



## Bend's First Centennial Farm

100 Years on the  
Rastovich Family Farm

See Page 2

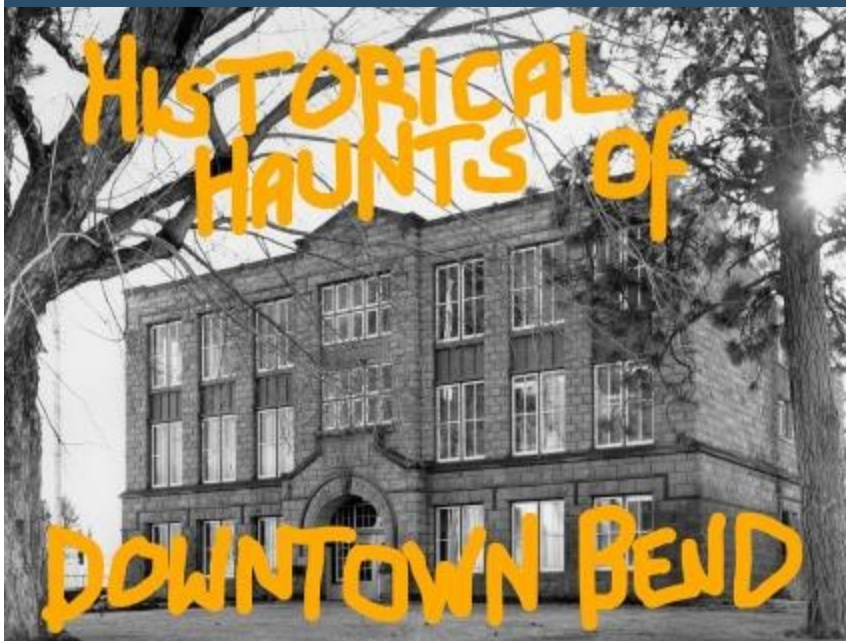
## Remembering Tony Rosengarth

We say good-bye to a local  
keeper of Deschutes  
County's history See Page 5



# The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—October 2019



## HOW TO SIGN UP FOR HISTORIC HAUNTS TOURS

Tickets go on sale October 11 at  
10:00 a.m. for Friday tours, and October  
12 at 10:00 a.m. for Saturday tours.

Tickets may be purchased at the  
Museum, 129 NW Idaho Ave, or by  
phoning 541-389-1813.

*Tour space is available on a  
first-come, first-served basis.*

Twelve one-hour tours will be offered each  
night with the first tour leaving at 4:00 p.m.  
and the last leaving at 7:30 p.m.

### Ticket price:

Museum Members	\$5
Non-Members	\$10
Children 12 and under	Free

*Museum admission is included  
with your tour so arrive early and  
explore the galleries and new  
exhibits before your tour leaves.*

Mark your calendar for two nights of haunting fun sponsored by  
the Deschutes County Historical Society, Friday October 11 &  
Saturday October 12.

Bring a flashlight and wear comfortable shoes as you tour the  
streets visiting historic locations in downtown Bend and hearing  
the history of the community mixed with stories of the strange  
and mysterious.

Each evening twelve one-hour tours leave the Deschutes  
Historical Museum every 15 minutes starting at 4:00 p.m. The  
last tour leaves at 7:30 p.m. Tour space is limited and is on a  
first-come first-serve basis. ***Be aware...this event does sell out.***

**Tickets are \$10 per person for non-members and \$5 for DHM  
members. Tour fee includes Museum admission. All tours  
begin at the Museum and end in Downtown Bend.**

# The Rastovich Family Farm, Bend's First Centennial Farm: 1919-2019

By Bonnie Burns

For those unable to attend the centennial festivities of the Rastovich family Farm, the following is but a brief history of what Rob Rastovich calls "the genesis" of the Rastovich family, 1919 – 2019.

