



Join Us For Martini Mondays

Pine Tavern will donate \$1 to the Deschutes Historical Museum for every special \$5 martini served. Join us on Monday, May 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30.



Voices from Bend's Past Now Online

KBND launched a series of fifteen minute interviews with Deschutes County pioneers in 1953. Now you can borrow the audio books from the library. See Page 5

The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter for May 2016



“Faces of the Deschutes” Centennial Play

Mingle with James Hill, George Palmer Putnam and Dorothy Binney Putnam! In time for Historic Preservation Month, the Deschutes County Centennial Committee have contracted with Dionysus Productions to produce a stage play about the characters who put Deschutes county on the map.

Faces of the Deschutes, a centennial play examines the forces of county politics from the perspective of three influential people: James Hill, George Palmer Putnam and Dorothy Binney Putnam.

The groundwork to split Crook County started before the railroad's arrival in 1911. But when James Hill completed the Oregon Trunk Line in 1911, he empowered all points between Madras, Redmond, and Bend to dream of cities bigger than Prineville.

George Palmer Putnam, editor of The Bend Bulletin,

gave voice to these dreams, in his paper but also at the Governor's office. Dorothy Binney Putnam, suffragette, had successfully led Central Oregon voters to help pass Oregon women's voter rights in 1912, doubling the voter pool for critical county and city measures.

The Deschutes County Centennial Committee contracted with Dionysus Productions and Clinton Clark for this special performance. There are several chances to catch the production around the county.

Join us at the Deschutes Historical Museum on May 14 at 7:30 p.m. to mingle with some of your favorite historical characters from county's storied past.

“Faces of the Deschutes”

May 14: Deschutes Historical Museum @ 7:30 p.m.

May 15: Centennial Park, Redmond @ 5 p.m.

May 20: The Belfry, Sisters 7:30 p.m.

May 22: Faith, Hope & Charity Winery, Terrebonne @ 6 p.m.

Historic Photos from Rosland a.k.a. La Pine, Oregon



From top left: Harry Riley; winter transportation outside Hotel Riley in Rosland (current day La Pine); The Change: Wagon and trucks both came together for a few years; and La Pine sewing class taught by Anna Riley, second from right. Courtesy: Robert Riley

Shelley Miesen walked into the museum lobby the other day carrying a little white gift bag and placed it on the counter saying, “I thought you might like to have these.”

Never knowing what might be in a bag or box, we peeked into the bag and saw two, ordinary, brown plastic 3 x 5 card file boxes. They didn’t look very vintage but then she pulled them out and opened for us to see rows of black and white photographs - originals that were used in the book, *History of La Pine Pioneers*. The Deschutes County Historical Museum welcomes old photographs, but most dearly like photographs that are titled with names and dates. Not only were they easily identified but were separated by subject! Meisen also donated a copy of the book, a re-issue of the 1983 publication. It is a history told by the pioneers and families of La Pine and how their town

grew from Rosland to the current day La Pine. The photos illustrate their country and people, including a real stage hold-up!

The staff and volunteers of the museum appreciate these donations from the Friends of the La Pine Library. It’s always a thrill to accept historical items but to have them organized makes it so much easier to accession and enter into our data base. It is also a boon to future researchers, on the tracks of history. Thank you!

– Bonnie Burns

Note to all; if you have photographs of any era, try to identify the subjects and dates. You will appreciate your efforts years later and so will your descendants and perhaps someday, a museum.



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, Mike Berry, Andrea Hunnell DuPree,
Beau Eastes, 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.

• • • • •

www.deschuteshistory.org
Info@deschuteshistory.org

In Search of Historic 1845 Meek and 1853 Elliott Trails



Top: A portion of an 1871 General Land Office survey map showing the wagon road as "Old Immigrant Road". This particular map is of interest because the red arrow points to what is now known as Pilot Butte. Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council and DCHS members John Kent (closest to the camera), John Frye and Mike Berry (to the right), Murial & Gail Carbiener (back row center). The Jenne or Jesse grave. High desert landscape. Photos: Loren Irving and John Kent.

On April 23rd four members of the DCHS led a tour for the board of the state Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC) along a section of the 1845 Meek Cutoff and 1853 Free Emigrant Road east of Bend.

OHTAC was formed in 1988 by the Governor of Oregon to locate, document, preserve and encourage the use of the 16 designated historic trails in Oregon. Both the Meek and Free Emigrant trails are classified as alternative routes of the Oregon Trail.

In 1845 mountain man Steven Meek convinced a large group of emigrants traveling the Oregon Trail that he could lead them on a shortcut through the interior of Oregon, across the mid-Cascades and into the Willamette Valley. He proclaimed it was a safer and shorter route than the standard Oregon Trail to the Dalles and on into Oregon City.

