



Our local "History Detectives"

Our investigative History Detective team dig deep in local lore to find the answers to your questions.

See Page 4



Priscillas' 1911 H'ween "High jinks"

Bend's women-only club, the Priscillas, staged a perfectly frightful Halloween "high jinks" in 1911 and even made the newspaper.

See Page 3

The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter October 2015

In Search of Skyliners' Hidden Secrets...

The "Skyliners" is one of Central Oregon's most well publicized secrets. Though the club no longer exists, there is still plenty of history from the outing club hidden in plain sight. It's just a matter of looking in the right spots.

Winter seems distant if you glance up toward the seven peaks of the Cascade Mountains. The white spots are few and far between. In brew pubs and cafés all over Central Oregon, there are heated discussions amongst skiers and boarders if this year's El Niño is going to bring lots of the white stuff ... or not.

We have to admit that there is a disconnect between what Mother Nature is currently offering up and what is on the minds of the "Winter Comes" exhibition planning staff. Mentally we're carving beautiful tracks in the deep snow

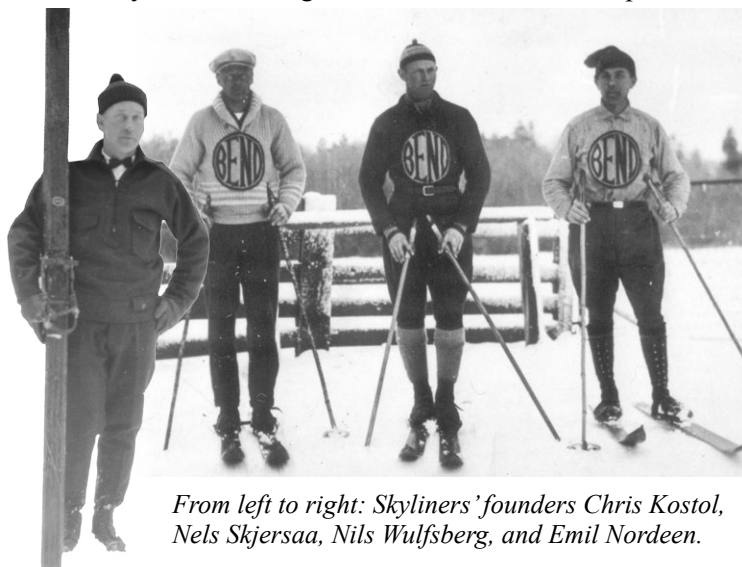
with our cross-country skis, while the temperature outside hovers around 75 degrees.

In preparation for the upcoming exhibition, guest curator Tim Gibbons and local historian Tor Hanson recently rushed into museum director Kelly Cannon-Miller's office and yelled "ROAD TRIP." It was time to check out the remains of Skyliners' two winter playgrounds: Skyline Hill and McKenzie Pass. Everyone who knows Kelly can probably guess what she countered with, "When do we leave?"

The Skyliners was the brainchild of three Norwegians and a Swede. After a tragedy in the Three Sisters area in September 1927, the four Scandinavians decided to create an outing club that would foster a love for the outdoors – in the same vein as the Mazamas and the Eugene Outdoor Club (later renamed the Obsidians). The four were Nels Skjersaa, Chris Kostol, Nils Wulfsberg, and Emil Nordeen.

Skjersaa, Kostol and Nordeen left their respective countries in the 1910s. Each took a dramatically different path on their way to Bend, but they all arrived within only a couple of years of each other. Skjersaa arrived in 1917. After Nels came Chris Kostol in 1919, and Emil Nordeen in 1920. Nils Wulfsberg didn't come to Bend until 1927 as a newly graduated student of the University of Oslo.

-- continued on page 2



From left to right: Skyliners' founders Chris Kostol, Nels Skjersaa, Nils Wulfsberg, and Emil Nordeen.

In Search of Skyliners' Secrets

— continued from page 1

They brought their love of skiing and mountaineering from their respective home countries. After several high profile events and outings, the four Scandinavians built a reputation as expert skiers and alpinists.

The Outing Club was formed in December 1927. A citywide naming competition was announced with \$5 in prize money. According to the rules, the name had to be short and to the point. Brooks-Scanlon "Pine Echoes" editor Paul Hosmer won the five bucks with "Skyliners."

The first Skyliners' winter playground was the Tumalo Ranger station on the north side of Tumalo Creek. The playground was abandoned after only a couple of months for a more suitable hill on the McKenzie Pass, near the present east snowgate.

