



A Fountain of Gratitude

Meet volunteer Sue
Fountain See p. 4

A Community's Drive to the Top

Pilot Butte Road's
Centennial See p. 2



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—July 2022



Happy Birthday Deschutes Historical Museum

Celebrate at our Annual Free Day July 4 10am-4pm

July 4 is not only the date we celebrate the birth of our nation, but it is also the birthday of the Deschutes Historical Museum. On July 4, 1980, former Oregon governor Victor Atiyeh stood on the front lawn of the newly dedicated county historical museum and declared, *"It [Deschutes Historical Museum] will be here, as a reminder of the past, after many of us are gone."* Forty-two years later, we welcome visitors looking to discover the history of the Deschutes Valley and those who came here to live.

After a two-year hiatus, the Deschutes County Historical Society once again invites everyone to join in wishing the museum a very happy birthday at its annual **Free Day Monday July 4, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**. Stop by after the Bend Pet Parade to explore two floors of exhibit rooms, thumb through old Bulletins, watch the documentary "Let There Be Light: Bend's Water Pageant", and participate in family friendly games on the lawn. No birthday party is complete without ice cream and Otter Pops, which will be served while supplies last.

Pilot Butte Road Centennial: 1922-2022

By Mike Berry

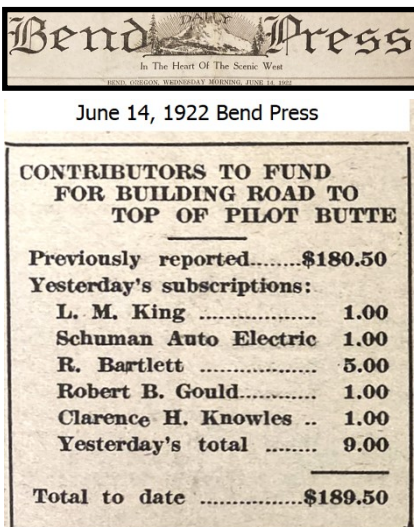
Prior to 1922 the only way to reach the summit of Pilot Butte was via a steep, zig-zagging foot path. In early June of 1922 the *Bend Press* newspaper started a movement to build a road to the summit of the Butte. It was estimated that the cost of the road construction would be \$500 and it would take two weeks to build the road spiraling up from the base of the butte to the summit. Within a month the \$500 had been raised by private donations and the road was completed to the top of the butte.

The *Bend Press* was a short-lived newspaper, apparently in operation between 1916 and 1923. The Deschutes Historical Museum has a smattering of archives of "The Press" between these years. The paper was in direct competition with the *Bend Bulletin* and no love was lost between the two papers.

On June 8, 1922 the *Bend Press* launched their ambitious and dogged campaign to whip up enthusiasm for the Pilot Butte Road. The paper established "The Bend Press Pilot Butte Road Fund" and implored its readers to contribute at the very least one dollar (equivalent to \$17.40 in 2022) toward the project.

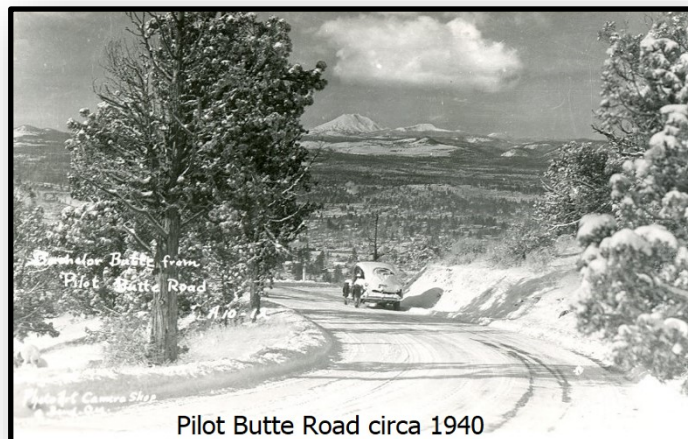
The *Bend Press* was a daily paper and for the next 14 issues the front page ran a headline about the fund-raising progress, with titles like "Mill Workers Give Pep To Road Drive" and "Fund To Build Road To Crest Of Pilot Butte Takes Another Leap Higher".

