



Duck and Cover

Artifact echoes fears from the Cold War era. See Page 2

Volunteers Recognized

Four volunteers received honors for their outstanding service. See Page 5



Happy New Year The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—January 2019



A robust gathering of DHM volunteers and staff attended the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, many in their "Ugly Sweaters"

See p. 3 for a recap of a very busy "Year in Review" for 2018

New to Collection Item: Atomic Era Goggles

By Rebekah Averette

Throughout the “Atomic Age” (the period of time following the detonation of the first nuclear bomb, Trinity, in 1945) the United States conducted atomic tests with some regularity. During the 1950s, Las Vegas earned the nickname “Atomic City” and tourists visited with some regularity to witness the detonations firsthand.

A young woman with ties to Bend, Oregon was one of those who witnessed such an event in Nevada, on March 17, 1953. She sent a friend the goggles she wore to shield her eyes and wrote about her experience:

“These are the black goggles I ‘borrowed’ from the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. (known by its initials as L.A.S.L around here). Los Alamos, New Mex. Is where the atomic spy—Dr. Klaus Fuchs worked, under English auspices before all foreigners were ousted from American atomic work.

I wore these on March 17, 53’ so please take good care of them—but show them to anyone who might be interested.”

This letter from one Bettina (likely Betty Byars, daughter of knotty pine artist, Lou Byars) of Bend, OR was accompanied by a pair of black N-2 “all purpose” goggles housed in their original box. Bettina went on to describe what it was like to experience an Atom blast from relatively close proximity.

“Take them outside on the brightest – hottest day and look directly at the sun.

Imagine that 100 greater, plus lottsa noise and almost knocked off your feet, and you got an A-blast.

Love, Bettina”

The “Atomic Era” began during World War II with the Manhattan Project, which culminated in the production of the first nuclear weapons. The war ended with the bombing of the Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. “Little Boy”, a uranium bomb, was dropped on Hiroshima and “Fat Man”, a



plutonium bomb, was dropped on Nagasaki. Over 200,000 people were killed in the blasts. While historians now debate the necessity of choosing to use the bombs to hasten the end of the war, their use in World War II proved only the beginning of the worldwide use of nuclear power. In the 1950s, many believed that atomic power would eventually become the main source of power globally.

During the 1950s, the United States continued to develop and test atomic bombs. In 1950, President Harry Truman announced the decision to proceed with the development of the hydrogen bomb. Only a few days before his announcement, the Klaus Fuchs referenced in Bettina’s letter confessed to passing atomic secrets to the Soviets during his time working on the Manhattan Project. Just a year later, the first nuclear test occurred at the Nevada Test Site.

The nuclear test Bettina witnessed in 1953 was one of a series of eleven tests named Operation Upshot-Knothole. The test on March 17 held the deceptively innocent moniker, “Annie”. Annie was notable because the test was nationally televised and recorded on a kinescope, allowing viewers/listeners to experience the actual sound an atomic bomb makes when it explodes in real time. The test was also used to study the

—Continued on Page 5



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
Rebekah Averette, Registrar
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer



2019 DCHS Board of Directors:

Marsha Stout, President
Sue Fountain, Vice President
Nate Pedersen, Past President
Adrian Bennett, Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members:

Tony DeBone, Mike Berry, Paul Claeysens
Andrea Hunnell DuPree, Beau Eastes,
Greg Fulton, Karen Green, Tor Hanson,
Loren Irving, Heidi Kennedy, Bill Olsen, Susie
Penhollow, and Jane Williamson.

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



www.deschuteshistory.org
info@deschuteshistory.org

2018 WAS A BUSY YEAR: Annual Brunch Celebrates Museum's Volunteers

By Vanessa Ivey

On a chilly, blustery Sunday morning the Deschutes Historical Museum volunteers came out in force to celebrate an end to a busy year. A little before eleven on December 16 volunteers began arriving dressed in festive colors and many showing off their favorite holiday "ugly" sweaters. ***"2018 has been really busy, what with the opening of two exhibits, the "Community Beauty" memorial sculpture project and installation, the museum hosting the Oregon Heritage Conference and our annual events like the Haunt Walks and Chili Feed and Heritage Fair. Not to mention all the everyday work that goes on. Everything has been so successful and it's all because we have dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers. We couldn't do any of this without them",*** crowed museum manager Vanessa Ivey.

