



The Meadowlark

Quarterly Newsletter



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

February 24, 2017
E-mail bowmuse@netscape.net
www.bowmanmuseum.org

Quarterly meeting

Sunday March 5, 2017
Crook County History Center 1:00 P.M.

The Winter quarterly meeting for the Crook County Historical Society will be held at the Crook County History Center on Sunday March 5, 2017. 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

Honoring Crook County Pioneer Queens
Corrine Blackstone Neeley
2016 Crook County Pioneer Queen

2016 Crook County Pioneer Queen Ella Corrine Blackstone was born in Bend, Oregon on Sept. 15, 1918. Her parents Percy and Mable Blackstone had come to Central Oregon in 1915 and soon purchased the Columbus Johnson Ranch on Bear Creek. Corrine attended school in a one room school house at Held.

She married Stanley Bolen in 1936. They had three children. They were later divorced. Corrine married Robert Huggans in 1945 and they had one daughter. They lived in Eugene and Robert died from a heart attack when their daughter was eight years old.

Corrine worked as a single parent but was determined to get an advanced education and graduated from Warner Pacific College with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1979. She worked for the State of Oregon in Salem and married Eugene Neeley. They moved to Eugene. Eugene died in 1989 and Corrine moved back to Salem. She moved to Prineville in 2013 to live near her two sons. Corrine and her sister Lois Blackstone Mitchell wrote a small book on the Blackstone family in Central Oregon.

Musical entertainment will be provided so come and visit with past pioneer queens and have a good old fashioned get together.



Corinne Blackstone Neeley
Pioneer Queen 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Thank you for re-electing me to the Board! Other newly elected members are Mike Wright and Marlise Jay. Thanks go to retiring Board members Runinda McCormack and Dennis Nelson for their years of service. We were sorry to have Jerry Brummer resign, in order to devote time to his new job as County Commissioner. Carrie Gordon was appointed by the Board to replace him.

There are a lot of exciting upcoming events! Our Quarterly Meeting on March 5th will feature the Pioneer Queen's luncheon with our usual delicious potluck food and good music.

We have a new exhibit about the "History of Hats" coming soon. What can be more exciting?

Mark your calendars for the Thursday night May at the Museum lecture series. We have a wonderful series lined up:

May 4: "Roll Columbia - Woody Guthrie's Northwest Songs" by Bill Murlin

May 11: "Plume Hunting, Hats and the Impact on Oregon" by Renee Thompson and Gary Ivey

May 18: "They Said it Couldn't be Done, Building of the Columbia River Highway" by Peg Willis

May 25: "Darkness in Daytime: Viewing the August Solar Eclipse" by Dr. Fisher

Our Spring Tea is Saturday May 13th, 1-3PM. Bring your own tea cup and your favorite hat or apron. We hope you will share your apron stories about your items with us.

January, as usual, was spent changing out some of our exhibits, so don't forget to revisit all those shelves and cabinets we all love to see.

