



Mary Jane Newton: A Life in Bend

Mary Jane Newton has seen her share of housing booms in Bend since she and her husband Dwight first moved here in 1943.

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Ski Historian John Allen at History Pub

Distinguished ski historian John Allen will speak about three legendary ski personalities at History Pub on October 25.

See Page 4

The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter – October 2016



Haunting & History: A Perfect Combo

Just Added: “The Spooktacular History of the Quija Board”

It’s hard to believe that the Deschutes County Historical Society’s first haunted heritage walk began with three tour guides attracting over 300 participants during a blustery weekend. Despite the cold everyone had a fantastic time and the following year’s event proved to be even more popular.

This month continues the tradition of Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend at the Deschutes Historical Museum on Friday, October 28 and Saturday October 29.

The fundraiser for the Deschutes County Historical Society

is family fun at its best. Bring a flashlight, comfortable walking shoes, and plenty of nerves as you stroll the streets of historic downtown Bend with your personal tour guide, hearing stories of Bend’s past; adventures, love and the afterlife. Starting at 4:00 pm the museum hosts 12 one-hour tours each night, the last tour leaving at 7:30 pm. Tour spaces are limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Cost is \$10.00 per person, children under 12 years and DCHS members are FREE. Museum admission is included with your tour fee. All tours begin at

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WE'VE GOT QUESTIONS. DO YOU HAVE ANSWERS?



The Deschutes Historical Museum has a black and white photo of the 1971 Bend Rainbows.

We know that Kurt Russell played 2nd base, Ed Cecil was manager and pitcher, and Tom Treblehorn, who later was a MLB manager, played catcher. What we want to know is the color of the Bend Rainbow uniform and cap.

If anyone has color photos of the 1970 & 1971 Bend Rainbows Baseball team, or remembers what the uniform colors were please contact [Vanessa Ivey](#), Museum Manager, at the Deschutes Historical Museum.

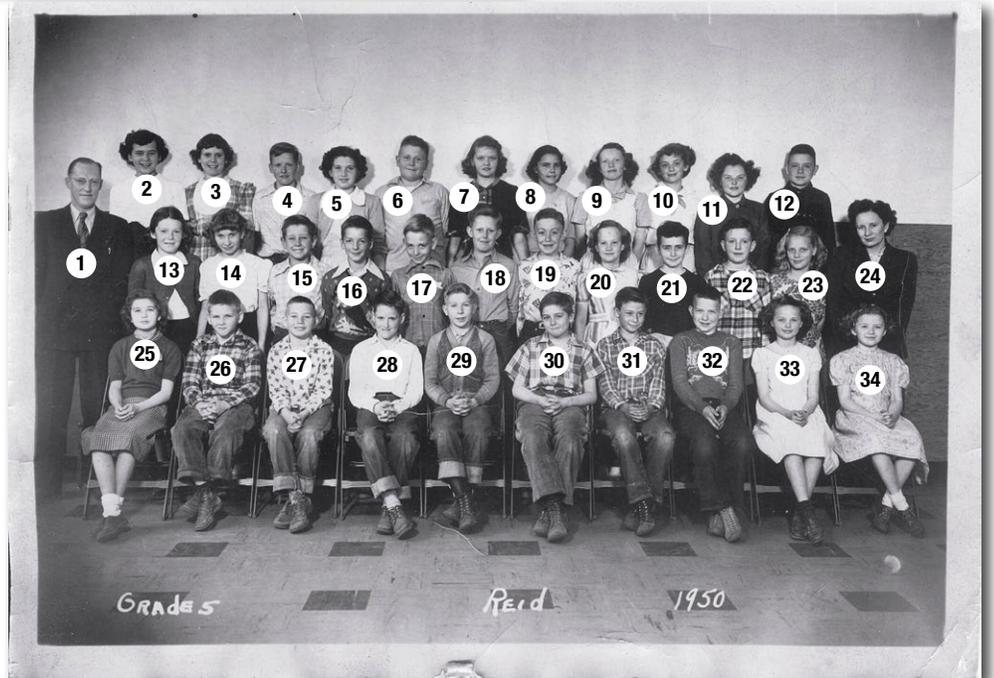
We don't really know much about this class photo except what has been inscribed on the front of the photo:

Grade 5 | Reid | 1950

Do you know who the adults and children are in the class photo from Reid school?