Under the headline was either a photo of a local natural wonder such as the Three Sisters, "Old" Broken Top, Cline Falls, Tumalo Falls or a map of local tourist attractions like Century Drive, the Metolius River and Newberry Crater. These images were accompanied by flowery



June 14, 1922 Bend Press

CONTRIBUTORS TO FUND FOR BUILDING ROAD TO TOP OF PILOT BUTTE	
Previously reported.....	\$180.50
Yesterday's subscriptions:	
L. M. King	1.00
Schuman Auto Electric	1.00
R. Bartlett	5.00
Robert B. Gould.....	1.00
Clarence H. Knowles ..	1.00
Yesterday's total	9.00
Total to date	\$189.50



Pilot Butte Road circa 1940

text such as:

"The Cascade Range has hundreds of hidden lakes, each reflecting the beauty of a snow-capped mountain, this is the sort of beautiful haven that will be introduced to the tourist in a novel manner by the construction of an auto road to the top of Pilot Butte"

Wait – did they say introduced to "the tourist"? You bet they did. The *Bend Press* made it clear throughout the campaign that the impetus for building the Pilot Butte Road was as a draw for tourists. For a small town of 5,500 residents this was a very inexpensive and simple endeavor to attract more people to Bend.

Under the front-page photos or maps the paper printed a tally of the previous grand total, a list of names of the new donors from the day before, the amount each donated, and the new total. This enumeration was accompanied by an article encouraging more donations and garnering enthusiasm for the benefits the road's construction would bring to the area.

\$200 had been raised by June 15, mainly from individuals who donated one dollar. Enthusiasm began to flag (although *The Bulletin*, to their credit, had donated \$10). On June 15th *The Press* made an appeal for larger contributions. They were on a timeline to have the road built by July 1, prior to the big influx of tourists for the town's big Fourth of July celebration.

At this critical juncture Terrance H. Foley sprang into action.

- 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
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

Continued from P. 2— Pilot Butte Road Centennial

T.H. Foley was a respected businessman, community leader and president of the Bend Commercial Club. By noon on June 16, he had secured over \$180 from local mills, banks, businesses and citizens. Six days later the \$500 goal was reached.

Tragically, Foley was killed in an automobile accident 3 years later. In 1927 friends and associates of Foley bought Pilot Butte and then deeded it to the State of Oregon as a gift commemorating the life and accomplishments of Foley. Please see the "[Pilot Butte Park History](#)" article by Terry Foley in the October 2021 issue of *The Homesteader* for more information about T.H. Foley.

Road construction began on Monday, June 26th with engineer Robert B. Gould as the project supervisor and T.E. Going as the construction foreman. The road work progressed at a fast rate and on July 3rd the *Bulletin* announced that the first cars would be able to drive to the summit on July 4th.

However, at 7:30 p.m. on July 3rd Gould and J.L. Van Huffel jumped the gun and made the first automobile ascent of Pilot Butte in a "Ford Car equipped with a six-speed transmission". Van Huffel owned the town's Ford dealership and was a former chauffeur – odds are he did the driving. The trip was made ostensibly to ensure the road was indeed drivable prior to the next day's scheduled excursions up the butte. They reached the top without trouble. On July 4th a few cars drove to the top and only one slid off the grade but no damage was done.

By the end of July the *Bulletin* reported that "coasting down the new Pilot Butte Road is the latest thrilling sport adopted by Bend boys who own bicycles".

The road was at first too narrow for two cars to pass, but additional widening and turnouts were constructed. In 1924 the US Forest Service and Warren Construction Company finally widened the entirety of the road to accommodate two-way uphill and downhill traffic. In 1928 the road was again widened and improved and in 1936 it was paved.

The *Bulletin* noted in 1923 that new visitors to Bend were now able to take a short drive to the top of Pilot Butte and gain "as in no other way an idea of the town and surrounding country that they will carry with them always". I have to agree that it's a great spot to show off where we live.

June 21, 1922 Bend Press

A road to the top of Pilot Butte is the logical means of advertising Central Oregon's vast and beautiful playground. The Press has instituted this campaign for the raising of funds sufficient to defray the cost of constructing a spiral road to the crest of Pilot Butte in order that tourists and people at home be afforded an opportunity to view in unequalled panorama the beauties and the wonders of the Bend country.

