



# The Meadowlark

## Quarterly Newsletter



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

September 11, 2024  
Email-[mekia.ogborn@co.crook.or.us](mailto:mekia.ogborn@co.crook.or.us)  
[www.bowmanmuseum.org](http://www.bowmanmuseum.org)

## ***DIRECTOR'S CORNER***

**Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters,**

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the summer season. As we move into the latter half of the year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work our Museum and Society has accomplished and share some exciting updates about what's to come.

### **Recent Events**

Over the past few months, our community has come together to celebrate and learn about our rich local history through a series of successful events. Highlights include:

- **Cowboy Poetry and Music Open Mic:** We had a wonderful turnout for our inaugural Cowboy Poetry and Music Open Mic event. It was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces joining in on the festivities of the Crooked River Round Up and celebrating the tradition of cowboy poetry, storytelling, and music.
- **Book Release: *Prineville Now and Then*:** It was great fun celebrating the release of Steve Lent's news book! This stunning book offers a vivid portrayal of Prineville's rich history through a unique blend of vintage photographs and contemporary images, capturing the transformation of our charming town over the decades. Attendees enjoyed learning about how our community has evolved over years.
- **Rancher's Memorial Concert:** We hosted award-winning songwriter Kerry Grombacher, who played music and told stories that captured the spirit and history of the American West. It was a great performance and a true celebration of the Western way of life.

### **Upcoming Programs**

As we move into the fall, we have several exciting programs lined up that you won't want to miss:

- **Nature Weave Wall Hang:** Kicking off in September, the museum will host Patti Smiley (Smiley's Lavender Farm) who will demonstrate the pioneer tradition of nature weave wall hanging. Join us and others as we learn this time period craft and create your own nature weave wall hang.
- **Saunders Memorial Lecture Series:** Join us in October for our Saunders Memorial Lecture Series as we explore the history of Central Oregon geology and mining in our region. Featuring guest speakers Carrie Gordon and Steve Lent. This program is co-sponsored by the Crook County Historical Society and the Friends of the Crook County Library.
- **Beaver Restoration Lecture:** Mark your calendars for our Beaver Restoration lecture with guest speakers, Renee Mercer (Western Beaver Co-Op). Renee Mercer will explore the history of beavers in our area and the ongoing efforts



to restore their population.

### New Exhibits

We're continually working to enhance our exhibits and share more of Crook County's rich history with our visitors. This fall, we're excited to debut our newest exhibit at our Belknap Exhibit Center:

- **"Oregon: 150 Years of Statehood; 150 Million Years in the Making":** Join us for a captivating journey through Oregon's dynamic landscape and discover the forces that have shaped the state's diverse terrains. Learn about Oregon's rich geological history and how it continues to influence the environment and communities today.

### Grand Opening: Pacific Lady Memorial Gazebo

We are particularly excited to invite you all to the grand opening of the **Pacific Lady Memorial Gazebo**. This new addition to our Belknap Exhibit Center commemorates the resilience and bravery of Sharon Sites Adams (CCHS class of 1948) as the first female to sail solo across the Pacific Ocean. The gazebo stands as a tribute to her enduring and adventurous spirit.

### Event Details:

- **Date:** September 28, 2024
- **Time:** 12:00pm
- **Location:** Belknap Exhibit Center, Bowman Museum

The dedication ceremony will feature guest speaker, Sharon Adams. We hope you can join us for this memorable occasion.

Thank you for your continued support of the Crook County Historical Society. Your involvement and enthusiasm are what keep our history alive. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and hope you'll stop by to explore our new exhibits.

