



The Meadowlark

Quarterly Newsletter



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

November 30, 2022
E-mail mekia.ogborn@co.crook.or.us
www.crookcountyhistorycenter.org

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Saturday December 17, 2022

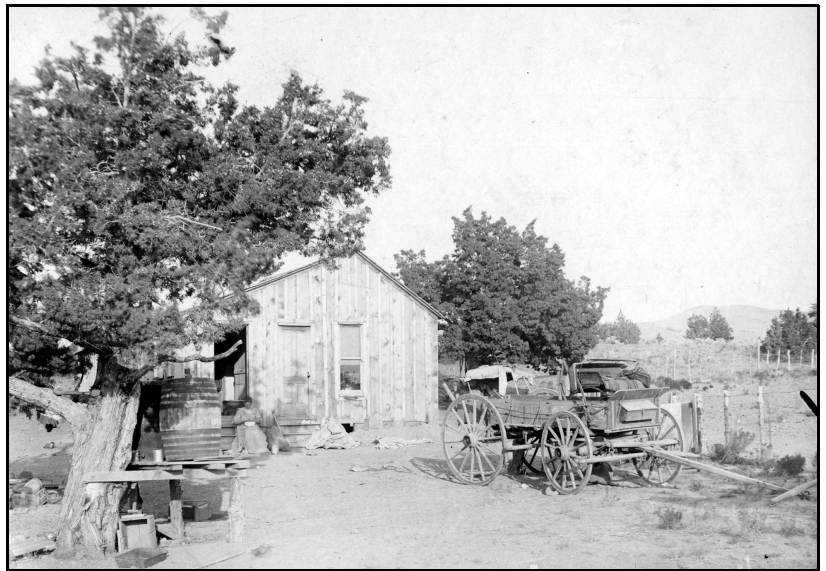
The annual membership appreciation breakfast will be on December 17, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The breakfast is being catered by Landmark Catering (The Sandwich Factory). Please RSVP by calling the museum at 541-447-3715. Members, volunteers and supporters are invited to have a holiday breakfast and attend a historic presentation by retired historian Steve Lent.

FEATURED PROGRAM

Settling the High Desert

Presented by Steve Lent

The program for the December meeting will be a visual presentation by retired museum historian Steve Lent. Steve retired as historian in April but continues to volunteer at the museum. The program will cover the homestead era on the High Desert and discuss the hardships and perseverance of the hardy people that undertook the taming of the desert at the turn of the 20th century. Numerous photos will provide a visual tour of the settlement era. Although hundreds of families and individuals came to the High Desert to take advantage of one of the last major homestead eras in the lower 48 States, few remained long after years of drought, severe weather and tough economic times. Most homesteaders could not make a living off of their land claim and had to supplement income by finding other jobs. Women and children would remain at the homestead and do many of the chores while men would seek employment to feed their families. Some single women also undertook the hardships of making a living from the land. Water was a key to any success on the desert and it often had to be hauled long distances to homestead sites.



A typical homestead on the High Desert

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Hello everyone,

As I'm sure you know, the museum local option levy regrettably did not pass this time around. We are, of course, very disappointed in the result...but we are all working together to go forward in the best way possible. I want to also take this opportunity to thank all of you, our members, for your continuous and loyal support.

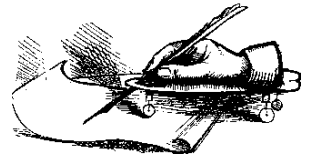
Some good things are happening, nevertheless: After a few unanticipated (yet minor) delays, the plan to build the new exhibit center is very much back on track. The funding for the exhibit center, as you are aware, was raised separately as part of a successful capital campaign earlier this year. The Hans building -- which is where the new exhibit center will be -- is set to be demolished shortly and then groundbreaking will occur soon after. We thank you for your patience, and we're all extremely excited to be going forward.