In late August of 1845 around 1,000 pioneers, 200 wagons and thousands of head of livestock turned due west at Vale, Oregon and began their ill-fated journey with Meek. By the time the bedraggled party hit the Deschutes River basin they were in dire straits. The plans to continue due west over the Cascades were thrown by the wayside and a do or die rush to the north ensued to reach The Dalles and safety. The starving and exhausted emigrants finally reached The Dalles around the 2nd week of October, having suffered 23 known deaths and probably many more. It is estimated that another 25 of the exhausted emigrants died after reaching The Dalles.

In 1852, settlers in Eugene promoted a new branch of the Oregon Trail across the interior of Oregon and across the Cascades south of Diamond Peak. The purpose was to bring settlers directly into the Lane County region. In

the spring of 1853 a hastily built road was constructed from Eugene across the Willamette Pass and then along the Deschutes River to the vicinity of La Pine. The Meek party's tracks would complete the connection to the Snake River. While the road was being built, Elijah Elliott of Pleasant Hill traveled east on the standard Oregon Trail to Fort Boise in Idaho and convinced around 1,000 emigrants in 200 wagons to follow him on the new cutoff to Eugene. Elliott had never traveled the interior route.

The Elliott party labored along the Meek Route to Central Oregon, suffering the same misfortunes as the Meeks had 8 years before. At the future site of Bend they regrouped, found the marks along the Deschutes made by the road builders, and headed south along the Deschutes and then over the Cascades.

After the Elliott's parched ordeal through the high desert, the weary emigrants trudged into the Cascades as the winter storms began. Because of haphazard work by the road builders, the emigrants were bogged down, clearing downed trees in the forest and navigating scores of treacherous river crossings on the west slope of the Cascades. An advance party finally made it to Butte Disappointment near Lowell and the settlers in the valley mounted a massive rescue operation to assist the emigrants in reaching safety.

The OHTAC board meets thrice yearly at different locations throughout the state to explore at least one of the 16 designated historic trails. This spring's meeting was in Central Oregon and OHTAC board member Loren Irving, who is also a Deschutes Historical Society Board member

-- continued on page 5



HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

Know the Past, Celebrate the Present, Enjoy the Future

Celebrate the heritage of Deschutes County during May, a month dedicated to engaging in historic preservation. The Deschutes County Historical Society, Deschutes County Historic Landmarks Commission, City of Bend Landmarks Commission, City of Redmond Landmarks Commission, and Deschutes Land Trust partner to celebrate the myriad of ways that historic preservation enhances our quality of life.

Visit www.deschuteshistory.org and www.deschutes.org for more information.

- MAY 2** 5:30pm - Deschutes County Historic Landmarks Commission Meeting, 1300 NW Wall, Bend
- MAY 3** 10am to 1pm - Santiam Wagon Road Walk, guided by Kelly Madden, Deschutes Land Trust, Sisters
- MAY 6** 3:35pm - Tumalo Elementary School's "Ring the Bell for 100 Years of Preservation", Tumalo
- MAY 6** 5pm to 7pm - Preservation Month Showcase in Bend at Immersion Brewing at Box Factory (Old Mill Marketplace), during First Friday Art Walk, Bend
- MAY 7** 9am to 12pm - Water + Wood Walk with Leslie Olson, Skyline Forest, west of Bend
- MAY 9** 7pm (doors open at 6pm) - "Bungalow Heaven" Documentary Showing at The Tower Theatre, Bend
- MAY 10** 9:30am to 11am - Indian Ford Meadow History Wander, guided by Kelly Madden, Deschutes Land Trust, Sisters
- MAY 10** 5:30pm to 8pm - Pine Tree Mill & Skyline Forest walk with Leslie Olson, west of Bend
- MAY 12** 19th and 26th, 11am to 12:30pm - Old Mill Centennial Segway Tour, with Bend Tour Company & Deschutes Historical Museum, Bend
- MAY 14** 10am to 2pm - "Hunt for History: The Legacy of Builders Olson & Erickson" Walk/Bike/Roll Tour and "This Place Matters" Photo Contest, Centennial Park, Redmond
- MAY 14** 7:30pm - "Faces of Deschutes County" Centennial Play, Deschutes Historical Museum, Bend
- MAY 15** 5pm - "Faces of Deschutes County" Centennial Play, Centennial Park, Redmond
- MAY 16** 3pm to 6pm - Old Stone Church's "Ring the Bell for 100 Years of Preservation", Old Stone Church, Bend
- MAY 17** 6pm - Bend Landmarks Commission meeting at Bend City Council Chambers
- MAY 19** 9:30am to 12:30pm - Sisters & Camp Polk Meadow Preserve History Walk, guided by Kelly Madden, Sisters
- MAY 20** 4:30pm to 6pm (doors open at 4pm) - "Bungalow Heaven" Documentary Showing at Redmond Public Library, Redmond
- MAY 20** 7:30pm - "Faces of Deschutes County" Centennial Play, The Belfry, Sisters
- MAY 21** 4pm AND 7:30pm - "Faces of Deschutes County" Centennial Play, La Pine Community Center & Sunriver SHARC
- MAY 22** 9:30am to 12:30pm - "Folk Arts to Rock Parks" Historic Cycling Tour & "Ring the Tumalo Community Church Bell" Tumalo
- MAY 22** 6pm - "Faces of Deschutes County" Centennial Play, Faith, Hope & Charity Winery, Terrebonne
- MAY 24** 6pm to 7:30pm - Camp Polk Tour, guided by Kelly Madden & Leslie Olson, Deschutes Land Trust, Sisters
- MAY 27-30** - Ponderosa Mountain Men Little Deschutes 30th Annual Rendezvous - Historic Village and Costumes, Hwy 58/south of La Pine
- MAY 31** 7pm (doors open at 5:30pm) - History Pub - "Saving the Oddfellows Cabins of Paulina Lake", McMenamin's Old St. Francis School, Bend
- JUNE 4** 6:35pm (doors open at 5:30pm) - Bend Elks Centennial Night, hosted by Deschutes County, Genna Stadium, Bend
- MAY 19 to 31** - Preservation Displays throughout Central Oregon, Sisters City Hall
- ALL MONTH LONG** Through April 25th - "This Place Matters" Photo Contest, Redmond

