



## MYTH BUSTING IN TUMALO

*Get the real history behind  
the Tumalo Emporium  
See Page 2*

## TRAVELING BACK IN TIME

*Glimpse travel planning from the  
1950s with a featured artifact from  
"Cruisin' 97". See Page 5*



# The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—April 2019

*Coming in May!*

CENTRAL OREGON  
CELEBRATES  
NATIONAL  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
MONTH

For a list of events visit  
[DeschutesHistory.org](http://DeschutesHistory.org)



## Historic Preservation Month is Coming!

May is National Historic Preservation Month, and the planning committee is in full swing preparing a month of great workshops, talks, and heritage walks throughout Deschutes County. New banners supporting the celebration will be appearing in downtown Bend, and the schedule of events will be available mid-April. Watch your email for the complete schedule.

This year's kick-off event will be hosted at the Old Bend Post Office building (777 NW Wall St.) on **First Friday, May 3 from 5 to 7:00 p.m.** The lobby of this Depression-era building provides an opportunity to meet and mingle in one of Bend's most visible, yet least talked about historic buildings. The Post Office began construction in 1932 and served the community until 1983.

Other key dates to save include a window restoration workshop in Redmond offered by Chris Gustafson of Vintage Window Restorations on **Saturday, May 11**. On **Thursday, May 23**, Mike Powe from the National Trust for Historic Preservation will offer a talk on the 'green' impact that historic preservation offers communities. Details on locations and times coming soon.

# The Tumalo Emporium: Legendary Restaurant Meets Urban Legend

*By Kelly Cannon-Miller*

Growing up in Lakeview, Oregon with grandparents in the Portland area, my family drove through Bend on many, many occasions during the late 1970s and early '80s. Bend served as our halfway point as we traversed the state, a chance to stretch and have lunch. A couple of times a year, if our schedule allowed, Dad would announce that we had time for a 'treat'—which meant a detour to The Tumalo Emporium's buffet. As a little kid, it was a big deal to have a server slice roast beef straight to my plate. I then made a beeline for the macaroni and cheese.

The Tumalo Emporium began life in 1964 as a new location for Marshall and Mary Katherine Swearingen's antique and used furniture business, which had outgrown the Bend Woolen Mill building on Division. They designed and constructed the building themselves, styled to evoke the late 19<sup>th</sup> century frontier. Marshall's son, Will



Swearingen, remembers working on the construction in 1964 before joining the army. In addition to the antiques, they installed a small soda fountain with just six stools and three small tables, plenty for the Tumalo of 1964. By the time Will returned home in 1967, it had transformed into a thriving restaurant.

The Swearingen's antiques background gave the restaurant its feeling and unique appeal. Antique dining tables, chairs, Kitchen Queen cabinets, repurposed stained glass windows, and even a Mahogany bar salvaged from a Nevada ghost town were all put to use again in the building and décor. The Emporium's first stove, an antique itself, came from Elk Lake Lodge. Named Black Mariah, the stove baked the bread, cooked the roast beef, and more. If it felt like stepping into the past, it was with good reason.

The Tumalo Emporium was a labor of love, imagination and



*The Original Soda Fountain*

—Continued on Page 3



**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  
Adrian Bennett, Secretary/Treasurer

## Board Members:

Mike Berry, Paul Claeysens,  
Tony DeBone, Beau Eastes,  
Dan Ellingson, Greg Fulton,  
Karen Green, Tor Hanson,  
Andrea Hunnell-DuPree, 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.



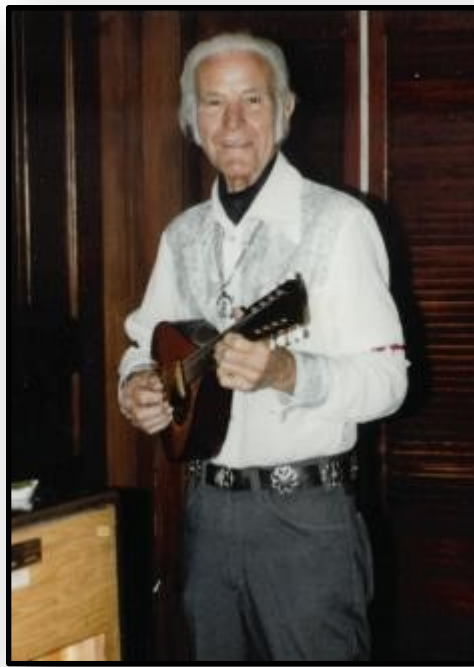
[www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)  
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***Continued from Page 2 — The Legendary Tumalo Emporium***

creativity. Mary Katherine's recipes drew newcomers and locals alike, with the occasional dish featured in the pages of *The Bulletin*. Friday and Saturday nights in the Bonanza Room, where drinks were served at the Nevada bar, Marshall played mandolin, Duke Warner played banjo, and Ginny Lincoln—owner of Donner's Flower Shop—played piano, and led customers in sing-a-longs.

