



Centennial Celebration

Deschutes County is celebrating 100 years and we are planning a special get together at the Museum on Sunday, August 14.

See Page 4



New Date for Marble Shootout

Rained out for the first time since the first Marble Tourney in 2010, we are rescheduling the event. Join the fun on Saturday July 30!

See Page 6

The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter – July 2016



4th of July parade Bend Or.

4TH OF JULY – FREE DAY AT THE MUSEUM

As members, every day is free day—but not every day is free ice cream Dixie cup day! It is our annual birthday celebration for the Deschutes Historical Museum, with free tasty ice cream treats and Otter Pops while they last. The Museum will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This year, visitors can see the museum's latest exhibit, *Winter Comes: Oregon's Nordic Ski History* as well as artifacts from Bend's Water Pageant celebration.

Holsman in La Pine Frontier Days Parade

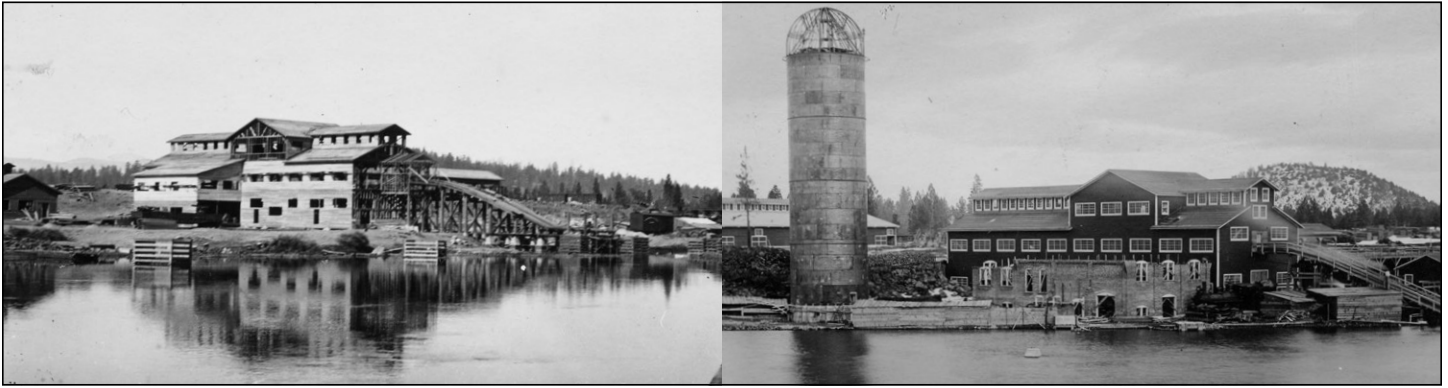
Old Bosco will be driving in the 4th of July Frontier Days parade in La Pine. Your chance to see Old Bosco in action! Parade starts at 10:30 a.m., for route details, visit their website at lapinefrontierdays.org/parade.html

The Holsman will join the Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show on July 9, 2016.

Photo on the right: E. A. Smith with Deschutes Pioneer Association queen, Mrs. J. Alton Thompson.



The Tale of Two Sawmills: Celebrating 100 Years



Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Company and Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company mills under construction.

Bend is celebrating an important event this year that forever ties milling and lumbering to Bend's history. In early 1916, Brooks-Scanlon and Shevlin-Hixon started cutting the first logs in Central Oregon and the two sawmills went in to production.

"The mills are coming. I know this guy who knows another guy who told him that the mills are coming to Bend."

Since the arrival of the railroad in 1911, the rumors of mills coming to Bend had been ebbing and flowing. The scuttlebutts had been active in the parlors on Riverside Boulevard and at the blue collar hangouts along Bond Street. The railroad must be followed by mills!

In the early spring of 1915, it all seemed to come together. The townsfolk of Bend were a-twitter with speculations that the mills were finally coming. The evidence was clearly visible in the headline of the January 1915 Bulletin, "Shevlin purchase means mills." Hidden in the headline was the promise of more job opportunities.

