



DCHS Volunteers Recognized

The following four volunteers were bestowed with honors: Adrian Bennett, Karen Swank, Linda Heuser and Phyllis Hurworth.

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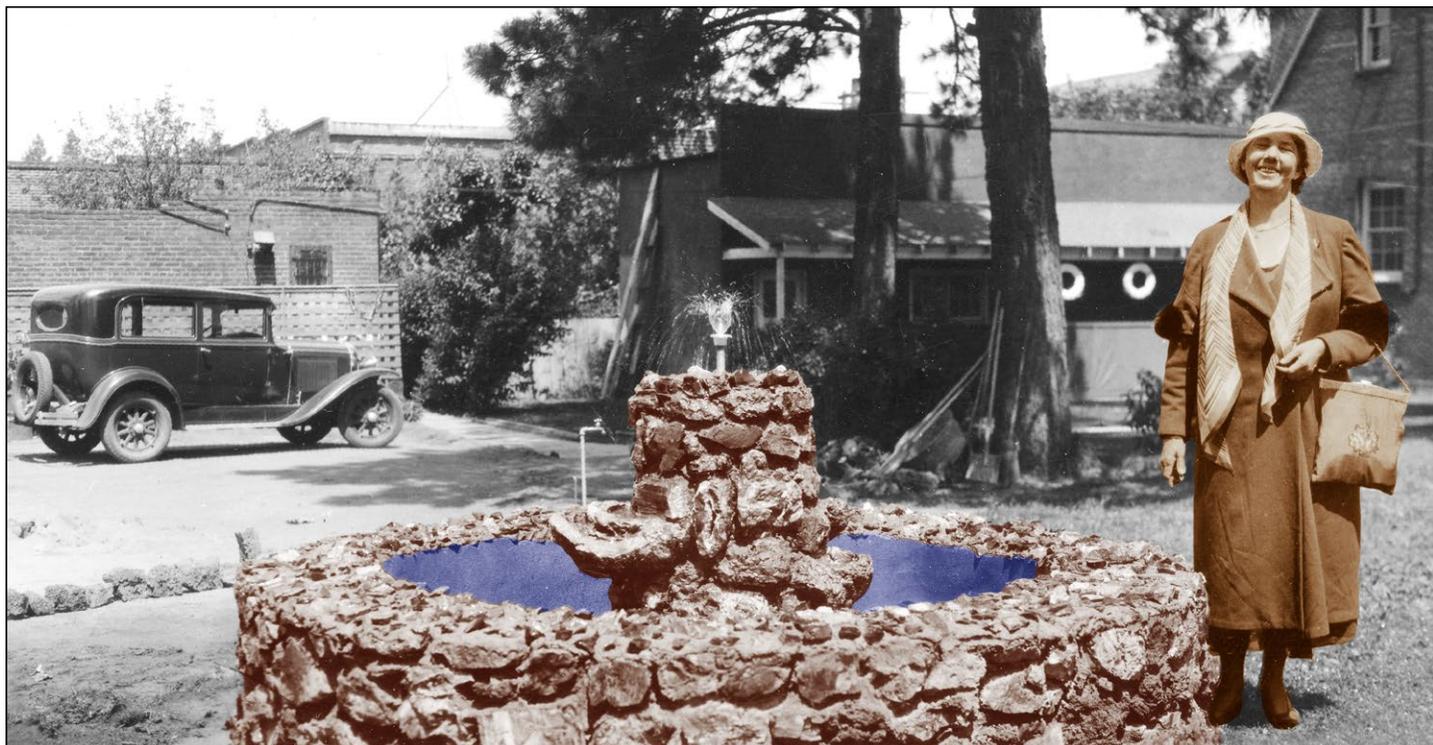
Klamath Trophy Returns to Sweden

Emil Nordeen's Klamath trophy travels back to Umeå, Sweden this month after spending two years in Oregon.

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The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter – January 2018



Bend Fire Department Memorial Fountain, built for Klondike Kate in the 1930s with rocks she gathered on the desert. The fountain was located at the old fire hall on Minnesota and Lava, around the corner from her house.

KLONDIKE KATE'S ROCKS FIND NEW PURPOSE

A new sculpture is in the works to celebrate the creative and independent spirit of the women of Deschutes County throughout history.

