



# THE SCOUT

Newsletter of the Union County Museum Society

Fall 2013

## Mike Hanley Guest Speaker at Museum Event

The Union County Museum is pleased to announce Mike Hanley, a historian, artist, author, and cowboy will speak at the museum's annual fall membership meeting and rally, Friday, October 11, 7 p.m., at the Little White Church, across Main Street from the museum in Union. Hanley, a cattle rancher from Jordan Valley, has published numerous books about Oregon's colorful ranching history, from the days of great cattle drives, cattle barons and range wars through the shipping of cattle by rail. He is known for his extensive knowledge of the Old West, his finely detailed pen and ink drawings and his authentic Western outlook.

Mike Hanley was part of the team that created the Cowboys, Then & Now Exhibit, originally developed for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Oregon Beef Council and installed in their shared office in Portland in the early 1990s. The exhibit was created to inform the urban audience about the history of cattle ranching and the ranching lifestyle. Upon opening with much fanfare, the exhibit was awarded the best new attraction in Portland and was visited by over a thousand viewers a month. The Union County Museum later acquired the exhibit through a RFP process, when the Cattlemen's Association and Beef Council moved and no longer had room for the collection. The Museum sent volunteers to Portland to pack and haul the collection to Union, where it opened in 1998. It has been a major component of the museum collection ever since.

Hanley will talk about highlights and creation of the exhibit, the history of cattle ranching and cattle in Oregon, and today's ranching lifestyle. His books will be available for purchase, along with the Oregon Book of Ranching, a leather-bound 2013 book commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. The Oregon Book of Ranching features a history section and sketches by Mike Hanley, along with the stories of over 85 Oregon ranches and a history of the OCA.



Admission for the event is free and everyone is invited. The museum will serve refreshments. A portion of the museum will open at 4 p.m. that day, so people are encouraged to come early to see the Cowboys Then & Now Exhibit and visit with our guest before the evening event. October 11 is the last day the museum is open this season. The museum opens again Mother's Day, 2014.

The museum board asks you to consider joining the Union County Museum Society to support the collection, preservation and presentation of our area's history. Individual membership is just \$10 a year; you can be a Patron for just \$50 a year. Visitors from around the world give the museum very high praise for the quality of exhibits and the depth of the collection. Come to the museum for a fun evening and see why it is worthy of your support.

**Museum Society Board nominatons**

The following members have consented to serve on the Union County Museum Society Board of Directors for 2013-2014.

The Union County Museum Board for 2013-2014

Sharon Hohstadt – Renominated	Cove
Patricia Miller – Renominated	La Grande
Carol Mulvany – Renominated	Union
Merle Miller – Renominated	La Grande
Austin Saunders – Nominated	La Grande
Janet Dodson – Renominated	North Powder
John Sheehy – Nominated	Union
Connie DiGiovanna – Renominated	Union

**UNION COUNTY MUSEUM SOCIETY  
2012-2013 Board Members**

**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

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**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 right away 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

**Roof damages causes early closure**

Due to damage to the roof over the bank building part of the museum during a recent hail storm, the Union County Museum closed for the season a couple of weeks earlier than planned. Museum board members and volunteers rushed to cover or remove artifacts and exhibits from harm’s way. The board is pursuing getting the roof repaired immediately. Donations to assist with the cost of repair are most welcome.

This does not impact the event scheduled for Friday, October 11, since it is taking place in the Little White Church across the street.

**Museum Store**

The museum store is brimming with new inventory. You will find vintage glassware, pottery and new items donated from a Union County store. Our inventory also includes history books for adults and children, note cards, giftware, hand made items and inexpensive stocking stuffers for children. Recent donations have greatly expanded our store and help support the museum.

It’s never too early to think about your holiday gift list. Admission is not required for nonmembers to visit the store.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

To all who visited the museum, attended an event, volunteered to host, worked on a project, cleaned, inventoried objects, made facility repairs, created an exhibit, donated an heirloom or boards for an exhibit, contributed funds, served as a board member, gave a presentation or demonstration, told someone the museum is well worth a visit, rented space, published or broadcasted a press release or visited our website, we thank you for helping us have a successful season!

