

What's In A Name: Steve Lent's New Book

An almost 20-year quest to answer that question ended this spring with the publication of *Central Oregon Place Names, Volume III: Deschutes County*.

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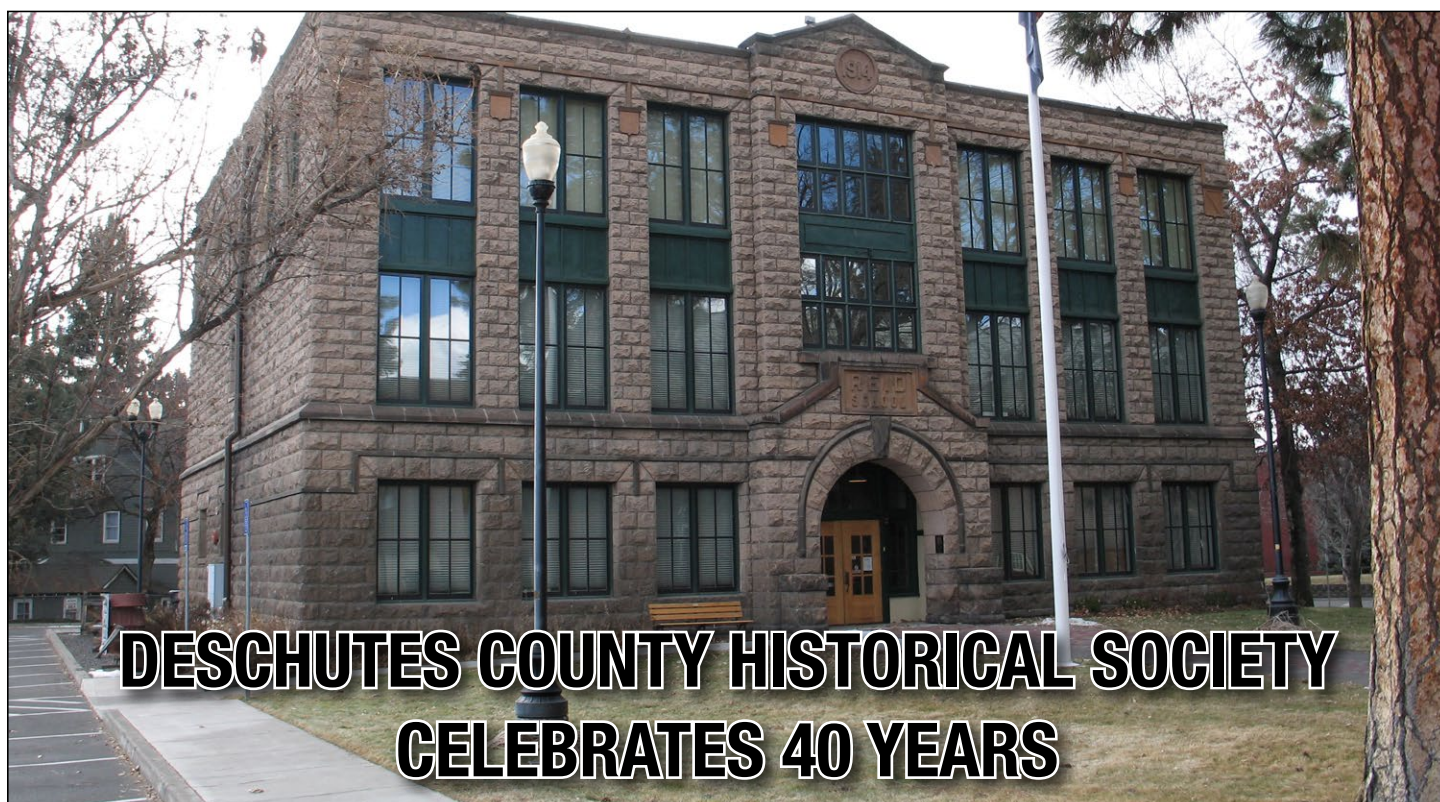
Troy Field Memoir: The Tale of a Landmark

Troy Field is the last open space in downtown Bend. The field is to be sold to the highest bidder to fund the school district's growing population.

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The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter for August 2015



"Research Shows That Bend Area Has Considerable Historical Background"

This year the Deschutes County Historical Society celebrates its 40-year anniversary. The headline comes from a 1959 Bend Bulletin article and fits perfectly for an organization with the motto "Put A Little History In Your Future."

