Talking Turkey: It’s Thanksgiving
Thanksgiving is almost here! Guess how much you had to pay for a turkey dinner at the Pilot Butte Inn in 1924? See Page 2

Annual Chili Feed, Bake Sale & Raffle
The museum’s annual Chili Feed is a time of gathering, visiting, and sharing stories around the museum. You don’t want to miss out on this! See Page 5

The Homesteader Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter for November 2015

Bill Boyd grew up at the end of a pioneer era as the expansion of Bend slowly encroached upon his childhood. As a boy he wandered and hiked through acres of his grandfather’s land. He listened to stories told by the family, especially his aunt, Carol Boyd.

Bill’s grandfather and namesake, Charles William Boyd, came to Bend in 1904, drawn by the potential to grow his cattle and meat business. There was land for a homestead by the Deschutes River with prospects for a dam and a water wheel to generate power. There was water, timber, and grazing lands. Charley, as he was known, was a man of vision and with the guidance of L.D. Wiest, civil engineer of Bend, he purchased six acres by the river from John Steidl.

In 1905, Boyd brought his wife Anna; sons, Clarence and Charles, and daughters, Edna and Carol, to live in the two-story home he had built with local timber. Boyd expanded the homestead to include a bunk house, slaughter house, barn and corral, and an ice house. During the winter months ice blocks were cut from the Swalley Pond or the ice caves in the lava beds east of town.

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This month’s historical photo brings us back to the Knickerbocker farm in Sisters. The year is either 1919 or 1920. The picture shows Rae Knickerbocker hand feeding a brood flock.

With Thanksgiving holiday nearing, it’s time to find out how much the traditional turkey meal is going to set us back. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation price survey, in 2014 we spent on an average $49.41 to feed a table of 10 Thanksgiving dinner.

It’s always interesting to see how the present holds up to the past. In 1924, Pilot Butte Inn offered up a Thanksgiving dinner for $1.50 per cover or in today’s terms: “per person.” The chef served up roasted Central Oregon turkey with chestnut dressing, cranberries, candied sweet potatoes, and haricot verts Sauto Parisienne. To top it off, Paul Hosmer’s Orchestra provided music during the dinner.

Another price comparison that may be of interest: this year, we can expect to shell out 69 cents per pound for a frozen whole turkey. Compare that to 1939 when you could get a fresh turkey for between 27-34 cents a pound. That was the same year that President Franklin D. Roosevelt used a presidential proclamation to change the official Thanksgiving celebration from the last Thursday to the fourth Thursday in November.

However, it took another two years before Congress passed and FDR signed the joint resolution ending the debate.

The reasoning behind the date move was all in the name of commerce. Roosevelt argued that an earlier celebration would give the country an economic boost. Considering the brisk commerce leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday of today, he achieved his goal.

– Tor Hanson
While Boyd tended to the ranch and Palace meat market in downtown Bend, Anna kept the home fires burning and the larder stocked. Generations later, Bill Boyd smiles as he tells of his grandmother hunting with a Savage .303 rifle. Bill has the rifle still, saying it has been used by many Boyds throughout the years.

Carol recalls that in 1906, “Dad filed on a timber claim on Tumalo Creek, a few miles above Shevlin Park. All of us, except Dad, moved out there to “prove up” the claim*. I have many pleasant remembrances of that winter...to trim our Christmas tree, we waded out in the snow that came up to the window sills and gathered red rose hips to string alternately with pop corn. Clarence made skis out of barrel staves and then made the rest of us ski off the roof of the barn!”

Not long after moving back to town in 1907, Anna Boyd died giving birth to her third daughter, Anne. Boyd was devastated. Unable to care for five motherless children, he chose to send the older children to different relatives until he could regroup. Anne, the baby, lived with Boyd’s mother in Seattle until she was old enough to return to the family.

When the four oldest children returned to Bend, Boyd finally gave up trying to hire housekeepers for his rowdy children. He laid down the law: Edna and Carol would have to be housekeepers and cooks for the family and ranch hands. The boys had their chores and Clarence was in charge of supplying fish for the table. Bill Boyd says as an adult, Clarence never did go fishing again.

Boyd increased his land holdings to 600 acres, much of it purchased under provisions of the Carey Desert Land Act of 1894. It was the largest meat production business in Central Oregon. He had contracts with the mills and the railroads, besides the Palace retail meat market in Bend, which was located on Oregon Street. However, the Great Depression and increasing competition from chain stores brought his cattle industry to an end.