Warm regards,

Sean Briscoe

Executive Director, Crook County Historical Society

## MEMORIAL SINCE MAY 2024

### Maurice & Joan Gerke

by Jennifer Sherman

### Dave Anderson

by Phil & Robin Burgess

### Mel McCoy

by Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine

### Dale Landrus

by Dana Millin

### Bonnie Burgess

by Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine

### Dennis Turmon

by Snoden & Pat DeBoard

### Alvan Lowry

by Dana Millin

### Jerry Pimentel

by The Carl & Mary Lee Dutli

### Marie Smith

by Dan, Doug & Steve Smith

### Donna Demaris

by Dana Millin

### Maurice & Joan Gerke

by Jennifer Sherman

Todd Curtis

Bob & Kathie Nooy

Steve & Laina Yancey

Michael J. Mohan CPA & Staff

Bob & Beverly Smith

Golda Condron

Shirley McCullough

Reita Evans

Snoden & Pat DeBoard

### Linda Porfily Hickman

by Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine

### Betty Anderson

by Sonya Anderson

### Clint Brooks

by Linda Shelk

### Clinton McDonald

by Mekia Ogborn

### Lawrence Garside

by Dan Smith

### Bob Schnoor

by Steve Lent & Barbara Fontaine

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Members!

I'm not sure where the summer went but I'm ready for fall! I just returned from a trip to the Steen Mountains with 2 of my cousins who also live in Oregon. Every year we travel to someplace in Oregon to check out the history and local spots that we've heard are 'a must'. It has been almost 20 years since I'd been in that area, a trip that our infamous Steve Lent put together. I took the book that he had put together for the trip and we referred to it often. The breathtaking view from the top of the Steens, the numerous birds and wildlife in and around the refuge, and the fascinating history of Cattle King, Peter French are all reasons to explore that area of our state. We ate breakfast in the Frenchglen Hotel and of course had the famous milkshake in Fields! Where did your summer travels take you? I'd love to hear!



I hope you found our amazing staff and board members at the Crook County Fair this year. We had fun interacting with the public, sharing our awesome museum, and quizzing fairgoers on local history. We also had some fun events throughout the summer, and one of my favorites was the cowboy poetry gathering during the Crooked River Roundup. Another event not to miss for me is the annual crowning of our new Pioneer Queen. This year's queen, Joy Harvey, was crowned at the annual picnic in Pioneer Park and we look forward to our other activities where we honor our queens and their rich heritage.

Sean and his staff have put together a great lineup of activities for the fall, so enjoy this issue of your newsletter and I hope to see you at the Bowman!

*Dawn*

## Fall Historical Tour of High Desert Saturday Oct. 19, 2024

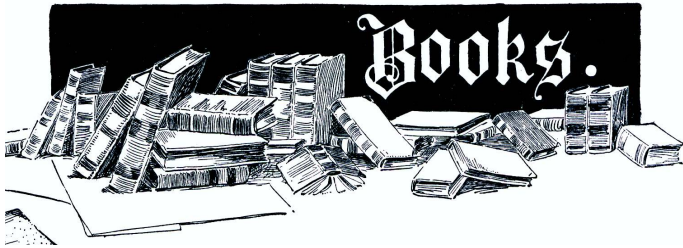
Depending on fire conditions the fall tour is planned for Saturday Oct 19. The tour will be heading south of Highway 20 at Moffett Road. Stops will include Whitaker Holes, Desert Pines, Dickerson Well, Berger Rock mammoth rub, Sand Spring, Plot Butte, Derrick Cave, the largest juniper in Oregon and the final railroad camp site of Brooks Scanlon. It will be a long day. Roads will be rough in places. Not recommended for small passenger cars. The route will cover about 100 miles.

There are no restroom facilities along the route so it will be nature in its finest for rest stops. Steve Lent will be the tour guide and guide books will be available for purchase. We will meet at the Pioneer Cabin Museum in Pioneer Park at 8:00 a.m. Bring your own lunch and refreshments.

A van will be available on a first come first serve basis. Please call the museum 541-447-3715 to reserve a spot on the tour. The tour will be limited to 10 vehicles. We can take as many people that will fit into the vehicles.



