



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

OFFICERS 1987

PRESIDENT	Gene Irvin
PROGRAM CHMN.	R. Kuykendall
SECRETARY	Mildred Renne
FINANCIAL SEC'Y.	Evelyn Nieman
TREASURER	Mike Boundy
HISTORIAN	Ruth Stoller
BOARD:	Austin Bowen, Ed Roghair, Harvey Stoller, James Vincent
MUSEUM CURATOR	Roma Sitton
NEWSLETTER	Margaret Roghair

MUSEUM HOURS: Saturdays & Sundays,
1 - 4 o'clock
(except by appointment)

OCTOBER 1987 YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

1987

MEETING Tuesday EVENING, October 13, Senior Center, Lafayette, Oregon
POT LUCK SUPPER at 7 o'clock. Bring own table service. Visitors are
welcome and encouraged to attend.

PROGRAM Julie Koler, Historic Preservation Specialist for Yamhill
County will discuss the county historic survey.

Note the change in Museum hours (above) for the new season.
Also, your attention should be called to the rise in yearly dues,
to \$5. per individual.

MUSEUM NOTES by Roma Sitton phone 472-7935

After a busy summer we returned to the weekend schedule Sept.20.
I wish to thank all who helped keep the Museum doors open. The story
on our quilts by Elaine Rohse still brings visitors. We need more
publicity. Among new donations is a large U.S. flag and money for a
flag pole. I hope someone will donate a sizeable sum for the repairs
we need. In September '88 my driver's license expires and I do not
see well enough to pass the test, so I am retiring. Am sorry, but
age dictates. That means the Museum needs new management -- a couple
for the Museum and a manager of the farm tool collection. I have a
collection that my family wants me to label so they will know what
these were used for.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, Gene phone 472-8573

As we begin our fall meetings we can look back on a busy year for
our society. The Museum, under the capable hands of Roma Sitton,
has a new paint job and repaired roof for the upcoming winter. At
this time the Board elected to postpone installing storm windows
for the Museum, as available funds are exhausted. Beginning a new
year gives us opportunity to increase our membership. If you know
someone interested in our county's history, invite them to our
meetings and/or to join our society. . . It is with regret that I
am accepting the resignation of program chairman, Bob Kuykendall.
Bob has made valuable contributions, and I will personally miss his
help. Please contact me if you are interested in carrying on this
part of our program. I will be attending a class in Museum Studies
at OSU this fall, taught by Lucy Skelstad, director of Horner Mus-
eum, who spoke at our May meeting. I am looking forward to this
new year and hope to see all the familiar faces and some new ones
at the meetings this fall.

The last issue of our newsletter had an article from an old newspaper telling about the removal of the railroad tracks between Lafayette and Whiteson after the railroad from Lafayette to St. Joseph Junction had been completed. In response to this article we received a letter from Charles A. Laman of McMinnville that was so interesting and informative that we are including it here just as he wrote it. See reverse page. Ruth Stoller

Your article on the old Narrow Gauge railroad from Lafayette via Dayton Prairie to Whiteson stirred memories of my father's family early beginnings in Lafayette.

My father, Arthur Laman, was born in 1881 on the Braman ranch in the Red Hills north from the present Dayton junction. He spent all his life in Lafayette, until his death in December 1961. He often told of the death of his older brother Wilfred in December 1890 at the age of 13. Wilfred was following the lead of older boys who were jumping from the old depot platform, located on the present site of Stan Bunn's mobile home (this is just east of Lafayette where the tracks curve to the southwest), to the slowly moving train's flat cars. He misjudged the speed/distance and lost his life under the train's wheels. His body lies buried these nearly ninety seven years in the Masonic Cemetery northwest of Lafayette. His mother, father, sister, grandmother and grandfather later were to rest with him.

At the time of the building of the new line from Lafayette to St. Joe and for several years later my grandmother operated a hotel and boarding house in her home adjoining the new railroad. It was located about 2 blocks from the new depot. Workmen laying the tracks and later the depot agent took their meals at her hotel.

My aunt and her husband Adam Schweiger operated the meat market at the time in Lafayette and supplied my grandmother with her meat order. Hearing that more domestic help was needed at the hotel she sent word to her sister, my mother Avis (Mabel) McCabe, in Loyal, Wisconsin. My mother was 20 years old then, in 1907, and working in Loyal for her room and board and 50¢ a week. She immediately came West and found prosperity--\$2.00 per week with room and board and in 1910 a new husband, my father! They spent their next 51 years together in the same home. Their funerals were three weeks apart during the Christmas--New Years season of 1961-62.

My older sister and I spent our growing up years along the new section of track and often viewed the remaining remnants of the few pilings of the old railroad bridge as we swam in the Yamhill river beside the present Lafayette river bridge.

Thank-you for a delightful bit of history and for taking the time to share my ramblings.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Laman

(Mr. Laman has also given us a picture of the old family home which was the one that was used as a hotel and boarding house. His grandmother called it the "Cottage Hotel". The old house is still standing in Lafayette. We are grateful to Mr. Laman for everything.)