But McKenzie Pass was a long way from home and a dangerous trip in the winter to add. In 1935, Skyliners built their own lodge 10 miles outside Bend. The new home for the Skyliners was aptly called "Skyliner Hill."

The former Skyliners' winter playgrounds are not easily spotted today. Nature has done what it does best; remove any trace of human activity. The lodge still stands after a serious renovation in 1992. Skyliner Hill is all about gone, trees taking over where the slopes and ski jump used to be.

Historian David McCullough has said that you have to "Marinate Your Brain" when you're doing research. In order to understand history, you have to become "good friends" with your research objects.

Kelly, Tim and I decided to "marinate our brains" and ascend up the remnants of Skyliner Hill to see if there were

any traces left of the former jump hill. After a trek up the hill, with bloodstained scars on legs and arms to show from close interaction with dead manzanita bushes, we stood at the top of Skyliner Hill.

The view is breathtaking. If you let your imagination take a leap, you still get a feel for what ski jumpers saw as they approached the outrun.

There are still remnants from "Skyliner Hill" as you ascend. Dimensional lumber with rusty nails gives you an idea where the structures may have once stood. Alongside



*Skyline Hill with the judges tower in the upper right hand corner.
Photo: DCHS.*

200-year-old trees, stands of younger pines indicate the placement of the ski jump.

After we snapped a "selfie," standing at the top of the jump hill, we decided to continue our exploration and venture over to the ski hill. Compared to the ski jump, it is easier to identify where the ski run used to be. There is still a meadow where the car-engine-powered rope tow once hauled skiers up the hill for a pleasant drift down the slope.

The McKenzie Pass Skyliner hill is trickier to identify. The Skyliners abandoned the hill in the mid-thirties and nature has had a longer time to reclaim the area. The old pole fence at the side of the road is the only visible identification that you have found the winter playground.

As you enter the area, you can still see the end-run of the jump hill. Not as long as "Skyliner Hill" along Tumalo Creek, it is still an impressive sight. Once you climb the hill toward the outrun, it's easy to follow the contour of the jump. At the bottom of the ski hill, to the right, you can still see concrete remnants of the old fireplace that once was a part of Skyliners' L-shaped "warming hut."

The McKenzie Pass area does not feature a ski hill or an

-- continued on page 6



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

• • • • •

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.

• • • • •

www.deschuteshistory.org
Info@deschuteshistory.org

PRISCILLAS' JOLLY HALLOWEEN "HIGH JINKS" 1911



The Priscillas dressed up for the 1911 Halloween high jinks. Ruth Reid can be seen in a white dress, second row, second from the left.

The Priscillas, an exclusive club for young women only, held a "high jinks" on the eve of Halloween 1911.

Each of the young women came in costume and it was said that some of them were "perfect frights," according to a front page article in the *Bend Bulletin* the following day. Not to be defined as scary as such, but comical. There was quite a variety of characters, some unknown today such as Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch and Lovey Mary.

There were the timeless favorites that included witches, gypsies, Indian maids, little girl dress-ups, and even a bride and groom. The identity of the groom was kept a "profound secret" as men were forbidden at a Priscilla activity. It was said, however, that two young men actually snuck in under ghostly attire, but all agreed there was much hilarity and "jollity" that night.

— Bonnie Burns

Days of Culture Central Oregon October 1-8

The Deschutes Historical Museum is proud to participate in 2015 Days of Culture in Central Oregon.

In honor of the creation of the Oregon Cultural Trust, October 1-8 is Days of Culture in Oregon. The Arts and Culture Alliance of Central Oregon is proud to sponsor Days of Culture in Central Oregon with chances to win great prizes from local arts and culture organizations that give the gift of culture all year long.

SNAP, TAG & WIN PRIZES!

To enter in the drawings, all you have to do is snap a photo at a Days of Culture event and tag it with

#DaysofCultureCO and post it on Facebook. You can win prizes from Cascade Chorale, Deschutes Historical Museum, Deschutes Public Library Foundation, High Desert Museum, Redmond Community Concert Assoc., Tower Theatre and The Workhouse.

For more information, please visit artsandcultureco.org or stop by the Museum to pick up an event flyer.



HISTORY IS OUR BUSINESS – Researching With the Best

There isn't a day goes by at Deschutes Historical Museum when a history inquiry doesn't come to the attention of the volunteers. It may come in as an email, a phone call, a letter sent in the post or someone walking through the museum's doors.

Some of the best questions are even generated by donations to the Museum's collection. Whatever the mystery, our investigative team digs out the story to find the answer. Like a dog with a meaty bone, they often never let go.

