For years, Central Oregon has been home to the Oregon Festival of Cars, a fun Show and Shine of both classic and exotic cars from around the state. The Deschutes Historical Museum is pleased to announce that we are both the new home and the beneficiary for the 2018 Oregon Festival of Cars on Saturday, September 15. This Show and Shine is free and open to the public! Cars will be on display from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Spectators are invited to vote on the People’s Choice Award until 2 p.m., with awards for Best in Show prior to closing at 3 p.m. A portion of the registration proceeds will be donated to support the ongoing work of the Deschutes Historical Museum. Thank you to the Oregon Festival of Cars for selecting the museum as this year’s beneficiary.
The Church, the Pub, and the Engineer

By Bonnie Burns

One of the services of the Deschutes Historical Museum is researching the many requests we receive on a daily basis: family backgrounds, events, historical homes and sites. Recently, many have asked about a local pub that had been bought by a development company, that now faces demolition. True, it was an older building, but is there a history? Is it worth saving for posterity?

Many of Bend’s historical homes and buildings have met a cruel end without so much as a permit. The old drying shed on Colorado Avenue was torn down after-hours, after most people were at home, unaware of a bulldozer bringing down a historical monument of a lumber town. Since then, it seems more townspeople have become aware of the unique history of Bend and an interest in the preservation of significant buildings.

So, what of this Platypus Pub? What’s with this pub that was obviously at one time, a church? It sits at NE Lafayette and 3rd Street. Its door is actually at the corner of the church facing where the two streets meet.

The Church of the Nazarene built the odd-angled church in 1950. Besides Sunday services, the church had many rooms for Sunday School, social functions, and Bible studies. There were 12 classrooms, a pastor’s study, and an auditorium that could seat almost 400. At one time, the church even offered its facilities to the public schools. Museum volunteer Linda Morrison remembers attending first grade in the basement of the church.

In the 1970s, the congregation grew beyond the church’s capacity. They began plans for a new church on 27th Street and the church on 3rd Street was put up for sale. The unique design of the church easily lent itself to creative remodeling as a restaurant. Through the years, several restaurants followed; the Bistro, Ernestos, and finally, the Platypus Pub, possibly the last, soon to be on the chopping block.

But where’s the history behind all this, you may well ask?

The church and surrounding land are situated on property once part of the vast homestead of Levi David Wiest, one of the founding fathers of Bend. An irrigation engineer, Wiest arrived in Bend in 1900. As Chief Engineer of the Pilot Butte
The Church, The Pub, and The Engineer

—Continued from Page 2

Development Co. headed by Alexander Drake, Wiest designed the two canals that irrigate the high desert. He made preliminary surveys of the land, canal rights-of-way, surveyed and filed the original plat for the Bend townsite.

In 1908, Wiest acquired 160 acres through the Homestead Act. (The land grant papers are signed by none other than President Theodore Roosevelt.) Wiest’s property at that time was merely a wilderness of scrubby pines intermingled with junipers and sage.

According to an interview with his daughter, Marion Wiest Coe, in 1977, "...the homestead of 40-acre parcels up along the north boundary near where Wagner’s Grocery later built. It ran from there northwest along the (Pilot) Butte. Another corner ran from East Second Street and along south about four or five blocks, then out to Eighth Street. The ‘Forties’ were in the shape of an L, instead of a square." Wiest named his home and holdings "Wiestoria".

Levi eventually built an expansive, three-story home for his family, made of native tuff stone. It took many years to complete due to the restrictions of material allocated for WWI. The grand house had three verandas, a conservatory, and of all things, a bathroom on the second floor! Phyllis Coe Long, granddaughter of the Wiests, said there were many family gatherings and parties. Even then, it was still a wooded area that they called "The Park". Levi David Wiest died at the age of 75 in his home on 3rd Street in 1934.

Unfortunately, the historic landmark home was demolished in 1967 to make way for a gas station. The house and the original acres for years to come would be remembered as Wiestoria, or Wiestoria Addition, parts of which still exist today in a modern development community off Eighth and Revere Streets.

Unfortunately, the Platypus Pub building has not been designated as a historical site and so is not protected as such. We can only hope that the new owners will incorporate some of the unique architectural design of the old church into the new buildings - like the old drying shed, whose curved roof can be seen reflected on many newer buildings in town. A familiar tribute to the timber industry and the historical architecture of Bend.