***If fire conditions are still extreme the tour may have to be cancelled.!!!***



## NEW BOOKS AT THE MUSEUM

### Members Receive a 10% Discount

#### *Prineville Past and Present*

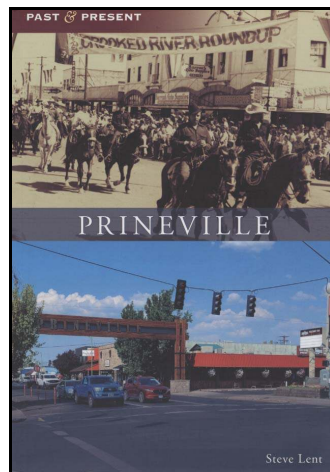
by Steve Lent

\$24.99

Paper

95 Pages

This is the latest publication of museum historian Steve Lent. The photo book contains old photos of places in the community with present comparison photos of the same site. There are photos of street scenes, businesses and homes. Photos are accompanied by a brief narrative of what once was there and what is there now. Comparing our present to our past is how we understand our history. This is the editors pick of the quarter.



#### *A Cowboy to Love*

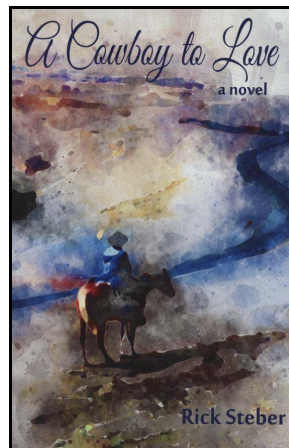
by Rick Steber

\$15.00

Paper

225 Pages

This is the latest novel by prolific local author Steber. It is the tale of a torrid love affair between Josephine "Jo" Walker an a married rodeo cowboy. A casual comment leads to a swiftly evolving situation that it confounds local towns folk. It sends Jo into a dizzying tailspin and threatens to steal all she holds dear. The book is another tale that Steber fans will enjoy.



#### *John Mullan: The Tumultuous Life of a Western Road Builder*

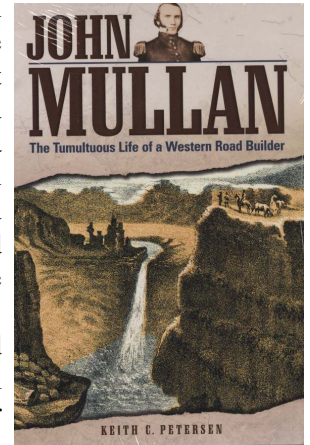
by Keith C. Petersen

\$32.95

Paper

325 Pages

This is the tale of famed western road builder John Mullan. He established a 625-mile link that connected the Missouri and Columbia Rivers He was a graduate of West Point and became an accomplished engineer. His pioneer road became today what is I-90. The road opened up the northwest. Mullan died in 1909 and rapid changes had been made in travel across the country since his major accomplishment.



#### *Chuck Wagon Cooking*

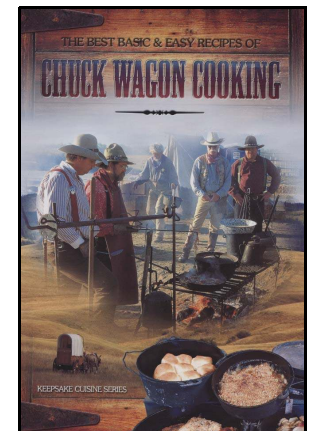
by Lucy Hanley, ed.

\$9.95

Paper

32 Pages

This is a brief cookbook of trail driving meals. It contains many recipes for cooking on the open range. The individual recipes make your mouth water and dream about tough days herding cattle on the range. It has anecdotes about trail driving days and the lost art of trail cooking. Colorful recipes include Fatbelly's Dutch Oven Baked Potatoes and Abilene Alan's Kick-Ass Chili.