Jan

Jan Anderson,
Historical Society President



MEMORIALS SINCE NOV 23, 2016

Elaine Thompson
by Gladys Murray

Miller Tweedt
by Stuart Garrett

Faye Roberts
by Fred & Betty Bushong
Lawrence & Carol Weberg

Anna Pernicka
by Fred & Betty Bushong

Dick Hoppes
by Fred & Betty Bushong

Lolita Cramer
by Shumia Book Club

Mary Demaris Wilson
by Steve Lent

Hazel Denton
by Scott Smith
Grace Bannon
Louise Condron

Robert Lady
by Barbara Groff

Art Smith
by Dan Smith

Nord Evans
by Dan Smith

Pat Miller
by Dan Smith

Mike Sturza
by Dan Smith

John Barry Rose
by Dan Smith
Jerry & Eloise Brummer
Lawrence & Carol Weberg

Carl Schnabele
by Dan Smith

Joan Gerke
by Grace Bannon

Louise Snyder
by Grace Bannon

Marjorie Wood
by Grace Bannon

Berna Steelhammer
by Grace Bannon

Dorothy Schwab
by Louise Condron

Hardy Myers
by Class of '57
Lawrence & Carol Weberg

Jim Minturn
by The Minturn Family

Steven Ford
by Gordon & MaryLou Shortreed

Thelma Robertson
by Louise Condron

Artice Allen
by Louise Condron
Lawrence & Carol Weberg

Frances (LaNell) Bushnell
by Don Houk

Donna Rae Moore
by Don Houk

Webster "Webb" Smith
by Don Houk

Clare Lee Colegrove
by Don Houk

Elsie Noble Peeler
by David & Joyce Clark

Nellie E Hilderbrand
by Shirley McCullough
Sharon Cox

Wallace "Wally" Gervais
by Barbara Groff
John & Lynne Breese

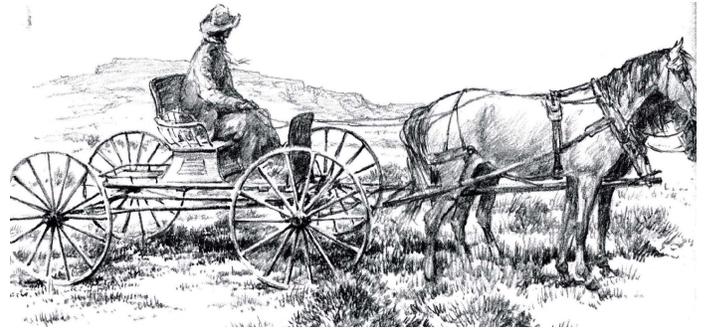
Norman Thompson
by Ross & Claudia Loveland

Betty Claypool
by John & Lynne Breese
Jerry & Eloise Brummer
Joyce Barney

Vern Atwood
by John and Lynne Breese

BARNHOUSE STORY OF 1879

Note: Jacob L. Barnhouse and his wife Martha Washington Conger Barnhouse were early settlers in the Mountain Creek vicinity east of Mitchell. The region was in old Crook County in 1882. This story was written by a descendant of Jacob and Martha. It provides an interesting look at what it was like in the early settlement era. Jacob died on August 12, 1917 and Martha died on August 31, 1922. They are both buried in Lower Mitchell Cemetery in Mitchell, Oregon.



In 1879, the Barnhouses moved by team and by river-boat to Eastern Oregon. They traveled by way of horse and buggy down the Willamette Valley to Portland; here they boarded a boat and traveled up the Columbia to The Dalles. This boat was a stern-wheeler similar to the old river boats of the Mississippi River. These old boats had provisions for driving wagons onto them. The Barnhouse family, along with their team and buggy, made the trip of eighty miles in a day. The following day after their arrival at The Dalles they joined a man who was going in the same direction as they. They all started the long journey by team on the old The Dalles-Canyon City military road. The destination: the John Day country of Eastern Oregon. The trail they followed went from The Dalles south to Tygh Valley; east across Sherar's Bridge, which spans the Deschutes River; southeast to Shaniko and Antelope; then through the Burnt Ranch country to their destination near Mitchell. It took the travelers a total of eight days to travel through this dry, barren area of huge rim rocks, deep gulches and sagebrush typical of this section of the state. Of course, there were no places to spend the night along the way; and the little group had to make camp eight different nights at likely looking spots along the trail.

Their journey ended at the Barlow Adams' Ranch near the old military fort of Camp Watson. This fortress was built here to protect the ranchers from Indians. There were a few minor Indian outbreaks in Eastern Oregon, but none occurred in the immediate area of Camp Watson. The Barnhouses stayed at this ranch for a few days; they then agreed to herd a band of weathers for a year for Barlow Adams.

While herding sheep in a country on lower Mountain Creek, later named for them Barnhouse Basin, they set up housekeeping. During this first year in their new home, they acquired enough money to buy the improvements for \$300. These improvements included: their house, barn, orchard and garden. This purchase was made from Lee Smith who later became an old friend of the family. Orral (the Barnhouses daughter) attended a private school at this time farther down the creek at the William Foppiano place. After this year was over, they took the band of sheep on shares with Adams for two years.

Orral's father filed a homestead claim for 160 acres of land, the boundaries of which he thought surrounded his house and improvements. This was done by filing what is known as a pre-exemption claim. The pre-exemption claim was granted him and he now owned 320 acres. Later, when the corners were located and the boundary lines run, he found that his house was located outside of these boundaries. It was therefore necessary for him to acquire the land upon which his home was situated. The family lived on this place for a total of nine years. Jacob and his wife Martha Washington Conger Barnhouse were early settlers in the Mountain Creek region east of Mitchell. The region was part of old Crook county before Wheeler County was created in 1899. .