The restaurant stayed a family affair for nearly 25 years. Marshall's daughters, Sue AuCoin and Ann Maudlin, took on early jobs. Sue was the first soda jerk and learned how to prepare ice cream desserts from Laura Wonser at Bend Dairy. In 1970, Ann and her then husband Dave Rasmussen took over management of



***Marshall Swearingen and his mandolin***



the restaurant. After Marshall retired in 1980, Sue joined Ann in managing the restaurant for a year and their younger sister, Timi Ringstad, often pitched in. Adding their teenage children to the staff made the restaurant a three-generation affair. Later, the neighboring outbuilding became "The Gallery" and supported many local artists.

In 1986 the family sold the business. The restaurant changed ownership several times between 1986 and 1991 when it was renamed The Tumalo Feed Company. Since then, the restaurant has taken on mythical origin stories. As the restaurant reinvented itself over the years, so, too, has its history been reinvented. Stories that the building was constructed in 1910 and served as a general store are simply

that -stories. Perhaps Marshall and Mary Katherine's Old West building design and attention to detail were a little too good, or the desire for Old West history too strong. The false legend made it to the menu of the restaurant and recently incorrectly printed in *The Bend Bulletin's* recent review. The Old West theme is a powerful one, and hard to overcome.

Today, new owners Mitch and Jen Thisius are bringing new energy to the restaurant, renaming it The Historic Tumalo Feed Co. Steakhouse. Their love for the history of the restaurant led them to inquire about its history, which is how the urban legend about the

building's real age came to our attention. Reaching out to Ann, they have gotten personal stories and history straight from the family. While the history of the building may not be as long as they thought, for those of us who remember, the real history does not need embellishment. The memories of gatherings at The Tumalo Emporium or a special lunch with your family provides the warmth of nostalgia that Marshall and Mary Katherine always intended. Jen and Mitch stand ready to carry on that tradition, allowing for new memories and cultivating the real history of a community-gathering place.

Finally, those in the know can still snag a piece of Lemon Velvet pie, made by Ann during the DCHS annual chili feed each November. If you're quick enough, the Emporium lives on in that slice of lemony goodness, if only for one more lunch.



***Mary Katherine and Marshall Swearingen***

# DCHS NEWS

## February History Pub Rescheduled

The irony was not lost on anyone that our recent History Pub on the history of climate change in the Pacific Northwest was postponed due to the record breaking February snow storm. We are pleased to announce a

new date for our presentation by Dr. Sean Munger! Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, join us for a special first Tuesday of the month History Pub at McMenamins Old St. Francis. Times are the customary 5:30 p.m. for doors, 7:00 p.m. start time. For your calendar, here is an updated list of the next three History Pub programs:

Tuesday, April 30	High Desert Muse: C.E.S. Wood and Eastern Oregon
Tuesday, May 7	The Sea Also Rises: History & Climate Change in the Pacific Northwest
Tuesday, May 28	Ancient Oregon: Where Dinosaurs Didn't Roam

## 15 Minute Histories Air on KPOV in April



April 2019 continues KPOV's 88.9 FM, High Desert Community Radio airing of Kessler Cannon's 1953 interviews with early settlers and pioneers of Central Oregon. Known as "15 Minute Histories," these interviews will be rebroadcast by KPOV on the second Friday and third Wednesday of each month from 9-9:30 am during the Historic Moments of Central Oregon segment of The Point, a local community affairs program. Join hosts Carolyn Esky, Louise Kaplan, and Mary Ann Hart as you learn about the interesting lives of Elizabeth Bogue (Friday, April 12) and Ann Markel Forbes (Wednesday, April 17). May will feature interviews with Birdie Stagid (Friday, May 10) and J. D. Donovan (Wednesday, May 15).

