



The Meadowlark

Quarterly Newsletter



Crook County Historical Society
246 North Main Street
Prineville, Oregon 97754

August 28, 2014
E-mail bowmuse@netscape.net
www.bowmanmuseum.org

QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday September 7, 2014
Crook County History Center 1:00 P.M.

The Fall quarterly meeting for the Crook County Historical Society will be held at the Crook County History Center on Sunday September 7, 2014. **The History Center is located in the newly renovated building adjacent to the Bowman Museum.** The meeting will begin with a potluck dinner at 1:00 P.M. Please bring your own place setting. All members and the general public are welcome to attend. Members are encouraged to bring a guest.

Program

The McCormack Ranch

Presented by Runinda Robertson McCormack

William U. and Ellen (Dahl) McCormack along with their son William R (Bill) moved to Bear Creek in 1943. Bill took over management of the ranch after his father's death in 1956. Bill married Donna C U'ren in 1957. They had 3 children, William D, Jeff and Kelley. William D and Jeff returned to the ranch and became partners with Bill and Donna in the early 80's. Kelley and her family live in Beaverton.

The ranch has grown throughout the years by the purchase of adjoining ranches. The growth has enable the family to continue to ranch with the next generations.

Bill and Donna still live at the ranch. Bill helps where and when he can. Donna continues to be and will always be the social director and cook (she cooked for the hired hands in her early years as a new bride on Bear Creek) on the ranch.

Son Bill is the manager of the farming operation and is the ranch mechanic. Billy's wife Jeri is a teacher in Prineville and between them they have 4 children, Christopher (Valerie) just graduated from law school, Cindy, who is an LPN in Bend, Kurt (Jamie) who lives in Joseph and has a livestock supplement business and Janey who is a teacher in Hermiston.

Jeff and his wife Runinda (Robertson) manage the cattle operation. Runinda handles the ranch bookkeeping duties and well as the McCormack Recreational Ranch. They have two children, Holli Kingsbury (Ryan) and Tyler (who will be getting married next June to Barbara Jayne Lerwick).

Holli, Ryan, Tyler and Barbara Jayne are the next generation of McCormack's to ranch on Bear Creek.

As our family continues to live and work on Bear Creek, we daily are reminded of the settlers who were here before us as most of our pastures continue to be named for those early pioneers.



The McCormack Ranch Family

L to R: Tyler, Jeff, Runinda, Donna, Bill, Holli McCormack Kingsbury, Ryan Kingsbury, and Bill

Memorials Since May 16, 2014

Gene Bernard

by Miriam Bernard

Mike Finley

by Robert & Renee Horton

Bruce Wilson
Norma Jones
Sandy Carpenter
Bonnie Finley
PEO Sisterhood, Chapter AD

Betty Wittmer

by Sandy Carpenter

Linda Sharp

Richard “Dick” Hoppes

by Sandy Carpenter

Robert “Bob” Schifferer

by Sandy Carpenter

Jordan Dunaway-Haines

by Louise Condron

Evie Bryant

by Reita Evans

Jerry & Eloise Brummer
Steve Lent
Snoden & Patricia DeBoard
Phyllis Short
Sharon Cox
Shirley McCullough
Richard & Audrie Bedortha
Ken & Millie Blodgett
Pat & Naida Miller
Pau Mau Club
Linda Sharp

Ray Pangle

by Reita Evans

Gloria Simonis

by Marie Smith

Snoden & Patricia DeBoard
Ken & Millie Blodgett

Gordon Stroebel

by Sharon Cox

Louise Lister Pike

by Linda Sharp

Carl Weaver

by Linda Sharp

Phyllis Ticoulat

by Linda Sharp

Paula Merwin

by Jerry & Eloise Brummer

Shirley McCullough
Joyce Garrett
Doug & Judy Sawtell
Steve Lent & Barb Fontaine
Renee Harlan
Mary Albert
Dick & Audine Bedortha
Diane Tressider

Jim Carpenter

by Norma Jones

Barbara Hoppes
Linda Sharp

President's Message

Hello fellow members!