As always, the museum will be closed in January...but, when we reopen, we will once again continue with our many popular education programs including the re-enactors and musicians who perform on "Wild Wednesdays" -- and our lecture series and tours will be coming up in the spring. Our art show -- which took place earlier this month -- was a big success (thanks to you!) for the second time in four years.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our annual Christmas breakfast on December 17, and we encourage everyone to please cast a vote for three Board members in 2023. You may vote at the breakfast or deliver your printed ballot in-person or by mail.

Thanks again to all...enjoy the holidays!

Sandy



Tour Group at Fish Lake Remount Station on Santiam Wagon Road Historical Tour

MEMORIALS since August 26th 2022

Skip Russell

by Snoden & Pat DeBoard

Maurice & Joan Gerke

by Jennifer Sherman

Naida Miller

by Pau Mau Club

Steve Puckett

by Snoden & Pat DeBoard

John Puckett

by Snoden & Pat DeBoard

Velma Cardin

by Snoden & Pat DeBoard

Don Gillen

by Steve Lent &
Barbara Fontaine

Welcome New Members

Jim Elstad

Sharon Karr

Steve Wright

Ted Lyster

Mike Sanders

John Stanton

Daniel Larkin

Tierney O'dea Booker

John Koerth

Greg & Leslie Sapp

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays!

As I write this message I feel anticipation for a joyful holiday season, but I also feel somber since it is the last message I will write as your Crook County Historical Society president. I have cherished being the president for the past two years and have enjoyed playing a role in providing opportunities to the Prineville and Crook County communities. I will continue serving on the board of directors, but in a different capacity. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this amazing organization!

This is my favorite time of the year. It is an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments, honor the members of our community, recount the successes of the year, and set meaningful goals for the future. The Historical Society has plenty to celebrate and we are setting exciting goals for the upcoming year.

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. When the tax levy hits the ballot again, I would encourage you to advocate for your friends and neighbors to vote "yes" in support of preserving the history of Crook County.

2023 promises to be a year of growth for the museum and the historical society. Watch for details throughout the year regarding the new exhibit center - we are eager to share the process with you. 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



DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE MUSEUM

We have a great selection of items for sale at the museum. A large selection of books on local and western history, sweat shirts, T-shirts, gaming cards, afghans, insulated mugs, key chains, train whistles and more. Come by and look at our collection.



1957 Ad



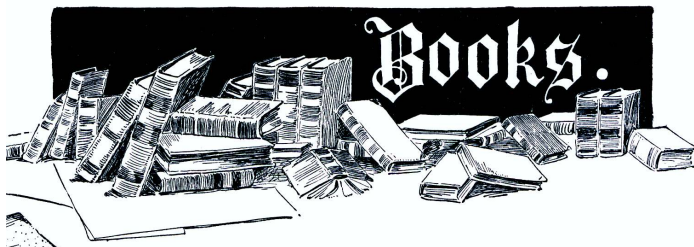
Museum Operating Levy Fails to Pass

The museum operating tax levy in the recent election cycle failed to win approval of voters. It is the first time since the levy has been established over 20 years ago that it has not been passed. The Board of Directors and museum director Sandy Cohen will assess the situation and determine next steps for the future of the museum.

Those who picked up museum levy support signs please bring them back to the museum. We may need to use them in the future. Thank you for all your efforts.



1906 Postcard



New Books at the Museum

Members Receive 10% Discount

Beneath the Bending Skies

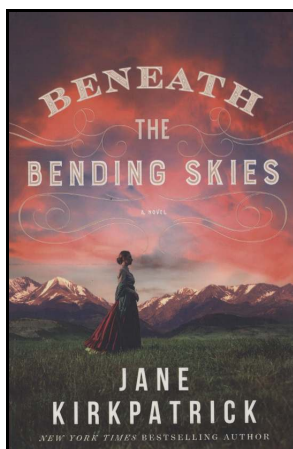
by Jane Kirkpatrick

\$17.00

Paper

342 Pages

This is the latest book by prolific author Kirkpatrick. It is the story of Mollie Sheehan who is duty bound to her father even when it conflicts with her own self interests. Even when she finds a possible romantic interest her father disapproves but fate brings them together. Fans of Kirkpatrick will not want to miss moving story. This is editor's selection of the quarter.



