



Best of the Best

*A recap of 2019 and the
Volunteer Appreciation Party
See Page 5*

Love from La Pine

*A treasure trove of early
records from La Pine added to
the collection. See Page 2*



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—January 2020



On January 14, 1920, Oregon became the 25th state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which stated: "The right of citizens to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State, on account of sex." Come celebrate women's suffrage with the League of Women Voters. Hear from a panel of local women politicians on why the vote is important to them, and why they choose to serve.

Tuesday, January 14, 5:30 p.m.
East Bend Library
62080 Dean Swift Road, Bend



Oregon 19th Amendment Ratification 100th Anniversary

*Members of the Women's League of Voters marched in the Bend Christmas Parade
Photo by Anne Goldner*

By the year 1912, the issue of a woman's right to vote had already been a topic of political debate in Oregon for over forty years. The first suffrage groups formed in 1870 and in 1884 a ballot measure to give women the right to vote in state and local elections appeared before voters for the first time. It was defeated; similar measures were defeated in 1900, 1906, 1908 and 1910. Similar measures were approved by voters in neighboring Idaho (1896), Washington (1910), and California (1911). When the issue came before voters November, 1912, it was the sixth attempt to pass a statewide measure.

That same year, Central Oregon was changing dramatically. Long separated from economic markets, the coming of the railroad to Bend in 1911 spurred dramatic population growth in Bend, Redmond, Tumalo, La Pine and

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New to the Collection: Records of the Early Days of La Pine

by Rebekah Averette

The Deschutes Historical Museum recently received a treasure trove of archival materials from the great-nephew of Alfred A. Aya, Sr., one of the early founders of La Pine. The donor, George Hawley of California, was the recipient of Alfred Aya, Sr.'s personal archive upon the death of his uncle, Alfred A. Aya, Jr. in 2018.

The collection includes personal and business letters, legal and financial documents, some photographs, and a plethora of other fascinating ephemera related to the founding of La Pine and its growth as a town in the early 1900s.

Alfred Aya, Sr. was a lawyer and secretary to the corporation that founded La Pine Townsite Company and the La Pine Commercial Corporation around 1906. The company did their best to promote the wonders of the new community and its surrounding land, encouraging settlers to the area. Mr. Aya kept detailed records regarding the establishment of La Pine and passed the records onto his son for safekeeping. Mr. Aya stayed in La Pine for a number of years. He traveled back and forth from his La Pine homestead to Portland during that time, as his fiancée and later wife, Grace Honeyman of the Honeyman Hardware family, lived in Portland.

Although the copious material related to the founding of La Pine and the efforts of the early settlers and promoters to attract the railroad and more commercial business to La Pine is fascinating and pertinent, it is some of the more personal materials that spark the imagination.

In the collection are more than one hundred letters written from Grace Honeyman to Alfred Aya during their courtship



and engagement and in the early years of their marriage. Grace wrote Alfred daily, sometimes even multiple times daily. Her endearing letters provide a uniquely personal perspective on Oregon life during the first part of the 20th Century. The early letters, during their engagement, discuss dress fittings, Portland social events, and daily shopping trips, frequently for the stationary she used in such quantities! The letters also speak to the strong connection the pair shared. She ended one letter with the words, "A great deal of love and then some from the one who loves you more than her life," February 26, 1914, and frequently referred to Alfred as her "dearest Antony". In another letter from later that year, she expresses, "You know I love you. My vocabulary isn't large enough to help me express all I feel so please don't think that because I don't talk that I don't love you to death – and as for being with you on the bridge, I never was so happy before in all my life".

The letters jump quite suddenly in time from immediately prior to their marriage in 1915, to 1916, when Grace begins writing the return address to "Mrs. Grace Aya". In that time, the couple also had their first baby, Barbara. She gushed to her husband about Barbara, "She is growing sweeter every day and I would eat her alive." The couple went on to have two more children, Roderick and Alfred, Jr. At the time of Alfred Jr.'s death in 2018, Barbara was still living at over 100 years old.

