



The Lowe's Family Businesses

We remember the many Lowe's family businesses. See p. 2

Students can Volunteer too!

Meet DHM volunteer Justin Richards See p. 4



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—May 2022

CENTRAL OREGON
CELEBRATES
NATIONAL
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
MONTH

For a list of events visit
DeschutesHistory.org



*See Events Calendar on page 6
for events*

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESENTS THE 10TH

The
Archaeology
Roadshow



Over the month of May, Portland State University's Department of Anthropology and a state-wide planning committee host the 10th *Archaeology Roadshow*, a large-scale public outreach event designed to promote stewardship of Oregon's heritage and educate adults and children about the value of heritage to all citizens.

Check out ArchaeologyRoadshow.org to experience exhibits, speakers, panel discussions and chat with experts. All events are free and fun for kids and adults!

See page 6 for dates of speaker panels and presentations.

Lowe's Family Businesses

by Sue Fountain

Long before Lowes moved into the spot north of town that used to house The Bend Drive-in Theater, there was another Lowe's business in Bend. Bob and Wilma Lowe owned several businesses throughout the 1950s and '60s. The first one that I knew of was Peoples Market on South 3rd where there is now an Audi dealership. Until my family moved into town in 1951, we lived on Reed Market Road which we called Carroll Acres. My mother didn't drive so if we needed to go into town during the day, we would walk down Reed Market Road to 3rd Street and up the hill to Peoples Market where we could catch the City Bus. Sometimes on the way home, we would stop in the market to pick up a few grocery items. It was a friendly country store, and to celebrate the first anniversary of their business, the Lowes served cake and coffee as well as free Nehi beverages. The store advertised sales on Folgers coffee for 99 cents a pound and Oregon Chief Hot Dogs for 49 cents a pound.

A few years later Bob and Wilma opened a feed supply business on First Street called Lowe's Supply Store. For

CAKE and Delicious COFFEE		
SERVED SATURDAY P. M. and EVENING		
FOLGER'S COFFEE 1 lb. 79c	CIGARETTES By Carton \$1.59	PURE CANE SUGAR 10 lbs. 89c
OREGON CHIEF WIENERS 1b. 4		
WE FEATURE MOTHER GOOSE CANDY		
NEHI BEVERAGES SERVED FREE	FELSO White—All Purpose Detergent Special, 25c	
This SALE is to show our appreciation of your patronage, and we shall endeavor to continue with the same courteous service and low prices for your continued support.		
PEOPLES MARKET		
South 3rd St. Phone 405-W7 Two Free Deliveries Daily		
BOB and WILMA LOWE		

their grand opening they served free coffee and donuts along with balloons for the kids. They carried a variety of Feeds for all kinds of



livestock as well as poultry feed and chicken starter.

Eventually they opened Bend Poultry Company which was also on First Street. In the book *The River Flows and the Mountains Watch*, a collection of Deschutes history memories, Wilma contributed this piece:

We opened Bend Poultry Company. The market would call in the morning to tell us how many chickens and eggs to bring them. Bob and I would get up at 4AM and go to the chicken ranches and buy the live chickens and eggs. We had two ladies that could candle 30 dozen eggs in just 15 minutes. They would hold up each egg to the light to check for blood or to see if they were too old or if they had chickens in them. We did 300 chickens a day.

Bob and Wilma were hard-working people as evidenced by their successful businesses. In 1960 they opened Lowe's Trailer Town off of Highway 97. Their motto was: "We never close." They advertised that Trailer Town was paved; there was "no mud no dust." After Bob died in 1972, Wilma sold the trailer village, and later opened a

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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
info@deschuteshistory.org

Deschutes Historical Museum

Put some history in your future...

Heritage Walking Tours of Downtown Bend May 7, 14, 21 and 28



May 7 & 21: Reflections of History: An Architectural Tour

Stroll through the Drake Park Neighborhood Historic District and take a step back in time when walking was the thing to do and neighborhoods were all about proximity. Participants will be introduced to the architectural styles represented in the neighborhood, hearing stories of a changing community.

Tour begins and ends at the Deschutes Historical Museum.

Time: 10:30 a.m., approximately 1.5 hours

Length: One (1) mile through historic neighborhood. Sidewalks can be uneven.

Cost: \$10 per person, FREE to Museum Members **Space is limited**

May 14 & 28: The Early Days of Bend

Travel back to when the river ran wild, Ponderosa pines were plentiful and Bend the Beautiful was a town in the making. Learn about early Bend through the stories of six "Bendites" and how these residents helped transform a young hamlet into a booming town.

Tour begins at the Deschutes Historical Museum and ends at Lone Crow Bungalow on Wall St.

Time: 10:30 a.m., approximately 1 hour

Length: Less than one mile traveling through old neighborhoods and parkways. The ground can be uneven at times and is not recommended for wheelchairs.

Cost: \$10 per person, FREE to Museum Members **Space is limited**

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

SIGN UP MUST BE BY 4 p.m. THE DAY BEFORE THE TOUR.

Call 541-389-1813 or register online DESCHUTESHISTORY.ORG

Tours are subject to change and cancellation.