Out Killing Indians

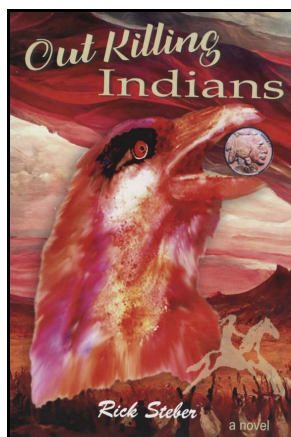
by Rick Steber

\$20.00

Paper

205 Pages

Steber, another prolific local writer, has written a novel about a son of an Indian father and white mother who returns to the reservation where his parents live. He discovers his great-grandfather was a renegade chief who fought to his death against federal troops. The narrator is inspired to embrace his Indian heritage and to acknowledge the genocide of his people. Steber fans will enjoy his continued story telling.



Fur Trade and Exploration: Opening the Far Northwest 1821-1852.

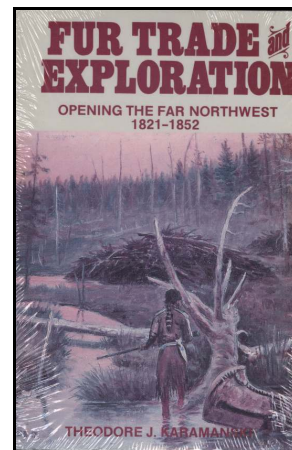
by Theodore J. Karamanski

\$16.95

Paper

330 Pages

This is a colorfully written account of the Hudson's Bay Company's penetration into far-western Canada and Alaska. It carefully follows original narratives of the era and interweaves their stories into a well-constructed overall narrative. It gives a good picture of trade so far from the bases of supply and explains the complex relationship with various northwest Indian tribes.



Field Guide to Oregon Rivers

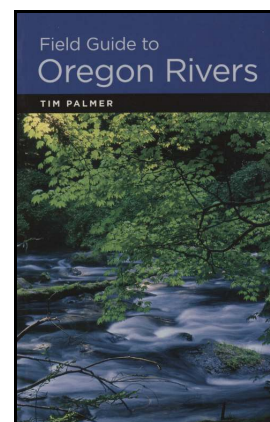
by Tim Palmer

\$24.95

Paper

319 Pages

This is an unprecedented reference that profiles Oregon's waterways and offers travelers, outdoor enthusiasts, and resource professionals an interpretive approach to the state's network of streams. It contains numerous color photographs with a detailed description of the main river systems. It is an excellent guide to Oregon's rivers.



Cowboys

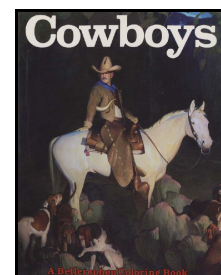
by Ubet Tomb

\$4.95

Paper

50 Pages

This is a coloring book for young readers. It has historical narratives on key figures of the west and a coloring sketch for each. It is a fun way to learn history. A great gift for any young scholar.



YANCEY BROTHERS

REMEMBER

LONG MOUNTAIN RIDE OF YOUTH

Note: Don Yancey (1924-2009) and Bob Yancey (1921-2006) grew up in Prineville. Their family had pioneer roots in the community. In their older years they recalled an exciting trip over the Cascades in which they herded horses to the Willamette Valley in 1934 as young boys.

Oregon's most youthful vaqueros, Donald Yancey, 10, and Robert Yancey 13, arrived, in Halsey, with 33 horses, from the Bunchgrass range country near Prineville. The two brothers and their father, Orville, drove the herd from the family's 17,000-acre ranch near Prineville. Cold mornings, hard riding, swarms of mosquitoes and a stampede are the memories Bob and Don Yancey have of driving a herd of wild horses across the Cascade Mountain range in 1934.

