



# THE SCOUT

## Newsletter of the Union County Museum Society

Summer 2013

### From our President Sharon Hohstadt

We have hosted some outstanding groups this season. The school groups are always exciting. Children are so up-beat and ready for new and interesting situations. They come with some pre-instructions and are fun to watch. If you are a teacher think about bringing your class. We have a helpful lesson prepared and volunteers ready to help you.

PEO and Northwood Trailer groups provided people who were very interested in history and our museum. Their support and great comments are most rewarding to us. Groups help with advertising also, they tell others of their experience and so more interest is created. Thanks to each of you for your help this way.

A new feature in Union is a walking tour of historic buildings on Main Street. The Hotel, City and Museum worked together to produce a brochure, Anderson and Perry very generously printed it. If you haven't seen it, pick up a copy and treat yourself to a delightful tour. It's a must for all history lovers.

If you belong to a group or a family interested in an educational or just a fun tour suggest the museum. We try to work around your time schedule and create to a friendly and relaxed setting of everyone.

Grassroots is coming August 10. The museum will be hosting the "Dutch Oven Cook-Off." It will be held in our courtyard with Merle Miller chairing the event. If you would like to take part be sure to sign up soon.

Some of the best news from the museum is that Blanche Kohler is able to be with us for short periods of time. Blanche was in a very serious car accident and we feel very blessed that she is making such good progress. Blanche, keep up the good work (just not too much).

Thanks to all members for your visits, volunteering and financial help, we value each and every one of you! Stay Cool!

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### **Grassroots Raffle**

It is raffle time at the Union County Museum. Three prizes will be available – one is an Ann Yoder print "Reflections of Hot Lake Springs" valued at \$120, another is a book by John W. Evans, *Powerful Rockey*, retail price \$32.95, and third a basket of items including a vintage tablecloth. Tickets are \$1 for one or six for \$5. Tickets are available at the Union County Museum.

### **Grassroots Dutch Oven Cookoff in the Museum Court Yard**

Are you a Dutch Oven cook? Do you enjoy Dutch Oven cooked food? Come and join us August 10, when the Dutch Oven cooking will be starting at 9 a.m. with judging and tasting starting at 1 p.m. If you would like to join us in the cooking, bring your Dutch ovens and everything you need to cook with, to the Museum court yard. There will be \$50 prizes given for the best Main Dish, Bread, and Dessert. For more information contact Merle Miller at 541-963-6387 or [mpmiller@eoni.com](mailto:mpmiller@eoni.com).

SEE YOU AT THE GRASSROOTS COOKOFF

**A BIG THANK YOU**

Many Thanks go to the Union VFW for donating an American Flag to the Union County Museum! Also, for taking the old, used and damaged flags we had donated to us. They were rightfully destroyed in the VFW flag ceremony. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated!

We have since purchased a new Oregon State Flag for our daily use.

**Museum Store Note Cards**

You will find note cards in stock in the museum store. There is a variety to choose from – some have a western theme, others have Victorian scenery and our own packet of ink drawings by Jessica Lackaff. There are, also, some photo cards including one taken of the beautiful blooming Oregon Trail Rose. Recently we added packets with an old time sawmill and logging theme. When needing to write a note, think of checking out our supply. It’s another way of supporting the Union County Museum. Proceeds from sales in the store go toward utilities, general maintenance and everyday expenses.

**The Oregon Book of Ranching**

The Oregon Book of Ranching honors the 100th Anniversary of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association. This is a limited edition with many Union, Baker and Wallowa County names you may recognize. Janet Dodson, one of our own board members, was the editor of this rich history of Oregon ranching and the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, with Michael Hanley of Jordan Valley providing illustrations and history. This leather bound book sells for \$45.00.

**PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED**

If you change your mailing address or name, if a member in your family is deceased, or if you are a snow bird and go South for the winter, please notify us as soon as possible so that the membership records can be kept current.

Union County Museum,  
PO Box 190, Union OR 97883.  
or call Carol Mulvany at 541-562-5279

Thank you for your help!

**Little White Church**

Do you need a convenient place to have a gathering? The Little White Church located at 366 S. Main Street across from the museum is available for your events. There is price list for usage. Those funds are used for utilities and maintenance with the any excess placed in a dedicated fund for major maintenance on the Little White Church. The building has been used for birth-day parities, weddings and meetings.

