

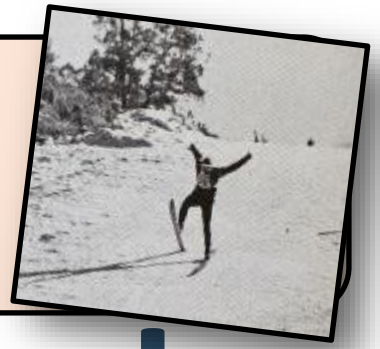


History Mystery

Using a list of clues, can you solve this history mystery? See p. 6

Lost Ski Areas

What Bend landmark was once used as a ski jump? See p. 2



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—April 2021



St. Joseph on display at DHM

Over the past year, the St. Charles Foundation has gradually been handing over care of an extensive archival collection to the Deschutes Historical Museum. The collection includes all manner of items related to the history of St. Charles Hospital, including photographs, papers, scrapbooks, and a variety of other very interesting artifacts from the hospital's early years to more recent history. One of the artifacts currently on loan, a five-foot tall bronze cast statue of St. Joseph, has a particularly colorful history.

The statue was donated to St. Charles Hospital in 1975 by Duane Gilmore, and it had previously stood in a niche at St. Joseph Hospital in La Grande. The donor reportedly wanted the statue to go to a home that particularly honored St. Joseph, patron saint of workers. As St. Charles Hospital was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph from Tipton, Indiana, it was a perfect fit. When CEO, Sister Kathryn Hellman wrote Mr. Gilmore a thank you note, she stated that the St. Joseph had arrived painted, but was in the process of being stripped and restored to the original bronze. He was to stand in the courtyard at the front entrance of the hospital. But St. Joseph's travels would prove far from over.

Sometime during the early spring or summer of 1982, the statue went missing. Although many mistakenly thought he had been taken for routine maintenance, the statue had actually been stolen. Luckily, when the canals were drained for maintenance by the Irrigation District months later, a now-beheaded St. Joseph was found and recovered from an empty canal. The perpetrators were never found.

The two pieces of St. Joseph were returned to St. Charles Hospital, where his head and body were reunited by a local "surgeon welder". Following his rather extreme surgery, "St. Joe" was allowed to convalesce in one of the hospital beds before returning to his normal post. The scars from the incident are still visible on his neck today where he stands vigil next to one of the original St. Charles Hospital entrance signs in the DHM exhibit, "Quarantine, Quinine, and Moonshine". It is unclear what year the statue was removed from his post outside the hospital, but he waited patiently in storage for a number of years before making his way to his current home at DHM.

This statue was not the only St. Joseph to grace the grounds of St. Charles Hospital. In 1937, noted rock hound Mrs. John Matson, aka "Klondike Kate," donated semi-precious stones, petrified wood, and other materials used to construct a grotto holding a statue of St. Joseph with the Christ child. That St. Joseph was similarly damaged when vandals smashed him during the summer of 1957.

In December 2020, Pope Francis declared 2021 to be "The Year of St. Joseph", which makes having a statue of St. Joseph come to reside at the Deschutes History Museum particularly timely.

By Rebekah Averette

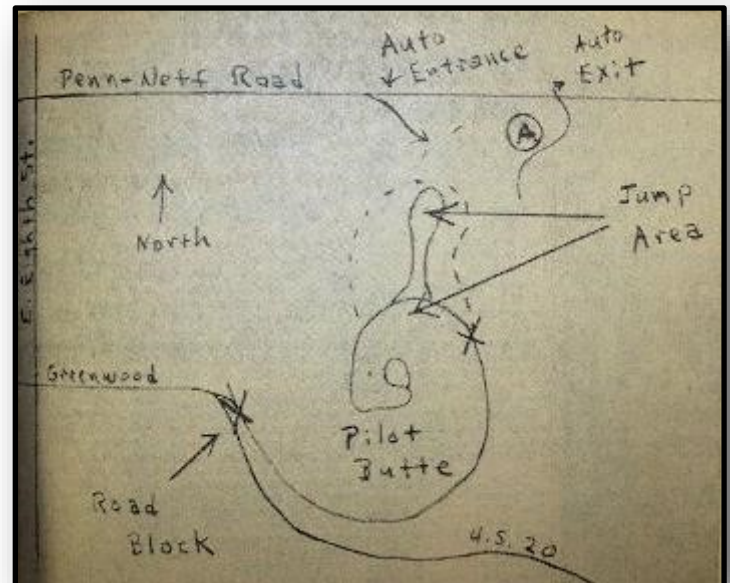


St. Joseph recovering from "surgery"

Lost Oregon Ski Areas:

Pilot Butte *By Steve Stenkamp*

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Year in Operation: | 1965 |
| Tows: | None |
| Facilities: | Ski Jump and snowmaking |
| Base elevation: | 3800 feet |
| Vertical rise: | 200 feet |
| Location: | North side of Pilot Butte in Bend |



In the early 30s there was a small winter playground on the east side of Overturf Butte in Bend. This also included a place for skiing, complete with lights for night skiing. Use of Overturf declined when Skyliners Club moved their ski hill from McKenzie Pass to Tumalo Creek 10 miles west of Bend in 1935. In 1962 several members of the community expressed interest in redeveloping Overturf as a ski hill. The group was unable to get permission from landowners and changed their plans for a ski hill to Pilot Butte on the east side of Bend.

