



The Meadowlark

Quarterly Newsletter



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

February 24, 2023
E-mail mekia.ogborn@co.crook.or.us
www.crookcountyhistorycenter.org

PIONEER QUEEN MEETING/LUNCHEON

**March 5, 2023
Crook County History Center
1:00 P.M.**

The annual historical society meeting honoring Crook County Pioneer Queens will be held in the community room of the Crook County History Center. It will be a pot luck luncheon. Please bring your own table settings and a menu item. Feel free to bring guests to the meeting.

FEATURED PROGRAM

Early Holidays and Celebrations in Central Oregon
Presented by Historian Steve Lent

Bowman Museum Historian Emeritus Steve Lent will present a visual program with narrative. Old fashioned holidays were big events in Central Oregon prior to the advent of modern entertainment such as movies, television and the internet.

It was a time of celebration of special days and events and large crowds often attended public events. Family celebrations were also very family oriented as travel was often much more difficult than it is today.

Through the use of photos from the archives of the Bowman Museum Steve will discuss the joy and community aspects of various celebrations. The Fourth of July was always among the major events that included a large parade and community cheer. Other days of celebration were Decoration Day, later to become Armistice Day, and eventually it became Veterans Day.



Armistice Day Parade on third Street in Prineville 1918

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Hello everyone!

As spring is approaching, so is a feeling of great optimism for the museum's future.

Our new exhibits center is being built as we speak...and before we know it, the museum will be thriving with exciting new shows and displays that will tell the story of Central Oregon. Ground has broken, and construction will soon be starting.

Our "Wild Wednesday" program is now up and running following the January break...and I'm very happy to report that it is as popular as ever. We will also be having our lecture series again in May. On May 4, it is Randy Dunbar presenting on the book, *Fish Lake in the High Cascades: A Historic Legacy*...and then our own "retired" Steve Lent will be doing a presentation on May 25 called, *The Rise of the Timber Industry in Central Oregon*. The times, as always, are 6:30 – 7:30.

The museum – along with the Crook County Library -- is also planning a week-long children's event in April entitled, "Dino-Story!" Please check our website and social media postings for more details.

As you are aware, the new local option tax levy did not pass in November...but the museum will be on the ballot again in May; so, we are asking everyone to please do whatever they can to "spread the word" and show support. This time, the museum will be asking for a five-year local option levy with a **continuance** of the current level of funding that has been approved by our citizens for the last 25 years. Please contact anyone at the museum if you would like a lawn sign, or if you would consider speaking before a group.

Please feel free, especially, to post a positive message on social media or submit a letter to the editor of the *Central Oregonian* or any similar publication. We need positive and enthusiastic contributors to wax eloquently about our purpose and mission. The current tax levy funding will expire on June 30.

Thanks, as always, for your dedication and support!

Sandy

President's Message

Dear Members,

Welcome to 2023! We have so many exciting things happening this year!

Our first order of business was to elect new board members and duties on the board. I would like to thank Suzie Kristensen for her hard work and dedication as our outgoing president. She will continue to serve as our secretary this year. I would also like to thank Marlise Jay and Mike Wright for their years of service on the board. They have both been dedicated board members and have contributed a lot to our goals as an historical society. Joining our board, we would like to welcome Forest Carbaugh and Jim Steeprow. We are looking forward to working with them, as well as, directors Claudia Loveland, Ramona McCallister, and Debbie Shaw. Phil Burgess will continue as our treasurer, Bill Weberg will serve as vice president, and I will be your new president.

You might have noticed that the longstanding building behind the museum is no longer there. Once a gas station, Dairy Queen, and most recently, the Hans Pharmacy, it will become our Exhibit Center. The front of the building will look like Dr. Horace Belknap's home, which originally stood on this site. Stay tuned this year for exciting updates on this project.

Our next in person get together will be a time to honor our Pioneer Queens at our first Quarterly meeting set for Sunday, March 5th. Thank you to the Queens Committee for all that they do to put on this event, and to our Queens who we cherish and adore.