The trip occupied a full-week and began on their father's ranch near Prineville. They delivered the stock to be used at round-up shows during the summer. "It wasn't like a fun thing" Don says. "Hard work, far as I was concerned."

"Dad said we're going and then we went." Bob said. The Yancey family was in the business of rounding up wild horses and taming them at that time. During the 1930s, the Bureau of Land Management wanted many of Central Oregon's wild horses rounded up and shipped out of the area.

Their mother, Audrey, and sister, June, drove the family car with the chuck wagon hitched to the back, for the 130-mile trip that began on June 20, 1934.

The two brothers did their share of riding, roping and breaking. They trained the ponies they rode on the trip themselves. Don's horse was named Nugget and Bob's was named Big Boy. "They were good horses," Bob says. They had to be.

The week-long trip was hard on both man and beast. The boys and their father rode from sunup to sundown, with stops only to eat and sleep. Swarms of mosquitoes buzzing around the herd added extra misery to the long days.

"It always seemed with our dad we could have stopped a few hours earlier," Bob says, smiling.

The first two days went by without incident. The boys had hobbled the wildest of the horses so they couldn't break and run at the start of the journey. By the time they made camp the second night at Swamp Ranch, the site of Black Butte Ranch today, the horses were tame enough to herd without the hobbles.

As the group headed closer to the mountains, Don says he remembers some awfully cold mornings. The hardest thing to do was get up when he was supposed to.

Camp was made any place they could find to corral the horses, where grass was found and water was available. One night they drove the horses into a natural corral near Fish



Bob, June and Don Yancey

Lake they had heard about. Lava formed a three-sided enclosure near the lake and all they had to do was close up the opening that night. On other days they had to improvise pens for the horses.

The family was about 20 miles east of Sweet Home and it was nearly dark before they finally corralled the horses between a river and rock wall one night. One of the brothers—they're not sure which one—had to sleep on the bridge to make sure the horses stayed put.

The saddle horses were let loose to graze. Late that night, Don and Bob's ponies managed to get away and head for home, reducing the boys to riding some saddle horses they had brought along.

Not one wild animal molested their stock. Little else happened the rest of the way until the party entered the Willamette Valley. There, just outside of Halsey, the horses stampeded at their first sight of a freight train. The horses broke through the fence of a farmer's field before the boys and their father could get them slowed down.

"By the time they stopped running, it was our pasture," Bob says, chuckling. Their father paid the farmer for the damage and the family camped there until they went home.

