



# The Meadowlark

Quarterly Newsletter



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

February 21, 2025  
[www.crookcountyhistorycenter.org](http://www.crookcountyhistorycenter.org)

CROOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**PIONEER QUEEN  
LUNCHEON**

Come celebrate our wonderful Pioneer Queens with our potluck-style luncheon and enjoy a presentation by Steve Lent on *Women in the Development of Central Oregon*.

Please bring something to share and personal place settings.

**MARCH 2ND - 1:00 PM**  
BOWMAN MUSEUM  
246 N. MAIN ST. PRINEVILLE, OR




2024 Crook County Pioneer Queen  
Joy Houston Harvey

## Celebrating 2024 Pioneer Queen Joy Houston Harvey

Joy Houston was born in January 1933 in Prineville. Her family has extensive roots in Crook County dating back to 1875. Her grandparents Charles and Sarah Gregory Houston settled near Bear Creek in southern Crook County.. Her parents were Waldo and Bessie Stuart Houston. Joy attended school in Prineville until age 17.

She married John Harvey in 1952. He had a career in the U.S. Navy and the family moved several times during the first 22 years of their marriage. They had two sons, Mike and Paul. They eventually moved back to Prineville in 1971. Joy has lived in Prineville since then. She was selected as Pioneer Queen and was announced at the Pioneer Queen Picnic in August of 2024.

# DIRECTORS CORNER

Dear Members,

As we enter a new season at the Bowman Museum, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for your ongoing support of the Crook County Historical Society. Your dedication enables us to preserve and share our community's rich history for generations to come.

Over the past few months, we have been hard at work on several exciting projects to enhance the museum experience. During our January closure, our collections manager, Deanna Smith, has been updating and refreshing our exhibits to provide a more engaging and informative experience for our visitors.

Additionally, we have been planning an exciting lineup of programs, including the upcoming **History of Crook County Fire and Rescue Lecture on March 20 at 6 p.m.**, presented by Volunteer Assistant Chief Mike Wright and Fire Prevention Technician Amber Blanchard. This event will coincide with our new **Belknap Exhibit Center exhibit, *History of Crook County Fire and Rescue*, which will run from March 1 through May 31.** We invite you to visit the museum, explore the new exhibits, and join us for these enriching programs.

As always, we are grateful for your support and involvement. Whether you volunteer, attend events, or simply share your passion for history, you play a vital role in our success. If you have ideas or feedback, we would love to hear from you!

Thank you for being a valued member of our historical community. We look forward to another season of discovery and storytelling at the Bowman Museum.



Best regards,

*Sean*

Sean Briscoe

Executive Director

Bowman Museum & Crook County Historical Society

## Memorials Since November 2024

**Grace Bannon**  
by Beth Grimes

**Clayton Berman**  
by Beth Grimes

**Fred Bushong**  
by Betty Bushong

Steve Carlson  
by Betty Bushong

Carolyn Chandler  
by Beth Grimes

**Jeremy Christianson**  
by Beth Grimes

**Addie Demaris**  
by Beth Grimes

**Tony Edwards**  
by Beth Grimes

**Marlene Evans**  
by Beth Grimes

**Tom Freedman**  
by Betty Bushong  
Beth Grimes

**Maurice & Joan Gerke**  
by Jennifer Sherman

**Tessibelle Hartzell**  
by Beth Grimes

**Daryl Hicks**  
by Beth Grimes

**Jim Hite**  
Dan Smith

**William Edward Holliday**  
by Beth Grimes

**Charles Hughbanks**  
by Beth Grimes

**Mary Ann (Brummer) Larson**  
by John and Lynne Breese  
Steve Lent & Barb Fontaine

**Jim Malloy**  
by Beth Grimes

**Mel McCoy**  
by Beth Grimes

**Nora Morris**  
by Beth Grimes  
Gladys Murray Hanes

**Elsie Noble Peeler**  
by Joyce Clark

**Ramona Romine**  
by Steve Lent & Barb Fontaine  
Genevra Blake  
Kelley McHugh  
Andrew Piriak & Ann Blank  
John & Lynne Breese

**Marie Smith**  
by Beth Grimes

**Sue Springer**  
by Jeff & Ruinda McCormack

**Norm Thompson**  
by Beth Grimes  
Pat Thompson

# President's Message

The goal of the historical society to plan and build a space for changing exhibits began well over 10 years ago. Gordon Gillespie, Sandy Cohen and our current executive director Sean Briscoe have all played a role in seeing this project through to completion. Many members of the society from years past have all debated on just what a space for rotating exhibits should be. I hope we achieved the vision that you provided. I am proud of the physical result but now for the hard part.

Planning, building and displaying future exhibits is hard work and challenging. In addition to the workload of planning events and programs that has been done historically, staff and the society are now engaged on a whole new stage for our community and visitors. We are excited to have the opportunity to provide you with more reasons than ever to come and visit the Bowman Museum.