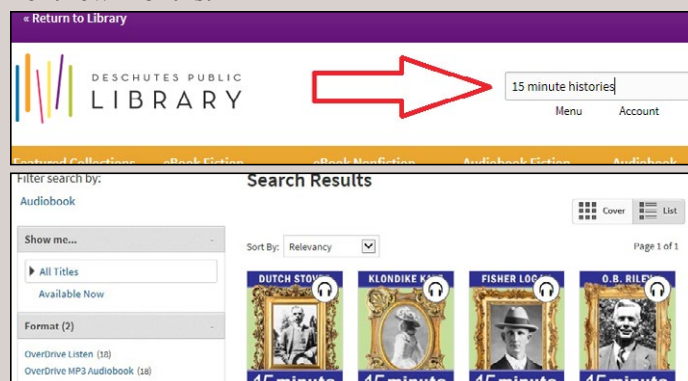
Kessler Cannon's Oral History Project Now Available

In 1953, KBND launched a series of fifteen minute interviews with Deschutes County pioneers. Kessler Cannon, a reporter at KBND, visited these pioneers in their homes and recorded their reminiscences about Bend in the early 20th century. These interviews have now been digitized in a joint partnership between Deschutes Historical Society and Deschutes Public Library.

Of the original forty-four interviews, twenty-two are now available to library patrons to download as digital audiobooks.

The twenty-two interviews currently available are Clyde McKay, Don Blanding, E. A. Smith, "Dutch" Stover, O. B. Riley, Dr. R. D. Ketchum, Fisher Logan, Elmer Ward, Bill Burton, Luella Griffin, LeRoy Fox, Ann Markel Forbes, Mrs. G. E. "Birdie" Stadig, Ida Priday Holmes, Lloyd S. Blakely, Mrs. J. Alton Thompson, N. P. Smith, Paul Brookings, Prince Staats, S. E. Roberts, Steve Steidl, and Klondike Kate Rockwell.

The next twenty-two oral histories will be added in the next few months.



To download and listen to these oral histories, you will need a Deschutes Public Library card. (If you don't have a library card you can visit any branch of Deschutes Public Library to receive one, just bring a photo ID and a proof of address in Deschutes County).

You start by visiting the library's site for eBooks and digital audiobooks: <http://ebooks.dpls.lib.or.us>

Next, in the search box on the upper left, you can type in any of the names of the people interviewed in the oral histories (i.e. "Don Blanding), or you can type in "Kessler Cannon" or "15 minute histories," which will bring up the whole series. (See screenshot).

The oral histories can be checked out for three weeks at a time. They are available to listen to inside your web browser, or to download to your device, such as a smart phone or tablet.

If you need any help accessing or downloading the oral histories, stop by a branch of Deschutes Public Library or call the library at 541-617-7050.