It's been a busy summer here in Crook County, with plenty going on both in town and at the museum. Ever since the expansion to include our Crook County History Center it's been a favorite event location for so many local groups. What a fantastic addition to our community!

In June, the community room was the scene of a very popular wedding dress exhibit put together by Brittany Shunk, our collection care specialist, and her hard-working volunteers. The museum has a number of wedding dresses in the collection, so the display gave locals and visitors alike a chance to enjoy them. So many commented on the exhibit that Brittany and her group were inspired to put together another exhibit, which will feature military uniforms. In honor of Veterans Day, the exhibit will be in place for the month of November. Come check it out!



As for other future events:

Our Quarterly Meeting on September 7th in the Community Room at the museum will feature a presentation on the McCormack Ranch by Runinda Robertson McCormack. Please join us to learn more about this pioneering ranch family and their spread near Bear Creek.

Our fall field trip is to the Crooked River National Grassland. What may look like a vast expanse of sagebrush and juniper is actually a land full of stories and historical sites. We hope you can join us on Saturday, October 4th.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, the May at the Museum lecture series was a huge success. We aim to repeat that with our 2nd Annual Saunders Memorial Lecture Series to be held the first four Thursdays in October.

And finally, the November 4th general election ballot will include renewal of our 6 cents per thousand levy for museum operations. The amount per thousand has not changed since we first put up the levy – how often can that be said?

Additional information on the above is included in the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events. In the meantime, enjoy our late summer weather!

Denise

Welcome New Members

Vernon Staley	Bob Williams
Alicia Teaford	Julie Williams
Daniel Sullivan	David Pogel
David Habura	Candice Guth
Robert Bartlett	Diane Ryan
Leanne Latterell	Stephen Horne

C. ROGERS

The Pioneer Hide Dealer,

Will pay more for your Hides
Pelts and Furs, and in cash, too
than any one in Crook County.

C. ROGERS, Main Street,
PRINEVILLE, - - - OREGON
At White Salmon Nursery, North Side
of Ochoco.

1887 Ad

Recalling Pioneering Days in Central Oregon

As Related by Annie Quinn Senecal to *Stayton Mail* newspaper in 1962

Housewives who think they are roughing it when the automatic washer blows a fuse could profit from a visit with Mrs. Anna Senecal, who last week was a house guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Standley of Stayton.

Now nearly 80, Mrs. Senecal began housekeeping the hard way. As a young woman of 22 she filed on and settled a homestead claim in Central Oregon in 1905 [near Suplee]. Her claim was located 80 miles from Prineville, which in those days was exactly in the center of nowhere. Excepting for some help from her younger brother, who had his hands pretty full taking care of his own place, she was all alone.

Constructed on the slight side, Mrs. Senecal stands about five feet tall and weighs in the neighborhood of 90 pounds. She and her brother built a cabin as a part of "proving up" their claims; a bit on the drafty side the first winter, with burlap serving in lieu of a door. Coyotes were plentiful half a century ago around there; it wasn't uncommon to step out of the cabin and spot a pair of them less than a rifle shot away, keeping a curious eye on the place.

It was grass country there at that time. No sagebrush or juniper; that came with over-grazing later. Land was pretty much open for homesteading and open grazing, too, but that picture changed fast.

She and George Senecal were married in 1909; there's quite a story to that, too, she remembers. He had gone into Prineville on the stage and she and a school teacher that stayed with her took a buggy and team and set out on the 80-mile trip, intending to meet him there.

There were four inches of snow on the ground, covering the ruts that served as a road. The weather turned cold—10 below. The two unhitched the horses and prepared to finish the trip on horseback. Trying, at first to guide the horses, they succeeded in getting lost; finally, allowing the horses to choose their own way, they dragged in, half frozen, at her brother's place.