During these years, Orral attended school at the little mining town of Spanish Gulch. This hamlet was located in a higher country south of the Barnhouse Basin ranch. She boarded here and attended school during the winter months. At this time, this was the nearest place of education. Orral received the bulk of her schooling here. However, at seventeen she completed her schooling at Caleb on upper Mountain Creek. It is hard to determine how many years of school she completed; as she moved from school to school, was sick awhile, and the length of the school years varied. It is thought that she completed somewhere in the neighborhood of seven or eight years of schooling.

While living in Barnhouse Basin, the Barnhouses lived mainly from their garden, their orchard and game. Wildlife in this area at that date was very abundant. Deer grew fat from the lush bunch grass pasture of the Mountain Creek country. Orral can remember seeing a few mountain sheep in the region when the family first settled there. The mountain sheep in Oregon have long since vanished. The trout fishing in Mountain Creek then was excellent in the spring. Salmon came up Mountain Creek and swam into Willow Creek, a little tributary stream. Jacob used to ride to Willow Creek horseback and shoot the salmon that became stranded in the shallow waters of the small stream. A few salmon were washed onto the meadow by the high water of Mountain Creek. The women salvaged these with pitchforks. The Barnhouses grew all types of vegetables in their garden and many kinds of fruit came from their orchard. They also

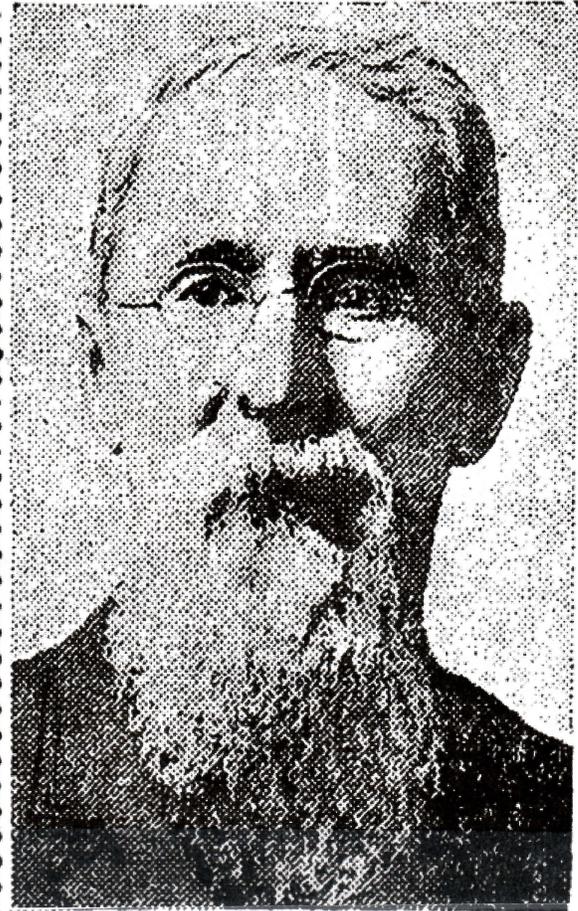
had a small raspberry patch. Their home on lower Mountain Creek was in a sheltered location and had a much milder climate than the areas surrounding it. This increased their produce a great deal.

At the Barnhouse place, they killed as many as sixty rattlesnakes a year, on the walks, porch, and in the raspberry patch. The whole family would wear rubber boots while picking raspberries. This was done to protect themselves from snake bite. They killed rattlesnakes on their ranch from March until the last of October. The snakes were more abundant in July and August. When a rattler would get under a large rock or in a hole where he couldn't be struck, the Barnhouses poured boiling water in on him. This original method never failed to fulfill its purpose. Luckily, as long as these people lived here, none of them were ever bitten. The rattlers were so thick in that region then because there had never been anyone there to kill them.

Every year, Indians from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation came through the region and they gathered wool from the barbwire-fences, hunted and secured varied items to use in the winter. These people came only in the warm summer months in small groups consisting of two or three families. They always brought with the all of their cayuse horses. A main camp of theirs on Mountain Creek was just above the Barnhouse home. The Warm Springs Indians camped here as it was near a tulle swamp and a good hunting area. They gathered the tulles from the edge of the water and used the top, fuzzy part of them for the stuffing of pillows and the reeds were used to weave mats. The women did this and gathered camas from the nearby hills, while the men hunted and smoked venison for their winter food supply. The Barnhouses were always very friendly with the Indians and on occasion gave them food. Much horse stealing went on in those days that was blamed on the Indians, but the Indians didn't ever steal anything from the Barnhouses.

