

Mark Prairie

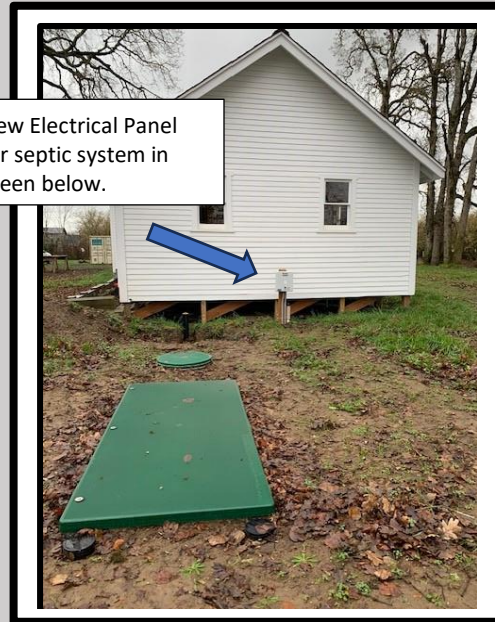
7528 S. Mark Rd., Canby, OR 97013

markprairiehistoricalsociety.org

NEWS & NOTES – JANUARY 2024

IMAGINE a **SUMMER CELEBRATION** like no other, where we proudly unveil the fully restored Mark Prairie Schoolhouse, all thanks to champions like YOU! With your unwavering support, we're approaching the finish line, and the excitement is contagious.

We marvel at the incredible journey we have taken together, as the Mark Prairie Historical Society reflects on nearly three years since oak trees devastated the beloved 1879 Schoolhouse. Your generosity, combined with insurance funds and the dedication of our amazing volunteers, has breathed new life into this historical gem. The exterior has been rebuilt, repaired, and painted, and now, with your help, we're ready to restore the Schoolhouse's heart - its original interior.



In 2024, our goal is to restore the classroom to its former glory - envision matching tongue-and-groove paneling, original fir floors, salvaged doors, and vintage lighting that whispers tales of days gone by.



Mark Prairie 4-H Boys
waiting for bus at Horning Hall
to take them to Colton 4-H
Camp **1955**:
Larry Lamon, Gordon Cook,
Lloyd Wolfer, Sandy Joe Yoder,
Dick Hansen.



Financial Support: MPHS invites you to **help finish this last leg of the journey.** Your donation will be the spark that lights up this historical gem, preserving it for generations to come. Every dollar takes us one step closer to our goal, and we are deeply grateful for your support to complete this project, along with volunteers to help with projects small and large, onsite or remote, tools in hand or at a computer. We urge you to step up. “And guess what?”, says MPHS President Judi Aus, “We’re on the lookout for an inaugural **site manager** - could it be you?”

Did you know that in 1900 T.A Campau began teaching at Marks Prairie School with 50 pupils for 3 weeks at \$35/month; however, the majority of the teachers were ladies with terms from 3 weeks to 5 months. In 1919 teacher salary was raised to \$125/mo. Student attendance ranged from 39-62 with all 8 grades in one room.

Also, in 1900 the enclosed front porch was added to the original school building. It still stands today and plans are to repair the floor at the doorway and clean/paint the interior.

Update: As we write this, the electricians are on site completing the electrical work.



New Electrical Panel in storage room

Thank you Kathleen Jordan for your **In-Kind donation** of our new .9 cubic t/900 watt Emerson Microwave Oven valued at \$100.

Send us your Marks Prairie stories or photos. We would love to have a copy to add to our archives.

YOU CAN BE A PART OF THIS HISTORIC RESTORATION

The Historical Society is proud to have received grants to assist with the disaster recovery and restoration from:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation
Cynthia Woods Mitchell Grant for Historic Interiors
Clackamas County Cultural Coalition Direct Link
Oregon Historic Trails Fund
Helen E. Austin Pioneer Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
The Kinsman Foundation
Lee H. & Marion B. Thompson Foundation
Oregon Community Foundation Roundhouse Foundation
Ford Family Foundation
The Oregon Heritage Commission recently awarded MPHS \$20,000 for interior work in one of 33 grants they presented statewide. *The Rotary Club of Canby* gave \$4000 and will donate labor to rebuild the porch and restore the vestibule.

Volunteer Restoration Project Manager, Peggy Sigler, estimates \$100,000 is needed to complete the project to county code requirements; volunteers continue to fundraise and write grant requests.

To donate to Mark Prairie, volunteer, and become a member, go to:
markprairiehistoricalsociety.org
or by mail: 7528 S Mark Rd, Canby, OR 97013

April 1954. Vesta Mark's 4-H club members built the square tables for the Community Club's use. The tables, wood chairs and yellow vinyl covered 1950 vintage chairs are currently in storage while we restore the building.



Our Original Refurbished Mark Prairie Range that survived the 2021 Ice Storm!

• **Volunteer:** The time is **NOW** to dive headfirst into the heartbeat of Mark Prairie Schoolhouse. Your time and skills are invaluable. Since the 2021 ice storm, resolute volunteers have poured their heart and soul into resurrecting this iconic landmark. When the dust settles, it will not be just a building; it will be a beacon of history and a hub of community spirit within YOUR rural neighborhood. **A few Volunteer skills needed:**

- Grant Writers
- Oversee Volunteer Log
- Press Release Writers
- Community Outreach
- Plan Reopening Celebration
- * Computer Skills
- * Do Product Research
- * Market Skills
- * Skilled Labor
- * Join the Board of Directors

Contact us through our website or call/email a local Mark Prairie Member.
markprairiehistoricalsociety.org



LeRoy Limb and John Stalp playing a game of marbles on the original wood floor in 1950's.

Your Volunteer Restoration Team:

- Peggy Sigler – Project Manager
- Judi Wolfer Aus – President
- Denyse McGriff – Vice President
- Erin Nelsen – Secretary
- Gwen Millius – Treasurer
- Blaine Sessions – At-Large Member
- Patty Ralston Ellis – At-Large Member

• **Spread the Word that we need HELP!** Share Mark Prairie's story with your friends, family, and neighbors. We are not just rebuilding walls; we are crafting a space for the community and events, meetings, activities, reunions and monthly potlucks. We are weaving together the rich tapestry of Mark family, Oregon Trail, and Indigenous histories.

By Judi (Wolfer) Aus & Peggy Sigler