



## Up in The Air

*The history of aviation in  
Central Oregon by Tor  
Hanson See p. 5*

## Voted “Most Contributions”

*Meet Jane Williamson  
See p. 4*



# The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—November 2021

The wait is nearly over for the release of *Hello Bend! Central Oregon Reinvented*, produced in partnership with *The Bulletin* over the past several months. Thank you to all those who responded to our call for photographs.



**Available November 16!**

Detailing the changes in Bend between 1950 and 2000, this book covers a wide range of topics including the transition from the mills to the Old Mill District, historic buildings lost and those saved, the end of the Water Pageant and the birth of Pole Pedal Paddle. The per-page limit on the number of photographs we could use quickly caught up with us, and final photograph selection was a brutal process. We think there are some real gems, from fishing derbies at Drake Park, paper boys on bicycles, changes in fashion and visits from movie stars. The book retails for \$44.95, \$40.50 for members.

While the book is finished, the historical museum is always seeking to document this time period in the collection. We are always on the look out for photographs that document important people, places, and events. It's never too late to share your photographs with us and save them for future generations!

# Prequel to the Tragic Death of the Unknown Cowboy *By Mike Berry*

After the article "The Tragic Death of the Unknown Cowboy" was published in the August 2021 *Homesteader*, I was contacted by Dave Anderson, the person who had discovered the remains in 1991. Earlier this month I met with him and his friend Dave Lawler at the museum to examine the artifacts he had found.

As each item was removed from the archive box and unwrapped, memories sparked and their stories began to unfold. On Saturday, September 21, 1991 Dave Anderson had walked up to the imposing 50 foot tall edge of the lava field and decided to climb up to the top. After clambering to the top, a formidable and seemingly endless landscape of tattered lava peaks and valleys beckoned. Like any 25-year-old worth his salt, he ventured further into the imposing, barren wasteland. At one point he looked down into a fissure and spied some sun bleached bones. This wasn't alarming... being a hunter the sight of the bones of cows, deer or other wildlife was a common occurrence for him out in the wilds. But then something unusual caught his eye. A glinting light down by the bone pile. In a stark land of black rock, a shimmering reflection of the sun was out of place.

He scrambled down the crevice to investigate and saw that the flashing was coming from a sliver of mirror half buried in dirt. Next to that was a metal tube sticking out of the dirt and next to that, also half silted in, was the white, rounded dome of a human skull. He backtracked, making note of landmarks to guide him back to the spot.

After contacting the State Police he called his friend Dave Lawler and invited him to join in guiding Oregon State Police Trooper Shipley and Detective Fredrickson back to the site. Once the four of them reached the site



L to R: Silver shaving mirror, lead slug, Dave Anderson



they began excavating. The sliver of mirror that had alerted Dave Anderson proved to be, when excavated, an intact 6" by 4" shaving mirror in a tin frame. The metal tube next to it was the tip of the barrel of the buried revolver. It was immediately obvious to all of them that the exit wound in the back of the skull indicated that the cowboy had taken his own life with the pistol. They still weren't sure of the age of the bones and relics, but it was obvious that they were very old.

As Detective Lynn Fredrickson related to me previously, the two Daves also vividly recounted how cramped and arduous the climb down into the cowboy's lava tomb was. They all took turns crawling down into the tight space to retrieve items and then pass them up to their cohorts. Up above a sieve was set up to sift through the dirt that had settled over the bones and belongings of the cowboy. On one trip down into the cowboy's resting place Dave Anderson made another remarkable discovery. He noticed a blemish of sorts on a vertical lava wall which turned out to be the mushroomed lead slug that had killed the cowboy. It lined up perfectly with the cowboy's position on the ground. We at the museum had pondered why the business end of the slug appeared flattened and scored.

- 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

### 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](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)  
[info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:info@deschuteshistory.org)



### Continued from P. 2— Prequel

The slug smacking into the lava wall now explains this atypical deformation.

Despite the misfortune of this story, it was enjoyable to meet Dave Anderson and Dave Lawler and learn a little more about what transpired 30 years ago. We all floated theories about who the cowboy was and why he ended up where he did. We also marveled at the happenstance wanderings of a young man on a sunny September day in 1991 that brought him to the exact right spot to catch the sun reflecting off of the fragile mirror the cowboy carried on his tragic fall down into the grave.

