FOURTH OF JULY: FREE DAY AT THE MUSEUM
Celebrating 37 Years as Deschutes County’s Museum

The Fourth of July is a celebration of birthdays, one for the nation and one for the Deschutes Historical Museum. Thirty-seven years ago on July 4, 1980, the old Reid School building opened to fanfare, speeches and ribbon cutting under a new name, the Deschutes Historical Museum.

To celebrate its birthday each year, the museum is open to the public – free of charge. Visitors are treated to free ice cream and otter pops, while the supplies last.

This year visitors will get a sneak peak of the upcoming World War I exhibit and check out new artifacts recently donated to the museum’s collection. There will be old-fashioned sack races and marble pick-up games on the lawn.

The Museum Free Day is an opportunity to thank the community for its continual support. The doors are open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Board member and Homesteader Editor Tor Hanson writes about finding local history right in his own backyard. Although he is still looking for the old strongbox, the archeological finds have given the Hanson family plenty to talk about.

My wife Nancy and I landed in Bend in 1991 after living in Los Angeles for several years. The city in the south had become a little bit too big and besides, we needed a babysitter. It was nice when Nancy’s mom came to visit, but going on a date with your wife every six months was not enough.

Our daughter Chandra, Nancy, and I eventually found an 805 sq. ft. home in the Mill Addition. This was long before anyone was ready to cough up $500,000 for an old mill home just to live on Bend’s “westside.”

I must admit, I’m passionate about history. I blame it on my high school history teacher, Mr. Gustafsson. He made history interesting. Standing in the front of the classroom, with a wooden pointer in his hand, he re-enacted historical battle scenes. Expertly using the pointer like a medieval sword, the re-telling of the Battle of Hastings was a glorious experience.

With my passion for history, it was no surprise to Nancy when I started researching who had owned our house throughout the years. Considering many of Bend’s mill workers came from Europe or the Midwest, I wasn’t terribly surprised when I found a Swedish connection.

Anna and Hjalmar Johnson were born and raised in Sweden. Mr. Johnson was born in 1882 in a small town in the middle of Sweden. Thirteen years his junior, Anna was born in the northern part of Sweden.

Mr. Johnson emigrated from Sweden in 1913 and settled in Minnesota, where one of his sisters was living. Listed as a mill worker in the Ellis Island ship manifest, it is not a long stretch to assume that he followed the mill industry westward and ended up in Coeur-de-Alene, Idaho for a couple of years and then, arrived in Bend somewhere between 1916-1917.

Mr. Johnson worked at one of the local Bend mills and struck up a friendship with Martin Benson, also a Swede. Mr. Benson had come to Bend via Canada around 1917 with his wife Nellie and two sons.

This is where things get interesting. In today’s terms, Anna was a “mail-order bride.” In 2011, I had the opportunity to interview Nellie and Martin’s son, Roland. During our conversation, he told me the following.

Martin’s wife Nellie had several sisters still living in Sweden. At the time, the mill town of Bend was mainly made up of bachelors, with young eligible women few and far between. Hjalmar was looking to marry a Swedish girl and when the local scene left him stumped, he decided on the next best thing. In best Scandinavian fashion, Hjalmar wrote a letter to one of Nellie’s sisters and asked her to marry him – promising to pay for the travel expenses over the Atlantic and the train trip to Bend.

The intended sister showed little interest in moving to the Pacific Northwest, but her younger sister Anna enthusiastically accepted Hjalmar’s proposal. Arriving at Ellis Island in January 1924, she traveled to Bend and arrived in early January. Anna followed Scandinavian traditions and stayed with her sister on Gilchrist Avenue until the wedding.

**Hjalmar and Anna Johnson’s wedding photo**

-- continued on page 4
Marble Madness Is Back And This Time With A Twist!

The Annual Summer Shootout Marble Tournament is back and here’s the twist; now we are part of Balloons Over Bend Children’s Festival, all happening at the Deschutes Historical Museum July 29.

The registration fee for the Summer Shootout is included with the $10 admission to the Children’s Festival giving tournament participants access to all the additional exciting summer fun happening at the festival.

When the gates open at 10:00 am, follow signs to the Museum’s marble booth to sign up for the tournament. As in past years there are two age categories- Kids (7-12 years) and Young at Heart (13 years and older) with marbles supplied. No experience is necessary. Practice and orientation will be available until registration closes at 11:30 when the marble tournament gets underway.

Gear Peddler has once again generously donated two beautiful single speed cruisers for first place winners.

Additional prize supporters include Wabi Sabi, Old Mill District, Bend Escape Room, and Vector Volcano.

