WWI Razzle-Dazzle
Tricked German Subs

After heavy losses of ships in the North Atlantic during World War I, British planners razzle-dazzled German U-boat commanders. See Page 2

Odd Fellows Cabins
Get Needed TLC

Historicorps in cooperation with DCHS complete critical first phases of stabilization work needed to save the four cabins. See Page 3

ANNUAL CHILI FEED AND HERITAGE FAIR

It’s time for the Annual Chili Feed and Heritage Fair, November 10-11 at the Deschutes Historical Museum. Millie’s Chili with Rastovich Farms Barley Beef can’t be beat—a family tradition that has helped support the museum for over thirty years. A special time to visit the museum and catch up with other members and volunteers. The Bake Sale features tasty treats from our members, homemade jams and jellies, and things you can’t find anywhere else. The Raffle is lining up great local staycations, nights on the town, the ever fought over table at History Pub and—a snow blower! After last winter, who doesn’t want to win one of those?

Last year we launched a small genealogy research table—this year, with support from the Deschutes Cultural Coalition, we are expanding our genealogy session to a full two-day Heritage Fair designed to jump start your genealogy research.

Our featured presenter is Lisa McCullough, a genetic genealogy researcher and lecturer. Commercials promise ancestral discoveries through simple DNA tests—swab your cheek and send it off, but what are — continued on page 4
In 1917 heavy losses of merchant ships, especially in the North Atlantic, were due to Germany’s unrestricted submarine warfare first introduced in World War I in early 1915. Germany declared the area around the British Isles a war zone, in which all merchant ships, including those from neutral countries, would be attacked by the German navy.

No ship was safe as Germany would claim the ships were carrying munitions. At the time, Germany and England blockaded each other, disrupting much needed supplies for both countries. England had the stronger Navy so Germany turned to their U-boats, confident they could decimate the English. Their strategy nearly succeeded; between February and April 1917, U-boats sank more than 500 merchant ships. In the second half of April, an average of 13 ships were sunk each day. The heavy toll soon included passenger ships.

It became apparent there was a need for new camouflage that would be suitable for sea-going vessels that were basically “sitting ducks”. The final designs were not from the military, but initiated by a zoologist, and a marine artist. First suggested by zoologist John Graham Kerr in 1914, was the idea of disruptive coloration - camouflage as in natural patterns found on animals – zebras, giraffes,

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leopards. He noted that when a group of zebras were huddled together, their geometric patterns hid one from the other. His idea was to use complex patterns of geometric shapes in contrasting colors, interrupting and intersecting each other hoping to confuse the enemy. His ideas were rejected by the British Admiralty on the skepticism of “any theory based upon the analogy of animals.”

Marine artist Norman Wilkinson, also a lieutenant commander in the Royal Navy, agreed with Kerr’s ideas. Wilkinson promoted a system of stripes and broken lines “to distort the external shape by violent colour (sic.) contrasts” and confuse the enemy about the speed and dimensions of the ship. The intention was not to conceal but to make it difficult to estimate a target’s range, speed, and heading.

Depiction of Wilkinson’s dazzle camouflage intended to cause the enemy to take up poor firing positions.

Coincidence rangefinders used for naval artillery had an optical mechanism, operated by a human to compute the range. Torpedoes in WWI could only be fired line-of-sight. The operator adjusted the mechanism until the two half-images of the target lined up in a complete picture. Dazzle camouflage intended to make that difficult, as clashing patterns looked abnormal even when aligned. The German submarines included such rangefinders. Dazzle was adopted by the Admiralty in the UK and then by the United States Navy. Wilkinson was put in charge of a camouflage unit which used the technique on large groups of merchant ships. The patterns were first tested on small wooden models painted by women from London’s Royal Academy of Arts. A foreman then scaled up their designs for the real thing. Over 4000 British merchant ships were painted in what came to be known as “dazzle camouflage” or razzle-dazzle in the US. Dazzle was applied to some 400 naval Titanic vessels, starting in August 1917. The HMT Olympic, Titanic’s sister ship, was “dazzled” as it was used as a troopship during the war.

The contradictory patterns on the HMT Olympic’s funnels could imply the ship was on a different heading. The curve on the hull below the front funnel could seem to be a false bow wave, creating a misleading impression of the ship’s speed. And the striped patterns at the bow and stern could create confusion about which end of the ship was which.