#### *Agents of Empire: The First Oregon Cavalry and the Opening of the Interior Pacific Northwest*

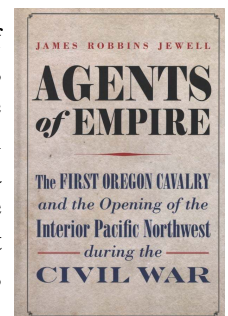
by James Robbins Jewell

\$45.00

Hardcover

326 Pages

This book expands the historical scope of the Civil War to include the war's intersection with the history of the American West. The little known volunteer First Oregon Cavalry played a role in exploring and protecting the Oregon country at a time when most soldiers were in the East. It includes excursion through Central Oregon.



# The Osborne Firefinder

by Ray Kersek

*Note: Ray Kersek is the author of Fire Lookouts of Oregon and Washington which documents the locations and history of fire lookouts in the northwest. The use of the firefinder is a crucial part of discovering fires once they start and has been an invaluable tool since it was developed.*

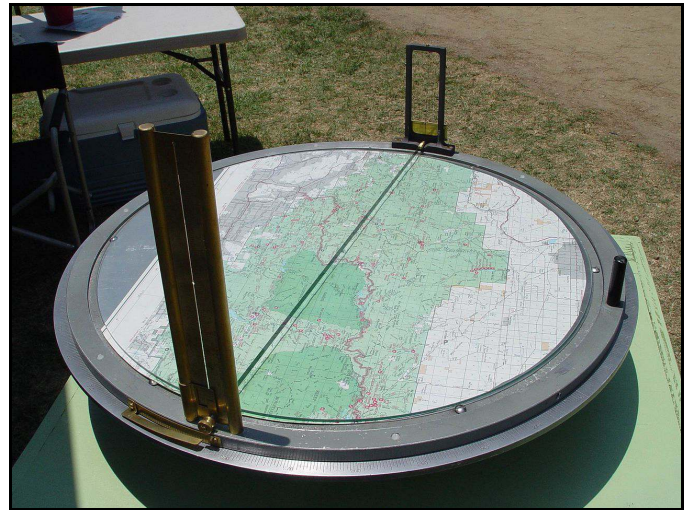
William Bushnell "Bush" Osborne, Jr., as a young graduate forester, went to work for the U.S. Forest Service in 1909 on the Oregon National Forest at Mount Hood.

In 1911 he invented an alidade he called the "firefinder" and tested it at 8 locations in Oregon and SW Washington. The original instrument was 14" across, round, with a map of the surrounding area, and each of 360 degrees etched around the rim. This disc was secured to an 8-sided 1/8" steel base which was in turn secured firmly to a tree stump. A brass sighting mechanism consisting of a rear vertical slit and a front vertical horse hair stretched tight, pivoted precisely in the center of the circle. The location of the lookout point was situated exactly in the center of the circular map. An arrow etched beneath the rear sight corresponded with the compass reading when the sights lined up on distant smoke.

This first Osborne Firefinder was commercially produced in 1913 by Fred Leupold and Adam Volpel (Leupold-Volpel & Co.) at their scientific instrument manufacturing facility in Portland (Oregon). The U.S. Forest Service purchased fewer than 100 of these 1913 Model Osborne firefinders.

In 1914 the center-pivot sighting mechanism was abandoned in favor of a circular outer ring with the original fore and aft sights affixed to it. A cast iron base with a round recessed rim permitted the sights to be moved freely around the rim. Zero degrees was positioned true South from the lookout location. To prove this instrument, "Bush" Osborne placed it atop Mount Hood the following summer. In one month lookout Elijah "Lige" Coalman spotted and reported 131 fires with this instrument!

In 1915, Osborne again modified his "firefinder" sighting mechanism. The 1915 model featured a 0-power scope similar to those used on a rifle, instead of the original fore and aft upright sights, to peer through. Precision calibration permitted obtaining azimuth readings to 1/60th of 1 degree; and a vertical angle reading in 1/10th of 1 degree accuracy. Several hundred



Osborne Firefinder

of the 1915 Osborne Firefinders were produced by Leupold-Volpel Co.

