



The Meadowlark

Quarterly Newsletter



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

November 26, 2015
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www.bowmanmuseum.org

QUARTERLY MEETING/appreciation breakfast

Saturday December 12, 2015

Crook County History Center 9:00 A.M.

The Fall quarterly meeting for the Crook County Historical Society will be held at the Crook County History Center on **Saturday December 12, 2015**. The meeting will begin with an appreciation breakfast which will be from 9:00 A.M. to 9:45 A.M. The breakfast is catered and place settings will be provided. A meeting and entertainment will follow the breakfast. All members are welcome. Please respond with a RSVP if you are planning on attending the breakfast.

FEATURED PROGRAM

Sally Burger will be presenting holiday music during the breakfast proceedings. A brief Historical Society meeting will be held after the breakfast. Following the meeting there will be a viewing of a short video filmed during the Dr. Elon Wood 1949 family Christmas.

Come and enjoy a good meal, good entertainment and good company. We hope to see you on Saturday.

Remember to Vote for Board Members



Ballot Enclosed



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this we will have Thanksgiving under our belts, so to speak. But there's so much more to come in the days and weeks ahead at the Museum.

On Sunday, December 6th at 1:00 p.m. the Museum is sponsoring Music in Public Places presented by the Central Oregon Symphony. Winter Music with Harp and Flute is on the program. We've presented several Music in Public Places programs and they are always a treat. Our annual Appreciation Breakfast and Quarterly Meeting is Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 a.m. here at the Museum in the History Center. Please see the enclosed invitation for details. I hope you can join us for great food, lovely entertainment, and a chance to thank our volunteers and our Board Members who are completing their current terms.

Jan Anderson has served on the Board for 6 years, and was President for two of those. In accordance with our by-laws, Jan is ineligible to run again, but we know she will continue to be involved. A special thanks to Jan for hosting many of our board and committee meetings at her home.

Ruthie McKenzie is completing her first term on the Board, and has been a long-time volunteer. She has chaired the Collection Committee, which has made real progress in establishing criteria for our collection, and then either proposing accessioning items or deaccessioning some. She and Jan both worked on the committee that revamped our Medical Exhibit upstairs at the Museum. Thanks, Ruthie, for all you've done, and I'm sure will continue to do.

Ruthie and I are both eligible for re-election to the Board. Please see the enclosed ballot for more info on those running for this next term. Thanks to our Nominating Committee for a great slate of nominees, and to those nominees for agreeing to run. The Museum will be closed in January for general cleaning and mounting of new exhibits. The Board also voted to replace the carpet on the stairway and upstairs, so that will be a major undertaking. I see volunteering to pack and unpack in our future! The plan is to re-open for business on Tuesday, February 2nd.

Our Saturday person, Bonnie Williams, resigned since she moved out of the area. We are currently advertising for a replacement – it's 5 hours (11-4) on Saturdays, and the job announcement closes December 10th. Please see info elsewhere in the newsletter and share with anyone who may be interested.

I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a bountiful New Year. I look forward to seeing you at Museum events!

Denise Reinhart



Part-time Position at the Museum Available

From County website:

This is a part-time every SATURDAY ONLY position.

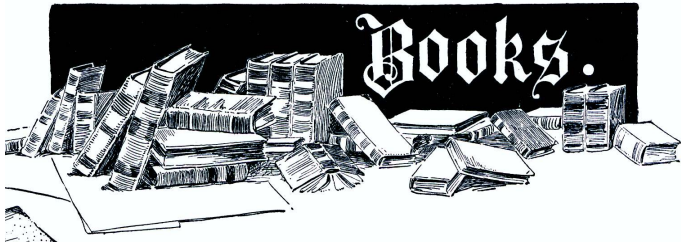
Under the general supervision of the Museum Executive Director, this position is usually the first contact for the general public. Docent responsibilities include meeting and greeting the visiting public, answering the phone, performing gift shop sales and disseminating various types of local history. The Docent is sometimes called upon to tour both adult and student groups through the museum.