It is said that, "if you don't know your past, you can't see your future." History is an essential part of understanding what is happening today. We stand on the shoulders of the people who came before us. Their reality shapes our actions today more than we realize.

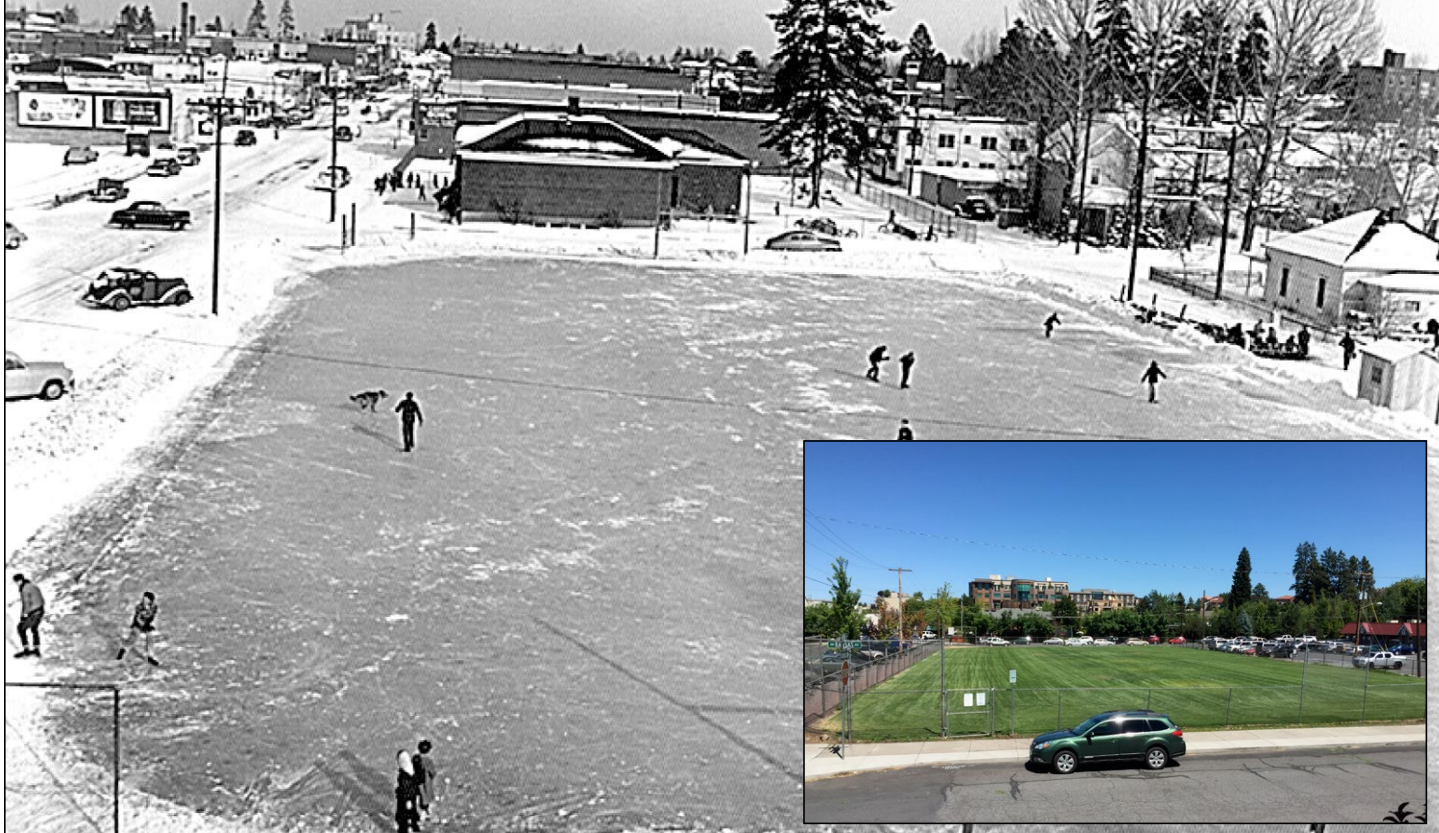
The Deschutes Historical Society (DCHS) was formed in 1975 by a group of people who wanted to preserve the history of the area. According to the "Deschutes Country Yesteryear" (Spring 1989), the formation of the organization was discussed at a meeting held at Don & Judy Hoiness' home on May 20, 1975.