In 1917, Bush Osborne again gave his Firefinder a radical change. Its width was enlarged from 14' to 24" across. Its weight was increased from 10 to 70 pounds, including the 3-railed track it sat upon. It featured rugged alidade sights front and back, using the concept of the 1913-1914 models; however, the front sight is equipped with a thin brass tape which could be moved up and down freely with a thumb wheel. As this wheel was turned back and forth while the observer sighted through



Woman lookout with firefinder to the left 1910



Fire lookout sighting a fire on firefinder 1920

the rear sight slot at the distant topography, a pencil attached to a sliding gear-driven arm could draw the panoramic features of the horizon. Thus, a panoramic picture could be drawn to accompany "seen area" maps made by the firewatcher. About a hundred 1917 Osborne Firefinders were manufactured.

In 1934, Osborne again radically changed only the sighting assembly, to include a far more simple mechanism. The rear sight now included "+" (plus) and "-" (minus) vertical scales and two sets of cross threads of horse hair, so that accurate vertical readings could be made on fires both below and above the lookout's elevation. Leupold-Volpel Co. manufactured more than three thousand of the lighter weight 55 pound 1934 Osborne Firefinders, until it ceased to produce the instrument in 1989.

For a time prior to that, the A. Lietz Co. of San Francisco also manufactured the Osborne Firefinder in small quantities. The 1934 Osborne Firefinder is the most widely used fire plotting instrument in the world today. It is used across America, and in many foreign nations on at least four continents. They were last featured for sale in the 1991 Forestry Suppliers catalog for \$3,495 each.



# Collections Nook

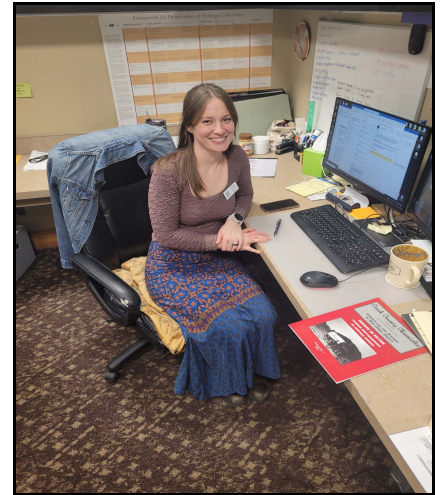
## From the Desk of Deanna Smith

As our summer slowly winds down, we are ramping up our exciting new exhibits here at the museum. Opening Monday September 9, the Belknap Exhibit Center will be hosting an exhibit from the Oregon Historical Society. We hope that this exhibit, titled “150 Million Years of Statehood” will immerse visitors in the breathtaking natural beauty and rich geological history of Oregon. This exhibit will feature some of the state’s most iconic landscapes, including Crater Lake, Multnomah Falls, Newberry Crater, Steens Mountain, and the nearby Painted Hills. These landmarks are not only stunning in their geographic splendor but also hold significant influence over the land and lives of all Oregonians. From ancient volcanic activity to the flowing rivers that have carved out dramatic canyons, Oregon’s landscape continues to shape the environment and culture of the region.

In addition to showcasing Oregon’s famous natural wonders, the Bowman Museum is proud to present a collection of geology specimens that haven’t been on display in several years. These pieces provide a tangible connection to the powerful forces that have sculpted Oregon’s diverse terrain over millions of years, including some of the oldest rocks in Oregon, found right here in Crook County! Among the highlights of the exhibit is a beautiful handmade relief map of the Prineville area, offering visitors a detailed view of the local geography, including the Crooked River Corridor.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the exhibit is the exploration of the Prineville Valley’s ancient origins. Many may be surprised to learn that this serene valley was once the site of a super volcano, whose caldera now lies hidden beneath the surface. This geological revelation adds a layer of depth to this region’s history, illustrating how past volcanic activity has shaped the landscape we see today. For those interested in rockhounding, Crook County offers numerous sites where enthusiasts can discover a variety of unique and beautiful stones, each telling its own story of Oregon’s dynamic geological past. We were so graciously temporarily donated a fellow historical society member’s rockhounding collection to help illustrate some of the many treasures that can be found in Prineville’s own backyard.