Questions coming into the museum are quickly seized by four of our Idaho Avenue Irregulars, John Kent, Michelle Patrick, Bonnie Burns and Linda Morrison. Although they investigate a cornucopia of inquiries they do have their own areas of specialty.

John Kent is knowledgeable on just about any road, path, trail, and way in Central Oregon. He has walked most of them and those paths not trod by him he has studied. It is not uncommon to find John pouring through maps and Bureau of Land Management records in order to uncover the answer, often visiting the site in question. Topics about the old wagon routes generally go to John first.

Michelle Patrick would live in the research library if allowed. From her very first day at the Museum she was reading everything she could on local history, and she's not intimidated by the old print in the *Bend Bulletins*. Although not picky about what she researches Michelle's specialty are the families of Central Oregon, she's become a real encyclopedia of who's who. And it doesn't stop there; when the query request is complete Michelle continues with her own line of questions she wants answered, often finding new connections with other local families and occurrences. Our Subject and Family Files are rich in information as a result of her accumulative research.

Bonnie Burns is an expert investigator having honed her skill as a mystery detective for many years at the museum.

Artifacts are one of her specialties as she scours the Internet and research material searching to identify what the item may be and how it relates to Deschutes County. Bonnie's contributions have been most valuable as she investigates each clue the item has to offer; a company logo, a serial

number, a date, the original owner's name. Any of these hints to the object's past can help crack the case. Bonnie's research usually manages to uncover a larger story that makes the pages of *The Homesteader* or *The Bulletin*.

Linda Morrison is no stranger to the Reid School building having attended as a student in her earlier years. Today she shares her knowledge of the downtown district and surrounding areas to visitors and volunteers alike. Her stories of the people, businesses, and events in Bend make her an asset to our investigative team. Unlike reading about the everyday happenings of the community, Linda was living it and in this

way brings a different dimension to the question requests. She often has angles the rest of the research crew had not thought to investigate.

The process for deciphering answers to museum query requests are different based on the question and the person doing the detection. They don't don a deerstalker, however the Museum's history detectives have been known to pull out a magnifying glass and pour through newspapers and photographs to find their answer. There are a number of tools at their disposal, which have increased just in the last five years. So whether you have a question about your grandparents old homestead, an advertisement discovered between the walls of your shed, or more about your aunt's family, we have the experts for the job!

Have an inquiry for our team? Contact the Deschutes Historical Museum, 541-389-1813, or email us at info@deschuteshistory.org

– Vanessa Ivey



History Detectives from top left: Linda Morrison, Michelle Patrick, John Kent, and Bonnie Burns. Photos: Vanessa Ivey.

Local News Items



OSU summer intern Keegan Spring and the Bend High School Spirit display at the Deschutes Historical Museum.

Bend High School Cheer on Display

With assistance from OSU summer intern Keegan Spring, some Bend High School Spirit is now on display in the lobby of the Deschutes Historical Museum. Sparked by the recent donation by Maxine Brown Callinan of her Pep Club sweater, the exhibit case has prompted a few stories and not a few renditions of the BHS fight song. Maxine was Class of 1952 and her sweater is paired with the letterman sweater of Gordon Dahlin, her classmate and our great collections volunteer.

Keegan, who grew up in Bend and returned home for the summer, spent the summer researching the Deschutes County Centennial and photograph research for the Nordic ski exhibit, in addition to aiding Shey Hyatt, Museum Registrar, with the layout and assembling BHS materials from the collection. He'll receive credit for the internship through the OSU History Department for work in public history under his instructor, Thomas Bahde

Welcome New Members

Keegan Spring
Lyn O. Mattei
Bob Crain
Mike and Sue Sears
Peggy L. Nelson
Bain Low
Peter and Susan Diehl
Sally and Eugene Wegner

HistoriCorps Workshop at Paulina Lake IOOF buildings

HistoriCorps is conducting a workshop involving the Paulina Lake IOOF Cabins on Wednesday, October 15th from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