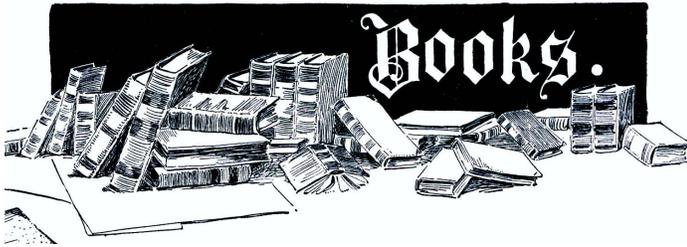
Recreation, outside of hunting and fishing, was very limited. The ranchers took turns gathering at different ones houses, to dance, sing and in general to have a good time. They danced to the music of the organ, banjo and violin. Also, George McKay from Waterman Flat, put on an annual fourth of July celebration and a fair in the fall. The fourth of July celebration was the bigger of the two affairs, and it always lasted for three or four days. The celebration was made up of dancing, picnicking and the main attractions, horse racing and horsemanship controls. The people who attended the celebration camped out in tents near the celebration grounds. One year, when Orral was about sixteen years old, George McKay gave a ten dollar prize to the winner of a horsemanship contest between the women of the group. Two married women and Orral entered the contest. Each contestant was to demonstrate her horsemanship by riding her own horse and each of the other women's horses. After mastering a mean horse Orral won the contest and the prize of ten dollars. This was a lot of money for those days.

**PROMINENT CITIZEN OF
WHEELER COUNTY DIES.**



Jacob L. Barnhouse.

Jacob L. Barnhouse, a prominent citizen of Wheeler County, died at his home near Mitchell, Or., August 12, following a third stroke of paralysis. He was born in Darke County, Ohio, in 1844. In 1864 he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry. In 1869 he was married in Illinois to Martha W. Conger, and four children were born. Two of the children—Mrs. Orral Laughlin and Peter R. Barnhouse—reside near Mitchell. Mr. Barnhouse came to Wheeler County (then Crook County) in 1879 and took a homestead. During the years since then he has acquired an estate of 4000 acres.



NEW BOOKS AT THE MUSEUM

Members Receive 10% Discount

Regulars in the Redwoods: The U.S. Army in Northern California 1852-1861

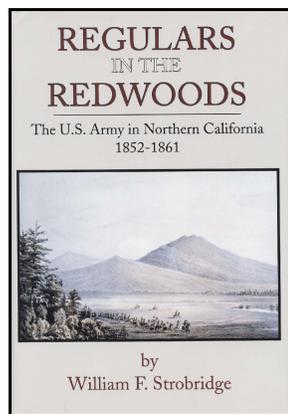
by William F. Strobridge

\$29.95

Hardbound

283 Pages

This is a well researched study of the Regular Army's attempts to maintain peace in northern California and southern Oregon by transforming forts originally constructed as coastal defense into centers for improving Indian relations and curbing violence. Often enlisted men went months without pay, adequate heat, suitable food and sufficient tent structures. Forced marches and campaigns against the Indians whom many of the soldiers believed to have been wronged led to many desertions. Military expeditions went in many directions and used numerous forts to curtail Indian attacks.



Eastern Oregon Shortline Railroads

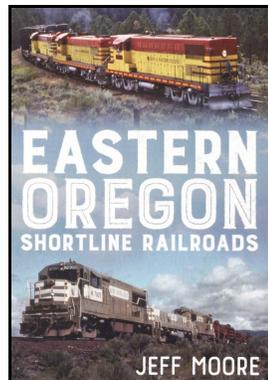
by Jeff Moore

\$32.95

Paper

176 Pages

This lavishly illustrated book reports on shortline railroads built in Eastern Oregon to accommodate economic needs of the region. The book tells the story of many of these small railroads and includes City of Prineville Railroad, Condon, Kinzua & Southern, Klamath Northern and Sumpter Valley Railroad. It is printed on high quality slick paper and has numerous color photos as well as black & white photos. A must for railroad buffs or those interested in how railroads developed Central and Eastern Oregon.