My family history goes back to the roots of Prineville and I have many memories of summers spent at the Sigman Ranch. It is truly an honor for me to serve as your Historical Society President and I am looking forward to the year ahead!

Dawn Alexander



MEMORIALS SINCE May 25 2022

Elsie Simmons

by Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine
Snoden & Pat DeBoard
Dawn Alexander
Mary Albert
Shirley McCullough

Dave Anderson

by Mekia Ogborn
Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine
John & Lynne Breese

Maurice and Joan Gerke

by Jennifer Sherman

Marvin Cochran

by Jay & Beth Grimes

John Chandler

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Glenn Houston

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Bob Page

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Hastings Becerra

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Gene Adams

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Shirley Broadword Crain Koch

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Willy Bates

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Larry Alderman

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Alma Mae Windle

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Jean Stigall

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Mellie Jo Finley

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Carole Stockton

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Bill Sailing

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Jan Nolan

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Skip Russell

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Elsie Simmons

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Steve Puckett

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Carolyn Binam

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Forrest (Red) Wilson

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Randy Hammons

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Judy Webster

by Jay & Beth Grimes

Norman Thompson

by Norman & Pat Thompson

Casey Dutchuk

by Jim & David Dutchuk

Sharon McKinny

Larry & Judy Sale

Dave Demaris

by Wayne & Sandy Demaris

Dorothy Dorman

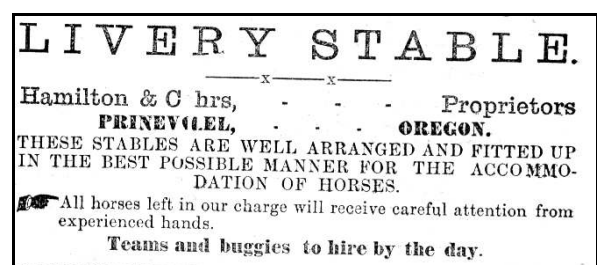
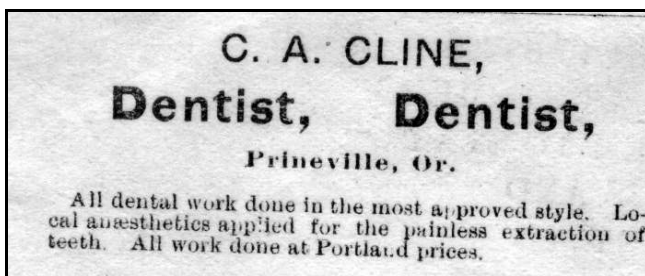
by Elaine Evans

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

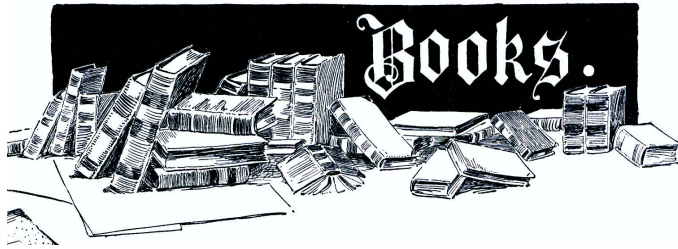
Wayne & Catherine Kleckner
Randy Woodley
Fred Hornback
Kathleen Rogers

Dan Parker
Anna Easton
Carl & LaQuita Stec
Bob Boyk

Patrick Smith
Sandra Thrasher
Sally Altig



1887 Advertisements



New Books at the Museum

Members Receive 10% Discount

Heroes & Rascals of Old Oregon

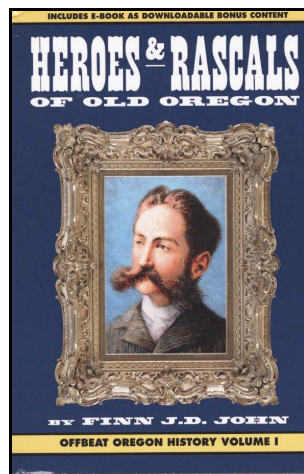
by Finn J.D. John

\$24.95

Paper

383 Pages

This is Volume I in the Offbeat Oregon History series. It relates various little known historical personalities in Oregon. It is divided into segments on Heroes, Mavericks and Rascals. It is an entertaining look at some of the unusual people in the growth of Oregon. Recommended for those that enjoy historical anecdotes.



