



Music is Medicine

New to the collection, a piece of harmonious history
See p. 4

Redmond Roadrunners Turn 60

We honor this elite team of heroes See p. 5



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—October 2020

Shevlin Park Timeline

1929 – The Tumalo Hatchery closes due to continual freezing problems on Tumalo Creek. In accordance with the 1919 deed’s restrictions of the hatchery parcel, the 13.5 acre property reverted to Shevlin Hixon which in turn deeded it to the City of Bend to be added to the park. This brought the Park’s total acreage to 388.

1930 – The Skyliners Ski Club builds a 225’ X 125’ skating rink at the hatchery.

1941 – Brooks-Scanlon builds a railroad trestle over the park to access their timberlands to the west and north.

1950 – Brooks-Scanlon buys out Shevlin-Hixon. The Shevlin-Hixon sawmill was closed at the end of 1950.

1950s – The Hatchery building has fallen into disrepair. In the late 1950s Vince Genna, the city’s assistant recreation manager, expresses a desire to restore the building for use as a community center. It would be 15 years before this dream was fulfilled.

1956 – December. The last load of logs goes over the railroad trestle to the mill. Log trucks are becoming the

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Shevlin Park Centennial

Above: Skaters at the old Hatchery building; Inset: Present day Aspen Hall

This is where you go to get away from it all. To walk, run and bike. To picnic, read and reflect. To watch birds and deer and lizards and ponderous trees and a quicksilver creek. To listen to the wind, the creek, the voice of your friend, your partner, yourself. To teach your kids to fish, skip stones and explore the wilds, carefree and completely unplugged.

This is Shevlin Park. It is the crown jewel of The Bend Park and Recreation District and only four miles west of the hustle and bustle of downtown Bend. This coming January, Shevlin Park will be 100 years old. The remarkable story of how it became a public park begins in 1919, but its unique beauty was acknowledged as early as 1843 by one of the first explorers through this region.

See page 2 for complete article by Mike Berry

100+ Year History of Shevlin Park

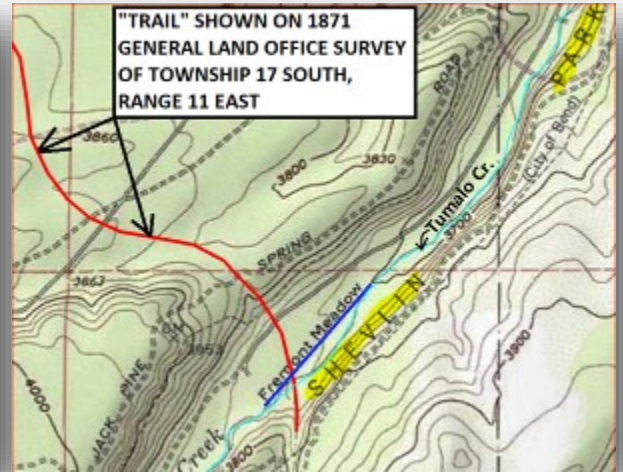
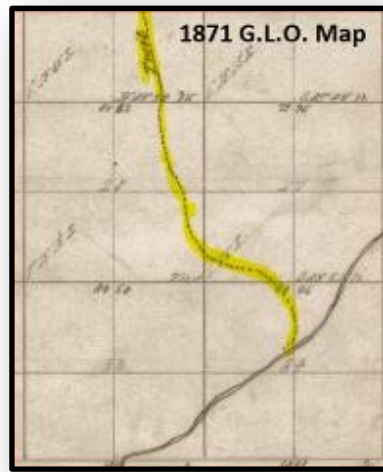
By Mike Berry

The 19th century explorer John C. Fremont was impressed with what would become Shevlin Park. The earliest written account of the Shevlin Park locale was made over 176 years ago by Fremont on his second expedition to the west. He had just finished exploring and mapping the Oregon Trail between Missouri and The Dalles. On November 25, 1843, with a party of 25 men, Fremont headed south from The Dalles to explore and map the Great Basin through the interior of Oregon and Nevada, and then on into the Sierra Nevada of California. Noteworthy members of his party included the prominent frontiersman Kit Carson, mountain man Thomas "Broken Hand" Fitzpatrick, famed Prussian surveyor and cartographer Charles Preuss, and 19-year-old Billy Chinook (who would later become a Wasco Chief and the namesake of Lake Billy Chinook).