Both Shevlin-Hixon and Brooks-Scanlon started buying up large parcels of land between 1890-

1910. Their vast landholdings in Central Oregon are estimated to have been in the billions of board feet of lumber. As an example, Shevlin-Hixon alone started out with 200,000 acres of land when they opened up for business in 1916.

The family names associated with the two mills in Bend had a long history in the Midwest, long before the establishment of the mills in Bend. The Shevlin, Hixon, Brooks and Scanlon families were all driven business professional in Minnesota. The Bend mills were just one of a long history of successful business ventures.

Brooks-Scanlon

If you read the Minnesota newspapers in the late 1880s and early 1890s, there is no evidence that the Brooks family would be known for lumber milling. The patriarch of the family, Sheldon Brooks, built a network of grain elevators at strategical points along the local railroads.

The grain elevator infrastructure lent itself to lumbering business, but in order to make the jump into a completely different business, the Brooks' needed a knowledgeable partner.

-- continued on page 3



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
Tor Hanson, Homesteader Editor

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2016 DCHS Board of Directors:

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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 Tale of Two Sawmills

– continued from page 2

According to the book, *Turning the Leaves – The Brooks Family Tree*, the meeting between Dr. D. F. Brooks and M. J. Scanlon is told in two different settings. One is a straight-forward tale about the Brooks brothers being directed to Mr. Scanlon by mutual acquaintances. The other story comes from Dr. Brooks himself and paints a more colorful version.

“[Dr. Dwight] was frequently on the lookout for business opportunities, and one day he went to a lumber auction in Brainerd. At the auction, one man kept outbidding everybody else for all the lumber. When the auction was over, Dr. Dwight approached Joe Scanlon and asked, ‘Who are you?’ The answer must have satisfied him, and he decided this man knew what he was doing.”

The three partners in Brooks Bros. and their new acquaintance, “Joe” Scanlon, hit it off. Scanlon had extensive knowledge of the lumber industry which was paramount in order for Lester, Dwight and Anson Brooks to make the change from the grain industry to the lumber business.

The Brooks and Scanlon interests finally merged in Cloquet, Minnesota under the name Brooks-Scanlon, even though each namesake continued working under different corporate entities.

Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Company

Thomas L. Shevlin was born in Albany, New York in 1852. By age 15 he was working in the lumber business for John McGraw and Company. He moved to Chicago in 1879, later going in to the lumber business at Muskegon, Michigan. Through a succession of work opportunities and several relocations, Shevlin ended up in Minneapolis and founded the Shevlin-Carpenter Company in 1892.

The founder of the Hixon fortune, Gideon Hixon, was born in Roxbury, Vermont, March 28, 1826. He received his business experience at Springfield, Massachusetts, and in 1856 he moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he entered into a partnership to operate a sawmill at the mouth of the Black River under the name of Crosby and Hixon.

The Shevlin family owned extensive timberlands in Minnesota and Oregon. On January 1, 1907, Frank P. Hixon of La Crosse, Wisconsin – old-time friend and business associate, joined Shevlin in the purchase

of other large areas of land in Oregon. Together they formed the Fremont Land Company, incorporated on November 2, 1911. Hixon became president of the company, and T. A. McCann, a cousin of the Shevlins, became manager of their western operations.

Both Thomas Shevlin and the three Brooks brothers moved in the same circles. Aside from being called “lumber barons” by Minnesota newspapers, they attended the same state timber sales and same social events: the first performance of the New Dramatic Club’s performance in Minneapolis in 1901, concerts at the Apollo Club, and contributing to the piano fund at McKinley School in Walton Park.

It was also in Minnesota that both companies started experimenting with railroad logging, something that became a necessity in river challenged Central Oregon. By 1901, the Minneapolis Journal reported that the Backus-Brooks and Scanlon-Gipson companies were quitting the river, hauling more and more logs by rail.

And that leads us on to another player in the saga of Bend’s sawmills, railroad tycoon James J. Hill, whose rail line into Bend changed everything and made it possible for the lumber concerns of Brooks-Scanlon and Shevlin-Hixon to start moving their products out of Central Oregon.