The local newspaper even carried a notice about the upcoming meeting:

The meeting is sponsored by the Bend branch of the

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Troy Field: A Memoir of a Landmark



The ice rink at Troy Field, circa 1949 with St. Francis School clearly visible across the field. Troy Laundry, next door neighbor to the white building on right, was the namesake of the field. Photo: McMenamins Old St. Francis. Inset: Troy Field today. Photo: Tor Hanson

There is a patch of green grass, less than an acre, in the heart of downtown Bend. It sits on the corner of Bond and Louisiana, across from McMenamins Old St. Francis, once St. Francis School.

It is the last open space serving the community, as far as the records go, since 1921 when players lined up along the dirt field to choose teams for the July 4th baseball game. This is Troy Field, named for Troy Laundry that was once directly east of the field. As years progressed, more activities evolved. The nearby schools of St. Francis and Bend High School used the field for athletic events and gym classes.

Sue Fountain recalls in her memoir, “Too Cold to Snow”, “We played softball in the spring and field hockey in the fall; beginning most activities by running laps around the field as a warm-up”. Lennard Sholes, who grew up in Bend recalls high school football games and gym classes held in the dirt field.

But Troy Field is most remembered by many for the free ice skating in winter.

When temperatures dropped sufficient enough to freeze, the fire department flooded the field to form an ice rink.

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Deschutes Historical Museum

129 NW Idaho Avenue, Bend
Open Tuesdays-Saturdays
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
541.389.1813

Museum Staff:

Kelly Cannon-Miller, Executive Director
Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager
Shey Hyatt, Registrar
Linda Orcelletto, Development Manager
Tor Hanson, Homesteader Editor

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2015 DCHS Board of Directors:

Nate Pedersen, President
Marsha Stout, Vice President
Sue Fountain, Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members:

Tony DeBone, Andrea Hunnell DuPree,
Greg FultonKaren Green, Robin Gyorgyalvy,
Tor Hanson, Loren Irving, Heidi Kennedy,
Courtney Lupton-Turner, Bill Olsen, and
Susie Penhollow

Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office.

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www.deschuteshistory.org
Info@deschuteshistory.org

DCHS Celebrates 40 Years...

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DCHS Jubilee at Pine Forest Grange: Susan Gray, museum manager, Rolie Anderson, outgoing museum manager, and Jon Sholes, society president. DCHS photo.

American Association of University Women, and is part of the organization's planning for the American bicentennial celebration.

According to AAUW member Edrey Anker, the club's interest in forming a historical society is to "get the bicentennial spirit of thinking going locally, so it will build up and continue."

Aside from the AAUW, it is worth noting that members from the Deschutes Pioneers Association joined the first meeting. It was a meeting of minds that has lasted ever since.

With 18 people in attendance, including a representative from the Oregon Historical Society, the group elected temporary officers for the proposed society. The interim board was Faith Hall (president), Ed Jackson (vice-president), Edrey Anker (secretary), Laura Wonser (treasurer), as well as board members Judy Hoiness, Leroy Smith, and Betty Marie Baker.

During the coming months the temporary board formed the organization, wrote by-laws, selected a name, and incorporated the newly established organization. In addition, the group made arrangements for the first annual meeting, which took place in November 1975. At the meeting, the interim board voted in the first official board; Jack Meyers (president), Rod Rosebrook (vice-president), Laura Wonser (treasurer) together with board members Leroy Smith, Betty Marie Baker and Willard Cyrus. The newly formed Deschutes Historical Society started out with 119 members.

Over the years, a dedicated cadre of board members, volunteers and members have continued to nurture the collection of local history that is now housed at the Deschutes Historical Museum. The core collection comes from material collected by the Deschutes Pioneer Association, which operated the Deschutes Pioneer Museum on Greenwood. The organization merged their

holdings with Deschutes County Historical Society for the purpose of opening a museum inside historic Reid School. The new museum opened July 4, 1980.

Thankfully the history of Bend and Central Oregon has been collected and studied from the very beginning of the settlement of the area. Preserving history has been an important interest among Bend's residents for the benefit of coming generations.

As early as December 1927, J. Alton Thompson, county superintendent of schools, announced to the local newspaper that the organization of a historical society was underway. Mr. Thompson stated that the society, "Having as its purpose the collection of historical material from pioneers of the mid state country."

