



Summer Interns

Meet Emma Carey and Lily Alexander, student interns

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Mill B turns 100!

One of Bend's iconic structures celebrates a centennial *See p. 2*



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—JUNE 2023



FRIDAY NIGHTS at THE DESCHUTES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

5-9 P.M. JUNE 2 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 22

We are excited to announce that the Deschutes Historical Museum will be the venue for Central Oregon's newest outdoor market, the Bend Night Market! Brought to you by the same folks who produce the Northwest Crossing Saturday Farmers' Market and Munch and Music, this weekly Friday night event includes more than 75 vendors, food trucks, live music and other artistic performances. The Bend Night Market will occupy the museum's beautiful lawns from 5-9 p.m., and the first floor of the museum will be open from 5-7 p.m., with admission by donation.

Visitors are encouraged to walk, ride your bike, or commute to the market as parking will be limited. This weekly event will make its debut on the June 2 First Friday Art Walk in Downtown Bend, and will continue through September 22.

A New Mill, A New Era

By Vanessa Ivey

This summer celebrates the 100th anniversary of one of Bend's iconic mill sites, Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Co. Mill B. On August 20, 1923, at 10 o'clock in the morning sawing started at the newest plant situated on the east side of the Deschutes River, less than a mile south of Brooks-Scanlon's original mill, now dubbed "Mill A".

"Large crowds of spectators were present in the mill throughout the afternoon, to watch the operation of the one-man carriages and other new processes incorporated in the new mill. Employees in the mill are enthusiastic over the convenience of its arrangement and the ease with which their work can be done," reported *The Bend Bulletin*.

In spring 1916, two super mills from Minnesota started operations along the Deschutes River, south of the town of Bend. Positioned directly across from one another, Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Company sat on the westside of the river with Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company along the east side.



Joe Francis, Brooks-Scanlon mill foreman (right) and tail Sawyer Bob Iverson, circa 1930

After both mills were fully operational, processed large quantities of timber each day, and once the United States entered the First World War a year later, production at both mills rapidly increased.

The Brooks-Scanlon Lumber

Company's first mill operated two 10-hour shifts and produced around 300,000 board feet of raw lumber daily. That is enough timber to frame thirty 1,800 square-foot homes. They started



with a single mill camp 5 miles outside of Bend and ran three locomotives between the forest and the mill.

After the war the demand for timber did not slow down and by 1922 production was up. The 1922 monthly report showed Mill A sawed approximately eight-million board feet in March, a new record. The need for hauling logs over a greater distance led to the purchase of two additional locomotives, with now four lumber camps in the woods. They added a third shift at the mill to keep up with demand.

Company officials decided construction of an additional saw mill was necessary. On Saturday August 26, 1922, *The Bend Bulletin* splashed the headline:

"NEW BROOKS-SCANLON MILL ANNOUNCED"

Construction of a new saw mill which will result in doubling the capacity of its local plant will be begun by the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber company as soon as the details can be worked out.

Brooks-Scanlon company acquired the property two years earlier, anticipating their need for growth. The new mill would be built on high ground a quarter mile upstream from the present Mill A location, providing work to about 250 men.

The announcement of a new mill had an added effect on the community. Bend had grown rapidly since the mills first

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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



2023 DCHS Board of Directors:

Adrian Bennett, President
Jane Williamson, Vice President

Board Members:

Mike Berry, Paul Claeysens, Tony DeBone,
Terry Foley, Greg Fulton, Karen Green,
Heidi Kennedy, Erik King, Susie Penhollow, Liz
Rink, and Scott Stuemke.



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



www.deschuteshistory.org
info@deschuteshistory.org

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arrived in 1915. The population of 5400 in 1920 was already under the strain of a housing shortage. With the promise of new employment opportunities, outside loan companies like Western Loan & Building Co. increased the amount of money available to assist with the construction of new homes and neighborhoods.

Preliminary work progressed quickly with the clearing of the site. Heavy blasting at the new site, on top of the everyday operations of both Shevlin-Hixon Mill and Brooks-Scanlon Mill A, made for loud working conditions. The bluff site chosen for the mill allowed for both the mill foundation and the green chain to rest upon level ground. Temporary railroad track was built up to the site for transporting machinery in and out easily. Boarding houses and cottages were constructed south of the mill site for housing construction workers and their families. After the completion of the mill, these structures would not go to waste and would be moved to camps, being built to conform to the style of dwelling and boarding houses used in the forest communities.