The Senecals spent the ensuing 30 years on the ranch which was a stopping-in-place for anyone and everyone, who happened by. Electricity was not brought in until 1940, the year after they left, although some of the neighbors installed carbide or Delco plants for their own systems. Lighting was largely by kerosene lamps; there were no phones in the earlier days, no radio or automobiles. Snow began in October and ended in May.

Mail came twice a week when conditions were right; Mrs. Senecal ran the Suplee postoffice for 27 years. It has since been discontinued, with the improvement of methods of travel that allow longer mail routes.

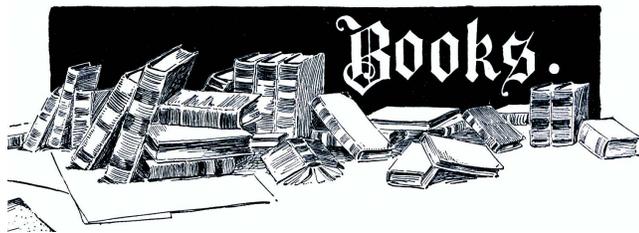
She moved to The Dalles in 1939, when illness hospitalized her husband there, and his death came about a year later. For the next 20 years she made out on her own, managing an apartment and other property there, but last year, moved to her daughter's house in Oswego.

Living in a world where science has annihilated time and distance, Mrs. Senecal looks back on a way of life and a pioneering era that has vanished. She looks back on it with a great deal of fondness, too. In a way that convinces the listener she enjoyed every minute of it.



Annie Quinn Senecal

Editor's Note: Annie Quinn Senecal was born on April 6, 1884 near Grizzly, Oregon and passed away on March 7, 1962 in Portland. She is buried beside her husband in the Oddfellows Cemetery in The Dalles, Oregon.



NEW BOOKS AT THE MUSEUM

Members get 10% Discount

All Around and the 13th Juror

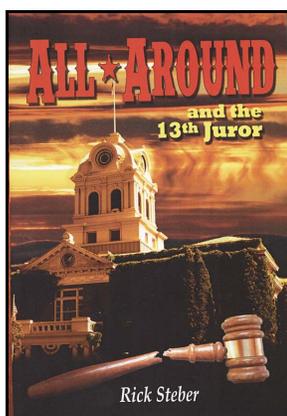
by Rick Steber

\$15.00

paper

200 Pages

Prolific local writer Rick Steber has just published a new tale on the shooting in Prineville of All-Around cowboy, Mac Griffith, after a drunken brawl. The shooter is arrested and charged with murder. Steber does a masterful telling of the ensuing trial and events leading to the tragic event. Many locals remember the shooting but until now a clear telling of the incident has not been revealed. Like his earlier *Caught in the Crosshairs* the reader will have a hard time putting the book down without reading the entire story. This is the editor's selection of the quarter.



The Snake People: The Northern Shoshone Indians

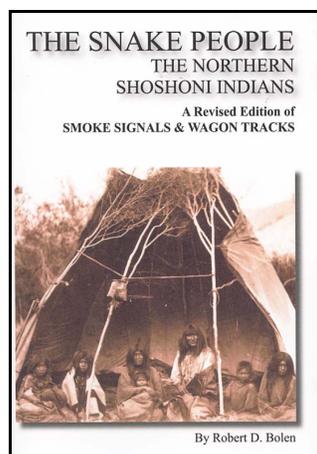
by Robert D. Bolen

\$14.95

Paper

175 Pages

This book is a revised edition of *Smoke Signals & Wagon Tracks*. The Shoshone Indians were commonly called Snakes because of their inhabitation near the Snake River. The book covers the various Shoshone tribes from contact with Lewis and Clark through skirmishes with early settlers. It has numerous vintage photographs.