This road will cost only \$500. To date there has been subscribed \$434.50. This leaves only \$65.50 to complete the campaign. **THIS TASK SHOULD BE FINISHED TODAY.**

July 31, 1922 Bend Bulletin

BICYCLING LATEST BUTTE ROAD SPORT

Long Coast Enjoyed By Boys, Even Though It's Stiff Climb— Many Cars Make Trip.

Coasting down the new Pilot Butte road is the latest thrilling sport adopted by Bend boys who own bicycles. Of course, it's a long way up to take a wheel, but where else can one coast steadily for so long a distance? A number of wheels were seen at the top of the Butte Saturday night.

The new road is being used by cars every evening, although all proceed cautiously to avoid the necessity of meeting other cars, on account of the narrowness of the road.

NEW TO THE COLLECTION

By Rebekah Averette, Collections Manager



A recent call from the front desk began "Rebekah, you have a call, and I'm pretty sure you are going to be interested!" The caller had in her possession a series of letters a friend had originally stumbled on at an estate sale. Sure enough, the collection of love letters between Ernest A. Smith and his future wife, Flossie Reed, bring to life two early Deschutes County

settlers and provide a touching look at early 20th century courting. And they charmed our socks off.

Written between 1906 and 1909, the letters span the engagement of Ernest and Flossie. The two married in 1909 and raised two children in Bend. Museum fans may remember that Ernest Smith became the owner of Bend's first car, a 1907 Holsman, now displayed on the second floor of the museum. When the phone company couldn't afford to pay his wages--Ernest kept the car and his family later donated it to the Museum.

During their engagement, the pair was often apart and wrote to one another frequently. Ernest traveled extensively for work, installing the state's first telephone lines. Flossie wrote from her home in Central Oregon, but also spent an extended period in Portland, where her brother was receiving medical treatment. The loving duo frequently expressed the pain of longing and Ernest even sent his sweetheart locks of his hair as a memento. The letters are tender and sweet, but also a fascinating window into daily life at the time. They detail dances, church and social events, employment successes and woes, the challenges of homesteading, and the very real struggles of a young couple seeking to build a prosperous future for themselves in burgeoning Bend, Oregon.



Ernest and Flossie in the Holsman, Bend's first car, circa 1955

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Sue

Fountain

By Rebekah Averette

As Sue Fountain prepares to bid adieu to Bend and begin her new life in Port Townsend, WA, museum staff, board members, and fellow volunteers are bemoaning the loss of her to our community. She has been an active and integral part of the museum for many years, most recently serving as the DCHS Board President from 2020-2021. Sue has also long been an active volunteer at the museum, working at the annual Chili Feed and other museum events, creating a substantial Water Pageant archive, creating a small Brooks-Scanlon exhibit on the first floor, using her expertise to catalog and organize the library, and editing the *Homesteader*. Sue's contributions to preserve the history of Deschutes County are beyond measure.

Sue is a true Bendite! She grew up on Broadway Avenue in a house across the street from what is now Jackson's Corner. Sue fondly remembers a childhood filled with fun and freedom, running and playing in her neighborhood and exploring the nearby "fairy path" and local parks: she recounts that parents didn't worry about their children unless they failed to show up for dinner. She studied at local schools, Thompson (now Amity Creek) Elementary, Kenwood (now Highland) Elementary, Reid School, and graduated from Bend High School in 1963. Sue grew up the third of four sisters in a Bend where everyone knew everyone by name. Her father worked as a millwright at Brooks-Scanlon, her Mom at the Bend Dairy Store (during Prohibition) and later at the iconic Smart Shop, both on Wall Street. Sue recalls that the gate to the Brooks-Scanlon mill was located just one block from her home.

