



### Hail to the Chief!

*Our volunteer corner  
highlights new Board  
President Adrian Bennett  
See p. 4*

### Camp Wickiup

*The origins of Wickiup  
Reservoir are uncovered  
See p. 2*



# The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—February 2022

## ANNOUNCING THE

### DESCHUTES HISTORICAL MUSEUM ANTIQUE FAIR



FIND YOUR TREASURE



This summer, the historical society is excited to launch our new summer Antique Fair on Saturday, August 20. With memories of the Drake Park Antique Fair firmly in mind, DCHS board member Jane Williamson is chair of the volunteer group helping to bring the event to life. The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and features vendors from around the northwest, as well as music, food and antique identification with local experts. "We are seeking applications from a wide variety of vendors, and are focused on genuine antiques. No reproductions or repurposed items are allowed with a cut off of 1970 for the age of items sold," said Williamson. Vendors can check out the event page on line at [www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org) for details and vendor application.

# CCC Camp Wickiup

by Mike Berry

Within Wickiup Reservoir there once was a Native American seasonal fishing and hunting village on the Deschutes River, just downstream from the mouth of Davis Creek. The poles from the old wickiups (brush covered teepee-like dwellings) were still standing in the late 1800s so the area became known as "The Wickiups" by early settlers. Wickiup Dam and Reservoir are named after this inundated historic site.

Wickiup Reservoir, 8 miles west of La Pine, Oregon, was constructed under the authority of The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's "Deschutes Project" between 1938 and 1949. The purpose of the project was to collect and store water at Wickiup Reservoir to irrigate the lands of the North Unit Irrigation District near Madras in Jefferson County. The Deschutes Project also involved building the 65 mile long North Unit Main Canal to deliver the irrigation water from the Deschutes River in Bend to the Madras area. A majority of the initial work between 1938 and 1942 was done by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollees stationed at CCC Camps Wickiup and Redmond. From 1943 until 1946 the work was continued by wartime conscientious objector assignees of the Civilian Public Service stationed at Camp Wickiup.

Congress approved the Deschutes Project in 1937 and the CCC dispatched enrollees to begin construction. They were to build the 3400 foot long, 100 foot tall earthen dam and clear the reservoir site, an 11,000 acre (17.2 square mile) Ponderosa and Lodgepole pine forest.

The Shevlin-Hixon Company in Bend won the contract to log the 16 million board feet of commercial old growth federal timber within the project. Another 5 or 6 million board feet of



Photos courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation

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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  
Michelle Patrick, Visitor Services



## 2022 DCHS Board of Directors:

Adrian Bennett, President  
Jane Williamson, Vice President  
Dan Ellingson, Secretary/Treasurer  
Sue Fountain, Past President

## Board Members:

Mike Berry, Mark Capell, Paul Claeysens,  
Tony DeBone, Beau Eastes,  
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— CCC Camp Wickiup***

privately owned timber was also logged. The rest of the non-merchantable trees were left to be cleared, grubbed, piled and burned by the CCC crews.

The project was huge news in the local papers. An **eight million dollar** project was nothing to sneeze at after nearly a decade of weathering the great depression. The fact that two camps, with up to 500 CCC enrollees each, were to be built in Deschutes County – Camp Wickiup by La Pine for the reservoir construction and its sister Camp Redmond for the canal construction – was promising news for local businesses and residents. In 1938 practically every edition of the Bend Bulletin was abuzz with news about proposed plans, speculations, arrivals of officials and enrollees and machinery for the “Wikiup” (rather than “Wickiup”) Project. For example, a Saturday, June 18, 1938 front page article gushed that the boundary survey of the site was to commence on Monday, that Forest Service timber cruisers were to take to the field to estimate the volume of merchantable timber for the impending timber sale and that a telegram had arrived from Washington D.C. (!) giving the OK to construct a project office building on Bond Street adjacent to Allen Café.

