Members attending the May meeting of the Yamhill County Historical Society enjoyed a great potluck dinner and some fabulous entertainment. President Shirley Venhaus opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to a wonderful American Flag donated to the Society for our meetings from Member Leotta Bush. Thank you so much Leotta! Leotta also led our members in prayer prior to dining.

Before and during dinner, members viewed a slide show that featured photographs taken by Members / Volunteers Dennis Hoisington and Tonia Beebe during Farm Fest 2007. The Membership also heard about a proposal from the Board to hold the General Meetings earlier in the day during the winter months of December, January and February. Members voted to hold the meetings on the second Sunday of the above months, beginning at 2 p.m., with the Board meeting afterward to conduct Society business.

After dinner, Yamhill County Women for Agriculture representatives Marjorie Ehrey, Karen Goddick and Helle Ruddenklau presented the Society with a $2,000 donation toward our Education Programs! This funding will help to pay off the trailer for the Covered Wagon, and will provide funding for promotion of the Covered Wagon Program. Thank you to the Yamhill County Women for Agriculture for this wonderful donation!

Next, Society Member Gordon Zimmerman conducted a fascinating talk for our Membership meeting. Opening his talk, Zimmerman related the story of his singing career with the San Francisco and Oakland Symphonies. He played a recorded tune on his portable tape player and followed this with stories about the County’s early roads. Many friends and family members encouraged Zimmerman to write his stories in book form, which resulted in “A Song of Yamhill”. In his talk, he stated that during the 1850s and 1960s, settlers moved more tonnage on the backs of horses and mules than by wagon. Roads went over hilltops rather than over the bottomland due to muddy conditions. In the 1920s, that changed with the creation of plank or “corduroy” roads made from trees, which resulted in many horses breaking their legs and owners having to shoot them to end their misery. To learn more about this and other stories, Members can purchase Zimmerman’s book at the Log Cabin in Lafayette.

Zimmerman treated Members to a closing treat of live singing! My! Gordon still can carry a tune! Thus was the good time had by Members at the May meeting.

(Submitted by Katherine Huit)

From Your President

Dear Members & Friends,

My compliments to the membership committee and Gloria Lutz for the well designed post card that was sent out to members for the renewal of their membership. This is the first year that all of the memberships came due on July 1st and the response has been excellent. Also the level of giving has increased. I would also like to thank Kathy Peck and Annita Linseheid for setting up the change to July 1st. It took a lot of work but I believe it is a good thing to have all the memberships come due at the same time.

The covered wagon continues to tour the County. It won the first prize plaque in the Sheridan parade, was present at the Mission Mill Heritage Expo in Salem, attended the Chrystal Riley Smith reenactments on Parrat Mt., schools, parades and so on until it had to go in for repairs. Gloria and her group are to be commended for their work with this project.

My sincere thanks to Joan Davenport for allowing the volunteers to hold a meeting at her “Wine Country Farms Bed & Breakfast”. The view and facilities are extra special. It was such an awesome place to come together and discuss volunteer activities. Don't forget the "PICNIC" to be held in NANCY THORNTON'S BARN, Saturday, August 18, 2007 at noon. The address is 19976 NW Moores Valley Road, Yamhill. Please bring a pot luck and table setting. The Society will provide drinks. If you have any questions please call Shirley - 503-434-0567 or Nancy - 503-582-7478.

Also remember Lafayette Heritage Days August 11th. The covered wagon will be in the parade and the museum will be open for visitors. Our next newsletter will be in September. See you at the picnic. Shirley

Notice

During our general meeting in May, our membership voted to hold our monthly meetings during December, January and February on the second Sunday of those months at 2 p.m. These meetings will all be held at the Yamhill County Public Works Auditorium on Lafayette Avenue. We'll update you with additional information in future newsletters.