Charles (Charley) William Boyd died in 1933, at the age of 70. Pressured by urban growth, his ranch dwindled to a ¼ acre plot hidden between two shopping malls, a busy parkway on the east, and Rte. 97 on the west, where the house once stood and the land stretched to the river.

In 1982 the Boyd Homestead was listed in the National List of Historic Sites. “The Homestead Group possesses integrity of design, craftsmanship, and materials that make it unique. They are the only surviving ranch buildings dating back to the earliest period of settlement in the Bend area.”

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**Visual Studies: Orphan Films from Oregon’s Classrooms**

In October 2011, Indiana University in Bloomington acquired over twelve-thousand 16mm film prints from the state of Oregon. From sheep shearing and venereal disease to the finer points of how to tie-dye these films spanned over sixty years of audio-visual education in Oregon.

What value do these films hold for audiences in 2015? Why did they end up at a major (out-of-state) university film archive? These questions and more will be tackled as we bring some of these films back to Oregon.

Many of the films from this program depict the agriculture and natural landscape of Oregon. Instead of being produced by established educational film production companies, they were made by individuals or film centers at local universities.

Perhaps unexpectedly, the films Fumigating Strawberry Fields and Potato Production in Oregon are as entertaining as they were informative to farmers in the 1960s and 1970s. Being made locally for local audiences makes fascinating time capsules such as the women cracking open crabs in Dungeness Crab Meat Extraction or the loggers in Oregon Industry: Logging Douglas Fir.

This is your chance to check out these films for their first public screenings in decades.

**Where:** Deschutes Public Library

**When:** Tuesday November 17th – at 6:00 p.m.
Day in the Life
Central Oregon – $10.00
Published in 2006. It has fantastic images of Central Oregon by 27 local photographers, giving the reader a glimpse at 24 hours of play, work and life in Central Oregon.

Deschutes Historical Museum Gift Certificates
Any amount
Perfect for that history buff in your family. Certificates can be used in the gift store, for a museum membership, historic photo reproduction, and more. Put Some History in Their Future!

Grandma’s Booty – Repurposed Vintage Jewelry
created by Linda Quon
Earrings $22
Earrings or Necklace w/vintage card $25
Vintage jewelry magnets $4 ea./3 for $10

John C. Fremont minted historic coins
Silver Medallion (.999 fine silver) $65
Copper Medallion $15
Made especially for the John C. Fremont: Pathfinder of the West exhibit these beautifully minted medallions are limited edition. Only 1844 silver medallions will be struck commemorating Fremont’s second expedition West, 1843-1844. Printed on Carson City’s historic Coin Press No. 1 from the Nevada State Museum and designed by Matthew Howard. The medallion features Fremont with the cannon on one side and image of the press on the other. The silver medallion comes with a commemorative card.

History Pub Glasses – $5
Savor your favorite beverage as you ponder the talks at the latest History Pub at McMenamins Old Saint Francis School.

Images of America: Bend – $21.99
By Deschutes County Historical Society

Wood, Water & Grass: Meek Cutoff of 1845
by James and Theona Hambleton – $24.95
Beautiful maps and colored images help tell the tale of Stephen Meeks ill-fated, and controversial, route west. Details the location of the trail and what remains today, coupled with diary entrees of emigrants who made the hard and difficult journey over 1700 miles into Oregon.

Too Cold To Snow – $10.00
By Sue A. Fountain
A touching memoir of a young woman growing up in Bend during the 1950s & 1960s.

The Original Paddleboarder shirt
Designed by Bend Original
Hoody: $33
T-shirt: $25
Designed from the May 1924 issue of the Shevlin Equalizer from the archives of the Deschutes Historical Museum, the shirt features a Shevlin ‘Pond Monkey’- the guys who guided logs with pike poles while standing on floating logs. The Shevlin Equalizer was a monthly employee magazine for the Shevlin-Hixon Mills. The first in a series of Bend History designs from Bend Original, a portion of the proceeds benefit the Deschutes Historical Museum.