Was there ever a connection between the railroad tycoons and the lumber barons, the juicy backroom deals that secured a rail line into the timber rich holdings of the two Minnesota mill companies? All the major players in Bend’s storied mill history – Brooks-Scanlon, Shevlin-Hixon and Great Northern – were intimately connected in Minneapolis social circles.

Thomas L. Shevlin attended a birthday party for railroad magnate James J. Hill in 1905. He was turning 67. Who’s to say that Shevlin didn’t whisper something in Hill’s ear that sounded like, “Hey, we own a lot of lumber in a small town called Bend. Can you help us?”

– Tor Hanson



Local News Items



Join us for the Deschutes County Centennial Cookout!

Centennial Celebration Planned

This year, Deschutes County is celebrating 100 years as the youngest county in Oregon, proclaimed by Governor James Withycombe on December 13, 1916. Among the Centennial celebrations throughout the county, we are planning a special get together at the Deschutes County Historical Museum.

Save the date! Sunday, August 14th, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

There will be food, fun and friends. More details will be revealed in the August Homesteader Newsletter. We hope to see you there and promise you won't have to sit on the ground, unless you really want to.

Welcome New Members

Carol Babb
Charlie Babb
Sally Batchelder
Julian Brown
Ken and Mary Hermes
Julia Kern
Jeff Lebowitz
William Matthias
Mick McCann
Norman McKnight
J.Fred Chaimson and Carole Nuckton
Stanley Roach

15 Minute Histories Update

Many thanks to Ann and Paul Reynolds for submitting a photo of Sadie Niswonger for the Deschutes Historical Museum collection. As a result, Sadie's oral history interview with Kessler Cannon will be the next "15 Minute History" available through Deschutes Public Library.



Sadie Niswonger from a photo dated 1962

Sadie first arrived in central Oregon in 1907 by stagecoach from Shaniko. She initially lived in Powell Butte before moving to Bend in 1909 with her husband where their first home was a band hall.

We are still looking for photos of the following individuals:

Fay Pierce Beach, Elizabeth Bogue, W.E. Claypool, J.D. Donovan, A.B. "Frenchie" Estebenet, Ross Farnham, Myrtle Frey Felch, Dave Grimes, Gracie Van Grimes, Mrs. Carl A. Johnson, Mrs. C.L. McCauley, May Moffat McConnell, T.W. Vandevent, and Dominick Verges.

Will Write for Food

DHS Board President Nate Pedersen will be delivering July's History Pub lecture "Will Write for Food" about the Federal Writers' Project.

Created in 1935 as part of the United States Work Progress Administration (WPA), the Federal Writers' Project provided employment for historians, teachers, writers, librarians and other white-collar workers. John Steinbeck, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, Saul Bellow and John Cheever all participated in the program.

The lecture will begin at 7:00 p.m. on July 26 at McMenamins' Old St Francis School in the Father Luke Room.





Des Chutes Historical Museum
Kickin' off the summer—old school.

Registration Form

July 30, 2016

- ☐ Young At Heart: 13 and up
☐ Kids: Ages 7 to 12

Registration opens 9:30 am
Orientation & Practice play 10:00 am- 11:00 am
Tournament Play begins 11:00 am

Please note: Registration is required prior to the start of Tournament Play.

Child Name: _____ Age: _____

Parent Name: _____

Contact Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Registration is \$10.00 per person, \$5.00 per member.

If mailing, please select a method of payment:

- ☐ Check payable to Deschutes County Historical Society or DCHS.
☐ Credit Card payment ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard
☐ Card # _____ Exp: _____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____

Participant Photo Release: I agree that the DCHS may use, reproduce, disclose and distribute the participant's name and /or likeness for DCHS marketing purposes.

Signature Date

For Administrative Use:

Registration taken by: _____ Date: _____ Confirmation Letter Sent _____ Payment Received _____

Notes: _____

- Registration table will be open until 11 a.m.
- Tournament rules and schedule provided to each participant.
- Please review the Rules of Play before the tournament.
- Picnic space available on Museum lawn, bring your lunch and enjoy!
- Tournament Participants receive a T-shirt, tournament bracelet and free admission to the Deschutes Historical Museum.
- Marbles used in tournament provided, no need to bring your own.
- No experience necessary!
- The event begins with orientation and practice sessions.
- Additional activities on hand for everyone to enjoy!