The society has several projects in the planning stage for this year. One our projects is a multi-year initiative titled "Museum Assessment Program" or MAP. The goal of MAP is to help museums assess their strengths and weaknesses, and plan for the future. We are asking for volunteers from you, our membership, to join a committee to develop MAP. While this is not the only way for you to engage with the museum, it certainly could be one of the most impactful. Several other opportunities exist for you to become more involved- give us a call or send a note. Fore warning- once you become engaged in the Bowman Museum it can be contagious.

I'm looking forward to being your president for 2025. My challenge to you remains- bring your friends and family to your museum for a visit. Encourage those around you to become members. The support you provide to our community's history is greatly appreciated. Until next quarter

- All of my best to you

*Phil*



## Welcome New Members

Monica Hugs  
Nancy Wildman  
Three Sisters Historical Society  
Marcia Van Horn & David Art  
James Whitley  
Becky Brauer  
Bill Hume  
Harry McCarty  
Courtney Paresa  
Priscilla Smith  
Jeff & Kelle Doran  
Jason Friend  
Prineville Men's Wear  
Patricia Leiser  
Rory Oneill  
Matt Marshal

HISTORY OF  
**CROOK COUNTY  
FIRE & RESCUE**



Discover the history of Crook County Fire & Rescue. Explore historic photographs, vintage equipment, and stories of bravery that have shaped fire and emergency services in Crook County.

**Belknap Exhibit Center**  
March 1st - May 31st  
136 NE 3rd St, Prineville, OR 97754

Bowman Museum  
246N. Main St. Prineville | 541-447-3715



# Collections Nook

from the Desk of Deanna Smith

Starting in March, the Bowman Museum is proud to host a new exhibit showcasing the rich history of Crook County Fire & Rescue and the vital work of the Prineville Fire Department over the past century. Established in 1884, Crook County Fire & Rescue is the oldest fire department in Central Oregon. As a “Special District” accountable to a five-member elected board, the department has grown alongside the community it serves. Today, it provides fire suppression, prevention, investigation, inspection, and emergency medical services to approximately 26,000 residents across a 450-square-mile area, including Prineville, Powell Butte, Juniper Canyon, and Lone Pine.



Deanna Smith

This exhibit comes at a special time as Crook County Fire & Rescue celebrates its over 140-year old legacy amidst rapid growth and change in Central Oregon. With 50 emergency responders, including 21 career staff working across three shifts—the department responds to approximately 3,600 calls for service each year. The exhibit not only honors this crucial work but also highlights the department’s deep-rooted history, dating back to its beginnings as the first fire service in the region.

We are especially excited to host this exhibit as Crook County Fire & Rescue wraps up renovations on their historic building. This partnership gives the community a unique opportunity to explore their impressive collection of rescue history.

Visitors can expect to see historic fire engines, vintage uniforms, and photographs of past fire crews. Additionally, antique fire engines will be on display every other weekend in March and April, offering a rare glimpse into the evolution of firefighting equipment.

Join us in celebrating the courage, dedication, and history of Crook County’s firefighters. We are honored to showcase this important chapter of our community’s story in tandem with the fire department’s open house on March 8. Don’t miss this chance to learn about the heroes who have safeguarded our community for over a century.



20-Man Hand Pumper in Parade in Prineville



Pistol Creek in Parade with 1882 Pumper

## Mrs. Mollie Gibson Tells of Experiences of Pioneer Days

Move from Willamette Valley to the Post Country in 1886

I, Mary B. Cantrell, afterwards known as "Aunt: Mollie Gibson, was born in Sanoma County, California on November 24, 1861.

My mother died in 1863 and in 1866 my father decided to immigrate to Oregon. We left in a covered wagon and drawn by a team of horses to make the long trip to what is now Lane County.

There were four children, my brother and two sisters, and in company with one other family, we began our journey. I do not remember this trip, as I was only five years old. We arrived at my uncle's home, near Eugene, Oregon, after a few weeks of travel over a road that was little better than a trail.

I lived with my uncle until I was ten years old. Then my father married Suzan Ward and I made my home with them until I was 17 years old. I was married to John A. Gibson in 1879 and we lived on my father-in-law's donation land claim on the Long Tom River in Lane county.

There were no highways there at that time and it took all day to go to the nearest town, do a little trading and back home, a distance of, perhaps, of eight to ten miles. The greater part of the roads were corrugated and in the winter, should a wagon get off the corrugation, it was in mud to the hub of the wheels.

