

100 Years of the Deschutes Library

*"Check out" these memories
of the Deschutes Libraries*

See Page 3

J.C. Penney

*From the O'Kane Building to
the old Penny Galleria*

See Page 2



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—February 2020

Presenting Your **2020 DCHS** Board of Directors

Executive Members:

Sue Fountain, President
Adrian Bennett, Vice President
Jane Williamson, Secretary/
Treasurer
Marsha Stout, Past President

Board Members:

Mike Berry
Paul Claeysens
Tony DeBone
Beau Eastes
Dan Ellingson
Greg Fulton
Karen Green
Andrea Hunnell-DuPree
Loren Irving
Heidi Kennedy
Bill Olsen
Susie Penhollow

See Page 5 for more details

Please Join Us for the Annual Meeting of the Membership
February 8, 2020 11:30 a.m. at the Pine Forest Grange Hall
63214 Boyd Acres Rd in Bend



Please join us Saturday, February 8 for the DCHS Annual Meeting of the Membership at the Pine Forest Grange Hall. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., lunch is served at 11:45 a.m. In addition to updates on the state of the society and projects for the upcoming year, this year's program explores **Deschutes County Now and Then: Cataloging the Aerial Photographs of Bill Van Allen, 1972-75.**

Collections Manager Rebekah Averette and DCHS Volunteer John Kent will highlight the collection by Bill Van Allen and the work done to identify and catalog the locations in the photographs taken between 1972 and 1975. Using Google Earth images, John has aligned the past with the present to illuminate just how much has changed, but some mysteries remain. The image above features a parking lot where today's city hall stands--what else has changed? Can you identify more buildings?

Lunch is catered by Paula Simila, with a choice of chicken tetrazzini or spaghetti with meat sauce. Cost for the luncheon is \$12.00. **Please RSVP by February 7** by calling the museum at 541-389-1813 or emailing us at info@deschuteshistory.org. Please indicate your entrée preference.

Thank you for your membership and helping us keep the society moving forward.

J.C. Penney in Bend

By Tor Hanson

J. C. Penney has a long history in Bend. From its humble beginnings in the O’Kane Building in 1918, the company built a brand-new store on the corner of Wall Street and Oregon Avenue which stood ready in 1929. During the next 59 years, the company became a fixture for budget-minded shoppers.

Bend was on an explosive growth path in the early 20th Century. In time for the 1910 Census, the small rural town counted 536 people within its city limits. That changed quickly when the railroad came to town in 1911, and five years later, when two Minnesota lumber companies established sawmills on the banks of the Deschutes River. By 1920, Bend was home to 5,415 people. Mainly a lumber town, with about 1,000 people working at each mill, local businesspeople originally catered to Bend’s bachelor millworkers.

Originally, Bend locals frequented E.A Sather’s general merchandize store (established 1904), Lara’s (established 1907), and Mannheimer’s on Wall Street (established in 1911), as well as other neighborhood stores, whether for clothes or food.

As the town grew, and more families settled within the city limits, out-of-town chain-stores established themselves in the core business district – on Wall and Bond Streets and the roads in between, Minnesota and Oregon Avenues.

The first major chain store to come to Bend was J.C. Penney. The chain was established in 1902 by James Cash Penney, headquartered in Kemmerer, Wyoming. The stores were



J.C. Penney Building on the corner of Wall St. and Oregon Ave., circa 1960-1970. This building is still known as the “old Penny Galleria”

simply called Penney but were rebranded as J. C. Penney Company in 1913. The store concentrated mainly on clothes and dry goods.

The first J.C. Penney store in Bend was located in the O’Kane Building on the corner of Bond and Oregon Streets and opened up for business on April 6, 1918, taking the place of Louis Bennett’s Grocery store. At the time of the grand opening in Bend, there were 197 J.C. Penney

stores throughout the United States. Bend’s store was number 179.

According to an article in The Bend Bulletin on April 8, 1918, “The J.C. Penney store opened in Bend Saturday with a complete stock of men’s and women’s furnishings and a staff of competent help.”

The local store carried goods which were normally sold through mail order houses. Store manager H. J. Power said, “by having the store in Bend there will be less tendency to send away for clothing.”

The Penney store eventually outgrew the O’Kane Building, and in March 1928 the company announced the construction of a new building on the corner of Wall and Oregon streets. The high-visibility location had previously been the home of the Lara building, one of the first mercantile stores in Bend.

The old building was torn down and replaced with a large 100 by 150 feet brick building. The J. C. Penney part of the building sported 50 feet frontage on Wall Street and 120 feet on

—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
Anne Goldner, Development Coordinator
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer



2020 DCHS Board of Directors:

Sue Fountain, President
Adrian Bennett, Vice President
Jane Williamson, Secretary/Treasurer
Marsha Stout, Past President

Board Members:

Mike Berry, Paul Claeysens,
Tony DeBone, Beau Eastes,
Dan Ellingson, Greg Fulton,
Karen Green, Andrea Hunnell-DuPree,
Loren Irving, Heidi Kennedy, Bill Olsen,
and Susie Penhollow,

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



www.deschuteshistory.org
info@deschuteshistory.org

In 1916, voters established Deschutes County in a break from Crook County and Prineville to better control their own destinies. Among the accomplishments of the young county was the foundation of the Deschutes County Library System (DPLS) in January 1920, with 3,488 books in circulation and 1,252 cardholders by the end of that first year. The Central Oregon community grew by leaps and bounds in the 100 years since, and so has the library. Now, with hundreds of thousands of items in circulation and nearly 90,000 library card holders, DPLS reaches people where they are, whether it's in one of our six locations, online, or through community outreach.

Join us as DPLS looks back on a century of community. For the first 10 months of 2020 DPLS will highlight a different decade of our history during each month. This month, Kelly Cannon-Miller will discuss the 1930s with **The Depression and Deschutes County**:

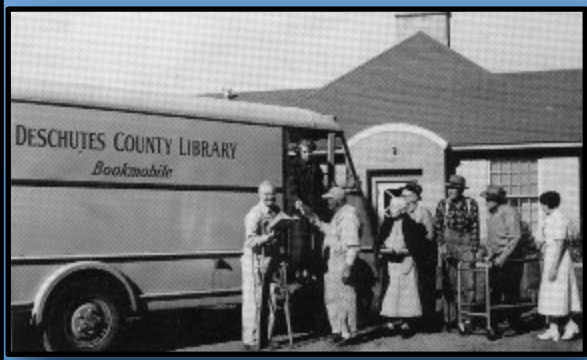
A decade shaped by The Great Depression, Deschutes County during the 1930s benefitted from the New Deal in ways that still benefit the community today. The decade was about roads and access to the forest, river, lakes, and streams. Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Redmond and Camp Sisters completed work on miles of roads into the Deschutes National Forest, as well as construction of the dam for Wickiup Reservoir and the North Canal Unit. It is the decade of the Pet Parade, Bend Water Pageant, the Pine Tavern, and the first permanent home for the Bend Branch of the Library.

Thursday, February 20, 6:00 p.m.

Downtown Bend Branch

No reservations required, will be live-streamed on Facebook

Excerpted from DeschutesPublicLibrary.org



Memories of the old Bend Library, by Sue Fountain

The Deschutes County Library System is turning 100 years old this year, and though I am not as old as the library, I do remember spending a lot of time in the original building in downtown Bend when I was young. The children's section was downstairs, and I remember that the children's librarian, Eleanor Brown, wrote several horse stories. I read those and every story they had about brave dogs named Shep or Chief. Once I outgrew those, I wanted to advance to the teen books in the adult section, but the stairway leading up to the adult level was very forbidding. It wasn't well-lit, the stairs squeaked, and there was a turn before arriving on the main floor where I had to pass the head librarian's office. I was terrified that Marion Grover or her sister Ivy would come out of the office to ask me where I was going. I don't think there was an age requirement to use the adult library, but I wasn't sure. I was prepared to give on the spot book reports if anyone asked me what books I had read or what I was looking for. They might even tell me to return to the children's area.

However, no one ever grilled me and I was able to sneak back into the stacks where I had to pull a string to turn on the lights in each row I visited. The whole arrangement of the library made me feel like I was lurking about as I searched for *Spring Came Riding* by Betty Cavanna or other teen romance novels by Rosamond du Jardin or Grace Livingston Hill. The stories were innocent, no vampires or dystopian future to worry about in the reading I did in 1955. The themes of today's teen reading have changed and so has the look and feel of our libraries. Now every branch is sunny, open, and welcoming. No more stern-looking librarians telling us to whisper.

Deschutes Historical Museum Director, Kelly Cannon-Miller, will be presenting a series of six talks this year titled "Deschutes by the Decades." The next one called "The Depression and Deschutes County" will cover the 1930s and will be held on February 20, 6:00 p.m. at the Downtown Library, and will be live streamed on Facebook.

DCHS NEWS



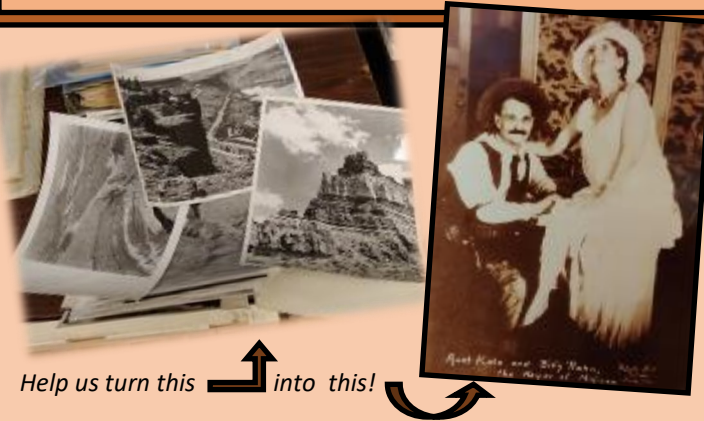
Meet Our Endowment Partner, Oregon Community Foundation (OCF)

OCF offers our Historical Museum supporters an easy and secure means for annual, estate, or in perpetuity philanthropic giving.