This past year, our community lost Charlene Blahnik, an artist born and raised in Deschutes County and whose pioneer family's roots here began with the founding of the Rastovich homestead in 1919. As a memorial project in her honor, the Deschutes Historical Museum launched a sculpture project with the goal of using Klondike Kate's

rock hound materials, salvaged from her home in 1987, in the sculpture.

Using memorial funds donated specifically for the 2017 project, a call to artists was released in November. The Museum received 22 submissions from artists around the west. From that 22, 4 semi finalists were selected to submit artist concept models and drawings for their memorial sculpture vision.

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EMIL NORDEEN'S KLAMATH TROPHY RETURNS TO SWEDEN



Emil Nordeen on his way towards the finish line at the Klamath Ski Race. Nordeen won the 42-mile Nordic ski race in 1929 and 1931 and retired the Klamath trophy. In 1960, he bequeathed the trophy to the Swedish Ski Federation.

Emil Nordeen’s Klamath trophy is on its way back to Sweden after spending more than two years in Bend, Klamath Falls, and Portland. On loan from Västerbotten Museum in Umeå, the 42-inch silver trophy has been an integral part of the Deschutes Historical Museum’s Winter Comes exhibit.

Emil Nordeen’s nephew, Sigvard Nordén has for many years lobbied the Västerbotten Museum to move the Klamath trophy to the Nordic Ski Museum in Norsjö – Nordeen’s hometown. Whether the sudden focus on Emil Nordeen and his life in the United States brought on a change in the minds of the museum staff in Umeå, we can only speculate, but there are rumors the trophy will find a permanent home in Norsjö.

As Bend’s ski elite is gearing up for The Great Nordeen later this month (snow pending), it is almost 128 years since the namesake of the Nordic ski race, Emil Nordeen, was born. He grew up in the small hamlet of Kvaviträsk, only miles from the small town of Norsjö.

“The minute a little Swede could walk, they put skis on him up there. I probably started skiing [at the age of] 2 or 3,” Emil recounted in interviews later in life.

Nordeen left Sweden for the United States at the age of 18 and settled in Kulm, North Dakota to become a farm hand at his uncle’s farmstead. The gig only lasted a couple of years until the wander lust became too strong for the young

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Deschutes Historical Museum
 129 NW Idaho Avenue, Bend, OR 97703
 Open Tuesdays-Saturdays
 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 541.389.1813

Museum Staff:

- Kelly Cannon-Miller, Executive Director
- Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager
- Shey Hyatt, Registrar
- Tor Hanson, Homesteader Editor



2017 DCHS Board of Directors:

- Nate Pedersen, President
- Marsha Stout, Vice President
- Sue Fountain, Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members:

- Tony DeBone, Adrian Bennett, Mike Berry, Andrea Hunnell DuPree, Beau Eastes, Greg Fulton, Karen Green, Tor Hanson, Loren Irving, Heidi Kennedy, Bill Olsen, and Susie Penhollow

Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office.

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www.deschuteshistory.org
Info@deschuteshistory.org

Volunteers Recognized for Their Dedication & Hard Work



Sunday December 17 turned out to be a beautiful day for the Deschutes Historical Museum’s volunteer end of the year gathering. “The afternoon is all about our volunteers and the hard work they put in through the year. We could not do what we do without them,” expressed Executive Director Kelly Cannon-Miller.

Invited to wear “ugly” holiday sweaters, a parade of reds, greens, and golds streamed through the front doors of the museum as attendees arrived adorned in jumpers ranging from garish to gorgeous. Carl Elliott’s Santa shirt came away with Best in Show. Keeping with the festive spirit, volunteer awards were handed out by our very own Christmas Elf, Museum Manager Vanessa Ivey, costumed in a bright green cap and a shirt of jingle bells. This year the following four volunteers were bestowed with honors.



Adrian Bennett joined the Deschutes County Historical Society’s board in 2016 filling an empty seat mid-term. This year he up’d his game helping out at every event the museum hosted. Whether he is acting as clean-up man at the marble tournament or bouncer/greeter at the Little

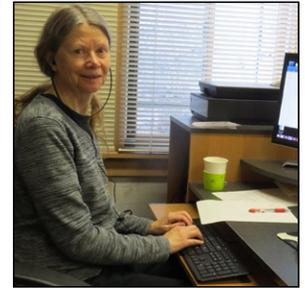
Woody Adrian brings his zest for fun and always has a story to tell. It doesn’t hurt that he also brings a fresh loaf of homemade bread to share.

