The Homesteader
Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter – March 2018

Pupils Practice Fire Drill at Reid School
In February 1924, Reid School pupils showed the Fire Department they were ready. Read the story published the Bend Bulletin.

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Bend Host to Oregon Heritage Conference
Deschutes Historical Museum is proud to serve as the organizing partner for the 2018 Oregon Heritage Conference, April 11-13.

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Happy 80th Birthday KBND
“It’s time for Moor-ning Roundup.” That’s the way our days started when I was growing up in Bend in the 1950s. Kessler (Kes) Cannon would come on KBND radio at 7:45 AM with that call. “Morning Roundup” was a song request show, and we always listened to find out who had a birthday, a new baby, or an anniversary. If it happened to be one of our own birthdays, we would excitedly wait for him to say, “And this song is going out for Sue Fountain on her ninth birthday – happy birthday to Sue from all your family.” Then he’d play my favorite song, “Red-headed Stranger,” sung by Arthur Smith, before Willie Nelson made it famous. If it was my sister Sharon’s

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Radio KBND 1310 Kilocycle

Program Today

From left: Band leader Guy Lombardo; the cast from the radio show Sky King, Kirby Grant, Gloria Winters, and Ron Hagerthy; and comedian Jack Benny.
Children Leap Into Life Net: Fire Drill at Reid School is Made Realistic by Pupils

Reid School, named for Bend teacher Ruth Reid, is a big part of the Deschutes County Historical Society and its museum. Volunteer John Kent found the following article in the February 25, 1924 edition of The Bend Bulletin. It only proves Reid School students were always up for an adventure. Here is the article as it appeared in the newspaper.

Life saving equipment of the new hook and ladder truck of the Bend fire department was used for the first time Sunday morning when members of the department held a drill at the Reid school, with children taking part in the work.

The firemen took the hook and ladder outfit to the school principally for the purpose of practicing the life saving drills with the ladders, life lines and life nets, but children were quickly attracted to the ground of the Reid school and some of the braver of the youngsters demanded they be permitted to take part in the work.

After the 45 foot and 35 foot ladders had been placed against the building and members of the department went through the exercises of fighting an imaginary fire, the firemen finally consented to drill the children. The biggest attraction of the drill for the children was the leap from the upper stories of the school into the life nets, held by eight or ten of the firemen. The children jumped two stories into the nets.

One little girl was very anxious to make the two story leap into the waiting net, but her nerve failed her and she found it impossible to loosen her grip on the fire escape railing. Twice she tried to jump, but could not do it. Very angry at herself because the large group of spectators were laughing at her lack of nerve, the little girl said, “I will jump,” and dropped into the net. After experiencing the thrill of the leap, she was anxious to try it once more.

The firemen practiced the life saving work at the Reid school from 10 o’clock until 12 o’clock Sunday morning. Similar practices will be held by the department in the future.
birthday, he’d play her favorite, “Mockingbird Hill,” by Patti Page. Having your name called out over the radio was one of the best parts of having a birthday.

Kes Cannon was the main announcer for KBND, which was our only radio station for many years. Not only was he an announcer, but he also collected advertising material every day. He worked his way up and down Wall Street, checking to see if Wetle’s had a big sale, or if the Smart Shop planned to have late shopping hours for the holidays. He had his ear to the ground on every aspect of the community. He even announced the local football games on the radio. Kes Cannon later became a two-time state representative for our area.

Most people did not have TV sets until the mid-50s; before then, the radio was the center of household entertainment. When Bend was a small town, the radio provided a link for its citizens. KBND even invited the community into its studio. My aunt, Eleanor Fountain, told me about a singing contest they sponsored in 1939. The winner would be given a fifteen-minute radio show. Eleanor won the contest, and her sister Violet played the piano for her as they performed on the air.

Another example was an annual fund-raiser for various organizations whereby citizens could call in and request a song by a certain person in the community, and the requester would pledge money for that experience. For instance, you could request that Reverend “Penny” Penhollow sing “The Old Rugged Cross,” or Frances Boardman sing “Stormy Weather,” and they would be invited into the KBND studio to sing. There was another local request show that aired later in the afternoon called “By Popular Demand.” Older kids liked it because they could request a special song for a boyfriend or girlfriend. Usually these were the popular songs of the day, which made it fun listening.