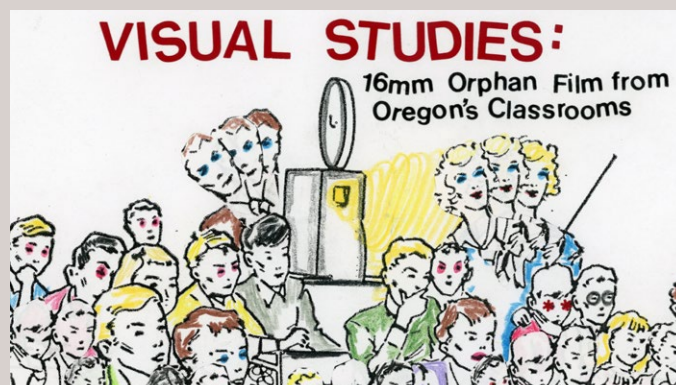
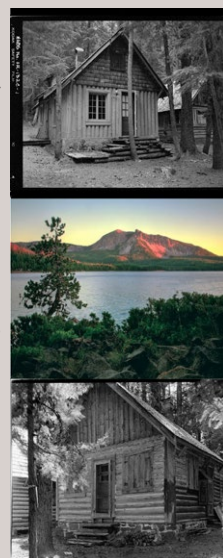
HistoriCorps are looking for 6-8 volunteers to assist with the project.

The IOOF Cabins are four small log buildings constructed in the 1930s for recreational purposes by members of the International Order of the Oddfellows (IOOF).

To register for this event, please contact Rebecca Curry:

rcurry@historicorps.org

or (303) 893-4260 ext. 225



Visual Studies: 16mm Orphan Film from Oregon's Classrooms

In October 2011 Indiana University in Bloomington acquired over twelve-thousand 16mm film prints from the state of Oregon. From sheep shearing and venereal disease to the finer points of how to tie-dye these films spanned over sixty years of audio-visual education in Oregon.

What value do these films hold for audiences in 2015? Why did they end up at a major (out-of-state) university film archive? These questions and more will be tackled as we bring some of these films back to Oregon for their first public screening in decades.

Downtown Bend Library, Brooks Room, 6:00 p.m., Tuesday November 17th. Free admission.

Save the Date – Annual Chili Feed: November 13 & 14

In Search of Skyliners' Secrets

– continued from page 2

area for cross-country skiing. Instead, Nordic skiers took advantage of the pass highway for their skiing pleasure. The road towards Windy Point was a challenging track for daring skiers, while novice skiers had plenty of easy-going trails along the highway around the playground.

The “*Winter Comes*” planning staff looks forward to presenting the Nordic ski exhibition to our members and the community in late January 2016. We’re hoping to uncover more secrets along the way. And finally – **“Think Snow!”**

– Tor Hanson
(who promises to perform his “*Viking Snow Dance*” throughout November)



From left to right: Museum Director Kelly Cannon-Miller, guest curator Tim Gibbons, and local historian Tor Hanson.

Thank You For Helping Us Celebrate Our 40th Anniversary

Many thanks to those who helped us celebrate our 40th birthday by donating to DCHS. Thanks to you, funds raised will allow us to give you, our members, the benefits you have come to enjoy. Just a few accomplishments for the year:

- Bringing in the Fremont exhibit
- Upgrading exhibit rooms
- Keeping membership, admission and event costs to a minimum

Thank you for preserving our past for the present and future!



Mark Your Calendars

October

- 1-8 **DAYS OF CULTURE CENTRAL OREGON**
For information, please visit artsandcultureco.org
- 20 **PROHIBITION IN BEND HISTORY TALK**
Local historian Tor Hanson
Bend Genealogy Society, 10:30 a.m.
- 13 **WHO OWNS THE PAST**
Documentary screening and discussion with special three-speaker guest panel (including our very own, museum director Kelly Cannon-Miller). Culinary Arts Center, Room 118. 2555 Campus Village Way, Bend. Noon-2 p.m.
- 20-21 **FRÉMONT TALK WITH LOREN IRVING**
Local Fremont expert, Loren Irving speaks on the topic of “*Finding Frémont: Pathfinder to the West.*”
20 – Bend Downtown Library – 6 p.m.
21 – Sunriver Library – Noon
- 23-24 **HISTORICAL HAUNTS OF DOWNTOWN BEND**
Get ready to take a haunted tour of downtown Bend during this annual spooky event.
Please sign up at Deschutes Historical Museum.

**McMENAMINS OLD ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL
HISTORY PUB NIGHT**

**NEWBERRY VOLCANO
and Central Oregon's
Ancient Cultural Heritage**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

5:30 p.m. doors; 7 p.m. event • Free • All ages welcome

Presented by **TOM CONNOLLY**
Director of Research,
UO Museum of Natural & Cultural History & State Museum of Anthropology
Sponsored by
Deschutes County Historical Museum and Oregon Historical Society
BRING YOUR PASSPORTS FOR A HISTORY STAMP!

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

27

**HISTORY PUB – NEWBERRY VOLCANO
AND CENTRAL OREGON'S ANCIENT
CULTURAL HERITAGE**
Presented by Tom Connolly,
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.