It was after a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum that *Karen Swank* reached out to the Deschutes Historical Museum to become a volunteer. Karen, a member of the newly organized Three Sisters Historical Society, is passionate about her local history. Logging 169 hours since May, Karen meticulously catalogs artifact information and descriptions into Past Perfect, the museum’s database. Her knowledge of the Sisters area is an added bonus.

Linda Heuser came to the museum in the Fall of 2016, looking to explore volunteer opportunities. She had previously been conducting oral history interviews for the



Willamette University Archives. The DHM at the time was looking for a software program to assist with the transcription of oral histories collected through their Pioneer Tales program. Linda volunteered to find the software best suited for our use. She phoned a number of museums and institutions to learn what they were using and how they were using it. As a result of her diligence and recommendations the DHM now has a system in place able to transcribe valuable oral stories currently being collected. Linda continues working with the program regularly and has three completed transcriptions to date. Quite the task when some interviews are over an hour long.



Phyllis Hurworth has been a member of the Deschutes County Historical Society since 2014, having moved to Bend in 1992. Over the years she has baked for the Chili Feed Bake Sale, attended a number of the museum’s programs and loves History Pub. This year however

she decided it was time to get a little more active with the Society and so she signed up to volunteer at the Little Woody and then for the Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend. When she put her name down for goodies for the Chili Feed Bake Sale this year who would have guessed she’d arrive with boxes of baked goods, jams & jellies, and breads and that was just for Friday. Saturday she returned with more homemade baked breads and cookies fresh from the oven. The boxes just kept coming. As part of her recognition this year Phyllis also received the Golden Pie Plate awarded for her commitment to DCHS’s longest running fundraiser. “I love to do it” she says.

Thank you to Adrian, Karen, Linda, and Phyllis and all the volunteers who make the Deschutes Historical Museum a success. Your commitment of your time, energy and passion is priceless and we cannot thank you enough. Deschutes Historical Museum has the greatest volunteers in Central Oregon!

Top photo: DCHS volunteers Carl and Anita Elliott. Bottom photo: Board member Greg Fulton and DCHS member Jane Williamson.



OldSmokey Les Joslin Honored for Forest Service Heritage Contributions

The Deschutes Cultural Coalition of the Oregon Cultural Trust presented its sixth annual Ben Westlund Memorial Award to OldSmokey Les Joslin on December 13, 2017, at an event in the beautifully restored Liberty Theatre in downtown Bend, Oregon.

The award honors the memory of former Oregon legislator and state treasurer Ben Westlund who championed creation of the Oregon Cultural Trust in 2011.

“It looks like an ‘inside job’ to me,” Les quipped, noting that friends and colleagues OldSmokey Bob Boyd, emeritus curator of western history at The High Desert Museum and 2016 recipient of the award; OldSmokey and former DCHS board member Robin Gyorgyfalvy, landscape architect and scenic byways coordinator on the Deschutes National Forest; and Kelly Cannon-Miller, executive director of the Deschutes County Historical



Ben Westlund Memorial Award recipient Les Joslin; Deschutes Cultural Coalition Co-Chair Cate O'Hagan; President of the High Desert Museum, Dana Whitelaw; and Emeritus Curator of Western History at The High Desert Museum, Bob Boyd.

Society of which Les served two terms as board president, were members of the selection committee.

Turning serious, Les thanked the Deschutes Cultural Coalition for recognizing him for doing things he had enjoyed doing for the past 25 years. These included authoring or editing half a dozen books on various aspects of Forest Service history in Central Oregon and instigating restoration

and reuse of half a dozen historic Forest Service ranger stations and guard stations in the area.

From left: Pat and Les Joslin with Robin Gyorgyfalvy.



Klondike Kate's Rocks...