The newspaper also noted that, "with the compilation of an accurate history of this part of the state since the coming of the first settlers its primary purpose, the society will endeavor to obtain first hand information from the pioneers who are still living."

The oral history project was scheduled to take two years, but there is no further mention of the historical society in the Bulletin. Perhaps the onset of the Great Depression steered people's interest and work towards other projects.

In October 1931, the topic of local history again popped up in the newspaper. Robert W. Sawyer, the publisher of the Bulletin – and at the time, a director of the Oregon Historical Society – was the speaker at the Lions Club. He urged placing markers throughout the Deschutes County at places with significant historical interest.



Wanda Clark, Deschutes County Historical Society president 1981-1982, at Reid school with Keith Clark on the left and Bonnie Fitzgerald on the right. DCHS photo

Mr. Sawyer noted several potential points of interests that warranted a historical marker. "The speaker briefly reviewed the history of early day exploration in the Deschutes County." He suggested marking the trails followed by Peter Skene Ogden, Nathaniel Wyeth and John Fremont.

Mr. Sawyer also mentioned other Bend landmarks worthy of attention. "The club committee could mark the first residence, the first school house and the first sawmill site."

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Deschutes Historical Society: REFLECTING ON 40 YEARS OF HISTORY

The newsletter staff reached out to former and current board members and asked them to write vignettes about the Deschutes County Historical Society. Here is a collection of remembrances:



"I never imagined that the Society would be as diverse as it is today. We (the first board) was so focused on getting it established we (at least I) did not give much thought to its potential. I must

say it is more than a house for old stuff! What it offers the public is diverse and appeals to a wide age group... The pet history exhibition... never in my wildest dreams would I have thought this would be on view for the public. It appealed especially to the younger group and the animal lovers. Creative, Creative and Creative!

The founding board met nearly once a week (I think) because of the task before us. This was an interesting group with diverse knowledge of Deschutes County historical events. The best part of our meetings happened after we ended for the night. We went to an ice cream store for dessert. Here lots of stories were told. Everyone could ramble and reminisce, which we actually discouraged at the business meeting. We worked at staying focused! I think it was Bend Dairy and seems to me Laura Wonsor dished out the ice cream.

As an AAUW member, I remember we were all concerned that the Pioneer Museum folks would think we were stepping on their toes in organizing another group to collect and store history of the county. That was not the case at all... Laura Wonsor was included on the founding board, to give us a starting point in creating the DCHS."

– **Judy Hoiness**, Founding Board Member

"When I became involved with the Deschutes County Historical Museum it was because of my life long association with the County's history including businesses, politics, schools and most of the people who contributed to the way of life here.

At the time I joined the Historical Society, Rolie Andersen was the manager actively involved in preserving what was available and to improve the Museum. The first floor of the building was being reconstructed and the elevator installed to provide access for the elderly and disabled. The elevator was an important addition to move displays.

Mary Fraser was the Docent at that time, dressing and acting the part of historical women, while providing tours for school children and parents. Her participation was well received and appreciated.

Susie Penhollow, an active member of the Historical Society provided us with liaison to Deschutes County for help and maintenance of the building itself and encouraged involvement of Deschutes County Commissioners, most who have a personal history in this area.

The board of directors were fortunate to find and hire Kelly Cannon-Miller as Director/Manager. Kelly has successfully improved the museum in many areas continuing to attract residents and visitors to experience the History of our area."

– **Jon Scholes**, Former Board President & Director

"Forty years ago this month – on August 4, 1975 – the Deschutes Historical Society was first incorporated. Led by an effort from the Bend Chapter of the American Association of University Women, the Historical Society soon began accepting donations of local historic artifacts



After four years, Deschutes County arranged for the Society to open and operate a museum to display these artifacts in historic Reid School. By summer of 1980, the interior of Reid School had been renovated into a museum and the Deschutes County Pioneer Association merged its collection of artifacts with those held by the Society. For the first time in Deschutes County's history, an entire building was dedicated to preservation of its past.

And that was just the beginning.

In the past forty years we've had our share of successes and challenges, however we have always driven forward with a common purpose: the preservation of Deschutes County history for future generations. Since we are now 40 years old, we are officially "over the hill," however in many ways our work as a Society has just begun. Preserving our history for future generations remains as important today in 2015 as it did forty years ago in 1975.

