



## Reindeer in Central Oregon?

*Yes Virginia, there really were reindeer in Redmond! See p. 2*

## New In the Gift Shop!

*Time to make your list and check it twice See p. 3*



# The Homesteader

## Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—December 2022



Thank you all for making the 2022 Chili Feed and Raffle such a heartwarming success! While the event was a bit pared down from previous years, the warm reunion of friends and family, along with satisfied bellies full of Millie's Chili, made this event one of our favorites.

We served nearly 300 bowls of chili, received over 70 pies, and sold hundreds of raffle tickets. The top selling raffle basket was "The Year of the Grape," which included not only 16 bottles of wine, but handmade ceramic goblets, a handcrafted cutting board, six jars of Deedee's Dancin' Jalapeno spread, chocolates, and a \$75 gift certificate for the Tower Theatre! The runner-up was the Newport Market basket. The Cat basket beat out the dog basket, but only by a tail.

Harriet Langmas serenaded the crowds on piano throughout the busy day on Friday, setting the mood for sharing a meal, and being thankful for friends, family, and gathering once again.



# Zumstein Reindeer Herd in Redmond

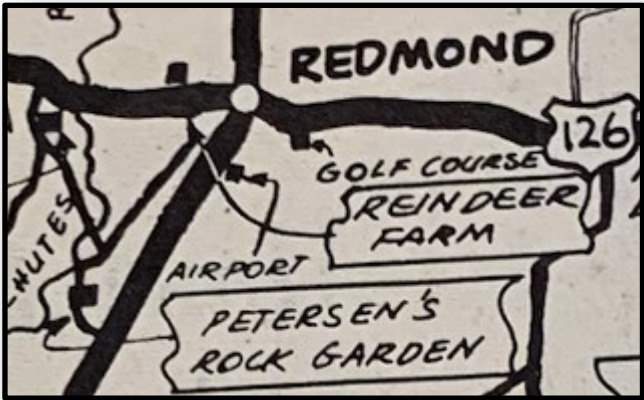
By Brad Lemmon

I was leafing through a box of miscellaneous loose newspapers at the museum, when I saw "Reindeer Farm" on a map of 1967 Central Oregon tourist attractions. I decided to investigate.

At some point in his life, John Zumstein went to a Christmas parade in Los Angeles and wondered why they were using papier-maché reindeer instead of real reindeer. He made some inquiries at zoos and was told that no zoos in the U. S. had reindeer because they couldn't survive in warmer climates. John wasn't convinced. After discussing it for a few years with his friend, O. I. Poulson, John and O.I. went into business together to provide real reindeer to holiday events. Zumstein's friend Tony Halter agreed to house the reindeer on his farm two miles Northeast of Redmond.

In September of 1952, Mr. Zumstein made a trip to Golovin, Alaska and tried to fly and truck ten reindeer back to Redmond. After spending \$10,000, he arrived home with two sick reindeer. He tried again the next fall and five of the ten reindeer survived the trip. John eventually learned that it was best to select young reindeer and transport them in the middle of the winter. He also learned that a certain moss that grows on juniper in Central Oregon is toxic to reindeer. Through a lot of trial and error, John learned how to keep his animals strong, but he couldn't get them to reproduce. He eventually switched to feed that matched what the reindeer ate in Alaska, and they started birthing calves. Sadly most of the calves died of pneumonia because the Central Oregon temperature and humidity are different than Alaska. After Zumstein started having the reindeer give birth in box stalls, most of the calves survived, and his herds successfully grew.

