



The Deschutes County Fair

As the 100th Fair gets underway, learn how it came to be in Redmond.
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The Little Woody

The Little Woody is coming up and we need volunteers. Check out this and other upcoming events.

See page 6



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—August 2019

Oregon's Traveling Vietnam Memorial On Display August 3-4, 2019

Saturday, August 3 features an all-inclusive high school alumni gathering for all Central Oregon area high schools from 12 pm to 3 pm on the lawn of the museum.



The Deschutes Pioneer Association and the Deschutes County Historical Society invite the public to view the Oregon Vietnam Veteran's Traveling Memorial at the Deschutes Historical Museum on August 3 and 4, 2019.

Created by the Umpqua Valley Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Oregon Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall consists of six panels that constitute a 24-foot-by-8-foot wall, evoking the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. Black center panels list the names of those killed in Vietnam and on the USS Pueblo in 1968. Side panels list the names of those who died in Panama, the bombing of Beirut, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The memorial names are updated annually.

Viewing hours are 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, August 3 and 10 am to 12 pm on Sunday, August 4. A short ceremony will take place at 10 am Saturday, August 3 with Bend's Band of Brothers presenting the flagline.

During the high school alumni gathering on Saturday, August 3, Barley Beef Hamburger sales are available and benefit the Deschutes Pioneers Association. The alumni gathering is supported by Rastovich Farms, Franz Bread, and Smart Foodservice.

Celebrating the 100th Deschutes County Fair

By Tor Hanson

The Deschutes County Fair is celebrating its 100th fair this year. Today an integral part of the county, the fair had a contentious beginning. Steeped in controversy between the business communities of Redmond and Bend, the location of the fair took on a political fight in Salem.

Bend was on a phenomenal growth curve in the early years of the twentieth century. Driven by the arrival of the railroad in 1911 and the establishment of the sawmills in 1915, the United States Census recorded a 910 percent increase in Bend's population between 1910 and 1920 (536 and 5,415 respectively).

Rodeo participants enter the parade grounds, 1947



In December 1916, Deschutes County was officially recognized by Oregon Governor Whitelycombe. As the largest city in the county, Bend's city fathers were vying for county seat status. Swept up in the excitement, Bend's Commercial Club started planning for the one thing that would set Bend apart from the rest of the surrounding cities – a county fair.

The neighboring town of Redmond had held a low-key potato show since 1906. The annual gathering brought potato growers together to showcase the area's most successful crop – the Deschutes Netted Gem. The gathering did not officially become the Potato Show until November 1911.

As the discussion about creating a new county went on, Bend's businessmen set their sight on creating a fair that would feature "some of the wild west features of the Pendleton Round-Up, but not on such an elaborate scale."

The first Bend industrial fair was held in the Bend Commercial Club room on August 31, 1916. The following year, the fair needed a larger venue and was held at the Richardson school house. Perhaps an outcome of the war or the influenza epidemic, the fair was cancelled in 1918, only to return the following year as a county industrial fair for youngsters during Reveille Week.

At the same time Bend experimented with an "industrial fair," Redmond businessmen created the legal framework for hosting a county fair. At the end of 1917, incorporation papers for a Deschutes County Fair were filed and accepted on April 3, 1918.

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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
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
info@deschuteshistory.org

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In January 1920, local Redmond lawyer and Oregon House of Representative Denton Burdick introduced a resolution to place the county fair in Redmond. Approved by both the Oregon Senate and House, Bend businessmen leaned on Governor Ben Olcott to veto the resolution, which he promptly did.

The Bend Bulletin's editorial staff had earlier expressed the opinion that Redmond was the logical place for a Deschutes County Fair. After the Bend Commercial Club aggressively pursued a veto to the Burdick resolution, the editorial writer at *The Bend Bulletin* decided enough was enough. In an editorial published in March 1920 titled "County Fair," the writer told Bend businessmen to stop acting "hoggish." The members of the commercial club finally backed away from the issue.