It takes many hands, a variety of skills and money to be the caretakers and presenters of our area’s history. If you aren’t yet a member, please join us in this worthwhile cause.

The following article was left at the Museum by an unknown visitor.

### THE GREAT JOSEPH BANK ROBBERY

Author Unknown

In the fall of 1896, two men new to the area rode into town. Their coming went fairly unnoticed. It wasn't unnatural for men to be passing through looking for a place to settle down or just seeing what work might be available. One man was named Jim Brown and one was named Cy Fitzhugh. Neither attracted much attention. But they weren't much interested in settling down or in work. Their intentions were far more sinister.

The two men made the acquaintance of a young man local to the area, a twenty-five year old named Dave Tucker. The three had been working on a threshing outfit when they met. Dave was well known to the residents of the area including my grandfather. But apparently he seemed to have the kind of impatience and youthful daring Brown and Fitzhugh were looking for. After some discussion, Dave was drawn into their plan. Two other men, John Martin and Ben Ownbey, were also in on the deal. Thus began a story and a history that has captured the imagination of residents for over a hundred years.

Joseph, Oregon was then and still is a very small town. Activities included mostly mining, timber and cattle. It's situated at the end of a string of small towns beginning at La Grande and running through Summerville, Elgin, Wallowa, Lostine and Enterprise, the county seat. Joseph lies a few miles beyond Enterprise at the foot of Wallowa Lake and is bordered on the South and East by the Wallowa Mountains and of the North by over a hundred miles of open, hilly country. It is truly isolated.

The First Bank of Joseph is located on a corner near the center of town. A livery, now long gone, was located across the street where my grandfather worked.

On October 1, 1896, at midday, Martin and Ownbey were to enter the bank to make sure everything was ready. When they exited the bank, if everything was OK, they were to walk slowly across the street. Brown, Fitzhugh and Tucker were then to approach on horseback with Brown and Fitzhugh entering the bank. Tucker was to remain out front stopping anyone who approached making them stand against the bank. Everything went as planned until a local resident, Fred Wagner, saw what was going on as he walked down the other side of the street. Tucker saw him and waved him over with his six-gun but Wagner pretended he didn't see and continued around the corner.

While this was going on, my grandfather stepped out of the livery across the street. As Tucker saw him he waved his gun at him. Grandpap ducked back inside and went upstairs to observe everything through a crack in the boards.

Someone inside the bank caught on. Shots were fired as Brown and Fitzhugh left through the front door. Meanwhile Fred Wagner, who had ducked down an alley, stepped out with a rifle and began shooting. Brown was shot dead beside his horse, falling on top of the bag of money. Tucker lost part of a finger and thumb and was shot in the side. He ran to hide in a shed a short distance away and was found shortly thereafter. Fitzhugh, already astride his horse jumped down, rolled Brown over to retrieve the money bag, remounted, whirled his horse around and galloped off down the road. Wagner had to stop shooting as school had just let out and children were crossing the road in front of him as Fitzhugh rode past.

The posse found Fitzhugh's horse some distance away where he made a planned exchange for a fresh mount. Fitzhugh rode away with just over \$2,000. He was never seen again.

One might think this is the end of the story but not by a long shot, Dave Tucker pled guilty and was sentenced to seven years in the territorial prison in Salem. Ownbey turned states evidence and was sentenced to five years. Martin, for lack of any corroborating evidence, went free.

Released after four years for good behavior, Dave Tucker traveled to Washington State and Idaho but was unable to find work so decided to return to Joseph.

A local sheep man, Pete Beaudoin, gave Dave a job herding sheep. Dave worked hard and eventually was able to start his own herd. In 1906 he married his childhood sweetheart who had waited all that time. Increasing his holdings, he branched out into cattle. Over the years he became one of the most successful landholders and ranchers in the valley. And it ain't over yet folks. Eventually, he became a major stockholder and vice president of the bank he once helped to rob. And that's the end of the story.