Shortly before 1957, John Zumstein bought 20 acres a few miles west of Redmond on Route 126 and moved the reindeer there. In 1956 and 1960, the farm was featured on the "You Asked for It" TV show. In 1956,

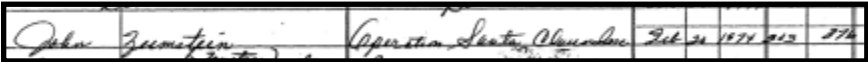


Zumstein took teams of reindeer to Spokane and Los Angeles. In 1957, the reindeer traveled to Olympia, Chehalis, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Clatskanie, St. Helens, Springfield, and Gresham. Reindeer were shown as part of the Oregon Centennial from June 11 to August 21, 1959 in Portland's Kenton neighborhood. They were displayed at Timberline Lodge

over Christmas of 1963. His reindeer even went to Hawaii in 1966.

In 1984, Mike and Cindy Gillaspie took over management of the ranch. Cindy's family had acquired the Zumstein name, herd, and property sometime in the 1970s. In 1990, there were 102 reindeer in the herd. At that time, there were six teams of five reindeer traveling the country, mostly visiting shopping malls. Each team consisted of four mature animals, and a young "Rudolph." In 2002, chronic wasting brain disease resulted in travel restrictions for deer, including reindeer, in 24 states. This hurt the business and the herd size dwindled. The last reference I found of the reindeer traveling was a KBND article which stated the reindeer had last appeared at Disneyland in 2012. In December 2018, veterinarian Isaac Bott wrote in an online blog entry that, "...a couple years ago, the last of the reindeer left this historic ranch." He reported that reindeer named Yuki and Maximus went to live in Springville, Utah.

Looking through Deschutes County land records to find the exact dates that the reindeer farm started, changed hands, and ended, was unsuccessful. But I did find that on February 24, 1974, 9.7 acres at the intersection of Route 126 and Helmholtz Way in Redmond was sold from Operation Santa Claus, Inc. to John Zumstein. That transaction may have



- Continued on page 5



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 Rink.



Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office.

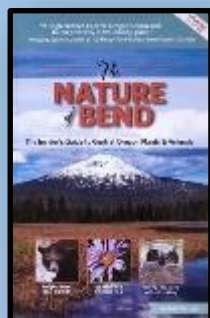


[www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)  
[info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:info@deschuteshistory.org)



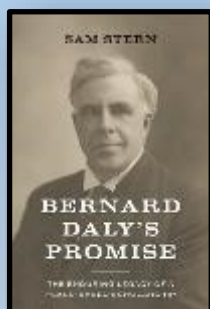
# HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT DHM

*New to the store!*



## ***The Nature of Bend*** by LeeAnn Kriegh

The Nature of Bend is an insider's guide to Central Oregon's plants and animals. Originally published in 2016, this updated version includes colorful photos, science info, and fun facts of the flora and fauna you will find in and around Bend. At the end of the book, "scavenger hunt" check-lists are available from the Badlands Wilderness to Whychus Canyon Preserve to challenge all levels of nature lover. **\$20.00**



## ***\*Bernard Daly's Promise*** by Sam Stern

Bernard Daly, an emigrant from Ireland, established his home in Lakeview, Oregon. After his death in 1920, his estate established a college scholarship for the youth of Lake County, ensuring that most of them could attend college. Drawing on more than a hundred personal interviews, archival materials and an extensive web-based survey, Bernard Daly's Promise offers unique insights into the man, his enduring legacy of a place based scholarship, and the benefits of higher education and how it might best be supported.

**\$19.95**



**1904 Map of Bend \$40.00**

**1912 Map of Bend \$40.00**

These beautifully reproduced maps of Bend, Oregon have been printed from a high-resolution digital image into a 24-inch by 36-inch poster size reprint. Choose from Bend: 1904 Plat map, or 1912 Bend



## ***\*Snakes & Ladders Board Game***

Dating back to the nineteenth century, this vintage version of chutes and ladders board game is a favorite any time of the year.

For 2-6 players. **\$15.00**

*Detail of 1912 map*

*\* indicates product is on its way, and may not be in stock at time of newsletter printing.*



# 20% OFF

**One (1) regular priced item in the Deschutes Historical Museum Gift Shop.**

Not valid online or with any other discounts or offers. Must present coupon at time of purchase.  
One coupon per customer. Special photo orders not included.

