Pet Tales Exhibit Open

Bend’s reputation of proud pet ownership is often touted as one of our best features. Come have a smile and laugh over the dogs and cats (and other pets) of yesteryear through our newest exhibit. The Pet Tales exhibit is generously sponsored by Bend Pet Express in partnership with the Humane Society of Central Oregon and the Bend Spay & Neuter Project. The exhibit runs through April 11.

While the pictures in the Pet Tales exhibit show a startling similarity to today, other archival information points to a decidedly different attitude. One item on display is the Poundmaster ledger for 1947 and can raise some eyebrows. Historically, dogs were largely working animals—on farms, ranches, and out hunting, they had very specific roles. In January 1905, when the Bend Bulletin announced the formal creation of the city of Bend, they also published most of the brand new city’s ordinances that citizens were expected to follow—including the four-legged furry residents. Note the very different use of language for a female dog of breeding age.

Ordinance 20 states:

An ordinance to regulate the registry of dogs and to provide for the taking up, impounding and killing of dogs without license tags. Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Bend:

Section 1: It is hereby declared unlawful for any person owning or having charge, care or control of any dog or slut over the age of six months to permit or allow the same to run at large upon any street, alley, lot or other public place within the corporate limits of Bend, unless there shall be attached to such dog or slut a collar upon which there shall be a tag, with an appropriate number to be obtained from the City Treasurer as hereinafter provided…

The ordinance continues on to give the City Treasurer the power to charge $1.50 a year for male dogs, $3.00 a year for female dogs. The ordinance also gives the power to hire a “Poundmaster” for the regulation and policing of the dogs of Bend, most specifically with regards to impounding and killing dogs found without proper license. Yes, killing.
The ordinance gives three days to find the dog’s owner, at which time it can either be sold, if a buyer is available, or the dog will be killed and buried. In the 1947 ledger, killed dogs are noted as ‘disposed.’ The ordinance does provide the protection of licensed dogs from being muzzled, trapped or killed without the permission of the owner, as long as the dogs were not found to be a threat to the property of another resident.

An editorial in the paper in 1909 suggests how well the new ordinance policy is working in addition to showing they just don’t write for the papers the same anymore:

Pestiferous curs? Charles D. Rowe, the editor of the previous piece from June 16, 1909, likely would not win any friends to his cause in today’s Bend.

Dogs with good purpose are not in short supply in the archival record, with particular reference to working breeds and their employment in cattle and sheep ranching. An editorial on farm and garden news in July of 1905 declared them of extreme value for their big price—although an article just a few weeks earlier touted the value of guinea hens as better than most dogs and cats for running strangers off one’s property. “Their intelligence is almost human and they will take sole care of a flock of sheep, spending every day and night with them if allowed to do so.” The article recommended the Scotch collie as the best sheepdog breed available, and that it would cost $25 to $50 for one of the best stock.

Working dogs often found danger and the conflict among sheep and cattle herders often included their herd dogs, as evidenced by the case of R.E. Eaton of La Pine. In 1919, the Deschutes County Court heard the case of Eaton, whose cattle dog had been beaten to death by two sheep herders trying to keep the dog out of their flock. Seems the dog actually was doing his job—trying to cut a cow from the midst of the sheep flock, but the herders did not see it the same as the dog.

There was some justice for dogs to be found in these early years in as much as they were considered property. The Deschutes County Court found for Eaton and ordered the herders to pay $500 in damages and $200 in court costs. The case was appealed to the Oregon State Supreme Court, who in 1920 upheld the Deschutes verdict, citing the dog’s training in cattle herding as the reason for the high value of $500 for one dog. While legal to kill a dog found in the act of killing, wounding or chasing any sheep or other domestic animal, and while the verdict was for property reimbursement not animal cruelty, the verdict nevertheless exonerated the unnamed dog from sheep chasing.

While the Pet Tales exhibit details the ways in which our relationship with our pets is little changed in 100 years, the archival record shows how our attitudes towards them has changed significantly. Safe to say that 1909 Bend probably would not have been nominated as “Dogtown USA.”
Volunteers Honored at Brunch

“We have the best volunteers in all of Central Oregon,” said Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager, to those gathered at the Des Chutes Historical Museum Sunday December 14, for the museum’s end of the year volunteer reception. This year the Deschutes County Historical Society staff and board members honored their volunteers by hosting a brunch. The food and fun began at 11:00 am with guests welcomed at the door by Executive Director Kelly Cannon-Miller, spatula in hand as she flipped flapjacks. “The afternoon is all about our volunteers and the hard work they put in throughout the year. We could not do what we do without them!”