1903 - Dead Horse Flat



1891 - A bountiful day in the Wallowa Mountains, from the archives of the Oregon Historical Society

### Donations to General Fund:

Bruce Mulvany – Union, OR  
 Bill & Karen Gamble – Summerville, OR  
 Bob & Pearl Bull – La Grande, OR

### Other Donations to the Museum:

Julie Bodfish — new items for resale at the gift shop and yard sale  
 Lois Barry –new display stands  
 Linda Bond – items for yard sale  
 Len Paur – items for yard sale  
 Jim & Judy Rygg – items for gift shop and yard sale  
 Penny Yost – items for gift shop and yard sale  
 Linda Ogletree – items for gift shop and yard sale  
 Jim & Judy Rygg – vintage wood and glass display case

### Looking Ahead to the Next Museum Yard Sale

Summer 2014 will be our next bi-annual yard sale. It will be held at the Little White Church with times and dates to be announced. The proceeds will benefit the Little White Church Fund. We are in the process of replacing the north side windows in the church. Although replacing the windows at this time was not planned, vandalism required the project to go forward.

Any items you may donate would be greatly appreciated. Perhaps your family and friends could find a few things, also. As a drop off place, the museum will be opened through October 11 and again next spring after Mother's Day. If this doesn't work for you any board member will be happy to collect your donations.

If you leave your name and address, a tax donation receipt will be sent to you.

#### NOTICE of DEADLINE

SUBMISSIONS OF ARTICLES OR INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT SCOUT NEWS-LETTER ARE DUE January 2, 2014.

Please send your news and story ideas to Merle, [mpmiller@eoni.com](mailto:mpmiller@eoni.com)

*The following stories are taken from the book "Reflections of Pioneer Families." This book is a compilation of 130 stories written and submitted by Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers members. The book is for SALE at the Museum...*

### Henry Rinehart 1852

Excerpted from Rinehart family book. An Encounter With Chief Joseph...In 1865 the Henry Rinehart family came to the Grande Ronde Valley from the Willamette Valley. They made a dugout where the highway goes by the railroad track and lived in it for several years. In 1866 Henry Rinehart got acquainted with Chief Joseph and his Nez Perce Indians, who came to the valley to dig camas. They became friends.

By 1870 there was a trading post at Summerville, and men began to go to the Wallowa Valley, which had been given by treaty to the Nez Perce as a reservation. Mr. Rinehart and two other men were chosen to go and ask for half of the valley back as settlement for the whites. Chief Joseph became very angry and spit in Rinehart's face. They parted in anger. This was thought to be the beginning of the Nez Perce Indian War.

In 1897 the government allowed Chief Joseph to make a farewell trip back to his beloved Wallowa Valley. He pleaded with his guards to be allowed to see Henry Rinehart to apologize for his behavior 23 years earlier. His request was granted and on a particular day he arrived in the valley and Rinehart, who was living in La Grande, arrived by train. Shortly after, Rinehart and the Chief were seen walking arm in arm in reconciliation.

Descendant, Marcy Addington

### Martha (Bouton) & Cornelius McFarland

Saved by Martha's Bread... This is a favorite family anecdote and was told to me by Father's mother, Alice McFarland Abrams

Martha Bouton (of Huguenot descent) was married when she was 16 to Cornelius (Neil) McFarland. They joined a wagon train and came west in a covered wagon. They decided to settle in the outskirts of The Dalles where Cornelius became captain of the steamer "Wasco."

Some time later, Neil went to town for supplies. Martha was baking bread when she noticed columns of smoke coming closer. She knew that the Indians must be burning neighboring cabins. She quickly put her children, including my grandmother Alice, in a shed attached to the kitchen and went to the door to watch as the Indians approached. As they came closer, she filled her arms with loaves of bread and held them out to the Indians. It worked, and they went away with the bread, leaving the McFarland family alone. Afterwards, the Indians called her "The Bread Woman." Descendant, Elita Corbitt