The Bowman Museum’s new exhibit not only celebrates the natural beauty of Oregon but also serves as an educational resource, shedding light on the powerful geological processes that continue to influence the state. Visitors will have the opportunity to engage with the history and science behind these magnificent landscapes, gaining a deeper appreciation for the forces that have shaped Oregon into the place we know and love today. Be on the lookout for upcoming lectures that touch on some of these geological wonders!



Deanna Smith





Bill Brown Country Historical Tour Group  
June 2024

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Widd Barnes  
 Peggy Bumgardner  
 The Fahlgrens  
 Sonya Anderson & Jack Morrison  
 Terry Hunter  
 Lauren Kristy & Family  
 Kay Smith  
 Ray Jordan & Family  
 Shaun Herman  
 Carol Johnston  
 Charles & Joan Kneisler  
 The Turners



1957 Ad



# *Oregon: 150 Million Years in the Making*

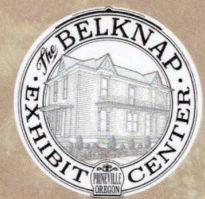
A Celebration of Oregon Geology

Join us for a captivating journey through Oregon's dynamic landscape and discover the forces that have shaped the state's diverse terrains. Learn about Oregon's rich geological history and how it continues to influence the environment and communities today.

Sept.9 - Oct.26  
Belknap Exhibit Center



Bowman Museum  
246 N Main St. Prineville OR. 97754



Sponsored by the Oregon Historical Society



# BOWMAN MUSEUM



## Upcoming Events

### Nature Weave Wall Hanging

Join us to learn the pioneer tradition of nature weave wall hanging. Instructor Patti Smiley will lead you through the process of making beautiful nature weave wall hanging.

**Date:** Sept. 14

**Time:** 1:00pm

### 150 Million Years of Oregon Geology

Explore the wonders of Oregon's landscape and learn how it was assembled during the past 150 million years — and to celebrate those who learned to read the landscape before and during Oregon's 150 years of statehood.

**Date:** Sept. 9 - Oct. 26

### Saunders Memorial Lecture Series

Join us for our annual Saunders Memorial Lecture Series. This year's lecture series will focus on Central Oregon geology, geography, and mining. Featuring talks from Carrie Gordon and Steve Lent.

**Date:** Oct. 3

**Time:** 6pm

### Saunders Memorial Lecture Series

Join us for our annual Saunders Memorial Lecture Series. This year's lecture series will focus on Central Oregon geology, geography, and mining. Featuring talks from Carrie Gordon and Steve Lent.

**Date:** Oct. 10

**Time:** 6:00pm

### CCHS Historical Tour

Join us and celebrate the history and culture of Crook County. The Museum and Belknap Center will be open and hosting events. More details to come.

**Date:** Oct. 19

**Time:** TBA

**Note:** Pending fire season and safety

### High Desert Moon Fest

Join us and celebrate the history and culture of Crook County. The Museum and Belknap Center will be open and hosting events. More details to come.

**Date:** Oct. 26

**Time:** TBA

### Beavers Restoration in Crook County

Join us with guest speaker Reese Mercer from the Western Beaver Co-op and learn about the history of the beaver and efforts to restore their population.

**Date:** TBA

**Time:** 6pm

### Clink! Taste of Oregon Wine

Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine traveling exhibition explores the story of Oregon wine and some of the moments that make up its history.

**Date:** Nov. 9 - Jan. 4

CROOKCOUNTYHISTORYCENTER.ORG

All programs are free and located at the Bowman Museum, unless specified.  
For more information, please contact the Bowman Museum at 541-447-3715

Bowman Museum: 246 N. Main St. Prineville, OR 97754



# THANK YOU FIRE FIGHTERS



1942



1950