The Rastovich Family is an American dream that began in a small village plagued by war and poverty. Once known as the Kingdom of Croatia-Slovenia, it became Yugoslavia, and now, Croatia. In 1907, George Rastovich (Djuro Rastovic) decided to escape the poverty and turmoil of his village and immigrate to America. He followed his two brothers who were able to sponsor him.

For the next seven years George worked several jobs around his adopted country until he ended up in Spokane, Washington, where he met Anna (Anka or Anica) Bogic who worked in the boarding house where he was staying. Anna, also a refugee from Yugoslavia, emigrated to America in 1912. She made her way across the U.S. from Ellis Island, a young woman all alone who spoke no English, to Spokane where she worked in her cousin's boarding house. After a very brief courtship, they were married in 1914. Soon the first three children were born: Millie, 1915; Marie, 1916; and Robert, 1918.



Word drifted north of the "knee-high grass" in the high desert of Oregon. With the promise of free land offered by the Homestead Act, George and Anna, with Anna's cousin and her husband, decided to move to Bend to take out a homestead. On September 9, 1919, George filed for

40 acres 7 miles east of Bend at the edge of the desert. There they found a high desert landscape: sagebrush, junipers, rocks, and rabbits. Later it was said of George's disappointment, "There's just a bunch of lava rocks and dust that the wind blew in, and we called it farming."

In spite of the initial disillusionment, it was 40 acres of free land - their land. They borrowed a neighbor's team of horses

and cleared the land of the lava rocks. They built a sturdy 4-room house and a barn out of the hardscrabble desert. With water from the Arnold Irrigation District, they planted potatoes, rye and alfalfa. Anna always tended a huge vegeta-



*L to R: George and Anna Rastovich wedding photo; George and Anna by their farm house;*

ble garden to feed her growing family and whoever else stopped by to visit. Four more children were born in Bend: Mike, 1920; Martha, 1922; Helen, 1924; and Dan, 1926.

—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  
Anne Goldner, Development Coordinator  
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)  
[info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:info@deschuteshistory.org)

## Continued from Page 2 — Rastovich Family Farm

Fruits and vegetables from Anna's garden were put up by canning, smoking, drying, and pickling. Even during the hardship years of the Great Depression, though very poor, the Rastovich family did not go hungry thanks to a plentiful garden, poultry, hogs, and rabbits. There were dairy cows for milk and Anna sold the cream to Bend Dairy. Hogs were butchered for every part - as the saying went, "Nothing was wasted but the squeal".

There was, however, always a need for supplemental income, as bartering only went so far. George occasionally worked at the Shevlin-Hixon mill. As the children grew older, they not only helped with their own farm chores, they worked at odd jobs on other farms to contribute to the family. No one got a personal allowance; any money earned went to the family. During Prohibition, George had a reputation among locals for his "craft" brews and fine fruit wines he brewed in the barn.

One can imagine that school was a respite from work for the children. School was a two-mile walk from their farm, so the children created short cuts through neighbors' fields. The boys even built a makeshift, one-rail bridge over the canal to shorten their route.

Richardson School was a two-room school on the NE corner of Highway 20 and Hamby Road. There were two rooms, no electricity, no gymnasium, no running water, not even a lawn. The curriculum was strict but recess and lunch hour were their fun times - kids played baseball or made up their own games in the dirt and rock piles.

There was a small community from the old country that often gathered and partied - lots of favorite foods, music, and most of all, dancing. Everyone looked forward to Saturday nights.

The most important festivity was January 7th, the Orthodox Serbian Christmas. Out came the Old-Country recipes of sarma (stuffed cabbage rolls), apple strudel, nut rolls, and a small, spit-roasted pig with an orange or apple in its mouth. The family joined in to stuff cabbage and roll out thin pastry dough, peel apples, and crack nutshells. George had been a cook in the Austrian army and joined in, often cooking up his own specialties.

When Anna died in 1956, George moved to a house in town, but still returned to tend the garden and do small chores. Dan, their youngest child, had already taken over the farm duties from his aging father. The older siblings married and moved on, except for Robert (Bob) who died in a tragic Shevlin-Hixon garage accident only 3 months after returning from service in



Anna in the potato farm

WWII. George died in 1976.