We hope this will make it easier for folks to attend meetings, by not needing to drive to and from the meetings at night during inclement weather.
The West Side

Preservation Report
On May 9th, Millie Armstrong invited her volunteer friends to dine with her. The occasion was a meeting of the Michelbook Ladies Club. On the agenda for the evening meeting was a presentation on future plans for the museum. Millie decided this would be a nice time to show appreciation for the hard work of the dedicated women in our society who put in a tremendous amount of time volunteering.

After a great dinner and conversation, Millie introduced her twenty guests to the club members, including YCHS founding member Dorothy Ganness.

This was followed by informational presentations on the history, current activities and future of our organization.

Everyone enjoyed the evening and offered a special thanks to Millie, who so thoughtfully included fellow volunteers in a nice evening dinner event. (Annita Linscheid)

Garage Sale
We can never thank Colin and Millie Armstrong enough for their efforts on our fundraising garage sale. This year it will be held on the four days beginning August 23rd. That first day it will only be in the evening, but Friday through Sunday this will be an all day event. This takes a tremendous amount of energy, and if you can help, please give Millie a call at 503-472-6489. She’ll welcome any assistance you can give.

September Meeting program
When we begin our monthly general meetings again, we will be fortunate to have Phyllis Dickey of Sheridan giving a presentation on Lorinda (Bewley) Chapman, wife of one of the original claimants in the Sheridan area, William Chapman. Their claim was laid out just across the South Yamhill river from that of Absolom B. Faulconer, town “proprietor”.

While with her family on the way to Oregon, Lorinda was taken captive by natives following the Whitman Massacre, during which her brother Crockett was killed. She was eventually able to join her mother in Oregon City.

We look forward to more details on Lorinda’s trials and tribulations from Phyllis Dickey of Sheridan giving a presentation on her life.

Watts Family Threshing Bee
This event will be held Sunday, August 12th between 1 and 4 p.m., at 16600 SW Christiansen Road, McMinnville, and will again have displays of threshing, binding and bailing, plus a tractor parade, old time music, and displays of antique farm equipment and autos.

Please bring a dessert to share and your lawn chair! Feel free to invite others who would enjoy an afternoon in the country.

If you have a tractor, antique farm item or auto that you would like to display, or you’d like to be part of the tractor parade, please call Cliff or Pam Watts at 835-1393 or Glen or Joanne Watts at 8435-5893. Be sure to bring your sunscreen! (submitted by Joanne Watts)

New Members
We welcome new members Karen Sitton-Saxberg, Barbara Schoof, Bill Roll, and Marie McDonnal, as well as new Friends John Meyer, Darrell and Lucy King, Marilyn Crouser, Dick and Verna Jordan, Don Rivara, Annetta Scott, George and Carolyn Stasny and supporters Walter Stalhecker/Jan Ochsner, Mary Jo Capps, James Kuhn and Jo McIntyre and Bob de Forest.

We thank you all for supporting our organization. We invite you to attend our meetings and events, visit our museum and become more involved in our local history.

Please notify Gloria Lutz (503-472-7563) if you will be having your mail forwarded to another location during your vacation. The post office doesn’t forward our newsletters. They return them to us and we have to pay additional postage. If you let me know that you will be gone, I’ll hold copies of the newsletters until you return and send them to you all at once. Thank you. (submitted by Gloria Lutz)

Correction:
In the last issue your editor inadvertently referred to the donation of the bank vault door by Dorothy Ganness as originating in the First Federal instead of the First National bank of McMinnville. The First National was established by Dorothy’s Grandfather Jacob Wortman in 1883, and this was the first bank in McMinnville. Please forgive me, Dorothy! ☺ Dan