Please join me in celebrating the successes of the past 40

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In Memoriam: Dennis Robert Douglass – 1940-2015

Bend, Oregon

Dennis Robert Douglass (“Denny”) was born in 1940 in Bend, and died on Monday, June 29, at the Partners In Care Hospice House, also in Bend.

He was married to Elsa Ruth (Poetschat) Douglass. Denny would have celebrated 75 years of life and 49 years of marriage in August. Denny had journeyed with cancer for the past 2 ½ years, and traveled the journey with openness and good humor, setting a wonderful example for others on how to live fully with a terminal illness.

Denny was raised in Bend along with his sister Joyce and brothers Phillip and Martin. He graduated from Bend High School in 1958, and received both Bachelors and Masters



Degrees in English from the University of Oregon. He served four years in the Air Force before settling back in Bend, where he taught high school English and worked in various capacities as a teacher and education administrator before retiring in 2005.

Denny met “Ruthie” as a teenager, and reconnected by chance in Amsterdam in 1965. They began dating in Bend when both returned from their travels, and were married one year later. They made their home in Bend at a house on NW Roanoke Ave, where sons Mark (1969), Matthew (1971 – 73), and Noah (1974) shared their lives and their love for one another. Denny and Ruthie spent 7 years in Roseburg but later returned to Bend in 2003, where they have lived to the present day.

Denny was an avid traveler, chef, nature and music lover, and spiritual seeker. He spent time on every continent except Australia and Antarctica, and was loved and cherished by friends and family from around the world.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Howell William Douglass and Alice Mae (Penhollow) Douglass, and son Matthew Robert Douglass. He is survived by his wife Ruthie, sons Mark and Noah, sister Joyce, brothers Phil and Marty, grandsons Kanyon and Scotty, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. He will be greatly missed.

– Submitted by the family

Steve Lent’s Deschutes County Place Names Book Now Available

“What’s in a name?” was the question William Shakspeare asked and answered in Act II, Scene II of Romeo and Juliet. His answer was fine for his time and place. But for our time and our place—the twenty-first century in a place called Central Oregon—Steve Lent is the man to answer that question.

An almost 20-year quest to answer that question ended this spring with publication of Lent’s *Central Oregon Place Names, Volume III: Deschutes County* by the Crook County Historical Society, the third and final volume of his encyclopedic place names trilogy now available at the Des Chutes Historical Museum book shop to all who would know this county better.

After publishing Volume I on Crook County in 2001 and Volume II on Jefferson County in 2008, Lent focused on Deschutes County’s place names and their origins in this third and final volume of the series. But there’s nothing static about place names, and he’s now setting out to revise and update the Crook County volume which has been out of print for several years.

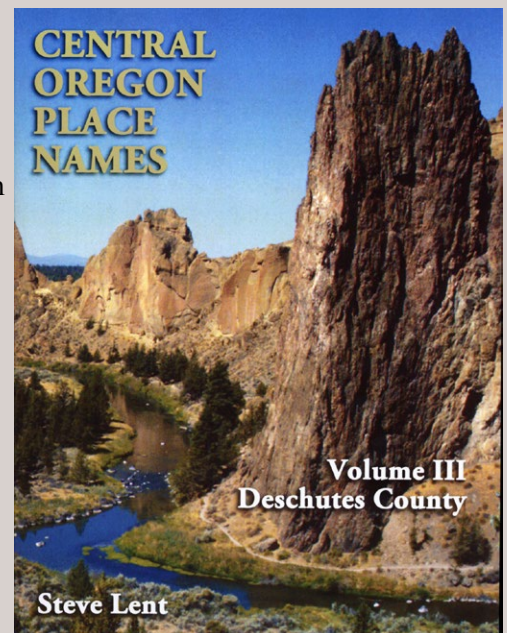
Yes, Steve Lent’s quest continues. And the value his quest is the trail it breaks for all who would know the

counties of Central Oregon better through understanding the origins of the names of the places in those counties. Many of the stories behind those names are fascinating. A few are even hilarious.

What’s in a name for Lent is to know a place better.

You can pursue your own quest to know Deschutes County better—follow Lent’s name origins trail –by purchasing a copy of *Central Oregon Place Names Volume III: Deschutes County* at the Des Chutes Historical Museum for \$24.95--\$22.95 if you are a Deschutes County Historical Society member.

