



# The Meadowlark

Quarterly Newsletter



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

February 20, 2015  
E-mail [bowmuse@netscape.net](mailto:bowmuse@netscape.net)  
[www.bowmanmuseum.org](http://www.bowmanmuseum.org)

## Quarterly meeting Sunday March 1, 2015 Crook County History Center 1:00 P.M.

The Winter quarterly meeting for the Crook County Historical Society will be held at the new **Crook County History Center** on Sunday March 1, 2015. **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 please bring a guest. **The first Historical Society meeting of the year is traditionally dedicated to the Pioneer Queens, women who have made contributions to the history of our county.**

## FEATURED PROGRAM

Musical Extravaganza

Trio of Dave Ledder, Steve Prazak and John Head

The trio of Dave Ledder (guitar & vocals), Steve Prazak (flute, sax & vocals) and John Head (harmonica and jews harp) will provide lively entertainment for our quarterly meeting. The performers are part of a larger band that are performing as a trio and have not yet officially named themselves.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Welcome to 2015! I hope it's as great a year for the organization as 2014 was.

Since our last newsletter we had our Board elections. First, thanks to Reita Evans for her years of service on the board. She has been a frequent volunteer at the museum and a steady influence as a board member. Our newly-elected board members are Shirley McCullough, Jerry Brummer and Sharon Vail - all of them are very active Society members.

We just firmed up our speakers for the May at the Museum series (co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library.) It looks like a terrific set of presentations. I am especially excited that we are getting another visit from Teddy Roosevelt. He always gets rave reviews where ever he goes. Thanks to the Oregon Historical Society and Wells Fargo Bank for including us in his 2015 Oregon tour. I am also happy to see our very own Pine Mountain Observatory will be highlighted through one of the programs. I just love the observatory. See the enclosed flyer for the other great programs. Hope to see you there.

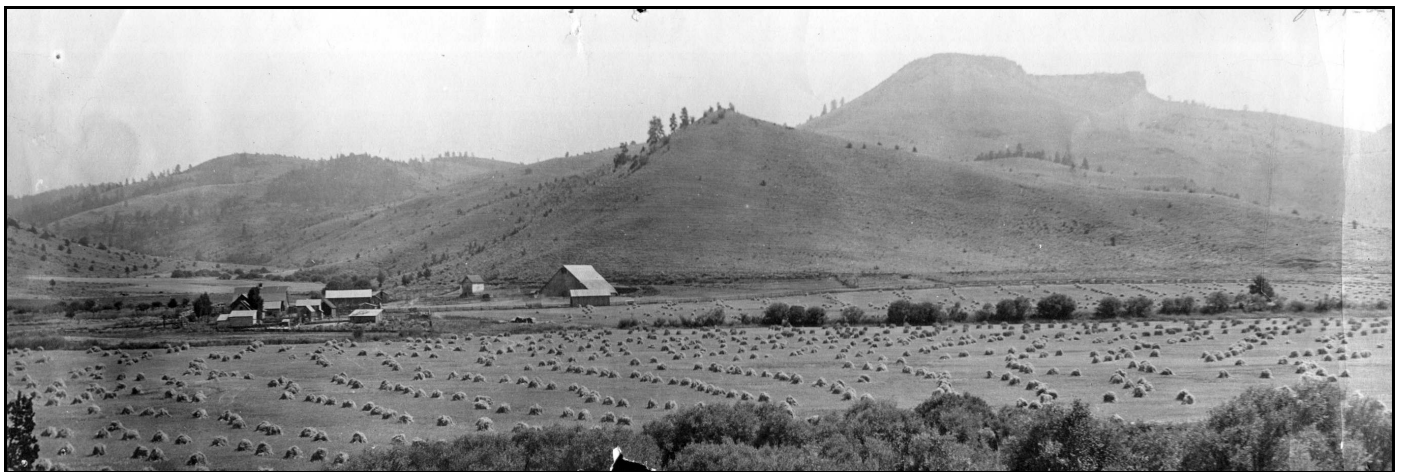


And of course, we are continuing the great tradition of honoring our Pioneer Queens at our first Quarterly meeting in March. Thank you to the Queens Committee for all they do to put on this wonderful event, and for everything else they do throughout the year to honor these lovely ladies.