Celebrating Mother's Day: Virginia Meissner, 1968 "Community Mother of the Year"

As we celebrate Mother's Day this month, here is a look back to a time when the local chapter of the Eagles still held their annual Mother's Day Program.

The year is 1968 and the title of Community Mother of the Year went to Virginia Meissner. According to an article printed in the *Bend Bulletin*, "Mrs. Meissner was presented with an Eagle emblem wrist watch, an orchid corsage, an arm bouquet of roses and a certificate of appreciation."

Her daughter Jane remembers being in middle school at the time, "I don't know how they decided who received the award, but back then Bend was much smaller and most people knew each other in town, so people were familiar with the things mom was doing."

Eagles pick Mrs. Meissner Community Mother of Year



Bend Bulletin, 1968 Left to Right: Mrs. Francis Baker, Redmond, state Auxiliary Mother, Mrs. Jack Meissner (Virginia), and Claude Weikel, chairman for program.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Justin

Richards

By Rebekah Averette

This month we have the honor of highlighting one of our youngest DCHS volunteers. Cascade Middle School 8th grader Justin Richards has been with us for a little over a year as a third floor collections volunteer. When Justin decided he wanted to gain volunteer experience, the Deschutes Historical Museum was a perfect fit, aligning perfectly with his love of history. Justin organizes and files photos after they have been scanned and cataloged, has conducted inventories of existing collections, and assists with preparing newly accessioned items for archiving.

Justin was born in Oakland, CA, but has lived in Bend since he was quite young. He attended Miller Elementary School, currently attends Cascade Middle School, and will be a freshman at Summit High School in the fall. Besides his parents, Justin has one older brother and a Boykin Spaniel named Woody. His family enjoys skiing and travels frequently, often to his grandparents near Monterey, CA.

Justin is not just a history buff, he is also a talented musician! He plays the clarinet for the Cascade Middle School Band, and has been a drummer since he was eight years old. Summer drumming classes and years of private lessons paid off; after a rigorous audition process, Justin landed a spot as a drummer in the Cascade School of Music Band.

He particularly loves listening to and playing rock music, but also enjoys classical, pop, and jazz. Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich is one of the musicians he currently most admires.

In addition to his accomplishments as a musician, Justin also enjoys acting. He performed in Charlotte's Web (as Mr. Arable) and as a pirate in Peter Pan with the BEAT Children's Theatre. His acting career was sparked by an early passion for cinema and frequent trips to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He loves both watching and making movies; one of his short films was screened at the Tin Pan Theater during the Bend Film Festival! He would even consider pursuing a career in the film industry in the future.

Justin prefers reading nonfiction, especially books about world history. Although he does plan on attending college after his four years at Summit High School, Justin is still keeping his options open about where he will go and what he will study. In the meantime, the staff and other volunteers at DCHS always enjoy working with him when he volunteers during school breaks, on weekends, and over the summer.

Do you know a middle or high school student who may be interested in gaining volunteer experience over the summer? There are many interesting volunteer opportunities at the Deschutes Historical Museum!

For students interested in "Front of House" roles, we need tour guides and front desk help. For those who prefer "Behind the Scenes" work, students can assist with exhibit preparation, artifact care, archival work, research, transcription work, or a project of their own design!

Please contact Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager at vanessa@deschuteshistory.org.





Remembering David Blahnik

July 18, 1940 – March 7, 2022

We are sad to say goodbye to a friend of the Deschutes Historical Museum, David Blahnik. David married his wife Charlene Chopp in 1966, and later moved to Bend, Charlene's home town, after retiring from the Army.

In addition to his many years of service in the military, David devoted over 20 years to the students of the High Desert Education Service District as a Substitute Education Assistant, where he loved to encourage and be a part of students' academic pursuits, and see former students succeeding as accomplished adults in the Bend community.



Charlene, daughter of Millie Chopp (of Millie's Chili fame), was an award winning artist whose family's roots began with the founding of the Rastovich homestead in 1919. Throughout her life, Charlene found ways to enrich her community through her artwork and her love of creative works.

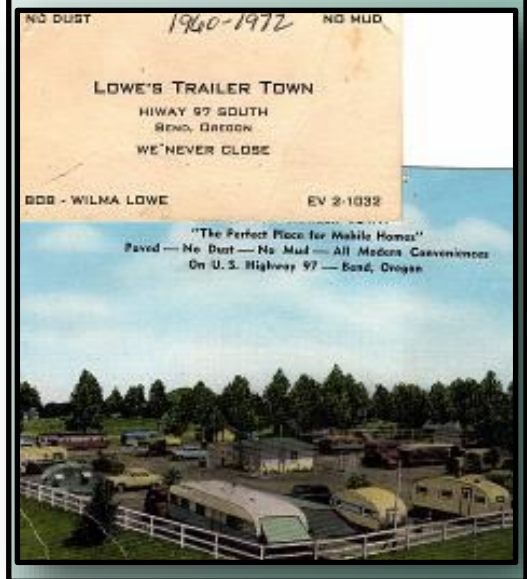
When Charlene passed away in 2017, David decided to honor Charlene's legacy by funding a sculpture project on the museum grounds that would connect Charlene with another significant and creative woman with artistic connections to Central Oregon, Kathleen Rockwell. Also known as Klondike Kate, Rockwell supported many charitable organizations in Central Oregon. In November of 2018, "Community Beauty" by artist Jenny Ellsworth, was dedicated by David and the Blahnik family.