To date, no other clues have surfaced about the identity of the unknown cowboy.

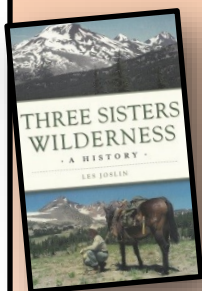
*Dave Lawler (left) and Dave Anderson (right) with artifacts*



## Holiday Shopping Preview: Books by Local Authors

For all you early holiday shoppers looking for a local source for gift ideas, look no further! These titles are for sale at the Deschutes Historical Museum. All listed prices are at the non-member rate.

Members take another 10% off!

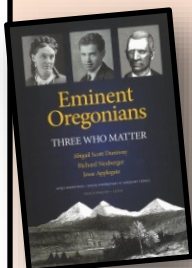
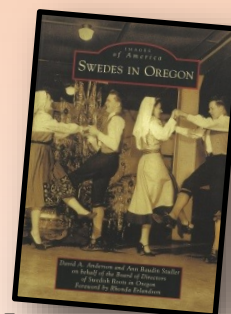


***Three Sisters Wilderness- A History* Les Joslin \$21.99**

The preservation of the Three Sisters wilderness, under the Wilderness Act of 1964 was a community wide effort to keep the dramatic vistas and diverse ecosystems available for all to enjoy. Les Joslin explores the natural and cultural history of the country and the stewardship of this magnificent attraction.

***Images of America: Swedes in Oregon* David Anderson & Ann Baudin Stuller \$21.99**

Through images and stories *Swedes in Oregon* shares the lives of Oregon's Swedish-born immigrants who made remarkable impressions on this state's culture, economy and ongoing legacy.



***Eminent Oregonians* Jane Kirkpatrick, Steve Forrester, & R. Gregory Nokes \$24.85**

Based largely on primary sources, the lives of three Oregonian; Abigail Scott Duniway, Richard Neuberger and Jesse Applegate, are brought to life through their adventurous, consequential and sometimes heart-breaking lives.

***The Other Oregon: People, Environment, and History East of the Cascades***

**Thomas R. Cox \$29.95**

Historian Thomas Cox explores the complexity of interactions among the people, land and natural resources in Eastern Oregon to chronicle a history that is both specific to this place and reflective of broader issues.



***Ghost King* Valentine \$16.00**

Book one in the Ghosts are Good series, Kasper Kloven, an underdog hero, is on a journey navigating death to find true love and fulfill his destiny of becoming the GHOST KING. Includes a few local locations including the Deschutes Historical Museum. Geared to young adults.

# VOLUNTEER CORNER

## Jane Williamson

Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., guests to the museum are greeted at the front desk by the incomparable Jane Williamson. Jane's wit, charm, warmth, and intimate knowledge of Bend and the surrounding community make her the perfect ambassador for the Deschutes Historical Museum.

Her involvement with the museum doesn't end at the front desk, though. Jane began serving on the museum's Board of Directors over three years ago. Her enthusiasm for representing and promoting the museum and the history of Deschutes County within the community is infectious. Jane admits that she used to think the museum was for "old people." She now recognizes its important role in preserving and representing the whole county. She is passionate about our community and is proud that despite all of the growth, Deschutes County has maintained its identity as a Central Oregon mountain community.

It is the efforts of committed "Bendites" like Jane who help preserve the unique traditions and history of our community. In addition to serving on the Deschutes Historical Museum's board, Jane has served on the boards of Munch N' Music, Campfire Girls, and United Way. She has also been involved in the Cascades Theatrical Company since its inception in 1978 and is one of only a handful of lifetime members. In the late 1980's, she began flexing her thespian muscles and has been playing roles in the company's plays ever since.

Jane's civic involvement began early in life. Born and raised in Hillsboro, Oregon, a young Jane Arnold was extremely active at Hillsboro High. Her list of accomplishments in the "Hilhi" is impressive (*see right*). She was the Student Body Secretary, part of the Girls League, Student Senate, a Class Representative, and was a member of the National Honor Society. In fact, her fellow classmates voted Jane the senior with the "Most Contributions".