It is said that Dan complained a lot about being forced to assume the farm. Too young to go to war like Mike and Bob, he didn't get to travel or see the world. Gripe as he did, he improved the land with irrigation, sprinklers, new ponds, and expanded fences. As if that

wasn't enough, he was Grand Master of the Eastern Star Grange, sold insurance, and drove a school bus. His students fondly remembered him, and his fellow drivers were amazed that he always wore his cowboy boots, shifting gears with the best of them who wore sneakers.

It is his son, Rob Rastovich, who enthusiastically stepped up to bring the now 200-acre farm into its next century. In 2006, Rob returned from Silicon Valley with a Master's degree in Computer Programming and high-tech ideas to bring a new sustainability to the family farm. Soon he was talking with Bend's craft breweries, proposing to recycle the barley mash from the brewing process as feed for cattle. Any unconsumed mash is composted and used as fertilizer for crops. Rob now sells his "Barley Beef" to the brewpubs, restaurants, and the public. Computers streamline running the farm. He tracks his cattle with implanted chips and ranch hands ride ATVs to round them up. Also keeping with the times, for that farmer's "supplemental income", Rob planted industrial hemp, a profitable plant well suited to high desert growing conditions.

Technology withstanding, Rob feels a deep affinity for the land itself. He and his wife, Colleen, still live on the farm and have raised six children, continuing a family tradition of sustainability and progress that began a hundred years ago. He is hoping that, in years to come, one of his children will choose to carry on the Rastovich heritage.

George and Anna Rastovich raised their family in the little house that still stands - past the barn, past the potato root cellar, down to the large, shady lawn where their children's families frequently gather. Their eldest daughter, Millie, spoke for them all; "I am very proud of my heritage and my parents said they felt very fortunate to be able to come to the United States of America and raise a large family and become citizens of this country." They did indeed, "prove up" the land for generations to come.

Sources include *The Deschutes Country Book*, Helen (Rastovich) Barrett, Susie Penhollow, Rob Rastovich, and Emily Rastovich, from her family history book, *"Hardships, Joys, and Heartbreaks"*. All photos courtesy of the Rastovich family. See p. 5 for photos from the Centennial Celebration.



# DCHS NEWS

## **Welcome Anne Goldner,**



### **Development Coordinator, and newest member of the DHS team.**

From a background and long career in marketing and business development for both for-profit and

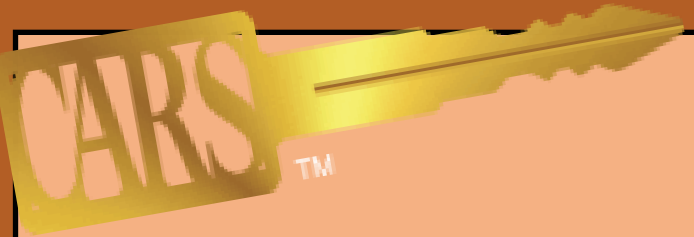
nonprofit organizations, Anne brings a fresh perspective for uncovering and growing opportunities within our community for sources of financial support for the Deschutes County Historical Society and Museum. Anne understands, "the best source for future growth begins with past and present members and community partners." Anne plans to begin her work by contacting our members to get to know them and why they support our mission by joining. We look forward to the addition of Anne to our team. Please feel free to contact her with ideas to help grow our organization.

[anne@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:anne@deschuteshistory.org). 541.389.1813.

### **KPOV Bend, 88.9 FM Broadcasts Kessler Cannon's "15 Minute Histories"**



Tune into KPOV Bend, 88.9 FM, High Desert Community Radio, to hear Kessler Cannon's 1953 interviews with early settlers and pioneers of Central Oregon. Known as "15 Minute Histories," these interviews will be broadcast on the Historic Moments of Central Oregon segment of The Point, a local community affairs program aired from 9:00-9:30 a.m. Join us in October to learn about the interesting lives of S. E. Roberts, Bill Burton, and Fay Pierce Beech. See Events Calendar on page 6 for dates and times.



