



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter for October 2014

Des Chutes Historical Museum
129 NW Idaho Avenue, Bend

Open Tuesdays-Saturdays
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
541-389-1813

www.deschuteshistory.org
Info@deschuteshistory.org

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2014 DCHS

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

Save the Date!

Annual Chili Feed and Holiday Bazaar November 14-15

Watch your mail for our
call for volunteers!

Thanks to our
Chili Feed sponsor,
Barley Beef.



Who Controls Water? A Historical Perspective

The Oregon Historical Society, the Deschutes County Historical Society and Deschutes Public Library host an important and timely conversation about the history of water rights and use in Oregon and beyond. This event takes place **Friday, October 10 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.** at the Brooks Room of the Downtown Bend branch of the library. It is free and open to the public; no registration is required.

The event gathers renowned scholars with the community to address several topics, including: development of the Deschutes River Basin; influence of the environmental movement on water control and usage, particularly within the context of climate change; and how communities address and resolve water conflicts in the United States and across the globe. The forum goal is to help provide historical context to water in the west, offer examples of water conflict and resolution from around the world, and how water policy of the past has shaped the Deschutes River Basin as we know it.

Featured speakers:

W. TODD JARVIS, Interim Director of the Institute for Water & Watersheds at Oregon State University. Todd is a consulting groundwater hydrologist with nearly 30 years of experience working for global water/waste water engineering and groundwater engineering firms. His new book is *Contesting Hidden Waters: Conflict Resolution for Groundwater and Aquifers*.

JOSHUA HOWE, Assistant Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Reed College. His new book, *Behind the Curve: Science and the Politics of Global Warming*, explores the political history of climate change since the 1950s. He works on historical questions about sustainability and the global environment that bridge environmental history, the history of science and the history of American foreign policy.

WILLIAM LANG, Emeritus Professor of History at Portland State University. William is a member of the Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees and Chair of the Executive Committee of the Oregon Encyclopedia. He is author or editor of six books on Pacific Northwest history, including *Two Centuries of Lewis & Clark* and *Great River of the West*.

GREG SILBERNAGEL, Watermaster, Umatilla Basin for the Oregon Water Resources Department. Prior to this position, he coordinated environmental restoration projects as Executive Director for the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council. He played a valuable role in planning the current exhibit at the Umatilla County Historical Society entitled "Tomorrow's Water: Today's Challenge – Working Together for the Umatilla River."

Reid School Reunion and Memorial Dedication Saturday, October 11

The Des Chutes Historical Museum and the Daughters of the American Revolution invite you to attend a Reid School Reunion on Saturday, October 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. Former students and teachers get free admission to the museum. (Don't worry, we'll take your word for it.) A chance to share favorite stories with staff and each other, help identify photographs, share your own photographs, view historic Reid School memorabilia, and have some cake.

Reunion starts at 2 p.m. with a special building marker dedication from the Daughters of the American Revolution at 3 p.m. **If you know someone who is a Reid School Alumni, but is not a member, please let them know about this event.**

The Yellow Peril of 1920

By Kelly Cannon-Miller

“As to Burt, we’ll show him a juniper tree with a rope hung over a limb and see if he can take the hint,” the incensed rancher informed his hearers.
— *The Bend Bulletin*, May 20, 1920

While researching for our latest temporary exhibit, *What If Heroes Were Not Welcome Home?*, I had the pleasure of being introduced via email to the son of Yori Tambara, who was born in Metolius in 1920 and graduated from Bend High School in 1940. Through the emails, we eventually got around to discussing the elephant in the room—why was Yori the only person of Asian heritage in his high school yearbooks?

To answer the question, one has to understand American-Japanese relations of a hundred years ago. The rise of Imperial Japan created significant societal changes within Japan as well as Japan’s role as an international power. The relationship between the United States and Japan from 1900-1920 was tumultuous, and a major point of contention was the treatment of Japanese immigrants by the United States. Japanese immigration was treated with suspicion as proof of imperialist goals and a desire to colonize America, particularly in the west and Hawaii.