Call Carol at 541-562-5279 to schedule your event.



**WANTED** - Legal size file cabinet in good condition to store photographs in – one to four drawers! Please call Carolyn Young – 541-963-0901



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

To *Fred Hill, John Turner and Dave Yerges* for their continuing donations of historic photographs. Our collection has become quite impressive. We hope to be able to get the photographs on the computer in the near future. In the meantime all pictures have been numbered and filed for easy reference.

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**Bills School Dist. #75**

Bills School lies near the Union-Wallowa Co. border, was organized in 1899. The residents donated logs, sawed them into lumber and built the school. The windows and doors were funded by proceeds from a cake sale and oyster supper.

**Hempe School Dist #72**

Hempe School was organized in 1894. Frank Hempe donated land to be used for school purposes. It was located on Godley Lane. After the 1928-29 term, the district consolidated with Union Dist #5 in 1958.

**HELP WANTED**  
NEED SOMEONE WHO LOVES VINTAGE CLOTHING TO HELP US INVENTORY AND PRESERVE OUR LARGE COLLECTION. ON YOUR SCHEDULE! PLEASE CALL: CAROLYN YOUNG – 541-963-0901

The following article was found in the 1961 Annual, Published by the Union County Historical Society.

### PIKE'S PEAK EAST OF ELGIN NAMED FOR EARLY-DAY SETTLER

On the historical map in your History of Union County, Oregon, you will find about five miles east of Elgin a place called Pike's Peak. The following story about Pike's Peak is taken from Bernal Hug's Elgin History.

To appreciate the name of the small hill we call Pike's Peak, one needs to know the story of the man, J. C. Ward, called Pike Ward, and his connection with the hill.

Pike was a colorful early settler of Cricket Flat. Joshua Stubble-field, the granddaddy of all the Stubblefield's around the country and the man whom Stubblefield Mountain was named for, said he knew Pike Ward in Missouri and in fact, had heard him preach. He was a man of considerable education.

He had gone to Jacksonville, Ore., in 1847 where he became acquainted with "Hog" Hamilton, another interesting local character. These two men drifted down to San Francisco in the gold rush days of 1849.

While at San Francisco, Ward told a group of boys that his home was in Pike County, Missouri. The next morning some of the group saw Ward on the street. Not remembering his name, but remembering where he said he came from, they greeted him with, "Well, if it ain't Pike himself." The name Pike stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Pike and Hamilton came to Union County at an early date; Hamilton in 1862, and no one is sure when Ward came, but it was quite early.

Pike Ward had a claim and a homestead on the south west slope of Stubblefield Mountain. This land is now in Carl Long's pasture, and the old John Brugger place. Here in a fertile little cove between the bushes and rock cliffs, he had a very frost free location and became the area's first truck gardener. He seemed to have a "green thumb" and grew many fine vegetables. Dry beans were his specialty and his variety of large mottled red beans became well known over a wide area as Pike Ward beans.

The writer recalls that when he was a small boy, Pike came into a local grocery store one spring with a wheat sack full of spinach that he had brought to town on his saddle horse. The thing that impressed the small boy was the quantity of spinach that came out of one wheat sack where it had been compressed.

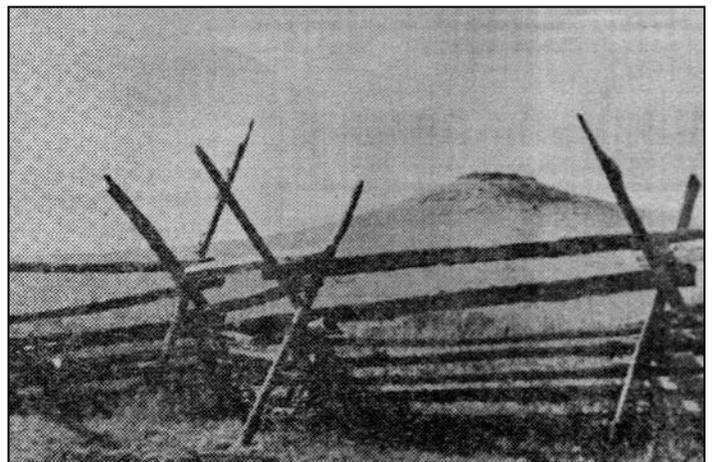
In the winter time when Pike was not busy with his garden he went into the nearby timber and made rails and shakes to sell. Roy Knight says, "Pike told me one time that he thought he had split enough rails to fence Cricket Flat and that he had made enough shakes to put a roof over it. Ward knew this was an overstatement but it was his way of saying that he had done much of this kind of work.