We have numbered each individual in the photo, so it will be easier to identify if you only recognize some of the adults or children.

If you know who's who in the picture, please contact museum registrar, [Shey Hyatt](#).



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



2016 DCHS Board of Directors:

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



www.deschuteshistory.org
Info@deschuteshistory.org

MARY JANE NEWTON HAS SEEN HER FAIR SHARE OF HOUSING BOOMS IN CENTRAL OREGON



Mary Jane and Dwight Newton's Kansas Street neighborhood with Mary Jane's Park in the background. Mary Jane has lived in the same house since 1952 and is still going strong, occasionally walking over snacks and treats to the staff at the Deschutes Historical Museum.

Shortly after arriving in Bend in 1943, she and her late husband, Dwight Newton, purchased a house near downtown Bend on Kansas Street. Dwight, an engineer with the Army at the time, had volunteered to work at the newly created Camp Abbot, the precursor to Sunriver.

"I was working in the yard one day and this little old lady came by and asked how much we paid for our house," Mary Jane, now 97, recounted earlier this summer. "I told her \$1,700 and she huffed a bit and said, 'A year ago you could have had it for \$700!'"

A longtime member of the Deschutes County Historical Society, Mary Jane still lives near downtown on Kansas Street. She and Dwight, an author of more than 70 novels, bought her current home in 1952 for \$7,500.

"No money down," said Mary Jane. She and Dwight worked out a deal with the former owner, who had built the home with her husband in 1919, to pay off the house \$100 a month.

"That was a lot of money at the time," she added.

After spending a good part of the 1950s and early 1960s in southern California – Dwight wrote scripts for TV Westerns for several years – the Newton family returned to Bend for good in 1965.

"When we first came here, I think there was about 10,000 people in the whole county," Mary Jane said. "The mills, they were going 24 hours a day. Those old teepee burners (teepee-shaped wood burners that burned mill waste), with

all that smoke and sawdust coming out of them, you didn't want to hang out your clothes to dry when the wind was blowing that direction."

"The attic in people's homes would be thick with the stuff," she added. "If you dug down a little ways, you'd see all these black cinders in the dirt."

HOUSES OF ILL-REPUTE

Downtown Bend in the 1940s wasn't the family-friendly tourist haven it is today.

"You didn't go down Bond Street very often," Mary Jane said. "It was mostly saloons. And the houses of ill-repute were down on Greenwood."

Not everything was different, though. Central Oregon was, as it is now, an outdoorsman's paradise. Mary Jane, Dwight and their two daughters enjoyed hiking and fishing along the Metolious River and driving along Century Drive.

"It was just a narrow dirt road at the time," Mary Jane chuckled. "We'd go up to some of the (Cascade) Lakes and never see a soul. We'd camp and spend a few days and not see anyone."

EARLY YEARS ON THE PLAINS

Born on Feb. 17, 1919, Mary Jane spent the first 13 years of her life in and around the small town of Nebraska City on the west bank of the Missouri River. Her family lost their home in 1927 after a rotten business partner swindled her father, Mary Jane said. The family rebound and even

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October History Pub: Introducing World-Renowned Ski Historian John Allen

John Allen, one of the most distinguished ski historians in the world, will be at the October 25th History Pub at the Old St. Francis School to talk about three people who helped shape contemporary skiing with the presentation, “Nansen, Lunn and Schneider: The Makers of Modern Skiing.”



Skiing World, Women in the First 100 years of American Skiing, The British and the Modernization of Skiing and Skiing and the Child: Sport and Much More. One of Allen’s books, “The Culture and Sport of Skiing, From Antiquity to World War II” was a constant reference for the exhibit, Winter Comes.

History Pub Night on the 25th at McMenamins Old St. Francis School is the first

Allen will speak about the legacies of Fridtjof

Nansen a Norwegian polar explorer, humanitarian and Nobel laureate; Arnold Lunn the Brit who is credited with modernizing slalom and downhill racing; and Hannes Schneider, the Austrian who created the Arlberg ski instruction method and trained the 10th Mountain Division.