David and Charlene now rest reunited at the Pilot Butte Cemetery.



Continued from P. 2— Lowe's Businesses

health food store in downtown Bend on Franklin between Wall and Bond Streets. The Lowes were active members of the Newport Church of Christ. Aside from church and business, they raised two boys and taught them the value of a good work ethic. Both sons, Lyle and Gayle, were outstanding athletes at Bend High School. Lyle passed away in 2019, and Gayle, who lives in Bend, is an active member of the Deschutes Historical Society.



Memorials

David Blahnik

Doris Drost Bennett

Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

Marsha Stout

Tracy Alexander

Mark Your Calendars: MAY



1-31 OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY VIRTUAL ROAD SHOW: [ArchaeologyRoadshow.org](https://archaeologyroadshow.org)

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH See [DeschutesHistory.org](https://deschuteshistory.org) for information



4 "BIG RED: THE CRANE SHED & HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN BEND" Presented by Kelly Cannon-Miller
12:30 p.m. Larkspur Community Center 1600 SE Reed Mkt Rd. Bend, OR



CITY COUNCIL OF BEND MEETING: MAY AS NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH PROCLAMATION
7:00 p.m. Bend City Hall 710 NW Wall St.



OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY ROAD SHOW (OARS) VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: "LOST SHIPS, LOST SAILORS: MYSTERY WRECKS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST" Presented by Scott Williams
7:00 p.m. Register here: <https://archaeologyroadshow.org/event-calendar/>



5 OARS VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: "INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND PRECONTACT ROCK ART IN THE NORTHERN PLAINS REGION" Presented by Emily Van Alst (part of the PSU First Thursday talks)
4:00 p.m. Register here: <https://archaeologyroadshow.org/event-calendar/>



7 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Reflections of History; An Architectural Tour
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum *Pre-registration required; see p. 3 for details*



10 OARS VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: "THE CLAM GARDEN NETWORK: Exploring the Social and Ecological Contexts of Clam Management in the Past, Present, and Future" Presented by Dana Leposfsky
7:00 p.m. Register here: <https://archaeologyroadshow.org/event-calendar/>



11 "WOMEN OF SAGE AND PINE" Presented by Vanessa Ivey
12:30 p.m. Larkspur Community Center 1600 SE Reed Mkt Rd. Bend, OR



12 OARS VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: "THE DAM FIASCO AT BULL FLAT: A Look Back at the 1913-1914 Tumalo Project" Presented by Mike Berry
7:00 p.m. Register here: <https://archaeologyroadshow.org/event-calendar/>



14 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Days of Early Bend
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum *Pre-registration required; see p. 3 for details*



17 OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY ROADSHOW VIRTUAL PANEL: "TRIBAL CANOE LIFEWAYS" Presented by Sam Robinson, Renea Perry, Jordan Mercier
7:00 p.m. Register here: <https://archaeologyroadshow.org/event-calendar/>



18 "PRESERVING AGRICULTURAL HISTORY AT HOLLINSHEAD PARK" Presented by Julie Brown and Kim Johnson of Bend Park & Recreation
12:30 p.m. Larkspur Community Center 1600 SE Reed Mkt Rd. Bend, OR



OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY ROADSHOW VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: "WALDO LAKE HISTORY: Pre-Contact to Present Times" Hosted by ASCO, Presented by Paul Claeysens
7:00 p.m. Register here: <https://archaeologyroadshow.org/event-calendar/>



19 OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY ROADSHOW: VIRTUAL ARCHAEOLOGY ON TAP: FOUR 1/2-HOUR TALKS
Presenters: Katee Withee; Katelyn McDonough/ Richie Rosenranch/Dennis Jenkins; Jordan Pratt; Lisbeth Lourderbak/ Stefania Wilks
7:00 p.m. Register here: <https://archaeologyroadshow.org/event-calendar/>



20 WORRELL WAYSIDE PARK, A PART OF BEND'S HISTORY
1:30-4:00 p.m. Worrell Wayside Park 1236 NW Wall St. Bend, OR



21 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Reflections of History; An Architectural Tour
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum *Pre-registration required; see p. 3 for details*



24 OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY ROADSHOW VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: "THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY IN THE GREAT BASIN: A 15,000-Year-Long Environmental Record of Endemic Tui Chub from the Paisley Caves, Oregon" Presented by Adam Hudson
7:00 p.m. Register here: <https://archaeologyroadshow.org/event-calendar/>



25 OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY ROADSHOW VIRTUAL PANEL
Presented by Anna Neuzil, Matt Brunengo, Robert Cromwell, Stan McDonald, Krey Easton, and John Zancanella
7:00 p.m. Register here: <https://archaeologyroadshow.org/event-calendar/>



28 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Days of Early Bend
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum *Pre-registration required; see p. 3 for details*