– Les Joslin



Troy Field Memoir...

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A group of skaters are enjoying the ice rink at Troy Field. Outside of the picture to the left of the white building is Troy Laundry.

Layer by layer, each day they sprayed on another coat of water until it formed a pretty decent surface. A city of Bend street cleaner groomed the ice which varied considerably in quality due to the almost daily freezing and thawing of the ice.

“If children do not throw rocks and sticks on the ice, it is believed that an excellent skating surface will cover the whole block” quoted The Bend Bulletin, January 26, 1926.

Sue Fountain’s recollections of the night skating are like scenes from a holiday movie; snowy banks around an icy rink lit with overhead lights, skaters gliding along to music. And there was a small bonfire for skaters to warm their hands. An idyllic scene but all was not so easy for some. Especially the younger skaters that might be caught in the game of “Crack the Whip”.

Lennard Sholes was one of the unfortunates to be at the end of one such whip. He flew into the sidelines and literally cracked his knee. As he recalled, “I was pretty banged up. I didn’t know if I could make it home.” “But,” he added, “I

returned the very next night for more. I don’t think many of us in Bend could really skate that well but it was a good place for all sorts to gather.”

Though the field no longer serves as a skating rink, it still hosts a motley array of sports, activities and festivals. On any given day there might be a youth soccer game, lacrosse teams charging up and down the field, or dogs running to catch a Frisbee. Here is where kids and pets, decorated bicycles, and wagons line up for the annual Bend 4th of July Pet Parade.

After decades of community activities the future of Troy Field is now uncertain. A large FOR SALE sign hangs on one corner of the wire fence. Troy Field is in a limited commercial zone and it can be sold as housing, retail shops, offices...or open space, such as a park. But the last option is not promising nor probable. Its commercial value is estimated to be over \$2 million.

The owners, Bend-LaPine school district declared, “It’s not our mission to provide parks. Our mission is to help enable students to become thriving students.”

And so, Troy Field is to be sold to the highest bidder to fund the district’s growing population. A bit of Bend’s history and its town folk is yet to be determined. It may be a new cityscape where shops and townhouses, apartments, or perhaps a parking lot to pave Paradise. Progress is a fact of life and Troy Field may soon fade just as the thawing of an ice rink.

The museum would like to hear from those who have memories of Troy Field, old and new. Please send your stories to info@deschuteshistory.org or The Deschutes County Historical Museum (DCHS), 129 NW Idaho Ave., Bend, OR 97701.

— Bonnie Burns

DCHS Celebrates 40 Years...

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With an expressed interest in history, publisher R.W. Sawyer took pride in showcasing local stories. One of the most treasured editions of the Bulletin throughout the year was the annual “Fair Edition.” The special edition was published days ahead of the Deschutes County Fair and was filled with articles about area history. Remember the headline of this article? “*Research Shows That Bend Area Has Considerable Historical Background.*” It is copied from Phil F. Brogan’s musing in the 1959 Fair Edition.

Building on the interest of collecting, saving, and highlighting local history, the Deschutes Pioneers Association formed in March 1947 under the leadership of Carl Johnson, Walter Coombs, Claudia Triplett Martin, and Kenneth Sawyer. The purpose of the organization

was, “renewing old acquaintances and preserving artifacts.” That legacy still plays an important role in shaping the history of DCHS.

During the last 40 years, the society has added to the already impressive collection of Bend and Central Oregon historical artifacts. As visitors to the museum knows, the museum staff has over the years stepped up to the plate and showcased different parts of life in central Oregon, all in step with a growing collection.

As we celebrate the Deschutes Historical Society’s 40-year anniversary, we send thanks to all of those that have come before us. They are the reason that we have a vibrant local historical center, where everybody can “put a little history in their future.” After all, as Anglo-Irish philosopher Edmund Burke stated, “Those who don’t know history are doomed to repeat it.”

— **Tor Hanson**, Board of Directors & Homesteader Editor

Local News Items

Greg Fulton Elected to Serve on DCHS' Board of Directors



Greg Fulton, President of the Deschutes Pioneers' Association and proprietor of Greg Fulton Fine Woodworking in Bend, has been selected by our Board of Directors to serve out the remaining two years of Bruce White's term on the board.

Amongst other tasks, Greg will be spearheading efforts to co-sponsor events with the Deschutes Pioneers' Association.

We appreciate Greg's willingness to serve on the board and look forward to future partnerships.

Welcome New Members

Greg Broderick
Steve & Robin Brown
Linda Ingle
Seth Lefkowitz
Margaret Marshall
Philip L. Peoples
Tina Reisfar
Joshua Sims
Jody Ward

Reflecting On 40 Years...

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years by making a birthday gift to the museum today. While we are asking for \$40 gifts to commemorate our 40th birthday, gifts of any amount are much appreciated. Together we can continue the great work of the past forty years.

And I, for one, can't wait to see what we accomplish in the next forty years."

— **Nate Pedersen**, President of the Board of Directors



"It's probably impossible to quantify just how utterly incomplete the recording, cataloguing, and interpreting of the history of Bend and Deschutes County would be without the Deschutes Historical Museum. Its growth and accomplishments over the

past 40 years have made it one of the community's most valuable assets... as are its professional staff, its volunteers, and its loyal members."

— **Jim Crowell**, Bendite, Member, (Author, Researcher)



Dorothy Cale worked with Deschutes County Commissioners to transfer ownership of Reid School from the school district to the county, saving it for future generations. Dorothy served as the first woman commissioner in Deschutes County in 1967.

DCHS Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Renewal _____ New

E-mail: _____

E-mail is needed to receive our monthly newsletter The Homesteader.

_____ Individual - \$20 _____ Family - \$30 _____ Donor - \$50

_____ Business - \$40 or \$50 _____ Patron - \$100 _____ Benefactor - \$500

Additional Contribution: \$ _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

Want to renew your membership by mail?

Make check payable and mail to:

DCHS, 129 NW Idaho Ave,
Bend, Oregon 97703



The Little Woody Returns to the Deschutes Historical Museum

Craft beer enthusiasts rejoice: Little Woody returns to the Deschutes Historical Museum on September 4-5.

The Little Woody Barrel Aged Beer, Cider & Whiskey Fest presented by Bigfoot Beverages was created to commemorate one of Central Oregon's cultural hallmarks – craft beers. This is a festival for beer lovers and connoisseurs alike! Friday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday noon to 10 p.m.

In the past, brewers served beer that had been aged in oaken casks. Once again, brewers turn to these historic techniques in order to add depth of flavor to their brews. The Little Woody celebrates this ancient brewing technique as adapted by American



Craft beer vendors will pitch the tasting tents on the grounds of the Deschutes County Historical Museum for the annual Little Woody.

craft brewers, featuring beers & ciders aged in wine barrels, whiskey barrels and oak barrels, which uniquely flavors and intensifies the beer. This year we are excited to bring cider into the barrel aged fun!

Basic entry including commemorative glass: \$12

Tasting package: \$20.

Includes glass, entry and 8 tokens.

Whiskey tasting: Tokens will apply to both beer and whiskey.

Tokens: \$1 each and tastes cost 2-5 tokens each.

To pre-purchase tickets, learn about special VIP packages, or to volunteer, visit the event website at thelittlewoody.com.

Mark Your Calendars

August

HERITAGE WALKING TOURS OF DOWNTOWN BEND

Saturdays, June – August

All tours leave from the Deschutes Historical Museum at 10:30 a.m. Reserve your spot as space is limited. Please call 541.389.1813.

25 HISTORY PUB: CENTRAL OREGON PLACE NAMES: DESCHUTES COUNTY

Presented by author/historian Steve Lent
McMenamins Old St. Francis Father Luke Room 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.

September

4-5 LITTLE WOODY BARREL AGED BEER, CIDER & WHISKEY FEST Deschutes Historical Museum

Friday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday noon to 10 p.m.

HISTORY PUB AT
McMENAMINS OLD ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL

Central Oregon Place Names: DESCHUTES COUNTY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015
5:30 doors; 7 p.m. event • Free • All ages welcome
Ever wonder how your favorite spot was named?
History Pub celebrates the publication of *Central Oregon Place Names*,
Vol. 3: *Deschutes County*, an exploration of the history behind some of
Deschutes County's most recognizable geographic names.
Presented by Author/Historian
STEVE LENT
Sponsored by Oregon Encyclopedia,
Deschutes Historical Museum & Oregon Historical Society
700 N.W. Bond St. • Bend • (541) 382-5174
mcmenamins.com/history