In July, 1938 a temporary tent camp was set up in the reservoir basin to house the CCC enrollees who began clearing the forest. That fall construction began on the main Camp Wickiup by Bureau of Reclamation forces. A local contractor, K. J. Holman, hauled the construction materials to the camp supplied by Miller Lumber and the Redmond Pine Mills. In April, 1939 Camp Wickiup, on a high promontory overlooking the Deschutes, was ready for occupancy. This was a huge camp, with capacity for three CCC companies totaling 450 enrollees.

Camp Wickiup was comprised of 34 buildings, including six U-shaped double unit barracks buildings, each barracks wing being 136 ft. long by 20 ft. wide. The connecting wing at the bottom of the “U” was a concrete slab structure that housed the communal latrine and washroom. It had running water and flush toilets! Other buildings included three mess halls with kitchens, an infirmary building, a gymnasium, a school, a woodworking shop, a blacksmith shop, 8 storage garages, a large auditorium with a seating capacity for 500 people, a canteen and barbershop building, and various other offices, quarters and sheds. The main buildings had shingle roofs, fir flooring, wallboard insulation and plywood interior finishing. Army officials in 1939 described it as *“the one outstanding CCC camp of the West, if not the entire Nation”*.

Eighteen and nineteen year-olds from Indiana, Kentucky and Oregon formed the first units at Camp Wickiup. They were paid \$30 a month with food, clothing, housing and medical and dental care provided. They received \$8 in cash each month (2022 equivalent ≈ \$150) with the remaining \$22 allotted to dependents or set aside for the enrollee when they left the CCC. The enrollees operated in two 8-hour shifts, 5 days a week. The first shift worked from 4 a.m. to noon, and the second from 12:30 to 8:30 p.m. The CCC camps also offered vocational and educational opportunities and athletic competition.

Work on the project was much slower than anticipated. In the

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***Top: Camp Wickiup Shops and Garages 1939***

***Center: Kitchen    Bottom: Shops, and storage garage***

*Photos courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation*



***Camp Wickiup Shops and Garages 2013***

# VOLUNTEER CORNER

## Adrian

This month the person celebrated as a volunteer is also the new president of the DCHS Board of Directors. Adrian Bennett moved to Bend in 2015, and soon after, he became interested in local history and the museum. Once we discovered he is an historian, we invited him to join the board, and he accepted.

Adrian's area of interest is Asian studies, but he also enjoys learning about local history. His interest in Asian studies began as an undergraduate at Antioch College where he was inspired by one of his professors. After graduation from Antioch he moved to California where he earned his M.A. and PhD. from the University of California, Davis. He later moved back to the Midwest and took a position at Iowa State University as a professor. He taught courses in Chinese and Japanese civilizations from medieval to modern times. He traveled to China three times which added to his knowledge of Asian culture.

Aside from his professorship, Adrian has also done a great deal of research which resulted in a very impressive list of publications. Throughout his 30 years of academic endeavors he taught courses for adult learning, high school, middle school, and elementary. Beyond that, he presented briefing sessions to Midwest trade conferences.

From that illustrious career he came to us as a volunteer. You may have seen him wearing an apron and taking orders at the Chili Feed. He helps at many events at the museum, and is a member of the Antique Fair committee as they plan for this exciting new event in August.

