

An Abbreviated History of Sublimity by Evangeline Ripp and Henry Strobel

1840's- First settlers arrived in the Sublimity area, which was first named **Hobson's Corner** in 1848 for Hadley Hobson of South Carolina who arrived via a detour to the California gold fields.

1850- James M. Denny received a Donation Land Claim grant of one quarter section.

1851- Denny operated a store out of his home just south of west Denny Street.

1852 Denny named **Sublimity** and opened its (US Territorial) **Post Office**, one of the first six in Oregon, six years before it became a state, at his home/store.

1853- A group of 98 members of the **United Brethren** church made up a colony that came by ox train from Indiana to Albany, Oregon, soon to found **Sublimity College**.

1853- The hilltop **Hobson-Whitney Cemetery** was established east of Sublimity.

1854- The **Sublimity School District** was formed. The first log school house built just west of Sublimity south of Main Street. Samuel Denny was the teacher.

1857- Sublimity College was founded. Bishop **Milton Wright, father of Orville and Wilbur**, was headmaster, located just northeast of the present St. Boniface Church.

1860-63 On the location of **Ditter's Square** on Center street was the Hobson general merchandise store later owned by a Mr. Glass.

1870- The college closed, most of the Brethren having left during the Civil War.

1870s- German Catholic farmers came from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, etc.

1878-The **Parker House Hotel**, was just south of the Fast Stop service station on Center St., **20** To the south was the **Nicholas LaCroix general merchandise store**, later Riesters', now the **Veterinary Clinic**. Across Center street was one of the saloons preceding the Wooden Nickel. Just east was Paul Frank's **blacksmith** shop.

1878-District 7 **grade school** was built approximately where the present **City Hall** is.

1879-The **First Catholic Church** in honor of St. Boniface, was a small vacant building on the east corner of Center and Maple streets.

1879-Father Peter Juvenal Stampfl arrived, a German via Minnesota. He wrote the first entry in the parish record December 3, 1879, the **official beginning** of St. Boniface Church.

1880-The **Second Catholic Church**, was the vacated **Sublimity College** just northeast of the present church, including 20 acres, purchased by Rev. Peter J Stampfl. One acre was designated the **Cemetery of the Angels**.

1881-1884 German priests from Mt Angel Abbey served until the first permanent pastor arrived. The first rectory, a small two room house used by the **Swiss Rev. Wernher Ruettimann OSB, first Pastor of St. Boniface**, was located east of second church.

1885-Sisters arrived from Jordan and later became the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon.

1885- Ditters' Store was founded by John A. Ditter from Wisconsin on the same location as the Hobson general merchandise store.

1887-An addition to the old college building, then the second church, was used as the **first Convent** for the newly arrived **Sisters** of the Most Precious Blood from Jordan, Oregon. In 1889 this addition was moved to the site of the convent building.

1888-The **first parish school** was built by Joseph Spenner west of the second church.

1888 Second Rectory was built just south of **present Rectory**,

1888- The renamed **Sisters of St. Mary** opened the **first parish school in Marion County**. There were two school systems, public and Catholic, working together. For many years following, **Catholic nuns also taught in the public schools**.

1889- Father Joseph Fessler arrived from Milwaukee and built the **third (present) St. Boniface church**.

1895- Pastor Anthony Lainck of noble German parentage arrived via Gervais, Oregon.

1898- The **second parish grade school** was built by Father Lainck on Main Street north of the cemetery, first school was added as an annex.

1904- Hermens Creamery was about a block and a half west of Center St. on Main St..

1902- Sublimity was incorporated and granted its own charter through the efforts of Senator William M. Hobson.

1903-Father Lainck began driving his horse and buggy to Stayton to say mass there on alternate Sundays in the new but unstaffed Stayton church.

1907 The Catholic Order of **Foresters Hall**, was built on Main and Broadway streets, demolished in 1980.

1908 St. Boniface' separate **bell tower** built with three bells.

Present church remodeled.

1913-1914 The **third parish school** was built by Bernard Prange on Main St. where the Grotto of the Blessed Virgin now is..

1926- Philip Steffes found a native thornless blackberry, predecessor of the Marionberry.

1927- Popular pastor Anthony Lainck died after a visit to his German birthplace, **having served for 32 years**.

1940-1941 A gymnasium was built on Main and Pine St. by Rev. Joseph Scherbring

1945-The **St. Boniface High School** was built on south Main St. west of the gym under direction of Rev. Joseph Scherbring, now used as the **Middle School**.

1948-A **new Convent** for the teaching Sisters of Saint Mary of Oregon was built under direction of Rev. Joseph Scherbring on present location. The old convent (college building) was moved and used as a home for the elderly and infirm.