In early December of 1843 the expedition was traveling south through Central Oregon. On December 4, 1843 Fremont made the following journal entry:

Dec. 4, 1843 - After passing for several miles over an Artemisia [sage brush] plain, the trail entered a beautiful pine forest through which we traveled for several hours; and about 4 o'clock descended into the valley of another large branch, on the bottom of which were spaces of open pines, with occasional meadows of good grass, in one of which we encamped. The stream is very swift and deep, and about 40 feet wide, nearly half frozen over. Among the timber here, are larches 140' high, and over 3 feet in diameter. We had tonight the rare sight of a lunar rainbow.

This camp is believed to be in the vicinity of Fremont Meadow in today's Shevlin Park. Using Preuss' maps, astronomical observations, and daily distance logs, the location of this December 4, 1843 camp can be approximated to the vicinity of



Tumalo Creek, the 40-foot-wide "large branch" noted in the journal. The existence of larches is a dead giveaway that the camp was on Tumalo Creek in the Shevlin Park area. A survey made 28 years later in 1871 (above, left) by the U. S. General Land Office (GLO) shows the location of a trail from the Camp Polk area that, when overlaid on a current map (above, right), descends from the north into the Tumalo canyon to Fremont Meadow and then exits the canyon through a draw south of the creek.

Fast forward to 1915 and Bend is on the cusp of becoming a booming mill town. Two big Minnesota lumber companies, Shevlin-Hixon and Brooks-Scanlon, are about to begin the construction of competing lumber mills on opposite banks of the Deschutes River just south of Bend. By 1915 Shevlin-Hixon owned over 200,000 acres (312 square miles) of timberland in Central Oregon, including most of the land that comprises today's Shevlin Park.

Also in 1915, a fish hatchery was built on the east bank of the Deschutes River at what is now the east end of the Bill Healy Memorial Bridge at Farewell Bend Park. By August of 1918 it was determined that, due to the creation of a mill log pond on the Deschutes affecting the operation of the hatchery, a better hatchery on Tumalo Creek, north of today's Shevlin Park Road, could replace the Deschutes hatchery. The existing hatchery infrastructure would be dismantled and moved, but the rest of the costs needed to be raised by local donations.

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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, Collections Manager
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer



2020 DCHS Board of Directors:

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Jane Williamson, Secretary/Treasurer
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Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office.



www.deschuteshistory.org
info@deschuteshistory.org

Shevlin Park Timeline

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primary mode of moving logs from the woods to the mills.

1957 – Brooks-Scanlon begins the demolition of the railroad trestle. Timbers from the trestle are used to build an addition to the public library on Wall Street.

1971 – A falling tree from a windstorm further damages the hatchery building.

1973 – Restoration is started on the hatchery building, with the stipulation that no public funds are to be spent. Brooks-Scanlon donated lumber. Volunteers start working on the project but progress eventually came to a standstill.

1974 – Filming of the movie *Rooster Cogburn*, starring John Wayne and Katherine Hepburn, starts in Shevlin Park. Parks director Vince Genna strikes a deal that, in lieu of rental fees for filming in the park, the movie company uses its idle film construction crew to finish restoration of the Hatchery. A crew of 15 works for 2 weeks repairing the building.

1975 – Hatchery building is dedicated on Thanksgiving of 1975. It becomes a popular community center for weddings, reunions, scout meetings and other gatherings.

1987 – August. The hatchery building is destroyed by an early morning fire. The cause was determined to be an electrical short in a ceiling fan. Ironically, the last event at the building was a reunion of the Vince Genna family.

1988 – Construction begins on the hatchery replacement building, Aspen Hall.

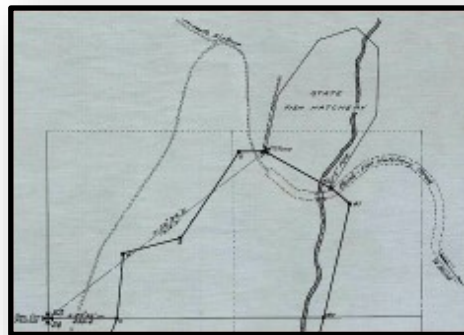
1990 – The Awbrey Hall fire starts near the northeast corner of Shevlin Park, burning 3,500 acres and 22 homes in 10 hours. The fire burns the bench lands above the park along the eastern rim of Tumalo canyon but does not descend into the canyon.

2002 – A 44-acre conservation easement is created on the east rim of the canyon for a public trail and as a buffer from new residential properties in the Shevlin Commons subdivision.

2002-2020 – Additional lands are deeded to the park, bringing the current area to 981 acres (1.5 square miles), 50 acres of which are developed.

Continued from P. 2— Shevlin Park

In January of 1919 Shevlin-Hixon donated 13.5 acres of land for the hatchery site north of the bridge crossing Tumalo Creek. This is the parcel on which present day Aspen Hall is located. By May of 1919 the new hatchery was in operation and became a draw to locals, owing to the beauty of the hatchery grounds and surrounding area. A new cause was embraced by the citizens of Bend – obtaining land to create a public park next to the pristine hatchery. At first a 5 acre parcel was contemplated and soon the idea of a 160 acre “natural park” began to get traction. The City of Bend negotiated with Shevlin-Hixon manager Tom McCann, who was a big advocate for the establishment of the park. In the Midwest he had seen entire forests mowed down without a trace left of their former glory and didn’t want to see this happen again in Bend.



Top: Detail of 1920 Shevlin Park Survey Map.

Below: The 1919 Tumalo Hatchery Building

Since the city of Bend could not afford to purchase the land for a park, N.G. Jackson, the supervisor of the Deschutes National Forest, proposed a land swap of national forest land to Shevlin-Hixon in exchange for the desired parkland. On November 18, 1919, like a bolt out of the blue, F.P. Hixon, president of the Shevlin-Hixon Company, announced that the company would donate their land in the canyon to the public as a memorial to the late Tom Shevlin.

The day after this announcement, *The Bend Bulletin* editor Robert Sawyer wrote:

The proposed gift of Tumalo Canyon to the city of Bend as a memorial to T. L. Shevlin is one of the finest things that has ever been known here. The logging of the canyon would be a crime: the destruction of the natural beauty of a spot that is unique in this vicinity; and yet, in the ordinary course of events, in an ordinary business and commercial world, the logging would have proceeded and the damage been done. The community is fortunate in having connected with it men who see a higher value in the canyon undisturbed than in the saw logs that can be taken from it and who are able and willing to preserve the greater thing for the general use.

Shevlin-Hixon owned the majority of land in the canyon, but a patchwork of four other timber owners’ land was within the proposed park. Shevlin-Hixon acquired the other properties to complete the park.

The boundaries of the new park were monumented and mapped by Robert Gould, a deed describing the park’s boundaries was drawn up, and on January 14, 1921 the Shevlin-Hixon Company recorded the deed that conveyed the park to the city of Bend.

The deed contained three conditions:

1. The park shall be always known and designated as “Shevlin Park”.
2. The park “shall always be used and maintained as a public park open to the general public for recreation and amusements of a lawful character and for no other purpose”.
3. Shevlin-Hixon or its assigns (appointees) shall have the right to cross the park with a logging railroad at any time in the future.

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DCHS NEWS

...And Now For Something Different A Virtual Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend

This year the Deschutes Historical Museum's Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend celebrates its 10th anniversary and as promised, we are offering something different in October.

