Bend Grove Gets Oregon Heritage Tree Status

Two groves of Central Oregon trees were honored this year with “Oregon Heritage Tree” status from the Oregon Travel Council. Three old growth ponderosas near to Crows Feet Commons, historically connected to the pioneer Drake family, and several juniper trees along the Huntington Wagon Road that contain “blazes” to mark the old trail, join the Big Tree in La Pine State Park for locally recognized heritage trees.

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THE LUCAS HOUSE: PRESERVING BEND’S FIRST BRICK HOUSE

Bunk and Brew recently opened as a new Bend ‘hostel.’ What is a hostel you ask? It can vary, but generally speaking it serves as budget oriented accommodations with dormitory style rooms and common areas. Primarily derived from ‘youth hostels,’ they are designed to provide affordable and community oriented travel lodging for younger travelers. In reality, hostels are not that far removed from frontier-era ‘rooms for rent’ where travelers or those looking for work could rent a room and often have access to a meal and social time with the other renters.

What we love about it, however, is its location: the Lucas House at 42 Hawthorne. Owners Frankie and Jota, thirty-somethings who dream big, fell in love with the Lucas House and contacted the Deschutes County Historical

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The Drake Ponderosa Pines

This grove of old-growth Ponderosa Pines shaded the extensive front lawn of the 1901 A. M. Drake home in the future site of Bend. Drake’s Pilot Butte Development Co. played a critical role in the town’s development, platting downtown Bend and its original residential area. Three of the trees remain of an original six, which were likely lost when the home itself was demolished in the mid-1950s.

Huntington Wagon Road Junipers

Along a mile-long surviving section of the Huntington Wagon Road between Bend and Redmond, multiple juniper trees bear the ‘blazes’ of early travelers in the late 19th century. Trees were cut or ‘blazed’ to mark the direction of the road. Soldiers that camped along the road during the 1870s also blazed one juniper with a target for shooting practice. Large caliber bullet holes are still visible in the “Target Tree” today.

Both sets of trees will be formally dedicated on July 12th at an open-to-the-public ceremony at 10:00 a.m. at the Drake Ponderosa pines (next to Crows’ Feet Commons) in Drake Park. Speakers at the ceremony will include DCHS Executive Director Kelly Cannon-Miller, Bend Park and Recreation District Director Don Horton, Oregon Travel Council representative Ed Washington, and DCHS Board Member Nate Pedersen.
Preserving the Lucas House...
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Society to learn the history of the three story brick building they hoped to turn into a hostel. What we revealed is Frankie and Jota are in the same trade as Mr. Albert C. Lucas himself.

Albert and wife Sadie came to Bend in the very early days, by one report as early as 1900. From the beginning of *The Bend Bulletin* there are references to the Lucas family, particularly to Albert’s primary business: proprietor of the Pilot Butte Inn. Not the version famously torn down in the 1970s, but the original, two-story, humble beginnings of an inn. Over the years, Albert would alternately sell the inn, buy it back, make additions, make more additions, then sell it again. Sadie managed the Pilot Butte Inn actively with Albert, and would be remembered as the proprietor in her obituary in 1944. Like many of Bend’s early businessmen, Albert had a hand in many different ventures. He was a partner in a livery stable near the inn, Lucas and Wenandy. The livery business led him in 1906 to order a new stage coach capable of carrying 14-15 people for transportation to Shaniko and back. He owned his own cattle herd, from which he supplied his own inn. As part of the town’s development, Albert sold to the city the property easement allowing for the construction of the Newport bridge.

An active community member and politician, Albert was appointed a constable for Crook County and served as an Alderman for the city of Bend, an early form of councilor. His is one of the names listed that called for the incorporation of Bend in 1904. Sadie served with the Bend Library Club, the American Legion auxiliary and as secretary of the Women’s Civic League. The couple had three children: Fred, Ralph, and Russell. Ralph’s letters home to Sadie during World War I made the front pages of *The Bend Bulletin*. His brother Russell would die in Italy during World War II.

