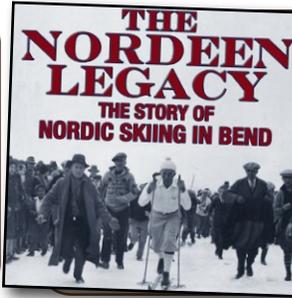




Frémont is Heading North

The “Finding Frémont: Pathfinder of the West” exhibit is heading north to The Dalles. See Page 3



Annual Membership Meeting on Feb. 20

Get ready for the Annual Membership Meeting at Pine Forest Grange Hall. Don't forget to turn in your ballot!

See Page 5

The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter for February 2016



Winter Comes – Oregon’s Nordic Ski History exhibit premieres March 1

Long before the invention of the wheel, humans used skis for means of winter transportation. The Deschutes Historical Museum premieres the Winter Comes – Oregon’s Nordic Ski History exhibition on March 1. It will tell the story about skiing from early Ice Age skiers to Bend’s Scandinavian ski heritage.

One of the most comprehensive Nordic Ski exhibits in the Pacific Northwest is about to open at the beginning of March. The Winter Comes team – Kelly Cannon-Miller, Tim Gibbons and Tor Hanson – has been planning and curating for almost 12 months and are ready to reveal their findings.

With John Frémont moving on to the Discovery Center in The Dalles, the Winter Comes exhibit takes over the two downstairs rooms. The history of skiing takes its beginning in the Old World Room. Drawing from evidence in the form of rock art, petroglyphs and some of the oldest skis ever found, the exhibit team trace the early beginnings of skiing, about 10,000 years ago.

The development of skis predates the wheel by several millennia. Carved from split tree trunks, skis became a necessity since the mode of transportation in the north hinged on gliding on top of the deep snow.

-- continued on page 4



Top: Winter Comes logo created by Allison Rogers.
Middle: Ski competition in Norsjö, Sweden in 1912. Courtesy: Norsjö Ski Museum.
Bottom: Sami hunters chasing wolves. Courtesy: New England Ski Museum.
Right: Fridjof & Eva Nansen. Courtesy: E. John B. Allen

SKYLINERS: The Birth of the Outdoor Lifestyle in Central Oregon

This gem by Paul Leighton will be released as part of our upcoming exhibit, *Winter Comes: Oregon's Nordic Ski Heritage*. The poster is currently available for pre-orders at the Deschutes Historical Museum. The poster is honoring Skyliners, Bend's first ski club.

The Skyliners introduced thousands of Central Oregon residents to the benefit of an active, outdoor lifestyle.

Skyliners was the brainchild of three Norwegians and a Swede; Nils Wulfsberg, Nels Skjersaa, Chris Kostol, and Emil Nordeen. The four Scandinavians were known as the "Musketeers of the Mountains."

The outdoor club was born out of a search and rescue effort in the Three Sisters area in September 1927. The founders realized that Bend needed an organization that could help with future rescue efforts. Wulfsberg and Nordeen also suggested that the development of a ski club, with its own winter sports facilities, would bring tourists into the area. Founded in December of 1927, the club immediately started planning for a winter playground. Within the first years, the club grew to 300 members and organized activities around mountain climbing and winter sports.

In December 1928, the club opened a winter playground eight miles west of Sisters on the McKenzie Pass Highway. The area featured ski jumps, a toboggan slide, and a small lodge. Ski jumping tournaments and cross country ski races brought the best Nordic athletes from around the Pacific

As much an organization for outdoor recreation as a social club, Skyliners arranged ski competitions at their Central Oregon winter playgrounds, mountain climbing events, as well as well-attended dances and get-togethers.



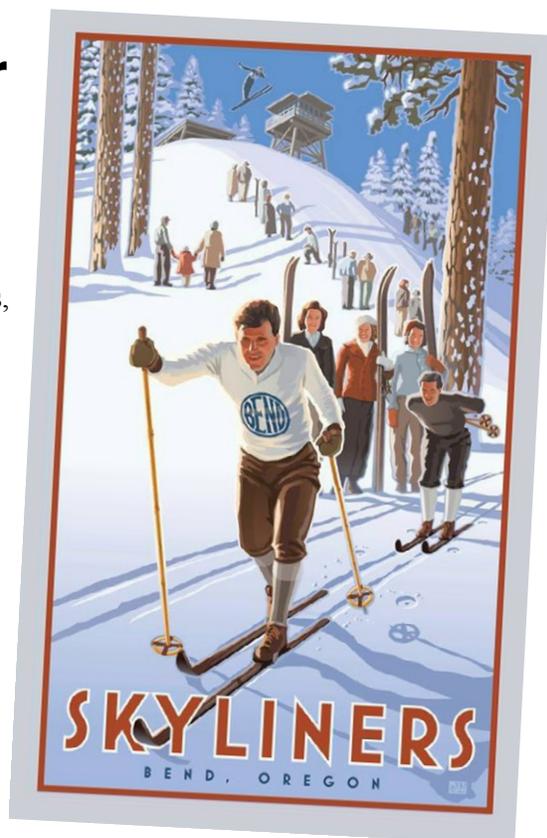
Northwest from 1929-34.