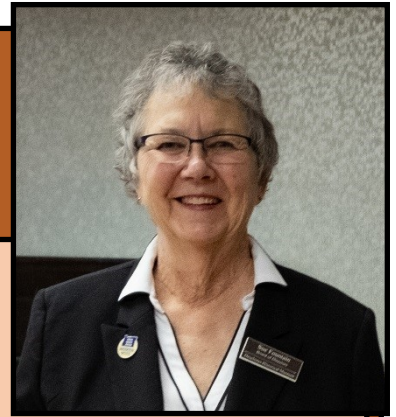
Sue hasn't spent her entire life in Bend, however. After college, she lived "all over," including California, Washington, and even New Orleans while raising her family. She is the mother of four children: two boys and two girls. When her two daughters were in college and her sons in elementary school, Sue returned to college, completing a degree and attaining a teaching certificate at Evergreen College in Washington. She and her daughters were actually college students at the same time! After graduating, she was a high school English teacher and librarian in Port Townsend, WA.

Despite spending years away, Sue's heart was always in Bend. Her children raised, she returned to Bend in 2006, working various jobs and finally at the Bend Public Library until she retired. It was then that she became involved in DCHS after executive director Kelly Cannon-Miller encouraged her to become part of the museum and help preserve our local history and community. Sue points out that although the town is constantly changing and new people are arriving all the time, she wants the community to remember that we have our roots as a mill town. In 2013, she wrote a memoir, "Too Cold to Snow" detailing her life and experiences growing up in Bend. The book has sold more than 1000 copies and is carried at the museum and other local book stores.

As Sue prepares to say goodbye to Bend, she reflects that her heart and soul will remain here. She will miss the mountains, spacious blue sky, rivers, and the community of friends she has built here. However, she will enjoy living near her son and two grandchildren in Port Townsend, WA. Her two daughters live nearby in Seattle and another son resides in Portland.

The DCHS community will certainly miss Sue's presence in Deschutes County and at the museum, and we look forward to her returning to visit for years to come!

Images from top: Sue at the annual Membership Luncheon in 2020 when she became DCHS Board President; Sue at the 1955 Bend Pet Parade, Sue's Bend Senior High School senior portrait, Sue at the Tumalo Mountain fire lookout, 1964 (featured in the "Hello Bend" book), and Sue in front of the Deschutes Historical Museum, 2021



June Wedding at the Deschutes Historical Museum



Wedding guests gathered at the Deschutes Historical Museum Saturday June 11, as Holly Cottom and Devon Gilbert exchanged their vows outside the historic Reid School building, in front of family and friends.

With sporadic rain showers occurring throughout the day the happy occasion was given the go ahead and at four o'clock guests started to arrive for the 4:30 p.m. event. Fifteen minutes later sheets of rain fell from the sky and the lobby of the museum filled with wedding guests. As quickly as it had come the rain stopped. The chairs were dried and everyone took their seat. With the fresh scent of rain in the air, and the sun's rays shining through the clouds the ceremony began on time. The bride and groom were framed by the stone archway of the old grammar school. A new memory, not one to be forgotten.

Whether you enjoy movies indoors or some Shakespeare in the fresh night air, this July there are two ways to enjoy a show with the Deschutes Historical Society.



Movies at the Tower: Made in Central Oregon

With local perspectives from historian Kelly Cannon-Miller and reviewer Jared Rasic



Wednesdays in July, 7:30 p.m.:

July 13: Rooster Cogburn *Rated PG*

July 20: Up The Creek *Rated R*

July 27: The Postman *Rated R*

FREE! (Pay what you decide AFTER the film!)

Tickets & Info at Towertheatre.org

or 541-317-0700

Guerilla Shakespeare Presents:

A Midsummer Night's Dream

July 21-23 7:30p.m. at the Deschutes Historical

Museum Tickets at BendTicket.com

Memorials

Thomas Stenkamp

Fred and ML Kowal

Tributes

Vanessa Ivey

Charles Kneisler

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter



VENDORS WANTED!

Excitement is growing for our August 20, 2022 Antique Fair on the lawn of the museum. We still have space available for vendors, any dealers, shop owners, or individuals who have antiques to sell.

Booth spaces are 10' x 10' and cost \$100 for the day. Vendors are responsible for their own tables and tents, and there is no electrical power available. Time is 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., vendor set up begins at 7:00 a.m. No reproductions or replicas, please. Programming for the day includes antique identification event with Karen Stockton, food trucks, music, and free museum admission. Don't miss your chance to join in the fun!