This year the volunteers had much to be proud of, from the Smokey Bear birthday party in the spring to opening the new Pet Tales exhibit in December. They kept order while the ground floor galleries were in disarray with the remodel. They also traveled through wind storms and snow flurries to ensure two of the Museum’s biggest events, the Chili Feed and Holiday Bazaar and the Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend, went off without a hitch.

Vanessa Ivey announced the Rookie of the Year and Volunteer of the Year awards. Volunteers are nominated by their peers who have witnessed their efforts first hand, then Vanessa and Kelly choose from the nominations submitted and make the final call.

This year Linda Morrison took the Rookie of the Year honor. Linda came to a volunteer meeting early in the spring and has never left. She works the reception desk twice a week. She has also helped out at a number of events. A long time Bend resident Linda is a wealth of local knowledge which she puts to good use answering many inquiries that are addressed to the museum. She is always eager to get her hands dirty—both figuratively and literally as she spent one Sunday morning weeding the museum’s flower beds.

Our Volunteer of the Year honor goes to Polly Gribskov Lisle. The name Gribskov is not unfamiliar around these parts, just ask her about the Pine Tavern. A volunteer with the museum for over 5 years you can find Polly on Thursdays on the third floor working with digital scanners ensuring the images donated to the museum are placed into the Society’s database for all to view. This is not an easy task as she sorts, researches, and enters information about each image into the description field. Many of the photos the museum receives are not labeled, which puts Polly to the test as a true history detective.

“Good food, good people, good memories and always a special occasion!” said volunteer Bette Andrew after the event and the staff and board couldn’t agree more.

Thank you everyone making 2014 a big success!
Membership Renewal and Monthly Automatic Gifts Available Through Paypal

You can renew your membership dues or donate directly from the Des Chutes Historical Museum website. Visit the Donate/Join page and click the Donate button at www.deschuteshistory.org.

Paypal offers secure online payments, and you, the member, maintain control of your personal financial information. You can even make your donation a monthly gift by just clicking the box!

Welcome New Members!

Kent England
Tracy Johnson
D. Joan Kifer
Larry Klein
Judith Kopp
Tom Pfingsten

Memorials

Donna Clark
James and Judith Crowell

DCHS Membership Form

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
City: ___________ State: ___________ Zip: _________________
Phone: (______) ____________________  _____Renewal  _____New
E-mail: ____________________________________________________________

Email is needed to receive our monthly newsletter The Homesteader.

_____ Individual - $20  _____ Family - $30  _____ Donor - $50
_____ Business- $40 or $50  _____ Patron - $100  _____ Benefactor - $50
Additional Contribution*:  $_________  Total enclosed:  $_________

Want to renew your membership by mail?

Make check payable and mail to:

DCHS, 129 NW Idaho Ave, Bend, Oregon 97701

What’s Coming Up at Bend Genealogical Society

Bend Genealogical Society
Monthly General Meeting
Public Welcomed to all activities

What:
Military Research

Presented by Gus Oberg

Where: Williamson Hall at Rock Arbor Villa
2200 N. Hwy 20, Bend (behind Chevron/Jake’s Diner)

Other Resources/Activities ... All at Williamson Hall:
Genealogical Research Library
Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 1:30 - 3:00 pm
Thursdays & Fridays: 10:00 - 1:00 pm
Call to confirm that library is open: 541 317-9553

First Tuesday Genealogy Mentoring –
January 6 or February 3 10:00am - 12noon
Would you like assistance with your own genealogy questions? Are you just beginning in genealogy? Have that one block wall you can’t get past? Sit down with one of our BGS mentor’s for one-on-one help. Call for an appointment (preferred or drop-in)

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D. Joan Kifer
Larry Klein
Judith Kopp
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Memorials

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City: ___________ State: ___________ Zip: _________________
Phone: (______) ____________________  _____Renewal  _____New
E-mail: ____________________________________________________________

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Des Chutes Historical Museum
Idaho State to Idaho Street

Des Chutes Historical Museum isn’t just for remembering the past but for creating memories, too. 12/13/14 only comes around once every century. For one Idaho couple, the date will always be doubly special.