Trails of Crater Lake National Park & Oregon Caves

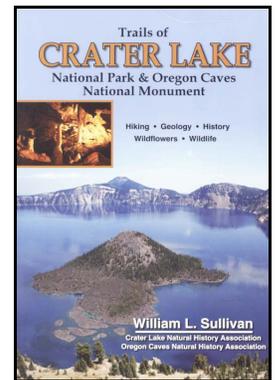
by William L. Sullivan

\$14.95

Paper

112 Pages

This guide is written by popular Oregon author Sullivan includes everything you need to make the most of a visit to Crater Lake and Oregon Caves. There are detailed descriptions of every trail, sightseeing suggestions, and tips on where to stay. The newsletter editor has used many of Sullivan's books as a trail guide for hiking in Oregon.



My Life on Joseph Creek

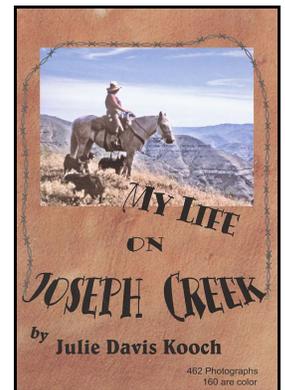
by Julie Davis Kooch

\$24.95

Paper

304 Pages

This book is a fascinating reminiscence of living in the rugged northeastern corner of Oregon. Julie Davis Kooch grew up in this vast open landscape. Her grandparents had homestead in the region. She later left the remoteness of Joseph Creek but the wonders of the area called her back and she spent many years on the Monument Ranch. The book has over 450 photographs and is printed on glossy high quality paper.



Joseph Reddeford Walker and the Arizona Adventure

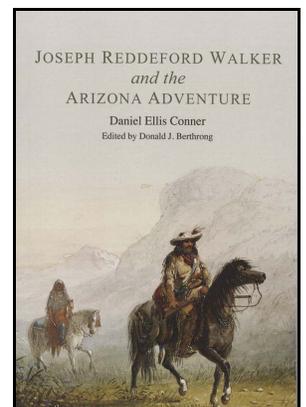
by Daniel Ellis Conner

\$24.95

Paper

364 Pages

Joseph Reddeford Walker looms large in the lore of the early West. He spent more than thirty years trapping beaver in the Rockies and guiding emigrants and explorers. The author was drawn into Walker's party and this book is based on Conner's travel diary from the early 1860s. It is a fascinating look at a first hand account of the early years of exploration and settlement in the west. Highly recommended by the newsletter editor.



COLLECTIONS CORNER

From the Desk of Sarah Baylinson

There was a time in history when the fashion industry led such a demanding trend that it changed the way we interact with the landscape of our country forever. In the late 1800s and early 1900s women were wearing hats, big hats, decorated high in mounds of feathers and often whole birds. Wearing a hat was a sign of wealth and high class. "If you couldn't afford a hat you were considered the lowest of the low in society"-Mrs. Cornyn-Selby, National Hat Museum. Plume hunting, the hunting of feathers specifically for hats was a booming business. Feather hunting was extremely lucrative and brought hunters from all over the region to our most untouched lands. At the height of the hat industry feathers were worth more their weight in gold at \$32/oz or in today's economy \$540/oz.



Women's insatiable desire for hats and the profitable feather industry brought on ruthless hunting tactics, at one point killing more than 5 million birds a year. Adult birds were killed in the spring when their feathers were most beautiful, leaving their chicks to fend for themselves, almost always dying. The bird populations couldn't keep up with the demand for feathered hats and began to dramatically decrease, nearly to extinction.

To see how the dramatic story continues visit the museum when our new exhibit opens May 2nd and see how Malheur Refuge, Teddy Roosevelt, bird watchers and Prineville's own twelve hat shops played a role in the rise and fall of the industry. On display will be several examples of hats from our own collection, photographs and fascinating information. Along with the exhibit we will be featuring Renee Thompson, writer of *The Plume Hunter* and Gary Ivey, Research Associate, International Crane Foundation at our May 11th lecture.

If Teacups Could Talk



You're Invited to a Tea Party

Saturday May 13, 2017 1-3:00pm

Bowman Museum

Bring your own teacup

Dress-up and fancy hats encouraged

Tell the story of your tea cup or your hat if you like

We will have tea and treats

RSVP by Monday May 7th

541-447-3715

The Spring Tea Party was a favorite event in 2016. There were lots of tea choices and some great sweet goodies. The highlight of the program was some wonderful stories about attendee's tea cups and museum staff member, Sarah Baylinson, did a very nice talk on several of the museum's tea related collections. This year the talk will be about hats. About 50 people (even three males) attended in 2016. Please join us May 13th for what is destined to be a wonderful annual event.