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The artists have until March to complete their models, at which time they will be put on display at the Museum, with a finalist selected in late April. Please check out their websites listed below and stay tuned to *The Homesteader* for more information and the chance to view their work at the Museum. The four artists are:



Jenny Ellsworth
Oregon City, Oregon
fairyforge.com



Cyrra Robinson
Tumwater, Washington
cyrrastudios.com



John Fleming
Seattle, Washington
johnflemingartist.com



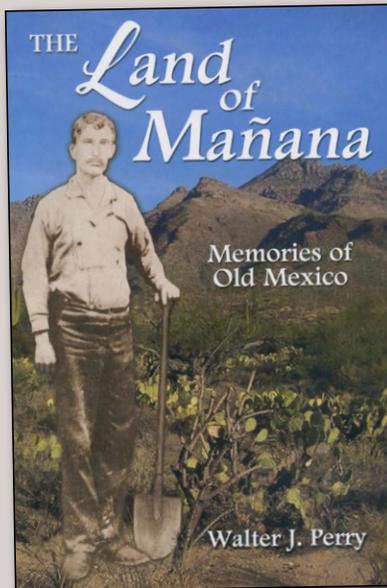
Melissa Cole
Spokane, Washington
melissacolestudios.com

Bend Legendary Local Walt Perry Recalls His Early Days in Mexico in *The Land of Mañana* Just Published

Walter J. Perry – one of Bend’s legendary locals, he occupies page 92 of my 2016 book *Legendary Locals of Bend* – spent his later years writing about the world he knew and how he came to know it. His recollection of his 1910-1936 U.S. Forest Service career, which brought him to Bend from New Mexico in 1925, was published as *Walt Perry: An Early-Day Forest Ranger in New Mexico and Oregon* in 1999. I had the honor of editing and publishing it at the behest of his granddaughter and grand-nephew.

And now, Walt Perry’s remembrance of mining and logging in Mexico, *The Land of Mañana: Memories of Old Mexico*, has been published at the loving instigation of that same granddaughter, Deschutes County Historical Society member Patricia O’Day of Bend, from a manuscript carefully curated by that same grand-nephew, Robert Councilman of Lancaster, California. I provided some light editing and assisted with publication.

Perry, born in Kansas in 1873, worked at many jobs before he found his “real life’s work” in the Forest Service. Two of those many jobs, as chronicled in *The Land of Mañana*, were mining and logging in the remote Sierra Madre of Chihuahua before the revolution that deposed dictator Porfirio Diaz helped Perry decide Mexico was “a good place to get out of” and did “a day before the lid blew off.”



“A man of many talents, Perry...penned a variety of memoirs,” I wrote in the introduction to this new volume. “He remembered his years in Mexico—which his family shared—in *The Land of Mañana*, now published for the first time. Included in this volume are memories of two daughters...who as children shared their parents’ south of the border sojourns.”

“The story of Walt Perry’s sojourn in Old Mexico is both a fascinating adventure and an inspirational journey with a rough and ready gentleman of intelligence and integrity,” I wrote in the back-cover blurb. I think you will enjoy this chapter in the life of this essentially

self-educated forester possessed of a forward-looking timber management ethic which helped ensure timber town Bend’s economic stability for decades. I did.

The Land of Mañana: Memories of Old Mexico (ISBN 978-0-692-98913-5), viii plus 107 pages, illustrated, softcover, was published in December 2017 by Robert G. and Myrna Councilman and Patricia O’Day at \$10.00 per copy and is available at the Deschutes Historical Museum for that price or by mail from Patricia O’Day, 2200 NE Highway 20, #40, Bend, OR 97701, for \$12.95 postpaid.

– Les Joslin

Missing Issues of The Homesteader



The Deschutes Historical Museum is looking for copies of *The Homesteader*. During a recent inventory of our holdings, we realized there are several issues missing.

We’re turning to you, our faithful readers, to see if you happen to have copies of the following editions of the newsletter.

- 2005 January, February, March, May, June, July, September, October
- 2006 January, February, May, June, October, November, December
- 2011 November

Memorials

Helen Rastovich Barrett

Barbara Baker
Ed and JoAnn Barnum
Johanne Landsberg
Jeanne Van Sickle

Kay Tompkins

Paula Kendrick

Klamath Trophy to Sweden...

– continued from page 2

Swede. On his way west, Nordeen was a powder monkey on the Trans-Canadian Railroad, hotel owner in Old Fort George in British Columbia, a gold miner in Colorado, and poker player extraordinaire. Finally, he settled in Bend as a contract lumber loader with Shevlin-Hixon.

