

### Fishing for Funds

*Reel in your one-of-a-kind fish and benefit the DHM, August 13—September 10.  
See p. 4*

### First Look:

### Mountain Biking

*A new exhibit about mountain biking is in the works!  
See p. 2*




# The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—August 2022



DESCHUTES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

## ANTIQUE FAIR



FIND YOUR TREASURE

## AUGUST 20

9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Deschutes  
Historical Museum  
*See page 5 for details*

# Sneak Preview: Deschutes County's Mountain Bike Pioneers *by Rebekah Averette*

Tourists and potential residents flock to Central Oregon every year to sample many of the outdoor pursuits we have to offer. We are a region of avid downhill and Nordic skiers, kayakers and paddle boarders, rock climbers, road cyclists, hikers, trail runners, and of course, mountain bikers.

Known today as a mecca for mountain bikers, Central Oregon boasts an extensive and ever-growing network of trails. These trails include the beloved and legendary "Phil's Trail" network, named after Phil Meglasson when he kicked off a frenzy of largely unsanctioned local trail building in 1985. The explosion of these rogue trails and ensuing tensions with USFS eventually helped lead to the 1992 birth of the Central Oregon Trail Alliance. Still thriving today, the group now boasts over 600 members and a network of hundreds of miles of single-track trails developed in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management and the USFS.



*Man in polyester: Bob Woodward wearing "Mountain Designs" circa 1985, made locally by Julia Meglasson, Phil's Trail Phil's wife.*

Few people, however, know the true story of the scrappy, grubby pioneering roots of our local mountain biking (MTB) scene. An exhibit slated to open in the fall of 2022, DCHS, assisted by local biking legends, Bob "Reverend Lester Polyester" Woodward and Dennis "Heaterdog" Heater, will tell the story of how our little pocket of high desert became a haven for MTB enthusiasts from around the world.

As Bob Woodward tells it, in the late 70's a boom in off-road



*Gary Bonacker atop Mt. Bachelor, circa 1980s. Photo courtesy of Bob Woodward.*

cycling in Marin County, CA started to catch on with the outdoorsy residents of Central Oregon. Long before today's riders were dropping serious cash on seriously expensive bikes and accoutrements, "klunker bikes" and their passionate riders began appearing on the game trails and old logging roads of Central Oregon.

The early MTB era in Bend was characterized, as Woodward puts it, by a rebellious "outlaw" spirit. The riders rode hard and played hard; there was an air of spirited revelry mixed with serious riding. Several local "rider tribes" sprang up, including Woodward's "Klister Korner" crew (named after, of all things, a particularly messy cross-county ski wax) and Heater's "Black Rock Gang," comprised of veteran off-road motorcyclists who embraced the new sport with passion. The groups organized local events including cruiser crawls spanning several days and bar-to-bar rallies. When asked why the early riders favored the "klunker bikes," Heater explained that the simple bikes were both cheap and plentiful. As evidenced from early photos of local riders on Awbrey Butte and Heater's own carefully maintained riding journals, the early days of Bend Mountain Biking were adrenalin-fueled

*- 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

## 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, Liz Renk.



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)





Page from Dennis Heater's Riding Journal



Right after the crash: Gary Bonacker on Awbrey Butte.



## Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

explorations of the local terrain.

The popularity of the sport in the community led to the growth of industry surrounding mountain biking. Shops, such as Century Cycles sprang up and local Black Rock member, Brad Stankey began producing the Speed and Research Outback Bike. In 1983, the area's first official mountain bike race, the Cascade Cruise, was held at Mt. Bachelor.

DCHS is excited to share the images, artifacts, and stories of Central Oregon's early mountain bikers, coming in Fall 2022.

If you have your own images, artifacts, and stories to tell about your own adventures on local trails in the late 1970's-80's, please contact the Deschutes Historical Museum:  
info@deschuteshistory.org  
or 541-389-1813.



Above L: Dennis Heater posing with his first bicycle and the boy he purchased it from for \$10 (Vietnam, 1967). Above R: Heater standing with quilt made from old race shirts.

## NEW EXHIBIT:

### Oregon's Landmark Legislation Open August 2—September 5

Oregon has repeatedly led the nation in creating, revising, and implementing laws shaping the quality of life of its citizens. While Oregon's innovations have evoked controversy, they have charted the course for other states and nations. Central Oregon's own Governor Tom McCall was the force behind some of Oregon's most well-known pieces of revolutionary legislation.

"Along with wheat and forest products, laws are one of the major exports of Oregon."

—Robert Cantwell, "Where All Roads Lead to Rome," Sports Illustrated, May 26, 1979



This exhibit, on loan from the Oregon Historical Society through a grant from the Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, explores how Oregon's landmark legislation in environmental, social, and land use issues formed, through controversy, protest, and compromise.

## Little Did You Know...

### Gratitude and Well Wishes to Scott Elnes

by Tracy Alexander



Nothing makes a historian happier than being asked to explain the story behind a name, road, event, or person near and dear to their community. So just imagine how much we have enjoyed working with Central Oregon Daily News meteorologist Scott Elnes as he has worked to uncover and share the stories of Deschutes County.

In March of 2021, Scott approached DHM's Kelly Cannon-Miller to answer some questions about his new home, and has been working with the DHM staff ever since to share the details behind things that he noticed (and you probably did, too) like why we have Market Roads, the timber boom of Deschutes County, the railroad wars, and even "What is that post at 4th and Portland in Bend?"

Sadly, Scott is leaving Deschutes County. Before signing off, he filmed one last episode of "Little Did I Know" featuring Deschutes Historical Museum and Kelly Cannon-Miller herself, pointing out that she "has almost become (my) co-host."