Despite adverse winter weather, the 1923 began with celebratory cheers as the cement foundations for the mill, its powerhouse, and burners were finally in place. At the end of January, the old burner from Mill A had been relocated to the new mill site. The original burner, standing 100 feet high and 35 feet in diameter, was moved in pieces, starting with the brick lining. The steel shell was moved next, rerolled to allow for an increase in size. When the burner was reconstructed, it stood 120 feet high with a new diameter of 40 feet, with the addition of a "considerable quantity of new brick and steel."

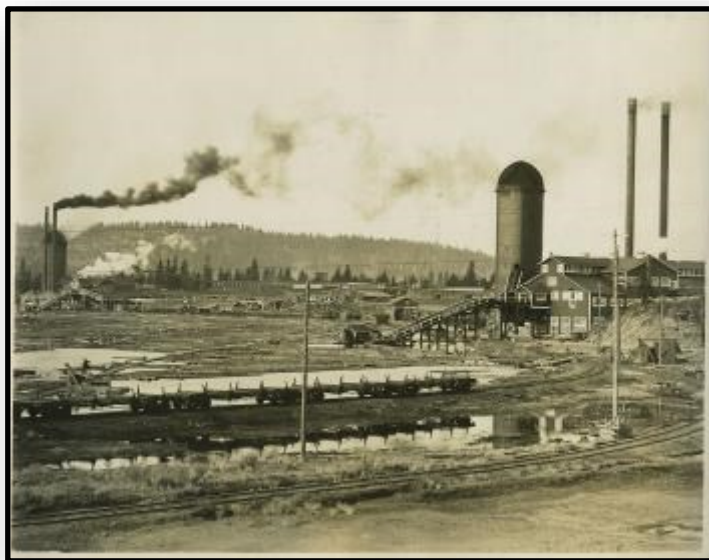
The Bend Bulletin reported on July 17 that work on the mill was moving along. Most of the mill machinery had been installed, work on the burner and powerhouse were near completion, and the foundation for the fuel house had been laid with the walls to go up later that week. The impressive steam turbine and generator were both in place. Everything was coming together in preparation for the August 20 deadline.

The afternoon of August 20, 1923, *The Bend Bulletin* ran a 20-page Brooks-Scanlon Special Edition. The banner of the paper was a panoramic image of the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber company's two big mills in Bend, announcing the arrival of the newest addition.

"Brooks-Scanlon operations have always been conducted with a high degree of efficiency, and in the new mill many additional features increasing this efficiency are seen."



Brooks-Scanlon Mills (right) and Shevlin-Hixon (left), circa 1923



Brooks-Scanlon Mills A and B circa 1923

With the opening of Mill B, Brooks-Scanlon Lumber mills employed 1,000 workers: 700 at the plant and 300 in the woods. Brooks-Scanlon's property in Bend increased to 227 acres. Their average annual production increased to 175 million board feet of lumber. Over 40 miles of railroad track was laid, and both mills were operating entirely on electricity with state-of-the-art equipment.

In 1929, six years after the opening of Mill B, Brooks-Scanlon announced they were increasing power at Mill B. The construction of a new boiler house and installation of additional batteries was, **"not a replacement, but for the purpose of supplying additional power for mill B."** Under constant strain, they equipped the power unit with two new 610 horsepower Sterling water tube boilers. The added power source made it possible for the plant to keep up with current demand and have power to spare for future expansion. That year, Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Co. cut 180 million board-feet of lumber, the lumber yard alone (approximately 60 acres) had room to hold 80 million feet of lumber in various stages of drying.

The strengthening of the lumber market continued to fuel the mills in Bend. Demand for quality timber was stronger than ever, and the officers of the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company expected production by their mills to continue into the 1950s.

