



## Bend's First Orchestra

*Frontier doctor Urling Coe was more than just a doctor. He and his bandmates started Bend's first orchestra.*

*See Page 3*



## Soroptimists: A Club for the Community

*The Soroptimists International Club of Bend has a long history in the community, tells Soroptimists board member Marty Smolenski.*

*See Page 4*

# The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter for September 2015



## THE SPIRIT OF KLONDIKE KATE LIVES ON IN BEND

**Nathan Pedersen, Deschutes Historical Society's Board President and local "Klondike Kate" expert, tracked down the missing rock collection and other memorabilia. Here is his story.**

Klondike Kate's popularity lives on in Bend, and I have been invited to give my History Pub talk about her at a variety of spots around Bend and greater Oregon. The Museum also received some nice [press coverage](#) about our recent acquisition of 1,000+ pounds of rocks from Kate's collection.

Here is the rocks story in brief: when Kate's home at 231 Franklin Street was bulldozed in 1985, no one knew what happened to her extensive rock collection. Kate's rocks had been incorporated into a giant chimney attached to her house. We have also heard reports that she would sometimes create lawn art on the front lawn of 231 Franklin Street with other rocks in her collection. After the house was destroyed, the rocks disappeared.

Fast forward to 2015, thirty years later, when I began researching Kate's life for my History Pub presentation. I was soon connected to a fellow Kate researcher in northern Oregon named Chuck Corbett who is the president of the Crown Point Country Historical Society. I mentioned the rocks on the phone one day to Chuck and he laughed and said he had the rocks in his backyard!

A couple years ago, Chuck responded to a craigslist ad offering Kate's rocks for sale. As it turns out, the brothers who owned the development company that purchased Kate's property had saved the rocks for thirty years. Chuck saw the ad on craigslist, being a rockhound himself, and arranged for a partial sale and partial donation of the rocks to the Crown Point Country Historical Society.

When Chuck found out that we did not have any of Kate's rocks here in Bend, he offered to give us 1,000+ pounds of the collection

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*Nathan Pedersen and Chuck Corbett and Kate's rock collection, guarded by "Oscar."*



From left to right: F. O. Minor, bass; Mr. McDonald, trombone; Iva West Ward, violin; Bessie Wilkinson Merrill, piano; Creed Triplett, cornet; and Dr. Urling Coe, clarinet. Photo: Priscilla Coe Ross collection.

## Dr. Urling C. Coe – Frontier Musician

**Entertainment in early Bend was pretty much home-grown. Not that there weren't any talented musicians, they just needed to be discovered. Dr. Urling C. Coe managed to do just that, by happenstance, one evening.**

In his book, "Frontier Doctor", he recounts, "I never realized how much music meant to me until I had been without it for a few months. I had played clarinet during my college days and still had my clarinet. One evening when I actually had no calls to make for a few hours, I unpacked the old clarinet and started playing in the office. The noise attracted a few people from the street and a small crowd gathered in the office. We discovered that there were

several musicians in the group and plans were started to organize a band."

Dr. Coe was chosen as director but he was too busy to attend rehearsals regularly and did not know anything about directing but "a first-class cornet player who was a better director than I came to town and made a creditable organization of it."

The photo above and names provided by Priscilla Coe Ross, great grand-niece of Dr. U.C. Coe. It is purported to be Bend's first band.

– Bonnie Burns



### 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 Fulton, Karen Green, Robin Gyorgyfalvy,  
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](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)  
[Info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:Info@deschuteshistory.org)



## Klondike Kate's Spirit Lives On

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as a donation. Chuck, in the meantime, is working with the Crown Point Country Historical Society to create a Klondike Kate Memorial Wall in the Corbett area using the remaining 5,000+ pounds in her collection. So I drove my Subaru Forester up to Corbett, Oregon, in August to pick up 600 pounds of rocks. I knew I had enough when my Subaru was sinking pretty close to the ground!

In late August, the remaining 500 pounds of Kate's rocks arrived here in Bend, thanks to the volunteer efforts of

Tim Jennings who drove his pickup truck up to Corbett to pick up the rest. Now that we have over 1,000 pounds of Kate's rocks here in Bend, we are investigating memorial possibilities to install at the Museum. Ideally, we would like to re-create one of the structures built from Kate's rocks that were destroyed after she died — the former shrine at the old location of St. Charles Hospital, for example, or the fountain that was near the old Bend Fire Hall. Stay tuned for our progress!