According to one U-boat captain, “It was not until she was within half a mile that I could make out she was one ship (not several) steering a course at right angles, crossing from starboard to port. The dark painted stripes on her after part made her stern appear her bow, and a broad cut of green paint amidships looks like a patch of water…this was the best camouflage I have ever seen.”

Interesting to note that on May 12, 1918, the HMT Olympic’s dazzle paint was perhaps so successful that the HMT Olympic surprised and intentionally rammed and sunk U-boat 103.

Despite its popularity and its use during both WWI and WWII, there were no studies done to test whether Dazzle camouflage was actually effective. There were too many variables to determine which factors were significant or which schemes worked best. American data were analyzed in 1919 by Harold Von Buskirk. About 1256 ships were “dazzled” between March 1918 and the end of the war. Among American merchantmen 2,500 tons and over, 78 non-camouflaged ships were sunk and only 18 camouflaged ships; out of these 11 were sunk by torpedoes, 4 in collisions and 3 by mines. No US Navy ships (all camouflaged) were sunk in that period. However effective dazzle camouflage may have been in World War I, it became less useful as rangefinders and aircraft became more advanced. By the time it was put to use again in WWII, continuing improvements in radar and sonar eventually eliminated the need to sight their targets visually. Dazzle painting no longer served any useful purpose and warships were quickly repainted to a hazy gray color. There must have been a collective sigh from admirals...
October was a great month for the Odd Fellows cabins at Paulina Lake. After being awarded a $17,000 Preserving Oregon Grant, the Deschutes Historical Museum partnered with the Deschutes National Forest and HistoriCorps to complete the critical first phases of stabilization work needed to save the four cabins.

HistoriCorps is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides volunteers of all skill levels with a hands-on experience preserving historic structures on public lands across America. Volunteers work with HistoriCorps field staff to learn preservation skills and put those skills to work saving historic places that have fallen into disrepair. HistoriCorps works to ensure America’s cultural and historical resources exist for generations to come.

Over the course of three five-day work sessions, Historicorps crew leaders Cathy Cooke and Jonathan Williams led a volunteer work crew of 22 members in a series of stabilization efforts. Chimneys on cabins 1 and 2 were repaired, while cabin 3 gained a new roof. To relieve pressure on the walls in Cabin 2, HistoriCorps raised the chimney and added blocking to transfer its weight to the stone foundation. A collapsed arch on the Cabin 2 chimney was completely rebuilt. Cabin windows were repaired or reglazed.

The work is not over, however—there is still much to do. An additional grant from Title II funding will cover more work with Historicorps next spring, but we are only on step one of many before all four cabins can be used and enjoyed by the public. Stay tuned for more, and if you’d like to support this project, contact us at info@deschuteshistory.org. Thanks to the Oregon Heritage Commission for their grant support, and to Scott McBride of the Deschutes National Forest for his continued efforts to preserve this piece of Deschutes County’s history.

Annual Chili Feed and Heritage Fair
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you really getting? Lisa will provide background on what DNA testing can show us, and demystify the process before sending your DNA off in the mail. Lisa’s presentation takes place twice on Friday, November 10, at 11 and 1. Our other speakers are local genealogy researchers and members of the Bend Genealogy Society: Sandy Thompson, Gus Oberg, Nancy Noble and Nate Pedersen. They will provide information on US Census records, hunting for family in newspapers, how to research military records, and how to search for free using your Deschutes Public Library Card. Our very own Vanessa Ivey rounds out the sessions with a tutorial on using online resources to locate homestead claims in your family. The Bend Genealogy Society will be on hand throughout the event with handouts and key pieces of information. The entire event runs 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days and the schedule for Heritage Fair research is printed here in the newsletter. There is still time to commit to bringing pies and baked goods in support of the event, give us a call at 541.389.1813 to sign up. We look forward to seeing you at the museum Nov. 10 and 11.
Calling All Cooks and Bakers of Deschutes County!

The Development Committee for the Deschutes County Historical Museum has decided to compile a cookbook of tried and true recipes of members’ family favorites. So as you are riffling through your recipes for the upcoming holidays, give a thought to other seasonal favorites. It’s not required but if you like, take a minute and tell us how or why it became a favorite. (After all, we are history buffs.) Just a word or two, up to 50 or so.