This is how OCF might assist you in your charitable planning:

- Contribute to the Museum's endowment during your lifetime or as a part of your estate planning
- As a means for donating cash, stock, real estate, or other assets to the Museum.
- Begin a family fund to support the Museum and other causes that are important to your support.
- Your gifted assets will be prudently invested in a diversified portfolio and your intent will be stewarded into perpetuity.

Learn about other tax-wise ways to support the Museum, including the IRA charitable rollover. If you wish to learn more about opportunities for prudent charitable giving, please contact Anne Goldner, DCHS Development Coordinator, anne@deschuteshistory.org.



Help us turn this into this!

Photo Scanners Needed!

Interested in learning how to scan and enter old photos into our museum archives? We have a backlog of historic photos that need attention so they can be accessed and used.

Training available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Contact Vanessa Ivey at (541) 389-1813 or vanessa@deschuteshistory.org



In Memory of Former DCHS Board Member Robin Gyorgyfalvy

September 16, 1951 - January 14, 2020

It is with great sadness that the DCHS family learns of the passing of former board member from 2015-2016, Robin Gyorgyfalvy.

Gyorgyfalvy was Forest Scenic Byways Program leader and landscape architect for the Deschutes National Forest. She developed an innovative policy for communities adjacent to federal properties – scenic byways and rivers, national monuments, wilderness, and conservation areas. In 2012 she became a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects Council of Fellows, a true honor to her professionalism.

About her role in the community, Gyorgyfalvy said, "It has been my deep passion to connect heritage, humanities, culture, and the arts to our surrounding environment through my work as a landscape architect with the U.S. Forest Service for scenic byways, visitor centers and interpretive exhibits, interpretive planning and site design, and conservation education."

It was under her guidance on the DCHS Board of Directors that two of the Deschutes Historical Museum's original traveling exhibits were created: "Finding Fremont," and "Winter Comes."

Robin was a true advocate for the arts and a long time member of the [Deschutes Cultural Coalition](#). In her memory, contributions, which will be matched and granted to qualifying nonprofit cultural organizations in Deschutes County, may be made to:

Deschutes Cultural Coalition
PO Box 4308 Sunriver, OR 97707

Continued from Page 2 — J.C. Penney in Bend

Oregon. The rest of the building was spoken for by J. J. Newberry, another out-of-town company.

The new store stood ready for business on April 30, 1929. The cost for the building came in at \$135,000 with local general contractor E. P. Brosterhous in charge of construction. The two-story, red brick building had retail space on the first floor and twelve professional offices on the top floor, including offices for the manager Power, assistant manager C. J. Girts, the advertising department, and the cashier.

The Bend Bulletin described the interior of the new building in detail.

"The main floor is 50 by 120 feet in size, with a balcony 50 by 40 in feet for ladies' ready-to-wear. The entire store is finished in buff and gray, with the fixtures in light oak, giving and effect most pleasing to the eye [...]. The balcony [...], where the ready-to-wear is to be placed, will be covered in a lovely, soft taupe rug."

Many long-time Bend residents remember the quirky, pneumatic tube system that transported sales receipts and cash to the cashier on the upper floor. If change was due, the cash was returned through the tubes to the sales assistant on the ground floor.

The store was staffed by 16 employees. A sign of the time, men were hired as department managers, while women worked as sales staff.

Like other construction projects in downtown Bend, digging through the tough rocks for the large basement that was included in the building plans was the hardest part of the construction. The basement contained a "modern steam system" that heated the building and a sales room for holiday sales stock.

During the 1930s, the Lumber and Sawmill Workers union had their office in room 7 on the second floor. The Penney building also had a "club room" which was utilized by the lumber union. When Socialist Labor Party leader, John P. Quinn visited Bend in August 1936, he spoke to the union members in the Penney club room. Considering the upstairs office space was leased to business professionals, it is not surprising that the "club room" was housed in the Penney basement.

The building was remodeled in January 1942. Number one on the list was the expansion of the basement, which was upgraded with a new concrete floor, fitted with new fixtures, fluorescent light, and new stair leading up to the second-floor offices.