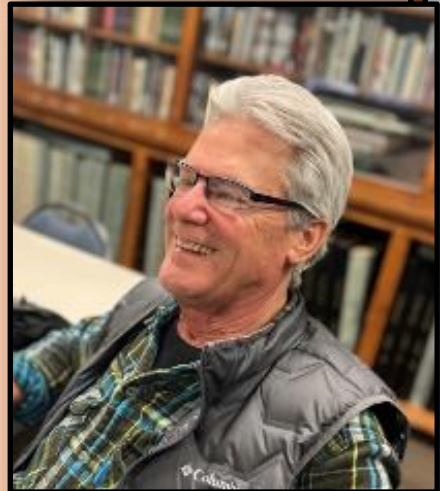
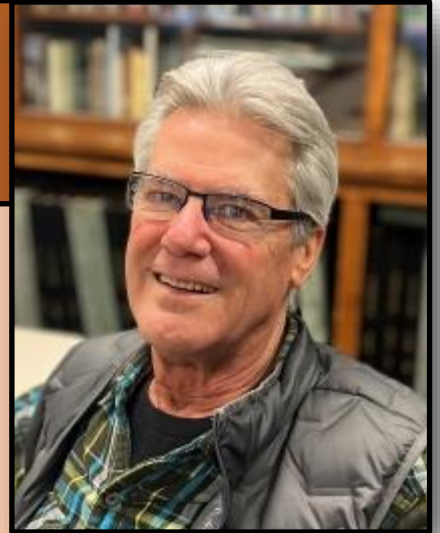
Adrian moved here from Wisconsin to live closer to his daughter and her family. Alyssa is a librarian with the Deschutes Public Library, and her husband Nick works for Deschutes County. He has a son who lives in Australia, and he generally spends six weeks with him and his family during their summer which is January and February (outside of pandemic times). His other daughter lives in Sarasota, Florida where she and her husband both play for the symphony. He has made frequent trips to attend their concerts.

Adrian first became well-known at the museum for his skill as a bread baker. He has experimented with making a variety of breads and often shows up at meetings with a treat. One of our auction items at the Chili Feed has been his offer to present the highest bidder with a fresh loaf of bread every month for a year. His other hobbies include hiking and kayaking. He enjoys spending outdoor time with his family.

His membership in the Oregon Historical Society and the Deschutes County Historical Society reflect how Adrian has embraced his new home in Oregon. He served as president of his HOA, and as of this month he begins his term as DCHS president. We are all very excited about having him lead the board in to 2022.

### Bennett

*By Sue Fountain*





**Continued from P. 3— CCC Camp Wickiup**

first season of timber clearing only hand tools were used and by the end of 1938 only 70 acres of timber had been cut and piled. That winter power shovels, dump trucks, bulldozers and other heavy equipment arrived. A Bureau history of the camp states that “...the CCC did not raze the forest as much as they whittled it away. Country and city boys laid waste to the forest in every way conceivable – with axes, saws, dynamiting, and burning. The cry of “Let Her Go,” followed by the rushing rumble of a dynamite blast signaled another advance for the corps”.

By the fall of 1939, 717 acres had been cleared for the dam site. It was obvious that despite the large workforce, the task was more daunting than expected and the original timeframe was sorrowfully inaccurate. It appears that organization and supervision were partly to blame, as an administrative inspector for the CCC wrote that enrollees tasked with clearing and cleanup were “...doing considerable loafing”.

The Wickiup and Redmond camps transferred companies back and forth as needed. In the summer two companies of workers from Redmond were transferred to Camp Wickiup, and when work slowed down in the winter at Wickiup due to heavy snows, enrollees were sent to Camp Redmond to work on the canal construction.



**Barracks 1939**



**CCC tree falling competition**



**Stumps of old growth trees logged in 1940s**

By the summer of 1941 the Wickiup Dam was about 20 percent complete and in August one of the companies was reassigned to other work for the Forest Service. More cutbacks and considerable delays were brought about by the United States' entry into World War II. On July 15, 1942 Camp Wickiup was shut down. Two months earlier Camp Redmond was closed and the Redmond buildings were divvied up between the Bureau and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Force.