As Covid-19 eliminated our walking tours, a handful of our Historical Haunt walk guides are putting together a virtual tour so no one misses this special year. Continuing to weave mystery and the unknown with photos, newspaper clippings and even a voice from the past into the local history of downtown Bend, the anniversary edition will also have footage from inside a few of the locations, something we've not included with past tours.

Ten years ago, this event started as an idea which three volunteers put together to bring the history of Bend to the community in a completely new way. That first year in 2010, we never anticipated how popular it would be and the staying power it has had as one of the museum's biggest fundraisers. The Deschutes Historical Museum would like to take this time and thank the community for embracing this event and making it a fan favorite.

Watch our website, www.deschuteshistory.org for a link to this special

10th anniversary tour- Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend 2010-2020 and don't forget to "Get Your Haunt On"

Good News and Bad News: Annual Chili Feed Cancelled for 2020

DCHS continues to navigate the choppy waters of 2020. Earned revenue from visitation is approximately 25% of the previous year and our two major fall fundraisers have had to be cancelled. That's the bad news. But there is some good news! DCHS has been awarded a CARES grant from the Oregon Cultural Trust in the amount of \$33,636, critical help in replacing our lost fundraising events. Thanks to the Deschutes Cultural Coalition and the Oregon Cultural Trust for their support through the CARES funding program, and to you, our members, who continue your support.



New to Collection: A Musical Treat

This beautiful console phonograph was acquired by donors David and Bobbie Schulze from their former neighbor and good friend, Helyn Van Huffel when she moved to Arizona for her retirement.

Helyn was a Bend native and the first female pharmacist in Bend. She worked at a number of pharmacies, as well as St. Charles, during her career. According to Helyn, the phonograph was likely the first one in Bend. It stood in the balcony of the old Bend Drug Co., where she was employed in the 1940s following her graduation from the Oregon State College School of Pharmacy. A 1909 *The Bend Bulletin* article noted that the Bend Drug Company was attracting numerous people to its place of business every evening, "The attraction being a concert consisting of numerous pleasing selections rendered by one of Edison's peerless phonographs. The company has a new machine and a large number of records."

Helyn eventually acquired the phonograph around 1950 after it had somehow made its way to the attic of Long's off of Reed Market Rd. Although we have not attempted to play it, David Schulze informed us that the phonograph is still functional. We are pleased to be able to provide it with a new home at the Deschutes Historical Museum.

The Season of Hotshots

By Bonnie Burns

This year of unprecedented wildfires coincides with the 60th Anniversary of the Redmond Hotshot Firefighters - formally known as the Redmond Interagency Hotshot Crew or, IHC.



The U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and state and county agencies sponsor over 100 Hotshot Crews throughout the U.S. Most are located in the western United States. Regional crews are known by their "mascot," like the Redmond Roadrunners. The primary mission of the IHC is to provide a "professional, mobile, and highly-skilled crew for all phases of fire management and incident operations." Elite squads of 20 firefighters are sent into areas where equipment can't go - they move in to clear the brush, dig fire lines, and cut down trees. They work in the steepest terrain and the hottest area of a fire, hence the title, Hotshots. They move quickly and efficiently, deciding the best direction of suppression. During downtime they assist in forest management like control burns and clean-up.

The chain-of-command within the crew of 20 runs: foreman, asst. foreman, 2 squad leaders, 4 sawyers, and 12 on the trench line - even numbered so that they are partnered up. Their main equipment: chainsaws, Pulaskis, and shovels. These items appear much like a coat-of-arms on patches, decals, uniforms. The Redmond Roadrunner's wheel contains the three.

Considering the statistics, one wonders, who are these Hotshots? Who would rush into a conflagration, risking life and limb? I talked with Kevin Harrison who spent two happy summers as a Hotshot in 1976 and 1977. Fresh out of Oregon State University, he applied to the forestry service and felt fortunate to land on the Hotshot crew.

