Mystery of the Ochocos by Dorothy Kliewer

One of Oregon’s unsolved mysteries came to light in 1930 during Franklin Roosevelt’s administration when the Forestry Service sent a forest ranger into the pine timber of the Ochoco Mountains of Central Oregon to estimate the number of board feet in the largest of all pine forests in the United States. The ranger, who spent many days traipsing the forest, walked through areas that few white men had ever seen. Only deer and elk hunters had ventured there in those days. In a clearing on the east slope, he discovered a rotting log with six horse skeletons tied to it. The skeletons were complete with saddles and bridles, and it was obvious that whoever had left the horses meant to return. Why hadn’t they?

Many ideas were advanced about the skeletons though it was generally believed that the horses had belonged to six masked men who, in 1863, rode into Canyon City, Oregon at dusk and stole all the gold from the miners’ sluice boxes. They hid out that night and the next day rode into Dayville where they stopped long enough to rob the bank.

Stain’s Pillar is said to have been visible from the clearing where the skeletons of 6 horses tied to a log were found. A fortune in stolen gold bricks is thought to be in the area.

A posse set out in hot pursuit though lost their trail in the Ochoco Mountains and obviously did not discover the six horses tied to a log. The masked bandits vanished as if swallowed by the earth, and that may, in fact, be what really happened to them.

In those days people took excellent care of their horses, and good saddles were expensive. No matter how bad a man was, he took adequate care of his horse, and the bandits would have turned their animals loose if they hadn’t meant to return. And if the robbers had changed

Continued on page 6

Dues are due...dues are due...dues are due...

Thank you to all of you who have already paid your dues for 2013-2014...to those who have not paid yet, please renew your membership as soon as possible so you don’t miss a single issue of the newsletter. Dues are due July 1 of each year.

Thanks for your continued support.

Carlene Kadell
Membership Coordinator

The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit educational and public service corporation established to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County
info@yamhillcountyhistory.org ♦ www.yamhillcountyhistory.org
President’s Letter

YCHS Members,

For starters, please welcome our new Board Members. Todd Holt has been appointed to the vacancy left when Katie Baker resigned. He is from Lafayette and is an Oregon native, born in Newport and was a dairy farmer for over fifteen years, is now in the transportation industry and is active in the community. Rick A. Fieldhouse has been appointed to the vacancy left by Jo McIntyre. He is from Newberg with an education in History and non-profit financial management. He is also a member of the Newberg Historical Society and currently volunteers as the curator of the George Fox University museum.

I don’t need to tell the many of you who attended Harvest Fest that we had another great event at the Heritage Center. There were more than 1400 people in attendance including a large number of children. Financial performance was on par with previous years. Thank you to all the volunteers who make Harvest Fest possible.

At the September General Meeting we heard an excellent presentation by Gary Lindhardt on Ewing Young, who some say is the real father of the State of Oregon. We also voted to change the General Meeting calendar from that prescribed by the Bylaws to more convenient Sunday afternoons for October and November and moved the annual meeting one week so as not to conflict with Handmade Holidays. You can find the dates and times on the calendar in this newsletter.

As we have in previous years, we are participating in Yamhill County Cultural Coalition’s 2013 Cultural Campaign. Expect to receive a mailing from them in November. We encourage you to support it and the Oregon Cultural Trust. Donors write one check and they distribute it to as many Cultural Partners as you select, and Donors’ contributions qualify for an Oregon Tax Credit when matched to a gift to OCT.

Treasures in the Attic was held on September 14th and 15th. Please read the article recapping the event in this newsletter. It was another huge success put on by our Activities and Events Committee.

Lastly, the folks at Lafayette continue their good work of keeping that facility humming. They are, however, short on help these days. If you can help support our efforts in Lafayette please contact Marjorie Owens. I’m sure she would appreciate the call.

Thank you for your support.

Steve Leonard
YCHS President
Phone: (503) 472-6908
Email: sleonard15@frontier.com
Submitted: September 15, 2013

Photo's by Tom Cattrall
Board Meeting Recap ~ September 11, 2013

The following recap is a condensed version of not-yet approved minutes from the board meeting.

Committee Reports: All committee reports are filed in the record book with the minutes in the Lafayette Log Cabin.

- **A&E Committee**—The events, rental forms and policies are being updated. There is one rental in October.
- **Computer Committee**—Tom Cattrall will be the contact person for the domain registration. John discussed the email changes and will be testing it out over the next month. The first step will be the procedure for responses and how to archive email records.
- **Heritage Center Committee**—Harvest Fest brought in about 1400 people to attend the event. The crop needs to be sold and should bring in two to three thousand dollars.
- **Lafayette Pioneer Cemetery**—C&D Landscaping will be doing a spray application onsite. Don Hampton, a local Scout Master, has offered to take on the cemetery as a community project. Grant information was shared with a deadline of October 3.
- **Lafayette Site Committee**—A&E has updated the alarm system. A Yamhill-Carlton senior will come out every Saturday to volunteer as part of an internship. Lafayette is short on help and needs more volunteers.
- **Landscaping Committee**—The board authorized the committee to be able to choose the spring and fall color of plants and to spend up to $110 each time. This will be funded by the Flagpole/Brick fund.