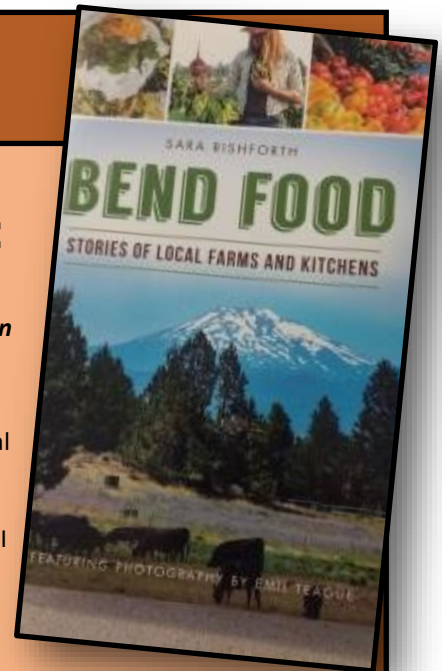
## Local Farms and Kitchens: *Bend Food*

*Book Review by Sue Fountain*

The Deschutes County Historical Museum has some excellent books about Central Oregon. I recently picked up *Bend Food* by Sara Rishforth, and one of the first chapters I noticed is titled "Barley Beef." It is about the Rastovich Family Farm, which will soon celebrate its 100 years of operation, making it the first farm in Deschutes County to claim that honor. Rishforth interviewed Rob Rastovich who instructed her in the history of the farm and how it evolved into Barley Beef.

The author introduces the reader to some wonderful farms and kitchens in our area, explaining the benefits of the farm-to-table movement. The book is enhanced by the beautiful photography of Emil Teague. One of my favorite chapters is about the Novicky Farm where Justin Novicky planted 500 tomato plants in raised garden beds. Not only does he carefully nurture them, he talks to his plants and plays music for them. People used to say that you can't grow tomatoes here, but Novicky is so successful that he sells his tomatoes to local restaurants.

Because of our high desert climate, we don't expect agriculture to be so successful, but with irrigation and the determination of small farmers the locavore movement has taken off. You are a locavore if you seek out locally grown and raised food. There are several farmers' markets in our area that receive produce from local farms such as Fields Farm, Mahonia Farms, Golden Eagle Organics, and of course, tomatoes from Novicky Farm. By the time you finish reading the book, you will want to buy all of your vegetables, eggs, honey, and beef locally.



## Memorials

**Carrie Jean Lucas**

Sharon Stasiowski





## Exhibit Changes Underway

Exciting exhibit changes are coming at the Deschutes Historical Museum. Fragile Legacy ended its run Saturday, March 30. The good news is that the exhibit isn't going into storage. Thirty-six images will be moved to Bend City Hall in early April.

In its place, we will begin installing *Cruisin' 97: Tourism and Travel in Central Oregon, 1930-60*. While tourism is often talked about, it is usually with regards to contemporary struggles and not in a historical context. Tourism and travel has always been with us, from the Bend Water Pageant to today's events. The exhibit centers around the publication of the first comprehensive travel guide to the state, published in 1940, and offering tour suggestions as you work your way down what was then known as The Dalles California Highway.

Visitors can rediscover a time when neon signs, drive-ins, and roadside attractions greeted visitors as they wound their way from Smith Rock State Park through downtown Redmond and Bend and past Lava Butte. This exhibit is funded by a grant from the Bend Cultural Tourism Fund and the Oregon Museum Grant awarded by the State Historic Preservation Office and Oregon Heritage.

## Remembering Virginia Yates

June 10, 1928 - October 29, 2018

Last year, we lost a poetic soul in Virginia Lee Yates. At age 90, Virginia passed away peacefully on October 29, 2018 in Corvallis, Oregon.

Virginia and Bill Yates moved to Bend in 1950, as Bill had been offered a job at The Bulletin. Virginia was a superb writer and would send glorious hand written letters to her children describing the beauty of her garden, the outdoors, the blue Bend sky, or anything else that caught her poetic fancy. After her retirement from the Bend Chamber of Commerce, she started creating cross-word puzzles. Her skill was so apparent that upon receiving her first submission, the puzzle editor for the New York Times wrote her a letter exclaiming that she was very talented and congratulating her on being the first Oregonian to sell a puzzle to the Times. She had her puzzles published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Oregonian and The Bulletin.

