



The Meadowlark

Quarterly Newsletter



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

November 30, 2021
E-mail: steve.lent@co.crook.or.us
www.crookcountyhistorycenter.org

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Saturday December 18, 2021
Crook County History Center 9 A.M.

The Fall historical meeting for the Crook County Historical Society will be held at the **Crook County History Center** on Saturday December 18, 2021. This is the annual membership appreciation breakfast. This year Crossroads Restaurant will be catering the breakfast. Breakfast will be served from 9 A.M. to 11 A.M. A program will be presented beginning at 10 A.M. Please **RSVP** by calling the museum at 541-447-3715 by December 13.

FEATURED PROGRAM

A Half Century of the Bowman Museum

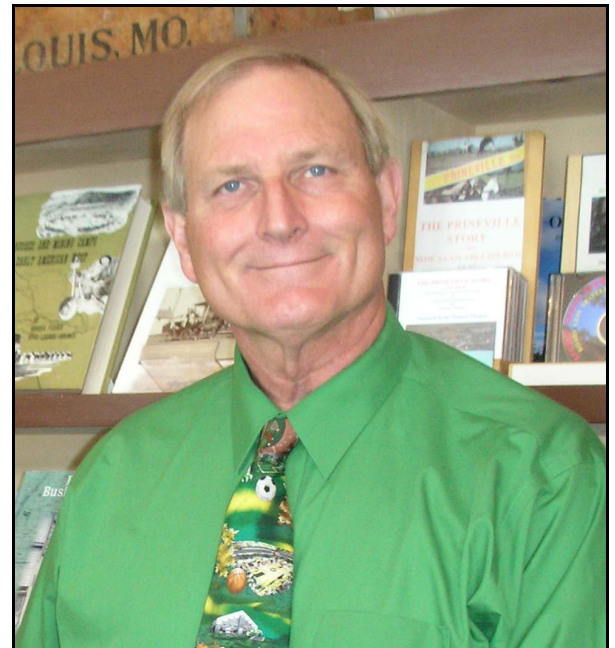
Presented by Steve Lent

Museum Historian Steve Lent will give a visual and narrative presentation on the history of the Crook County Historical Society and of the Bowman Museum. The Bowman Museum was established in 1971 after the Arthur Bowman family donated the former Crook County Bank building to Crook County as a site for a museum. Prior to that time the only museum in Prineville was the Log Cabin Museum located in Pioneer Park.

Many renovations were necessary to reconfigure the building for use as a museum. Countless hours of donated time by members of the Crook County Historical Society resulted in the construction of exhibit cases and improvements for interior access to the second floor of the building. Many local old-time county residents donated or loaned historical items to fill the exhibit cases. The building housing the museum is a historic building made of native stone quarried near Viewpoint west of Prineville.

Steve will present historic photos beginning with the construction of the original bank building in 1910 and will include photos through the years up to the present and the evolution of the museum.

Steve has been the Bowman Museum Historian for the past 20 years. He will be retiring from that position this Spring.



Steve Lent
Bowman Museum Historian

Director's Corner

Hello everyone!

Whenever I write my year end column, the first thing I think about is how fast the year has gone (and this year is no exception). What a year for us, though! Here is a little breakdown:

Exhibit Center

In what has certainly been one of the most amazing experiences of my career, the projected time line of fund-raising for the exhibit center was dramatically shorter than anyone could have ever anticipated. After final approval of our design – which represents a replica of the historic Belknap house that once stood at the same location – the fund-raising component commenced in March and was virtually completed by August. This incredible outcome was due solely to the unwavering dedication and support of the people of Crook County who love their heritage and their history. It is truly unmatched, and I am honored to have been a part of it.

Museum Reopening

In reference to some of my comments above, I did think that it would probably have taken a little while for our visitation numbers to build back up, as people would have needed to gradually re-acclimate themselves to going back out in public again amidst the pandemic. It turned out (in a happy way!) that I was completely wrong about this, too, as a steady and significant stream of visitors started coming through the doors almost from the very moment that we reopened...and it has been increasing ever since.

Programs

In a similar vein, all of our regular programs (People from Our Past, lecture series, museum tours) have thrived as before with strong participation and enduring popularity. Again, a true testament to the continuous interest and unwavering support of our glorious community. We hope to be developing some new programs soon.

Colleagues

I would also like to use this opportunity to acknowledge – which I'm quite certain all of you already know – the wonderful talents and abilities of our dedicated staff and our highly committed Board of Directors. Our staff (Steve, Hannah, Sadee, and Mekia) is small, but each and every one is extraordinarily talented and motivated to meet every challenge and excel. And an equally big shout out goes to our Board of Directors who have personally supported and encouraged the staff and I in all of our plans and endeavors. We are blessed.