OFFICERS - 2007
President
Shirley Venhaus
472-7328
('07 thru '08)
Vice President
Lorna Grauer
843-3251
('06 thru '07)
Secretary
Aaron Warkentin
472-6359
('07 thru '08)
Treasurer
Ken Williams
835-3110
('07 thru '08)
Membership Secretary
Gloria Lutz
472-7563
('07 thru '08)
Corresponding Secretary
Maryjane Owens
843-3061
('06 thru '07)
Board of Directors
Shirley McDaniel
662-3328
('04 thru '07)
Collin Armstrong
472-6489
('05 thru '08)
Dan Linscheid
843-2625
('06 thru '09)
Eileen Lewis
835-7531
('07 thru '10)
Executive Director
Katherine Huit
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Barbara Knutson
843-2089
Volunteer Coordinator
Louise Heindl
662-4218
Newsletter
Dan Linscheid
Car Pool Coordinator
Joanne Watts
835-5893
Librarian
Jean Sartor
472-6312
MUSEUM
HOURS:
May thru August: Saturdays & Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment
605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308
Fax: 118-7090004
Email: yamhillhistory@onlinemac.com
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YCHS

Websites: YCHS is at http://sites.onlinemac.com/history: our historic photo gallery is at www.co.yamhill.or.us
(look under About Yamhill County for the historic photo album)
Hello Members! So much has happened since last I wrote. Shirley Venhaus, Dennis Hoisington and I drove to Woodland, California in late April for a visit to the Heidrick Ag Center, which includes not only a fabulous collection of vintage agriculture equipment (Heidrick Tractor Museum), but also the Hays Truck Museum. We came away with several ideas for exhibits and events for YCHS, plus we made some great new contacts.

In early May, Shirley and I attended the Oregon Heritage Conference in Pendleton. New to the conference this year was the first annual Heritage Excellence Award dinner, during which 14 individuals and organizations received recognition for their achievements in the area of Oregon's heritage. First Lady Mary Oberst presented the awards to the recipients. It was a very nice event. The Oregon Museums Association held their meeting during the Conference as well. We attended several seminar sessions, including those covering the topics of grant proposal preparation and volunteerism. There is always something new and exciting to experience at Oregon Museums Association conferences. If any of you are interested in attending a conference, let me know. The location of the fall conference (October 21-22) will be Astoria, hosted by the Columbia River Maritime Museum. The recently finished a major expansion project, and interesting to see the changes they've made.

The new site is progressing nicely. Ray Kauer and I took a drive by on May 10, and witness the removal of the small storage building’s back wall in preparation for its expansion. As I write this article, the storage building is complete and it is now double its former size! On June 28 workers with Haworth Construction set the 50,000 gallon water storage tank walls with concrete. Electric and phone service are now hooked up to the site and it won't be long before the 40,000 square foot agricultural exhibit and restoration hall begins to take shape. I am now conducting business from a mobile office trailer on site, complete with electricity and a phone: 503.472.5130. Call anytime – or better yet, stop by and visit. Jacque Howard has signed on for the summer as an administrative volunteer and Tara Riha is doing an administrative internship this summer. We have a fantastic front row seat to the construction work – and behind the office trailer, you will find Millie Armstrong’s busy hive of activity going on in the storage building. Millie, her husband Colin, and many other YCHS volunteers are preparing for the annual garage sale in August. I’m sure they would welcome additional volunteer help over the next month as they ramp up the activity to prepare for this gigantic event!

Remember the oat crop we planted in April? It is just about ready to harvest – and with the promise of hot weather the first week of July I’m sure it won’t be long before we see those boys and their toys out in the field cutting the oats! Watch for August updates in the local media.
Member Joan Davenport hosted a gathering of 17 volunteers at her Wine Country Farm in Dayton on June 28. What a beautiful view and a great place for a gathering! Volunteers learned the results of the survey they participated in during March and April, and participated in a short informational session about the process of artifact donations. Everyone had a nice time and we all learned a little something. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer activities or becoming a volunteer, let me know via phone or email (ychsdirector@onlinemac.com). Over the next few months, I will be forming several committees to help with the increase in activities as we plan our exhibits and prepare to move artifacts into the new exhibit hall. A few of the many opportunities include exhibits planning, tour preparation, and educational programs.