At the ground breaking ceremony for Central Oregon District Hospital, Redmond, is Boyd Simmons on the left with Kessler Cannon of KBND on right, July 1951. Maurice Roberts collection; copied by Don Ellis

Historic Meek and Elliott Trails

— continued from page 3

and the curator of the recent "Finding Fremont" exhibit at the Deschutes Historical Museum, approached fellow DCHS Board member Mike Berry about taking the group on a tour of a portion of the emigrant trail east of Bend. Mike had been researching and retracing this section of the trail with fellow DCHS members John Frye and John Kent for many years. Berry has been retracing the emigrant trail for the last 10 years. Kent had been working for years with a group in Oakridge following the trail in the Diamond Peak area before tacking these sections further east in the desert. John Frye, who for scores of years has researched the history of old roads throughout Deschutes County, carries the wagon trail research torch passed to him by his old friends... early pioneers and DCHS founders such as Dean

Hollinshead, Keith Clark, Perry Herford, and Cleon Clark.

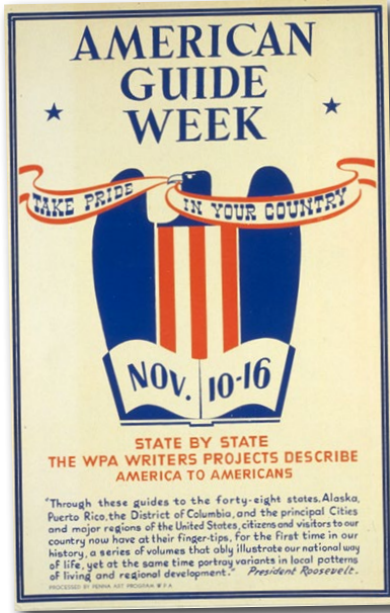
The DCHS team led the OHTAC board on a field trip across sections of BLM land east of Bend. Sites visited included a circa 1845 emigrant grave discovered in 1880 next to a tree with the partially legible epitaph "Sacred to the Memory of Je--ie" burned into it. In 1974 a headstone was erected at the (Jennie/Jessie?) grave by local historians. The original tree was partially destroyed by a lightning strike and only a stump remains.

Sections of the wagon road were also visited across a two mile length of BLM land west of the grave site.

The OHTAC board enjoyed the tour of this overlooked portion of the Oregon Trail and expressed an interest and enthusiasm to further research and possibly memorialize sections of the trail.

— Mike Berry

Deschutes Public Library Dives Into 1930s WPA Project



May is all about the 1930s at Deschutes Public Library. In addition to a variety of 1930s programming (including a lecture from DHS board member Tor Hanson on *The Great Depression in Bend* on May 18th and May 20th), a special exhibition of books produced by the WPA's Federal Writers' Project will be on display in the glass cabinets upstairs at the Downtown Bend branch of Deschutes Public Library.

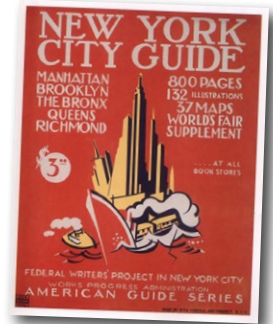
Current DHS Board President Nate Pedersen's personal collection of American Guide Series books, published throughout the 1930s by the Federal Writers Project, will be on display from May 3rd until June 1st. The American

Guide Series of books included a detailed guide to each of the then 48 states, with descriptions of major cities and towns, and recommended driving routes, in addition to lengthy essays on each state's history, folklore, culture, and natural surroundings. The project employed many notable American writers of the 20th century, including John Cheever, Saul Bellow, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Nelson Algren, Eudora Welty, and Zora Neale Hurston.

Nate Pedersen will also be delivering a lecture about the Federal Writers Project on May 11th at the Downtown Bend branch of Deschutes Public Library. The lecture begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Brooks Room and is entitled "Will Write for Food."

Stop by the Downtown Bend library to take a look at the American Guide Series exhibit between May 3rd and June 1st. Questions or comments about the exhibit or about the American Guide Series or Federal Writers Project in general can be directed to Nate at

nathanp@deschuteslibrary.org or 541-617-7092.



Mark Your Calendars

MAY

- 11 WILL WRITE FOR FOOD: FEDERAL WRITERS PROJECT**
Presented by DCHS Board President Nate Pedersen
Deschutes Public Library Downtown Bend
Brooks Room, 6:00 p.m.
- 14 FACES OF THE DESCHUTES COUNTY CENTENNIAL PLAY**
Deschutes Historical Museum
7:30 p.m.
- 25 THE GREAT DEPRESSION IN BEND**
Presented by DCHS Board Member Tor Hanson
Deschutes Public Library Downtown Bend
Brooks Room, 12:00 p.m.
- 31 HISTORY PUB: SAVING THE ODDFELLOWS CABINS OF PAULINA LAKE**
Presented by Erin Woodard & Scott McBride
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.

McMENAMINS OLD ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL HISTORY PUB NIGHT

SAVE THE ODDFELLOWS: HISTORY AND PRESERVATION AT PAULINA LAKE

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2016




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

PRESENTED BY
ERIN WOODARD AND SCOTT McBRIDE

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

 THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 McMenamins History
 The CE
