Deschutes County turns 100 years old in 2016, the youngest county in the state of Oregon. Members of the Deschutes County Historical Society and the Deschutes Pioneer’s Association have joined with Deschutes County staff and community members to plan a series of events celebrating the county throughout 2016.

During planning sessions the Deschutes Pioneer’s Association President and Deschutes County Historical Society (DCHS) Board Member Greg Fulton presented an idea – what if the 1907 Holsman, long a centerpiece for exhibits at the museum, returned to the parade routes as a centennial event?

The DCHS Board of Directors, reflecting on the car’s history, liked the idea. The car’s previous owner, E.A. Smith, regularly appeared in nearly every local parade with the Holsman, and for many years Smith used the Holsman to drive the Deschutes Pioneer Queen to the annual picnic at Pioneer Park. But its history is much deeper.

The Holsman is the first car to come to Bend, acquired by the Deschutes Telephone Company as a service vehicle and rather famously driven to Bend from The Dalles by...
H.C. Ellis. Its patent leather fenders were quickly torn to shreds by the rough roads and unceremoniously taken off and left by the road near Shaniko, or so the story goes. Earnest Smith, an electrician working for the telephone company, acquired the car when the telephone company went out of business. In lieu of wages the company owed Smith, they gave him the car instead. It became a prized possession, lovingly called ‘Bosco,’ and his number one hobby. In 1971, the Smith family donated the car to the Deschutes Pioneer Association Museum on Greenwood and was incorporated into the Deschutes Historical Museum in 1980.

Wade Bryant generously volunteered his services toward the Holsman project, which will return the car to running order with minimal changes to the original car. A lover of old cars, Bryant remembers the car from his paper boy delivery days near the Pioneer Museum. Last month, the car was disassembled and carried out of the Museum for its centennial journey. The wheels will be shipped to South Dakota for their own special spoke-wheel tune-up, while the car engine and body have been moved to Bryant’s Auto Repair for engine work. Watch The Homesteader for upcoming 2016 events where you are able to see the Holsman.

The Model 3 Holsman sold for $650 without a top and weighs 845 pounds. It was ideal for the roads of the time since it had a 28 inch ground clearance that would clear the rocks and stumps on the crude roads.

Solid rubber tires precluded punctures. Gasoline was packaged in 5-gallon cans and freighted to spots along the way from The Dalles to allow Mr. Ellis to drive the car to Bend since there were no gas stations at the time.

A two-speed gear mechanism drives chains that turn a swinging cross shaft which turns small pulleys wrapped with belts that go around large pulleys attached to rear the wheels. The driver pulls the large lever that swings the shaft toward the front, tightening the drive belts and starting the vehicle in motion.

Stopping is accomplished by pushing the lever forward, loosening the belts and engaging pads into the pulleys on the wheels to brake the auto. Reverse is accomplished by pushing the same lever down and pushing forward, which releases the brake pads and engages small drive wheels on the end of the shaft into the face of the hard rubber tires, to turn them in reverse. Reverse can also be used as a brake, but must have been hard on the tires and drive mechanism.

The small lever in front of the starting crank is the spark advance for the dual coil system seen in the wooden case on the dash panel. The throttle is the end of the tiller steering arm, and is turned to advance the speed, like a motorcycle. The lever sideways below the driver’s seat is the two-speed gear shifter. Both forward and reverse had two speeds; the lower was used only for extreme hills or low traction conditions.
The last Tuesday of the month is highlighted in many calendars around Bend and Central Oregon. On the schedule, the monthly History Pub talks at Father Luke’s Room at McMenamins Old St. Francis School. Next May, the event turns five years old, and there is already a long list of great pub talks on tap!

If you happen to attend any of the recent history pubs, you would find an audience as varied as the topic of the day. The monthly presentations bring interested locals, history buffs and out-of-town visitors to a mostly standing-room-only event. The pub talks focus on events, stories and interesting personalities that all have a common link – Oregon.

The first History Pub Talk in Bend kicked off in May 2011 when local history expert, Jim Crowell presented on the history of Bend. The program has been going on full speed since then and developed a loyal following in the community.

“We have a set of ‘regulars’ that will attend every event, no matter the topic,” says Deschutes County Historical Society (DCHS) executive director, Kelly Cannon-Miller. “Then we have people that show up to listen to pub talks on specific topics that are relevant to them.”

The multitude of topics bring in a wide spectrum of people interested in history. That gives the Historical Society a chance to showcase local and Oregon history. In the past year alone, presentations have ranged from Klondike Kate; Oregon’s Nobel Prize Winners; Pioneers Cemeteries of Deschutes County; Professor Thomas Condon and his Fossils; and everything in between.