I am always so impressed by all our members and volunteers. I think it speaks so well of our community that we are able to support such a beautiful museum and so many events and programs. It is truly an honor for me to serve as Historical Society President.

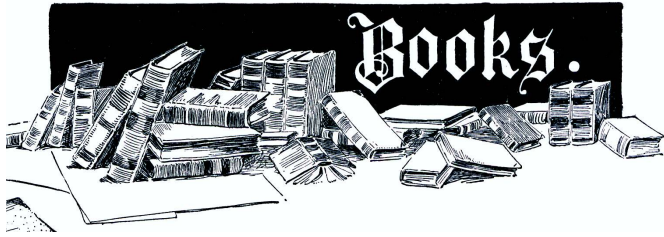
All the best,

*Denise*



Keystone Ranch 1903





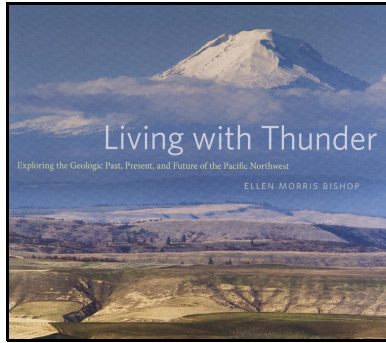
## New Books At the Museum

***Living with Thunder***  
by Ellen Morris Bishop  
\$24.95

Paper

149 Pages

This profusely illustrated book is by the author of *In Search of Ancient Oregon*. It is an exploration of the geologic past, present and future of the Pacific Northwest. Bishop offers a fascinating and up-to-date survey of the Northwest–Washington, Oregon, northern California and western Idaho. It provides a basic understanding of the geologic processes that have created our landscape. The author combines her geologic knowledge with her own stunning photography to provide a welcome addition to any library.

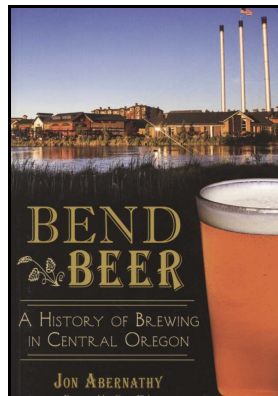


***Bend Beer: A History of Brewing in Central Oregon***  
by Jon Abernathy  
\$19.95

Paper

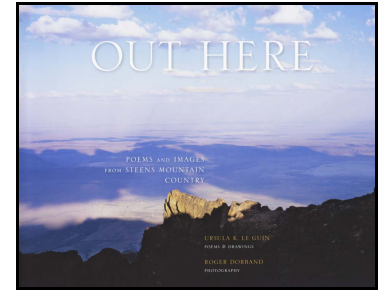
174 Pages

Bend has more breweries per capita than any other Oregon city. It has become a beer Mecca. Central Oregon had a burgeoning brewing industry prior to the prohibition era but it came to a halt. It was not until over 50 years later the arrival of pioneers like Deschutes Brewery and Bend Brewing Company began a booming industry in Bend. Abernathy traces Bend and Central Oregon's beer history from early settlement to the present day.



***Out Here: Poems & Images of Steens Mountain Country***  
by Ursula LeGuin & Roger Dorband  
\$35.00 Cloth 112 Pages

Noted Oregon author Ursula LeGuin has teamed with photographer Roger Dorband to celebrate Oregon's Steens Mountain country. Steens Mountain is truly one of the unique places of Oregon and this book is a tribute to the area. This is one of the favorite places of the newsletter editor. The book is a coffee table large format publication.