Over the next two decades the ability for two super mills to sustain the level of production they had been enjoying was unrealistic. The prime timber was being depleted. Both Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Co. and Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Co. knew eventually one mill would need to buy the other out if they were to survive. In 1950, the death of E.L. Shevlin resulted in the early closure the Shevlin

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VOLUNTEER CORNER

Summer Interns

Emma Carey and Lily Alexander

By Rebekah Averette

DCHS has the luck to have not one, but two college interns on staff this summer! Emma Carey, a graduate student in Museum Studies at University of San Francisco, and Lily Alexander, a third-year Art History/Religious Studies student at Mt. Holyoke College, will be joining our museum's third floor collections team. We always look forward to welcoming college interns as they bring fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and recently acquired knowledge about the latest in museum best practices.

Emma is a Portland, Oregon native, but has deep ties to Central Oregon; she has had family living in this region for over 50 years. In her own words, "Bend is a source of many incredible memories for my family and me and of generational and historical importance. During my last visit to the Deschutes Historical Museum in January, I realized how emotionally attached I was to the high desert and how passionate I am about the conservation and education of the area."

Emma graduated in 2021 from Portland State University with a BS in Art History and plans to graduate this year with a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from the University of San Francisco. She also boasts a colorful, varied, and impressive work history, including working as an Au Pair in Wellington, New Zealand and serving as a Head Teacher at a primary school in Zalaegerszeg, Hungary. Emma also has extensive experience in the museum field. She worked as a co-curator at the Thacher Gallery in San Francisco and as a Lead Educator at the Bay Area Discovery Center in Sausalito, CA.

We are thrilled that she is taking on the Bend Bulletin digitization project as her primary focus. Many readers may be aware that the museum is home to over 80 boxes of photo negatives comprising the work of numerous Bulletin photographers, mostly between the 1970's and 1990's. Over the past year or so, dedicated volunteers have painstakingly sorted, numbered, and created "finding aids" for the thousands of images contained on the negatives. They are an important historical resource for the community and researchers as they document years of local history including: politics, the development of Bend, current events, education and even food, fashion, and various other cultural happenings. Emma is moving the project to the next and final phase of the project, in which she will create and execute a plan for digitizing, cataloging, and making the images available and searchable for the public.

Lily Alexander is a multi-talented Bend native who has just completed her second year at Mt. Holyoke College (MHC) in Massachusetts. After graduating from Bend High School she started her college life at MHC in the midst of COVID restrictions. Over the past year, she has been a docent at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, where she has been leading art tours and discussions.

We are welcoming Lily back into the museum fold this summer, as she has been a fixture at the museum for many years. She is a longtime volunteer who has transcribed oral histories, led Haunt Walk tours, summer walking tours, volunteered at the chili feed, and filled in on many occasions at the front desk, greeting and checking visitors to the museum.

In her younger years, Lily was also very active in the local theatre and dance scene and performed in numerous productions, such as the summertime Shakespeare in the Park. She is also an accomplished aerial silks artist. Already familiar with the museum and the ins and outs of volunteering here, we are hoping she will lend her expertise to helping create materials that will make the process of training new volunteers to use our cataloging software more streamlined, efficient, and user-friendly!





Mill B, circa 1950

railroad spurs, we have shops and river trails. Bath & Body Works, Zumiez and GameStop occupy where the mill and its green chain once processed millions of logs into timber products destined for the world. Mill B's powerhouse and fuel house, REI and Saxon's Fine Jewelers respectively, are remnants of Brooks-Scanlon's larger mill. The buildings' silhouette features prominently in the Old Mill Districts branding, a recognition of a destination both past and present.

To explore the Old Mill District's history up close and personal, check out the Deschutes Historical Museum's Old Mill District Tour, one of four tours now available on the Deschutes Historical Museum's latest version of their history app, [Historical Deschutes](#).

Download the FREE app from both Apple and Google stores.

Watch Central Oregon Daily-Destination Oregon: Historic Deschutes App story: <https://centraloregondaily.com/historic-deschutes-app/>

Links can also be found on DHM website home page: deschuteshistory.org.



Mill B, now REI at the Shops at The Old Mill.
Photo by Scott McKenzie

-Hixon mill. All its Central Oregon properties were sold to Brooks-Scanlon, allowing Brooks-Scanlon Lumber company to continue for another thirty years.

Today Brooks-Scanlon Mill B is no more. It may be forgotten but for the vision of the late Bill Smith. Now where once were mill ponds and



CALLING ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!