President’s Report:
- Steve Leonard shared the letter which was sent to the Oregon Historical Society regarding the Murder Quilt Reproduction Project. Steve also shared a letter received from Laura McMasters and Tom Alfsen regarding an outline of their goals in cataloging the Native American artifacts donated to our society. A vote was taken and approved at the General Meeting to move the date of the Annual General Meeting to the third Sunday in December. The October, November and December General Meetings will all start at 1:30 pm. Steve reviewed the resolution dated August 18 to bind our D&O Liability Insurance for a term of three years. Pam Watts presented a $1,000 check from First Federal Community Rewards program. We are in the second step of the Ford Grant. The society will research the use of interns. A project needs to have a clear start to finish as well as a volunteer on hand to mentor the intern. The clothing logo was discussed. It was decided by consensus to use the approved logo on all future items purchased for resale.

Secretary’s Report:
- Conflict of interest forms have been given to the new board members.

Treasurer’s Report:
- John Lewis presented the treasurer’s report, which is filed with the committee reports in the record book in Lafayette. John stated he has set goals for his term in office. They include preserving the integrity of the records, documenting procedures to minimize time, produce management account reports for all committees, and to work on getting a funding coordinator to help committees to develop funding/budgets each year.

Unfinished Business:
- Board nominees were reviewed. Headshots and short biographies need to be given to Tami Spears for notification in the newsletter.
- Steve presented an updated organization chart which was adopted as a working document to be developed with committee chairs.

New Business:
- YCHS has been asked to participate in the Yamhill County Cultural Coalition fundraising activity.
- A letter was received from Carrie Martin, a possible grant writer for YCHS.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Courtin, Secretary

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Accession/Preservation
Lafayette:  
Uruela Doud
Accessions/Restoration
Heritage Center:  
Cliff Watts
Activities and Events:
Carolyn Meeker
Audit:
Kim Courtin
Blacksmith:
Jeff Monahan
Budget:
John Lewis
Business Plan & Grant Review:
Steve Leonard
Computer:
Tom Cattrall
Farm/Harvest Fest:
Cliff and Pam Watts
Freezer:
VACANT
General Meeting Programs:
Sarah Miller
Governance:
Carolyn Meeker
Lafayette Pioneer Cemetery:
Katy Knutz
Lafayette Site Committee:
Cynthia Christensen
Landscaping:
Gloria Lutz—Heritage Center
Garry Coats—Lafayette
Miller Museum:
Marjorie Owens
Outreach Committee:
Katy Knutz
Photographic Project:
Tom Cattrall
Property Development:
Tom Cattrall
Publications/Gift Shop:
Jean Sartor
Sawmill:
Don King
Secrets of the Past Tours:
Karen Sitton-Saxberg
Steam Equipment:
Vern Yeager

GENEALOGY SOCIETY
Nancy Mahi, Co-President
(503) 472-9272
Kathy Borden, Co-President
kerb1941@aol.com

YCHS GENEALOGY
Louise Heindl
(503) 864-2308
Yamhill County Historical Society’s

Treasures in the Attic

The Yamhill County Historical Society’s Treasures in the Attic had more than 200 people attending the event on September 14-15. The event was held in the Activities Building at our Heritage Center located just outside McMinnville on Durham Lane.

This event has not been held for the past two years. In the past, it was mainly an appraisal fair, sort of our version of the Antiques Road Show as seen on OPB. We had five appraisers who donated their time this year for both days of Treasures in the Attic. We very much appreciated the donation of their valuable time. The appraisers were Pat Carlson from Newberg, Ron and Donna Miller and Fred Ringer from McMinnville, and Carroll Nigg from Salem. In renewing this event, the Treasures in the Attic Committee decided to expand the activities to include antique vendors, food, a quilt show, and live music.

Music was provided by Chris and Larry Cummings of the Baker Street Band in McMinnville. Tressa Matlack, from Sheridan, played the piano, and our own Kory Knutz, (assisted by Bernie, his faithful Lab) also played the piano. Many visitors commented on the great music and how much it added to the sense of “fun” at the event!

Mel Kelechner, his wife Debbie, daughter Samantha, and his sister B.J. provided the hotdogs and hamburgers for hungry visitors.

Jean Sartor helped with the popular quilt show. She included several quilts, brought over from the Miller Museum in Lafayette, with the names of many Yamhill County pioneer families stitched into the designs.