“I think the strength of the program is the diversity of topics being offered,” says Cannon-Miller. “It is our chance to engage people that we normally wouldn’t be able to reach. There are many instances when a pub talk has generated new membership applications.”

There are no set rules when it comes to history pub themes. “A good pub talk for us is all about local history or Oregon history, but some talks have a broader story to tell and there is no reason to limit that. For us, it is all about making a connection between our patrons and history. Period,” says Cannon-Miller.

Audiences have been taken on “side-trips” when a story has larger regional or national history to offer, such as Woody Guthrie, the Oregon Trail, the impact of dams in the Pacific Northwest, or Buffalo Bill Cody.

The History Pub talks were the brainchild of McMenamins’ historian Tim Hill. Started as a joint effort of McMenamins, the Oregon Encyclopedia, and Oregon Historical Society, the event was a way to create a forum for local history. Several of the McMenamins’ properties in the Portland Metropolitan area arrange similar events.

When Cannon-Miller joined the Oregon Encyclopedia editorial board in 2010, the board asked if DCHS was interested in bringing a similar event to Bend. Without hesitation, she said “Yes.”

With the close of the 2015 History Pub season, the DCHS has offered up 54 pub talks. Originally held in the movie theater, the pub talks found a permanent home in Father Luke’s Room next door. The room holds up to 125 people and offers seating that ranges from informal dining to chairs along the walls to standing room if you are a late-comer.

Presenters for the monthly pub talks come from near and far.

“We invite out-of-town presenters to our pub talks and in turn, our local speakers get invited to Portland to give their presentations at History Bend’s History Pubs: POPULAR EVENT CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS IN MAY 2016
Every year, in December, the staff and board of the Deschutes Historical Museum reflect on the year and what we have accomplished, with your help.

In 2015, we:

- Installed the *Finding Fremont: Pathfinder of the West* exhibit in May. We estimate a record 4,000 visitors to the museum since then, compared to 2,500 a year ago.
- Partnered with McMenamins for monthly History Pubs, a very popular program to be continued in 2016.
- Hosted the Little Woody Barrel Aged Brew and Whiskey Festival.
- Celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Deschutes County Historical Society.
- Hosted the annual membership meeting at Pine Forest Grange, where we premiered “*Watermaster*”, a documentary on the history of irrigation in the Deschutes Basin.
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- Participated in Historic Preservation Month in May.
- Hosted the Summer Shootout marble tournament in June.
- Prepared for, and received Bend Cultural Tourism Fund and Oregon Cultural Trust grants for, “*Winter Comes: Oregon’s Nordic Ski History*” exhibit which will open in February 2016.
- Hosted our first (of what we hope to be many) Museum Nights – events for our exhibits with the curators.
- Welcomed 16 school groups to learn about Deschutes County history (over 900 children grades 1-5).

We hope that you were able to participate in at least one of these events over the year, and that you are looking forward to even more exciting exhibits and presentations in 2016.

We would not be able to offer such a wide range of events and exhibits without your support. Help us preserve and share our unique history for future generations with your gift.

Remember, gifts to the Deschutes County Historical Society and Museum are eligible as matching gifts to the Oregon Cultural Trust and the Cultural Trust state tax credit. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

**DESCHUTES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
**ANNUAL GIVING FUND**

**YES!** I want to help DCHS keep history alive!

Enclosed is my gift of:

- $25  
- $50  
- $100  
- Other __________

Name: ________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________

City: ___________ State: _______ Zip: ___________

Phone: (_____) ___________ E-mail: ______________________________

**THANK YOU**
Arcadia Publishing has announced a January 25, 2016, release date for Legendary Locals of Bend by the Deschutes County Historical Society’s own Les Joslin. “A fascinating mix of local legends who could be characterized as the right people, in the right place, at the right time arrived in Central Oregon during the past century and a half to make Bend the fascinating city it has become,” is how the publisher characterizes the subject of this new book. “Some of these people – explorer John C. Frémont, publisher George Palmer Putnam, economist William A. Niskanen, and World’s Greatest Athlete Ashton Eaton among them – gained national prominence and even global stature. Others were and are more ordinary people who have done and continue to do extraordinary things in an extraordinary place, a small but singular city of some 80,000 souls astride the Deschutes River at the eastern foot of the Cascade Range.”

This new book will go on sale at the Deschutes Historical Museum on January 25 or as soon thereafter as it is received from the publisher, as well as at other Central Oregon outlets, and will be available from Amazon.com and other online booksellers. Les will talk about and sign the book at the Museum on a date to be scheduled, at the History Pub at McMenamins Old St. Francis School on Tuesday, April 26, and at other places to be announced.