Despite the CCC crews leaving, Camp Wickiup had an encore starting in December, 1942. The reservoir work was continued by workers of the Civilian Public Service. The Civilian Public Service (CPS) was a program of the United States government that provided conscientious objectors with an alternative to military service during World War II. From 1941 to 1947, nearly 12,000 draftees, willing to serve their country in some capacity but unwilling to perform any type of military service, accepted assignments in "work of national importance" in 152 CPS camps



**1939 Buildings Left to Right:  
Educational building, office, technical service  
quarters**

*Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation*



**Remains of Barracks /Latrine 2013**

## Memorials

### **Marsha Stout**

Alyce Dawes  
Nunzie Gould  
Linda Ostmeyer  
Sally Wilson

## Tributes

### **Ralph C. Curtis**

Jean Rotter

### **Bruce White**

Catharine White

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## Continued from P. 5— CCC Camp Wickiup

throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

The CPS was set up under the federal authority of the Selective Service System. Various historic “peace churches” united to form the National Council for Religious Conscientious Objectors to negotiate and coordinate with the feds. The federal government provided work projects, housing, camp furnishings and paid for transportation to the camps. The responsibilities of the churches included day-to-day management of the camps, subsistence costs, meals and healthcare for the men.

Conscientious Objectors were referred to as “COs” and their formal titles were “assignees” (as opposed to the CCC “enrollees”). In the press they were often called “Conchies”.

Starting in December of 1942 Camp Wickiup was operated by the Mennonite Central Committee. The first COs to work at Camp Wickiup for the CPS were a group of 100 Mennonite men, most of whom were from farms in Kansas. An article in the 12/19/1942 Bend Bulletin carried the headline “79 Objectors Head for Camp. Sturdy Men Look Much Like College Backfield Squad”. The article went on to report that they were a cheerful lot, a few of them were bearded and their ancestry was of sturdy Dutch stock as borne out in their physical appearance.

After a few weeks in the woods their work equaled or exceeded the productivity of the previous five years of CCC enrollees. Camp Wickiup was run by the Mennonites for just a year and then in January of 1944 the assignees were moved to other camps.

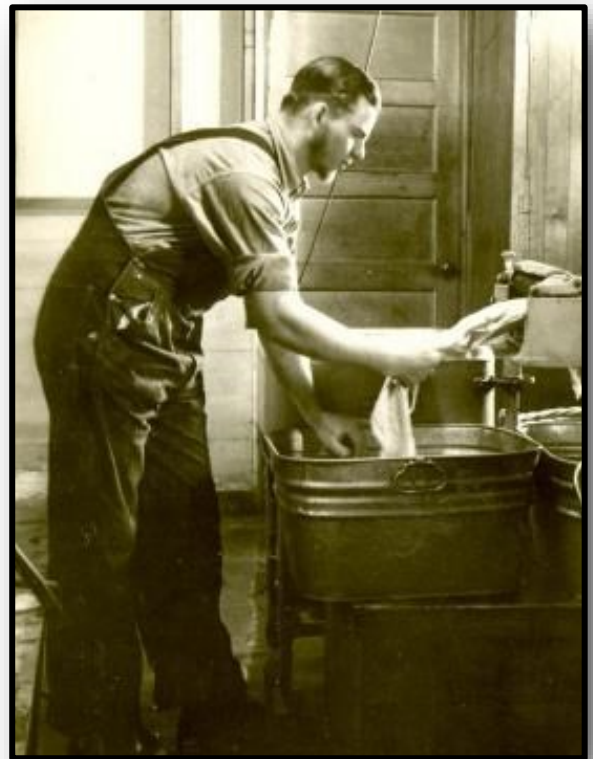
The camp was then occupied by a disparate group of COs, most of whom were not bound by any church’s agreement to do non-military work for the federal government. The Federal Government, through the Selective Service, now operated the camp and these COs not only objected to military service, but also to construction work as well. Work at Wickiup slowed to a virtual standstill. A letter home by Edwin B. Bronner, one of the COs, made the following observation about the 120 man camp:

*“This place is a hole... There are 20 men in the woods cutting wood to keep the fires burning. Everyone else is on overhead. The wood cutting crew turns out maybe one cord of wood a day, that is, the entire 20 of them together cut one cord... The men in the kitchen work about 4 hours a day at the most. There are two men in one office where one fellow told me that he works hard for 3 days at the end of each month to turn out reports. As a result there is not a person in camp, administration included, who feels that the men are doing any significant work.”*

Bronner was a Quaker who obviously had a strong work ethic and later became an author and Professor Emeritus of History at Haverford College, Pennsylvania.