A teaching career took Jane to California. While there, she married and had her daughter, Lindsey. Jane's family fell in love with Bend while visiting her parents in Central Oregon in 1975, and the rest is history.

Jane's family moved to Bend in 1976 and purchased a home on Bear Creek Road. They opened "That Little Shop on Wall Street", located next to the Tower Theater (where the ticket office now stands). The couple's entrepreneurial aspirations didn't stop there. Looking to fill a need for quick and casual lunch options, the Williamsons opened "The Gandy Dancer" café at the site of the Old Bend Garage in 1977. The railroad themed sandwich shop, which also featured fresh homemade soups, was a local favorite. In later years, the couple also ran an Educational supply store on Division. The family relocated to Jane's current home on Harmon in 1978.

It was in 1985 that Jane found her true calling as a real estate broker and has had a successful career in the real estate industry ever since. Through career changes, moves, and life's ups and downs, Jane's commitment to her community has been unwavering. Waxing nostalgic about her life in Deschutes County, Jane reflects that she moved to the community at the perfect time. Bend was still small, tight-knit, and everyone knew one another. When asked how she feels about all the recent and rapid growth, Jane notes that in some ways she feels protected because her neighborhood is largely unchanged. She notes how nice it is not to have to travel to a larger metropolis to purchase basics, because shopping options in Bend have expanded tremendously.

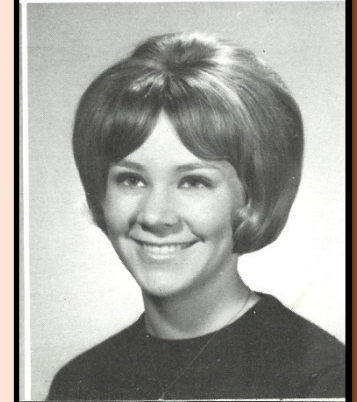
This "glass-is-half-full" attitude allows Jane to see the benefits of growth and appreciate the visionary nature of some of the early community planners, such as Vince Genna, Bill Healy, and Bill Smith. She posits that growth has made Deschutes County more cosmopolitan, a change she sees as positive. As a result of good early planning, Jane points to our robust health care industry and excellent school system. Even though Deschutes County has a much larger population than when she first moved here, she feels fortunate to live in such a beautiful community and is always happy to come home after being away.

## Williamson

*By Rebekah Averette*



ARNOLD, JANE - Student Body Secretary 4; Class Rep. 1; Senate 1,2; Dance Club 1,2,3; Girl's League 1,2,3,4, Rep. 2, Pres. 3; Speech Club 2,3; Spartanettes 2,3; Honor Society 4; Election Board 2,3,4; Prom Committee 3; Miss Merry Christmas Princess 1; Homecoming Princess 4; Dance Team 4; Girl's State 3.



# Central Oregon Aviation

## New Book by Tor Hanson Details the History

Only a short nine years after the Wright Brothers left terra firma in their powered “aeroplane,” the first barnstormer arrived at the Crook County Fair to spread the winged gospel. Tor Hanson’s new book, *Central Oregon Aviation*, celebrates more than 100 years of aviation history in Oregon’s interior. Meet the men and women in their flying machines who pioneered a new mode of transportation.

On Saturday, May 8, 1920, the weather gods ordered up a windy day that made the fine Central Oregon dust reach high up in the skies. The fragile-looking Curtiss Jenny, piloted by Roland Thompson, struggled and wriggled onto the landing field at Knotts Field.

After a week of advertising in *The Bend Bulletin*, it was time for Bend and Redmond residents to get a first look at the newfangled invention the Wright Brothers had pioneered in December 1903.

Brothers Clarence and Roland Thompson of Portland were two of many barnstormers who plied their craft throughout Oregon. Arriving in Redmond days before the weekend, Clarence scoped out the local landing fields to find the best place to set down for sightseeing tours in the skies above Bend and Redmond.

The choice fell on a pasture at Edward Knotts’ dairy farm southeast of Bend. Knotts Field became the city’s official landing field in February 1920 after the members of Bend Commercial Club hired a government aviation expert to bless their choice of location.