This position will also perform computer data-entry in Microsoft Word processing and PastPerfect software's membership and/or collection record keeping system.

Number of Employees Reporting to This Position: periodic volunteers and researchers.

For a complete job description and application go to: <http://co.crook.or.us/> and follow the "jobs" link.

POSITION CLOSES: 12/10/2015 Start Date:2/6/15 due to Museum closure during the month of January for maintenance.



New Books at the Museum Members Receive 10% Discount

Band of Brothers

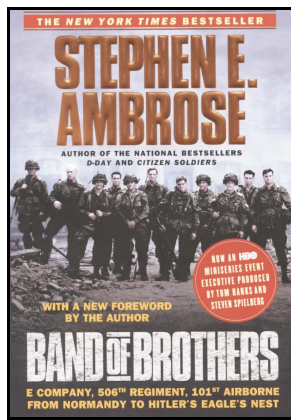
by Stephen Ambrose

\$17.00

Paper

333 Pages

Stephen Ambrose wrote more than twenty-five works of history. This is the story of 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army, known as Easy Company. This unit kept getting tough assignments and included parachuting into France before D-Day and the capture of Hitler's Eagle Nest at Berchtesgaden. Ambrose tells of the men in a company that took 150 percent casualties and considered the Purple Heart a badge of office. He recounts the stories, often in the men's own words, of these America heroes. This book inspired the HBO miniseries of the same name. The museum book store is also featuring Ambrose's other World War II classic *Citizen Soldiers* to honor our veterans.



Our Business is Picking Up

by Gary "The Garbologist" Goodman

\$12.95

Paper

177 Pages

Gary Goodman has witnessed a lot of changes in the garbage industry. He helped his dad on a one truck garbage route in Portland in 1957 and continued through his retirement in 2007. The subject of garbage collection is a unique history. Modern societies take garbage collection for granted but in today's world the collection and disposal of garbage is critical to a healthy environment. Goodman traces the history of garbage collection from ancient times to present and uses a sense of humor to portray the modern garbage collector. Goodman owned and managed the garbage collection business in Prineville for many years and is a local author. This is the newsletter editor's pick of the quarter.



Ghost of Times Past

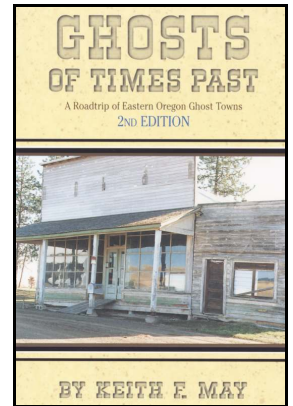
by Keith F. May

\$15.95

Paper

152 Pages

The author recently gave a presentation at the museum on Ghost Towns in Eastern Oregon and it was a well attended event. This book is a compilation of his travels to numerous ghost towns in Eastern Oregon with descriptions and tales of the sites. The book can be used as a guide to traveling to 34 towns that thrived just before and after the turn of the twentieth century. If you have a sense for historical adventure traveling this book is a must. We have had several requests to sell this book..



Crazy Horse and Custer

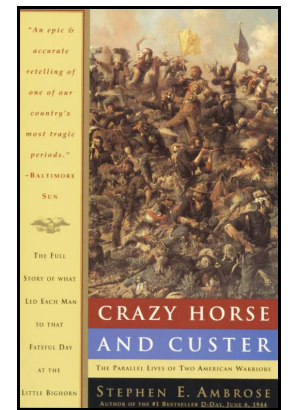
by Stephen A. Ambrose

\$18.00

Paper

527 Pages

Ambrose is one of the most popular historians in the past 50 years. This is the story of the dual lives of Crazy Horse and George Custer that led to the infamous Battle of Little Big Horn and the tragic death of both Custer and later of Crazy Horse. Crazy Horse was the leader of the Ogalla Sioux and Custer the leader of the Seventh Cavalry. The narrative is well written and an accurate retelling of one of our country's most tragic periods.