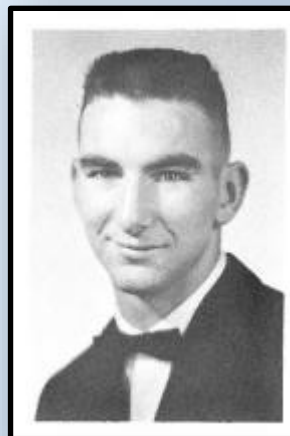
The newly remodeled store officially opened for business on May 15, 1942. The expanded, 6,500 square foot basement was marketed as the new downstairs store, "full of sparkling new merchandize!"

According to *The Bend Bulletin*, "[The basement] will provide room for new and enlarged departments of boys' clothing and furnishings, cotton fashions, curtains and drapes, blankets, floor lamps, table lamps and gifts." G. B. Thomas, who had been with the Bend store since 1920, and was promoted to store manager in 1932 told the newspaper, "we're doing our best to make your shopping at Penney's even more comfortable and convenient than it ever was before."

The downtown Penney store had longevity in downtown Bend, but eventually outgrew the location and moved to Mountain View Mall. The brand-new store officially opened on November 2, 1988.

Today the former J.C. Penney building in downtown Bend is home to Patagonia, Bend Mountain Coffee, and The Capitol, which is housed in the building's basement.

DCHS is grateful for the generous end-of-year donation given by Ed Donohue in memory of his brother, Walter "Wally" Donohue.



**Walter
"Wally"
Donohue
Bend Senior
High School
Class of 1961
Student Body
President**

**Dr. Walter James Donohue, PhD.
Jan. 8, 1943 - April 13, 2018**

Wally was born in Chicago, son of Thomas and Barbara Donohue, younger brother of Edward (Eddie). When he was 3, his family moved West, to Bend, Oregon. He and Eddie attended Reid School, and later Wally was student body president of his senior class at Bend Senior High School. After college in Idaho, he moved to San Jose, where he earned a PhD in clinical psychology. Wally worked with special needs students in the Fremont Union High School District (FUHSD) for over 30 years, developing one of the first therapeutic special day class programs in the county, and mentoring new psychologists.

Wally is fondly remembered for his strong work ethic and his loving support of family and friends.

Memorials

Virginia Davis

Brigitte Dysart

Walter "Wally" Donohue

Edward Donohue

Love Letters and "Vinegar Valentines"

Collections Manager Rebekah Averette found some gems from the love letters written by Grace Honeyman to her fiancé Alfred "Anthony" Aya, founding member of the city of La Pine.:

From February of 1914:

I certainly do miss you dreadfully Antony dear but think of the great joy which will be ours before very long..it is awfully hard to be patient, isn't it? I can hardly wait to see my mare and I think you are a lamb to give her to me...don't you work yourself too hard because I won't have it, do you hear? You must let me help you, won't you? You know we have much more fun working together, don't you think? That is, I can make a muddle of all your good work and you will have such a delightful time swearing at me (behind my back). Think of it, dear! Anyway, I will try my bestest best and if I don't do it the way I should you can scold me all you want. Let's hope the time will simply fly until I see you again. Good night Antony dear and remember that I love you dearly.

And from Spring of 1914:

Antony dearest, I wish you were here and we could go for a nice motor ride. Wouldn't you like to go? It would be fun to ride to Kelvin Grove and we could take a book up into the woods and one of us could read and the hours would fly away and then we would walk back to the house and take the car back home. I almost feel as though we had already lived the day through, you and I. (March 1914)

Well Antony dearest, I feel rather pulled to pieces after all the "love stuff"—you shouldn't forget yourself like that – it is most unbecoming for a supposedly dignified man of your position. I'd rather you wouldn't attempt to tell me HOW MUCH you love me since you get so worked up over it all. Don't ever do it again for I don't like it – SEE! (April 1914)



Volunteer Bonnie Burns found these "Vinegar Valentines." She discovered that Valentines Day was not just a day for lovers but also for haters, men and women alike. Sent anonymously, the vinegar cards were designed to criticize, reject, and insult your enemies— or just

someone you found to be extremely annoying. Men's professions and hobbies were mocked whereas with women it was their personality and lack of beauty. No gender, profession, or social status was exempt from vilification.



Mark Your Calendars

MONTH

- 8 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
11:30 a.m. Pine Forest Grange: 63214 Boyd Acres Rd., Bend
- 14 OREGON'S 161st BIRTHDAY
- 18 VOLUNTEER MEETING
1 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 20 DESCHUTES LIBRARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS: THE DEPRESSION AND DESCHUTES COUNTY
6 p.m. Downtown Bend Library: 601 NW Wall St.
- 28 HISTORY PUB: *Thunder Go North: The Hunt for Sir Francis Drake's Fair and Good Bay*
Presented by Melissa Darby, historian and author
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m.
First-come-first-served seating, no reservations required.