As the many Scandinavians settled in Bend, they quickly realized the many geographic similarities with the countries they had behind and Central Oregon. Much of their upbringing centered around “outdoor life” (or *friluftliv*), and the interior of Oregon offered up much the same landscape they were used to in Scandinavia. Three Norwegians and the lone Swede – Nordeen, eventually started up a ski club in Bend – The Skyliners.

The members of the club competed in ski races all over the Pacific Northwest, but it was the 42-mile ski race in Klamath Falls which would eventually be the defining race of a lifetime for Nordeen. After winning the race in 1929 and 1931, he permanently retired The Klamath.

The trophy eventually was bequeathed to the Swedish Ski Federation with the stipulation, they could have it, provided they would use it as a rotating trophy for international ski competitions. The trophy became a rotating prize in the Kalvträskloppe. The circle of Nordeen’s ski history almost closed. The ski race was held only miles from where he grew up, in Norsjö.

There is a long history of Nordic ski greats coming

out of Norsjö and the local sports club, IFK Norsjö (Idrottsföreningen Kamraterna Norsjö, later Norsjö Idrottsförening – or Norsjö Sports Association).

The winner of the first Vasa Ski Race (Vasaloppet) in 1922 was Ernst Alm from Norsjö, who to this day is the youngest male skier to win the race – he was only 22 when he finished the 55.9-mile-long ski race between Sälen and Mora. And IFK Norsjö team member Oscar Lindberg won the 1923 Vasaloppet.

Also in 1923, Lindberg’s sister Agnes won the women’s Swedish Championships in Nordic skiing – 10 kilometers. Her teammate, Signora Norén came in second place.

Signora Norén won the 1925 Swedish Championship in Nordic skiing – 10 kilometers, this time with Agnes Lindberg in second place. Another Norsjö native, Martin Lundström, won two gold medals in the 1948 Winter Olympic Games in St. Moritz.

The Deschutes Historical Museum is honored to have brought back the Klamath trophy as part of the *Winter Comes: Oregon’s Nordic Ski History* exhibit. During the last two years, thousands of museum visitors in Bend, Klamath Falls, and Portland have had the opportunity to explore the heritage of Oregon’s Nordic ski traditions, from its prehistoric origins in Scandinavia to modern day Oregon.

The *Winter Comes* exhibit will travel to the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum for a six-month celebration of Oregon’s ski history, premiering January 20.

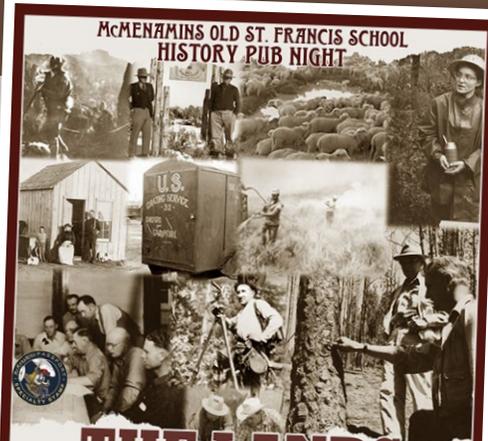
– Tor Hanson

Mark Your Calendars

JANUARY

- 23 **VOLUNTEER METING**
Deschutes Historical Museum
Please RSVP to vanessa@deschuteshistory.org or at the museum front desk.
Noon - 1 p.m.
- 30 **HISTORY PUB: THE LANDS NO ONE ELSE WANTED – The Story of Our Public Lands**
Presented by Jeff Kitchens, Deschutes Field Office Manager, USDOJ -BLM Prineville.
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.



McMENAMINS OLD ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL HISTORY PUB NIGHT

THE LANDS NO ONE ELSE WANTED

THE STORY OF OUR PUBLIC LANDS

Presentation by **JEFF KITCHENS**
Deschutes Field Office Manager, USDOJ - BLM - Prineville District

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2017

7 p.m. - Doors at 5:30 p.m. - Free - All ages welcome
RSVP at mcmenamins.com/history to reserve your seat.

Sponsored by Oregon Encyclopedia,
Deschutes Historical Museum & Oregon Historical Society
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