2016 Tea Party

Spring Tour Scheduled

Our spring historical tour will be on Saturday June 17, 2017 and will be following the old Oregon Trunk Railroad in Central Oregon. **This is a preliminary notice so you can plan ahead.** Final details and sign up instructions will be in the Spring newsletter. This tour was offered over ten years ago and was quite popular.



Welcome New Members

Mike Wright
 Larry & Jeanie Myers
 Mike & Petra Berger
 Terri Hansen
 Penny & David Hill

Wayne & Vonda Elmore
 Charm & Lee Bogle
 Scott James
 Dianne Peterson

ARMISTICE DANCE

sponsored by
 Crook County
 Post. No. 29,
 American
 Legion

Prineville Auditorium



Dancing
 Starts
 at
9:00
 p. m.



Music by the
MERRYMAKERS

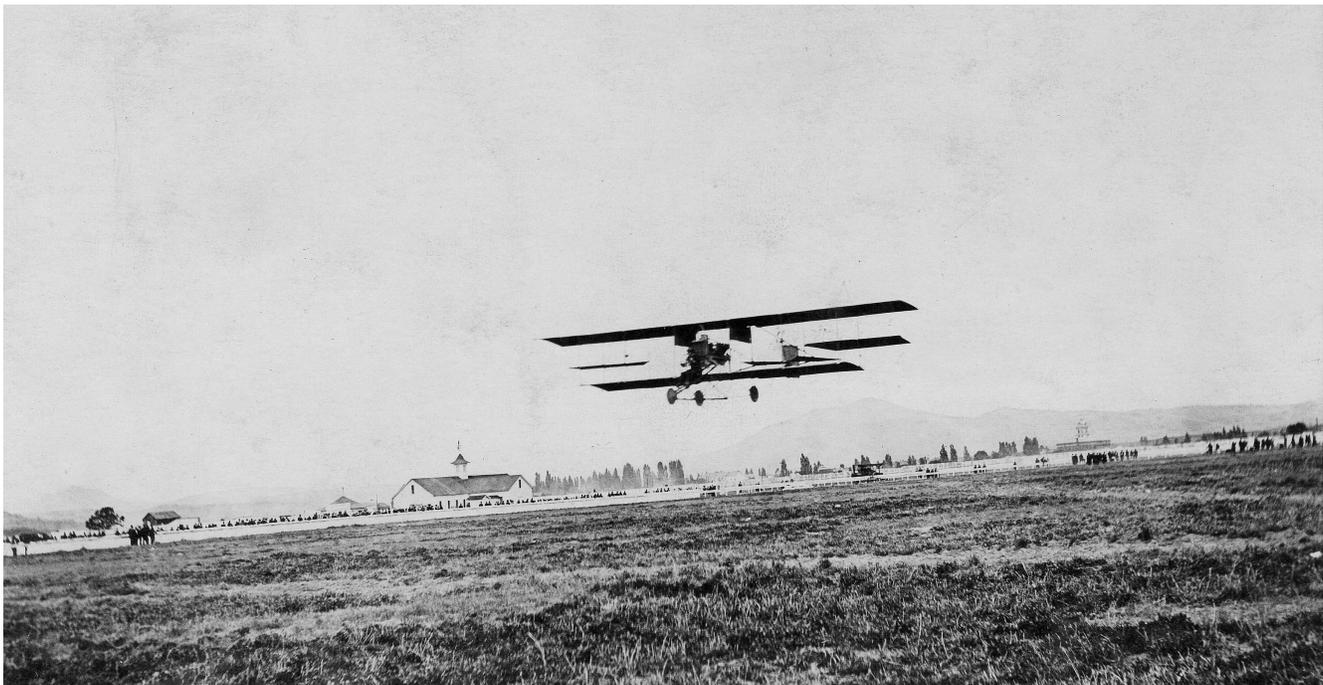
Saturday Night
NOVEMBER 9



Union Armistice Services, Prineville Auditorium,
 Sunday, November 10, at 11:00 o'clock, a. m.

1935 Ad

Rare Photo from Bowman Museum Archives



First flying machine in Prineville at Fairgrounds 1912