What with running an inn, serving as constable and alderman, running cattle, a livery, and a stage line, it is a wonder that Albert found time for what is probably his most lauded claim to fame: the first to drive the road from Bend to Burns “across the desert” in a car. In 1910, Albert secured a car agency—a custom order car sales business for Speedwell cars. This included getting his hands on a demonstration 50 horse power Speedwell. In September 1910, Lucas completed the trip to Burns and back, reporting all but 10 miles to be in good condition. Sadly, the story does not record their traveling time. Lucas would later that fall complete successful day trips to Silver Lake, which he returned carrying nine people, and to Beaver Marsh, covering 175 miles.

The year 1910 was a good year for the Lucas family as it was also the year they completed their stately house on Hawthorne. The first residence to be built from brick, its progress duly noted in the papers, the home spared no amenity and cost $5,000. It featured a basement and eight rooms. Sadie finished raising the Lucas boys in the home and lived there until her death from a heart attack on December 28, 1944, barely two months after learning of Russell’s death. The family records and photographs passed to Ralph and Fred in other cities, and no photographs in the museum collection, save one, features any of their family. -- continued on page 4
While Albert is included with the whole family in the 1920 census, and engaged in many civil and public duties, he oddly disappears from the record. Most stories after 1912 carry only Sadie’s name, and do not include Albert, including Ralph’s letters home during WWI. Not only does no obituary appear or death record surface at Niswonger-Reynolds funeral home, Albert never formally appears in the phone directories for the address at 42 Hawthorne at any point after 1914, the earliest phone directories available in the museum collection.

While all of this paints a bit of mystery around Albert’s later years, there is no mystery that Bunk and Brew has come full circle to where Albert began. Speaking in 1954, then Pilot Butte Inn manager Jack Corbett eloquently was quoted as saying “In the far off days when the Old Oregon Trail was still well known to travelers, where it crosses the Deschutes at a river Bend, a hostelry was born in 1902.” All these years later, Frankie and Jota bring back the Lucas family trade.

– Kelly Cannon-Miller

Heritage Excellence Awards Recognize Area Projects

The Oregon Heritage Commission selected two different Deschutes County historical preservation projects at their awards ceremony on April 26, 2017. The Deschutes County Historical Society and the Deschutes Public Library were jointly awarded an OHEA award for our 15-Minute Histories project, which brought Kessler Cannon’s 1953 interviews back to the public as audiobooks. At the time of the awards, the programs had been checked out over 700 times. The success of the partnership will continue with new archival works to be scanned and added to the library’s digital collections.

Also honored was the City of Redmond for the magnificent transformation of Evergreen School into the new Redmond City Hall. During the awards ceremony, Mayor George Endicott gave the audience a short video tour of the interior, including the story of finding a hidden doorway and how the refurbished building has kindled many memories for long-time Redmond residents, such as sliding down the stair case banisters.

Preserving the Lucas House...

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– Kelly Cannon-Miller
Local News Items

What Is It? Artifact Identification Makes for Fun Show

New for National Historic Preservation Month, the museum hosted an artifact identification event on May 24. The event brought in unique treasures from local folks, ranging from family heirlooms to stray items picked up out in the desert. Among the items were weavings, pottery, rusty metal parts from machinery long gone, and Victorian era jewelry.

Perhaps the favorite item of the evening was the “whispering mouthpiece.” A small, glass mouthpiece, the review panel was stumped at first. Thanks to the information stamped in tiny letters on the glass, we learned that between 1907 and 1917, the S & M Telephone Company made these small glass mouthpieces for your telephone to ensure privacy. A person could whisper into the phone, but still be heard loud and clear on the other end. The company went out of business in 1917, however, which may or may not be a reflection on the device’s effectiveness.

Thanks to Ward Tonsfeldt, Wendy Sexton, Bob Boyd, Chris Searing, and Nunzie Gould for lending their expertise, and especially to Nunzie Gould for arranging and supporting the event. Watch The Homesteader for future What Is It? Artifact ID events.

An example of a ‘whispering mouthpiece’ that includes its original box. From a telephone history Pinterest site.