Speaking of educational programs, our Covered Wagon continues to make the rounds in Yamhill County and the region. Visitations by the Wagon and Pioneer crew include Heritage Expo at Mission Mill Museum in Salem during May, and the Sherwood Historical Society’s History Camp, located at the Chrysl Smith Rilee Foundation’s Parrett Mountain Living History Farm in June, among others. Covered Wagon Member Joan Davenport hosted a gathering of 17 volunteers at her Wine Country Farm in Dayton on June 28. What a beautiful view and a great place for a gathering! Volunteers learned the results of the survey they participated in during March and April, and participated in a short informational session about the process of artifact donations. Everyone had a nice time and we all learned a little something. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer activities or becoming a volunteer, let me know via phone or email (ychsdirector@onlinemac.com). Over the next few months, I will be forming several committees to help with the increase in activities as we plan our exhibits and prepare to move artifacts into the new exhibit hall. A few of the many opportunities include exhibits planning, tour preparation, and educational programs.

We’ve also been very busy presenting and marketing our plans to the entire Yamhill County community. Over the last month we’ve presented to Chambers of Commerce and Kiwanis Clubs in both in McMinnville and Newberg. Additionally, we’ve shown our PowerPoint program to the Newberg City Club, the McMinnville Soroptomists, McMinnville Lyons, and other organizations. During the months of July, August and September we will make the rounds to city councils throughout the County, plus the County Commissioners. If you belong to a group that would like to learn more about our expansion plans, or about becoming a partner in our future programs let us know. We would be happy to arrange a presentation or to meet with you personally!

The annual Yamhill County Historical Society picnic is fast approaching and this year it will be at member and volunteer Nancy Thornton’s place. Look for more information about the event elsewhere in this issue of The Westside. I hope everyone has a fantastic and fun-filled summer with family and friends and that all enjoy the beautiful summer days in Yamhill County!
In the fall of 1834 Ewing Young and 14 men with a remuda of horses arrived in the Willamette Valley. Ewing settled in the Chehalem Valley and was the first American to settle in Oregon. John McLoughlin of the Hudson Bay Company refused to sell Ewing cattle so he went with a group to California and brought 630 head of "Lean Spanish cattle—mostly heifers" back to Oregon. According to accounts, one of the men was named Moore.

Descendants and old timers say that this was Sylvanus Moore, who took up a Donation Land Claim in what is now known as Moores Valley. He was one of the earliest settlers in the North Yamhill country. (The North Yamhill gets its name from being in the drainage of the North Fork of the Yamhill river.)

In 1850 Congress passed the Donation Land Act. Land Claims in the Moores Valley area include those of Sylvanus, Peleg Hibbard, Maria Shull, George Wood and T.T. Simmons. The Moore claim was later owned by a family named Chodricks and is now owned by the James, the Mitchells and the Larsen families. The Hibbard claim is now owned by the Thornton family, which purchased it in 1932. The Shull claim was later owned by Alfred Smith and then by the Wirth family, which arrived in the area in 1905. The Wood claim, later known as the Billy Williams place is now owned by the Thomtons, and the Simmons claim is basically the lower end of the Bert Smith place.

The first sawmill in the North Yamhill area was built by Jacob Hawn in 1846. Peleg Hibbard owned this mill in 1850, and he called the 320 acre farm the mill was on the Mill Place. Peleg died in 1857. Until 1870, the valley was generally referred to as Moores and Hibbards valley. Sylvanus and his wife Nancy were listed in the 1880 census as being retired and living in North Yamhill (now the town of Yamhill). Their tombstones are in the Pioneer cemetery south of that city. He was born in New York in 1796, and died here in 1880. Nancy (Pettybone) Moore was born in Pennsylvania in 1796 and died 8 years after her husband. Mable Williams was a granddaughter, and Peggy Bony was a great-great-granddaughter of this Moore family.