A Peculiar Paradise: A History of Blacks in Oregon 1788-1940

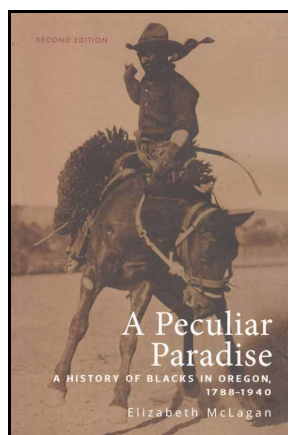
by Elizabeth McLagan

\$22.95

Paper

193 Pages

This unique book is a chronology of Black life in Oregon. It was originally published in 1980 and has been reprinted by the Oregon State University Press. Black families faced many legal and social barriers settling in Oregon. Oregon had black exclusion laws that were meant to keep blacks out of the state. But many persevered though difficult social and political issues to become part of the Oregon story.



Growing Vegetables in Drought, Desert Dry Times

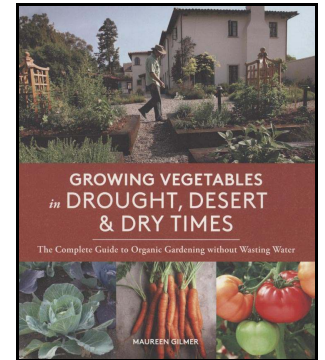
by Maureen Gilmer

\$22.95

Paper

207 Pages

This book focuses on four different low-water conditions prevalent across the United States: voluntary water conservation, drought, and both high and low desert. It provides age-old techniques of desert farming and new technology. It includes many tips on growing vegetables using an efficient water use process.



Love, Sex & Murder in Old Oregon

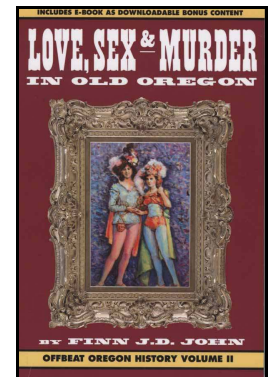
by Finn J.D. John

24.95

Paper

368 Pages

This is Volume II in the Offbeat Oregon History series. It chronicles many unknown events and participants of a dark nature in Oregon. It even includes a chapter on the Princeville Vigilantes. A must for those seeking tales the criminal past in Oregon.



Bowman and the Men of Oregon

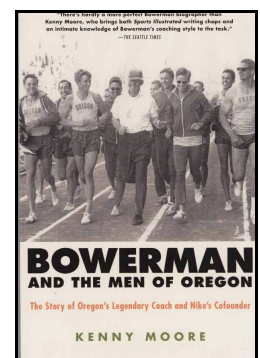
by Kenny Moore

\$19.99

Paper

432 Pages

This book chronicles the coaching life of Hall of Fame track coach Bill Bowman. The author was a running great at the University of Oregon who recently passed away.. It is a pleasant read on the growth of track at the University of Oregon and the role Bowman played in making it a national powerhouse. This is the newsletter editor's pick of the quarter.