Anti-Asian exclusion policies were not new. Between 1850 and 1882, measures to exclude Chinese immigration appeared in the western states and culminated at the federal level as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prohibited Chinese immigration for ten years. The exclusion acts created a vacuum for laborers that Japanese immigrants then began to fill. Coupled with the annexation of Hawaii in 1898, which freed thousands of Japanese laborers from contract labor on sugar plantations, as well as the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05, Japanese immigration to the United States exploded, reaching as much as 1,000 immigrants a month by 1906.

In an attempt to ease tensions, President Theodore Roosevelt entered into “The Gentlemen’s Agreement” of 1907-08 with the Emperor of Japan, in which they agreed to a series of steps to limit Japanese immigration into the United States, while the United States promised fair and equal treatment for Japan’s citizens. A brief success, the issue of treatment of Japanese immigrants and other conflicts led to further tensions and new treaty negotiations between Japan and America in 1917.

It was in that climate that George Shima and George L. Burt, both wealthy potato farmers from California’s Delta Valley, used Burt’s Portland-Deschutes Company to buy thousands of acres in Deschutes County for seed farms to supplement their holdings in California. They also had among their investing partners the extremely wealthy and

influential financier Herbert Fleishhaker, who was well known for his advocacy in developing irrigation and electric systems in California—and farmers in Central Oregon, especially north Deschutes County, were desperately awaiting irrigation development. Burt and Fleishhaker were Caucasian, as were their other investment partners, but Shima had immigrated from Japan and many of their California farm employees and experts were Japanese. Regardless of Shima’s success turning unwanted wetlands into a million dollar potato industry in California, or abandoning his birth name to become George Shima the “Potato King,” he could not escape being viewed simply as an example of the threat of Japanese land ownership. Their land purchase led to a flurry of anti-Japanese sentiment and action throughout Central Oregon in a matter of weeks.

Burt and Shima brought Japanese laborers from their California properties up to their ranches at Powell Butte and Lower Bridge to begin the hard work of clearing their lands. Immediate negative reaction resulted in an agreement to only have three Japanese laborers per ranch at any given time. In May 1920, F. E. Pellett of Terrebonne appeared before the Bend Commercial Club to appeal for assistance in fighting the ‘yellow peril’ occurring north of Redmond.

The report of the meeting in *The Bend Bulletin* on May 20 clearly shows the situation had escalated to a dangerous point. Pellett makes clear that violence against the owners was not out of the range of action his fellow farmers and ranchers were willing to take. Including a threat to lynch Burt, he informed the club that Burt and Shima had hired a gunman to protect their workers. Pellett declared that if the gunman did not leave the country peaceably “there would be need for coffins and a coroner.”

The Bend Commercial Club responded to Pellett’s concerns by denouncing land ownership by aliens and assuring Pellett they would look into the matter. Over the course of several days, they deferred voting on any action before allowing George Burt to defend the company’s plans. When he did so, Burt declared it had been necessary to reverse their decision to employ only three Japanese per property because available white laborers could not be found, no matter how hard they had tried. They had informed the Terrebonne Farm Bureau of their immediate need to bring additional Japanese laborers in order to meet spring planting. Burt outlined many failed attempts to work with the Terrebonne Farm Bureau, citing that a viable business venture was being prevented from enriching the agricultural markets of Deschutes County by individuals who “had an axe to grind.” Despite his assurances that his company had no intention of selling parcels of land to Japanese, the Bend Commercial Club went on record as opposed to land ownership by aliens. One after one, the regional farm bureaus, the American Legion posts, and other organizations throughout Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson County voted on resolutions prohibiting land ownership by aliens, and petitioning state legislators and the

governor's office to pass a statewide measure to block alien land ownership. On June 3, the paper again reported Burt's appeals to the Bend Commercial Club for assistance in smoothing over the matter and stating that they had relieved their security person and stopped work clearing the land. Burt again asserts the company has the best interests of agriculture in Central Oregon in mind with no intention to allow Japanese land ownership, and citing the continued lack of available labor.

Without their security, on June 10, 1920, *The Bend Bulletin* reported that a group of riders attacked the Terrebonne ranch, forced the Japanese employees out of the fields, threatened them, and even stole from them. Burt and several of their investors toured ranch post-raid and talked to neighbors. They reported to the Commercial Club that most of their neighbors had absolutely no issues with the Japanese employees or the company plans, and in fact wanted their development plans to move forward. They asserted it was a small group leading the claims and attacks against the

business, but they were having an affect on their ability to clear, plant, and harvest their seed potato crops. The Commercial Club walked a fine line between support of the development as long as no Japanese owned any land, including George Shima, while at the same time advocating for passage of alien exclusion laws at the state level.