The Dream Weaver

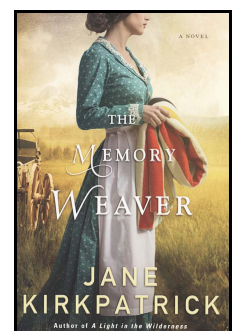
by Jane Kirkpatrick

\$14.99

Paper

340 Pages

This is the latest historical novel by prolific author Jane Kirkpatrick. It is the tale of Eliza Spalding Warren. Eliza survived the Whitman Massacre and she was the daughter of Henry and Eliza Spalding early missionaries in the Oregon Territory. The story is based on factual events. Eliza Warren had close ties to Prineville as she and her family lived here for many years. The struggles of a pioneering spirit to survive and overcome life's obstacles is the uplifting theme of the book. Kirkpatrick meshes her usual combination of faith and hope to weave an enthralling story. This book is a must for the loyal legion of Kirkpatrick readers.



Memorials Since Sept. 5, 2015

Jo Ann Rose
by Phyllis Short

Diana Edwards
by Candace Stafford
Mark & Juanita Fleming
Reita Evans

Sharon Penhollow
by John & Lynne Breese

Jim Carpenter
by Becky Allen

Keith Snyder
by Becky Allen

Jim Smith
by Becky Allen
Reita Evans

Darrell Goodman
by Dennis & Penny Tooley
Barbara Groff
Snoden & Pat DeBoard
Steve Lent

J.B. Cox
by Bill & Karen Sigman

Ron Johnson
by Snoden & Pat DeBoard

Vicki Stephens
by Reita Evans

Mike Sturza
by Reita Evans

Irene Peterson
by Reita Evans

Weldon Hughbanks
by Charles & Maurine
Hughbanks

Welcome New Members

Nancy Merrick
Robert & Luthera Hindman
Richard McAllister
Harry & Dorothy Clagg
Roy Schapler
Jim and Pam Catterson
Heather Handerson
Thom & Wendy Myers
Beverly Williamson
David Hale
Judy Steagall

A Music In Public Places Event featuring

Winter Melodies for Flute and Harp

Sunday, December 6, 2015

1:00pm Bowman Museum

Admission is Free

Krista Aasland, flute, and Rebecca Smith, harp,
will perform festive winter themed works
for flute and harp.



The purpose of Music In Public Places program is to develop playing opportunities for symphony musicians that will enhance COS presence in the community. Concerts are free and no tickets required. Audience members may leave at any time, children are welcome to attend, and we expect there to be ambient noises in the background.



Bill Brown, an Honest Legend

by Steve Lent

Early Central and Eastern Oregon was a large rangeland that allowed for the rise of romantic livestock “barons”, with names like Pete French, John Divine, and Bill Brown. French and Devine have become a legendary part of frontier lore, but Bill Brown is a figure that little has been written about. Brown is perhaps one of the most colorful figures in the development of the Eastern Oregon high desert area.

William Walter Brown was born on July 15, 1855 in Wisconsin. The Brown family later moved to Iowa, then crossed the Great Plains and settled near Oregon City, Oregon. Bill was educated at Oregon City then attended San Jose Normal School in California. A normal school prepared graduates to teach.

Bill spent the summers of his days at the Normal School surveying for a contractor to the U.S. Government. He first worked as a packer and as an axeman for the survey crew. He later did some chain work and instrument work. The surveying work gave him a knowledge of surveying that he put to use later in his life.

He taught school for one year after graduating from the Normal School and soon discovered that he did not like to teach. He left teaching and went to the Willamette Valley and cut wood for one winter. He is reported to have nearly married a girl that winter, but it ended in an unhappy love affair.