Registration forms are available for pick up at the museum, download from www.deschuteshistory.org, the museum’s website, or print out page 8 in the Homesteader newsletter. To purchase tickets for Balloons Over Bend Children’s Festival visit their website, balloonsoverbend.com

Do you want to get some marble practice in before the big shootout? Join the Deschutes Historical Museum team July 19 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm for a Marbles 101 Workshop. You will learn the tournament rules, marble lingo, tips and tricks to knuckling down and participate in pick-up games to help hone your skills. This is a free workshop at the museum, 129 NW Idaho Ave in Bend. Please RSVP.

For more information on these events, phone 541-389-1813 or email info@deschuteshistory.org.

Deschutes Memories Project: Peterson’s Rock Garden

Sip, snack, and socialize with fellow history buffs while sharing your memories of Peterson’s Rock Garden, July 12 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Deschutes Historical Museum.

The Deschutes Historical Museum and the Deschutes Pioneer Association launched a new oral history gathering event in May called Deschutes Memories Project.

This series of events gives the community an opportunity to gather and share their memories about a chosen topic, with an invite to “show-and-tell” their artifacts and photographs. Deschutes County Historical Society staff and volunteers will be on hand to digitize and document items for inclusion into the museum’s collection, preserving your photos and stories for future generations.

Deschutes Memories is a joint project between the Deschutes Historical Museum and the Deschutes Pioneers Association. Each Deschutes Memories Project event will focus on a specific topic relevant to the Deschutes County area. Meet at the museum, 129 NW Idaho Ave. in Bend.

For additional information please phone or email the museum.
Our Archeological Dig...
– continued from page 1

Officiated by Pastor R. Bogstad of First Lutheran Church, Anna and Hjalmar were married in July 1924. The same day, the newlywed couple moved into their new home on McKay Avenue. The family stayed in the house for 44 years. Hjalmar passed away in 1964 at the age of 72, while Anna lived to be 91.

Our archaeological dig at McKay Avenue got underway in 2005 when we decided to add on to our small mill home. The first order of business was to raze an old mud-room at the back of the house to make way for the addition.

Nancy and I always joked about finding a strong box. The joke became more plausible when our next-door neighbor’s home sold in the mid-Nineties. When the crew tore down a dilapidated shed in the back of the property, the demolition team found coffee cans filled with money hidden throughout the structure. The rainy-day fund amounted to over $3,000.

It took us two days to tear down the old mud room, piece by piece. As the second day was almost over, Nancy was working on moving demolition debris to the trash container in the back yard. I was dismantling the sub floor.

Suddenly I stopped. I wasn’t sure what I was seeing in the darkness under the floor joists. The dust and the bright sunlight made it hard to make out what was hidden underneath the old floor.

“Hey, Nance! Come over here! I found something!”

“Did you find the strongbox?” I heard my wife yell.

“No… Something even better.”

Parked underneath the sub floor was Hjalmar’s old leather boots. According to the Polk Directory, Hjalmar was a yard-piler at Shevlin-Hixon. He loaded the freshly cut lumber onto the drying racks and once cured, moved the dry lumber to the waiting rail cars.

Dusty and full of spider nests, the boots were just sitting there, waiting to be discovered. And that was just the beginning of our local archaeological dig.

Over the years, finds include an old coffee-can from the 1930s, a Montgomery Ward shipping label (the Johnsons added onto the house in 1930), and pieces of Swedish newspapers, used to insulate the walls.

It’s been a while since we discovered more local history. It usually happens when there is a major renovation project in the works. Not too long ago, Nancy and I decided to add pavers to our dusty side yard. Our new family member Finn, a border-collie/black lab mix, turned the side of the yard into her own dust and mud pile. It was time to lay down pavers to keep the dust to a minimum.

The main landscape feature along the side of the house is a 50-foot-long metal edge. The edge snakes along the side of the house from the raised flower bed in the front of the house to an ornamental Nanking cherry bush in the back.

Preparing the grounds for the new pavers, we removed a couple of inches of dirt. As I started cleaning up the dirt along the metal edge, I realized it had an odd shape at the bottom. Leaning in, I noticed the landscaping edge had saw-teeth. The feature that kept grass away from the bushes was a huge sawblade from a band-saw.

Considering Hjalmar’s work place at the Shevlin-Hixon mill, and the Scandinavian tradition of never throwing away anything that can be used elsewhere, we probably have an old saw-blade from the mill in our yard. The length of the blade and the coarse saw-teeth, leads me to believe it is a sawblade used for rough cuts of green lumber.

We have since covered up the old blade with river rock and pavers. But the knowledge that we have a unique feature along the side of the yard only adds to the beauty of our house.

-- continued on page 6
Local News Items

In February 2016, the Deschutes Historical Museum learned that two generous women from the community, Johanna Sonntag and Tracey Fleming, had included the Deschutes County Historical Society among the charities to receive a portion of their estates. Both had passed without family within weeks of each other. The museum was unaware of their gift wishes; they were offered without fanfare or acknowledgement, although we celebrate them now in the pages of The Homesteader.