Here's wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and a great 2022!

Sandy



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mike Dolan
Cate Suroviak
Heidi Sharp
Tom and Sally Zeek
Carol Wright
Mike McLane
Stephen Nagorski
David & Judy Deeks
Kelley Rustrum



1904 Christmas Card

President's Message

Happy Holidays!

This is one of my favorite times of the year. It is an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments, honor the valued members of our community, recount the successes of the year, and set meaningful goals for the future. Although this year has been very different than we expected, I hope you are able to find bright spots and moments of joy.

I want to thank all of you for the continued support of the museum. We appreciate every one of you and your commitment to making the museum a valuable asset to the Crook County community.

We hope you visit the museum often and introduce this incredible resource to your family and friends as they visit Prineville. Don't forget that our website and social media outlets will keep you updated on museum activities if you cannot visit in person. 2022 promises to be an exciting year for the museum and the historical society.

Watch for details throughout the year regarding the new exhibit center - we are eager to share the plans with you as they unfold. There are still opportunities to donate to the capital campaign if you want to be a part of this exciting new development. Contact us if you have questions. Best wishes to you and your family for a healthy and bright holiday season.

We look forward to visiting with you at the museum!



Suzie

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

The digital era has arrived at the museum. It is intended that most future newsletters will be sent via email. This will free up staff prep time and mailing fees.

The next newsletter will be sent by email to those persons for which we have email addresses. If you do not have an email address we will continue to send hard copies upon request but our first option will be to send via email.

If you have any questions or would like to request a hard copy to be sent instead of an email copy let us know.

Call us by phone 541-447-3715, visit the museum, or email us at steve.lent@co.crook.or.us for your preference.

If you have not given us your email address please do so before the next newsletter in February.

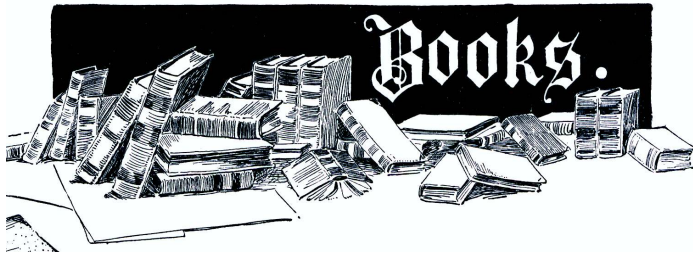
Crook County Chronicles

The Vigilante Era in Central Oregon

The second historical annual of Old Crook County will be published in mid-December and will be mailed to all members. The theme of this second annual number will be the Vigilante Era 1881-1884 in Central Oregon. It will be a compilation of original documents and accounts of this troublesome period in the region.

The first volume was a great success and the society will continue to publish an annual number each January.

The annual will be compiled and edited by Society and Museum historian Steve Lent. Each volume will be 40 pages. Look for your copy in the mail by early January.



NEW BOOKS AT MUSEUM

Members Receive 10% Discount

The Healing of Natalie Curtis

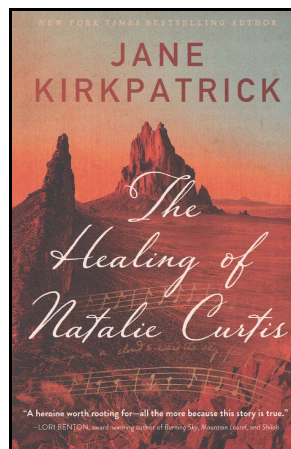
by Jane Kirkpatrick

\$16.99

Paper

360 Pages

This is the latest novel by prolific local author Jane Kirkpatrick. It is the story of classically trained pianist and singer Natalie Curtis. She cannot seem to recapture the joy that music once brought her. She was invited to join her brother in the West in 1902. She discovers the haunting melodies, rhythms and stories of Native Americans. She strives to document these songs before they disappear in the wake of U.S. government codes that prohibit singing, dancing or speaking native languages. It is a lyrical novel based on a true story. It is sure to please Kirkpatrick's legion of readers.



