

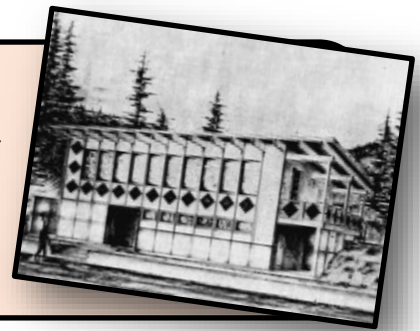


Get to Know "Mayor Steve"

*One of our Volunteers of
The Year See p. 4*

Egan Lodge

*Discover Mt. Bachelor's
first ski lodge
See p. 2*



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—January 2022

Not Your Average Research Request

Each week, the Deschutes Historical Museum fields any number of research requests for members, the public, the media, and the kids doing homework. Research requests can be simple and take a matter of minutes, or they can lead us down rabbit holes to uncover new stories that we can't wait to share with everyone. Sometimes, a research request comes with a story that makes us appreciate the work we do.

In October, museum docent Michelle Patrick fielded a request from Becky Jo Lowry of Eugene. Mrs. Lowry was looking for information on a Reid School teacher from 1955. Michelle found several newspaper stories and a directory listing for the teacher in question, Mrs. Darlene Finney, and sent it to Mrs. Lowry. Little did we know how important Mrs. Finney had been until we received a thank you letter and donation from Mrs. Lowry in Mrs. Finney's honor.

Becky attended Reid School for just seven months during the 1955-56 school year, but those few months and the care shown by Mrs. Finney shaped her life forever. When she arrived at Reid School, she lagged behind other students her age in reading. Mrs. Finney, determined to help Becky overcome this, drove "all the way out east of town to rural, unpaved Ward Road just so she could talk to my mother..." wrote Becky. Mrs. Finney took the struggling third grader under her wing, encouraged her to get her own library card, and connected her love of horses to books about horses.

- Continued on page 5



TEACHERS VIEW DISPLAY — Exhibits of instruction aids were set up at the annual Central Oregon teachers' conference, yesterday at the Bend High school auditorium. From left are Miss Phyllis Kaup, Miss Clara Weigel and Miss Darlene Finney, all of Bend, and Van Henkle, a former Prineville teacher, now representing a commercial firm. (Bend Bulletin Photo)

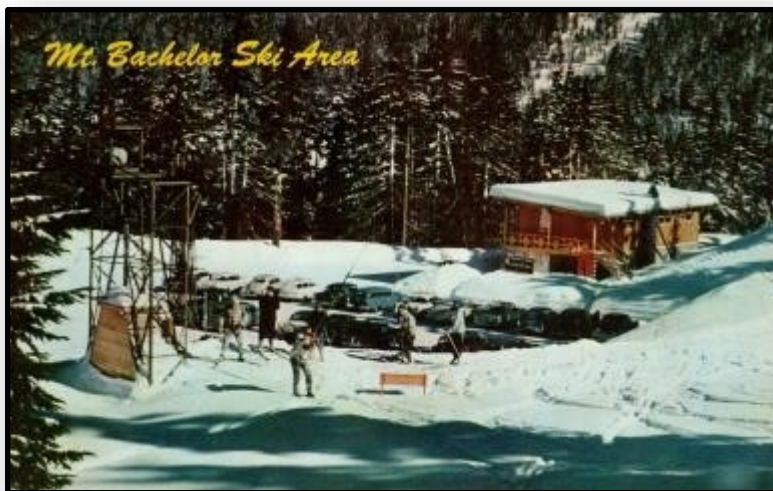
Bend Bulletin February 12, 1957; Mrs. Finney is third from Left

Egan Lodge

by Steve Stenkamp

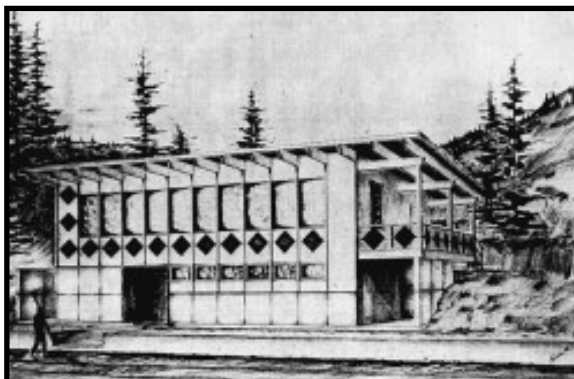
James Egan was transferred to the Deschutes National Forest from New Mexico in June of 1956. He replaced Forest Supervisor Ralph Crawford. Once arriving in Central Oregon, Egan got involved in the proposal to develop Bachelor Butte as a ski area. Egan was instrumental in the permit process and developing partners in the process. He was quoted as saying that if the ski area was to develop it would take work by many and not a few who work hard. In the summer of 1957, a mile and a half long road was built from Cascade Lakes Highway to the base of the proposed ski area. James Egan died in March of 1958 from a blood disease and never got to see Bachelor Butte develop. In the summer of 1958 construction started with building a parking lot, Poma surface lift, two rope tows, a lodge, and the infrastructure to further support development. To honor Egan, on January 3, 1959 Egan Lodge was dedicated in his honor.