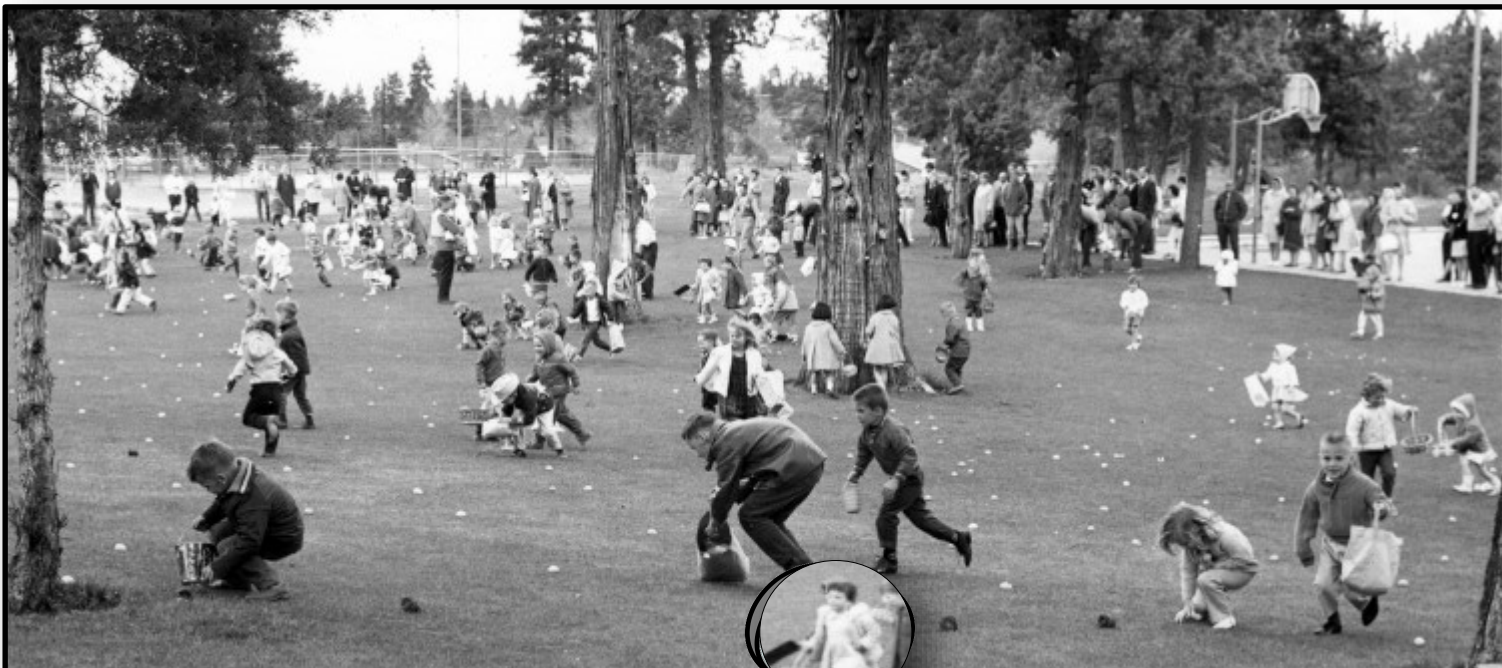
*~Extrapolated from The Bend Bulletin obituary*

***Virginia's family extends an invitation to attend her celebration of life on April 6 at 2:00 p.m. at the Riverhouse, 3075 N Hwy 97 in Bend.***



## What is it??









This "*Dial-Trav-L-Tips with Tel-A-Trip*" travel guide device is a plastic box shaped like a mailbox with long windows on top providing mileage to other cities from Bend, what routes to take and the name and phone number of suggested hotels once they arrive. Destinations all over the country are changed by a rotary dial on the left side. This device would be located at different motels for visitors to use in planning their travel routes. Look for this artifact in "*Cruisin' 97.*"



## Easter Egg “Eye Spy”

How many details can you spy in this photo from an Easter Egg Hunt at Juniper Park, circa 1950s?

*I spy with my little eye:*

-  An Easter egg hunter in a fur trimmed coat,
-  A basket ball hoop over parents who dote,
-  A young lady running with a kerchief in her hair,
-  Matching sisters that come in a pair,
-  A shiny pail for collecting eggs,
-  A patient dog waiting at the legs,
-  5 “eggs” that dropped from a tree,
-  Two cowboy hats, Yippee!

## Mark Your Calendars

### APRIL

- 12 “15 MINUTE HISTORIES” REBROADCAST OF ELIZABETH BOGUE INTERVIEW  
9:00 a.m. KPOV (88.9 FM)
- 16 VOLUNTEER MEETING  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 17 “15 MINUTE HISTORIES” REBROADCAST OF ANN MARKEL FORBES INTERVIEW  
9:00 a.m. KPOV (88.9 FM)
- 30 HISTORY PUB: THE HIGH DESERT MUSE: C.E.S. WOOD AND EASTERN OREGON  
Presented by Laurence Cotton, Public Historian, and Tim Barnes, Author  
McMenamins Old St. Francis  
Father Luke Room, 7:00 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m.  
*First-come-first-served seating,  
no reservations required.*

**Save the Date!**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH KICK OFF:**

**MAY 3 5-7:00 p.m. at the Old Bend Post Office Building, 777 NW Wall St.**