George Wood was the third Governor of Oregon. He also served as the acting Governor for the territory of Utah for 4 years. The church that later became the First Baptist in Carlton had it's first meeting in the Woods school in 1870. Services were held at the school before they moved to Carlton.

Haskin's creek was known in earlier times as McCoy creek, until about 1912. It was named for James J. McCoy, who owned the south half of the Hibbard claim in 1865. There is a waterfall on the creek that is still called McCoy falls, and Fourth of July celebrations were held here many decades ago. McCoy built the grist mill west of North Yamhill in 1860, and he also got the contract to build the Trask Wagon & Toll road in 1872. A stage ran on this route until 1912 when the railroad was constructed to Tillamook from Forest Grove. The toll road ran west from Yamhill, then jogged southerly over Froud Hill on what is now called Puddy Gulch Road. It cut across the Wirth farm just south of Walt's house, then ran past the Oak Ridge School. It next crossed the Thornton property and ran up a part of what is now Fairdale road and westerly along the Flying M Ranch road.

Alfred and Sarah Smith had land in the valley in the 1870's. They lived on what is now the Wirth farm. Smith built the oldest building still standing in the valley, a barn lying on the Hibbard claim. This barn was built in 1892, and the rafters are made from peeled poles. The other large barn in the valley was built during World War II on the Thornton farm. The Moores valley school was built in about 1875 on land donated by the Smith family, and it was closed in 1937. It replaced the Woods school.

For many years there was a community hall southwest of this school. Grange meetings, dances, and meetings of the Golden Rule club were held there, until discontinued in the early 1940's. The Golden Rule club still meets—but now it convenes in member's homes. Anyone who has ever lived in Moores Valley or the Panther creek area may belong.

There are two known burial grounds in the valley—one is on the Wirth farm, and the other is now just a berry patch, south of where the old community hall was. Two of the Wirth children are buried on the former site, as well as town of Smith's grand-daughters. At the other site rests the remains of Martha E. Simmons, who was born in 1869 and died in 1885.

During World War II an unused house on Thornton's ranch became an airplane observation post. Neighbors volunteered to take shift to watch for enemy planes (this was before radar). If an observer saw any plane, he or she called directly to Portland to notify the proper authorities of the direction, type and number of aircraft passing overhead. Due to gas rationing, most of the observers walked to the post.

The oldest house in the valley, built in 1912, is where R.B. Thornton lived. It was built by T.R. Richter, a nephew of the Wirth brothers. Electricity was not available in the valley until after World War II.

The fertile lands comprising Moores Valley are now used primarily in raising cattle and timber. Until recently, most of it's inhabitants had lived there most of their lives.
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
Paid July each year

- Individual $15
- Family $25
- Friend $50+
- Supporter $100+
- Community Builder $250+
- Community Benefactor $500+

Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society. New members can prorate dues monthly from the above table. Membership dues, artifact donations and gifts are tax deductible.

Members receive the Westside newsletter and access to our research library and museum free of charge. We are an all volunteer organization, and are constantly on the lookout for new helpers. If you can assist us in any way, financially or with your time or talents, it will be greatly appreciated. If you are not sure if you paid your annual membership dues last July, please contact Gloria Lutz at 472-7563. Rates Effective May 31, 2002.

What's Happening

Our next regular monthly meeting will be held 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 11th, at the Lutheran Church in Sheridan. Our Board meets at 4:00, same place and date. Our program will be, “Lorinda Chapman vs. the Indian Chief”, by Phyllis Dickey. (more details inside)

Other Events:
- August 11th & 12th: Lafayette Heritage Days—Activities still being firmed up.
- August 12th: Watts Family Threshing Bee—see details inside this issue.
- August 18th: Annual Picnic at Nancy Thorntons farm in Moores Valley.
- August 23rd thru the 26th: at the new museum site see more details inside this issue.