This year volunteers donated **3,230 hours** to the museum, which equates to over **\$77,970 of in-kind service**. The annual brunch is the staff's way of saying "thank you" and celebrating the volunteers. With many new faces, the group went around the room and introduced themselves sharing what they did at the museum, as well as how many years they have been a part of the organization. From a couple of months to more than 40 years, all together the room came out with over 300 years of accumulated service. WOW!



Don and Judy Hoiness

As in years past, the staff highlighted several volunteers for their outstanding dedication. This year's recipients were Ann Maudlin, Sue Fountain, Lorlee Ackerman, and Greg Fulton.



Gold Pie Pan winner
Ann Maudlin

A veteran volunteer **Ann Maudlin** has been an integral part of the Chili Feed fundraiser for many years, from prep work to cooking the chili, baking pies, and working the pie room. Ann is never far from the kitchen, both at home and at the museum. For her dedication and commitment to the Society's longest running fundraiser Ann received this year's Gold Pie Plate Award. You may also recognize her as a regular at the Little Woody, meeting and greeting.

Sue Fountain started volunteering five years ago as a Deschutes County Historical Society board member. Today, she still sits on the Board of Directors, however she has expanded her volunteering experience to other areas of the museum. Sue writes articles for *The Homesteader*, researches local topics, and utilizes her background as a librarian organizing the museum's book collection. On top of all that, she shares her stories and experiences of growing up in Bend with our museum family.



Board Members Sue Fountain and Greg Fulton



Volunteer of the Year,
Lorlee Ackerman

A valued member of the museum Board of Directors, **Greg Fulton** never stops thinking of ways to share the stories of Deschutes County with our community. He was instrumental in planning and putting into action the Deschutes Centennial tour of Bosco, the Holsman car, in 2016. His enthusiasm and excitement for the area's history is infectious. A carpenter by trade, he designed and crafted the beautiful display cases used in the museum's recent exhibits.

Since 2016 **Lorlee Ackerman** has volunteered at the admissions desk every Thursday;

—Continued on Page 5

DCHS NEWS

Grant Awards Help Fund New Projects

There really are no small gifts, and that is true in the grant world as well. Over the past month and a half, several small grants have been awarded to the Deschutes County Historical Society that help us keep our community engaged in learning about our shared history:

- **Deschutes County Community Development Grant, \$1,000**

Thanks to Deschutes County, this grant helped fund the 2018 Heritage Fair, providing funding for Heritage Fair speakers and marketing.

- **Deschutes County Arts and Culture Grant, \$2,000**

Awarded by the county commissioners, this grant provides funding for printing a new Heritage Walk guide, a piece that has been out of print for far too long.

- **All-Star Heritage City Project, \$3,000**

While not a grant awarded directly to DCHS, this project is exciting as a partner! DCHS helped draft a grant for the City of Bend Landmarks Commission who were awarded \$3,000 to help promote National Historic Preservation Month in May. The funds also support the production of a Teacher's Resource Brochure and Packet for heritage learning opportunities in our area. The city will work with the DCHS Education Committee to develop a brochure to help teachers connect with heritage education resources based on our local history.

- **Deschutes Cultural Coalition, \$2,300**

The Deschutes Cultural Coalition awarded DCHS \$2,300 for a brand new event at the Deschutes Historical Museum: Archaeology Roadshow! This event comes to Central Oregon for the first time in June 2019, produced in partnership with Portland State University's Archaeology Department.

Archaeology
Roadshow
2019



Photo taken by Gary Calicott Photography

In Memory of Shey Hyatt

Shey Hyatt, former Registrar for the Deschutes County Historical Society, passed away December 22, 2018 in Redding, California. Illness forced Shey to retire from DCHS in October after working for DCHS for six years. Shey was 70 years old.