### **You can now donate your car or boat to benefit DCHS**

Great news! If you are looking to clean out your garage, or have a boat lying around taking up space, you can now donate it to benefit the Deschutes Historical Museum. CARSTM has been in the vehicle donation business for over 14 years and is dedicated to helping non-profit organizations raise funds through successful car donation programs. They work with over 3,500 non-profits nationwide and have helped them generate thousands of dollars in vehicle donations. You can visit [careasy.org](http://careasy.org) to learn more about this program, and to start the process of donating your vehicle online.



### **Winter Comes... Again!**

Its time to say goodbye to our exhibit *The Great War: Central Oregon and World War I*, which will close on Saturday, October 5—If you haven't seen it, time is running out!

In its place, *Winter Comes: Oregon's Nordic Ski Heritage* returns for an encore, in a slightly smaller form. Sadly, the time arrived to return "The Klamath", Emil Nordeen's well-earned silver trophy, to the Vasterbotten Museum in Sweden. The exhibit celebrates the legacy of Scandinavian immigrants who brought their skiing traditions and competitions with them to Oregon, a tradition alive and well in Central Oregon today.



## Remembering Tony Rosengarth May 18, 1938 - September 5, 2019

Tony Rosengarth, beloved husband, father, and lifelong resident of Bend, Oregon, peacefully passed away at the age of 81 on Thursday, September 5, 2019, surrounded by his family.

Tony was born in Bend on May 18, 1938, to Anthony C. Rosengarth and Gertrude A. Rosengarth. Tony is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sharron (Matson) Rosengarth; his children, Debbi Fisher, Cindy Qual and T.J. Rosengarth; three sisters, Rita, Rosie, and Trudi; and two brothers, Richard and Vincent. His brothers, Vincent, Leo, and George died before him.

Tony retired as the Maintenance Superintendent for KorPine Particleboard and then Facilities Manager for Hooker Creek. He was serving as President of the Deschutes Pioneers' Association and developed the Hollinshead Museum. He took great joy in spending time with his family, exploring the High Desert, hunting, fishing, woodworking and farming. He supported his family in any way he could and will be deeply missed by his many friends and family.

Tony also served on the board of the Deschutes County Historical Society, working closely on many joint DCHS/Pioneer projects including completion of numerous oral history interviews, creation of a map of high desert homestead claims, and most recently sitting for an interview about the Hollinshead Museum for a short video.

In lieu of flowers, Tony would have preferred donations to the Deschutes Pioneers' Association to support the heritage of his family in Central Oregon. Please mail checks to Deschutes Pioneers' Association, 129 NW Idaho Ave., Bend, OR 97701 or donate online at [deschutespioneers.org](http://deschutespioneers.org).

## RASTOVICH FAMILY FARM CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 21, 2019



*Thank you Rob, Colleen,  
and the entire  
Rastovich Family*



*What a fun  
day on the  
farm!*





Save the Date

## November 8 & 9 Annual Chili Feed, Bake Sale & Raffle Coming Soon!

The weather is changing and autumn is in the air. Soon the holiday decorations will be transforming the Deschutes Historical Museum signaling the coming of the Annual Chili Feed, Bake Sale & Raffle **November 8 & 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**


Stop by the Museum for a tasty bowl of "Millie's Chili," made with locally-raised Barley Beef from Rastovich Farms, Deschutes County's first century farm, 1919-2019. Millie Rastovich Chopp's chili recipe has been the staple of this annual event for over thirty years, made by Millie herself and now prepared by her daughter, Susie Penhollow.

Please note the Heritage Fair will be absent from this year's event. However, the Heritage Fair will return at a future date, separately from the Chili Feed, with plans for more space for presenters and attendees. Thank you to the Bend Genealogy Society and those who have attended past years.

