



Monumental Neighbors

*Meet a unique resident of Greenwood Cemetery
See p. 2*

Sneak Peek

*Meet DHM's own history sleuth, Julie Westlind
See p. 4*



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—June 2022

JUNETEENTH FREE DAY AT THE DESCHUTES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

10:00 a.m.—4:30p.m.



The Deschutes Historical Museum has joined with Juneteenth Central OR and The Father's Group to offer a free day on Saturday, June 18 as part of the Juneteenth 2022 celebrations.

Juneteenth 2022 is scheduled for June 18-19, 2022, at Drake Park. A full list of events, programs, and entertainment can be found on their website, www.juneteenthcentralor.com.

The Deschutes Historical Museum is currently hosting the exhibit *Timber Culture*, a traveling exhibit from the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center. The exhibit explores the lives of loggers and their families drawn together from different cultures during the great migration of African Americans from the South, and presents an inclusive look at Oregon's multicultural logging communities. In sharing and discussing the history of the segregated logging community of Maxville, Oregon, the exhibit examines issues of race and social justice through the lens of Oregon's history.

Maxville is an important story almost lost to memory if it weren't for its founder and executive director, Gwen Trice. It not only challenges popular notions of who worked as loggers, but shows what was possible when Maxville's families ignored the segregation lines drawn on town maps. We are excited to add Maxville's voices to this year's Juneteenth celebrations.

Monumental Neighbors

Some of my closest neighbors reside in the Pilot Butte and Greenwood Cemeteries. For almost 30 years we have lived near these cemeteries and I occasionally stroll through them to seek solace and reflect. Sometimes a curious monument will catch my eye, or I will spy the name of an interesting personage from Deschutes County's early days. In that moment I will feel a deep connection to these long-gone residents of the land I now walk, the place I am living my life. Although this area has grown and changed beyond their wildest imagination, we share a commonality of place. They marveled at the same snowy mountains painted pink with alpenglow on a cold December morning, delighted in the sharp Vicks-VapoRub-scent of juniper and sage after a spring thunderstorm and they threw a line into the Deschutes to tempt a trout to rise.

One of the most unique monuments in the Greenwood Cemetery is that of John J. Simpson. It is a 7-foot tall, 22-inch diameter concrete likeness of a tree stump. A scroll on the west face of the tree only enumerates name, birth year and death year – JOHN J SIMPSON 1868 – 1927. No information about the man or the reason for this unique gravestone (grave tree?).

The Monument - This is a Woodmen of the World (W.O.W), headstone. Woodmen of the World was founded as a fraternal benefit society that would *"bind in one association the Jew and the Gentile, the Catholic and the Protestant, the agnostic and the atheist."* It was originally founded in 1883 by Joseph Cullen Root in Lyons, Iowa as the *Modern Woodmen of America* (MWA). He had a falling out with the organization and then founded the Woodman of the World in 1890. The name "Woodman" did not denote an organization of woods workers (loggers, millworkers and the like) but was inspired by a sermon Root had heard that told of *"woodmen clearing the forest to provide for their families."* He envisioned the

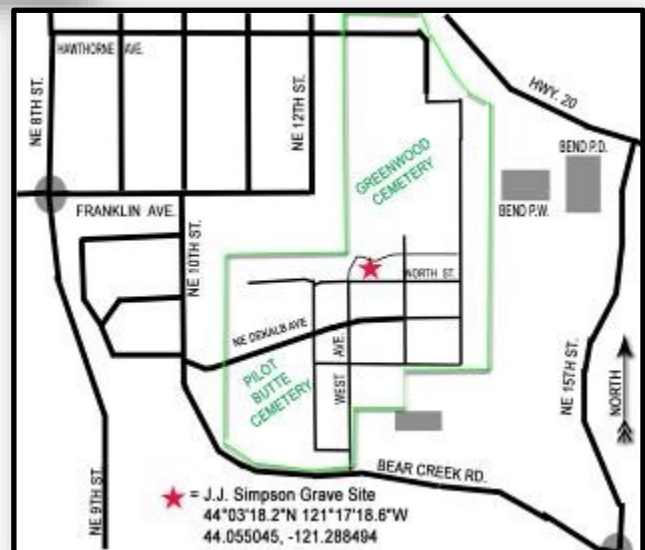


by Mike Berry

Woodmen of the World as being a society that would *"clear away the problems of financial security for its members"*.

One of the biggest insecurities for working class citizens at the turn of the century was funeral expenses and the possibility of a pauper's grave. From 1890 to 1900, WOW offered its members a life insurance

policy that would provide these unique tree grave markers free of charge. From 1900 to the mid-1920s members had to purchase a \$100 rider to cover the cost of a WOW marker. When a member died the organization would send plans to the local stone mason for a wide variety of WOW tree grave markers. In the mid-1920s the marker benefit was discontinued due to the increasing costs of the



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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



Got Too Many Antiques? *We Can Help With That*

As part of this year's Antique Fair, the organizing committee is bringing back the idea of Grandma's Attic from the days of

the Holiday Bazaar. The committee will host a "Friends of the Museum" booth at the Antique Fair selling antiques as a fundraiser to benefit the museum.

