

Book series relates 31 years of ranch life in Wallowa County

Janie Tippett's series 'Janie's Journal' is available from local bookstores

By Trish Yerges
Go! Magazine

She's as country as they come. Wallowa rancher's wife and writer, Janie Tippett, 88, has never lived in a town or city. The western lifestyle is all that she's ever known and everything she's ever wanted.

Now her popular memoirs, "Janie's Journal," have just been released in a six-volume series published by Lucky Marmot Press. Each book averages 500 pages with her own photos and an index. The six volumes are available at the Book Loft in Enterprise or can be ordered through any local book store and online.

For 31 years, Tippett shared her memoirs in a column she wrote for Agri-Times Northwest, published in Pendleton and now in Walla Walla. It was called "Janie's Journal...life on a ranch."

It reached reading audiences throughout the Pacific Northwest and internationally where the romantic tales and images of the "Old West" are very popular.

Her columns were derived from a lifetime of journaling on the ranch.

"In my columns," she said, "I chronicled the lives of ranchers and farmers in rural North-eastern Oregon, as well as the cultural changes, weather, local events, and the changing face of our part of rural Oregon."

What seemed to her then as a recent recollection of experiences and thoughts has now aged into documents of historic value.

"Now it is history," she said, "and I did this book series as a memoir of Oregon history for libraries, and of course, it is archived for future research. It is also in our local museum for reference, as I am also a historian

for Wallowa County."

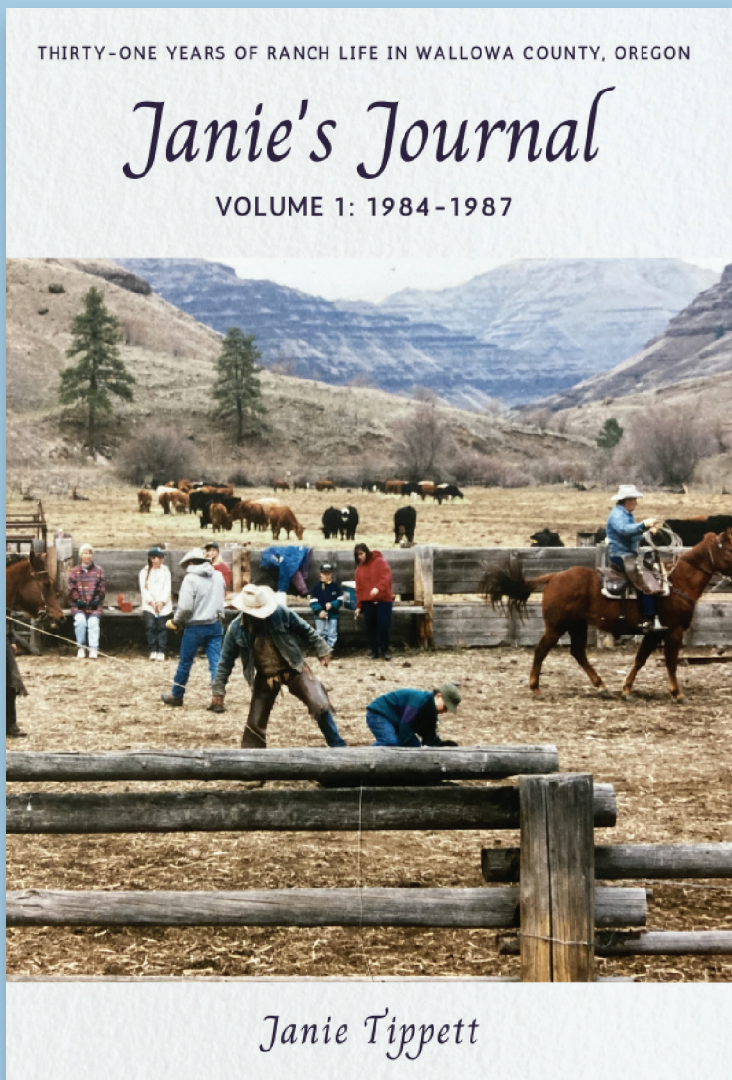
Tippett's book series will find its way into libraries in this region of the state, a job best suited for her publisher, Lucky Marmot Press, she said. Speaking with the heart of a historian, she added that she wants this collection of history to be made available to students and future researchers.

Her readers showed their appreciation for her columns.

"I received lots of fan mail over the years," Tippett said.

There's every reason to believe she will lasso a great deal more fan letters from this book series too.

Tippett is one of the 1988 founders of Fishtrap Gathering writing group, and has been a prolific writer and photojournalist with many literary credits to her name. She currently heads up several writing groups in Wallowa County.



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