In Oregon Ward had developed a human weakness for strong drink and quite often he became intoxicated. Andrew Tucker tells of a typical occasion: "Once I saw him where he had fallen from his horse, a very gentle animal that he called Black Bess. One of Ward's very large feet was fast in the stirrup and as Black Bess quietly grazed along, she would drag Ward a little distance each time she moved. In his hand he held a bottle of whiskey, and was patiently holding a twenty dollar gold piece across the mouth of the bottle with his thumb; his only interest seemed to be in preventing the whiskey from slopping out."

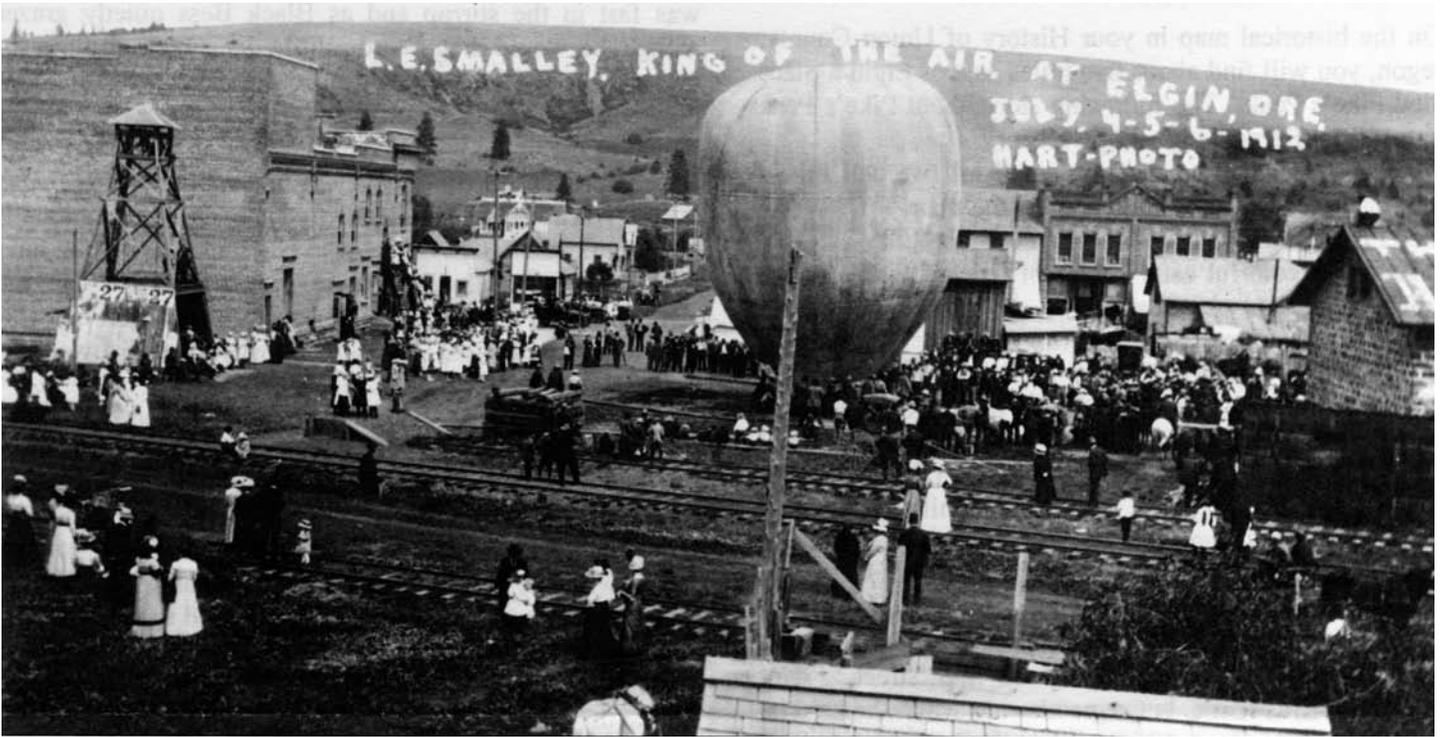
Pike Ward had an excellent rifle and was an exceptionally good marksman. Old timers who had hunted with him have told me that he always hunted grouse with his rifle and always shot at their heads. He had the reputation of being able to shoot the head off a grouse when the bird was in a very tall pine tree.