At 3:30 pm on Saturday, December 13, 2014, the young couple entered the museum looking as though they had just stepped from the pages of a Dashiell Hammond mystery novel such as The Maltese Falcon or The Thin Man. They introduced themselves as Angela Marin and Chandler Chapin, nervously announcing, “We’re here to get married.”

The wedding was on the Museum’s calendar, Museum Manager Vanessa Ivey recalls. “Mary Ellen Deckelmann with Weddings With Heart had contacted us earlier in the year inquiring if a wedding at the Museum might be possible. It’s really exciting to have futures started in a place that normally is associated with the past. So of course we said yes!”

Marin and Chandler are both from Boise, Idaho and decided that Bend would be a beautiful location for their elopement. Neither had been to Bend before and when they saw photos of the Reid School building they knew this was the place for their special day. Mary Ellen Deckelmann officiated while Vanessa Ivey and museum docent Micelle Patrick acted as both witnesses and photographers. During the ceremony well wishers honked and hollered blessings and encouragement. By the end of the wedding, fingers and toes were cold but hearts were warm. Mr. and Mrs. Chandler Chapin shared that they would reveal their happy news to their family and friends on Christmas Day.

New District Attorney Includes Deschutes History During Oath of Office

On January 8, John Hummel took his oath of office as Deschutes County District Attorney on a rare copy of A History of Central Oregon, published in 1905, from the collections of the Deschutes County Historical Society. DA Hummel quoted from the dedication of the book following his oath of office, stating it was important to know where we have been before charting a course for the future. The ceremony took place at La Pine High School with the school civics class and the public in attendance.

Hummel spent time with staff researching the collection to find the appropriate object, and selected the book as a reflection of the importance of community and the people his office is sworn to protect.
Wood, Water and Grass: Meek Cutoff of 1845,
by James H. and Theona J. Hambleton

Reviewed by Loren Irving

This book is as thorough as has been done on the Meek Cutoff. The dedication of Mr. and Mrs. Hambleton to maintain quality and methodology in their research over many years brings this story of the Meek Cutoff to life.

James H. Hambleton spent a life of being a surveyor, and at this writing and at the age of 75 is still doing consulting work in his field. His dedication to accuracy over decades of work makes the information revealed in this book historically meaningful. The photography is excellent.

Using GLO (Government Land Office) 1850s to 1870s maps and the Surveyors Notations, along with the words of those who traveled this route make it easy for the reader to understand where they traveled.

Throughout the 435 mile route of the Meek Cutoff, notations from the complete diaries of Ely Cooley, Jesse Harritt and Samuel Parker as well the incomplete transcribed diaries of James Field and John Herron account for almost every day of the journey. These entries correspond with well presented routes added to USGS Quadrangle Maps.

Maps are presented in the book to cover the journey and include all of the locations of camps of the three main parties. The authors actually walked the majority of the trail as they could determine it.

Jim Hambleton led several members of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council from the breaks of the Deschutes River down the ridge of the route of the Meek Cutoff to the location of the crossing of the Deschutes above Shearer’s Falls. Jim pointed out various details, where rocks had been moved to the side as well as other evidence.

I highly recommend “Wood, Water and Grass” by Jim and Theona Hambleton as an important work done on the Meek Cutoff of 1845. Reading entries by the diarists each day and following the route in detail is very interesting. The maps and story makes one want to take this book along when heading out on the high desert.

It can be purchased in the Deschutes Historic Museum Bookstore.

Loren Irving
Member and past Chair, Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council

Mark Your Calendars:

January
13 Volunteer Meeting
   Noon
13 Board of Directors Meeting
   5:00 p.m.
27 History Pub:
   The Many Lives of Klondike Kate
   McMenamins Old St. Francis Father Luke Room
   7:00 p.m., doors at 5:30

February
21 Annual Meeting of the Membership
   Pine Forest Grange
   11:30
24 History Pub
   McMenamins Old St. Francis Father Luke Room
   7:00 p.m., doors at 5:30