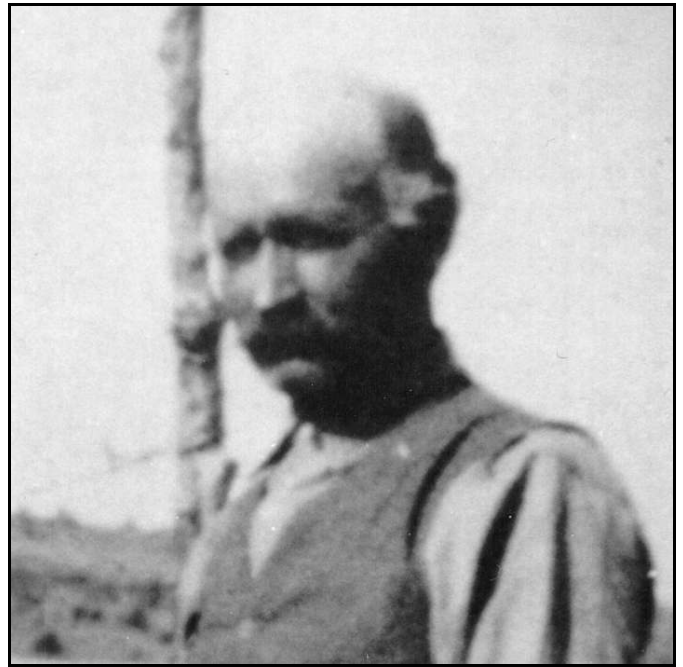
In 1882 Bill and his brothers, Ellis, George, and Bob attempted to find a place where they could homestead. All of the Brown brothers were well educated and managed to accumulate a bank account of \$2700 each. Bill, George, and Bob scouted out areas in Eastern Washington, Eastern Oregon and into Northern California. Ellis, who was a doctor, remained in Portland to continue his practice.

The Brown brothers had passed through the Wagonire country of Central Oregon and decided that it was the best country to start in. They came back to the Wagonire area and each brother filed a land claim. They bought enough supplies to last one year and put their money into sheep.

The first winter they spent at Wagonire was desolate. They had placed their camp equipment under an overhanging rimrock and had a fire in front of the overhang. They weathered the winter storms with this primitive shelter. The next winter they lived in tents and had a camp stove until they could build a cabin.

The brothers did very well in sheep for the first two years and owned over 5000 head of sheep in 1885. That winter, however, was quite severe and by spring the herd had been reduced to 700 sheep.

Bob, George, and Ellis became discouraged and



William Walter “Bill” Brown

decided that they wanted out of the sheep business. Bill had not given up and agreed to buy out his brothers holdings. All of his money was invested in the sheep and land improvements so Bill had to go into debt and promised to pay each brother when he got the money. He agreed to pay them what each of them had invested in the enterprise. It took several years, but he paid his brothers back their investment.

Bill continued to acquire more land and built up his sheep herd to considerable size. As his sheep herds increased and he began to make money, he also began to invest in herds of horses. He did not just buy a few horses, but would actually buy out another person’s entire herd, brand and all. Bill once stated that he owned over 10,000 horses, which of course is an estimated figure.

The summer of 1885 Bill was involved in an incident that he was later to have said that he regretted for the rest of his life. A man named Overstreet had moved sheep on a meadow that Bill had staked and posted as belonging to him. He told Overstreet that it would be necessary for him to move the sheep off of his meadow and Overstreet refused. Bill became angered and told Overstreet that he was going back to his camp and get his gun and said “ when I get back, if you are not gone, one or the other of us is going to get killed, because I am not going to let you stay here.” He went and got his gun and returned. Some gun fire was exchanged and it is not known who shot first, but Bill fired and killed Overstreet.

Bill then went to the Burdell ranch on Silver Creek and explained what he had done. Burdell and his sons agreed to take Bill to Canyon City, which was the county seat and the only place in the county that had a law officer. Some buckaroos rode up to the Burdell ranch and demanded that Brown be turned over to them to be hanged. Burdell told them that his sons were home and had guns and if they wanted to come and get him to go ahead. The men rode away.

Bill spent nearly three months in the Canyon City jail awaiting trial. He was found innocent of any wrong doing on the grounds that a man had the right to protect his property. In later years Brown stated that he could see where he could have done something else.