When the Bannock War was on, in 1878, and the settlers were fortified up in Elk Flat Fort, which they had built early that spring, Pike took it upon himself to secretly spend the nights with his rifle among the rocks at the top of a cone shaped hill close to the fort.

Men who knew him were sure it would have taken lots of Indians to have silenced Ward's rifle should there have been an attack on the fort. In recognition of Pike's patriotic action, people who found out what happened commenced calling this hill "Pike's Peak."



*Looking north at Pike's Peak. The fort was to the right of the picture. In the foreground of this old picture is a real pioneer type-stake and rider rail fence. Five miles out east of Elgin on the Wallowa highway where the market road turns off to the right, one can look south and see this hill about a mile away.*



Fourth of July, 1912 ~ Elgin, Oregon



A Camping Party at Meacham, Oregon, 1888

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to “Welcome” the following individuals who have recently become a Member or Life Member of the Union County Museum Society.

### *New Members*

Bob & Donna Brown – Cove, OR  
 Dennis & Patti Spray – La Grande, OR  
 Barbara Minge – Island City, OR  
 Tim & April Olds – La Grande, OR  
 Elburn & Elizabeth Cooper – La Grande, OR  
 Ed & Muriel Shawl – La Grande, OR  
 Jane Peacock – Imbler, OR  
 Lorna Spain – La Grande, OR  
 Rick Stebber – Prineville, OR  
 Dick Miller – Elgin, OR  
 Monte & Karrie Phoenix – La Grande, OR  
 Wade & Mindy Richards – Caldwell, ID  
 Matthew & Sarah Railey – Union, OR  
 David Moore Family – Union, OR  
 Brent Bayard – Union, OR  
 Vladimir & Julianne Shulga – Portland, OR  
 Ruth Rush – Union Hotel – Union, OR  
 Derrill Richards family – Caldwell, ID

### *Memorial Donations*

In memory of Jan Smith  
     Michael & Evelyn Merriman – Union, OR  
 In memory of Bette Lowe  
     Mary Dodds - Union, OR  
 In memory of Rod Jones  
     Mary Dodds – Union, OR

### *Memorial Bricks*

In memory of her parents Clarence & Mary Vickers  
     Carolyn Shaw – Cove, OR  
 In memory of Terry G. Vickers  
     Micki Vickers – La Grande, OR

### *Donations to General Fund*

Dorothy Fleshman – La Grande, OR  
 Shelley Kuther – Craigmont, ID  
 Pete Altenburg – Sacramento, CA  
 Alan Guttridge – Union, OR  
 Adam Sherman – Walla Walla, WA  
 Lois Barry – La Grande, OR  
 Gary & Blanche Kohler – Union, OR

### *Other Donations to the Museum*

Don & Jessie Dodson, D2 Ranch, North Powder  
 – barn wood used on Livery Station walls  
 Curt & Cheryl Martin, VP Ranch, North Powder  
 – barn wood used on Livery Station walls

### Donations to Museum Store:

Carolyn Young – La Grande, OR  
 \*note cards, post cards & Christmas cards  
 Donna Patterson – Union, OR  
 \*hand woven coverlet  
 David Moore – Union, OR  
 \*fabric Welcome Sign for front sidewalk  
 Union VFW – Union, OR  
 \*American flag for front sidewalk

#### UNION COUNTY MUSEUM SOCIETY Board Members for 2012-2013

##### OFFICERS – 2013

President – Sharon Hohstadt – Cove  
 Vice-President – Pat Miller – La Grande  
 Secretary – Linda Bond – Union  
 Treasurer – Carol Mulvany – Union

##### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Merle Miller – La Grande  
 Neva Smith – Union  
 Dick Hohstadt – Cove  
 Carolyn Young – La Grande  
 Connie DiGiovanna – Union  
 Janet Dodson – North Powder

##### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Val Stockhoff – Union

##### HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Gracie Tarter – Union

##### CURATOR

Blanche Kohler – Union

### **NOTICE**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS OF ARTICLES  
 OR INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT SCOUT  
 NEWSLETTER IS: AUGUST 26, 2013  
 Send your news and story ideas to Merle Miller  
 mpmiller@eoni.com