GEAR PEDDLER

The Bulletin

Deschutes Historical Museum 129 NW Idaho Ave, Bend Oregon 97703, 541-389-1813, www.deschuteshistory.org

NEW DATE FOR MARBLE TOURNAMENT

Summer Shootout Marble Tournament rescheduled for July 30.

The morning of June 18th the rain didn't stop, no amount of pleading with the sky to dry up and turn blue worked and so for the first time since the Summer Shootout Marble Tournament began in 2010 the competition was postponed for another day. That new date will be Saturday July 30. Registration opens at 9:30 a.m., with practice and orientation following at 10:00 a.m. and the Tournament gets underway at 11:00 a.m.

Gear Peddler has generously donated a pair of Schwinn single-speed Cruiser bicycles for this year's first place winners. Additional prize supporters include Wabi Sabi, Sun Mountain Fun Center, the Old Mill District, and The Escape Room.

Tournament categories are Kids (7-12 years) and Young at Heart (13 years and older). New this year Deschutes County Historical Society member's registration fee is only \$5 per participant, with non-membership registration at \$10 per participant. Register early or at the door before game time. Marbles are supplied and no experience is necessary. Participants receive a tournament t-shirt and free admission

to the museum. Proceeds raised from this event goes towards supporting educational programming; allowing the museum to offer both on-site and off-site school visits, interpretive history talks & walks to the public and much more.

Registration forms are available for pick up at the Deschutes Historical Museum (129 NW Idaho Ave, Bend) and Gear Peddler (184 NE Greenwood Ave, Bend) or download from our website deschuteshistory.org. You can also find a copy of the registration form on page 5 in the Homesteader.

Pack a picnic lunch, bring a friend and enjoy a day of history and fun for the whole family at the Deschutes Historical Museum! You don't want to miss out!



Gear Peddler has once again generously donated two Schwinn single-speed Cruisers for this year's first place winners.

Mark Your Calendars

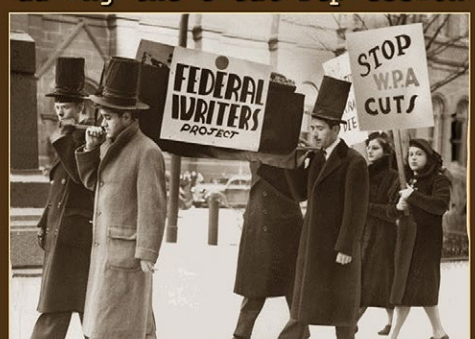
JULY

- 2, 16, & 30 WALKING TOUR: EARLY DAYS OF BEND**
Deschutes Historical Museum @ 10:30 a.m.
Reserve your spot: 541.389.1813
- 9 & 23 WALKING TOUR: REFLECTIONS OF HISTORY: ARCHITECTURAL STYLES OF A NEIGHBORHOOD**
Deschutes Historical Museum @ 10:30 a.m.
Reserve your spot: 541.389.1813
- 16 ANNUAL DESCHUTES PIONEER PICNIC**
Deschutes Historical Museum @ 11 a.m.
- 26 HISTORY PUB: WILL WRITE FOR FOOD**
Presented by Nate Pedersen, DCHS Board President.
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m
- 30 ANNUAL SUMMER SHOOTOUT MARBLE TOURNAMENT**
Deschutes Historical Museum
Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. (see page 1)

McMENAMINS
OLD ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL
HISTORY PUB NIGHT

WILL WRITE FOR FOOD:

The Federal Writers' Project
during the Great Depression






TUES., JULY 26, 2016

Presented by
Community Librarian Nate Pedersen
7 p.m. · Doors at 5:30 p.m. · Free · All ages welcome

Sponsored by
Oregon Encyclopedia, Deschutes Historical Museum
and Oregon Historical Society

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