Send as many recipes as you like with the usual requirements; ingredients, measurements, instructions, and how many the recipe serves. The deadline for recipes is February 1, 2018. This will give us all time after the holidays to rest and research those recipes. Depending on how many submissions are received it may be that not all can be included. The committee reserves the right to edit content for space and publication purposes. The cookbook will be on sale in our gift shop and available for purchase through the museum’s website.

Send your selection(s) to:
The Deschutes County Historical Museum
Attn: Paula Simila/Bonnie Burns
129 NW Idaho Ave.
Bend, OR 97703

You can also email recipes to info@deschuteshistory.org with subject line, Cookbook.

Please include your telephone number so we can contact you if there are any questions. The committee is so looking forward to hearing from you.

World War I Dazzle Painting...

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who had never really liked painting their ships in such un-military fashion.

More information on testing the effectiveness of dazzle painting can be found at camoupedia.blogspot.com/2013/09/did-dazzle-camouflage-really-work.html

You might be wondering what razzle-dazzle has to do with Deschutes County history. If so, please visit the museum’s newest exhibit, now in progress,

“From the High Desert to the Western Front: Central Oregon and the Great War.”

There you’ll find a tribute to the first soldier from Bend killed in the Great War. Percy A. Stevens was aboard the SS Tuscania, sunk off the coast of Scotland in 1918. The SS Tuscania would become the first troopship carrying American soldiers in WWI to be torpedoed by a German U-boat. On board were men recruited from the Oregon Agricultural College in Corvallis and from forestry and logging industries across the Northwest.

– Bonnie Burns
Haunt Walk Completes A Successful Eight Season

Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend Tours was back at a new time this year, Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14, and once again proved a community favorite. Despite rain most of the day on Friday the sun came out just before the tours started that evening. This year the museum offered fifteen tours both nights, keeping our talented tour guides busy. The weather held and Saturday proved to be an exceptional night decorated in autumn colors and a warm evening. The tours filled to overflow capacity.

Museum admission was included with the tour and many tour-goers rambled through the halls of the old school, viewing exhibits and testing out ghost apps, some picking up blips of energy in the old classrooms. Others hung out in the research room watching a video of orbs of light infiltrating the old building’s north entrance. Everyone had a terrific time and 32 new members joined the historical society at the event. The Deschutes Historical Museum would like to take this time and thank those who volunteered for making this a fun and successful event. Without our volunteers, programs like this could not be possible. Thank you!

If you have a local ghost story you would like to share with the museum please write it down and contact us at info@deschuteshistory.org.

Mark Your Calendars

NOVEMBER

10-11  ANNUAL CHILI FEED AND HERITAGE FAIR
   For more information, please see page 1 in this month’s Homesteader.

28  HISTORY PUB: QUACKERY: A Brief History of the Worst Ways to Cure Everything
   Presented by Nate Pedersen; librarian, historian, and writer.
   McMenamins Old St. Francis
   Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.

   Please note: We are requiring reservations for the monthly History Pubs at McMenamins. Reservations can be made on the museum’s website, deschuteshistory.org or by calling 541.389.1813.
Deschutes Historical Museum's

Chili Feed & Heritage Fair

Enjoy Millie's Chili Made With Barley Beef

Find Your Roots at the Genealogy Heritage Fair

Old Fashioned Bake Sale

Win Great Raffle Prizes

November 10-11, 2017
11 AM to 3 PM

129 NW Idaho
541.389.1813

Schedule Available at DeschutesHistory.org
Deschutes Historical Museum

Heritage Fair

Friday, Nov 10

11 am    Lisa McCullough
          Thinking About a DNA Test?

12 pm    Gus Oberg
          Searching Military Records

1 pm     Lisa McCullough
          Thinking About a DNA Test?

2 pm     Nancy Noble
          Little Known Census Information

Saturday, Nov 11

11 am    Staff Q & A
          Stumped? Bring your questions

12 pm    Nate Pedersen
          Explore your roots at the Library

1 pm     Sandy Thompson
          Extra! Extra! Its in the Newspaper

2 pm     Vanessa Ivey
          Finding Homestead Claims

Deschutes Historical Museum
129 NW Idaho

Chili Feed & Heritage Fair Nov 10-11, 2017