Born and raised in England, Allen received his BA from Sir George Williams University in Montreal and Master’s and PhD in history from BYU. Allen was a Professor of History for 31 years at Plymouth State University. Allen has written 11 books and 48 peer reviewed articles on skiing. Topics include a diverse range such as these titles: Skiing Mailmen of America, 10th Mountain Division, Leni Riefenstahl’s

leg of a weeklong tour of Oregon for Allen. On Wednesday, October 26th he will speak to Nordic Northwest (formerly known as the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation) in Beaverton about the importance of Scandinavia and the development of skiing. He then moves to Mt. Hood and will spend a night at historic Timberline Lodge and on October 29th will give a presentation to the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum at their Social History Happy Hour in Government Camp.

Please join us for an evening of ski history with world-renowned ski historian, author and professor, John Allen.

– Tim Gibbons



the Deschutes Historical Museum and end at Crows Feet Commons.

Mark your calendar for an evening of history, interwoven with paranormal mystery! You’ll leave us each night with much more than goose-bumps!

Volunteers are still needed for this event, members interested in volunteering please contact Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager at vanessa@deschuteshistory.org.

– Vanessa Ivey

The History of the Ouija Board

In addition to the haunt walks at 8 p.m. on October 28 & 29, DCHS President Nathan Pedersen will present “Yes, No, Goodbye: A History of the Ouija Board.”

The Ouija Board has inspired fear, sparked creativity, and provided relief for the bereaved for over 120 years. Come learn about the history of this mysterious board game and its connection to the Spiritualism movement that swept through America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



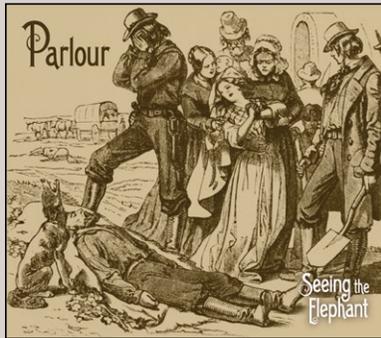
Local News Items

Oregon Trail Inspired Songs Now on CD

Seeing the Elephant, our popular History Pub featuring musical duo The Quons performing songs inspired by the Oregon Trail, is now available on CD.

Mark and Linda Quon and their band, Parlour, finally sat down to record the songs debuted at History Pub back in 2013. Since then, they have performed the songs at repeat performances for the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, at Portland History Pub, as well as other locations in Eastern Oregon along the trail's route.

The Quons beautiful voices and guitar playing are joined by Mike Potter on mandolin and Susan Bonacker on fiddle. Available for \$10.00 at the museum.



WANTED: Photographs of the Central Oregon Symphony

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Central Oregon Symphony, a community-based orchestra grounded in the tremendous generosity of its members who volunteer their time and talent for the love of orchestral music.

Formed in 1967 as a part of the expanding Central Oregon Community College Fine Arts Department, the symphony is hard at work gathering materials to celebrate the history of this wonderful community institution.

For more information, visit their website at cosymphony.com and learn about their upcoming season. If any members of DCHS have photographs of the symphony over the years, please contact us here at the museum, 541.389.1813 or info@deschuteshistory.org.

Memorials

Donna Clark

Samuel S. Johnson Foundation

Joyce Vandevent Brown

Jill Vandevent Zeigman

Bert Kagen

Jill Vandevent Zeigman

Jacqui Smith Pennock

League of Women Voters

Frances Greenlee

Peaches Rogers

League of Women Voters

Frances Greenlee

Colette Gilroy

Frances Greenlee

Denise Wood

Kay Miller

Allerne Scanzano

Sharon and Wally Hoblit

Denny Douglas

Elouise Mattox

Jim and Ardyce Swift

Dan Rastovich

Jim and Ardyce Swift

Ed Barnum

Leon and Doris Bennett

Dave Olsen

Robin Gyorgyfalvy

Karen Green

Marsha Stout

Beau Eastes

Heidi Kennedy

Sue Fountain

Kathryn June Nachard

Ken and Kathy Holden

Brooke Kerfoot

Wanda Ward

Mary Jane Newton...

