 paid members, and holds monthly meetings (except during the summer) in various locations about the country. Programs of historical interest are presented. Membership is open to all.

Volunteers long have borne the brunt of maintenance and manning of the Museum, and the Historical Society is proud that it has no indebtedness. The proposed annual levy of a maximum of \$10,000, will help cover maintenance and operating expenses of the museum and keep them open for additional hours. The levy at today's rate amounts to a total tax of 63¢ per year for a \$50,000 home.

A Historical Society and Museum provide roots to all, especially to our young people today. The ability to link with the past is vital.

"A people without history is like the wind on the buffalo grass."

A "YES" vote will help preserve Yamhill County's rich historical past.