The lodge was a two story building that housed ticket sales, snack bar, ski shop, first aid room and bathrooms. On opening day, it was too small. Much like today customers complained about their new winter recreation area. The shortage of bathrooms was solved by



Postcard showing Egan Lodge and Poma Lift, from collection of Steve Stenkamp

adding a large multi-person outhouse east of the lodge. The outhouse remained until the '67/'68 ski season when an addition was added to the lower part of the lodge containing more restrooms.



Artist's rendering of Egan Lodge, from collection of Steve Stenkamp

The snack bar was first run by Omer Summers who was a part owner in the Skyline Steakhouse in downtown Bend. The small ski shop was run by Olaf Skjersaa, who later developed the ski shop in town that still bears his name.

When the Main Lodge was built in time for the '65/'66 season the patrol room and ski shop were moved from Egan to the new lodge.

Much like the TV show *Cheers*, Egan had its own version of Norm, the stalwart presence who

- 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, Collections Manager
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer
Michelle Patrick, Museum Docent



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Adrian Bennett, Vice President
Jane Williamson, Secretary/Treasurer

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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

Dear members of the Deschutes Historical Society,

Our annual giving drive has been very successful due to your generosity. Without our regular fundraisers this past year, such as the Chili Feed, we have relied on your financial help. We have a dedicated and hard-working staff who have kept busy with research, online presentations, creating exhibits, and generally keeping the museum as open and vital as possible. Thank you for supporting their work with your donations.

Sue Fountain, Board President, DCHS

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List of Annual Giving Campaign donors as of December 29, 2021

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Steve

Stenkamp

By *Rebekah Averette*

At the recent McMenamin's History Pub a standing room only crowd listened with rapt attention to storied local Steve Stenkamp detail his research on the "Lost Ski Areas of Oregon". The crowd size was a reflection not only of a fascinating topic, but of Steve's long history and popularity in the Central Oregon community.

Although it is hard to imagine Bend without him, Steve was actually born in Yakima, Washington where his father worked for a TV station as a reporter. When he was a young child the family moved to Bend. His father worked at KBND, which was then headquartered at the Pilot Butte Inn.

The Bend of his childhood was a wonderful place to grow up. Steve recollects a town of few people and even remembers when the first traffic lights were installed. He grew up skiing and adventuring in and around the forests and trails of Deschutes County.

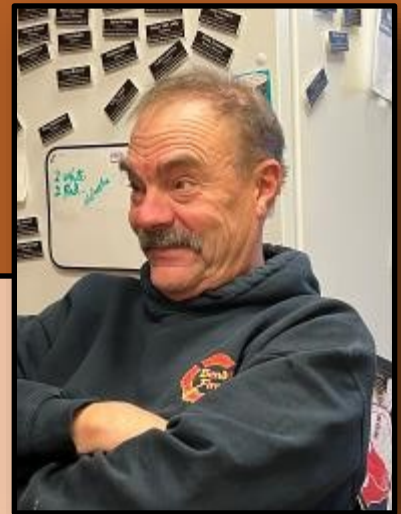
Always entrepreneurial, Steve began his career as an Oregonian paper boy when he was just a young lad. He went on to study business at Southern Oregon State College. When he wasn't in school, he worked as a lift operator at Mt. Bachelor during his college years, and continued there in a variety of roles following graduation.

After being self-employed for some time in commercial and residential structural repair, Steve decided to try his hand at teaching. He taught woodworking and drafting at Bend High School for a number of years, but later he moved on to a career with the fire department. He worked as a fire inspector until his retirement in July 2019.

Civically inclined, Steve also served on the Bend City Council, the Bend Metro Parks Board, United Way Board, was on the city budget committee, and earned the title "Mayor Steve" by serving as Bend's mayor for two years.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Steve isn't just coasting through retirement. He works part time during the summer for the Redmond Smokejumpers as a logistics guru. He also volunteers at the Deschutes Historical Museum fielding calls, guiding and entertaining visitors, as well as helping the staff with exhibit building and installation and artifact care and repair. With his interest in and knowledge of the area, the DCHS staff often calls on Steve's expertise in matters relating to local history. In his spare time, Steve is researching and writing a book based on the lost ski areas of Oregon, about which he spoke at the History Pub in November. He hopes the book will be published next summer.

Steve's greatest passion is the outdoors and he spends much of his spare time adventuring in the wilderness. On his extensive wanders, he searches for abandoned trappers' cabins and has visited 175 "hike-in lakes" with a goal of reaching two hundred in his lifetime.



Steve Stenkamp

Continued from P. 2— Egan Lodge



Egan Lodge, from the DCHS collection

seems to always be there. George Oberg ran the food service at Egan in the 70's and 80's. The restaurant was called George's. George knew everybody and there weren't many folks who didn't appreciate being in his company. Egan lodge at that time was just restrooms and George's.

The completion of Pine Marten Lodge brought the end of food service at Egan. The lodge was last listed on trail maps as a lodge in 1990. After that time it was used by the ski school and as a ski demo shop. The lodge was torn down in 2000.