Note: There is an impressive historical marker on 3rd Street where the original home was located. It is on a fence in the parking lot of a brake shop at 1315 NE 3rd Street.
Fragile Legacy Exhibit Highlights Van Vleet Family Photograph Collection

DCHS MEMBER CURATOR TALK WITH GEORGE JOLOKAI

September 20
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Light refreshments will be available

In partnership with Central Oregon Community College, the Museum is displaying Fragile Legacy, an exhibit of images from the Van Vleet Historic Photograph Collection. Originally curated in 2010 with COCC’s photography professor George Jolokai, the exhibit highlights 59 images from the 150 glass plate negatives in the collection. Dating from circa 1908 until the 1930s, the collection shows the early boom days of Bend, the mills, and its burgeoning community life.

Members are invited to a special curator talk with George Jolokai on Thursday, September 20 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Come hear about the process of selection and what it’s like to work with 100 year old glass plate negatives in a dark room!

Memorials

Barbara Buxton
Phoebe Degree
New Faces at The Historical Museum

New Collections Assistant Hired

This past month, Rebekah Averette joined the staff at the Deschutes Historical Museum as a part-time collections assistant on the third floor. Currently enrolled in Portland State University’s graduate program for history, Rebekah originally came to the museum as a volunteer. At DHM, she aids in cataloging artifacts and photographs as well as coordinating with volunteers who help document items before they are housed in their permanent locations. In addition to working with the museum, her master’s thesis research focuses on women’s health history in the Oregon State Hospital archives. On the side, she owns an incredibly handsome dog named Buckley and enjoys running, annually taking on the Cascade Lakes Relay and the Hood to Coast runs.

Student Intern Takes on Bulletin Photographic Archive

The Deschutes Historical Museum is excited to have a student intern this fall as part of the University of Oklahoma Museum Studies program. Taygan Byrns will spend 150 hours this fall sorting through several thousand pieces of photographic negatives and slides from The Bulletin archives that have not been individually cataloged. Because the collection spans a few decades and several negative formats, cataloging the material has been overwhelming for individual volunteers to attack. Taygan’s project will provide a plan for cataloging the diverse collection that volunteers can then use to coordinate the cataloging process. Taygan previously interned with our colleagues at the Nevada State Museum, helping move a large collection into new storage areas.
Spirits, Specters & Ghosts...Oh My!

Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend • October 12 & 13

The Deschutes Historical Museum is already getting their coffins in a row with preparations for the 2018 Historical Haunt tours. This is our annual membership drive and we would love for you to be a part of our team. The museum is looking for brave souls to volunteer some hours between 3:30 p.m.- 8 p.m. Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13. There are all sorts of stations that need filling. Are you interested in being a tour guide? We are always looking for new blood...

The Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend are one-hour guided walking tours which wind their way through the historic downtown district of Bend while guides weave stories of local history and the paranormal together. Each evening twelve tours leave the museum between 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., on a first come, first served basis. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. each day of the event: $10 per person 13 years and older, museum members are $5 per person. Museum admission is included with the tour price.

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering contact Vanessa Ivey, museum manager 541-389-1813 or Email: vanessa@deschuteshistory.org

Mark Your Calendars

SEPTEMBER

1 LITTLE WOODY
Noon—10 p.m. (Open to children noon— 6 p.m.)
Deschutes Historical Museum

11 VOLUNTEER MEETING
12:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

15 OREGON FESTIVAL OF CARS
10:00 a.m. —3:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

20 MEMBER EVENT: GALLERY TOUR WITH GEORGE JOLOKAI
5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

25 HISTORY PUB: THE HISTORY OF OSU
Presented by William Robbins
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m.
First-come-first-served seating, no reservations required.

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 12-13 HAUNT WALKS!
The Deschutes County Historical Society is pleased to announce its sponsorship of the 2018-2019 National History Day program in Deschutes County, in keeping with its mission to *preserve, promote and celebrate our local history*.

Interested teachers, parents and students are invited to attend an introductory informational meeting! Refreshments provided.

**Where:** Deschutes Historical Museum, 129 NW Idaho Ave Bend, OR  
**When:** October 3, 2018 3:30pm-4:30pm  
**What:** To learn more about this dynamic program for youth in grades 6-12.

For additional information on this museum education event contact Vanessa Ivey at 541-389-1813 or email vanessa@deschuteshistory.org

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**National History Day (NHD)** is a non-profit organization established in 1974. American Association for State and Local History; American Historical Association; National Council for History Education; Organization of American Historians; Society for American Archivists, and many others endorse it.

Each year NHD selects a theme designed to engage 6th-12th grade students in historical research, interpretation and creative expression. This year’s theme is *Triumph & Tragedy in History*. The theme chosen has a deliberate wide angle to world, national, state or local history; presenting students with many opportunities to examine relevant issues in ancient, recent or modern history. This yearlong program begins in the fall and culminates in the spring with competitions at local and state levels, and national competition in June in Washington D.C. To learn more about National History Day visit [www.nhd.org](http://www.nhd.org).