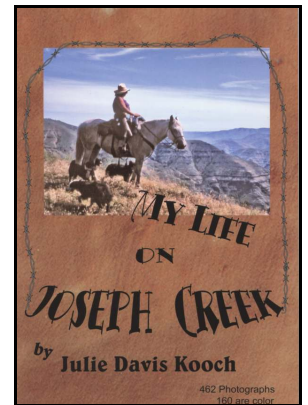


***My Life on Joseph Creek***  
by Julie Davis Kooch  
\$24.95

Paper

304 Pages

This is a memoir of ranching and packing in the Joseph Creek vicinity of northeast Oregon. The book is published on heavy slick paper and is illustrated with 462 photographs. It is an interesting and personal account of growing up in the rugged country near Hells Canyon.

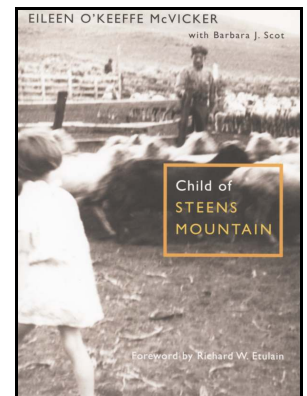


***Child of Steens Mountain***  
by Eileen O'Keefe McVicker  
\$16.95

Paper

140 Pages

Eileen O'Keefe was born in 1927 to an Irish immigrant sheep rancher and a schoolteacher. She grew up on a homestead made for "a hard, happy life with layers of riches." It is a memoir of a childhood spent on the southern slope of Steens Mountain and is an appealing personal account of eastern Oregon history. She recounts everyday adventures of life on the high desert.



# Letter Written by Jerry Luckey 1875

To

State Journal

Eugene City, Oregon

Relating a Journey Over McKenzie Route from Eugene City to Ochoco Valley

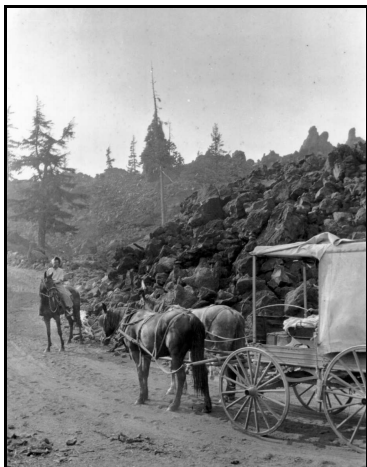
Upper Ochoco, Oregon

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1875

Editor Journal, Sir:

I am safe at home and found my family well. I left Eugene City the 23d of May and rode about ten miles, staying one night with I.W. Kanoff, who is an enthusiastic hop raiser and appears to take great interest in the enterprise. Next day I made a short ride of about twenty miles, stopping with Mr. Martin who is making fruit growing a study. Next day I rode slowly along, amusing myself with the beautiful mountain scenery, and the clear, cold, rapid running waters of the McKenzie, stopped overnight at the bridge with Mr. Powers, the mail contractor. Next morning, in company with the mail carrier I started for the snow, arriving there at 11 o'clock a.m. where we met Mr. Finn, the carrier from the east side. Here the carriers changed mails and after taking our lunch and fixing everything in readiness, stepped forth at twelve o'clock upon the snow; but it being a warm day, my riding animal sank down into the snow twice, but gaining footing again plodded on, arriving at the carrier's cabin at 4 o'clock where we went into comfortable quarters for the night, after finding bare ground sufficient to stand my horse upon, and giving him plenty of oats, he was all "bunko," when we partook of our repast and retired. At the first appearance of the sun next morning (which is not late in the day at that altitude), we started over the hard and froze snow, making good time. In three hours we were off the snow which I think was about fourteen miles across, but is gradually narrowing up on both sides. I reined up my pony and shuffled out down a beautiful piece of road, being one gradual unbroken descent for twelve miles, and pulled up at Mr. Hindman's place at old Camp Polk at 9 o'clock a.m.; fed and rested my pony an hour, and then moved on, crossed the DesChutes at half past 12 o'clock; passed Smith's Rock a quarter to 2 p.m., took supper at Mr. Weaver's place on Crooked River, and twenty minutes after sunset I unsaddled at home making a ride that day of about 15 miles, and to-day my pony moves as nimble as a fawn. I have crossed the Cascades by three different roads, and regard the McKenzie route as the most direct, and best natural way to this Eastern country, but much work is yet required to make it a good road for heavy loaded wagons, which are generally used in moving across the mountains.