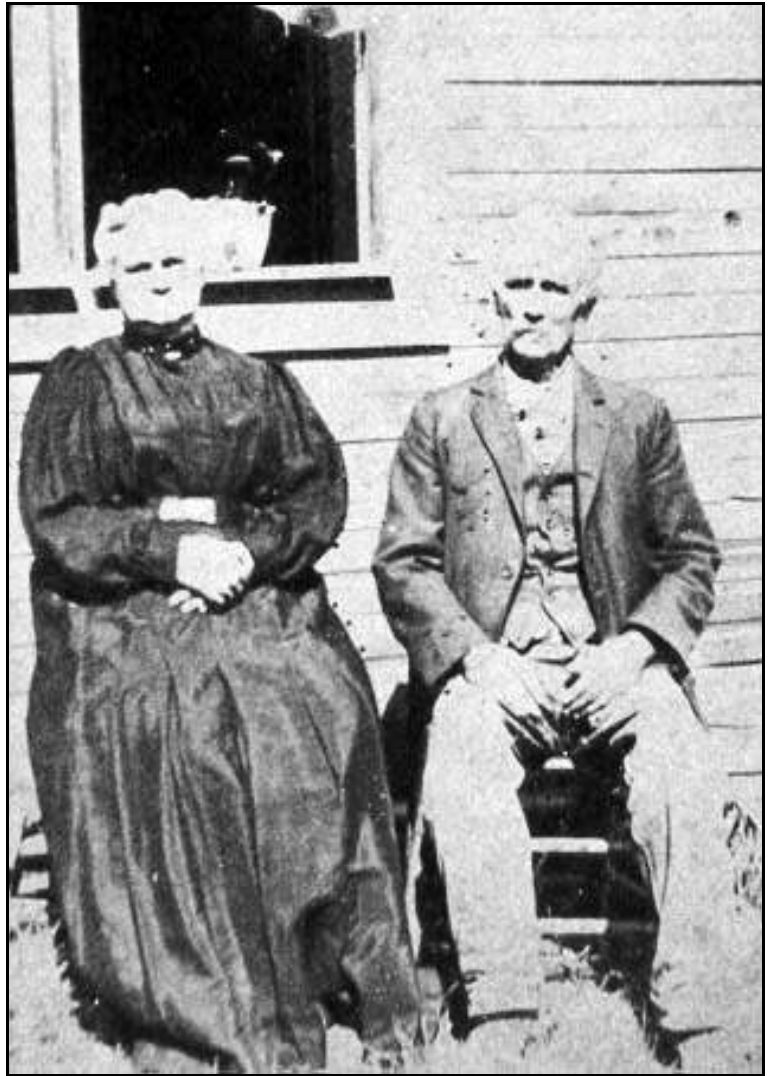
We lived there until October of 1886 when we decided to come to central Oregon. Loading a few household goods into a wagon box we started for Prineville over the McKenzie pass on the old wagon road over the lava beds.

It took us about a week to make the trip and one week after our arrival at Post, a daughter was born.

My husband cut green pine logs and put up a one-room cabin on a squatter's claim and while the logs were yet green, and in the middle of the winter, we moved into it. We could buy some things in Prineville at that time, but most of our supplies we freighted in by wagon from The Dalles.

I have had nine children, seven of them are still living. In 1912 my husband passed away and a few years later I took up a homestead. Twenty-one years ago I moved from Post to Prineville and have made this my home ever since.

One of my sisters, Missouri Driscoll, lives in Lewiston, Idaho and the other Suzan Gibson lives in Williams, California. My brother, William, died several years ago. My father fought in the Indian war that put the Piute Indians on the reservation. He fought in the battle of Battle Rock, in the Millican country.



John and Mollie Cantrell Gibson

*Note: John Archibald Gibson passed away in 1912 and is buried in the Knox Cemetery near Post, Oregon. Mollie Gibson lived on for several years and passed away in 1940 and is buried in Juniper Haven Cemetery in Prineville.*

# HISTORY OF CROOK COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE



Discover the history of Crook County Fire and Rescue and learning how our local firefighters have battled blazes, protected our community, and evolved over the years. This engaging presentation will bring the history of fire service in Crook County to life and explore how they continue to serve our community today!

**Featuring: Volunteer Asst. Chief Mike Wright & Fire Prevention Technician Amber Blanchard**

**March 20th | 6:00pm  
Bowman Museum**

246 N. Main St. Prineville, OR



## Crook County Chronicles Volume 5

### Recollections of Warren Glaze

The latest volume of Crook County Chronicles is now being published and will be sent out to members in early March. It contains the recollections of Crook County Pioneer Warren Glaze, the son of Till and Ann Glaze.

The late Frances Juris had collaborated with Mr. Glaze on compiling his recollections with the intent to have them published. Unfortunately Mr. Glaze passed away in 1973 at the age of 93. Frances had other endeavors and the recollections were stored in a cardboard box for over 50 years.

Frances shared the information with historian Steve Lent and asked that he bring the recollections together. She passed away before this could be done. But now readers can enjoy a nostalgic look back at Prineville and Crook County 's early years.