Tragedy at Southern Oregon Tunnel 13

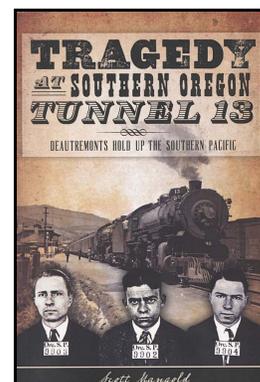
by Scott Mangold

\$21.99

Paper

208 Pages

This is the tale of the DeAutremont brothers who were looking for a big score. On October 11, 1923 near the summit of the Siskiyou Mountains in southern Oregon, the three young men held up a passenger train with disastrous consequences. Their rash actions resulted in the deaths of three Southern Pacific trainmen and a U.S. Mail clerk. Magold researched the robbery and the four-year manhunt and eventual conviction of the DeAutremonts.



Mines and Prospects of Oregon

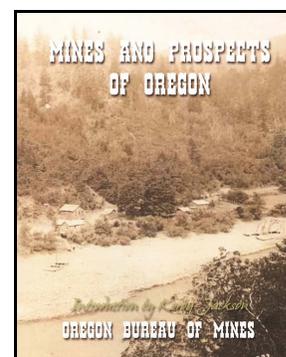
by The Oregon Bureau of Mine

\$24.99

Paper

306 Pages

This publication was originally published in 1916 by the Oregon Bureau of Mines. When it was first published it became a handbook for miners in the state of Oregon. It is an alphabetical listing of mines, mining companies and prospects in Oregon. The book has become very rare and this is a new limited printing of the classic publication. The museum also has two other classics on mining, *Gold Mines of Oregon* and *Quicksilver Mines of Oregon* both of which have long been out of print but recently re-published in limited quantities.



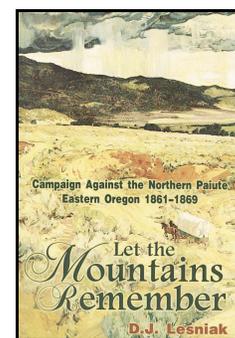
Let the Mountains Remember

\$24.95

Paper

305 Pages

This is a well documented account of the campaign against the Northern Paiute Indians in Eastern Oregon 1861-1869. The book is based almost entirely on primary sources. It concentrates on the soldiers, their garrisons and the reactions of the white newcomers who tried to settle the ancestral lands of the Northern Paiute. Just published!!!



FALL TOUR

Crooked River National Grassland

Saturday Oct. 4, 2014

The Crook County Historical Society Fall tour will be visiting the Crooked River National Grassland. The tour will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning Oct. 4. We will meet at the Pioneer Cabin Museum in Pioneer Park. Please bring your own lunch and refreshments.

The Society will have a 10 passenger bus available on a first come first serve basis. Reservations can be made after receipt of this newsletter.

Please contact the museum at 541-447-3715 to reserve a spot on the tour. As usual the tour will be limited to 15 vehicles.

Steve Lent will be the tour guide assisted by Ochoco Forest personnel. Stops will include Newspaper Rock, Weigand Well, the site of Lamonta, Grasslands headquarters, Scales Corral, McCoin Orchard, Cyrus Orchard, Perryville (Old Culver), Osborn Spring, Kinney homestead and Round Butte. Because of possible fire restrictions some sites may not be accessible. The tour will cover approximately 40 miles and we should be done for the day by 3 p.m.

A tour guide book will hopefully be available by the end of September and will also be available for purchase on the day of the tour. We look forward to seeing you on the 4th.



Renewal of Bowman Museum Operating Levy on tap for November Election

It was four years ago this November that Crook County voters renewed the Museum's Operating Levy for the fourth time. Voters approved a rate of 6¢ per thousand dollars of assessed value for four years. Seeing we are now in the fourth year of the current levy the Board of Directors of the Historical Society decided to ask the County Commissioners to put another levy before the voters this November. If passed the levy will continue at the 6¢ per thousand rate (it has never gone up since first passed in 1998). On an average home with an assessed value of \$150,000 that would be a tax of \$9 per year. The average amount raised for the operation of the museum over the past 3 years (the 4th year does not end until June 2015) is \$88,701 per year. This is almost exactly the average amount the levy generated in the four years previous. The Historical Society board is happy that it was able complete the beautiful new museum expansion, including additional operating costs, without requesting any additional taxes. If this continuing levy is passed it will not raise anyone's taxes.