PRINEVILLE AND CROOK COUNTY

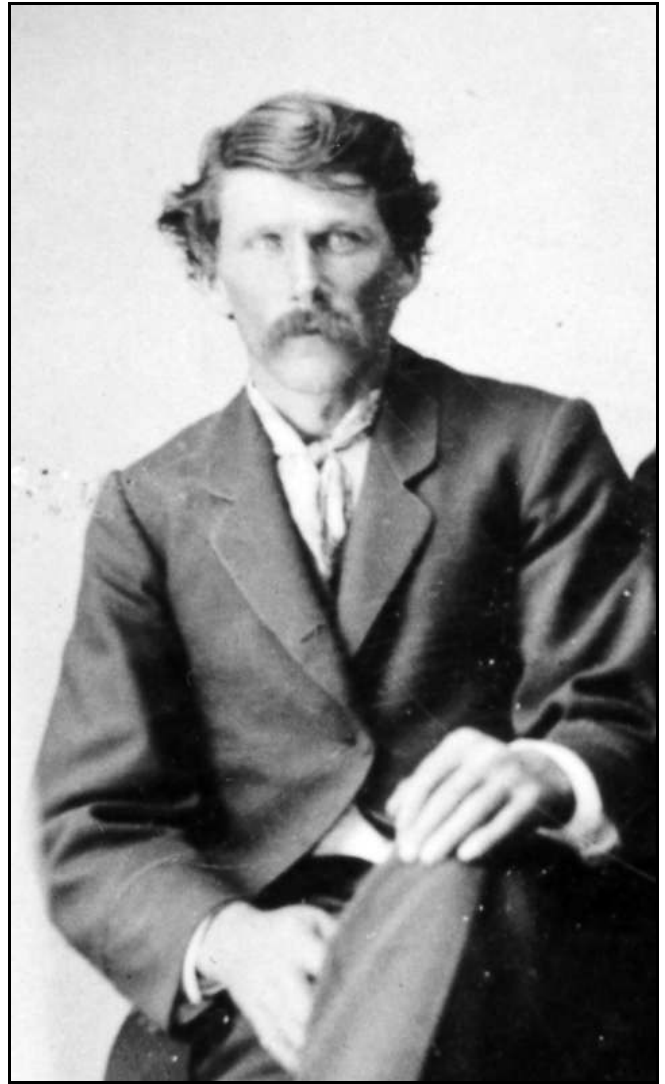
Compiled by Donald Ross, Molly Brown and Ernestine McKenzie of Crook County High School 1940

Note: This was a student project at Crook County High School in 1940. Their task was to write a history of Prineville and Crook County. It is a look back to the time just before World War II and the prospects of the region.

As one moves down off the high, arid plateau of Central Oregon into Prineville, he drops into a fertile valley that was once the bed of a huge lake. This fertile valley has a history far more colorful than any so-called western movie. From the first settlement up to the present time, it has reeked with smell of power-smoke as the cattlemen and the sheep men settled their disputes in the traditional western manner.

This pretty little city, the county seat of Crook County, is situated on a level plain at the junction of Crooked River and Ochoco Creek, the greater part of the city lying between them. Prineville has been called the treasure house of a "vast pastoral empire." In many respects this is true. A large area of county pays this city tribute and in consequence it is one of greatest trading centers in the eastern part of Oregon. Mr. Barney Prine and his wife Elizabeth came to the Ochoco valley in 1868. They settled down upon the present site of Prineville and were followed by other settlers thus was started a small town named Prineville, after Mr. Prine. Three stores, a hotel, a first Baptist church, a post office, a drug store, and a flour mill were erected before 1875. The first bank in Prineville was opened in 1887, and was known as the First National Bank of Prineville. The townsite plat of Prineville was filed for record in the office of the clerk of Wasco County March 28, 1877. It consisted of seventeen full, and five, half blocks, the full blocks being 240feet square and divided into six lots each.

Crook County was created out of the southern portion of Wasco County in the fall of 1882. the bill was introduced by Honorable B.F. Nichols, then a representative of Wasco County. Prineville was made the county seat. In the fall of 1880 the conditions for the little town of Prineville were considered prosperous. Especially had it prospered during the two preceding years. At that period the principal industry was stock raising. The large droves of cattle which were driven from Crook County in 1879 greatly lessened the amount of horned cattle range and since that time, particular attention has been paid to horses, sheep and cattle of which the farmers have the finest types. Large accessions



Barney Price

to the populations were made in 1879 and mainly of the thrifty, industrious class which is always acceptable to every community.