Prineville Fire Department Band Directed by Warren Glaze 1904

**Christmas Ball.**

—GIVEN BY—  
**PRINEVILLE FIRE CO.,**  
—AT—  
**FIREMEN'S HALL**

**Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 1888.**

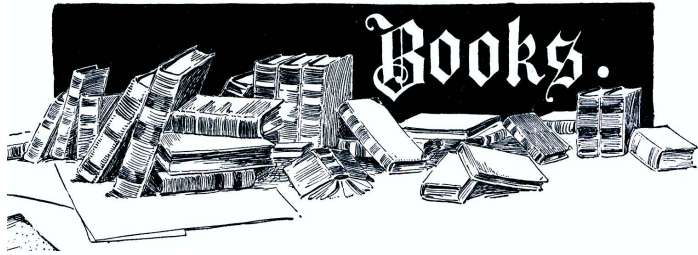
*Excellent music will be furnished.  
Everybody invited. Tickets \$1 50.*

INVITATION COMMITTEE.  
LEO FRIED, T. M. BALDWIN,  
J. W. HOWARD.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.  
P. B. DAVIS, MARK E. CARY.  
JOHN TEMPLETON.

FLOOR COMMITTEE.  
P. B. HOWARD, SI SICHEL,  
E. T. SLATON.

Fireman's Christmas Ball Ad 1888

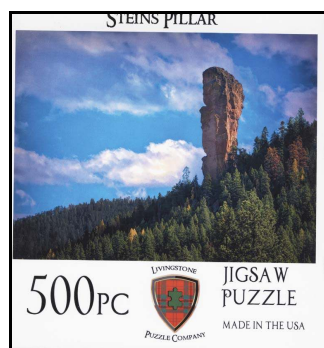
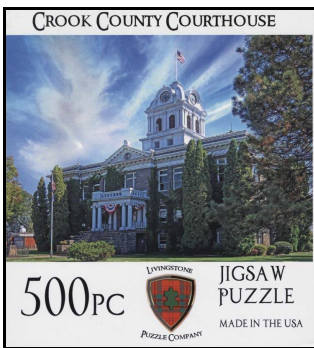


# Items at Museum

**Puzzles**  
\$15.00

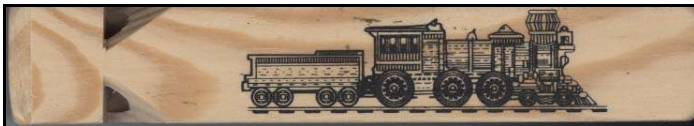
500 Pieces

We have two different puzzles for sale. The puzzles are made locally in Central Oregon and are in full color. This is a great item for your enjoyment or to give as gifts. One of the puzzles features the Crook county Courthouse and the other features Steins Pillar. These are relatively new items. Highly recommended for puzzle enthusiasts.



**Wooden Train Whistle**  
\$10.50

These wooden whistles are popular with youngsters. They are embossed with the City of Prineville Railway Caboose and engraved with Caboose Park-Bowman Museum Prineville, Oregon on one side and a locomotive on the other. This is a great gift for young train enthusiasts.



**Prineville/Crook County Commemorative Plate**  
\$7.95

We only have a few of these plates left. The plate is about 10 inches in diameter and is embossed with the Crook County Courthouse, the Bowman Museum, the Carson Stage Stop and a map outline of Crook County. This is a collectors item and once they are sold they will no longer be available.



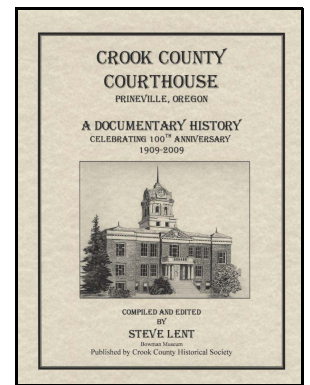
**Crook County Courthouse: A Documentary History 1909-2009**

by Steve Lent  
\$10.00

Spiral Bound

92 Page

This booklet was prepared for the 100th Anniversary of the Crook County Courthouse. The author has compiled numerous newspaper articles on various phases of the courthouse through the years as well as anecdotal history of the courthouse. There are numerous photos of the courthouse through the years. It also has a list of county officials from 1882 to 1909. This is a great reference on our historic courthouse which is among the more photographed buildings in Central Oregon.



**Riverwater: A Natural and Social History of the McKenzie River**

by A. Whipple  
\$29.95

Hardcover

163 Pages

This is an oversized coffee table book. It is profusely illustrated with color and black & white photos. The McKenzie River is one of the unique rivers in Oregon. It emerges from the lava beds at Clear Lake and flows to merge with the Willamette River near Eugene. The author carefully relates the history of the river and its impact on settlement.