Your, Jerry Luckey



Traveling McKenzie Road 1880



**Cross the Mountains**  
BY WAY OF  
**MCKENZIE ROAD.**  
THE OWNERS OF THE MCKENZIE Wagon Road desire to announce that their road is now in good traveling order, and is being improved every day. This is the most natural pass over the Cascades, and by far the nearest for travelers from any point south of Linn county. It is free from steep grades, has abundance of grass and water throughout the entire distance, and is a day's travel shorter route, to and from the valley, than the other roads to Eastern Oregon. Any one desiring to cross the mountains from this part of the state, will find the MCKENZIE ROAD preferable in every respect.

A. G. HOVEY, Pres  
WILL WALKER, Sec.

McKenzie Wagon Road ad 1885

## Mary Sigman Albert Crook County Pioneer Queen 2014

Mary Alice Sigman was born on September 4, 1940 in The Dalles, Oregon. Her parents were George and Lavelle Sparks Sigman. Her father had lived in Dufur all his life and was a rancher. Mary has a very rich heritage in the early settlement of Central Oregon and Crook County.

Her great-great grandparents Larkin and Mary Turnage Vanderpool settled in Central Oregon in the late 1860s and Larkin was granted a medical certificate to practice medicine based on experience although he was not formally trained. William and Martha McConnell Heisler were also her great-great grandparents. They came to the Ochoco country in the early 1870s where William built the first store in the Crooked River Valley. He became the first postmaster of Prine, which later became Prineville. Their daughter Susannah married William Vanderpool, the son of Larkin and Mary Vanderpool. The Vanderpools and the Heislers later moved to Dufur.

William and Susannah's daughter Mary Eva married Melvin Sigman in 1897. They were the grandparents of Mary Alice Sigman. Mary's grandmother Eva was honored at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Prineville post office and as being the granddaughter of Prineville's first post master. She was also honored as the Grand Marshall of the Crooked River roundup in 1971.

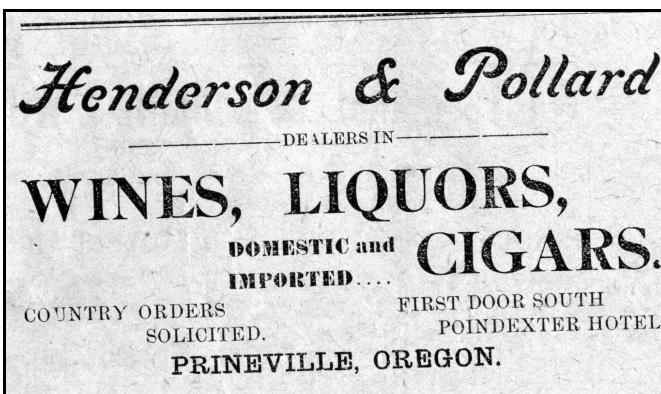
Mary spent her early years growing up on the family farm near Dufur. When she was seven years old her family bought a ranch west of Prineville on Crooked River. Mary attended school in Prineville and graduated from Crook County High School in 1958. She attended business school in Portland then came back to Prineville and worked for the Bureau of Land Management. She met Donald Albert, who was working for Claude Williams near Prineville. They were married in 1960.

The couple lived in Pendleton, Southern California and Reno before returning to Prineville in 1993. They had two children, Dawn Marie and George. After returning to Prineville they built a home on land that had been purchased by her father in the 1960s. Mary worked at Pioneer Memorial Hospital for 15 years. Don passed away in 2009.

Mary is active in the Prineville Presbyterian Church and volunteers at the Crook County Historical Center and at the Prineville Hospital as part of the Women's Auxiliary. She also is active in the local quilt guild. She is the proud grandmother of three grandchildren Amy, Tyrel & Cooper.