Just like last time a group has been formed in support of getting the levy passed. The committee, again called Preserve Our Past Committee is a legal entity under Oregon law called a political action committee. This is a common practice for promoting measures and levies.

Jan Anderson (447-6287) has agreed to chair the committee and Ken Maki (416-0664) has agreed to be the committee treasurer. The group will be meeting on a regular bases throughout the campaign. If you would like to help in any way or if you have questions please contact one of the people above or by mail to Preserve Our Past Committee, 510 S.W. Fairway Ct., Prineville, Or 97754.

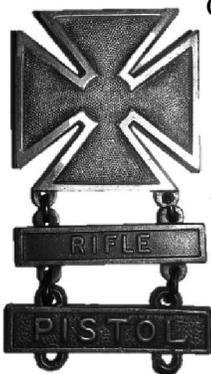
This Just In! **WWII Memorabilia**

Every day the Bowman Museum receives an exciting new assortment of artifacts that have been generously donated by local residents. Once a month, the Accession Committee meets to discuss these artifacts to decide if each individual item meets the criteria for acceptance into the Crook County Historical Society's Collection. The four guidelines that the committee must consider are:

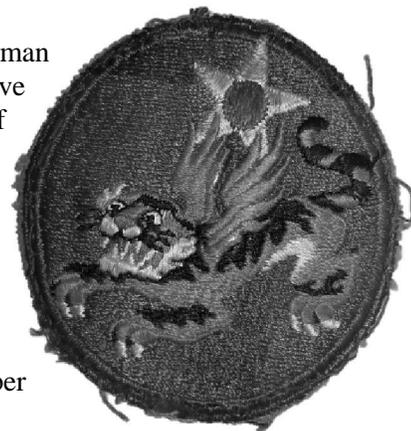
1. It must be 50+ years old;
2. It must have been from the county or could have been used in the county;
3. It must be in good enough condition that it can be easily stabilized and stored;
4. It cannot be a duplicate (in excess) to an artifact we already have.

With so many wonderful items being accepted into the collection monthly, the museum has decided to feature one item (or collection) quarterly in the newsletter. At the end of each quarter the Accession Committee will vote on the item(s) that will be featured.

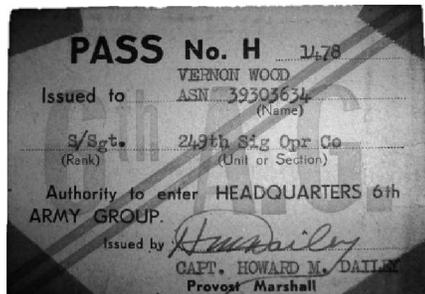
This past June, a very interesting array of World War II patches, medals, photographs and articles were accepted into the Crook County Historical Society's artifact collection. These were donated by Gary Pierce of Prineville and had belonged to Vernon Wood, a local WWII veteran.



Among the collection is a Sterling Silver WWII US Army Marksman Badge with Rifle and Pistol Awards (see left). This badge would have been worn below the ribbons on the left breast pocket and was one of the most common badges worn by infantry men. For each weapon a soldier qualified in, a bar would have been added under the badge to identify the weapon.



There are 12 patches within the recent donation, including the WWII US Army 14th Air Force Flying Tigers patch (shown above right). The "Flying Tigers" of the 14th AF conducted highly effective fighter and bomber operations.



Also included in the recent donation is an authorization pass given to Sgt. Vernon Wood for permission to enter the headquarters of the 6th Army Group (shown at left).

To view this entire collection of World War II Army memorabilia come visit the Bowman Museum!

Upcoming Exhibit*

In honor of Veteran's Day this November, the Bowman Museum will be featuring a temporary exhibit of military regalia from the historical society artifact collection. This month-long exhibit will showcase a variety of uniforms and other memorabilia that belonged to local veterans.



Bob Bechtell in an Army Jeep – World War II