**Good through 12/31/2022**

Deschutes Historical Museum | 129 NW Idaho Ave. Bend, OR 97703 | [www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)

# Thank You Chili Feed Volunteers!

*The Deschutes Historical Museum staff and Board would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made this year's return of the Chili Feed & Raffle a successful event.*

*To the dining room decorators, chili servers, chili cooks, those selling raffle tickets, piano players, and to all the volunteers for their time and support -THANK YOU!*

Margaret Anderson  
Laura Ball  
Tessa Baraybar  
Ed Barnam  
Adrian Bennett  
Mike Berry  
Jon Cain  
Paul Claeyssens  
Susan Cline

Bob and Elaine Cosner  
Tina DeMelo  
Shaylee DeMelo  
Andrea Dupree  
Greg Fulton  
Deedee Garnett  
Karen Green  
Kristin O'Khuyzen  
Harriet Langmas

Sarah Larsen  
Lisa Lee  
Jan Lewis  
Jerri Melton  
Susie Penhollow  
Emily Rastovich  
Liz and Dave Rink  
Robin Roemer  
Kathy Rood

Natalie St. Claire  
Addy Schappacher  
Jon and Sue Sholes  
Juanita Thompson  
Marge Trayser  
Jane Williamson  
Dave Zaback  
Deb Zitella

**Chili Feed:** Rastovich Farms Barley Beef & Strictly Organic Coffee

**Raffle Items:** Bend Elks Baseball Club & Deedee's Dancing Jalapenos & Deschutes County Fair and Rodeo & Deschutes Public Library Foundation & Desperado & Dudley's Bookshop and Café & Dave Howe and Barbara Smiley & Mt Bachelor, LLC & Newport Avenue Market & The Old Mill District & Oregon Feed & Irrigation & Pine Mountain Sports & Rastovich Farms Barley Beef & Savory Spice & The Tower Theatre Foundation & Trader Joe's & Visit Bend & Wild Birds Unlimited



THE OREGON  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
FOUNDED 1915

## Recap of the 2022 Great Basin Symposium by Rebekah Averette

In early November, DCHS staff participated in the Oregon Great Basin Symposium, a collaboration between the Oregon Historical Society, members of the Burns Paiute Tribe and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and DCHS.

Humans have inhabited the Great Basin for at least 14,000 years. The symposium provided attendees an opportunity to dig deeper into their history with talks from tribal members Diane Teeman (Burns Paiute) and Wilson Wewa (Northern Paiute), and presentations by notable archeologists who work in the area.

Here are just a few of my takeaways from two jam-packed days of learning: The Northern Great Basin is a pretty big deal archeologically speaking. The Paisley Caves and Connley Caves, just a short jaunt from here, are the site of significant archeological research and findings. Digs at the Paisley Caves show evidence of unique cultures present in the area that pre-dated Clovis sites by over a thousand years.

"Coprolites" (very old poop, if you will) are essential in identifying what ancient peoples consumed (both plants and animals) and knowing what people ate can tell us SO MUCH...about culture, diet, health, and much more. Also, there were camels here. Yes, you read that right, CAMELS!

Bookending each day of presentations were remarks by tribal members Wilson Wewa and Diane Teeman (a doctoral candidate of anthropology at University of Nevada, Reno). Diane and Wilson, as well as the other presenters, helped me recognize that the sometimes invasive practices employed by archeologists can render the work problematic. Relationships between the tribes and those studying the land and the people who have inhabited it for millennia have been fraught. This collaboration between many different stakeholders is a move in the right direction. However, there is obviously more work to be done in bridging the gap between "academia" and knowledge of the land and history held by the first inhabitants of the region.





**Continued from P. 2— Zumstein Reindeer Herd**

allowed John Zumstein to sell the farm to Cindy Gillaspie's family.