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built another home out of a pre-cut kit from Sears, Roebuck and Co.

“My mom mostly built that house herself while Dad was working,” said Mary Jane, whose father owned an automobile garage in Nebraska City. “Once we got the framework and siding up, we moved into it.”

Mary Jane, her two sisters and her mother moved to Kansas City when she was 13, though, without her father.

“My mom decided to take us to Kansas City where we could get more schooling,” Mary Jane said. “I knew he wouldn’t go. She thought he’d come up once we got settled. He still hadn’t come up and I thought, ‘She sure didn’t know him very well!’”

Mary Jane graduated from high school in Kansas City and spent two years at a local junior college before meeting Dwight at the University of Kansas City, what today is called the University of Missouri – Kansas City.

“We had classes together and sort of hit it off,” Mary Jane said. “It just seemed like our minds always ran in the same direction. We always agreed on everything. We never did have an argument in the 72 years we were married.”

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

After returning to Bend for good in 1965, Mary Jane began taking a more active role in her community. She won election to what is today the Bend Park & Recreation District board and played a crucial role in the creation of the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. She helped build trails at Shevlin Park.

“People take all these trails for granted,” Mary Jane said. “They think they’ve been here all along. They weren’t. Somebody had to build them.”

In 2011, Mary Jane and Dwight celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in the same house they moved into back in 1952. Dwight passed away in 2013, but Mary Jane is still going strong in her Kansas Street cottage, occasionally walking over snacks and treats to the staff at the Deschutes Historical Museum a few blocks away.

“When the last mill went out, we thought there goes the end of Bend,” Mary Jane said about the closure of the Brooks-Scanlon Mill shutdown in 1983. “That was the only thing here. Then people started to come to visit and all of sudden Bend became a place to go, and to live and to rent your house to other people.”

– Beau Eastes

Mark Your Calendars

OCTOBER

- 18 VOLUNTEER MEETING**
Deschutes Historical Museum @ noon.
- 18 LEGENDARY LOCALS**
Presented by Les Joslin
Bend Genealogy Society @ 10 a.m. - noon.
Williamson Hall at Rock Harbor Villa
2200 NE Hwy 20, Bend
- 25 HISTORY PUB: NANSEN, LUNN AND SCHNEIDER: THE MAKERS OF MODERN SKIING**
Presented by E. John Allen, former Professor of History at Plymouth State University at Plymouth, New Hampshire.
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.
- 28&29 HISTORICAL HAUNTS OF DOWNTOWN BEND – BEND HERITAGE WALK**
Deschutes Historical Museum
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. *Read more on page 1.*



Allen’s History Pub presentation at McMenamins focuses on the legacies of Fridtjof Nansen, Arnold Lunn, and Hannes Schneider.

Welcome New Members

Jane Williamson

Leigh Casler

Hatsuko & Masahiro Ide



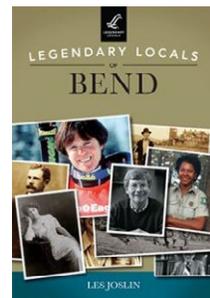
Bend Genealogical Society

**Monthly General Meeting
Public Welcomed to all Activities**

When: Tuesday, Oct 18, 2016 – 10 am – Noon

Who: Les Joslin, Author

What: “Legendary Locals of Bend”



**Where: Williamson Hall at Rock Arbor Villa
2200 NE Hwy 20, Bend (Behind Chevron/Jake's Diner)**

Other Activities:

Genealogical Research Library... Come check us out!

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Thursdays 10:00 am - 1:30 pm

One-On-One Genealogy Mentoring... Arrange to meet with a mentor during library hours – go to our website to make an appointment.

An open mentoring session will be held Tuesday, November 1st from 10:00 – 12:00

**Writer's Group meets 4th Tuesday each month 2 - 3:30pm
For Genealogy Researchers: working to write together.**

Questions??? Call BGS at 541-317-9553

website: www.orgenweb.org/deschutes/bend-gs