In the mid-1930s, the Skyliners decided to move their operations. The club relocated its winter playground 10 miles west of Bend adjacent to Tumalo Creek in order to have a longer and steeper slope with more reliable snow.

Club members built a ski jump (60 meters), two rope tows and a lodge. During World War II and the years that followed the ski club went into hibernation. The Skyliners resumed activities at the Tumalo winter playground in the early 1950s and with the opening of Bachelor Butte in December of 1958 again moved their club activities, this time to what is now Mt. Bachelor.

Under the leadership of Head Alpine coach, Frank Cammack several Skyliners went on to national and international prominence including Kiki Cutter, Karen Skjersaa, Sherry Bland, Mike Lafferty, and Mark Ford. Kiki was the first American to win an alpine World Cup and was a 1968 Olympian. Finally, in 1986, Skyliners was integrated into the Mt. Bachelor Ski Education Foundation, now Mt. Bachelor Sports Education Foundation. (MBSEF).

You can pre-order the Skyliners poster at the Deschutes Historical Museum. The cost for the 11x17 poster is \$25 for non-members and \$22.50 for DCHS members.



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

• • • • •

2016 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
Info@deschuteshistory.org

THE FRÉMONT EXHIBIT HEADING NORTH TO THE DALLES!

What a great ride this John C. Frémont endeavor has been for me personally.

I received a call in 2008 from Kelly asking me if I had any photographs of the locations of where John C. Frémont and his expedition camped in Central Oregon, which was the beginning of a project I never dreamed of doing. The answer was, well, the only one I knew about was Shevlin Park but I indicated I'd get back to her in a couple of weeks.

And that began the journey of research and photography that developed into one of the most interesting projects I have worked on. After finishing the Oregon portion of locating Frémont's route and camps I was asked to do the same for Nevada, which I did over a period of another year or two. My wife Sally used and uses the term "obsessed" but I, of course use others. Locating and documenting the approximate camp locations and the routes to and from each of 64 of them in Oregon and Nevada became an exciting endeavor.

As I look back on this effort there are three outcomes which make it all worth it. First, the addition of about 15 locations of camp sites that are new to the historical record. Second of course is the fine partnership with the Nevada State Museum, Carson City and our own Deschutes Historical Museum which resulted in the exhibit: *Finding Fremont: Pathfinder of the West*. Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval



Pioneer explorer John C. Frémont and Loren Irving, curator of the John Frémont, Pathfinder of the West exhibit and DCHS board member, together in Nevada.

"unveiled" the joint exhibit January 29, 2014 in Carson City. And the third, becoming interested in the Deschutes Historical Museum and eventually joining the board.

After more than a year, the Exhibit headed north to our own museum. I could not be more proud of our Deschutes Historical Museum under the leadership of Kelly Cannon-Miller and staff and volunteers for pulling this together here in Central Oregon.

After a great run of about a year the Frémont Exhibit is coming down, being packed nicely back into the boxes (finely done cabinets) in which it arrived and heading to The Dalles, Oregon to the [Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum](#).

It has been an honor to be involved in this Frémont Project. I just want to direct credit for a very successful effort to so many fine people at both our museum and at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City.

I have been asked to attend the opening of the exhibit at the Discovery Center on Feb. 19, 2016 and am looking forward to continuing the story of John C. Frémont and his journey.

Finally, Kelly Cannon-Miller and her father Bill Cannon deserve credit for having the idea to pull together this important historical exhibit.

– Loren Irving



THE PATHFINDER OF THE WEST BLAZED A TRAIL TO OUR DOORS

We've been extremely proud of the John C. Frémont exhibit here at the Deschutes Historical Museum, and it appears that the exhibit has been a source of pride for both locals and visitors too!

When we tallied our visitor numbers in early December, results showed that we welcomed 4,000 through our doors to see the exhibit, compared to 2,500 during the same time frame a year ago. It's a 150 percent increase!