1949-A **District 7C school** was built on the corner of north Main and east Pine on William and Mary Bell property.

1957-The **present Rectory** was built under the direction of Rev. Robert Neugebauer.

1949- The Rural Fire District was formed.

1954- Father Scherbring realized a long cherished dream - a home for the sick and aged in Sublimity. It had its roots in Minnie Hassler, a kindly single lady who had been looking after elderly folks in the old convent building that had been moved onto her acreage, which she later donated for the **Marian Home**, named for the Marian Year, run by six nuns from Austria. From the beginning it was non-sectarian. Marian Auxiliary, Inc. was incorporated in 1957 as a non-profit and dissolved in 1975. It is privately operated now as **Marian Estates**.

1962- Regis High School in Stayton opened, St. Boniface High became vacant, the grade school moved into it.

1972- The **Sublimity Harvest Festival** began, the largest such west of the Mississippi.

1979- St. Boniface Church celebrated its **centennial**.

1997- The **Santiam Canyon Stampede** (annual rodeo) began at the Festival grounds.

2002- Sublimity got a large **new post office**.

2003- www.saintboniface.net went online with a *History of Sublimity* by Henry Strobel.

2004- June 5 was the **125th anniversary of the parish and the 1250th anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Boniface, its patron saint in Germany**. It was marked by a Mass, a German sausage picnic, music in a huge tent, a welcome to the whole community, and a display of historical artifacts that preceded the St. Boniface Archives.

2006- The **St. Boniface Archives & Museum** officially began in February, 2006.

2009- The Sacred Hearts' Shrine was built, a gift of Vincent Etzel

Welcome to Saint Boniface Archives & Museum, Sublimity, Oregon 2009



Home of the Archives & Museum across the street



A typical Tuesday morning meeting in the Archives & Museum. Everyone is welcome!



Charlene and Evangeline Computerizing Records

Please join us after your meal for a tour in the old convent across the street. Look at the hundreds of historic photographs, fascinating artifacts, documents, family trees. Relive our community's past. Consider how you might share your own.

St. Boniface Church has the second oldest original church building in Oregon. The **town of Sublimity and the church of St. Boniface** share a fascinating history, including -

- The chief of the Santiams and the **wagon train pioneers** were buried in the hilltop Hobson-Whitney cemetery, 1853.
- **Sublimity College** (1858-1871) and its headmaster, United Brethren Bishop Milton Wright, father of Orville and Wilbur
- The **Catholic Germans** from the Midwest who arrived by rail to found St. Boniface Church in 1879, Jordan in 1884, and in 1887 the (now) **Sisters of St. Mary** of Oregon in Sublimity.

We have historical records, photos, family trees, oral histories, artifacts, and memoirs from **130 years of St. Boniface church** and 160 years of life in this place uniquely named Sublimity.

For young and old, old families and new, this heritage will not be lost but grow a feeling of home and belonging. Seeing where we came from can help us know where we want to go.

The name "St. Boniface Archives and Museum" has a nice ring, but we know who we are - volunteers, not professional historians. Our participants and leaders are interested and knowledgeable, some quite expert and personally steeped in the local history.

The name "Archives & Museum" indicates two different purposes: conservative **preservation** and easy **access**.

Oral history is another way to preserve local heritage. Many seniors have interesting lives and wonderful memories - some are born talkers! Unexpected gems have emerged - not merely tales of early Sublimity but other great life stories, which we sometimes put on DVDs. It's about community, not just history!

ST. BONIFACE ARCHIVES & MUSEUM

371 SE Main Street, Sublimity, Oregon 97385

Open 9-12 Tuesday mornings.

For information or to arrange an appointment at another time, call Vangie 503 769-5381, Don 503 769-2391, Carol 503 769-5299, or Francis 503 749-2858.

www.saintboniface.net

Visit our website any time, and click on:

- **The St. Boniface Archives & Museum**
- **An Illustrated History of Sublimity - 1840-2009**
- **An Interactive Walk through the Old Cemetery**
- **St. Boniface and His Times**

The Archives & Museum has collections of historical photos, documents, books, artifacts, videos, etc. Some of the articles and diaries are of book length and some were published by the Archives. You are welcome to visit and research or copy them.

You can also conveniently read or print out many of them (not all) from the website on your home computer.

St. Boniface Archives & Museum was inspired by recommendations of the Portland Archdiocesan Historical Commission, but operates in an original community initiative. If you like what we are doing, consider a gift of your time, talents, or a donation - even a bequest. Donations may be made to St. Boniface Church designated for use only by the Archives & Museum. Call, or email us at the website. Thanks!