



Birdie – A Farm Chicken Story

A chicken story about love, friendship and the downfall of picking a potbelly stove to make your home...

See Page 4



Remembering Kenwood School

Sue Fountain reminisces about a sixth grade Christmas event at Kenwood and how she turned disappointment into an opportunity.

See Page 2 & 6

The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter – February 2017

Membership Meeting Feb. 18

Join us for the Annual Meeting of the Membership, a time to review the past year and learn about upcoming events. It's also our business meeting to formalize our board elections and meet with our board of directors. Doors open at 11:30, lunch is served at noon, with a short business meeting and fun history presentation to follow.

Presentation: Bend's Football History

DCHS recently gathered a group of former football players and coaches for an oral history interview on the history of football in Bend. We will debut a 30 minute video from this fun afternoon.

When: Saturday, February 18
11:30 am to 1:30 pm, lunch served at noon

Where: Pine Forest Grange Hall
63214 Boyd Acres Rd, Bend

Cost: \$12.00 per person

R.S.V.P. by Thursday, February 16
by calling 541-389-1813 or email at info@deschuteshistory.org



Wall Street, Bend in 1919. The back of this postcard reads, "How would you like to wade through this...you can see the store where we do our trading. To John from Jesse."

It was a winter storm for the record books. The "Big Blue Snow" of December 1919 is considered the weather phenomena every other winter storm in Bend is measured against. Though people who survived the "Snowmageddon" of 2016-17 or the winter of 1992-93 may argue the point, the storm that dumped 47 inches of snow in 48 hours still holds the record.

This winter has certainly made people long for a decent summer day. Talking points at the office water cooler have included ice damming, where to buy a snow rake, why the street department can't plow your road, and when they finally did, how to get your car over the snow berm left behind by the snow plow...

This winter has made newspaper headlines – treacherous driving, cancelled school days, and collapsing roofs – the Kenwood School Gym being a traumatic event for long-time Bendites. Heck, even former Ray's Food Place made the news when the much younger building bit the dust. Now we have a scientific term for roof collapse: snow load failure.

Winter weather is nothing new for long-time Bend residents. You deal with it and keep a smile on your face. And if the conversation comes up, you have a list in your pocket that shows snow depths for the last 100 years, just in case.

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The Angel Trick – A Kenwood School Remembrance



Kenwood Elementary School and the nowadays busy Newport Avenue. DCHS board member Sue Fountain was one of many thousands of children that attended the school over the years. She reminisces about a sixth grade Christmas event at Kenwood and how she turned disappointment into an opportunity.

I remember the Christmas program we had when I was in the fifth grade at Kenwood School. The finale featured the sixth grade choir marching into the darkened auditorium singing “Adeste Fideles,” and each choir member carried a lighted star.

Actually the celestial light was just two paper plates with a star cut out on both sides and colored cellophane taped over the stars. The plates were then fastened to a flashlight, and in the dark all you could see were the stars being held by each choir member.

As they made their way to the front of the room, dressed in white robes, they filed onto a set of risers that were in a triangular shape. The end effect was that of a singing Christmas tree in all its shining splendor. I thought it was quite wonderful and could not wait until I was in the sixth grade choir.

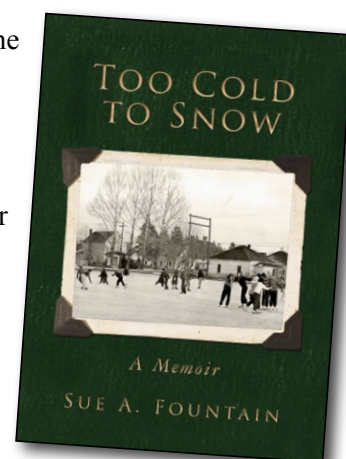
What a disappointment to me when the following year Miss Brosterhous, my music teacher, did not choose me to be in the choir. She said that I sang off key, but she had another

part for me to play. I was so sad; no one had told me before that I couldn’t carry a tune. I loved to sing, but I had to be satisfied with the other role she chose for me to play.

As it turned out, that part was quite special. I was the angel on top of the tree. While the choir members marched in, I came out from the stage door dressed in my angel costume and carrying my own star.

Quietly I moved to the top of the risers in the dark, and after all the others had formed the tree, I turned on my light at the top. I was the star of the show, and not only that, but once the choir members were there, I sang the rest of the songs with them. Sorry, Miss Brosterhous, I couldn’t hold back.

– Sue Fountain from her book, “Too Cold To Snow”



Deschutes Historical Museum
129 NW Idaho Avenue, Bend, OR 97703
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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2017 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.

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www.deschuteshistory.org
Info@deschuteshistory.org

Big Blue Snow...