An investigation into the scandal by the Governor's office confirmed the sentiments Burt encountered. The report found that most large land owners in the area favored the investment brought by the Shima-Burt-Fleishhacker project and while generally opposed to land ownership, they were not opposed to Japanese immigration if it meant development.

It was too little too late. The raid on the Terrebonne property was the beginning of the end. Shima, Burt, and Fleishhacker faced legal attacks on business ventures back home in California—Fleishhacker was sued for fraud on the auspices that loaning money to George Shima violated the Alien Land Act of California, and Shima struggled to keep his lands under California's new laws. By 1922, Shima, Burt's Portland-Deschutes Company, and Fleishhacker divested themselves of Central Oregon. In 1926, George Shima died of a stroke at the age of 62. Pallbearers at this funeral included the Emeritus Chancellor of Stanford University and the mayor of San Francisco. His estate was valued between \$15 and 17 million, and he left a legacy of public service and leadership. Back in Central Oregon, the willingness of Japanese Americans or others of Asian heritage to come here in the wake of the scandal was extremely low and remained low until after World War II. The Tambara family and a few families like them remained unique in the community.

While the governor's report indicated the community was not united in opposition of Japanese immigration, views expressed in the news through letters and editorials clearly sent the message to stay out. An editorial by *The Madras Pioneer*, reprinted in *The Bend Bulletin* on December 2, 1920, makes it perfectly clear:

That the people of Jefferson County are willing to bear their fair share of the white man's burden, there is no doubt. This is definitely proven by the Indian situation and their fair treatment of the negro question. But it is too much to expect them to in any way tolerate Japanese residence in the county. We have no room for the yellow men, and we don't want them. We desire to see any and every white person reside or own land here and proper, but it is not fair to expect that Oregon people will allow the condition to exist with the yellow people as it now does in California.

Xenophobic violence and anti-Japanese sentiment at the beginning of the 20th century are the academic answer to the Tambara's original question of why Yori Tambara was the lone Asian in his 1940 senior year book. The "Yellow Peril" shaped our communities, just as the internment of thousands of families—including the Tambara family—reshaped our communities following World War II. True to Yori's generation, the Greatest Generation, the childhood memories of 1930s Central Oregon he left his family were not about exclusion; they were about riding his bike up and down Pilot Butte, summer jobs with the irrigation company, and showing them his favorite places on a summer vacation in the 1960s. Yori Tambara was born and raised in Central Oregon and his family's immigrant history is a part of America's immigrant history, good and bad.

**RIDERS DRIVE
JAPS OUT OF
SPUD FIELDS**

SELF-STYLED BEND
MEN PILFER

WASTE IS REPORTED

Two Cars of Seed Potatoes Must Be
Sent Back From Terrebonne,
Says Burt—Club's Stand
Appreciated.

How five riders, representing
themselves to be from Bend, drove
his Japanese laborers from the fields
at his Lower Bridge ranch recently,
threatened violence against them,
and even pilfered \$180 from one of
the men, was told Tuesday night by
George L. Burt, potato grower and
Central Oregon land owner, on his
return from a day's trip through the
Terrebonne and Lower Bridge sec-
tions. "I found the Japanese badly
frightened," he said, "and learned
that friends in the neighborhood
had succeeded, with the utmost
difficulty, in persuading them to re-
main on the ranch."

October Halloween Events at the Museum

Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend

Stories of mystery, love, loss and the afterlife return! Now in our fifth year, Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend takes visitors to visit locations spanning 30 years of history of pioneers who helped shape Bend so much, they had a hard time leaving... perhaps even in death!

Cost is \$10.00 per person, children under 12 years and Deschutes County Historical Society members are free. Museum admission included with tour fee. Sign up is first come, first served each day.

All tours begin at the Museum and will end at Crow's Feet Commons. Please note—because many featured locations are operating businesses inside, tours do not enter into any buildings.

Remember to wear comfortable shoes and if walking after dark, bring your own flashlight.