*For more information about how you can contribute to this annual fundraiser by baking, volunteering or just participating, call 541-389-1813 or email [info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:info@deschuteshistory.org).*

Deschutes Historical Society's Annual Chili Feed

# MILLIE'S CHILI


Made with  **BARLEY BEEF**  
Rastovich Farm

**BAKERS:**  
START  
THOSE

*Pies and Pastries*

The Deschutes County Historical Society needs goodies for their bake sale, November 8 & 9. We are looking for pies, jams, jellies, honey, cookies, breads, fudge, sweets and treats and all things yummy.

The bake sale is a part of the Society's annual Chili Feed, Bake Sale, & Raffle, with all proceeds going to the Deschutes County Historical Society & Museum.



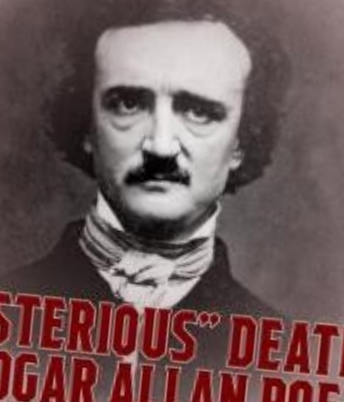
## Mark Your Calendars

### OCTOBER

- 11 "15 MINUTE HISTORIES": S.E. ROBERTS**  
9-9:30 a.m. KPOV 88.9FM
- 11 & 12 HISTORIC HAUNTS OF DOWNTOWN BEND TOURS**  
4-7:30 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum  
*Tour space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.*  
*Ticket sales begin at 10:00 a.m. day of the event at the Museum or by calling 541-389-1813.*
- 15 VOLUNTEER MEETING**  
1:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 16 "15 MINUTE HISTORIES": BILL BURTON**  
9-9:30 a.m. KPOV 88.9FM
- 22 "15 MINUTE HISTORIES": Fay Pierce Beech**  
9-9:30 a.m. KPOV 88.9FM
- 29 HISTORY PUB: THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF EDGAR ALLEN POE**  
Presented by Allistar Jacques, Poe expert  
**McMenamins Old St. Francis**  
Father Luke Room, 7p.m., **NEW!** doors open at 6 p.m.  
*First-come-first-served seating, no reservations required.*

McMenamins History and Deschutes Historical Museum present...

## HISTORY PUB



### THE "MYSTERIOUS" DEATH OF EDGAR ALLAN POE

PRESENTED BY  
**ALASTAIR MORLEY JACQUES**  
POE EXPERT

In the autumn of 1849 Edgar Allan Poe, America's celebrated poet, critic, and literary innovator, boarded the train from Richmond, VA to New York City. Poe never reached his destination. Even before that last rail ride in Poe's coffin, speculation had already begun as to what had killed the author. Those speculations have continued for more than a century and a half and, unlike Poe's own tales, a resolution to the mystery has not revealed itself.

**Tuesday, October 29, 2019**  
7 pm - Doors at 5:30 pm - Father Luke's Room - Free - All ages welcome  
**McMENAMINS OLD ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL**  
700 N.W. Bend Ave. - Bend - (541) 382-9174  
[mcmenamins.com/history](http://mcmenamins.com/history) #McMenaminsHistory

Why not stay the night? Use code HISTORY2019 for 10% off your room.



Save the Date!

Nov. 8 & 9:

Annual Chili Feed Bake Sale & Raffle





## HISTORICAL HAUNTS OF DOWNTOWN BEND TOUR

October 11 & 12

\$10 per person

\$5 DCHS Members

DESCHUTES  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
129 NW Idaho Ave  
Bend, OR 97703

For more information on this  
event, contact the Deschutes  
Historical Museum

541-389-1813 or email  
[info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:info@deschuteshistory.org)  
[www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)

### GET READY FOR THE HAUNTING TO BEGIN!

The Deschutes Historical Museum's **Historical Haunts of  
Downtown Bend** returns Friday, October 11 and  
Saturday, October 12. **Twelve one-hour tours each night  
between 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Your guide will lead you along  
the streets of downtown sharing tales of ghostly woes, bad endings  
and a pinch of the paranormal. Ticket sales start day of event.