Winter Comes Premieres March 1

– continued from page 1



A young German woman demonstrating a flawless Telemark turn. Courtesy: E. John B. Allen

The exhibit team has gathered an impressive assortment of replica skis that tells the story of early ski-making in the Altay Mountains of China and the Morgedal craftsmen of the Telemark skis. With many millennia in between Chinese and Norwegian artisans, the craft of ski-making is still the same. Only the tools have changed.

As you move forward in the Old World Room, the exhibit changes focus and moves towards Scandinavia from the time the glacial ice cap retreated.

As the Ice Age drew to an end, small bands of humans meandered from central Europe to the ice-free parts of northern Europe. Following the great herds of reindeer and elk, what would eventually become the new inhabitants of the frozen tundra of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia; the Sami people established themselves in what is now called Fennoscandia.

Nomadic by nature, the Sami people followed their reindeer herds over snow-trodden ski paths to the greening valleys during the summer and back up into the frozen landscape during the winter. Skiing became an important mode of transportation.

As bands of Germanic tribes started filtering into the Scandinavian countries, heads of clans started warring for influence and land. Eventually, loosely affiliated tribes would unify and the countries of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark were established.

Tribes still battled other tribes and everybody was looking for leaders. The Norwegians found unity under King Haakon, who was whisked away from danger as an infant by the Birkebeiner rebels in 1206. Bringing their heir to safety, Torstein Skevla and Skjervald Skrukka raced away on skis. In modern times, the event would be celebrated with a ski race, the Birkebeinerrennet (Birkebeiner Ski Race).

The Swedes on their side galvanized against the Danish invaders under Gustav Vasa. But first the Dalarna rebels had to chase after the king-to-be on skis from Mora to Sälen in 1520, later memorialized as the Vasaloppet (Vasa Ski Race).

Denmark supported the French under Napoleon, while Sweden threw their allegiance with the British. Napoleon lost against Wellington, and Denmark had to surrender Norway to the Swedes in the 1814 Treaty of Kiel.

Hardly under an occupying force, the Norwegians were left to their own with the Swedish king overlooking the affairs of Norway at one desk at the Stockholm Castle and another desk for the affairs of Sweden.

The Norwegian Army had already started codifying military skiing in 1767. During the union with Sweden, Norwegians unified under the nationalistic pride of a country made up by hardy outdoors people and the Norse gods of skiing, Ullr and Skadi.

Skiing became as much a mode of traditional winter transportation as the choice for outdoor entertainment. Norwegians started ski competitions, first on a local basis, and soon on a national stage. The first ski races were held in far-flung communities such as Tromsø and Trondheim. Finally, the capital of Norway, Christiania (later Oslo), became the main hub for Nordic ski competitions (ski jumping, cross-country skiing and a combination of the two).

After the Swedish-Norwegian union was dissolved in 1905, cheered on by skiing legends such as Fridjof Nansen, polar explorer extraordinaire, the Scandinavians started friendly warring on ski jumps and cross-country skis.

Surely, the bad jokes that Swedes and Norwegians have exchanged during the last century must have started during those games. Long live “Ole” and “Sven.”

With the old world story vividly told, the stage is set for the New World Room.



Norse ski gods, Ullr and Skadi on the cover of the Swedish ski magazine, På Skidor from 1928 and 1929. Courtesy: E. John B. Allen

-- continued on page 6

Local News Items



Annual Membership Meeting on Feb. 20 Features Sneak Peek at Winter Comes

The Deschutes County Historical Society's annual membership meeting will take place on Saturday, February 20, 2016, at the Pine Forest Grange Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In addition to socializing with other members, museum staff and board of directors, we'll have a brief business meeting to share our

successes in 2015, as well as welcome new and returning board members. Not only that, you'll hear the fascinating story of Emil Nordeen by Tor Hanson, DCHS board member, local historian and expert on Nordeen.

Nordeen won the famous 42-mile Ft. Klamath to Crater Lake cross-country race in 1929 and 1931. For his efforts, he was awarded "The Klamath", a solid silver

39-inch high trophy. We are lucky enough to have the "The Klamath" on loan from the Västerbotten Museum in Umeå, Sweden, for the duration of the exhibit.

Hanson will speak about Emil Nordeen's history in both Sweden and the United States, his training for the race, a "scandal" that clouded his second win, and his later years.

Last year's meeting was also at the Pine Forest Grange at 63214 Boyd Acres Road in Bend, approximately ¼ mile off Empire Avenue in NE Bend. Fellow member and volunteer, Paula Simila will cater a 'comfort food' lunch of crock pot pork, mac 'n cheese, salad and dessert.

The cost is only \$10.00 per person. Payment will be taken at the door. Cash or check only, please. RSVP by Wednesday, Wed., February 17 by calling 541.389.1813 or emailing to info@deschuteshistory.org.