Thank you to everyone who came to the Annual Chili Feed, Bake Sale and Raffle, which raised over $4,700 for the Museum.

Susie Penhollow and her kitchen crew, partnered with Barley Beef from Rastovich farms donated by Rob Rastovich, made a fantastic batch of Millie’s Chili. So great, we ran out by 1:45 on Saturday! In addition, there was only one single item left over from the bake sale – a lovely jar of tomato relish that sold the very next Tuesday.

We offer a hearty thank you to the volunteers and businesses, who offered their time and products to help make this event another success story.

Bette Andrew, Carol Arnold, Ed Barnum, Karen Barnum, Bonnie Burns, Barbara Buxton, Clara Cannon, Elaine & Bob Cosner, Phoebe DeGree, Burt Douglass, Andrea DuPree, Anita & Carl Elliot, Jill Ergenbright, Kathy Fish, Sue Fountain, Sue Fuller, Dee Dee Garnett, Karen Green, Judy Harbin, Dalyte Hartsough, Carolyn Herb, Doug Hildebrand, Lynn Holm, Phillis Hurworth, Shey Hyatt, Rea Jackman, Pat Joslin, John Kent, Joyce Kesterson, Jane Kopriva, Craig Lacey, Carol Lane, Sara Langton, Jan Lewis, Chuck & Eloise Mattox, Ann Maudlin, Jan McCune, Dick Meddish, Nancy Merrick, Lori Niederhof, Dorothy Olsen, Joe & Linda Orcelletto, Carol Pederson Jensen, Judith Penner, Katie Rixe, Sharron Rosengarth, Darlene Ross, Carol Selle, Jon & Sue Sholes, Peggy Spencer, Georgia Springer, Marsha Stout, Eve Takla, Joyce Taylor, Juanita Thompson, Vera Wesenberg, and Holle Young.
Nights. It’s a win-win situation for all parties,” says Cannon-Miller.

In January and March next year, History Pub will feature out-of-town speakers Lynne Richardson, Executive Director of Deepwood Museum & Gardens in Salem and Sarah Baker Munro, a historian of Timberline Lodge and Director of the Hoover-Minthorn House Museum.

Several of the Bend pub talks travelled to Portland. Loren Irving and Kelly Cannon-Miller took the Frémont talk on the road in 2014 and as recent as November this year, DCHS board president and local historian, Nate Pedersen, made a presentation about Klondike Kate at McMenamins Old Church and Pub in Wilsonville.

“Some of the local presenters have built up a following in the community,” says Cannon-Miller.

At November’s History Pub about Swedish Nordic skier Emil Nordeen, some attendees even braved a blizzard-like winter storm in progress and cross-country skied to McMenamins to listen to the presentation.

With evolving event comes its share of challenges. Many pub talks have ended up being standing-room-only events. The desire for more seats is a frustration that most event planners would love to have.

Since a larger room isn’t an option, DCHS partnered with the Deschutes County Public Library in 2015 to repeat presentations at the library’s Brooks Room whenever possible. A more formal presentation area, the Brooks Room holds up to 80.

The History Pub program is currently taking a holiday hiatus, but the program for January through May is already nailed down.

– Tor Hanson

UPCOMING HISTORY PUB PRESENTATIONS:

• JANUARY: Timberline Lodge: A New Deal Masterpiece – Sarah Baker Munro
• FEBRUARY: Indigenous Arts of the High Desert – Justine Lowry
• MARCH: Cowgirls and Ranch Women: Pioneers Pushing Gender Boundaries – Lynne Richardson
• APRIL: Legendary Locals – Les Joslin
• MAY: Stories of the Depression – Alistair Jaques

Mark Your Calendars

DECEMBER

6  ANNUAL VOLUNTEER BRUNCH
Deschutes County Historical Museum from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

19  HOLLINSHEAD OPEN HOUSE
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1235 NE Jones Road, Bend

JANUARY

19  VOLUNTEER MEETING
Deschutes Historical Museum from 12 a.m. to 1 p.m.

26  HISTORY PUB: TIMBERLINE LODGE
Presented by Sarah Baker Munro,
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.

MUSEUM HOLIDAY HOURS:
Open 10-2 Christmas Eve, December 24.
Closed Christmas, December 25.
Open 10-2 New Year’s Eve, December 31.
Closed New Years, January 1.

Welcome New Members

Elisabeth Chapman
Prairie Carrie Emrich
Carole and Harry Lane
Sharon Stasiowski
Margaret Schinkel
Alyson Bleecher and Mary Jane Eisenberg
Jack Ford
Bill and Joan Quant
Tim Knopp
Sarah Larson