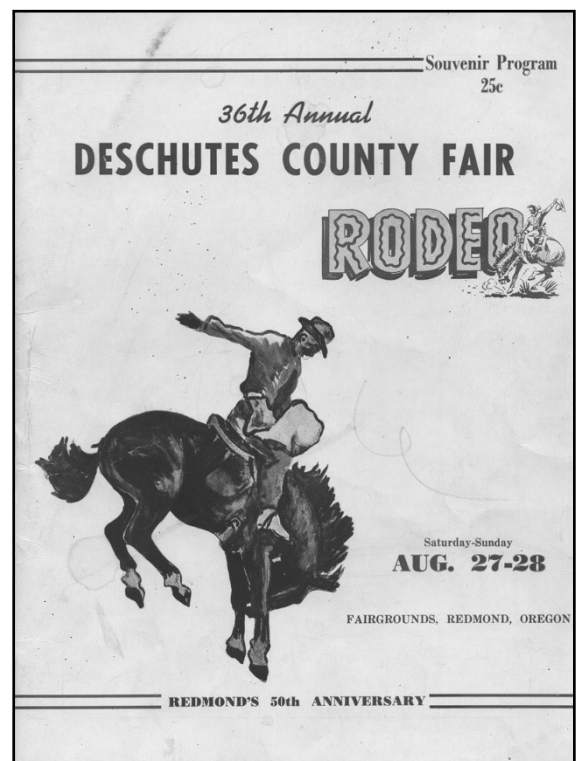
With the controversy finally over, Redmond prepared for the first Deschutes County Fair. In a last minute rush to prepare for the first fair, the fair board spent \$5,000 to finish the large 50x100 foot exhibit hall, stock sheds, and a perimeter fence. The first county fair premiered on Thursday, October 15, 1920 as the Potato Show and County Fair.

Although much has changed since the fair premiered in October 1920, much stays the same. Americana at its finest, much of what the fair has stood for the last 100 years is still on display: the rodeo, the showing of the animals, the carnival, and the chance to bump into friends you only see once a year.

Rodeo queen pageantry started in earnest in 1941. Although Eda Towne held court as the fair's first rodeo queen in 1925, it would take another 16 years before the tradition took hold. The annual Buckaroo Breakfast became a tradition in 1944. Originally set up as a war bond drive, the event caught on and is still going strong after 75 years.

The old fairground, steeped in history, is no longer. The old buildings and rodeo grounds were razed and replaced by Fred Meyer Shopping Center.

A modern fairground and expo center, inaugurated on July 27, 1999, now greets fairgoers. Although old timers grumble about the long walks to the animal barns and the barren look and feel of the fairground, the Deschutes County Fair remains an important part of life for all the communities of Deschutes County.



Top: Aerial view of original fairgrounds, circa 1950

Fair parade downtown Redmond, 1947;

Souvenir program, 1955

DCHS NEWS

SUBTERFUGE UNDER THE STARS Shakespeare Returns to DHM August 8, 9 & 10

The Guerrilla Shakespeare Co. kicks off its fourth annual Shakespeare production, *Twelfth Night (or What You Will)* at the Deschutes Historical Museum August 8-10. This outdoor performance starts at 7:30 pm. Bring your blankets and camp chairs, as seating is festival style. Picnics are welcome.

Set amongst the angst and ambiguity of the 1990s. Viola has 'shipwrecked' in Illyria. Vulnerable by her state and under pressure from society, Viola goes undercover as a man named Cesario and employs herself with the Duke Orsino. Things get complicated when she falls in love with him. Meanwhile, another prominent woman, the Countess Olivia has fallen in love with her male guise! Throw into the mix Viola's presumed-dead twin brother, Sebastian who arrives in Illyria too, and you have a classic debacle!

Tickets are \$15 (plus fees) at Bendticket.com, or \$20 at the door. Can't make the museum performance... no worries catch the traveling production in three other locations:

August 11	Village Green Park (Sisters)
August 15-16	Deschutes Memorial Gardens & Chapel
August 17	Maragas Winery (Culver)

New Film Footage Added to Cruisin' 97 Exhibit



An internet search for souvenirs for sale from the Museum of Wonders, Bend's forgotten museum of geology, recently turned up gold in an unexpected find. Film footage of a family vacation from 1937 showed what it was like to visit Bend when roads were barely paved and the mills were operating at full speed.

Found through an online film service specializing in providing stock vintage film footage, museum staff reached out to the film owner to see about acquiring a copy. Permission was granted for the use of the footage within the exhibit and for research purposes only within our collection thanks to the sponsorship of **Drs. Josh and Brandi Kuhn of High Desert Chiropractic and Massage.**

The family in the film is unidentified, but enough clues exist that museum volunteers on are the case to determine who they were visiting. The four minutes of footage can only be viewed within the exhibit, so make sure to plan your visit.



Crashing the Pet Parade

Much fun was had with swan floaties in the Pet Parade. Thanks to those who cheered from the side lines!



Save the Date!