The 2016 Great Nordeen winners, Sarah Max (left) and Matt Briggs (right) pose with Emil Nordeen's trophy. Photo: Tim Gibbons

The Great Nordeen Awards Ceremony Held at the Museum

It was standing room only when the Great Nordeen race organizers honored the top contenders at the Deschutes Historic Museum on January 30. In co-operation with Mount Bachelor Sports Education Foundation (MBSEF), the museum was host to the awards ceremony for

the 12th annual ski race named after Bend skier Emil Nordeen who won the 42-mile Ft. Klamath race in 1931.

After a snowy start from Mount Bachelor to Wanoga Sno-Park, the contestant gathered for an after race social with snacks and beverages served at the museum library.

The awards ceremony took place in the lobby with Sarah Max and Matt Briggs taking top honors. Nordeen's trophy, "The Klamath," was also on display and many ski enthusiasts took the opportunity to take a selfie with the trophy.

Welcome New Members

Julia and Ronald Cochran

Ron Mason

Erin Woodard

Alexander Nicholas Sarames

Sarah B. Munro

Donna Young

Sib Goodrich Radabaugh

Winter Comes Premieres March 1

— continued from page 4

Imagine, if you will, that the corridor between the two exhibit rooms in the museum becomes the great divide, the North Atlantic.

During the switch from agrarian to industrial economies, hundreds of thousands of Norwegian and Swedish emigrants set sail for the United States and Canada in search for a better life. Norwegian and Swedish families with names such as Skjersaas, Kostols, Nordeens and Wulfsbergs ended up in the small Oregon mill town of Bend.

Fully enveloped in the art of an outdoor life well lived, the Scandinavian mill workers brought along their skis and expertise in how to put on a good show. Not only in Bend, but all over Oregon, Norwegian and Swedish cross-country skiers and ski jumpers helped to set up outing clubs such as the Cascade Ski Club and Skyliners, among many others.

In the New World Room you will meet the “Musketeers of the Mountains;” Nels Skjersaa, Chris Kostol, Nils Wulfsberg and Emil Nordeen and learn how they turned Bend into the skiing mecca of Central Oregon. You will also get to know Olaf Skjersaa, whose prowess in ski jumping mixed with entrepreneurship founded one of the most successful ski shops in Bend. He became the champion of a

new generation of skiers that would descend Mt. Bachelor and make Skyliners a name to be reckoned with.

Other prolific ski personalities will also be showcased: Hjalmar Hvam, the Norwegian ski jumper, who won hundreds of ski contests all over the Pacific Northwest and eventually coached the U.S. Nordic ski team at the 1952 Winter Olympics in his native Norway. You will also find out much more about Jack and Virginia Meissner who resurrected cross-country skiing in a world crazed by Alpine skiing.

The exhibit will end with the sight set on the future of Nordic and Alpine skiing with a presentation of past and present Bend skiers, such as U.S. Olympian Kiki Cutter, and U.S. Ski Team members Mike Lafferty and Mark Ford.

Throughout the exhibit, from the Old to the New World, the Winter Comes team has gathered a treasure-throve of ski memorabilia, photos, and stories that showcase the development of skiing and feature the best of Nordic skiing in Oregon.

The exhibit opens to the public on March 1, and on March 11, the members of Deschutes County Historical Society and exhibit donors alike will celebrate the grand opening of Winter Comes exhibit.

As we say back in the old country, Skål och välkommen!
Cheers and welcome!
— Tor Hanson

Mark Your Calendars

FEBRUARY

- 17** **COMRADE JOHNS: Oregon's First Socialist Candidate for President**
DCHS Board President, Nate Pedersen presents at the Bend Senior Center Conference Room.
12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
- 20** **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Pine Forest Grange Hall (see page 5)
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 23** **HISTORY PUB: SHADOW CATCHER: Edward Curtiss Through Native Eyes**
Presented by Justine Lowry
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.

MARCH

- 1** **THE NORDEEN LEGACY**
DCHS Board member, Tor Hanson presents at the Bend Public Library.
Brooks Room, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

McMENAMINS OLD ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL HISTORY PUB NIGHT



SHADOW CATCHER: EDWARD CURTISS Through Native Eyes Tuesday, February 23, 2016

PRESENTED BY JUSTINE LOWRY

Professor of Native American Art History

7 p.m. · Doors at 5:30 p.m. · Free · All ages welcome

Sponsored by Oregon Encyclopedia,

Deschutes Historical Museum & Oregon Historical Society

700 N.W. Bond St. · Bend · (541) 382-5174

mcmenamins.com/history