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Almost 100 years ago, Bend experienced a winter storm that puts this winter in perspective. Lovingly called the “Big Blue Snow,” it set the standard for Bend. Though few are left to bear witness to the ferocity of the storm, the December 1919 blizzard is well documented.

Rewind; put on a warm winter coat, boots and a cap and step back in time to December 8, 1919. The day before the storm got underway.

At the time, Bend had a little bit more than 5,000 souls living in the city. Only ten years earlier, there were only 500 who called Bend home. The main employers in town were Brooks-Scanlon and Shevlin-Hixon lumber companies, each employing about 500 men.

The day before the storm wreaked havoc, temperatures plunged in Bend. The Bulletin reported temperatures hovering around 11 below with an unofficial reading from Fort Rock reaching 25 below.

Snow started falling in the pre-dawn hours of January 9. The local newspaper reported that five inches of snow blanketed Bend by 8 o’clock in the morning. By noon it had doubled and “the predictions of the much-maligned weather man was that the storm was only in its infancy.”

The cold weather coupled with an onslaught of snow quickly impacted Bend’s infrastructure. Terrence Foley, the manager of the Bend Water, Light & Power Company, reported that the flow of water going to the power plant at Newport Avenue slowed to a trickle causing a dramatic drop in production of electricity.

Foley sent an urgent message through the Bulletin, asking “all unemployed men in the city report to the plant of the power office at once, as there are many jobs available.” Men were already hard at work keeping the ice from generator wheels while others were removing ice and slush



Bend was not the only town in Central Oregon that suffered through the winter of 1919. Here is J.R. Roberts’ home on 8th and Antler in Redmond. Ruth Roberts in front. Below: Two skiers are ready to make the most of the snow pack.

further up the Deschutes River to increase the flow of water.

The Shevlin-Hixon mill was still in operation after Brooks-Scanlon had to shut down due to power interruptions. But it was slow going in the Shevlin-Hixon lumber yard due to the heavy snowfall.

A crusty pioneer of Central Oregon, James Smith, hotel clerk at the Cozy Hotel, was quoted saying that below zero temperatures in Bend was nothing compared to the winter of 1884-85 when the temperatures plunged to 25 degrees below. “Some of the boys said it was 40, but I wouldn’t like to be accused of exaggeration.”

Even with the raging snowstorm in progress, the city continued to function. The ladies of the Scandinavian-Lutheran church congregated at the post office on Wednesday, serving hot coffee and sandwiches to those who managed to make it to the meeting.

After a brief two-day stop in publishing the local newspaper, the Bulletin hit the streets on Friday. The reporters painted a picture of a town in disarray. The roads in and out of Bend were blocked. Teams and men were working to restore communications with nearby communities. Anton Aune of Aune’s Livery Stable was breaking a road from Bend to Tumalo, and Gus Stadig was reportedly using four teams to clear a route from the Lower Bridge to Terrebonne.

Deliveries of wood to heat homes were also down to a crawl. People were driven from unheated, freezing homes to hotels to stay warm. And even though the covering layer of snow insulated water pipes, the busiest people in town were the plumbers who repaired damaged or frozen pipes. Brooks-Scanlon was at a stand-still due to loss of power and T. H. Foley at the power company was still trying to



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Birdie fell in love with my mother. Instead of hovering over fluffy chicks as the Leghorns did, Birdie saved all her affection for my mother. She was a matronly Rhode Island Red.

When my father lost his job as bookkeeper at the Bend Hardware, due to The Great Depression, my desperate parents returned to their roots – farming.

The lava strewn eighty acres they rented three miles from Bend on the Butler Market Road contained a one-room shack, an out-house (perilously close to the irrigation ditch that fed drinking water into our cistern), a ramshackle barn with milking stalls. There was no hen house so they cobbled one together with rejects from the Shevlin-Hixon box factory. Being range chickens, ours had no expectation of luxury as they scratched for a living in the manure pile behind the barn.

Our one-room shack had a lean-to kitchen and that was about it. Into this squalid space were crammed two beds – one for my parents and one for my two teen-age sisters. A ladder nailed to the wall took my two brothers and me up to the slant-roofed attic where we slept on pallets. My mother worried about us being trapped up there by fire, so my father installed a small window in one end of the A-frame. It did not open but we had authority to smash it in case of emergency. Fortunately, that crisis did not occur.

The other notable items in the shack were my mother's Christmas cactus and a pot-bellied wood-burning stove. It was a great heat producer in the Cascade-cold wintertime but space wasted in summer. So in June, when warm weather was expected, the stove was lugged out to the backyard to rust until fall.