The CPS camp closed after the war in July, 1946. The buildings at Camp Wickiup were sold piecemeal to various bidders in late 1947 and the camp site was razed and logged.

Needless to say the reservoir project was not fulfilled during the war. Bureau forces and contractors finished the project. As seems to be the case with all Central Oregon reservoirs, the floor leaked like a sieve in numerous places but by 1949 the dam was completed, the fissures were patched and the project was fully operational.



CPS assignee Floyd Becker doing camp laundry in 1943

Photos courtesy of the Bureau of the Mennonite Central Committee Archives

**WAR SURPLUS SALE AT**  
**Camp Wickiup**  
(42 miles southwest of Bend, Oregon)  
**SEALED BID SALE CLOSING OCT. 28, 1947**  
All government-owned surplus offered in this sale has been used, and is offered on a “Where is, as is” basis.

4 Small Light Plants—Lelkol	375 Cots, Metal, Folding
7 Army Ranges	2 Barber Chairs
1 Small Lot—Kitchen Utensils	2540 Blankets
1 Small Lot—Medical Equipment and Supplies	300 Comforters
1 Lot of Axes, Hoes, Saws	789 Mattress Covers
1 Converter DC to AC	189 Mattresses
2 Coffee Grinders	350 Pillows
1 Electric Hand Ironer	836 Pillow Cases
1 Dough Mixer—Poor Condition	2536 Sheets
2 Woodworking Lathes w/o motor	400 Canteens
3 7” Saws—Table Model	1 Lot of Dining Room Equipment
50 Wheelbarrows, Steel	8 Meat Saws—Hand
	12 Mop Buckets
	661 Cups

The items listed above are offered in complete lots only to all buyers concurrently, and it is suggested that the property be inspected before submitting a bid. Successful bidders must pick up the awarded surplus property as soon as the Sales Document is received.

Bids will be received at War Assets Administration, P.O. Box 3714, Swan Island, Portland, Oregon, until 12:00 o'clock noon, Oct. 28, 1947. Bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. on that date in Room 114, War Assets Building. The envelope in which the bid is placed must be plainly marked in the lower left hand corner: “Bid on Sale PDO 51-OL-1313—Opening Date Oct. 28, 1947.”

Property may be inspected by contacting E. J. Merrill, Work Supt., at Camp Wickiup.

Additional information about PDO 51-OL-1313 may be obtained from . . .