As with most of Bend and Central Oregon, the flat ground was covered in fine dust and volcanic rocks. After an initial fine-tuning of the field days before the visit, Clarence approved the grounds and boarded the train for Redmond and the plane stashed at the small landing field near the Deschutes County Fairgrounds. Everything was ready for the big event.

The blustery weekend proved a challenge for the two barnstormers. The relentless wind was driving the red Central Oregon dust into the air. The large juniper trees lining Knotts Field bowed side-ways in the stiff wind.

Although 27 Central Oregon residents put their lives in the hands of Roland Thompson, other potential customers may have been scared stiff by the sight of the flimsy airplane buffeting in the wind flying in and out of the landing field.

*The Bend Bulletin* reported that one of Thompson’s passengers steadied his nerves with a quart of Prohibition-era “hootch” during the one-hour flight.

“Under the influence of the stimulant, the aerial joy rider decided that it would be well for him to walk about a bit and unbuckled his life belt before Thompson could interfere. He was promptly jerked to his seat and sat quietly until the plane was circling close to earth when he wished to get out. This time a tap on the head from a wrench in the hand of the pilot seated behind him, persuaded him to wait.”

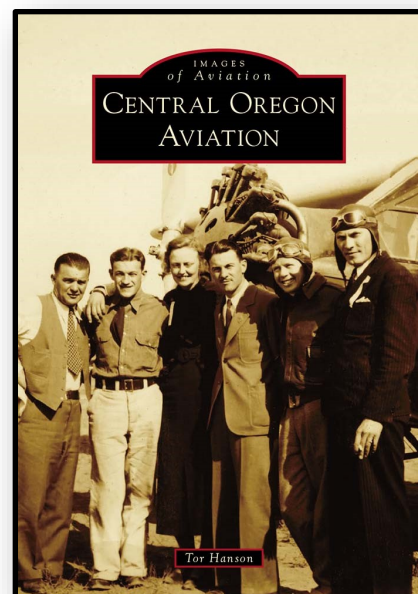
With over 200 vintage and modern photographs from Central Oregon museums and private collections, *Central Oregon Aviation* chronicles the development of Roberts Field and many of the local airfields during more than 100 years.



Barnstormer Roland Thompson’s Curtiss JN-4, also known as the “Jenny,” at Knotts Field southeast of Bend.

Throughout the book, the reader will also meet local and nationally known aviators and aviatrixes together with a who’s who of private citizens and city officials who made aviation a reality in Central Oregon.

The book is available at the Deschutes Historical Museum shop, in time for the holiday season.



## Memorials

### Colleen Carlon

Linda Bostic  
Sue Fountain  
Sharon Stasiowski

### Marsha Stout

Margaret Marshall  
Nancy Truszkowski

## Tributes

### Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter



# Veterans Day 2021

DCHS recognizes and thanks the veterans who have served our country over the years.

We asked volunteer Kim Boddie, a veteran of the Vietnam War, to share with us his thoughts and images from his visit to the traveling memorial when it was on display in La Pine in October.

On October 8, 2021 I drove down to La Pine to visit the traveling Viet

Nam Memorial Wall. La Pine was the only location in Oregon on this tour of the travelling memorial. I am a Viet Nam Veteran, having served in the country in the Army from August, 1967 through August, 1968 as a platoon leader in a maintenance company. I have visited the original Wall in Washington, D.C. several times during past years.

My first visit to the wall in DC left me with feelings I had never experienced and will never forget. While I did not experience the feelings I had when I visited the real thing, I did notice that a lot of the observers who were vets like me, or friends and family of vets who knew people whose names were on the wall, were reacting similar to me as I did at the original wall.



## Mark Your Calendars

### NOVEMBER

- 11 VETERANS DAY**
- 25 MUSEUM CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING**
- 30 HISTORY PUB: ENCORE PRESENTATION OF "THE LOST SKI LOCATIONS OF OREGON"**  
by Steve Stenkamp, Long Time Bend Resident and Skier  
**McMenamins Old St. Francis**  
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m.  
*First-come-first-served seating, no reservations required.*  
*Masks required while not eating or drinking.*