One summer the fire box door on the stove was left ajar. Birdie saw opportunity and took it. With great industry, she prepared a nest of dried grass which she fiercely defended from cats, dogs, squirrels and other marauding fowl.

Each morning she waited by the back door for my mother to make her trip to the out-house. That accomplished, they chatted merrily as Birdie proudly led the way to her stove. With excited clucking, she invited her guest to reach inside

for the beautiful egg she had lovingly laid during the night. My mother's effusive appreciation was her reward.

In September icy air whistled in from the Cascades. The rusty stove was polished and squeezed back into our living room. Birdie was hysterical. Birdie was inconsolable.

"She will never fit in with the rest of the flock," my father decreed.

My mother wept. I wept.

That night we had chicken fricassee for supper.

– Ray Hamby

Camp Abbott Artifacts on Display at Deschutes Public Library Bend Branch

A variety of WWII and Camp Abbot artifacts from the Deschutes County Historical Museum's holdings are on display for the month of February at the Downtown Bend branch of Deschutes Public Library. Exhibit highlights include an M1 rifle, a period uniform, and a variety of small artifacts.

Camp Abbot was a US Army Corps of Engineers training center located where Sunriver is today. The camp was in operation between 1943 and 1944, after which the camp was razed. In the 1960s, the private lands were developed into the town site of Sunriver. Only the Great Hall from Camp Abbot remains today.



Local News Items

Appreciation Brunch Honors Museum Volunteers



Snow, snow, and more snow... however despite the flakey white stuff the Volunteer Brunch still went on as planned December 18, 2016. Those braving the weather and the roads were greeted with a hearty brunch of baked potatoes and pancakes, warm fellowship, and festive music!

The year of 2016 was a busy one with a centennial to celebrate, a very successful and popular Winter Comes exhibit, school tours, and much more. We had nearly 4,000 visitors from all over the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, Sweden, Norway, Germany and many other places. And every day Deschutes Historical Museum volunteers were here hard at work in all corners of the building. "That's what makes the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch extra special, seeing everyone here and thanking them for a job well done. The museum would not be able to operate smoothly, with the variety of happenings that go on under Reid School's roof without them. They are the museum and they are the best volunteers in all of Central Oregon!" Museum Manager Vanessa Ivey expressed during the party.

Each year, nominated by their peers, a volunteer(s) is recognized for outstanding service, and this year's Volunteer of the Year went to Georgia Springer. Georgia for several years expressed interest in volunteering at the museum and 2016 decided to up her game, working events and taking on a shift at the front desk. When the need for a minute taker at board meetings came up Georgia jumped right in and offered her time. You can find Georgia on Wednesday afternoons transcribing

and dictating letters and documents at the front desk. She is a valuable asset to the Museum and a welcomed new member to our volunteer family. Stop by on a Wednesday and say hello.

A great big thank-you goes out to all of our volunteers at the Deschutes Historical Museum. It is an honor and a pleasure to work with each of you. It is through your commitment the history of Deschutes County is made available to everyone. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please join us at our next volunteer meeting, noon to 1pm, February 14, at the Deschutes Historical Museum, or contact Vanessa Ivey at vanessa@deschuteshistory.org



Georgia Springer (center) is honored as the Deschutes Historical Museum's "Volunteer of the Year" with Museum Manager Vanessa Ivey (right) presenting the award.

Big Blue Snow...

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protect the generator wheel from ice.

Other services were delayed until the following week. Niswonger Undertaking parlor reported the funerals of Mrs. Adele Ballard and Mrs. Otto Moore were put on hold until the road to the Pilot Butte cemetery could be cleared.

By the time the snow stopped falling on December 11, Bend received 47 inches of snow. It is a two-day record that still stands today. The cold temperatures turned the snow to an icy-blue color and for many years after the winter storm of December 1919, people were still talking about the “Big Blue Snow.”

The cold snap was only brief. Four days after below freezing temperatures were reported in Bend, the mercury shot up to 42 degrees, slowly restoring city services in Bend. Snow removal equipment was working the roads in and around Bend. A 17-ton, 125-horsepower caterpillar tractor was put in service clearing the road towards La Pine.

It took almost a full three weeks before the mills resumed operations. The Brooks-Scanlon plant resumed operation at 8 o'clock on Monday morning, December 29 while

Shevlin-Hixon waited until noon to put three band-saws back to work.

The “Big Blue Snow” was by all accounts a weather event that stuck in people’s memory. In an interview with Kessler Cannon in 1953, Sadie Niswonger made the following comment:

“It was four feet right down here in front.”

Cannon asked Mrs. Niswonger if she remembered going outside and measuring the snow.

“Yes, I do!”

“It was very cold at that time, too?” said Cannon.