Says Cannon-Miller, "The Deschutes Historical Museum is going to miss your creative and inquisitive brain. Little Did WE Know when you called with your first question how much fun we would have helping you with the series and what an incredible friend to the museum you would be. We were especially relieved when you didn't drown on one of our swan floaties on the river doing the Water Pageant story. Be well and happy travels."

To explore the many, many 3:30-minute segments that may answer some of your burning questions, visit:

[CentralOregonDaily.com/littledidknow/](http://CentralOregonDaily.com/littledidknow/)



## Fishing for Funds!

Something fishy is going down at the Deschutes Historical Museum. Inspired by fiber artist Maya Hahn, grab your rod and reel and join the museum as we go **Fishing for Funds!**

After a 30 year career teaching art, Hahn decided she wanted to 'Pay it Forward' and use her art to help others. Hahn makes use of her fiber art background by upcycling wool and cashmere sweaters into blankets, pins and, now, life size steelhead salmon fish. Each fish takes her about five hours to make. Many are made from Pendleton wool shirts, others from upholstery fabrics or other woolens.

"I believe turning something from a possible landfill item into a one-of-a-kind piece of functional art gives new purpose to both myself and donors." Each fish is a piece of art and Hahn's fish recently helped raise over \$2,000 for UNICEF for the children of Ukraine.

How does our fundraiser work? Here at the museum, from **August 13 to September 10** we're launching a special exhibit about the history of fishing, incorporating Hahn's colorful fish. To participate, simply:

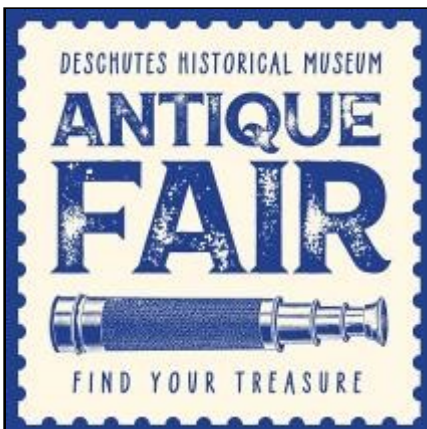
- Stop by to view the exhibit
- Donate a minimum of \$50.00 or more
- Get your replica 1915 Central Oregon Fishing License
- Pick your fish from the exhibit!

Fishing has a long history in Central Oregon, like the time in 1903 when 1,945 fish were caught in 3 days and barbecued at Bend's first Fourth of July celebration. Your donations to the Deschutes Historical Museum help keep our fish stories, and other tall tales, alive.

*Maya Hahn and her "school" of upcycled steelhead salmon.*







# AUGUST 20

## 9:00 A.M.—6:00 P.M.

### Deschutes Historical Museum

*Featuring Antiques from:*

- The Iron Horse
- On the Fringe
- The Merry Moth
- Worthy Vintage Goods
- Eckworth Antiques

*And many more!*



*Live acoustic folk music by local legends  
Loren Irving and Jay Bowerman*

### *Do you have antiques to sell?*

*Vendors are still welcome to apply for a booth*



If you would like to donate items to sell in the DHM booth, please contact Jane Williamson to arrange a pick-up: 541-390-4351



To register for a booth, please email [info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:info@deschuteshistory.org) or visit the DCHS website to download a registration form:

[deschuteshistory.org](http://deschuteshistory.org)

### 12-3:00 p.m.

#### Antique appraisals with **Karen Stockton**

Bring an item to our Antique Appraisal Classroom where local antiques expert Karen Stockton can help you identify and value your treasured family heirloom or yard sale find.



### *Local Food Vendors:*

- Locally raised beef burgers from Rastovich Farms **BARLEY BEEF**
- Delicious pastries and baked goods from “Baked”
- Cool off with Rootbeer Floats





Anne and George Rastovich



## Rastovich Farms Honored As Oregon Century Farm

Congratulations are in order to the Rastovich family as Rastovich Farms becomes the first Deschutes County farm recognized as an official Oregon Century Farm.

The Oregon Century Farm and Century Ranch Program recognizes farmers and ranchers whose family has worked the same land for at least 100 years. Started in 1958, it is one of the oldest agricultural heritage programs in the country. The Rastovich family first homesteaded their property east of Bend in 1919. The Century Farm and Century Ranch program is a partnership between the Oregon Farm Bureau, Wilco, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, and OSU Libraries' University Archives.

BEND VISION PROJECT

**JOIN US ON THIS JOURNEY!**  
**TAKE THE SURVEY!**

What concerns you the most about Bend's future?  
What ideas do you have to make Bend  
a better place for everyone?  
Complete the Bend Vision Project  
Community Survey  
at [envisionbend.org](http://envisionbend.org).

**CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY**

People who complete the survey can enter themselves into prize drawings held every two weeks by Envision Bend. Prizes include concert tickets, restaurant gift cards, and outdoor excursions. A final drawing will award the winners with large cash donations to a local nonprofit of their choice.

## Mark Your Calendars

### AUGUST

- 6 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**  
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 13 **"FISHING FOR FUNDS" FUNDRAISER BEGINS** *See p. 4 for details*  
**HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**  
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 20 **ANTIQUE FAIR**  
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum  
12-3:00 p.m. Antique Appraisals in the Classroom
- HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**  
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 27 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**  
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum



DESCHUTES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

**ANTIQUE FAIR**

**FIND YOUR TREASURE**

**Save the Date: September Events at the Deschutes Historical Museum**

**September 2-3:** The Little Woody Visit [bendticket.com](http://bendticket.com) for tickets

**September 17:** Festival of Cars