Given the rigorous nature of the job, candidates are young, most likely under thirty, and must be in top physical condition. The training and certification require strength and endurance. Except for the crew chief, Hotshots are seasonal employees and spend the 6-month fire season living together, on call, 24/7. The Redmond Hotshots' Facebook posts make it seem they were at summer camp, not battling raging infernos on rugged, remote hillsides. For many, the camaraderie that develops lasts a lifetime.

The 1977 fire season was particularly arduous. Harrison's crew received commendations for, "action for some 48 days in the states of Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, and Colorado."



Redmond Hotshots crew 1977

There were no females in the 1970s Redmond crew but Harrison saw women start to enter the corps. Prior to 1975, due to few women applying and many supervisors not hiring women, Hotshots attracted only men. But by 2002 there were actually "8 women strong" in the Roadrunner crew. Their comments? "Awesome!" "Fun crew!" "Pure joy!"

And they had spent 35 days on the infamous Biscuit Fire!

Now the brave traditions of brotherhood is joined by a sisterhood who form a strong community that emphasizes the positivity of hard work and satisfaction of a job well done, aware of the ever-present shadow of disaster or tragedy. Heroes, all.

Continued from P. 3— Shevlin Park



Railroad trestle over Shevlin Park

In 1941 Brooks-Scanlon, as an assignee of Shevlin-Hixon, used the third condition to build a railroad trestle through the park to reach their vast timber holdings to the north and west of Tumalo Creek.

Shevlin-Hixon sold to Brooks-Scanlon in 1950. The foresight of those who created Shevlin Park —local community members, Shevlin-Hixon management, the U. S. Forest Service and the Bend city council —is remarkable and the gift by Shevlin-Hixon is timeless. In 1919 most of the surrounding timberland was still virgin forests of old growth Ponderosa Pine. From a layperson's viewpoint it probably seemed it would last forever. It didn't, but with proper management Shevlin Park will, to the benefit and enjoyment of the public in perpetuity.



Tumalo Creek bridge at Shevlin Park, photo courtesy of the Bowman Museum

Letters to the Editor

The Homesteader staff would love to hear from you, its readers. If you have a question, comment, or a correction about one of our stories, please write to us. Also, you may have a story of your own to submit, and we welcome that as well.

Write to us at:

info@deschuteshistory.org

Attn. Homesteader on the subject line.

Here is our first letter:

Dear Homesteader Staff,

Last month's front page story featured a photo of a second grade class at Reid School.

Sharon Fountain was identified, but there are others in that class with Bend history. The first girl on the left in the back row is Jeanne Kremers who was a Water Pageant Princess in 1964, and her aunt, Margaret Fuller, was a princess in 1937.

Directly in front of Jeanne in the second row is Ray Gumpert whose mother was the Water Pageant Queen in 1934 and the Pioneer Queen in 1995.

Who else do you know?

Sue Fountain

DCHS President



Coming next month:

Let There Be Light: The History of Bend's Water Pageant

From DCHS and Future Filmworks, learn the history behind Bend's Water Pageant, a one of a kind event that entertained audiences for three decades. Featuring photos from the DCHS collections and interviews with past pageant royalty. Member premiere screening at The Tower Theatre, online streaming with BendFilm, and DVD sales coming this November!

Mark Your Calendars

OCTOBER

While DCHS develops online programming for November, please check out the history programming made possible by the Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program at COCC.

The Great Tide of Humanity: Thoreau, Race & Gender Reform in 19th Century Concord, Massachusetts

A panel discussion on how 19th century thinkers and activists guide us in addressing race and gender reform today.

Thursday, October 15, 4:30 p.m PST

VIRTUAL EVENT -- Tickets \$5

(students are free - email cgilbride@cocc.edu)

Vaccines: History, Science & Ethics

Jacob M. Appel - MD JD MPH

Wednesday, October 28, 6 p.m.

VIRTUAL EVENT -- FREE and OPEN to the public

Register for these programs online at <https://www.cocc.edu/departments/foundation/vsp/>



Memorials

Denis Berrigan

Steve and Carol Rooney