In 1883-84 Prineville was visited by several disastrous fires which were believed to have been the work of an incendiary. The stories of the fires are told many times by the pioneers and this is one of the most frequently cited periods in the history of Prineville. The fires practically destroyed the city, but it was soon built up again. By 1900 thirty or forty buildings had either been remodeled or erected. Many more probably would have been built if sufficient building material could have been obtained. Good public school were maintained and the city was well supplied with churches and

newspapers. The future of Prineville began to grow brighter with the erection of a water and electric plant. In November, 1904, it was joyfully announced that Prineville was in communication by telephone with Shaniko, Burns, Sisters, Crook, Lamonta, Silver Lake, Mitchell, and Bend.

The town of Prineville has made rapid advancement in the last two years in building as well as population. The cost of new residential buildings alone has amounted to well over \$175,000. This sum is substantially added to by the amount a new commercial structures which come to \$75,000. These buildings as a whole are modern, up-to-date buildings with all the modern conveniences. The population of Prineville has now grown to a figure between 4,000 and 4,500 in a four mile radius around Prineville. We include the outlying districts of Prineville because it is here that the mills and their accompanying residents are located. These mills are the property of three different companies, namely the Alexander-Yawkey Lumber Co., the Ochoco Lumber Co., and the Pine Products Co. These holdings add up to well over \$2,000,000. This includes timber holdings, mill property, and movable equipment. The total taxable property in Crook County comes to approximately \$4,900,000. This amount includes all live stock, machinery, real estate, personal property, timber lands, improvements, merchandise and stocks in trade and farm products.

Prineville is called as oasis by all who visit because of its amazing fertility in the midst of the arid uplands of Central Oregon. Prineville is benefitted by the Ochoco irrigation project which has approximately 12,000 acres under irrigation. The storage dam for this project has a capacity of water for further extension of the project. The dam, constructed in 1916-19, is of dirt and is considered the largest of its kind in the world.

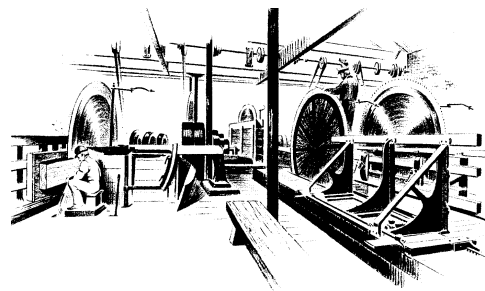
The mineral output of Central Oregon consists largely of quicksilver. The deposit of cinnabar, a few miles east of Prineville, is one of the largest in the Northern Hemisphere. These mines are experiencing a mild "boom" because of the high price that quicksilver now brings. Oil is being drilled for in the southern part of the county where it is hoped that extensive operations may result from these test wells. Geologically, this country is interesting, being a part of the old Blue Mountains. According to some authorities, the Blue Mountains were one of two prehistoric islands off the west coast of North America, produced by a violent crumpling of the ocean bed. This theory is based

upon fossil remains of sea life and of plants and animals that lived on the islands in later years. In this vicinity, have been found fossil imprints of serval conifers not now found in that region. This is high country, not ruggedly mountainous, but interesting in its own peculiarities--plateaus, rock up thrust, highland meadows, pine forests of park-like appearance with large junipers on gradual slopes.

The traveler in the Ochoco National Forest will find desirable camp sites and pleasure drives. The offices of the Supervisor of the Ochoco National forest are in Prineville. This forest contains some of the finest Ponderosa pine Central Oregon, with a total estimated stand of timber of 6,671,690 feet. Inside the boundary of the Ochoco National Forest 764,040, or the 961,235 acres are owned by the United States. The National Forest has made improvements in this area totaling well over \$6,500,000. Twenty five percent of the total receipts from the National Forest are paid to the county annually. In addition to this the Forest Service builds roads and trails that are of direct benefit to the farmers and settlers in this community. The Ochoco National Forest contains one of the most valuable grass areas in the West and on this land, 436 permits graze a total of over 66,000 sheep and 9,100 cattle. 237 miles of fences keep stock from drifting and insure better utilization of the ranges.