New! American Gothic with Alastair Jaques

Alastair Morley Jaques, the actor who brought you the one-man show *An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe*, that critics and Oregon audiences have called “creepily spot-on” brings audiences another chilling night of classic stories with *AMERICAN GOTHIC: A Journey Into the Shadows of American Literature*.

Just in time for Halloween, *AMERICAN GOTHIC* promises audiences a selection of some of the scariest classic tales from American history and literature. Nathaniel Hawthorne, H. P. Lovecraft, Shirley Jackson, America's greatest masters of the macabre are offered up in a fearsome feast for the imagination of young and old alike by actor, scholar, storyteller, and Oregon favorite Alastair Morley Jaques.

American Gothic takes place October 29 and 30 at 6:30 p.m. **at the Des Chutes Historical Museum.** Tickets are \$8.00 and are limited to 50 per night. Tickets can be purchased at the Des Chutes Historical Museum. **TICKETS ARE LIMITED** to 50 per night and are expected to sell out.



Historical Haunts is open to the public and members Thursday to Saturday, October 23-25, 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Hot chocolate and apple cider will be available.

SPECIAL MEMBERS ONLY NIGHT

Wednesday, October 22 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. the historical haunt tours are offered exclusively to our members! Sign ups are on a first come, first served basis beginning Wednesday morning.



Happy Anniversary!
Please join us for another year of membership:

Barb & Russell Abt	Jeni Fitzpatrick	Sheila Lofton	Shannon Rose
Ron & Nancy Alvarez	Kit Foreman	Tom & Sandi Lujan	John & Bonnie Rosen
Craig & Pattie Apregan	Dick & Chris Frey	Kelly Madden & Rick Treleaven	Tony & Sharron Rosengarth
Cherie Auger	Kerry & Sue Fuller	Kathy Malone	David Sailors
Jenifer Avery & Thomas Krupski	Kristene Fuller	JoAnn Marshall	Ted & Carol Schoenborn
Connie Axelrod	Eva Gassner	Mike & Kat Mastrangelo	Kelsey Sherrick & Shay Forsyth
Melissa Baldwin	Rebecca Warner Groundwater	Joanne & Nelson Mathews	Kathy Shogren
James Banks	Chris & Carol Guthrie	Virginia Maxwell	Carolyn Spaniol
Camille & Martin Begley	Chris Hamilton	Jan McDonald	Tom & Teri Stark
Ben Bowman	Judy & Harry Harbin	Wendy & Murphy McFarland	Marcie Sweider
Gwen Brock	Dalyte & Don Hartsough	Ben & Rachel Miosi	Carol Swift
Ed Byrnes	Kyle Hawkins	Wayne Morgan	Alan & Bev Unger
Shawn Cannon	John R. & Karen Hayes	Barbara Mowers	Diana Velasquez
Tami Chapin	Brian Hickey	Michael Nehl	Pat Vigal
Darlene Child	Daren & Laura Hildebrant	Brandi Nelson	Mike Vigue & Wanda Hennesay
Early Clausen	Gillian Hodgen	Brian Norgaarf	Harvey Waldron
Sharon & Jeff Davidson	Patrick Howard	Glenyce O'Connor	Joan Walsh
Phoebe De Gree	Kristin Hughes	Marion Palmateer	Rob Walsh
Ed Donohue	Julie & Jacob Kampmann	Barbara & David Perin	James & Cindi Warburton
Teri Dunbar	Dkyleah Kellogg	Bev Piper	Heather Wingate
Karen Duncan	Tim & Serena Kelly	Joyce Purcell	Brian Wingerd
Joan & Lloyd Evans	Ed & Kate Kennell	Lillian Quinn	Jody Zahniser
Phil & Nancy Fischer	Donna Kribs	Mark Rabenstein	
Liza & Bill Fish	Carol Laite	John & Marilyn Rice	
	Sparky Lisle & Polly Gribskov		

DCHS Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ _____ Renewal _____ New

E-mail: _____

Email 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: \$_____

If your name appears above, your membership renewal is now due. Changes to your mailing information can be made on this form.

Make check payable and mail to:

DCHS, 129 NW Idaho Ave, Bend,
Oregon 97701

Want to volunteer? Let us know!