There are several references to ski parties held on Pilot Butte as early as 1922. These parties were held when enough snowfall occurred. A 1962 proposal by Dr. Robert Cutter to develop a ski hill on Pilot Butte included snowmaking so that its use would be more consistent. The original concept included snowmaking, lights, a rope tow and a clearing 500 feet long and 150 feet wide. Fund raising was started but fell short. The community felt there was a good place to ski at Mount Bachelor and the Pilot Butte facility was not needed. The funds that were raised were used to build a ski jump and a snowmaking system for the Junior Olympics in 1965. The jump was built on the north side of the butte above what is now Pilot Butte Middle School. Due to lack of cold temperatures the snowmaking system failed to

Hand drawn map of proposed ski area on north slope of Pilot Butte



Description of skiing party on Pilot Butte, The Bend Bulletin 1922

- 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, Collections Manager
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer



2021 DCHS Board of Directors:

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

Board Members:

Mike Berry, Mark Capell, Paul Claeysens,
Tony DeBone, Beau Eastes,
Dan Ellingson, Terry Foley, Greg Fulton,
Karen Green, Loren Irving, Heidi Kennedy, 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



Local racers who cleared the location of the proposed ski hill in 1963



Ski jumper in action

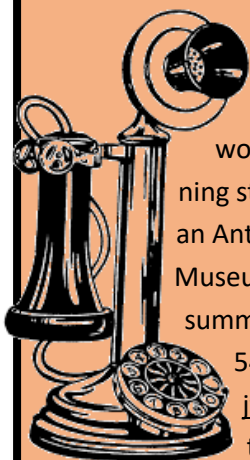


Folks shoveling snow down the chute from the road to the jump hill

deliver snow for the March event. The community pitched in and state, county and local contractors hauled 120 truckloads of snow from Skyliners Ski Hill on Tumalo Creek to the side of the butte. Local volunteers shoveled the snow to ensure coverage for the upcoming event.

The first jumper had too much speed and ended up in the sagebrush at the bottom of the hill. The start of the jump was lowered and most competitors were able to stay on the snow. The local newspaper reported 2500 people in attendance to watch the event. Winner of the jump competition was also the smallest competitor. Four-foot eight-inch Jerry Martin from Minneapolis, Minnesota won the event.

The ski hill never materialized and the ski jump was torn down a couple of years later.



HELP WANTED:

We are looking for committee members who would like to get in on the very early event planning stages to help organize a new event for DCHS: an Antique Faire here at the Deschutes Historical Museum. The goal is to have the event in the late summer of 2022. Please call the museum at

541-389-1813 or contact Jane Williamson at jwilliamson@bendbroadband.com if you want to join this fun group!

Memorials

Leon Devereaux

Andrea Hunnell-Dupree
Susie and Mike Penhollow

Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

Volunteer Corner

Bette



Andrew

By Bonnie Burns

Every Tuesday morning at the Deschutes Historical museum Bette Andrew prepares the reception desk for the day - ready to receive the first phone call, the first visitor, process the mail, and check for updates to memberships. Bette sets everything in order for the coming week. Later, she will attend to museum correspondence.

When Bette first volunteered at the museum, her routine was not so well established. She first volunteered in 1998 after reading an article in the *Bend Bulletin* about the museum needing volunteers. She saw that the manager happened to be her neighbor, Rollie Anderson. A quick phone call and Bette signed up for Tuesdays, 10:00-2:00, and so it has been, for 23 years!

In those early days, there was no computerized database for research and Bette's first assignment was sorting hundreds of photographs. Soon, she was using an old adding machine to track expenses and eventually, on to logging memberships. Rollie continued to depend on her, asking her to organize the library using the Dewey Decimal System. Bette set up the card files and continued to maintain the library up until it was just recently transferred into the museum's current PastPerfect database. To this day, she claims she can still locate any book in that room by memory.



Bette Andrew, Title One Educator, 1987

Her willingness to tackle chores probably began in her home town of Odell where she grew up on a farm. Bette was working in the fields and orchards by the age of 10. When it was time for college she attended Oregon State University, earning a degree in education which would become her life-long career. She taught first and second grade in several schools throughout the state, including Kenwood School, before settling in Bend in 1968. Bette became involved in Title One classes, teaching children with learning disabilities. She worked with students at the old St. Francis School, Thompson Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary, Juniper Elementary, Kingston Elementary, Yew Lane, Marshall, Young, and Reid School. Realizing she needed additional training, she enrolled at Western Oregon University, earning a Masters Degree in Special Education in 1976. Bette continued teaching in Bend, often traveling between schools during the week for individual special education classes.