**Mary Sigman Albert  
Pioneer Queen 2014**



1903 Ad

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jim & Doris Ferguson	Bev Bishop
Kelley Rustrum	Teresa Quant-Riley
Richard Forst	Alicia Burlington
Loraine Domine	Judy Caudle
Betty L. Wilson	Trudy Newham
Kelly Arnett	David Root
Karen Mustard	



# Facebook Project

(Please LIKE us at the pages below)

“A.R. Bowman Museum & Crook County Historical Society” &  
“You know your from Prineville Oregon if??”

Kitsi Bass is our Facebook Page Editor. Kitsi has been supplying the two facebook pages with photos and information from the museum’s articles. We have received wonderful feedback from those that have seen the postings.

New for 2015 we are adding two programs “Object of the Week” and “What’s Your Favorite Exhibit”. Kitsi will scour our object collection each week for something interesting to share. We will also ask our visitors to participate by snapping a photo with their smart phones of their favorite exhibit- they will email it to Kitsi, including their name and why they like it, and Kitsi will post that also.



Contact Kitsi at [Kitsi.bass@yahoo.com](mailto:Kitsi.bass@yahoo.com) and don’t forget to ‘LIKE’ us!

## MEMORIALS SINCE NOVEMBER 2014

### Bob Ervin

by John & Lynne Breese  
Jerry & Eloise Brummer

### Ed Wilson

by Denison Thomas  
Ochoco Lumber Co.  
John & Linda Shelk

### Don Gore

by Nadeane Silbernagel

### Dick Hoppes

by Nadeane Silbernagel

### Doris Breese

by Nadeane Silbernagel

### Vera Gregson

by Mary Nobel  
Pat & Naida Miller  
Bill & Donna McCormack  
Shirley McCullough

### Elsie Noble Peeler

by Joyce Peeler Clark

### Bob Schifferer

by Lawrence & Carol Weberg

### Kay Garrison

by Snoden & Pat DeBoard  
Robyn Helms Baker

### Jim Minturn

by Lawrence & Carol Weberg  
Anne Porter  
Stephen & Carol Dixon  
Joyce Barney  
Jerry & Eloise Brummer  
Chuck Boyden  
Gary & Ramona Romine  
Denison Thomas  
Snoden & Pat DeBoard  
Patricia Tennant  
John & Linda Shelk  
Bud & Phyllis Maxwell

### Jerry Crafton

by Lawrence & Carol Weberg  
Shirley McCullough

### Thomas “Ron” Jay

by Snoden & Pat DeBoard  
Patricia Tennant  
Barbara Groff  
Wally & Elaine Gervais

### Pat Miller

by Robyn Helms Baker  
Louise Condron  
Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine

### C. “Sparky” Green

by Patricia Tennant

### Ben Tennant

by Patricia Tennant

### Tom McKenzie

by Ruth McKenzie  
Jerry & Eloise Brummer  
Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine  
Shirley McCullough

### Dawn James

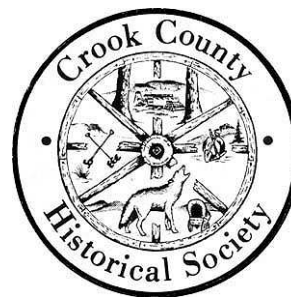
by Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine  
Ron and Marlene Davis  
Lois Haney  
Don James