John Zeno Zumstein was born in Giswil, Switzerland on April 23, 1910. His family emigrated to the U.S. in 1913 and settled in Princeton, NJ where his father was a church sexton. By 1930, the family had moved to Marion County, Oregon. John worked on farms and railroads before he served in World War II. After the war, he was a fuel company executive, until the reindeer farm became his full-time job. John died on April 15, 2005, age 94, and is buried at Deschutes Memorial Gardens.



*Bend Bulletin* August 5, 1965



**November 13, 1961 *Bend Bulletin*:**

**"EARLY VISIT BY SANTA CLAUS—** Hundreds of small fry attended an early visit by Santa Claus Sunday afternoon at the John Zumstein Reindeer Ranch near Redmond. Woody Woodward, alias Santa Claus, and the reindeer entertained children and parents the entire afternoon before Santa Claus began preparing for his 7,000-mile trip to department stores and parades throughout the Northwest.

## Memorials

***Gladys "Mickie" Herford***

Karenalice Jones

Denyse McGriff

***Jacqueline Plath***

Bette Andrew

## Tributes

***Ralph C. Curtis***

Jean Rotter

***Bruce White***

Cathy White



**deschuteshistory.org**  
129 NW Idaho Ave, Bend, Oregon

**Save the Date**

**Saturday  
August 12, 2023**

**9 am to 4 pm**

Questions?  
[info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:info@deschuteshistory.org)

**WANTED: Items for the  
Members' Booth at the  
2023 Antique Fair**

***Thank you to Karen and Bob Boyd of "On The Fringe" Antiques  
for participating in the 2022 Antique Fair,  
and returning for the 2023 event!***

## A Message from Board President Adrian Bennett: Thank you for your ongoing support this giving season

This past year, the Deschutes Historical Museum rebounded from previous COVID years with a vengeance, thanks to the efforts of an enthusiastic staff. Our Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend Walk offered more tours; History Pub returned at a new location, Worthy Brewing; the museum grounds once again hosted the Little Woody, the Festival of Cars, and the Fourth of July Ice-cream Social and Open House; and finally, the much-anticipated return of our annual Chili Feed.

New this year, the first annual Antique Fair attracted vendors from around the state along with a member's booth selling donated vintage items. We received gracious and generous support from new sources, including artist Maya Hahn, whose donated artwork created the "Fishing for Funds" event this summer, and songwriter Mark Quon's "Fright Night at the Museum" livestream Halloween event. Their love of history combined with artistic creativity helped us reach new audiences.

What lies ahead? New exhibits include the early history of mountain biking in Central Oregon, and a partnership with the Deschutes Public Library for an exhibit celebrating 20 years of A Novel Idea, the state's largest community read event. Finally, with support from the Oregon Department of Transportation, exhibit designs for new permanent exhibits on irrigation, agriculture, and transportation are underway.

We are back and steaming ahead, but these efforts cost money and your support ensures 2023 will get off to a roaring start for our members, our schools, our community, and visitors. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,



### DESCHUTES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GIVING FUND

**YES!** I want to help DCHS keep history alive!

Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$25    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your payment.  
Make checks payable to:

Deschutes County Historical Society  
129 NW Idaho Avenue  
Bend, OR 97703  
541-389-1813

Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest amount allowed by law. Our tax ID: 51-0186079

Or pay online via our  
secure website:  
[www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)

Donate



For DCHS use:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU**

## Mark Your Calendars

### DECEMBER

- 13 DESCHUTES COUNTY'S 106<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE HOLIDAY HOURS: 10:00AM-2:00PM
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE HOLIDAY HOURS: 10:00AM-2:00PM

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JANUARY 31    WORTHY HISTORY PUB RETURNS!**  
Worthy Brewing, Co. Eastside  
495 NE Bellevue Dr. Bend  
7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
Reservations required, [click here to register](#).  
[www.eventrite.com](http://www.eventrite.com)