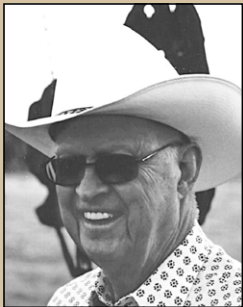
Former board member Don Hoiness and I also recently went on a desert expedition to track down any remnants

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From left to right: Don Hoiness and Nathan Pedersen at "Klondike Kate's" homestead outside of Brothers; Kate Rockwell's stove from the homestead; and Tim Jennings, who volunteered his truck to pick up another 1,000 pounds of Kate's rock collection.

## In Memoriam: Ralph McNulty



**Ralph McNulty, 86, passed away August 20, 2015 at his home in Tumalo, Oregon.**

He was born in Cozad, Nebraska to James and Fanny McNulty. He spent his childhood in Cozad. In 1949, he married his longtime sweetheart, Dee. They moved to Central Oregon shortly after and

have lived in Deschutes County for over 65 years.

Ralph was a master of all trades. He worked and then owned his own furniture store, worked at a lumber company, managed the Corbett Ranch in Tumalo, as well as was manager for both Tumalo Irrigation and Squaw Creek Irrigation.

Ralph had been a member of the Deschutes County Fair Board since 1976. In 1978, he started the 4-H/FFA scholarship program. The first year he gave out one scholarship. This year his scholarship program gave out over 18 scholarships to members.

Ralph was a proud supporter of 4-H and FFA and loved helping the kids and the fair.

Ralph also had a passion for hat-making for newborns. He made over 2000 hats and donated them to various organizations.

Ralph was preceded in death by his wife, Dee, grandson, Tyler and granddaughter, Callie.

He is survived by his three daughters, Nancy Cole (husband Bob), Vicki VanCleave (husband Sherm) and Lori Mills (husband Max). He also leaves six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He also had many honorary grandchildren.

For years, Dee and Ralph McNulty were central figures at the Deschutes Historical Museum's Annual Chili Feed and Holiday Bazaar; Dee in the craft room and Ralph making everyone laugh while he waited tables in the dining room and convinced everyone to buy more raffle tickets. He even let us dress him up like Father Christmas. We will forever miss them both.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Bend Hospice Partners In Care, 2075 NE Wyatt Ct, Bend, OR or Deschutes County 4-H or Redmond FFA (Redmond HighSchool).

# Soroptimists of Bend – A Club for the Community

The Soroptimist International association of clubs for professional and business women was founded in California in September 1921. The service club's mission is to promote common interests of the members and to help community welfare. The organization came to the Northwest in 1925. In August 1943, fifteen Bend professional and businesswomen signed a charter to establish the first Soroptimist International Club in Bend, Oregon.

The Soroptimist Pledge identifies what all members stand for - the sincerity of friendship; the joy of achievement; the dignity of service; the integrity of profession and the love of country. Today, in 2015, the Mission of Soroptimist International of Bend (SI Bend) has not changed – only the faces and names of its members and the causes they support.

The names of the Club's early presidents reads like a who's who of Bend's professional women: Grace Donner (Donner Flowers), Velma Buckingham (Buckingham School), Dr. Pauline Sears, and more. The early meetings were held at the Pine Tavern and then moved around town to the Pilot Butte Inn, Original Joe's, the Trail Cafe, North's Chuck Wagon, and the Cinders.

In 1934, a new movement began to unite young women not yet eligible for a Soroptimist membership into Venture Clubs – a British club adopted in America. Bend's Venture Club was established in 1954 and disbanded in 1960. Some members of Venture and who are members of SI Bend today are Pat Bells and Joanne Van Sickle.

In the 1950s, Soroptimists funded the purchase of Christmas gifts for needy families, including baby items. Their commitment to families was reflected in their annual Mirror Pond Water Pageant float--a giant teddy bear. Throughout the 1960s Soroptimist President Daisy Hale worked with Wayne Hamilton, Vince Genna, and Marjorie Sholes of the City Recreation Department, volunteering hours and donating to local causes including financial aid for utility bills. Today, the SI Bend's annual Community Baby Shower provides essential baby items to new families in partnership with the Deschutes County Department of Social Services.