Of course there were franchised shows as well as the local ones. My parents’ day started with the news, hosted by Frank Hemingway. He was a national newscaster who had been an early member of the KBND radio station. Some of you may remember his number one ad: “When I say coffee, I mean Folgers.”

We kids listened to “The Breakfast Gang” with host Mel Venter, and my mother always listened to “Queen for a Day” when she was doing the washing and ironing. Various women came on the show to tell their stories of hardship, and one of them was named “Queen” for that day. Along with that title, they also won a prize, such as a new washing machine. The call-in quiz show “Tello-Test” was so popular that it came on twice a day. Throughout the afternoon, there were music shows, religious shows, and the “Farmer’s Hour.” Community classifieds and event listings were included on a show called “The Bulletin Board.”

After school my sisters and I looked forward to adventure shows such as “Sergeant Preston” and “Sky King.” We sat on the floor right in front of the radio as if we were watching TV. There was a certain intimacy about listening to a radio show because it required your full attention. After we listened to our shows and had dinner, it was time for my dad to tune in the 6:00 news with Gabriel Heatter. Evening radio was filled with music and more network shows, featuring stars such as Jack Benny and Fred Allen. There were also dramas like “The Shadow,” which started out with scary music and a voice saying, “The Shadow knows…” or my mother’s favorite, “Nick Carter, Master Detective,” which aired on Sunday afternoons. Finally, at the end of a day filled with entertainment and information, Guy Lombardo serenaded radio audiences before sign-off at 11:30.

– Sue Fountain
The Deschutes Historical Museum is proud to be serving as the organizing partner for the 2018 Oregon Heritage Conference, which comes to Bend for the first time this April.

The conference theme is “People, Place, Change.” The conference brings together people who love and work with Oregon’s heritage in a variety of ways. Designed to be interdisciplinary, the conference focuses on all sectors of cultural heritage, such as historic preservation, museums, archives, libraries, historic cemeteries, main street organizations, and local and state government.

The conference home base will be the Deschutes Historical Museum but we will be incorporating conference sessions and events in locations throughout Downtown Bend. The Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards Banquet will be held in the historic Great Hall at Sunriver Resort. The keynote session, “Historic Places Welcome New Faces”, is presented by Jeanette Pierce, Executive Director of Detroit Experience Factory.

Registration is required to attend the entire event, but there are sessions that are FREE and open to the general public and DCHS members are encouraged to attend. Free public sessions taking place Friday, April 13 include Students Researching Oregon, Recent Discoveries in Oregon Archaeology, Significant Places: Setting National Register Priorities in Oregon, and Interacting with Archaeology. Locations and times are to be announced.

For schedules and to register, visit oregonheritage.org.

New Sisters Historical Society Forms

We are happy to announce the formation of the Three Sisters Historical Society and look forward to partnering with the society as they move forward. Already we have shared Sisters historical material in the archives of the Deschutes County Historical Society. The group has also coordinated with Jean Nave of the former Sisters Country Historical Society, which disbanded two years ago, to transfer materials to the new society. Their mission is to strengthen community bonds by bringing to life the history of the Three Sisters area through education, research, and public events.

Eventually hoping to have a museum building that can serve as a community asset for both residents and tourists, the organization is an incorporated non-profit able to accept tax-deductible financial support and material donations to be preserved for the benefit of the community. A five-member Board of Directors leads the charge, having hosted their first public event this past February. Your next chance to meet and mingle with the group is at 7 pm on March 13 at Five Pines Lodge where you can learn about Camp Polk and early Sisters from Jan Hodgers, a descendant of the Cobb and Hindman families. We look forward to working with Three Sisters in the future. Contact Three Sisters Historical Society president Sue Stafford at threesistershistoricalsociety@gmail.com for more information.

Pioneer Interviews Conducted

The Deschutes Pioneer Association is looking for people who would like to be interviewed about living in Central Oregon.

Deschutes Pioneer Association members, Sharon and Tony Rosengarth, have interviewed long-time Bend residents about what it was like to live in Bend.