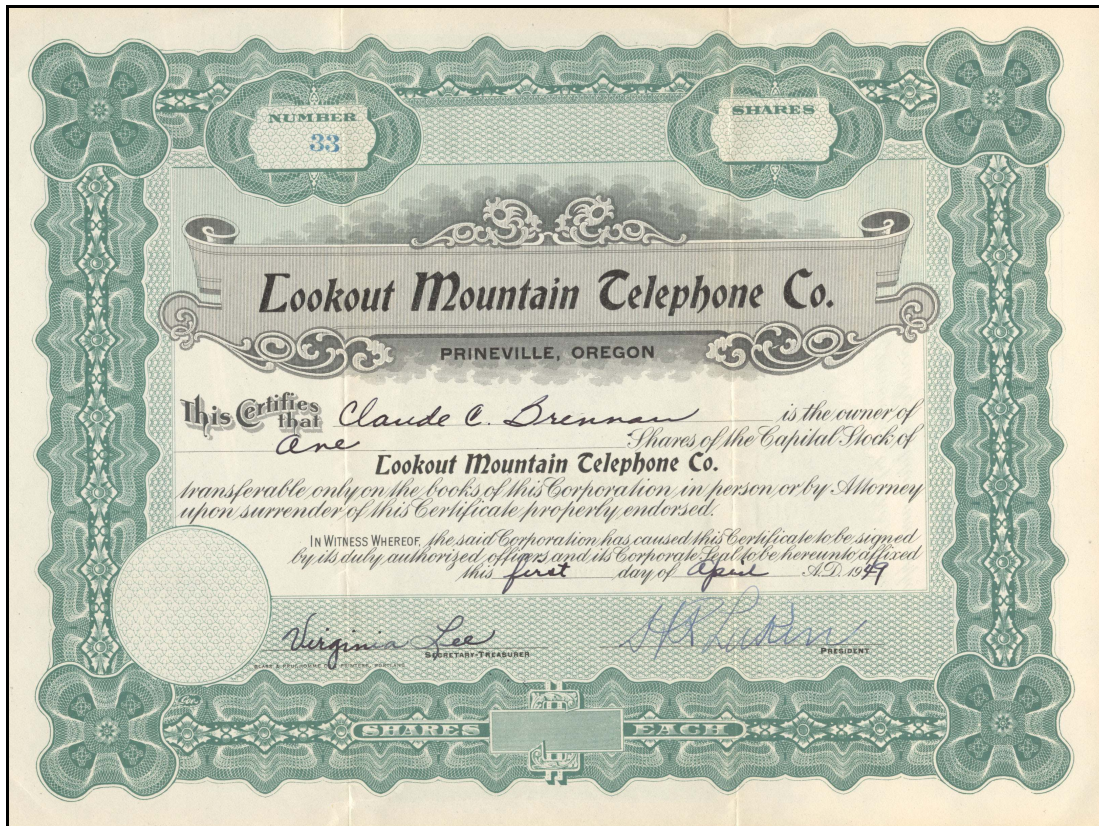
It took a couple of weeks to sell 15 or 20 of the horses to local farmers. A representative from a rodeo supplier bought the remaining horses.

The Yancey brothers retired to Central Oregon—Bob retired on a few acres near Tumalo with his wife, Jeanne; Don managed the LaPine branch of the Prineville Bank. Both have raised families and now have grandchildren who are learning to ride ponies, although they will probably never get to ride the range like their grandfathers did.

"We lived in a good time," Bob says.



STOCK CERTIFICATES FOR EARLY PHONE AND FARMING ENTERPRISES



Collections Nook

from the desk of Sadee Moss

Hello Everyone,

The Holiday Season is upon us and that means it's very busy here at the Bowman Museum with events and as we are finishing up projects before the end of the year. In my last article, I mentioned that we have an "educational" collection here at the museum. At the Museum we have several different collections and thousands of objects. We use these collections at the museum to provide the different levels of care and preservation necessary for artifacts. I thought I would break down what some of the collections at the museum are and the reasons we have them.



First, we have what is considered the "permanent" collection, this is likely what most people think of when they think of objects that the museum has. The permanent collection is made up of artifacts that have been donated to the museum that the museum intends to preserve and keep indefinitely hence the name permanent. All artifacts are susceptible to deterioration but with the permanent collection, we are doing what we can to make sure these items will be here for as long as possible. We often use these items in displays around the museum or we are keeping them in storage to be preserved. When items are brought in for donation this collection is the first place our Collections Committee will consider if it's a good home for the item.

Next, we have the education collection, this collection is made up of materials we can use to share how things functioned historically. This is what we consider a hands-on collection, these artifacts we will have out and encourage people to handle or use them. Our interactive displays, like the kitchen display with a stove, consist of educational artifacts. These objects get handled regularly by everyday visitors of the museum. Putting them in an education collection allows us to have them used by people and if something is damaged the museum can repair it easier without the need for a conservator. These items we consider to be more valuable when they are in use for people to interact with.

The last collection I will mention here is our archive collection, this collection is intended to house most of our fragile research materials. This would be materials such as legal papers, newspapers, or fragile literary works. These materials we want to preserve as much as possible, but we also want to make them available for people doing research. Archive materials are filled with the history of our county but tend to be difficult to display. A book written on county history would not be very engaging sitting in a display case that no one can read or access. But in the archive collection, we can make sure that it is safely stored and available for research.

All the different collections that we have allow the museum to ensure the best care for our history and make it accessible for everyone.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Sadee Moss