Saturday, September 21, 2019

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rastovich Family Farm Centennial Celebration

The Oregon Century Farm & Century Ranch Program is a statewide recognition program established in 1958 by the Oregon Historical Society, honoring farmers and ranchers who have worked the same land for at least 100 years. The program is currently administered through the Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education. Since the start of the program 1,212 farms and ranches across the state have been registered.

Come September, the Rastovich Family farm will be the first in Deschutes County available for Century Farm designation! Still a successful, working farm it has kept pace with 21st Century technology. To celebrate 100 years of historic growth, the Rastovich family will open their cattle gates and barn doors to the public for tours and demonstrations. Plan on an afternoon of history and surprising modern-day farming techniques. More information about the event will be in next month's "Homesteader".



Remembering Donna Mae Meddish

July 6, 1934-June 20, 2019

Donna was born in Nicolaus, California, to Lester and Earlene Ricketts on July 6, 1934. She attended Yuba City High School and graduated from Chico State University with Bachelor's in English and Journalism. She taught at Yuba City High School and later received a Master's in Education from Syracuse University in 1961. Donna married Richard Ray Meddish on August 26, 1961 in Springfield, Illinois. They worked at Colorado State University in Fort Collins and University of Colorado in Boulder before moving to Portland, Oregon where she was as the Dean of Women for Pacific University.

After moving to Bend in 1969, she taught at Central Oregon Community College. Donna was a president of the Bend branch of American Association of University Women and was a founding member and researcher at the Deschutes County Historical Society. Donna played an important role in the renovations of Reid School and the museum in the late 1990s and the grand reopening in 2000, particularly taking interest in capturing the history of the school district.

Donna was an avid writer published in a variety of newsletters and *Cascades East Magazine*. She published "Rafting the Sacramento River" in 2015, and was working on a second book.

Donna is survived by her husband and her children, David and MaryAnn.



Memorials

Donna Meddish

Bette Andrews

Sue Frewing

Jim Barrett

Sue Frewing

It's Little Woody Time!

What better way to end the summer than sampling aged ale prepared in wooden barrels, while strolling the grounds of the historic Reid School building in the company of attendees dressed as gnomes? Started in 2009, The Little Woody Beer, Cider, and Whiskey Festival has grown into one of the area's most popular festivals. Local brewers concoct libations using historic techniques of wooden barrel aging. The results are small batch, one time only libations only available during The Little Woody.



There is a long history of fermentation of beer and stronger spirits in the high desert of Central Oregon, dating back to the late nineteenth century. This makes the setting of the Deschutes Historical Museum a perfect match, with a portion of the proceeds donated to the Deschutes County Historical Society.

The Little Woody happens Friday, August 30, 5p.m. to 10p.m. and Saturday, August 31, Noon to 10p.m. (Open to children Noon to 6p.m.). To volunteer for the Deschutes Historical Museum at this event contact Vanessa Ivey, by email: vanessa@deschuteshistory.com. To find a full schedule of events and brewers visit thelittlewoody.com

Mark Your Calendars

AUGUST

- 3, 4 VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL WALL AND DPA CELEBRATION**
- 3, 17 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 8-10 SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: TWELFTH NIGHT (or What You Will)**
7:30 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
Tickets available at BendTicket.com
Presented by Guerilla Shakespeare Co. *See attached flyer for more info*
- 10, 24 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 27 HISTORY PUB: THE BEAVERTON OUTLAWS; A Case Study in Resistance.** Presented by US Cultural and Modern History professor David A. Horowitz
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m.
First-come-first-served seating, no reservations required.
- 30 LITTLE WOODY AGED CIDER, BEER, AND WHISKEY FESTIVAL**
5 p.m.-10 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 31 LITTLE WOODY CONT'D: Noon-10 p.m.** (open to children, Noon-6 p.m.)



History Pub: The Beaverton Outlaws
Presented by the Oregon Aviation Historical Society

Join us for the story of Oregon's most notorious pioneering pilots. Called the "Beaverton Outlaws" these aviators flew in the face of the federal government in the 1930s when home built aircraft was marked illegal. Discover how these men, through their passion and dedication, forever changed the face of general aviation, as we know it today.

The Guerilla Shakespeare Company Presents...



TWELFTH NIGHT

(OR WHAT YOU WILL)

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

7 SHOWS ONLY!!!

8/8-8/10 @ Deschutes Historical Society (730 pm)

8/11 @ Village Green Park, Sisters (3 pm)

8/15-8/16 @ Deschutes Memorial Gardens (730 pm)

8/17 @ Maragas Winery, Culver (730 pm)

Tickets \$15 adv/ \$20 at door @ bendticket.com

90's



BEND
FUNERAL
HOMES