Bend Genealogical Society Boot Camp

BGS Genealogy Boot Camp, an all day event to hone your genealogy skills, takes place on Saturday, October 25 at Williamson Hall; cost is \$15.00 members/\$20 non-members. For more information, check out their website at www.orgenweb.org/deschutes/bend-gs or call 541-317-9553.

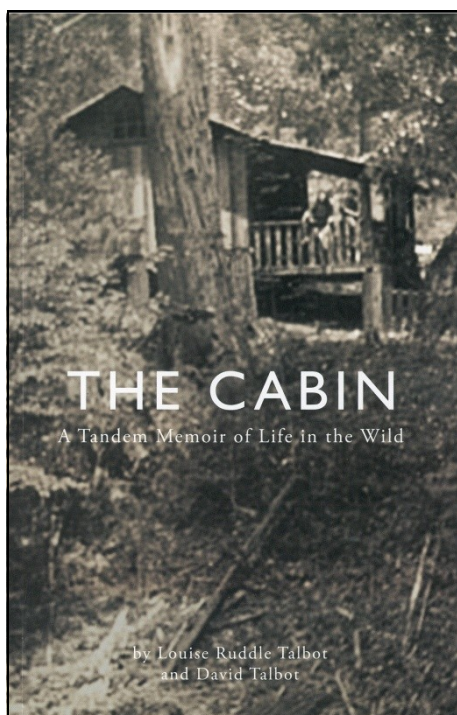
As always, they also offer First Tuesday mentoring on the first Tuesday of the month from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. First Tuesday help can be for beginners or more advanced researchers who are stuck and seeking an extra boost of research power.

Author Afternoons Continues This Month

Bring your lunch and spend an hour with the Deschutes County Historical Society as we welcome David Talbot sharing his new book *The Cabin: A Tandem Memoir of Life in the Wild*. A story told through two distinct voices, a mother and her son, of a place a family called home once in 1933 and again in 1944. David Talbot weaves together his memories with the diaries of his mother, Louise Ruddle Talbot giving the reader a heartfelt journey of adventure, survival and the strength of family.

When: Friday October 17th; 1:00 pm—2:00 pm
Where: The Des Chutes Historical Museum

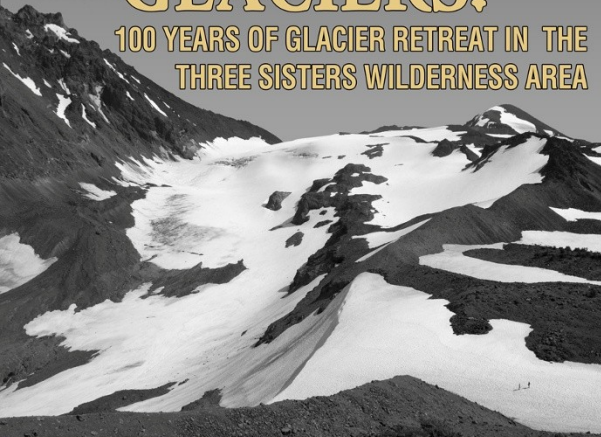
This will be the last Author Afternoon for the year.



HISTORY PUB AT
McMENAMINS OLD ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL

OUR VANISHING GLACIERS:





100 YEARS OF GLACIER RETREAT IN THE
THREE SISTERS WILDERNESS AREA



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014
5:30 p.m. doors; 7 p.m. event • Free • All ages welcome

Examining the history of early Pacific Northwest exploration, climbing, and glacier photography with present-day matches of historical photographs

Presented by **JIM O'CONNOR**
U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center, Portland, Ore.
Sponsored by Des Chutes Historical Museum,
The Oregon Encyclopedia and The Oregon Historical Society

 THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 THE OREGON
 Des Chutes
 McMenamins History

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

Mark Your Calendars:

October

- 10 Who Controls Water?
A Historical Perspective**
Deschutes Public Library Brooks Room
2:00 p.m.
- 11 Reid School Reunion**
2:00 p.m.
- 17 Author Afternoon: David Talbot**
1:00 p.m.
- 21 Volunteer Meeting**
12:00 p.m.
- 22-25 Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend**
5:00 p.m.
- 28 History Pub: Our Vanishing Glaciers**
McMenamins Old St. Francis
7:00 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.
- 29-30 American Gothic with Alastair Jaques**
6:30 p.m.
\$8.00 per person, tickets sold in advance