Upon retiring in 1992, Bette turned to her other passion, music, and volunteered with the Cascade Music Festival

and the Cascade Symphony. Though not participating in the orchestra, Bette plays the piano and once studied the violin to the point she considered becoming a professional violinist. The lure of teaching won out.

Bette has a son and daughter, both grown, and two granddaughters. When asked if there were any highlights in her 23 years at the museum, she replied, "It's the people I come in contact with here at the museum. Everyone has been so nice, intelligent, just wonderful people." One might say the statement is a reflection of her character and enjoyment of a life well-lived, devoted to helping others.



Bette and students from R.E. Jewell Elementary School on a field trip at the Head of the Metolius River, 1987

Alleyways in Bend *By Sue Fountain*

Recently, a friend invited me to join her for an alley walk. She and members of the Riverwest Neighborhood Association made a project of exploring all the alleys on the west side of Bend by walking each one. After traveling down 133 alleyways, they figure they have walked eight miles. Those eight miles belong to the city and so are public property.

As early as 1904, Alexander Drake's Plat of Bend contained strips of land for alleyways in subdivisions. A plat is a legal map that is recorded at the county clerk's office. These alleyways provided service roads for the houses facing the named streets.

Not as wide as a two-way street, alleys were generally only 20 feet across, but wide enough to give access to deliveries. Most people used wood heat, and trucks were able to drive down alleys to deliver that wood to the back of the house. Later, oil trucks drove these routes to fill oil tanks, and garbage trucks picked up garbage from containers along the alley.

Walking through the alleys, one can see remnants of the past. There are old sheds, chicken coops, stables, and even a former blacksmith shop. Garages also often faced onto alleys so that people could drive their cars around to the back of their houses and not park on the street side. These buildings were made of whatever wood was available at the time, and some of the wood is aged and beautiful.

Of course, in the early 1900s people were still using outhouses, and those were placed as far away from the house as possible, right along the alleys. Indoor plumbing was available to Bend residents as early as 1913, but that was mostly on the east side of town. Houses in the oldest neighborhoods had outhouses or privies. It would be interesting to find one that is still standing.

Today, there are newly constructed shops, studios, and ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) alongside hundred-year-old structures. Small alley gardens are also popular, especially where they are southern facing. Raised beds about the alleys, and sunflowers and raspberries grow up along the fences. It is heartening to see how citizens have embraced this historic gift from the past. You might find, like I did, that exploring Bend's historic alleyways is "right up your alley."



*All photos taken in the alleyway between
Elgin and Fresno Aves, near Overturf Park*



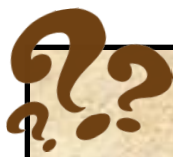
Detailed map of alleyways throughout the historic downtown Bend neighborhoods. 1928



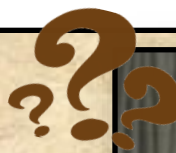
An old blacksmith shop



Possibly an old dwelling



New Feature: History Mystery



DHM volunteer John Kent presents this History Mystery:

- He and his boss rigged up Bend's first court for sports.
- He has a $1\frac{1}{2}$ X $\frac{3}{4}$ mile geographic site named for him within 60 miles of Bend.
- He was a trusted employee of one of the four names associated with the two large pine mills that built Bend.
- He and his wife accidentally were the first to test Bend's new water system by nearly burning down a hotel.
- His wife was a member of the *Whatsoevers*.
- His fraternal order had men posted at his bedside day and night in his last dying days to help and comfort his wife.
- The city of Bend honored him after his death.



Who was this man?

Do you think you know the answer? Send your guess to info@deschuteshistory.org. The first two winning guesses will receive a gift certificate for a free 8"x10" print of a photo from our archives! Deadline: 4:30 p.m. April 30.

Look for the answer in the May Homesteader

History at Home: Researching Homesteads 101

As part of our new online offerings, DCHS has launched a channel through Vimeo with members only content. This month we'll be highlighting the webinar we held in February called "**Researching Homesteads 101:**"

Part One: Breaking the Code: An introduction to the Public Land Survey System

We will start with getting organized, sharing helpful resources, basic homestead history, and an introduction to the Public Land Survey System (PLSS).

Part Two: Navigating the General Land Office (GLO) Records

It's time to put the PLSS into practice as Vanessa walks you through the Bureau of Land Management's GLO records. Discover where to find property deeds, original survey plats, field notes, and other fascinating information about the property you are investigating.

Part Three: Where to Go Next...

This week we will wrap up by exploring the county assessor's office and touch on other useful resources; newspapers, maps, Earth Point, and DOGAMI Lidar Viewer.

Streaming available starting April 9.

Links to view these recorded talks will be emailed to the membership prior to April 9. If you don't receive emails from us and want to take part, you can call the museum at 541.389.1813 to find out more.