The interviews are recorded, edited and placed in the Deschutes Historical Museum for future generations to listen to.

If you are interested in sharing your memories, please contact Tony Rosengarth at 541.410.3218.
**Local News Items**

**Bend Documentary “Back in the Day: Bend 1967” Available for Purchase**

This past holiday season, Zolo Media and Central Oregon Daily created a special documentary titled *Back in the Day: Bend 1967*, examining Bend at the end of the 1960s as big changes loomed in America and here in Central Oregon. That video is now available for sale via Zolo Media’s website, with 60% of the proceeds donated to the Deschutes County Historical Society.

Copies are available for $25.00 only through Zolo Media’s online ordering system: zolomedia.com/product/back-day-bend-1967/

Thanks to Zolo Media for highlighting our regional history through both ongoing series like *War Stories* and special programs like *Back in the Day*, and for your donations to DCHS.

**Mirror Pond Water Pageants: A Request for Photos & Information**

Those of us who grew up in Bend remember the experience of attending the water pageant staged in Drake Park along the banks of the Deschutes River.

There is a small park just across the footbridge that gives some history of the pageants, and as a result, visitors often come to the museum to ask for more information. They are captivated by the vision of a parade on the water.

The museum has a lot of information, photos, and even a few old videos, but there are some missing pieces. In an effort to pull all the information into one place, we have been researching what is available.

We are issuing a request to those of you in the community who might have old photos of court royalty, the floats, or the arch that was built anew each year.

The files are quite complete for the last few years of the pageant during the 1960s, but files from earlier years are slim.

It would be great to have photos of the queen and her court from each year, beginning in 1933. If you have some photos, please bring them to the museum. We can copy the photos and return them to you. Thank you.

— Sue Fountain

**Looking for Historic Sunriver Images, Long-time Residents**

The Sunriver Owners Association (SROA) is working with Homesteader editor Tor Hanson to create a book celebrating Sunriver’s 50th anniversary this year.

SROA is seeking those residents who may have photographs of long-gone Sunriver buildings, early events, people and scenery from the past 50 years. Images may be color or black and white. We are also looking for owners who have been here since Sunriver’s early days to interview and gather additional historical information.

Please contact SROA Communications Director Susan Berger at 541.585.2937 or email susanb@srowners.org.

The book will be published by Arcadia Publishing and will be available for purchase later this year.
Mark Your Calendars

MARCH

20  VOLUNTEER MEETING
Deschutes Historical Museum
Noon - 1 p.m.
Please RSVP to vanessa@deschuteshistory.org

27  HISTORY PUB: AN IRISHMAN IN OREGON – Father Luke Sheehan’s Lasting Legacy in Bend
Presented by McMenamins Historian Kerry Conroy
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.

Please don’t forget to reserve seats at deschuteshistory.org or by calling 541.389.1813.

APRIL

11-13  OREGON HERITAGE CONFERENCE
See full schedule at oregonheritage.org

Join Our Sustaining Circle: Get Your Membership Matched

The Deschutes County Historical Society has a new Sustaining Circle membership program, and thanks to members of our board of directors, you can join and have your dollars matched!

Sustaining Circle membership programs are great for non-profits and members. First, they provide stable gift giving over the course of a full year for non-profits, who regularly struggle with fundraising boom and bust periods. Second, they create a paper-free, don’t-worry-about-renewal-dates way for members to maintain their membership. They are also great for members’ budgets, too, enabling a way to provide support at a higher level without breaking their budget. Just $5.00 a month adds up to big support over the course of a year.

How does it work? We use two secure software programs, “Donorperfect” and “SafeSave,” to securely store your debit or credit card information with your membership. Each month, the amount you pledge is deducted from the designated account. You get can relax knowing that your membership is up to date and you’re helping keep history alive in Deschutes County. We keep working to preserve our history, make new exhibits, provide tours for school field trips, and more.

Starting this month, the next sixteen entry level ($5 per month) Sustaining Circle memberships will be matched by members of our board of directors, making your gift go even further. You can securely join online through our website at https://www.deschuteshistory.org/sustaining-circle/. Need assistance? Message Tracy Alexander at tracy@deschuteshistory.org to get signed up.