Tom Cattrall, Louise Heindl, Joanne Watts, Farrell Fuerst, Nancy Thornton, and Kim Courtin all helped with the YCHS Booth which sold historical photos and items that had been donated for sale.

YCHS members Theresa Berthelsdorf and Karen Sitton-Saxberg had vendor booths at the event. Theresa was a great help as a member of the Treasures in the Attic Committee by taking care of the advertising for the event, putting up posters and much more!

Pam Watts handled the publicity for the event, and her husband, Cliff (along with my husband, Tony) helped get the Activities Building ready for the event. Many more YCHS members helped by volunteering for the event, including our YCHS President, Steve Leonard.

Treasures in the Attic brought in more than $2,400 and I want to thank everyone who participated whether by volunteering or attending the event this year!

Carolyn Meeker
Treasures in the Attic Chair
## October 2013

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### Event Locations
- October 9—Board Meeting 5:30 pm—Lafayette Museum
- October 13—General Meeting
- November 10—General Meeting
- November 13—Board Meeting
- December 7 & 8—HANDMADE HOLIDAY
- December 11—Board Meeting

### Upcoming Events
- October 9—Board Meeting
- October 13—General Meeting
- November 10—General Meeting
- November 13—Board Meeting
- December 7 & 8—HANDMADE HOLIDAY
- December 11—Board Meeting
- December 15—ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—Heritage Center 1:30 pm
- December 11—Board Meeting

### Historic Lafayette Museum
605 Market Street
P.O. Box 484
Lafayette, OR 97127
**Hours:**
Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10-4
Or by appointment
503-864-2308

### Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
11275 SW Durham Ln.
McMinnville, OR 97128
**Hours:**
Saturday 10-3
horses there in Burglar’s Flat, why didn’t they take the saddles and turn the animals loose so they wouldn’t starve?

No one in the nearby town of Prineville saw any masked men that day though strangers were a common sight. Six strangers together would have been noticed, however. Perhaps they split up or were even residents of that community, which would explain why the posse lost their trail. Gold is very heavy, and the horses would have tired quickly carrying the amount of gold the bandits had stolen—$40,000 in gold brick from the bank and the dust from the sluices. Unless they changed horses or had a well-concealed hiding place, the posse would have overtaken horses winded from such a ride, but the posse continued on to Shaniko without finding a trace of the masked men.

The mystery of six horses left in a clearing near Stein’s Pillar at a place now called Viewpoint has never really been solved though research of the area tells us that there was a gold mine near Viewpoint in those days called The Four Dutchmen. It was owned by four California men who left it one summer and never returned. They’d had assays made of the gold they found there, so there is a record of the mine’s existence. That mine shaft has never been discovered. Is it because the masked robbers took refuge in the mine shaft and it caved in on them? Is there a fortune in gold hidden in a caved-in mine shaft waiting to be discovered in the tall pine-covered slopes of the Ochoco Mountains?

Little Known Tales from Oregon History
Mystery of the Ochocos by Dorothy Kliewer
October Word Search: Cemetery’s of Yamhill County

AGEE
AMITY
BELLEVUE
BRIGITTINE MONASTERY
BROOKSIDE
BUCK HOLLOW
CATE
CHEHALEM MOUNTAIN
DEER CREEK
DUNDEE
EBENEZER CHAPEL
EVERGREEN MEMORIAL
FENDALL
FERNWOOD PIONEER
FRIENDS
GAR
GIBBS

GREENCREST
HAPPY VALLEY
HEMBREE
HIGHLAND
HILLCREASE
HOLMES
HOPEWELL
HUSSY
IOOF
LAFAYETTE PIONEER
LAUREL
MALONE
MASONIC
MCBRIDE
MCMINNVILLE OLD
MORGAREIDGE
MOORES VALLEY

NOBLE
NORTH YAMHILL
OAK GROVE
ODELL
PIKE
PIONEER
PLEASANT HILL
ROSELAWN
SAINT JAMES
SHERIDAN
SOUTH YAMHILL
TAYLOR
UNITED BRETHREN
VALLEY VIEW
WALLACE FARM
YAMHILL CARLTON
YOCOM
Dated Material
Return Service Requested

YCHS Membership Application

Membership Categories
□ NEW MEMBERSHIP □ RENEWING MEMBERSHIP

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.

Membership runs from July 1 to June 30 of each year.

□ Senior/Student/Educator $15 □ Family (Basic) $30 □ Community Builder $250+
□ Senior Family (65+) $25 □ Friend $55 □ Community Benefactor $500+
□ Individual $20 □ Supporter $125+

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 click here if you do not wish to have your name and contact information released to the Yamhill County Cultural Coalition and/or for the purpose of obtaining grant funding. Member information will never be sold or released for any other purpose unless written consent is provided by the member.

Please make checks payable to YCHS and return with this printed form to:
YCHS, P.O. Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127
Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Carlene Kadell (503) 474-0480 or email: amity1956@yahoo.com