Aya also kept records of a land dispute he engaged in during the late 1930's. Alfred's family had made a land claim in the name of his mother, Amelia Aya, under the Carey Act. The

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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
Anne Goldner, Development Coordinator
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer

Sue Fountain, Editor

2020 DCHS Board of Directors:

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Sue Fountain, Vice President
Adrian Bennett, Secretary/Treasurer

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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

Continued from Page 1 — Centennary of Women's Suffrage

Terrebonne. Businessmen, homesteaders, ranchers, loggers and their families were busy building new cities where small towns once existed. Suffrage leaders in the Willamette Valley made a conscious decision to reach out to these new populations to spread the message of woman suffrage and seek their voting support.

For that reason, suffragist Sarah Erghott traveled to Central Oregon in May 1912. In a whirlwind trip, Sarah gave six talks in Bend and Redmond at local churches and civic venues. An indication of the warm reception she received, *The Bend Bulletin* gave Mrs. Erghott front page space printing her essay "Question As Old As Race Itself" in which she deftly puts forward the reasons why women should be allowed a voice in the political process. In response, *The Bend Bulletin's* editorial column praised the strength and professionalism of Mrs. Erghott, noting that if she had led the suffrage movement all along the matter would have been approved years ago.



The above photograph was taken on the porch of Drake Lodge in Bend during that May trip; Mrs. Sarah Erghott is seated in the center of the photograph behind the lady in black.

That November 1912, Oregon voters removed the words "white male" as voting requirements from the state constitution. Women won their right to vote as Oregonians, eight years prior to the 19th Amendment to the Constitution

granting it nationwide. Only a few weeks later, the women of Bend, Oregon became the first women to vote in the state in city elections held December 3. The eyes of the state turned to Bend to answer the question long posed by the anti-suffrage movement: would women use the vote if they had it? In Bend that December, more eligible women than men turned out to elect the city's mayor and councilmen, answering that question with a resounding yes.

On January 14, 1920, Oregon became the twenty-fifth state to ratify the nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. During the Special Session, Governor W. Olcott hoped that the legislators would give "unanimous approval" for ratification, with Sylvia Thompson (D-The Dalles), Oregon's only woman state legislature in 1920, proposing a ratification resolution in the House of Representatives and Senator Robert Farrell (R-Multnomah County) proposing a similar resolution in the Oregon Senate. Later that year, on May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives passed the 19th Amendment, with the Senate following suit two weeks later. The new amendment was certified by U.S. Secretary of State, Bainbridge Colby August 26, 1920. From the time the suffrage amendment was first introduced to Congress in 1878 to its ratification in 1920, forty-two years had passed. November 2, 1920, more than 8 million women across the nation voted in elections for the first time.

The 19th Amendment reads:
"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

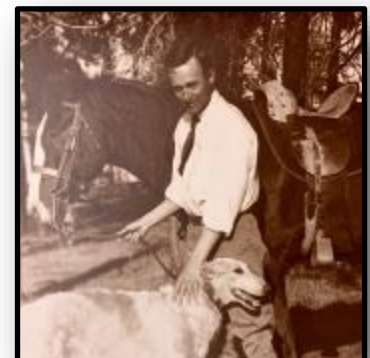
*Signed F.H. Gillett— Speaker of the House of Representatives
 Thomas R. Marshall— Vice President of the United States & President of the Senate*



Continued from Page 2 — New to the Collection: Records from Early La Pine

Carey Act of 1894 was designed to help the government dispose of public desert land. It was largely unsuccessful, and at some point in the 1930s, Deschutes County purportedly sold the land and the home the Ayas thought they owned in La Pine to a third party, a Mr. Eaton. Eaton then proceeded to have the entire homestead house moved closer to the main county highway, in the process dismantling the original fireplace built in the home and making several other changes. According to letters exchanged between Alfred Aya, his La Pine friend, William Foss (who owned a store in town), and his lawyer, Ross Farnham, it appears that the dispute became contentious and Aya's appeals for help in reclaiming his land went all the way to the federal government. By 1939, Aya had run out of options and, in the end, received scant compensation for the land and home he lost; it was a rather bitter end to his ties to Central Oregon.

The Deschutes County Historical Museum is delighted to have been entrusted with the care of this valuable family archive that sheds light on the tiny hamlet of La Pine and the aspirations its early founders had for its prominence in Central Oregon.



Alfred Aya, Sr. and dog

DCHS NEWS

Deschutes Public Library Centennial Celebrations with Featured Speaker Kelly Cannon-Miller



Libraries existed in the communities of Bend, Redmond, Sisters, and La Pine from nearly the beginning, as small volunteer-led lending programs. In 1920, Deschutes County formerly founded the Deschutes Public Library system, uniting all the area's libraries into one. DCHS is pleased to help celebrate 100 years of the library through a series called "Deschutes by the Decade", where we'll explore how the region developed and changed over the past one hundred years. Join us for the first presentation, The Roaring '20s, on January 16, 2020.

The Roaring '20s

The Roaring '20s in Deschutes County was a decade of growth and turbulence. Join us as Kelly Cannon Miller of the Deschutes Historical Museum explores this exciting decade and learn more about how the lumber industry soared, prohibition reigned and racial tensions tore into our communities.

Thursday, January 16 • 6 p.m. • Downtown Bend Library | 601 NW Wall Street, Bend

New to the Collection: The Rajneesh Times

The Deschutes County library recently left in the care of the Deschutes County Museum a number of copies of the 1985 "Rajneesh Times," the newspaper published at Rajneeshpuram during the years of the "sannyasin" settlement there. Most people living in Oregon during the 1980's have vivid recollections of the events and controversy surrounding the followers of the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. These included tensions with Oregon lawmakers and citizens, the "takeover" of the nearby town of Antelope, the poisoning in The Dalles, and the subsequent downfall of Sheela and the Baghwan, culminating in the closure of Rashneeshpuram in 1985.

A recent Netflix documentary, "Wild, Wild Country", brought the events back to the forefront of the American conscious. Local newspapers such as the Oregonian and the Bend Bulletin extensively covered the tenure of the "Rajneeshis," as they were popularly known at the time. However, "The Rajneesh Times" provides an alternative historical perspective on the period from those living at and running the commune.

The newspapers added to our collection include nineteen editions, spanning from April 5, 1985 to November 29, 1985. These were the last months of the commune and include the commune's take on the disgrace and ouster of Sheela, their last attempts to maintain the viability of the community, the arrest and detention of the Bhagwan, his deportation from the U.S., and the closure of the commune.



Another Way to Support DCHS:

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Deschutes Historical Society. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know— same products, same prices, same service.

Next time you order from Amazon, register DCHS as a beneficiary by going to this special website address: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0186079>

WANTED: Bend High School Year Books

Even though the museum is bursting at the seams with archival information and objects, there are still gaps in the collection. We have an extensive collection of yearbooks from area schools, and the collection from Bend High is nearly complete from 1917 – 1972. We are missing copies from 1967 and 1973. After that it gets a bit spotty, and by the 80s we have nothing. If you graduated from high school in the 80s or 90s, we would be happy to have your yearbook. It's history! The original yearbooks from Bend High were called *The Pilot*, as in Pilot Butte.



2019 Ends On A High at the DHM Volunteer Brunch

This year started with record snowfall, closing the museum down for three consecutive days in February. However, the weather didn't slow the museum down, as 2019 was filled with both favorite and new events, milestone celebrations, and changing exhibits. Each month something fun happened at the museum starting with the Bend Water Pageant talk at the membership luncheon and continuing with Historic Preservation kick-off showcasing the old post office, the Oregon Vietnam Memorial Wall visit, Shakespeare on the Lawn, swans in the Pet Parade, Central Oregon Archeology Roadshow, Bend Beer Chase finish line, Rastovich Farm and Kenwood School centennials, the opening of Cruisin' 97 exhibit and so much more. What a fabulous year! All of it made possible through the help of the Deschutes Historical Museum's dedicated volunteers.

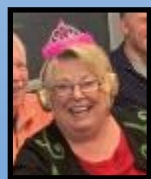
Volunteers have given over 3,400 hours of their time to the museum in 2019, which equates to over \$84,000 of in-kind service. The annual brunch is the staff's way of saying "Thank-you" to everyone who has shared their time making the museum a success.

"As I look around the room at those gathered and think of those who could not make it to the brunch, I am reminded how intergenerational our volunteers are. This year eight volunteers are from local middle and high schools. These young people came to us expressing an interest in learning more about their community's history and to take part with keeping it alive," stated Museum Manager Vanessa Ivey. "Their contribution has been brilliant!" Thanks goes out to Lily Alexander, Finn Edwards, Lilly Jasper, Zack Kennedy, Dylan Larson, Azlyn Lawless, Sierra Sheeks, and Dylan Waring.

Following the meal, announcements for Outstanding Volunteers were made, with congratulations going to Robin Roemer, Sue Sholes and Marsha Stout

Robin Roemer began volunteering with DHM in 2018, transcribing oral histories from the Pioneer Tales project. Transcription was a no-brainer choice for Robin, who has a BA in Anthropology from Western Oregon University. In 2019, Robin decided to branch out. She worked the opening night of Historic Preservation Month and the premier of Central Oregon Archaeology Roadshow, where she shared her passion of societies and cultures with the public. She couldn't stop smiling! Not getting enough of the public, she also lead summer tours. When Robin

isn't at the museum you can find her at her paying job, JoAnns, where her other passion, knitting, is an asset.



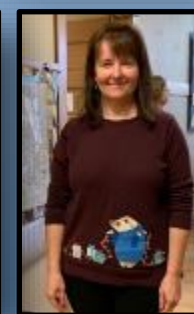
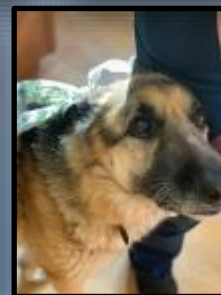
Marsha Stout became a volunteer at the museum not long after moving to Tumalo in 2010. Marsha is a museum ambassador, finding any opportunity to share the wonders of DHM. Since 2013, she has sat on the board of directors, and enjoys recruiting new members at museum functions. On Thursdays you can find her on the third floor, a list of members in front of her and the phone handset cradled next to her ear.

Marsha diligently works down the list reminding members their membership is up for renewal. "What I think makes it work is that I am there, on the phone with them, and can make it "easy"...I enjoy chatting with them. The "personal touch" never goes out of fashion."



Sue Sholes has been a longtime volunteer at the Annual Chili Feed, DCHS's longest running fundraiser. Baking is her thing so it only makes sense that you'll find Sue pricing, packaging, and selling the yummy goodies our members donate each the bake sale portion of the two-day event. This year the bake sale brought in over \$1000 under her watch. For her dedication and commitment to this annual favorite, Sue received 2019's Golden Pie Plate award.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made 2019 a success and for their commitment to make Deschutes County history available to everyone.





Save the date!

Annual Meeting of the Membership

Saturday, February 8, 2020 11:30 a.m.

At the Pine Forest Grange

63214 Boyd Acres Rd.

This is your chance to meet the board of directors and staff of the museum, learn about our upcoming plans for 2020, and find out how you can get involved. Best of all, it's a great way to simply have a delicious lunch and visit with fellow members and volunteers.

Cost for lunch is \$12. Please RSVP to the museum by calling 541.389.1813 or email us at info@deschuteshistory.org by February 6.

Send Us Your Programming Ideas for Historic Moments of Central Oregon



High Desert Community Radio

Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to listen to KBND's 1953 Kessler Cannon interviews with early settlers of Central Oregon on KPOV 88.9 FM, High Desert Community Radio. Even though we will finish playing these interviews in a segment known as Historic Moments of Central Oregon in the next few months, KPOV wants to continue its efforts to educate the community about its people, places, and events. We are soliciting ideas about what to do next, knowing that we have about 15 minutes of on-air time to present some aspect of our history. What history do we present? How do we present it? Where do we go to find historical records and documents? Who might we speak with or interview? Send any thoughts you have to Linda Heuser, museum volunteer and KPOV board member, at lheuser@willamette.edu. Help us in this important endeavor.

Mark Your Calendars

JANUARY

- 1 NEW YEAR HOLIDAY: MUSEUM CLOSED**
- 13 100th ANNIVERSARY OF OREGON'S RATIFYING THE 19TH AMENDMENT**
- 16 DESCHUTES LIBRARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS: THE ROARING 20s**
6 p.m. Downtown Bend Library, 601 NW Wall St.
- 21 VOLUNTEER MEETING**
1 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 28 HISTORY PUB: GRIT AND INK**
From Frontier Newspapering to the Digital Age: One Oregon Family's Odyssey, presented by William Willingham, author of "Grit and Ink"
McMenamins Old St. Francis, Father Luke Room
7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m.
First-come-first-served seating, no reservations required.

SAVE THE DATE:

- 8 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP**
Doors open at 11:30 a.m., Pine Forest Grange, 63214 Boyd Acres Rd.