There are always many, many projects and need for funding at the Deschutes Historical Museum, some projects greater than others. The gifts left by Ms. Sonntag and Ms. Fleming were sizeable, enabling the staff to target a capital improvement to the museum: lighting and UV protection.

Over the next few months, all the lighting in the six exhibit galleries will change from the classroom style fluorescent tube lighting to LED museum gallery track lighting. LED lighting generates almost no heat or UV rays, which protects the artifacts on display. The more natural light output also increases readability compared to the harsh light of the fluorescents tubes. In addition, LED bulbs are tremendous energy savers and have long life spans. All in all, the changes make for a remarkable leap in the preservation of our collection and for better exhibit viewing.

While changing the lighting removed the light threats posed by the existing lighting, it did not address the natural light that comes through the large windows of Reid School. Beautiful for humans longing to see outside, the natural sunlight poses a larger threat to the artifacts and exhibits as the existing blinds age and break down. During the installation of the Fremont exhibit, new UV screening blinds from Aloha Blinds were installed on the first floor, but an additional $7,000 was needed to replace the blinds on the second floor. Using the bequest dollars as a matching investment, DCHS has been awarded an Oregon Museum Grant for changing the second-floor blinds and complete the overall UV protection and lighting upgrades for the first and second floors.

DCHS is thankful for the generosity of Johanna and Tracey, wishing they could see the good works their gifts make possible. DCHS also thanks the Oregon Museum Grant for providing the additional funds needed to complete the project.

Thanks to generous gifts from two women from the community, Johanna Sonntag and Tracey Fleming, the Deschutes Historical Museum now has LED museum gallery track lighting in the downstairs exhibit rooms. Using the bequest dollars as a matching investment, DCHS also received a Oregon Museum Grant to install new UV screening blinds on the second floor.

**Surprise Bequests and an Oregon Museum Grant Make Museum Upgrades Possible**
Mark Your Calendars

<table>
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| 1 | EARLY DAYS OF BEND WALKING TOUR  
Deschutes Historical Museum  
Tour starts at 10:30 a.m. |
| 4 | FREE DAY AT THE MUSEUM  
Deschutes Historical Museum  
Visit anytime between 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| 8 | REFLECTIONS OF HISTORY:  
ARCHITECTURAL STYLES OF A NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR  
Deschutes Historical Museum  
Tour starts at 10:30 a.m. |
| 12 | HERITAGE TREE DEDICATION  
Drake Park near Crow’s Feet Commons  
10 a.m. Free event.  
DESHUTES MEMORIES: PETESEN’S ROCK GARDEN  
Deschutes Historical Museum  
Visit anytime between 4:00 p.m. - 6 p.m. |
| 15 | DESCHUTES PIONEER ASSOCIATION  
PICNIC  
Deschutes Historical Museum  
11 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| 19 | MARBLES 101 WORKSHOP  
Deschutes Historical Museum  
2 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| 22 | EARLY DAYS OF BEND WALKING TOUR  
Deschutes Historical Museum  
Tour starts at 10:30 a.m. |
| 25 | HISTORY PUB: THE FIGHT FOR A FARMER’S MARKET.  
Presented by Laura Ferguson, Ph.D. and curator of Western History at the High Desert Museum.  
McMenamins Old St. Francis  
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.  
Registration required |
| 29 | SUMMER SHOOTOUT MARBLE TOURNAMENT AND THE BALLOONS OVER BEND CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL  
Deschutes Historical Museum  
Visit anytime between 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
Deschutes Historical Museum’s

Summer Cookout Fundraiser

Baldy’s BBQ Down Range Fundraiser

13 August $35 Person

Bluegrass Music by

Catering by

Baldy’s BBQ

Pulled Pork | Pulled Chicken | Drinks
Corn on the Cob | Watermelon | Salads
Silent Auction | Boneyard Beer

3 PM to 6 PM

Tickets Online at DeschutesHistory.org

129 NW Idaho Ave | 541.389.1813
Registration Form
July 29, 2017

□ Young At Heart: 13 and up
□ Kids: Ages 7 to 12

Registration opens 10:00 am
Orientation & Practice play 10:00 am- 11:30 am
Tournament Play begins 11:30 am

Please note: Registration is required prior to the start of Tournament Play.

Child Name: ___________________________ Age: _____________
Parent Name: ________________________________
Contact Telephone: ____________________________
Mailing Address: _______________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ____________
Email: ________________________________

Registration fee included with Balloons Over Bend Children’s Festival $10 Admission
Purchase Festival Tickets by visiting www.balloonsoverbend.com

For additional information about this event contact the Deschutes Historical Museum
Phone: 541-389-1813, email: info@deschuteshistory.org
129 NW Idaho Ave, Bend Oregon 9770