“Yes, it was very cold at that time, but that snow didn’t last very long. It was just a short time.”

“But there was a whole lot of it while it was here...”

“When it was here, there was plenty of it.”

Spoken like a true Bendite.

So, the next time someone tells you that the winter of 2016-17 was tough, just pull out this article and tell them, “it wasn’t as bad as 1919... or the winter of 1884-85!”

— Tor Hanson

McMENAMINS OLD ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL HISTORY PUB NIGHT MEMORIES OF KENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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

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



Mark Your Calendars

FEBRUARY

- 18 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**
Pine Forest Grange Hall
63214 Boyd Acres Road, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 28 HISTORY PUB: MEMORIES OF KENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
Due to tremendous interest, this month’s History

The Historical Museum is looking for Kenwood School Mementos

Please let us know if you have mementos that you would be willing to part with. Your Kenwood School memorabilia will become a part of Deschutes Historical Museum collections.

Please contact us at info@deschuteshistory.org

Pub is being offered three times!
On February 28, History Pub in the Father Luke Room at McMenamins Old St. Francis will be offered twice: 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., with doors at 3:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.
On Wednesday, March 1, we will offer a third program at the Brooks Room in the Downtown Bend Library at 6:30 pm.



ArchaeologyFest Film Series: Best of 2016

A benefit for ***The Archaeology Channel***
International Film Festival

Boyle Education Center, Rm. 155
2600 NW Main College Way
Bend, OR 97703
February 17-25, 2017

Programs begin at 7:00 pm on dates indicated. Admission \$7. These are the best films from the 2016 edition of TAC Festival. (Film screenings for the 2017 edition of TAC Festival take place in the Recital Hall at The Shedd Institute in downtown Eugene, May 3-7, 2017—see below.)

Program A: February 17 (Friday), 7:30 pm

Roman Engineering: Cities (Spain) 51 min.

Rome served as the model for all the cities in its empire. City planners at the time used a standard model customized for the local setting. This documentary uses Tarraco, a medium-sized Roman city, to exemplify the fundamental factors that affected how a new city was set up and how these decisions are reflected in the modern city built on top of it. Employing detailed and rigorous reconstructions of architecture and costume, the filmmakers reveal the ramparts, forums, the amphitheater, and the great Roman theater of Cartago Nova as living artifacts from a meticulously planned past. (Honorable Mention by Jury for Narration; Best Animation & Effects by Jury; Honorable Mention by Jury for Public Education Value; Honorable Mention by Jury for Script; Honorable Mention by Jury for Cinematography)

Viking Women: Jova's Heritage and the Fall of Haithabu (Germany) 52 min.

Jova lives as a servant in Denmark in the year 1064. One day she finds out that her father was a renowned warrior who set out to the east shortly after her birth and did not come back. From then on, Jova has only one thing on her mind: finding her father. She escapes from servitude, dresses up like a man and hires a ship that sails to the land of the Rus. The story of Jova leads us deep inside the fundamentally changing society of the Vikings. Christianity's influence gains prominence through exposure to different cultures via trading. But Christianization and the emerging kingdoms are both blessing and curse: they herald the destruction of Viking culture. (Honorable Mention by Jury for Inspiration)

Program B: February 18 (Saturday), 7:30 pm

The Jewish Cemetery (USA) 50 min.

German retired teacher and historian Otmar Weber introduces us to a little known part of the German-French borderlands known as the Wasgau, where rural Jewish populations lived and thrived for 300 years until National Socialism drove them out in the 1930s. Through interviews and personal accounts, we discover who these German Jewish families were, what is left behind from their lives and where they went. *The Jewish Cemetery* is seen and told in the seldom visited hinterlands of an old Europe that has changed remarkably little. (Honorable Mention in Audience Favorite competition)

Monuments Revealed: Petra, Capital of the Desert (France & USA) 86 min.

Located in the middle of one of the driest places on earth, the civilization of Petra left behind spectacular monuments carved into the sandstone cliffs. We now know that a prosperous and cultivated city of nearly 30,000 people stretched out from the base of the mountains and that water was abundant. Petra, the capital of the Nabataean kingdom built more than 2000 years ago, is the paradoxical work of desert nomads. Another large site located 500 kilometers away in Saudi Arabia has similar rock-cut monuments. This history of Petra, as well as that of the people who built and lived there for nearly 800 years, is gradually emerging from the sand. (Honorable Mention by Jury in Best Film Competition; Honorable Mention by Jury for Narration; Honorable Mention by Jury for Animation & Effects; Honorable Mention by Jury for Public Education Value; Honorable Mention by Jury for Script; Best Cinematography by Jury; Honorable Mention by Jury for Inspiration)