On the Fireline

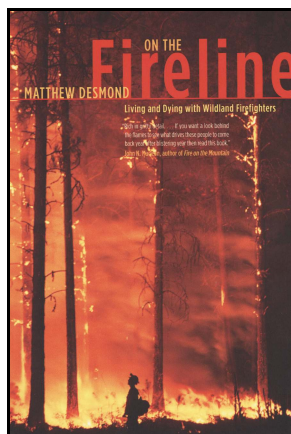
by Matthew Desmond

\$29.95

Paper

369 Pages

The author explores the heart and soul of the wildland fire fighter. He had joined a fire crew in Northern Arizona as a young man and relates his experiences with intimate knowledge and adroitly balances emotion with analysis and action with insight. The reader is taken into the world of wildland firefighting to help better understand the dynamics of dangerous organizations and the workers who hold the line. This is the newsletter editors pick of the quarter.



Survival Skills of Native California

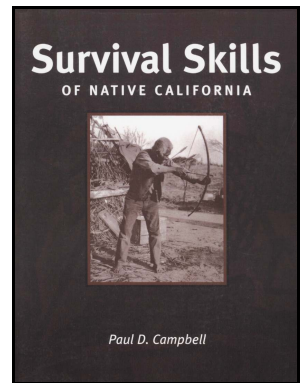
by Paul D. Campbell

\$40.00

Paper

448 Pages

This oversized book is monumental work that reveals real primitive technology at its best. Although the book covers all of California it applies to many of the early Native Americans of the West. It contains over 2000 skills and nearly 1000 instructional illustrations. The author delves into the practices used by Native Americans to successfully live on a land that is often seemingly poor in life's essentials.



Overland: The California Emigrant Trail 1841-1870

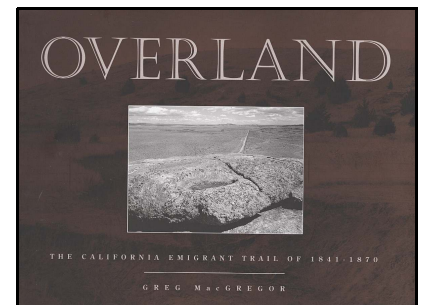
by Greg MacGregor

\$24.95

Paper

168 Pages

This oversized publication chronicles the overland trail to California from prior to the gold rush until after the Civil War. Numerous photos reveal sites along the trail as they appear today. The book provides an intimate picture of what the journey was like for those with no idea of what lay ahead. Journal and diary entries of travelers augment the story of the trail.



Mark O. Hatfield: Oregon Statesman

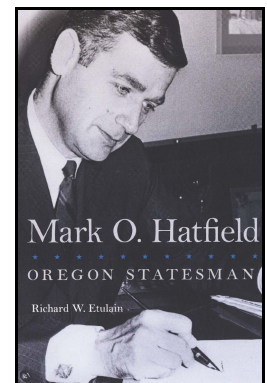
by Richard Etulain

\$24.95

Paper

212 Pages

In his five decade career in public office, Mark O. Hatfield never lost an election. He was first elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1950 and he retired from public office in 1997 having served as Oregon Secretary of State, State Senator, Governor and as U.S. Senator for five terms. His brand of liberal-to-moderate Republicanism has long since vanished from the political stage. This is a biography of one of Oregon's most prominent political figures.



MEMORIALS SINCE AUGUST 27, 2021

Phyllis Short

by Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine
Zuanne Neal
Carolyn Choate
Stahancyk/Crawford Family

Becky Allen

by Dan and Sonja Roberts

Richard Bedortha

by Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine
John & Lynne Breese
Shirley McCullough
Lawrence & Carol Weberg
Wayne Breese
Gail Hermreck
Cornelia Bedortha
Theresa Holtzapflee
Susie Hermreck

Brett Raymond

by Sheryl Rhoden
Shirley McCullough

Wally Boe

by Sheryl Rhoden

Dorless Reid

by Barbara Goff

Marvin Cochran

by Sheryl Rhoden

Henry (Mac) McFarland

by Sheryl Rhoden

Harry (Wes) Nichols

by Sheryl Rhoden

Loren Williams

by Sheryl Rhoden

Vivian Moncrief

by Sheryl Rhoden

Jack Collier

by Sheryl Rhoden

Linda Williams

by Sheryl Rhoden

Fred Bushong

by Sheryl Rhoden

Shirley Blanchard

by John & Lynne Breese

JoAnn Ernst Scanlon

by Class of 1957

Art Horsell

by Steve lent & Barbara Fontaine

Don Talbot

by John & Linda Shelk

Jimmy Walker

by Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine

Virginia Barney

by Snoden and Pat DeBoard



Tour Group at Mother Lode Mine on Ochoco Mines Historical Tour October 2021

The Demaris Family

A Long History in the Central Oregon Lumber Industry

by Steve Lent

Early small sawmills provided the lumber necessary for homesteaders and settlers to build homes. Most of the early sawmills provided lumber for local consumption and several mills were scattered across the landscape of Central Oregon. The Demaris family was one of the earliest to begin logging and milling operations in the region. John Henry Demaris was born on February 28, 1864 near Walla Walla, Washington. His parents Enoch and Almeda Demaris had just crossed the plains by wagon the preceding year. The family moved to Mill Creek east of Prineville in 1876 and began ranching operations.