Central Oregon Place Names, Volume III Deschutes County
By Steve Lent – $25.00
Ever wonder how a place gets its name? The latest book from Steve Lent is filled with great information about the history of Deschutes County.
Annual Chili Feed, Bake Sale & Raffle at the Deschutes Historical Museum

Decorations are going up at the Deschutes Historical Museum for the Annual Chili Feed, Bake Sale & Raffle on November 13-14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. “Millie’s Chili,” cooked with locally raised Barley Beef, is served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. As most members know, Millie’s Chili is a family affair, prepared by Susie Penhollow and cooked with Barley Beef from Rastovich Farms, donated by Susie’s cousin, Rob Rastovich. Rastovich Farms is one of the oldest working farms in the county, homesteaded by George Rastovich, Millie’s father, in 1919. If you’re working and can’t get away, you can order chili to go!

The Bake Sale is a true, old fashioned bake sale with some of the best home bakers in the county donating goodies from family recipes. Cookies, breads, jams and preserves are among the wonderful items generously donated each year. You do not want to miss out!

Raffle items include overnight stay-cations and gift certificates for local restaurants and stores. The hottest items up for raffle? You can win a private Fremont tour with Loren Irving; a Loren Irving Finding Fremont photograph; or the big ticket—a reserved table at History Pub for a whole year! Yes, you read that right. Win a table at History Pub for the whole 2016 season. Raffle tickets are 6 for $5.00 or 25 for $20 and can be purchased starting November 10. Prizes will be drawn and announced November 14.

Most importantly, the chili feed is a time of gathering, visiting, and sharing stories around the museum. We can’t wait to see everyone!

Oddfellows Cabins at Paulina Lake

Members of the historical society and the Deschutes County Landmarks Commission took a field trip to the historic Oddfellows cabins at Paulina Lake. Historicorps hosted a stabilization workshop recently using local volunteers to stabilize and shutter the cabins. Historicorps is working on a rehabilitation assessment for the USFS to save the cabins for the future. For more information on Historicorps, visit www.historicorps.org.

Welcome New Members

Jim and Sue Anderson
Jane and Dal Smilie
Louis and Elizabeth Capozzi
Alison Perea

Correction to Membership Letter

The recent letter to the membership regarding the Annual Chili Feed contained an error – Dwight Newton played the piano for many years. The letter accidentally read Dwight Nelson, a mix up with the Nelsons who helped run Grandma’s Attic. Our apologies!

Robert and Gail Olsen
Pamela Nagel
Ward and Glenda Lantis
Susan and Dan Galeck
Charles Anderson
Gwendolyn Jensen
Crystal Haynes and Family
April and Casey Campanella
Suzanne Doty
Michael and Lisa Rindfleisch
Barbara M. Jordan
Claire-Anne and John Wood
Lisa Shaddox
Becky Kuper
Nadene and Greg Morning
Jeannie Whittle
Stefanie Holland
Joe and Kathy Van Pelt
Carol Schlenker
Boyd Homestead
– continued from page 3

From 1905 to 1978 some member of the family lived in the old house. Carol was the last to leave when the property sold to developers. Bill Boyd negotiated a ¼ acre patch of the original ground for relocation of the buildings just north of the Bend River Mall.

The homestead now features antique and boutique items – Pomegranate Home and Garden – in the buildings made of weathered boards of old-growth timber. The fir floors ripple with the polished grain of hand cut fir - surfaces milled 100 years ago. A narrow stairway rises to the second floor where rowdy children clambered to bed.

With its future in jeopardy, Bill Boyd would like to see the buildings moved elsewhere in a more natural setting to maintain the character of the homestead. His wish is to see the buildings become a museum demonstrating the skills and tenacity of an early pioneer family. Enough land perhaps for a boy and a dog to run all day.

For more information of the life and times of the Boyd family there is a copy of Carol Boyd’s article in the Deschutes Pioneers’ Gazette, January 1982, on file at the Deschutes Historical Museum.

– Bonnie Burns

Mark Your Calendars

NOVEMBER

13-14 ANNUAL CHILI FEED, BAKE SALE AND RAFFLE
Deschutes County Historical Museum from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

17 VISUAL STUDIES: EDUCATIONAL FILMS FROM THE ARCHIVES OF OHS DOWNTOWN BEND LIBRARY

24 HISTORY PUB – THE NORDEEN LEGACY:
THE STORY OF NORDIC SKIING IN BEND
Presented by Tor Hanson, McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE: The Volunteer “Thank You Brunch” will take place Sunday, December 6 from 11-1, with Volunteer of the Year award ceremony at noon.