Teens Write Murder Mystery Around George the Ghost

On Saturday, May 13, the Mt View High School Theater Department took over the Deschutes Historical Museum for a murder mystery tour, executing an original script written by the group that included George Brosterhous. Set in 1926, a school teacher is mysteriously murdered at Reid School, but who did it? Was it the principal, who may or may not be skimming money off the books? The fellow male teacher whose advances she rebuffed? Or the jealous school receptionist? Only the museum’s ghosts knew for sure; luckily they were on hand to offer clues for visitors to ponder as they moved about the museum.

It was an exciting opportunity allowing teens to research, write, and use the museum in new and fun ways. Thanks, MVHS Theater!

Children’s Festival and Marble Tournament Join Forces July 29

The Museum is pleased to announce that the 2017 Summer Shootout Marble Tournament and the Balloons Over Bend Children’s Festival have joined forces for a day of family fun at the Deschutes Historical Museum on July 29.

As part of this collaboration, the Summer Shootout Marble Tournament will take place during the morning of the festival, greatly expanding the number of activities and events available during the tournament. Registration for the marble tournament is included in the cost of admission. Stay tuned next month for more details!
The Second Annual Summer Cookout, a benefit for the Deschutes County Historical Society and Museum will be held on the lawn of the museum Sunday, August 13th. A picnic dinner will be served up by Baldy’s Barbeque: pulled pork and pulled chicken with Baldy’s famous barbeque sauce, rolls, corn on the cob, summer salad, coleslaw or potato salad, and ice cold watermelon. Iced tea and bottled water are included in the price of the ticket - $35. Wine and beer will be available for those who wish to imbibe.

The time this year will be 3:00 – 6:00 PM in order to take advantage of the afternoon shade. Look for another silent auction under the canopy – subjects will be announced in the July issue of the Homesteader.

Back by popular demand is last year’s popular local attraction, Down Range, who will be returning to entertain and amuse picnickers. Linger over liquid refreshments as Loren Irving and Jay Bowerman strum, hum, and sing favorites from a repertoire of bluegrass and folk tunes.

Rumors abound about the appearance of the first Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Mill fire engine that is currently being restored. Step back in time and learn some facts of this important addition to Bend’s mill and forestry history.

You can order tickets on line through the museum’s website. Or you can call our reception desk at 541-389-1813. Check, Visa, Master Card, or PayPal accepted, but be sure to get in line early. August will be here faster than you think. Look for more details in the July Homesteader.

Mark your calendars for another fun event that will help the museum fund future exhibits.
Heritage Walking Tours of Downtown Bend
Saturdays June–August

The Deschutes Historical Museum invites you to spend your mornings with us this summer, walking around Beautiful Downtown Bend. All tours leave from the Deschutes Historical Museum at 10:30 am. Reserve your spot as space is limited, please call 541-389-1813.

We recommend the following: wear comfortable walking shoes, dress for the weather, bring water, and don’t forget your camera! It does get hot so a hat is good too.

No tours July 15 or July 29

“The Early Days of Bend”*
Travel back to when the river was wild, the Ponderosa Pines were plentiful and Bend the Beautiful was a town in the making. Learn about early Bend through the stories of 6 “Bend-ites” and how these residents helped transform a young hamlet into a booming town.
Tour Starts at the Deschutes Historical Museum (Reid School) and ends at Lone Crow Bungalow on Wall Street.

When: June 3, June 17, July 1, July 22, August 12, August 26
Time: approximately 1 hour
Length: less than a mile traveling through old neighborhoods and parkways. The ground can be uneven at times and is not recommended for wheelchairs.
Price: $5.00, Members are free

“Reflections of History: Architectural Styles of A Neighborhood”
Stroll through Drake Park Neighborhood Historic District and take a step back in time when walking was the thing to do and neighborhoods were all about proximity. The tour will introduce the architectural styles represented in the neighborhood while sharing history of a changing community.
Tour begins and ends at the Deschutes Historical Museum

When: June 10, June 24, July 8, August 5, August 19
Time: approximately 1.5 hours
Length: One (1) mile through historic neighborhood. The sidewalks can be uneven at times.
Price: $5, Members are free

Length: One mile, traveling through old neighborhoods pavement can be uneven at times. Not recommended for wheelchairs.

For more information contact the Deschutes Historical Museum, 541-389-1813 Or check out their website www.deschuteshistory.org