John worked at small sawmills operated by Henry Birdsong and Sam Compton. Eventually John purchased the Compton mill on Mill Creek about 1895. John partnered with Henry Birdsong and the mill became known as the Birdsong-Demaris mill. By 1900 plans were made to rebuild a new mill as the old one burned in 1904. A new steam engine was shipped to Mill Creek by freight from Shaniko. Ed Eastman was hired to construct the mill and Homer Barney, a local homesteader with sawmill experience, was hired as a sawyer. A wooden chute was built to deliver logs to the mill pond from the nearby hill tops. The chute was so steep that when the first log came roaring down off the slope that it planed across the pond and demolished a bunkhouse and barely missed part of the crew standing by watching the spectacle. The chute was shortly abandoned as being too steep and dangerous. Demaris continued in the partnership until 1908 when he traded his homestead and mill to Arthur Decker for a ranch on McKay Creek.

John had married Cynthia Jane O'Kelley in October 1883 and they had nine children. John and four of his sons, Walt, Bert, Dude and Jess established a mill on McKay Creek after the move in 1908. John died in 1917.

Son John Walter "Walt" Demaris later operated a mill on Allen Creek. Walt married Minnie May Birdsong in 1904 and they had six children. He partnered with Ernest McKenzie in the Allen Creek mill in 1920 and it was known as the Demaris-McKenzie mill. The mill on Allen Creek burned and it was later moved to McKay Creek near Walt and Minnie's ranch where it again burned and operations ceased. Walt then moved to southern Oregon and became involved in the lumber industry but later moved back to Prineville. Walt died in 1972.



Birdsong & Demaris Mill on Mill Creek 1904



John and Cynthia Jane O'Kelley Demaris Family

Several generations of the Demaris family worked in the logging and mill industries in Central Oregon. The lumber industry later was to become one of the largest employers and major industries in Central Oregon for many years. The large operations of the 1930s and 40s in Prineville had been preceded by many small mills that met the needs of the local population and the Demaris family played a key part in the development of the industry.

Collections Nook

from the Desk of Hannah Haney

Hello everyone!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I hope everyone, like me, is looking forward to the Christmas season. It's a time to bring out the old photos, watch old movies and spend time with friends and family. The holidays are a great time to take a walk down memory lane and reminisce about the past year and those both present and not. In that spirit, I want to give some things to think about when caring for some of the old family photographs that you may have around the house to make sure they are around for generations to come. I do want to make a disclaimer that I am by no means an expert, but these are some general tips that should be easy to implement.

- One of the easiest ways to protect photos is to protect them from too much light exposure. In most cases, exposure to light causes photography to fade and unfortunately light damage is cumulative and irreversible.

- Another primary way to protect photography is to keep them in temperatures that are consistent. Photography that has been left in temperatures that wildly fluctuate or that are too hot or cold can make photos unstable chemically and cause permanent damage. Heat accelerates the natural aging processes of photography and can frequently cause the photography to melt. Photos that are kept in climate that is too cold may cause the photo to crack, peel or become brittle.

- The container photography is stored in can be almost as important as the environment that they are stored in, and you don't need a museum budget to be able to store them properly. Acid free boxes are a surprisingly affordable way to store photos and can be found at many craft stores. However, if your photographs are already in photographic albums, unless there is some obvious sign of damage to your photos, this is actually a secure and safe way to keep your items for the future and you should not remove them from the albums.

- The last tip would be to limit the amount of handling for any of your photographs. Because of their chemical composition, photographs are particularly sensitive to the oils in your hands. While photographs in museums should never be handled bare-handed, personal photographs can be handled with clean, dry hands and on the edges as much as possible. Although if you would like to go the extra mile, photos in museums are typically handled in clean white cotton gloves or in Photographic Activity Test (PAT) sleeves.

Photography preservation can be incredibly complex and there are many great resources out there if you're interested in protecting your family photos for the future, and a conservator is a great help when it comes to more complicated issues. However, all photography benefits from the basic preservation practices that emphasize stable environmental conditions, good storage, and careful handling and helps avoid damage over times so you may enjoy those photographs for years to come. We at the Bowman wish you a happy holidays and we will speak with you again in the new year!

Hannah Haney

