

Photographer Jon Croghan's Collection Donated to Library  
by  
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Local photographer Jon Croghan, who died in January after a long and courageous battle with leukemia, specialized in class reunions, weddings, landscapes, and especially aerial photography.

In February, Croghan's widow, Tonita Croghan, donated over 1,300 of her husband's photos to Baker County Library's historic photo collection.

The Croghan Collection runs the gamut of photographic subjects, but by far the most numerous, as well as most significant for documenting Baker County history, are aerial photos, which combined Croghan's two great passions: photography and flying.

The collection contains 64 aerial photos of Croghan's favorite recreational site, Heilner Field (aka Baker County Municipal Airport), named for late local attorney Joseph Heilner, who in the 1930's was an early advocate of an airfield for Baker City.



*Heilner Field.  
Pilot and photographer Jon Croghan liked to take aerial shots.*

There are 77 panoramic aerial photos of Baker City, plus numerous closer aerial shots of the town. Many of these aerials were taken as far back as the 1970's. They show Campbell Street before construction of the shopping mall and before razing of the Community Center and construction of the new National Guard Armory.

In these Baker City aerial photos one sees various stages of construction of Baker Sports Complex, Lund Street off the north end of Cedar Street before any houses were erected, and 43 aerials of the golf course after construction of the back-nine holes but before buildup of nearby residential properties.

Several aerial photos taken above Flagstaff Hill show construction of the road system for the National Oregon Trail Interpretive Center before any of the structures went up.

Of special historical importance are aerials that document the Ellingson mills in south and west Baker City, when rusty metal wigwam burners incinerated sawdust and rows of huge decks of logs awaited processing in the mills.



*Ellingson Plywood Mill in South Baker.*

Croghan's aerial photos capture another long-gone scene, Baker Livestock Auction between north 17<sup>th</sup> Street and the railroad tracks. In one photo a cattle sale is underway. The parking lot is overflowing with pickups and stock trucks. The pens are full of cattle. And a couple of auction lots are lined up in the runway ready to enter the show building.



*Baker Livestock Auction on 17<sup>th</sup> Street.*

Halfway and Richland were other favorite subjects of Croghan's aerial photography. Richland from the air, with its compact square shape, surrounded closely by dark-green alfalfa fields, resembles a tidy German village. On Highway 86 west of Richland, Croghan took shots from all angles of the 1985 Hole-in-the-Wall slide. Further east, a Croghan aerial shows a wonderful north-to-south perspective of the famous Oxbow bend in Snake River.



*Beautiful Richland, Oregon (looking SW).*

Almost all of the photos in the Croghan Collection were taken of Baker County subjects, the notable exceptions are beautiful panoramic aerial photos of Wallowa Lake.

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