If you are looking for family fun this summer, stop in at the Deschutes Historical Museum. The museum is offering free admission through the *Blue Star Museums* program through September 2, 2023.

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.

Hope Chest Raffle Tickets On Sale through August 12 \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20

Here is your chance to win a Hope Chest, hand crafted by DCHS board member and craftsman, Greg Fulton.

This beautiful work of art features cedar lining and an interior wooden till. It is the perfect compliment for any home décor, and is destined to become a family heirloom.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the day at the Antique Fair on August 12, 2023. You do not need to be present to win.



Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

Thank you Volunteers!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

Sunday, June 25
1-3 p.m.

Deschutes Historical Museum

We are so grateful for our dedicated and talented family of volunteers. We can't wait to celebrate YOU with an afternoon of food, fun, games and good vibes!

Bring your family and appetite, as the staff will provide the food and games.



Saturday, June 17

Deschutes Historical Society will be open with admission by donation from 10:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. in celebration of the Juneteenth holiday, in conjunction with the Juneteenth Central Oregon event at Drake Park.

Mark Your Calendars

JUNE

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 BEND NIGHT MARKET**
5-9 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 3, 17 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 10, 24 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 17 JUNETEENTH OPEN HOUSE**
10:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 25 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY**
1-3 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 27 WORTHY HISTORY: OREGON'S BEESWAX WRECK; New Summer Finds and Project Updates**
Presented by Scott Williams, Executive Director of the Maritime Archaeological Society
Worthy Brewing, Co. Eastside
495 NE Bellevue Dr. Bend
Reservations required: [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
7:00 p.m. doors open at 6:00 p.m.



SAVE THE DATE! July 4: Open House August 12: Antique Fair



ALL NEW | COMING JUNE 2ND

BEND NIGHT MARKET

SHOP * SHIMMY * SHENANIGANS

IT'S A **VIBE** THING

DESCHUTES HISTORICAL MUSEUM | DOWNTOWN BEND

OUTDOORS | HOME OF LITTLE WOODY FESTIVAL | NEXT TO BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF CENTRAL OREGON

ELEVATE YOUR MARKET EXPERIENCE

RELAX · VENDORS (MORE THAN 75) · SIP · FOOD TRUCKS · COCKTAILS · MOCKTAILS · MAKERS · SUPPORT LOCAL · GAMES · AERIALHOOP · HENNA · LOUNGE · CUT FLOWERS · JEWELRY · STREET DANCERS · LIVE MUSIC DJ · AG · VINTAGE CLOTHING · CIRCUS ARTS · PRODUCE · AERIAL SILKS · THE BEND NIGHT MARKET PLAYERS

JUNE 2ND UNTIL SEPTEMBER 22ND | AN ALL NEW WAY TO DO FRIDAY NIGHT IN BEND!

AS ALWAYS, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO WALK, RIDE YOUR BIKE, OR COMMUTE ON YOUR WAY TO THE MARKET (BICYCLE RACKS ON SITE FOR LOCKING UP YOUR BIKES)

FROM THE MAKERS OF THE NORTHWEST CROSSING SATURDAY FARMERS MARKET

Deschutes Historical Museum

Heritage Walking Tours of Downtown Bend June 3– August 26, 2023

Join us for a walking tour of historical significance around Bend's historic downtown district and neighborhoods.

Saturdays through August.

All tours leave from the Deschutes Historical Museum at 10:30 a.m.

\$10 per person, FREE to Museum Members

Space is limited, Registration is required.

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.

June 3 & 17, July 1, 15 & 29, August 19 **Time:** 10:30 a.m., approximately 1.5 hours

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

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.

June 10 & 24, July 8 & 22, August 5 & 26 **Time:** 10:30 a.m., approximately 1.5 hours

Length: About one (1) mile traveling through old neighborhoods and parkways. The ground can be uneven at times and is not recommended for wheelchairs.

PRE-RESERVATION IS REQUIRED.

SIGN UP MUST BE BY 4:00 p.m. THE DAY BEFORE THE TOUR.

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

Tours are subject to change and cancellation.

We recommend the following: wear comfortable walking shoes, dress for the weather, bring water, and remember your camera! It does get hot so a hat is good too.

Tours are lead by knowledgeable museum volunteers