In addition to her love of history and the museum world, Shey was active with the Deschutes Land Trust and the Oregon Natural Desert Association, and often took part in hikes and clean-up projects. Her energy seemed limitless and she was rarely idle. Her coworkers often had to ask "where did Shey go, she was just here a minute ago!" She will be missed.

Memorials

Shey Hyatt

Tracy Alexander

Continued from Page 3 — A Very Busy 2018

meeting and greeting visitors, processing memberships, answering inquiries and any task needing doing. She is a regular at the Little Woody in September and this year she challenged herself by becoming a tour guide at the October Haunt Walks and as a new school guide at the museum, touring hundreds of students around the galleries sharing stories of life in Deschutes County. She also makes some of the yummiest toffee, which she bakes for the Chili Feed.

Thank you to all our volunteers at the Deschutes Historical Museum. It is an honor and a pleasure working with each of you. It is through your commitment that the history of Deschutes County is made available to everyone.



***The Staff prepares
brunch for our esteemed
volunteers***

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch 2018



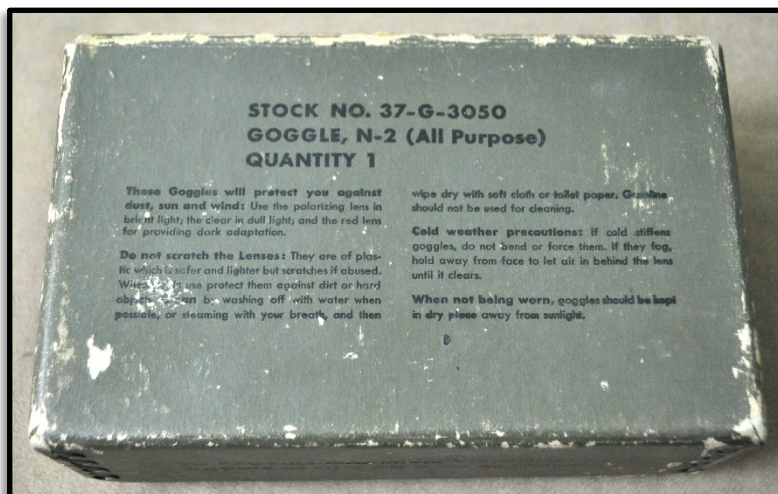
***Volunteers Bonnie Burns (Left) and Kim Boddie with
Tracy Alexander donning their "Ugly" Sweaters***

From L to R:
Volunteers
Robin Roemer,
Andrea Hunnell-
DuPree, Georgia
Springer, and
Phyllis
Hurworth