Homesteaders began to arrive in Eastern Oregon in the early 1900's and many of those who came were in bad financial shape. A lot of them took up land that was worthless. Bill helped out some of these people until they could move out of the country. He was a respected man with high moral standards. He was honest, kind, and fair in his dealings.



Bill Brown's Horseshoe Bar Store

He opened a store near Fife on Buck Creek and carried on business in a unique way. His store was not run for profit and he allowed credit for homesteaders. The foreman was responsible for looking after the store and would record a person's name and purchases in a book, but not the price. When Bill priced the goods they were allowed to pay in produce. One of his favorite sayings was "I am morally certain" and he would frequently tell a homesteader that the goods purchased on credit were morally certain to be worth a specified commodity, usually much less than the actual price. Frequently there would be no one to tend the store and he would leave the door unlocked and have a credit book on the counter. A homesteader would take whatever goods he needed then record it in the record book.

Merchandise for Bill's store was freighted by wagon teams from The Dalles over rough road. He would frequently decide that the invoice cost and the added freight cost for an

article was not worth the cost and reduce the price to his customers to what he thought it was worth.

At the peak of his operation he was worth over one million dollars. He, however, never carried large amounts of money on his person and usually paid his bills by writing checks. He quite frequently would write checks on any article he could write on. Sometimes he would write checks on tin can labels, wrapping paper, and even once on a shingle. Banks would always honor his checks.

Bill was a large man of over six feet in height with great strength and endurance. He would occasionally work with a new hired hand for a few days, working at a strenuous pace in an attempt to wear the man out. If the man could manage to hold out he was secured a job.

Bill had spent his younger years busy building his business and it was not until he was nearing fifty years old that he decided he should attempt to take a wife. He was, however, too old for most of the young ladies. He desired to have a family and had designed his house with this in mind, building several bedrooms and a nursery. He is reported to have even offered a young woman a large amount of money to marry him, but she refused. He never became married and later stated that one of his biggest mistakes was in not marrying young.

He had made tremendous amounts of money, but he was also considerably generous. He gave much of his money away to several institutions. Several thousand dollars was given to an elderly person's home in Salem. Large amounts of money was also given out in wages to his hired help.

The Depression of the early 1930's proved to be a disaster for Bill. He was over extended in his operation and was becoming too old to handle his operation with the vigor of his youth. Homesteaders had moved in more and more and it became more difficult to guard his meadows and water holes. In 1930 he had to sell his horses for chicken feed in Portland and the price was only two cents per pound. His creditors began to close in and he lost his rangeland empire.

He applied for entry into the elderly person's home that he had donated funds to and in 1934 he moved to Salem to live at the home. He remained active at the home and would not listen to the complaints of his fellow companions. He insisted that they needed to work to stimulate themselves. He bought shovels for the old folks to raise gardens.

On January 11, 1941, William Walter "Bill" Brown died. He was buried in Zion Cemetery in Canby, Oregon with other members of his family. He had lived a long life and had left an unforgettable legacy in the high desert country of Central Oregon. His determination and honesty established an empire and made him one of the legendary men of the area.

This Just In...

Baseball was invented in 1839 by Abner Doubleday, who would later become a general in the American civil war. Around the turn of the 20th century baseball was a popular sport in communities all over America, with many cities having their own baseball league. Women even got in on the excitement, in 1867 — The African American Dolly Vardens of Philadelphia became the first paid baseball team on any level. Crook County was no exception to this popularity, having teams in Prineville, Madras, Powell Butte, Lamonta and as this uniform shows the community of Post. In 1911 baseball had become so popular that Prineville decided to build their own stadium to hold 700 spectators, in a town of only 1000 at the time you can see that baseball had become one of the prime sources of entertainment in the area.

Our new acquisition was donated by Doug Breese whose father Jerry Breese was a team member of the Post baseball team and wore this uniform. The uniform is comprised of three parts; a short sleeve button down shirt, baseball style pants, and thick socks.



Historical Society Tour Group at Fossil Courthouse

The Museum is a Great Place to Purchase Christmas Gifts