The lumber companies of this region have started the sustained yield plan of cutting that will give them continuous cutting as long as the world has need for lumber. This is one of the first regions of the west to initiate this plan and so far it has proved successful, receiving much study on the part of lumber men from all over the United States.

If the progress of Prineville and Crook county in the past is any indication of the future growth and development of this section no one can doubt that it will form the nucleus of one of the leading farming locales of the Northwest in years to come. Many changes have taken place in Prineville during the years gone by.



Collections Nook

From the Desk of Sadee Moss

Hello Everyone,

If you have followed along with any of my previous Collection Nook articles you may remember me mentioning that the Collections department has been working on getting our database updated to be online. I am happy to say we are now in the scheduling phase of that process. That means we have turned things over to the team at Past Perfect to get things transitioned over for us. In a few months, we should be ready for the Collections department to start working on the new digital database.

Having an online version of our database will allow the Collections department to have more ways to work with the collection. Currently, we are limited to only being able to access museum records when we are physically at the museum. This can be quite a hassle when we have to work at our off-site buildings, the Rancher's Memorial, and the Log Cabin Museum. That means we would have to take physical notes and then input data when we returned to the museum or have to go back out multiple times if the information wasn't recorded. With this update, we will be able to take a laptop and connect to the museum over Wi-Fi. It will give us the ability to work from virtually anywhere. Some of the volunteers at the museum will travel for several months out of the year, this will allow them to continue to find ways to volunteer if they wish. The need to physically be able to work with an object will never go away but having access to the database in more ways will make the ways we can work with the collection more accessible.

The collection will also become more accessible for you and others interested in the museum. After we get used to the changes of this update to our database we will be able to share much of the collection on the museum website. Little by little the museum will be able to publicly post more of the collection for the public. This will allow you to see stuff that we don't have on display or find out more information about any of our artifacts. It will make much of the materials that we normally wouldn't be able to share available. As many of you are aware the museum performs research requests, or you can schedule a time to come to the research library. This update will allow you to do research remotely. If you want to research something that is not available physically (maybe, it's too delicate for handling or it is being worked on for a project) you will still be able to do your research. Care for the collection is our top priority and this will give more people access to the materials at the museum while still maintaining the highest level of preservation.

In the next few months, we will be working with this new version of our database in all aspects of the collection. The collections volunteers and I are excited to be able to share more of what we are doing in this new way. Keep an eye out for when we are able to share this on the website.

Sadee Moss



Sadee Moss

Brief History of Museum Tax Levy

When the Bowman family gave the building to the people of Crook County in 1971 CCHS entered into an agreement with the County to run the museum. Funds were tight, the County helped with utilities and CCHS raised money where it could. The museum was totally volunteer run and open only the summer months. Even still by 1976 things looked bleak for continuing.

Someone on the board at the time came up with the idea to take advantage of a little known Oregon statute that allows Counties to create a Historical Fund by the vote of the people. The first fund amount was \$10,000 per year. CCHS continued to raise additional funds to fully fund operations. They hired their first part-time staff and increased open times to ten months a year. By 1988 they were back in dire straights as they needed some major building maintenance and the cost of operations had continued to rise. They were able to increase the Historical Fund from \$10,000 to \$41,500 annually. With this amount they were able to do some needed renovations and hire their first full-time Executive Director. Again CCHS raised money (memberships, gift shop sales, grants and donations) to supplement operations.

Measure 47/50 allowed municipalities to do "Local Option Levies" for anything that had previously been allowed by the old statutes. These local option levies had a five year maximum duration. Because we were receiving a 10% decrease at a time that we really needed increase in our Historical Fund the CCHS board and the County Commissioners decided to ask the voters for an additional local option tax for funds for the museum. We decided to do one with a four year duration to match the general election schedule. Voters had approved the museum operating levy through several cycles until this past November election when it failed. It is hoped that we can get voter approval to continue the levy in the upcoming May election. Please consider voting for the levy so we can continue our valuable services to the people of Crook County.. Without levy funds severe cutbacks will be necessary.