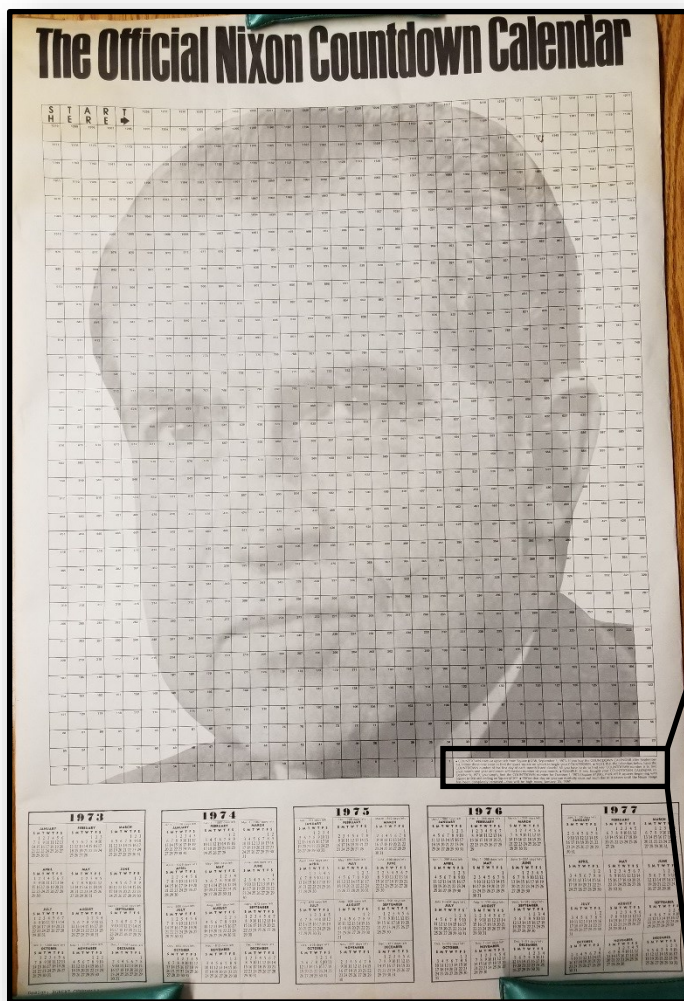


Continued from Page 2 — Atomic Era Artifact

effect a nuclear bomb would have on two wood-framed houses, bomb shelters created for domestic use, and automobiles. In an effort to calm public fears about weapons testing, civilian reporters, such as Bettina, were permitted to view it from News Nob, approximately 7.5 miles from the shot tower. Twenty reporters were also chosen to accompany troops and witness the test from trenches only 2 miles from the tower. A *Las Vegas Review Journal* article released on March 25, 1953 references nine "guinea pigs" from the armed services who volunteered to crouch a mere 2500 meters from the center of the explosion. Following the test, one of the volunteers maintained that all nine of the men who participated agreed that it would be safe to go even closer in future detonations and that proper coverage in a trench was adequate protection against an atomic blast.



Clearly, the scientists and doctors of the era did not adequately grasp the long-term effects of radioactive fallout. In her letter, Bettina is blithely without concern regarding her presence at the test. It would take years before the United States began to understand the true effects of radiation on people, even those relatively far from test sites who consumed products with radiation contamination. In more recent years, disasters such as those at Chernobyl and Fukushima have served to highlight the dangers of using this power. But the risks of exposure seemed to be far from Bettina's mind in March 1953 as she witnessed what must have been a truly spectacular scene.



More Collections Fun

This little gem from the collection reminds us that Americans have always had flair when disagreeing with one another in the political sphere. The instructions on this 'Nixon Countdown Calendar' detail how to mark off each square beginning with September 1, 1973. Once you have started your calendar, the instructions go on to say, then "FROM that day on you can dutifully cross out each day as it passes until the Nixon Image has been completely removed—that will be high noon, January 20, 1977." We're glad that the owner of the calendar never actually followed through, leaving the museum with a great piece of political memorabilia from a tumultuous time.

INSTRUCTIONS:

COUNTDOWN starts at upper left from Square #1238, September 1, 1973. If you buy the COUNTDOWN CALENDAR after September 1st, follow these easy steps to find the exact square on which to begin your COUNTDOWN. NOTE that the calendars below have the COUNTDOWN number of the first day of each month listed clearly! All you have to do to find your COUNTDOWN number is to find your month and year and count off the date number of your month. EXAMPLE: If you bought your COUNTDOWN CALENDAR on October 8, 1973, you simply find the COUNTDOWN number for October 1, 1973 (Square #1208), mark off 8 squares beginning with Square # 1208 and ending on Square #1201. FROM that day on you can dutifully cross out each day as it passes until the Nixon Image has been completely removed—that will be high noon, January 20, 1977.

Mark Your Calendars

JANUARY

- 1** CLOSED: NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 15** BEND GENEALOGY SOCIETY PRESENTATION:
Land Claim Research with Vanessa Ivey
10:30am at the Williamson Hall: 2200 NE Hwy 20, behind Jake's Diner
(see www.orgenweb.org/deschutes/bend-gs/ for more info)
- 15** VOLUNTEER MEETING: 2019 PREVIEW
12:00-1:00pm at the Deschutes Historical Museum library
- 29** HISTORY PUB: WALLACE STEGNER
Wise Man of the American West.
Presented by Dick Etulain, Historian and Author
McMenamins Old St. Francis Father Luke Room
7:00pm, doors open at 5:30pm
First-come-first-served seating, no reservations required.