We need your donations to make this possible. For example, we recently received a donation of "Made in Occupied Japan" porcelain collection for the sale. The committee is looking for pre-1980 antiques in good condition. Please, no reproductions or repurposed items.

All donated antiques will be stored by committee chair Jane Williamson prior to the sale. If you have objects you can donate, please call Jane at 541-390-4351.

Looking for some last-minute Father's Day gift ideas? Here are a couple of ads from the June 6, 1972 Bend Bulletin:

New low prices on these knit dress shirts. In time for Father's Day.

Orig. 10.00 **Now \$8**
short sleeve model
Orig. 9.95 **Now \$7**

3.50

Great jeans for great Dads.



JCPenney
The values are here every day.

STARTS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7th

LABORATORY TO THE RIGHT

DOWNTOWN BEND

1002 WALL STREET

Mon. Thru Sat. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Except Fri. 'til 9 p.m.

Gifts FIT FOR A KING!

The Hero
The Hero
The Hero

WICK DRY

WETLE'S

Continued from P. 2— Monumental Neighbors

markers.

WOW also was involved with local community events, held summer camps for youth and had a scholarship program for high school students.

WOW continues today as WoodmenLife (officially "Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society"), a large privately held insurance company headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska.

John J. Simpson – As detailed in his 11/18/1927 obituary, Simpson and his wife Clarinda moved to Bend from Lakeview three years prior to his death from "heart trouble". The paper makes note of her selling some property in 1934 and then the trail turns cold.



Pioneer Trapper From Lake County Dies Here

John Johnson Simpson, 58, of Bend, old-time trapper and hunter of Lake county, died at his home just outside the city limits early this morning, after a lingering illness diagnosed as heart trouble. He is survived by his wife, Clarinda.

Simpson was born March 12, 1869, at Winchester, Ky., and later came to Oregon, where he was married to Miss Clarinda I. Taylor at Cottage Grove July 24, 1901. They had no children.

Mr. and Mrs. Simpson came to Bend three years ago from Lake county, where they had spent 16 years trapping and hunting. They had the best fur collection in the county, and were known widely for their work in that line.

Mrs. Margaret Taylor, of Eugene, mother of Mrs. Simpson, and Mrs. L. E. Hamer, of Tumalo, her sister, are with her at Bend. Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p. m. Saturday from Niswonger's chapel.

Nov. 18, 1927 Bend Bulletin

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Julie

Julie Westlind has only been working at DCHS as a volunteer for a few months, but it is already impossible to imagine the museum without her.

Westlind

By Rebekah Averette

The talented Julie can seemingly tackle any task! She is particularly adept at tracking genealogy and has already solved several “history mysteries” for us. “Let’s put Julie on it” is a frequent refrain whenever a genealogy question or project arises. Her approach is thorough; she tucks herself away on a computer and works diligently for hours before emerging with a detailed family tree and/or pages of findings on whatever subject we set before her. Her expertise in genealogy arose from a desire to trace her own family history.

Julie has worked on tracing the history of several families in Deschutes County to augment other research we are conducting. Currently, in between completing the numerous collections and research tasks we pile on her, Julie is busily scanning the important, but yet un-scanned Keyes family photo album. When she completes the task, we will have a digitized copy of this important artifact of local history. She is adding her research on the Keyes family to our existing family file so future generations of historians will have easy access to it.

One challenge we presented was to discover how the World War I diary of a Utah soldier ended up in an antique store in Prineville, Oregon. Julie sleuthed her way to discovering the man’s aunt had lived in Eastern Oregon.

Julie relocated to Central Oregon from the Portland suburbs a few years ago. “I grew up in a tiny logging and fishing town called Cathlamet in SW Washington on the Columbia River. Lewis and Clark walked through there so history was big in our little town.” She credits her father with her love of history, “He has an extensive knowledge of old things and I think researching them runs in the blood.” After moving to Bend, Julie subsequently met her “better half” at her new job. They are both employed at Blackstrap, a company started in 2008 that develops, processes, warehouses, and distributes a wide range of funky, quality outdoor gear right here in Bend, Oregon. They do a lot of travel photography as they love researching and traveling to historic sites around the state. Julie’s interests in rockhounding, exploring old cemeteries, and perusing estate sales make her a perfect fit around the Deschutes Historical Museum!



NEW TO COLLECTION

By Rabekah Averette, Collections Manager

Although winter's chill has clung on a little longer than we might have hoped, we are starting to transition into the season of picnics, concerts, outdoor fun, and (drumroll)WEDDING SEASON! It is particularly timely that in the last few months we have welcomed into our collection two very exciting items of a matrimonial nature.