*The Soroptimists International Club of Bend has a long history in the community.*

SI Bend established educational scholarships for local students in the 1960s, a program that continues today, supported by annual sales of holiday evergreens and wreaths. SI Bend has awarded over half a million dollars in local scholarships over the years.

SI Bend supported many community minded projects during the 70s and 80s, including restoring the hanging baskets we admire today along Bond and Wall Streets and purchasing specialized equipment for the new St. Charles Memorial Hospital. In partnership with

the Jaceettes Organization, both clubs donated life saving equipment for the hospital's baby nursery. The early days of Bend television, SI Bend and KTVZ coordinated the area's first telethon which ran for five years, raising \$25,000 for the Easter Seals Society in 1979. SI Bend also provided grants and support to The Central Oregon Batter and Rape Alliance, the Bend Police Department's outreach programs, and the High Desert Museum.

The 1990s expanded SI Bend's support to include Head Start programs for the Bend-La Pine School District providing hats, gloves, books, puzzles and other childhood items and the Women to Women Project. From 2000 to today, sales of SI Bend's special microwave potholders raise money and awareness to help support Grandma's House, mothers and infants of the Nurse/Family Partnership, Bethlehem Inn, Bend-LaPine Project Head Start, Meals on Wheels, Kids Center, Bras for a Cause, and more.

All are welcome to attend our program meetings with a guest speaker on the fourth Thursday of each month. Our business meetings, held the second Thursday of the month are open to members and prospective members. Meetings are noon - 1 p.m. at the Deschutes Historical Museum. For more information, visit [www.sibend.org](http://www.sibend.org).

Soroptimist International of Bend is delighted to be hosting our meetings and other programs at the Deschutes Historical Museum. We feel SI Bend is one Central Oregon institution supporting another for a positive partnership. Thank you Deschutes Historical Museum for making Soroptimist International of Bend feel very welcome.

*– Marty Smolenski, Soroptimists board member*

## Local News Items

### HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY DCHS!

It's not too late to contribute to the Deschutes County Historical Society in celebration of our 40th birthday. Your gift will help the society and museum to continue to grow and offer exciting exhibits such as the *Finding Fremont: Pathfinder of the West* exhibit, being featured now until the end of the year and the upcoming exhibit *Winter Comes: Oregon's Nordic Ski History* opening in early 2016.

### Update on "Winter Comes"



The exhibit, *Winter Comes: Oregon's Nordic Ski History* is scheduled to open February 2016 at the Deschutes Historical Museum. It will trace the prehistoric origins of skiing across Northern Europe and Asia and the Scandinavian immigrants who brought ski culture to the U.S.

And the majority of the exhibit will focus on the dynamic personalities and events that helped shaped Nordic skiing across the state of Oregon. Winter Comes has raised 76% of the total budget - \$46,000 out of \$60,000 and has received three large grants: Oregon Nordic Ski Foundation, \$15,000; Bend Cultural Tourism Fund, \$12,000 and Oregon Cultural Trust, \$14,000. In addition, the exhibit has received several smaller grants and private donations. If you know of a potential

donor please contact Tim Gibbons at 541.306.8448 or [gibberski@gmail.com](mailto:gibberski@gmail.com)

The exhibit is also interested in collecting ski artifacts from around the state, either as a donation or a loan. Specifically, the exhibit is looking for:

- Cross country and jumping skis, poles and boots
- Bend Skyliners and Cascade Ski Club jackets and sweaters
- Ski wax, posters, programs, patches, etc.
- Film and photos from events at Ft. Klamath-Crater Lake ski race, Skyliners ski area (McKenzie Pass and Tumalo Creek) and Multotorp at Government Camp

The museum continues to receive important artifacts from around the state and look forward to an exciting exhibit.

— Tim Gibbons

### Welcome New Members

Deedee Garnett  
Bob & Joy Spaulding  
Joyce and Gary Pickersgill  
Rea and Jerry Jackman  
Anita Stillwell  
Richard Nute and Janice Jespen-Nute  
Allen and Shari Anderson  
Sue Nelson  
Stephen Ledyard  
Rebecca Hoshi  
Sally Lybarger  
Eric Lehto

## HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY DESCHUTES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

**YES!** I want to help DCHS celebrate its 40th Birthday!

Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$40    ☐ \$80    ☐ \$120    ☐ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your payment.  
Make checks payable to:

**Deschutes County Historical Society**  
129 NW Idaho Avenue  
Bend, OR 97703  
541-389-1813

Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest amount allowed by law. Our tax ID: 51-0186079

Or pay online via our  
secure website:  
[www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)



**For DCHS use:**  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU**



## Klondike Kate's Spirit Lives On

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of Kate's homestead three miles outside of Brothers. On our scouting mission, we stopped by the Brothers Stage Stop and talked about our interest in Kate with the Hanna sisters, i.e. "the sisters who own Brothers" as Don says. The sisters then donated to the Museum the stove from Klondike Kate's homestead. While the buildings on Kate's homestead are long gone (likely harvested for timber by other homesteaders or ranchers), her stove had been left to rust under the high desert sun. Left to rust – and to be used for target practice by local sharpshooters!

A former resident of the High Desert saved the stove one day, eventually passing it into the care of the Hanna sisters at the Brothers Stage Stop, where Don and I discovered it early in August. We hauled the stove back to the Museum where it became our latest acquisition.

### *The spirit of Klondike Kate lives on!*

*In case you've missed it so far, I am giving the Klondike Kate talk again at the Bend Senior Center on October 14 at 12:00 and in Prineville at The Bowman Museum on October 22 at 6:30 p.m.*

— Nathan Pedersen

## Costco Flu Shot Clinic offered at Museum September 25

Get your flu shot at the lowest price in town on Friday, September 25 from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost for the flu shot is only \$15.00. Costco also bills insurance carriers, which means for most of us the flu shot is absolutely free! You do not have to be a Costco member to take advantage of their pharmacy services.

*Sign-ups are necessary; a minimum of 35 people signed up is necessary to secure Costco's visit. Please call us at 541.389.1813 or email us at [info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:info@deschuteshistory.org) to get signed up. DCHS happy to provide access to a Costco Flu Shot clinic for our members, volunteers, and staff to help everyone stay healthy this fall and winter.*



## Mark Your Calendars

### 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.

**25 COSTCO FLU SHOT CLINIC**  
**Deschutes Historical Museum**  
10 a.m. - noon  
*Please don't forget to sign up!*

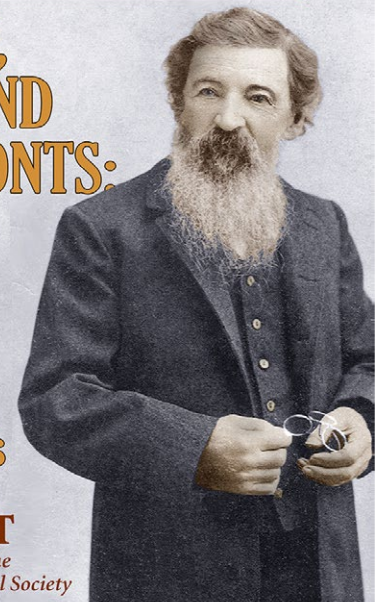
**29 HISTORY PUB – HORSES, DOGS, AND OREODONTS: PROFESSOR THOMAS CONDON AND HIS FOSSILS**  
Presented by Bob Hart, executive director of the Lane County Historical Society.  
**McMenamins Old St. Francis**  
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.



### HISTORY PUB AT McMENAMINS OLD ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL

## HORSES, DOGS AND OREODONTS: Professor Thomas Condon and His Fossils

Presented by  
**BOB HART**  
Executive director of the  
Lane County Historical Society



**Tuesday, September 29, 2015**

5:30 doors; 7 p.m. event • Free • All ages welcome  
sponsored by Deschutes Historical Museum & Oregon Historical Society

**BRING YOUR PASSPORTS FOR A HISTORY STAMP!**

700 N.W. Bond St. • Bend • (541) 382-5174  
[mcmenamins.com/history](http://mcmenamins.com/history)