Camp Wickiup War Surplus Sale advertised in The Bend Bulletin October 24, 1947

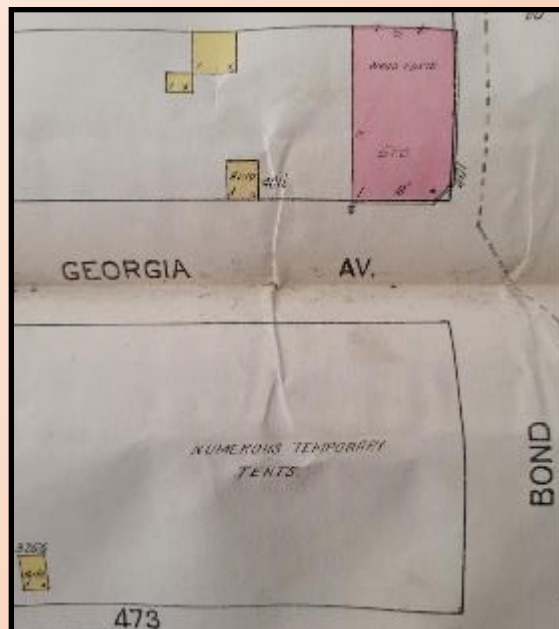


# New to Collection: 1917 and 1923 Sanborn Maps

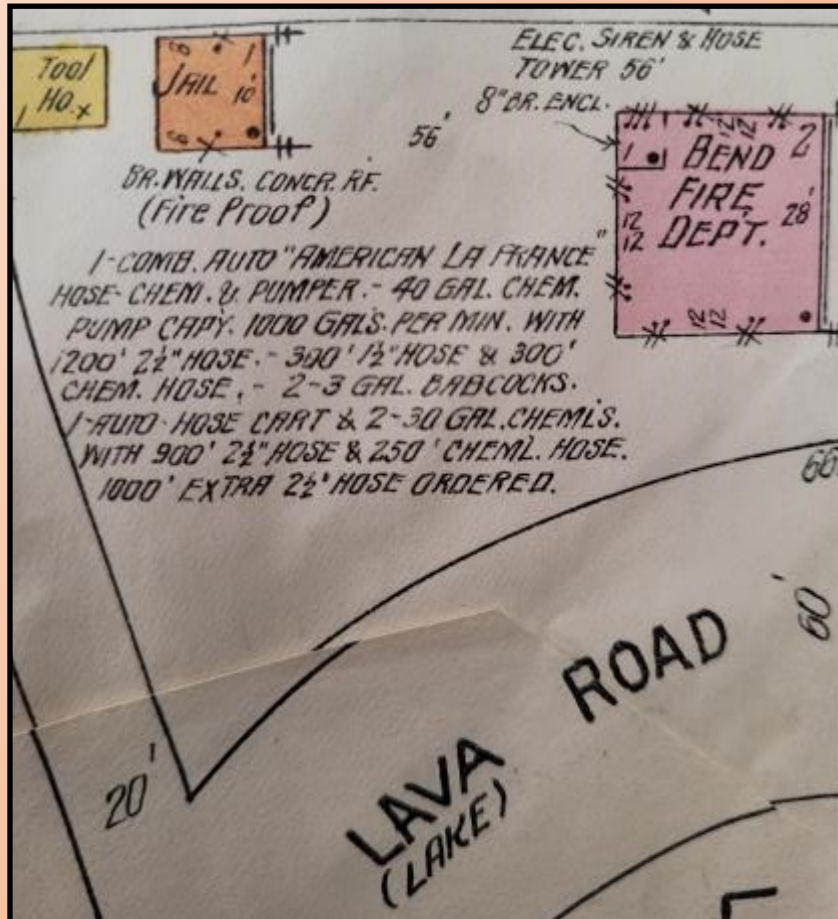
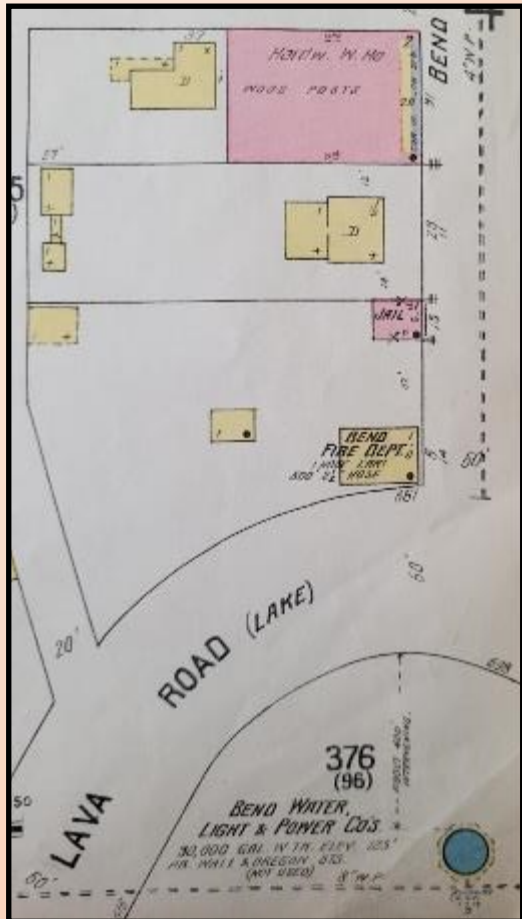
Sanborn Maps are a gold mine to historians. For those who know, their primary function provided insurance companies the details of fire risk in a community, detailing buildings and dwellings with a code system of color and abbreviations that informed users of a building's construction materials, style, system of heating, and sometimes contents, especially if those contents were flammable. The Sanborn Map Company mapped over 12,000 towns and cities between 1867 and 1970. In the heady days of Bend's early population explosion, the city was re-surveyed in 1917, 1920, and 1923.