Application online: deschuteshistory.org/antiquefair



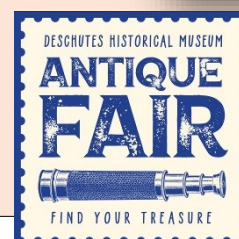
Mark Your Calendars

JULY

- 2 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 4 **FOURTH OF JULY FREE DAY: HAPPY BIRTHDAY DHM!**
10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 9 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 13 **MOVIES AT THE TOWER: ROOSTER COGBURN (...AND THE LADY)**
(RATED PG)
7:30 p.m. at the Tower Theatre *ticket info:* TowerTheatre.org
- 16 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 20 **MOVIES AT THE TOWER: UP THE CREEK (RATED R)**
7:30 p.m. at the Tower Theatre *ticket info:* TowerTheatre.org
- 21-23 **GUERRILLA SHAKESPEARE PRESENTS: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**
7:30 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum *Tickets Required:* BendTicket.com
- 23 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 27 **MOVIES AT THE TOWER: THE POSTMAN (RATED R)**
7:30 p.m. at the Tower Theatre *ticket info:* TowerTheatre.org
- 30 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum



SAVE THE DATE! AUGUST 20: ANTIQUE FAIR



Movies

at the TOWER

MADE IN CENTRAL OREGON

Wednesdays in July at 7:30 pm

With local
perspectives
from historian Kelly
Cannon-Miller
and reviewer
Jared Rasic

FREE

Pay What You
Decide **AFTER**
the Film!

ROOSTER COGBURN (...AND THE LADY)

July 13 Rated PG

John Wayne
Katherine Hepburn

A relationship as bumpy
as the Oregon Trail

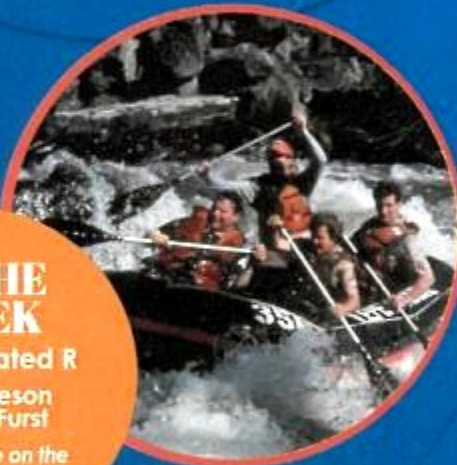


UP THE CREEK

July 20 Rated R

Tim Matheson
Stephen Furst

Animal House on the
Deschutes



THE POSTMAN

July 27 Rated R

Kevin Costner
Tom Petty

America's only hope
is a hesitant hero



TICKETS & INFO AT
TOWERTHEATRE.ORG & 541-317-0700

Captioned for hearing impaired

**TICKETS &
INFORMATION**

541-317-0700

TowerTheatre.org

SHOWCASE PARTNERS:

T-Mobile



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DESCHUTES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

APPLAUSE PARTNERS:

STEVE & CYNDE MAGIDSON TERRY REYNOLDS

BRAVO PARTNERS:

SALLY
RUSSELL

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Interstate Bank

SALVESEN

HAYWORTH
EQUINE NURSERY



ANDY & SHANA
LAURSEN

IMMERSION
THEATRE

GUERRILLA SHAKESPEARE PRESENTS:

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S

Dream

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

DIRECTED BY RAEHEL GILLAND

**MUSIC BY JANELLE MUSSON
AND TRISTIAN HUGHES**

JULY 21-23

**DESCHUTES HISTORICAL
SOCIETY - 730PM**

JULY 24

**FAITH HOPE AND CHARITY
WINERY - 5PM**

JULY 28/29

**DESCHUTES MEMORIAL
GARDENS AND CHAPEL - 730PM**

JULY 30TH

FIR STREET PARK, 7:30PM

TICKETS AT BENDTICKET.COM

**FAITH
HOPE
CHARITY
VINEYARDS**

SOURCE

**Deschutes
Historical Museum**

Abacabro
Printing & Design

**BEND
FUNERAL
HOMES**

CTC