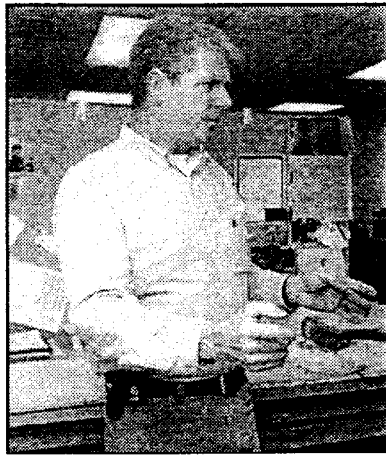


The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

October 1998



"Oregonian" Photo

*Dan Linscheid
County Surveyor and
YCHS Director*

SPEAKER DETAILS HISTORY BEHIND NAMES

Armed with a laser pointer and wall-sized map, County Surveyor Dan Linscheid escorted members and guests attending the September 8th YCHS meeting at Sheridan on a tour highlighting the origin of scores of Yamhill County road and place names as well as pinpointing the location. Before getting under way however, Dan turned the floor over to George Williams who reported on his recent research into "Pumpkinseed" Smith and the namesake road

Beginning with the names of animals (Buckhollow Rd, Dog Ridge Rd., etc.), flora (Peavine Rd, Sourgrass Rd., etc.) and foods (Honey Lane, Sweet Cider Lane, etc.), Dan moved on into discontinued post offices (Chase, Ekins, Roberts, etc.) and family named creeks (Dupee, Henry, Petch, etc.) before taking a look at railroad stops (Crawford, Riverside, Web, etc.). Also included on this verbal tour were river landings (Duke's Landing, Thomas' Ferry, etc.), mountain peaks (Bald Peak, Stony Mountain, etc.), oddities (Neck Road, Stringtown Road, etc.) and a host of sites that didn't fit any earlier category (Feasters Rocks, Grub College, etc.). Before concluding, the audience was invited for their comments or input which brought focus upon a number of other Yamhill County locales and names of an earlier time.

The hour passed very quickly under the direction of a speaker well-versed in a subject of interest to all.

YCHS TO HOST MAJOR HISTORY EXHIBIT

At its September meeting the Board of Directors approved a plan to bring "Treasures of Oregon", a major traveling exhibit, to our museum next June. Sponsored by AT&T and the Oregon Historical Society, this exhibit will contain unique artifacts related to significant people, places and times in Oregon History. On display will be such items as Meriweather Lewis' branding iron, an ancient Native American stone sculpture found on Sauvie Island, Abigail Scott Duniway's typewriter, a tomahawk from the Whitman massacre, pottery from Captain Gray's ship the *Columbia Rediva* and much, much more.

The exhibits are housed in a large climate-controlled trailer that will be touring throughout the state and will undoubtedly prove to be quite an attraction when parked at our museum.

HARVEST FESTIVAL OCTOBER 17th

Building upon last year's very successful activity, the Second Annual Yamhill County Harvest Festival will begin 10:00 AM Saturday October 17th at our museum complex continuing through 4:00 PM. There will be an encore of toe-tapping fiddle music plus several of the homespun crafters will be returning with their demonstrations. The Piecemakers quilting group that has been meeting in the Miller log building will have their latest creation, an 'Ohio Star' pattern in shades of blue, ready for inspection by prospective drawing ticket buyers and there will be plenty of refreshments.

All members are urged to attend (in period costume if possible) because this is the event that showcases our museum to the public and we want to show them what a great bunch of folks we are.

RANDOM THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

As soon as I smelled the roasting ears I knew Crystal Rilee must be present. She said her crop had not been very good but there was enough for everyone to have a taste. By the amount of visiting going on at the September general meeting it was obvious everyone was glad to be back together again. It seemed we had been waiting for Dan's program for a long time. Thanks to Ken and Barbara Knutson's membership in the Sheridan American Legion Post we are always welcome there for our meetings.

Winter hours are now in effect at the museum. We continue to get requests from people who wish to see the museum at times other than when we are open. Thanks to



Eileen Lewis, Olive Johnson and other members we are able to accommodate them. Now that the museum telephone is listed in the book we receive many calls. Most of them are information requests and inquiries when we are open. We are becoming more known and available to the public. With this we realize more responsibility to the historical needs of the County. But isn't that one of our purposes? In the years to come I hope to see the Society continue to grow and be an important part of Yamhill County.

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

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472-7328

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Barbara Knutson
843-2069

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Betty Baltzell
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Olive Johnson
472-6070

Newsletter

John White
665-5376

Car Pool Coordinator

Joanne Watts
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MUSEUM HOURS

605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308

June 1 to Aug 31:
Fri & Sun 1 to 4 PM
Sat 10AM to 4 PM

Sept 1 to May 31:
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM
or
By Appointment

ANNUAL DUES

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97128

MUSEUM AIDE LEADS BUSY LIFE

For at least one day during each week Eileen Lewis will be found at the museum engaged in one or another project aimed at improving our public service. In addition to working with the accessions and family records, she recently began cataloging the books in the Ruth Stoller Library for cross-referencing entry into the computer.

Born in McMinnville and a current resident of Amity, Eileen has lived in Yamhill County all her life. She also declares that as a native Oregonian, she has no inclination to ever carry an umbrella. Her family includes two married sons and a granddaughter Elizabeth of whom she is especially proud.

In addition to her work for the YCHS, Eileen devotes her time to several other community service activities. For many years she has been the librarian for the Amity Public Library in addition to working as a volunteer on the Amity Meals on Wheels program. Without question she is a person who enjoys being active in the community and its affairs.



B. White photo

Eileen Lewis and
Granddaughter Elizabeth

**OCTOBER MEETING
AND POTLUCK DINNER**

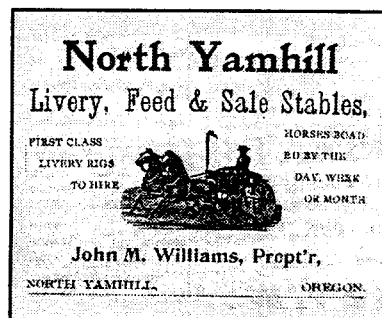
We will be returning to the **Community Christian Church** (2831 NE Newby Street) in **McMinnville** on **October 13th** for this meeting. The potluck dinner will commence at **6:30 PM** and be followed with a program offered by **Jim Lockett** whose historic presentations are always well received. As usual, members are asked to bring their own table service along with a potluck offering and perhaps a friend or neighbor as well.

NEW MEMBERS

Joining the Society over the past month were:

Alice Harris - McMinnville
Harry Henderson - Lake Oswego
Timothy Spidal - Dayton
Greg Venhaus - McMinnville
Eugenia Watson - Forest Grove

We hope to see them often at our regular monthly gatherings as well as the coming Harvest Festival.

**UPCOMING ELECTIONS**

A nominating committee for the December 8th YCHS election will soon be appointed and charged with preparing a slate of candidates to fill several Society offices. President Shirley Venhaus and Treasurer Don Crawford have both declined to serve for another term, so this will be a rather important election. Suggestions or comments from the membership are encouraged.

AT THE MUSEUM

Olive Merry Johnson reports recent acquisitions include the chair used in the Carlton post office by D.E. Pearson who was postmaster there from 1936 until 1953. Also included was a plaque awarded to Mr. Pearson by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

At the first opportunity that large illuminated display case now located along the south wall on the first floor of the log building will be moved upstairs and used for rotating displays.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

At the September meeting in Sheridan John White presented an analysis* of newsletter expenses explaining that printing costs have risen greatly over the past few years and a postal rate hike is scheduled to take effect on January 1st. These factors showed our present dues barely cover the cost of current newsletter production and could easily fail to do so in the near future. It was also pointed out that the current YCHS annual dues are quite low in comparison to other similar organizations.

The Board of Directors is now considering a moderate dues increase that will insure the newsletter stays in the black and also continue to provide funds for such other items as rental fees for our monthly potluck dinners. A schedule of the proposed rates is as follows:

Individual Membership:	\$10.00
Family Membership:	\$17.00
Life Membership:	\$125.00

If adopted by the Board at its October 13th meeting, these new rates would go into effect on January 1st. Any member wishing to address the Board on the subject is cordially invited to attend.

Another point brought up was the impact delinquent dues have upon newsletter budgeting. We are pleased to report that following this discussion no less than six such deficiencies were corrected.

(*) Copies of the newsletter cost analysis are available at the museum.

Remember, A Red Dot on Your Address Label Means Your Dues are Due

RESIDENTS NEEDED A MAP IN 1928 McMINNVILLE

By John White

The preamble to McMinnville City Ordinance Number 1765 adopted unanimously by the City Council on 3 April 1928 reads as follows:

"WHEREAS, in laying out Additions to the City of McMinnville, in many instances the streets in such Additions have not been given the same name as the streets of which they are a continuation, and in several cases some particular street or streets have been given the same name as other streets in previously laid out Additions, thereby giving to some streets two or more names, and in some cases by reason of duplication the City has two separate and distinct streets bearing the same name, and in some instances numbers have been used for designating streets, but such numbers have not been adopted so as to run consecutively, and all of these conditions are extremely unsatisfactory and can cause much annoyance and confusion in answering fire alarms as well as locating homes and other property for making mail and other deliveries, and result in a general confusion in attempting to locate such streets bearing more than one name, or duplicate streets bearing the same name as now fixed and designated upon the several plats of the Original Townsite and the several additions thereto; and

"WHEREAS, all of such confusion can be eliminated by renaming such erroneously named streets and by eliminating all duplications in names of such streets as now exist, and in all cases where numbers are used instead of names, these numbers shall be used in their consecutive order in order that a street so designated by name can be readily located by counting consecutively from a given point; and

"WHEREAS, many of the streets both in the original townsite as well as Additions thereto are designated by letters rather than names, and it appears that names will be more satisfactory than the use of letters for such purpose, and the names of McMinnville pioneers will be appropriate in substituting same for such letters in naming the streets within the City."

William Newby laid out the town of McMinnville in 1856 with the original townsite plat showing only ten streets defining a very few blocks in what is now the downtown area. Over the years several tracts were annexed to accommodate population growth from almost nil in 1856 to nearly three thousand by 1928 and with new street designations apparently left to the whim of developers, the city street grid had become quite confounding to even long time residents. Ordinance Number 1765 established a permanent comprehensive solution, but for some time after enactment the additional confusion of more than 75 street name changes must have been great indeed.

In terms of the present day, the only ones retaining their original designations were: Lafayette Avenue along with Third, Yamhill, Lincoln, Shady, Vine, Storey, Villard and Handy Streets. Additionally, sufficient McMinnville pioneers existed so that the old "alphabet streets", A through N, could be renamed in their honor as the Adams through Newby Streets we know today. Beyond this how-

ever, the project became a bit more complicated.

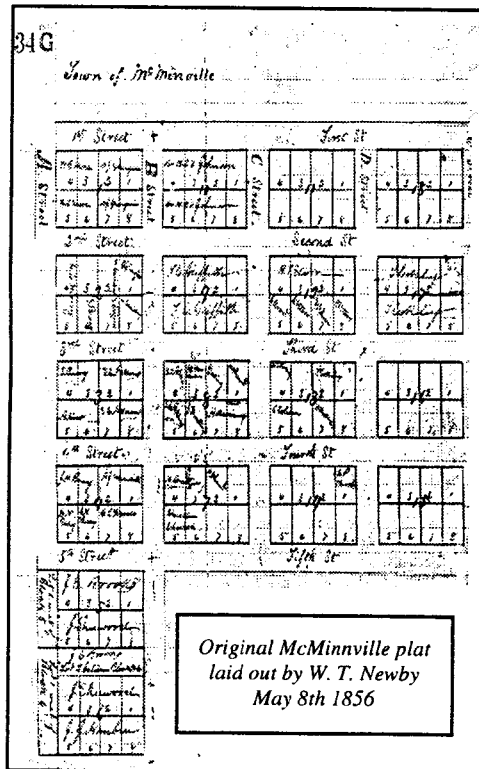
The numbered streets First through Fifth were revised to run consecutively south to north instead of the previous north to south. Thus First became Fifth, Second became Fourth, Third remained the same, Fourth became Second and Fifth became First. This sequence was then continued by converting already named to streets to numbered ones (old designations in parenthesis). Sixth (Buckeye), Seventh (Maple and Saylor), Eighth (Pine), Ninth (Cedar), Tenth (Spruce, Oak and East Oak), Eleventh (Balm and Linden), Twelfth (Ash and Stanley), Thirteenth (Norton, North 9th and Maple in Oak Park Addition), Fourteenth (Harrison, North 10th and Braley). Fifteenth (North 11th and Willow), Sixteenth (Clay) and Seventeenth (Fern).

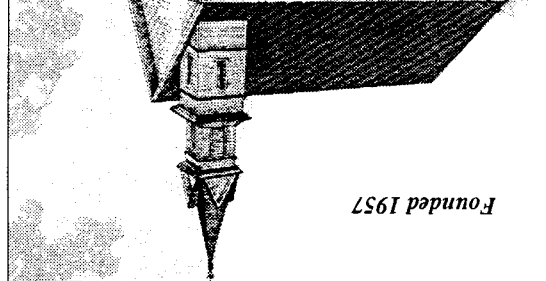
Moving out beyond the original town plat with named streets these revisions were made: Alpine Avenue (Park Avenue), Western Avenue (Baker Street and Cemetery Road), Wallace Road (Race Track Road), Adams (Laurel), Alder (Elm), Birch (Mill), Cedar (Alder), Washington (Warren Avenue, Sixth Street, McPhillips and Sixth Street in Cooks Park Addition) Brooks (Johnson and Groening Lane in Cooks Park Addition), Irvine (Cooper), Clay (Newby), Dayton Avenue (Brooks Street), Davis (Grant and St. John), Hembree (Harrison and Railroad Street), Rummel (Hazel), College (Crawford), Cows (College), Elm (Cleveland), Wilson (Adams St in Cozine 3rd Addition) and Roosevelt (Washington St in Cozine 3rd Addition)

If upon reaching this point readers are thoroughly confused and having difficulty absorbing all these changes, consider for a moment the ramifications for letter carriers, deliverymen and emergency response personnel. Undoubtedly adding to the dissonance was the fact that several street names were discarded in one location only to be reassigned in another! (i.e. Cleveland changed to Elm, Elm to Alder, Alder to Cedar, Cedar to Ninth, etc). It would seem quite likely a resident of the time might be required to clarify his location as being on either the "new" or "old" Adams, Newby, First, Washington, etc. Street.

Sadly, in the process of implementing all these revisions, some well-deserving persons lost the distinction of having a street named in their honor. Such names as Cook, Cooper and Saylor no longer appear at all, although some like Braly and Fletcher have been reestablished in more recent times.

Another aspect of persons deserving recognition arose during the process of selecting prominent names for the A to N alphabetical sequence. In some cases the choice was simple with only one candidate for a particular letter of the alphabet, while others might have two or more possibilities; each with its contingent of supporters. Some final designations were not easily or amicably resolved, but that's a tale for another day.





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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 1998 Calendar of Events

Tuesday October 13th, 5:00 PM

Board of Directors - Community Christian Church - McMinnville

Tuesday October 13th, 6:30 PM

General Meeting & Potluck Dinner- Community Christian Church - McMinnville
2831 NE Newby Street

Bring your Own Table Service - Guests Always Welcome

(See page 2 for details)