Recently, Rhonda Jones donated hand-colored original bound copies of a 1917 Sanborn and a Corrected 1923 Sanborn to the collection. They are rich with details that not all copies carry. Corrected copies were common in the 1920s due to economic issues—looking carefully, you can see careful corrections have been drawn, cut to size, and pasted directly onto a previously drawn 1920 map. A detailed surveyor is a historian's best friend. Below are notes of interest in comparing the 1917 and Corrected 1923 maps.

Fire department locations and equipment were critical details for fire insurance maps. The Bend Fire Department location at Lava and Minnesota expanded from a simple hose cart in 1917 (left) to an actual fire station by 1923. Note the location of the water tower and the city jail nearby.



Bend has experienced housing shortages before. The block of Georgia Street between Wall and Bond contained "Numerous Temporary Tents" in 1917. The map above shows the G. W. Horner grocery store where The Source office currently is, on the corner of Georgia and Bond streets, next door to the current Deschutes Historical Museum site.





## Thank You, Bette!!

We are bidding a bittersweet farewell to our dear friend and longest-serving weekly volunteer, Bette Andrew, who is moving to the coast at the end of this month.

You may recall reading about Bette in the "Volunteer Corner" from the April 2021 issue of the *Homesteader*, "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!" She has been the keeper of the membership cards, dutifully updating each member's account and sending out annual membership cards and receipts.

We know Bette will keep her love of local history alive in her new home, and we wish her all the best!

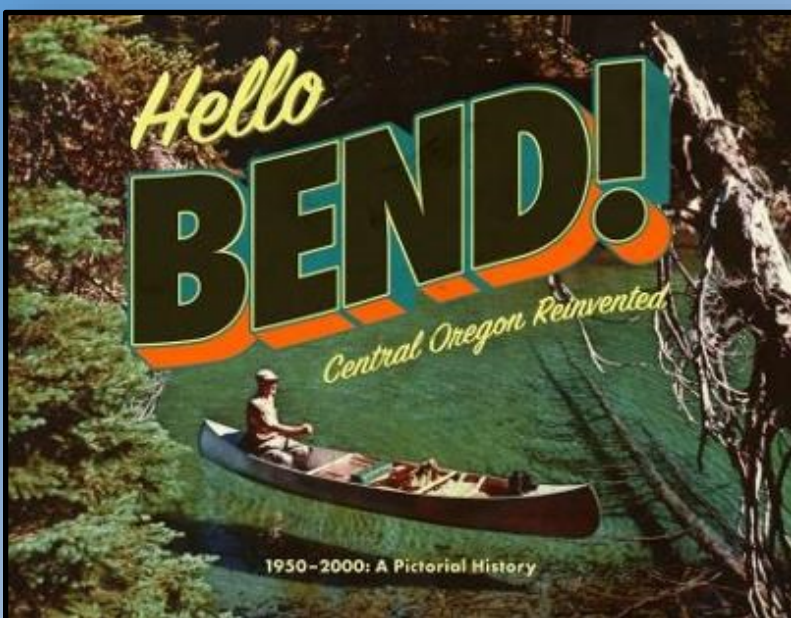


Bette with Bonnie Burns



Bette with Verne Magness

## Supplies are limited, get them while they last!



DCHS Members will receive their \$5 discount on "Hello Bend! Central Oregon Reinvented" when ordering online by using the coupon code

**HELLOBENDMEM**

Your order will be ready for you to pick up at the front desk upon arrival, it's that easy!