Continued from P. 1— Research Request

Not only did Mrs. Finney inspire Becky's reading, she set the path for her future. "I knew at that time I too would become a teacher just like Mrs. Finney. The lessons she taught me were magnificent... She gave me hope. I became a Third-Fourth Grade elementary school teacher just like her, and for over twenty five years I followed the pattern she shared with me which was to go the extra mile."

Mrs. Lowry made a donation in Mrs. Finney's name to help with current third and fourth grade class field trips to the museum in hopes that they, too, will find inspiration within the walls of Reid School. While we were able to confirm what years Mrs. Finney taught in Bend, we lose track of her after 1958 and are hopeful we can find out more about her life after she left Bend. If any members have a connection to her, please let us know by calling 541.389.1813 or emailing us at info@deschuteshistory.org. In the meantime, we are reminded that teachers really do shape lives.

Volunteers Appreciated throughout Another COVID Year

Although our volunteers were unable to gather together and celebrate their good works done during the year, we would like to take this time and announce two of our outstanding volunteers, Volunteers of the Year **Doug Hildebrand** and **Steve Stenkamp**.

Doug Hildebrand was one of the original Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend tour guides when it began in 2010. This year he celebrated his eleventh year with us, leading spirited walks only days after surgery. This is Doug's favorite event and it shows. He's usually the first tour of the night and the last one returning after dark often guiding 6 to 8 tours during the event. Everyone who has had Doug as a guide arrives back at the museum beaming with words of praise for his tours. When Doug isn't at the museum you'll find him working at Costco, or out and about with his dog Artim.



Steve Stenkamp's work is invaluable to us here at the museum. Every Wednesday, Steve staffs the front desk, expertly fielding incoming phone calls, and welcoming museum patrons. He also volunteers his time for many behind-the-scenes projects such as hanging exhibit materials, rearranging and moving furniture, and organizing the third floor work cabinets. He has lent his skills to refurbishing a set of donated theater chairs originally used at the Liberty Theatre. With his rich knowledge of local history and culture, Steve is also a go-to for answers to obscure local history questions. With his jovial demeanor and local expertise, Steve's contributions to the museum are greatly appreciated!



Memorials

Marsha Stout

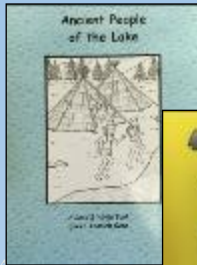
Carol Johnston

Tributes

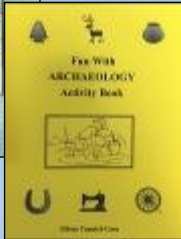
Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

Winter weather calls for some indoor activities. New books for all ages are at the DHM Gift Shop!



Fun With Archaeology Activity Book and Ancient People of the Lake by Eileen Tannich Gose
\$10.00 Member price \$9.00

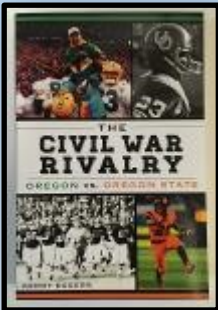


The world of archaeology is opened to junior archaeologists in this hands-on activity book by local archaeologist Eileen Gose. The study of ancient humans are uncovered through hands on activities you can do at home.



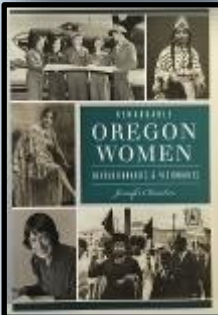
Beginning Quilting Kit
Historical Folk Toys
\$18.00 Member price \$16.20

Three easy-to-make projects for a fun, first quilting experience. The kit includes everything you need, with the exception of scissors, pins and a ruler. An assortment of colors to chose from.



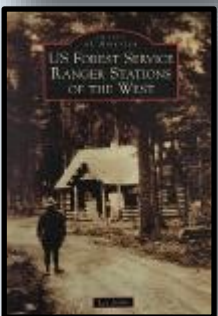
The Civil War Rivalry—Oregon vs Oregon State
by Kerry Eggers 527 pages
\$24.99 Member price \$22.50

This Means War! Through first hand interviews with key performers in the rivalry and extensive research from both schools, award winning journalist Kerry Eggers tells a complete story of one of the most historic rivalries in college football.



Remarkable Oregon Women Revolutionaries & Visionaries
by Jennifer Chambers 126 pages
\$21.99 Member price \$19.80

Author Jennifer Chambers tells the stories of progressive, radical women who fought for change within their state of Oregon. These women span decades in Oregon history and include Sarah Winnemucca, Hazel Ying Lee, Barbra Roberts, Ursula Le Guin and more.



U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West
by Les Joslin 126 pages
\$21.99 Member price \$19.80

US Forest Service rangers and their ranger stations are classic symbols of the American West. The early rangers may no longer be around, however the stations where they protected the West's national forests remain to tell their stories and inspire their successors. Discover these historic treasures across seven regions, through nearly 200 captioned photographs.

Mark Your Calendars

January

1 NEW YEAR HOLIDAY: MUSEUM CLOSED