The museum was contacted in March by Rene Terry of Eugene, Oregon. She was searching for the perfect home for her great-grandmother, Elizabeth Steidl's wedding ensemble and hoped to keep the dress and accoutrements in the Pacific Northwest, where Elizabeth and John settled. Minnesota was the original home of numerous members of the Steidl family, many of whom made their livings in timber and farming before emigrating west to pursue a living in Oregon. In fact, Elizabeth's close relative, John Steidl was one of the pioneers of the development of Bend. John moved to Bend in 1901 and established one of the earliest sawmills here in 1903, the "Steidl and Reed Mill". He was also the president and manager of the

Central Oregon Development Company. Elizabeth, our featured bride, died in 1961 and is buried in Spokane, WA.

Wedding of John Miller and Elizabeth Steidl, Jan. 20, 1920 at St. Nicholas Church in Carlos, MN. With Best Man, Mark Steidl and Maid of Honor, Anna Miller.



More recently, the museum received a call from Scott Forrester of Gresham, who made an interesting find in a local second-hand store. Nestled in a box of old frames was a marriage certificate bearing photographs of Edgar and Myrtle Thompson as well as the priest who married them in 1897 in Terre Haute, Indiana. The frame even had a small family tree on the back pointing to their life in Bend and listing their burial at Pilot Butte Cemetery. Scott spotted the frame, noted that the family seemed to have ties to Bend, rescued it from languishing in a mark-down bin, and drove all the way to Bend to deliver it to us.

Edgar and Myrtle are featured in our Historic Haunts of Downtown Bend, as they both passed in their home of four decades, the upstairs apartment of the EM Thompson building next door to The Tower Theatre. In 2014 we researched a mystery piece of furniture with Edgar's name on it and then in 2017 a descendant of the family donated several family pieces, including Myrtle's bible. The bible (seen sitting in front of the certificate in the upper photograph)



was a gift to Myrtle from Edgar on her birthday, the year before they were married. It's a safe bet that this framed certificate hung on the wall of their home. All these years later, thanks to Scott, the bible and certificate are together in our collection.

CALLING ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!



If you are looking for family fun this summer, stop in at the Deschutes Historical Museum. Between May 21 to September 5, 2022 the museum is offering free admission through the *Blue Star Museums* program.

This summer participating museums nationwide will open their doors to currently serving military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve, and up to five of their family members. *Blue Star Museums* is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and participating museums across America. For a list of participating museums, visit arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

Memorials

Joyce Cale Brown

Nancy Merrick

Grace Vandever McNellis

Andrea Hunnell-Dupree

Alice Westphal

Gayle Lowe

Tributes

The Buckley Family

Abigail Buckley

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

Sue Fountain

Gayle Lowe

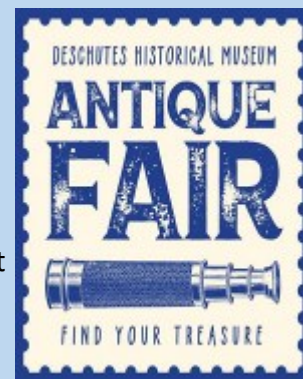
Darwin Wood

Darla Wood-Walters

Antique Fair Comes to the Deschutes Historical Museum

By Sue Fountain

Some of you have asked, "What is all this talk about an Antique Fair?" I am happy to explain the Historical Society's plan to sponsor such an event on August 20, 2022. Antique fairs have a history in our area. The "Antiques at the Drake" was staged in Drake Park for five years from 1991- 1995. After that, it was moved to Sisters for three years and then to the fairgrounds for two years. Feeling that there is still an interest in antique sales, the Deschutes Historical Society decided that the museum grounds would be a great venue to host an antique fair.



According to Nancy Beggs who, along with Gina Christie, were the promoters of the Drake Park fair, no matter the location, the event was well attended. Vendors came from all over Oregon, California, and Washington. As this is the first year for DCHS to sponsor an antique sale, we don't know how many vendors we will have, but we are prepared for at least forty. There will also be an antique appraisal table available from 12 – 3:00 p.m. with local antiques expert, Karen Stockton.

Jane Williamson is the chairperson, and she is working with a committee of volunteers to line up vendors, sponsors, and food carts. Rob Rastovich has offered to make hamburgers with his famous barley beef. There will also be a breakfast food cart for the early birds.

The event runs from 9:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m., Saturday, the 20th of August. Aside from the antique sale and food carts, Jay Bowerman and Loren Irving will be playing their brand of Americana music. Mark your calendars and come to the museum that day and help the historical society launch their first annual Antique Fair.

Mark Your Calendars

JUNE

4 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

BEND BEER CHASEKEG LEG START & FINISH LINE
3—7:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

11 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

18 **JUNETEENTH FREE DAY**
10:00 a.m. –4:30 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

25 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum



JUNETEENTH 2022

SAVE THE DATE!



AUGUST 20:

