

AUMSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Aumsville Historical Society met on December 13th in Riverview Bank's Community Room. Non-perishable food was collected for the local food bank. After the business meeting adjourned, everyone enjoyed snacks and conversation.

AHS continues to receive historical articles for the museum collection. Rex Lucas has donated a small section of train track, an alarm and several large, wood-framed pictures. The first railroad through Aumsville was built by the Oregon Railway Company in the 1880s. It was narrow gauge, which meant that it was 36 inches between the rails. The segment, now on display at the museum, is from the spur that served the flour mill. Narrow gauge was replaced by larger gauge in the 1890s. The metal alarm from the Amos Davis School signaled the class starts and endings. Because the pictures are too large to hang in the museum, Ryan and Christa Radke of the Pizza Peddler will display them.

The museum has the loan of a Royal Blue Junior Cream Separator belonging to Letha Paille. Years ago, some small town residents kept cows to provide milk for their families. The hand-turned separator produced skim milk and cream from the surplus fresh milk that the family did not need. Butter could be churned from the cream. This small separator was fastened to a stand. Farmers with numerous cows had larger separators, which were floor mounted and also hand-turned, twice a day, every day. These days, a big tank truck comes to the farm to get the whole milk.

Dennis Richards contributed a business calendar from Gordon and Sons Automotive Service and two from Newton's Grocery Store. Gordon's business was at the northwest corner of Main and 4th. The Newtons opened a store at 325 Main. In a few years, they relocated to a new building at 630 Main. A big thank-you to the donors and members, who help AHS share Aumsville's heritage.

The next AHS meeting will be on Thursday, February 14th. The museum is closed for the winter, but visits by appointment can be arranged. Please contact Ted Shepard at 503-479-2744 or Karlene Santibanez 503-749-2585.