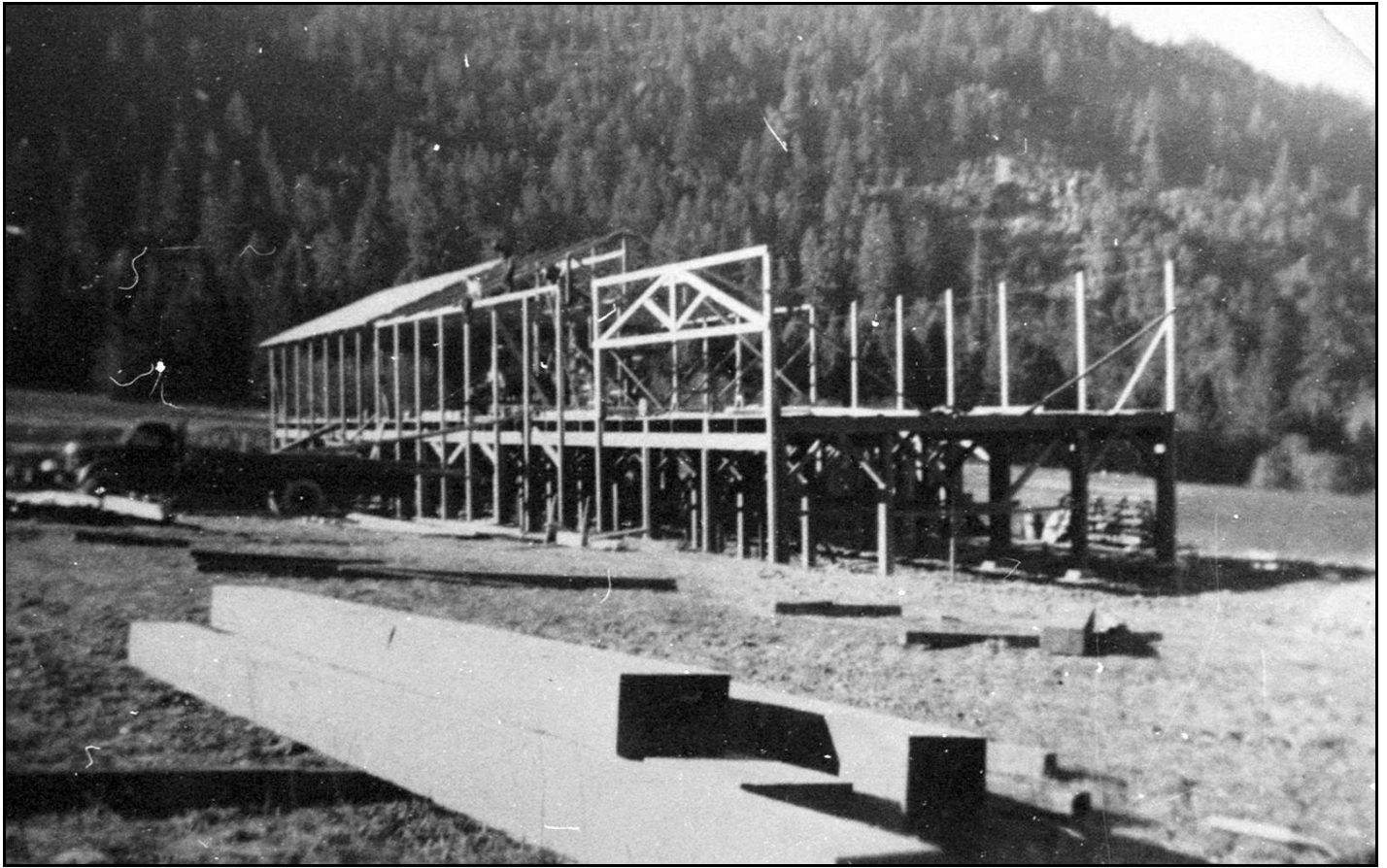
### Mike Sturza

by Dick & Audrie Bedortha  
Snoden & Pat DeBoard  
Robyn Helms Baker  
Louise Condron

### Clara Bernard

by Snoden & Pat DeBoard  
Robyn Helms Baker  
Shirley McCullough  
Jerry & Eloise Brummer





THIS PHOTO IS FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED NEGATIVE IN THE MUSEUM VAULT

## **CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS MILL?**

**IT MAY BE ON MILL CREEK**

Please contact the museum if you know the location and name of the mill  
Contact the museum at 541-447-3715 or email [stevelent@co.crook.or.us](mailto:stevelent@co.crook.or.us)  
A prize will be given to the first person to call and positively identify the mill



The "Y" in west Prineville 1940