



## Hail to The Chief

Meet Dave Howe,  
volunteering to bring fire  
history to life. See p. 4

## Making the Cut

We celebrate Women's  
History Month with a  
look back at Evelyn  
Ishmael See p. 2



# The Homesteader

## Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—MARCH 2024

### 2024 Deschutes County Historical Society Membership Luncheon

It has been more than four years since the DCHS membership gathered in person for an annual meeting, and the turn out for the 2024 luncheon was overwhelming, with more than 110 in attendance. Board members sold tickets for a 50/50 fundraiser that collected over \$500! After a delicious meal prepared by the Elks Club chefs, Executive Director Kelly Cannon-Miller introduced the DCHS board and staff, and provided updates about new events, exhibits, and programs at the Deschutes Historical Museum, including the newly named Leon Devereaux Pioneer Scholarship.

Sharron Rosengarth recognized the outgoing Pioneer Queen, Charleen McKee. Sharron then announced the 2024 Pioneer Queen, Susie Penhollow. Surrounded by all her friends and family, her husband Mike escorted Susie to the podium where she was crowned and given her cape, pin, and roses.

Next came a rousing game of Deschutes History Jeopardy with questions that stumped even some of our long-time residents! The participants of the winning table (with 1600 points!) were given gift certificates for prints of historic photos from the museum's collection. This will definitely become a new DCHS Membership Luncheon tradition!

Mark your calendars for our next Annual Meeting:  
February 22, 2025 at the Bend Elks Club.

Left: Mike and Susie Penhollow;  
Sharron Rosengarth Crowns the  
new Pioneer Queen; Below:  
Outgoing Queen Charleen  
McKee



Name that Building	Fun and Games	Used To Be Called...	On the Farm	School Days
100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300
400	400	This century farm in Bend is named for its founders, George and Anna What is Rastovich Farm?		
500	500			

# Evelyn Ishmael: Lady Logger of La Pine

By Bonnie Burns

*March is Women's History Month, and in recognition we are reprinting an article by Bonnie Burns, first published in the August 2017 Homesteader.*



Evelyn Elaine Holmes was only 15 years old when she married Lynn George Ishmael. As the daughter of a logger, Bud Holms of La Pine, it seemed only natural that she would follow in his boot steps. In the 1950s, she and her husband, Lynn, owned the Ishmael Logging Co. in La Pine.

They cut logs on forest service sales in the upper Deschutes area as contract loggers for the Brooks-Scanlon Mill in Bend. (Contract loggers were often known in the Pacific Northwest as gyppo or gypo loggers.) They had their own trucks and equipment and hauled logs into the mill from La Pine.

Evelyn was a small woman, barely topping a hundred pounds; her tiny frame didn't even reach shoulder high to her tall husband. Her family called her "Little Bird", but she was capable of doing every kind of logging job. She mainly drove the big logging truck to Bend, but she could fell trees, buck and limb them, skid the logs into landings and load them on the truck. At the end of her work day, she rushed home to prepare dinner for her family of eight. She and Lynn had 6 children, all girls; Elaine, Elizabeth, Phyllis, Mary, Dottie, and Marguerite.

After dinner, Evelyn monitored the chores, schoolwork, and taught the girls to sew and knit. The girls each had their own knitting projects to work on; there were no idle hands in that family. There was no television but each night was filled with activities. Then off to bed and up at 5 a.m. to fix breakfast and get the older girls off to school. Baby Marguerite often accompanied her mother to the forest, riding alongside her in



*Evelyn and daughter Marguerite driving the tractor (top), cutting a log (middle), and Evelyn with her logging truck (bottom)*

the tractor, playing under the watchful eye of her mother who got right to business with a chainsaw. One might imagine that was how Evelyn, herself, grew up as a logger's daughter.

Evelyn became something of a local celebrity when she was featured in a *Bend Bulletin* article in 1958 and a follow up in the Brooks-Scanlon in-house magazine, *Pine Echoes*. Her fame might have gone national when Life magazine scheduled a photo shoot and she was also set to appear on the television show, "What's My Line?" However, both were cancelled when her car was rear-ended in a serious accident in March 1959.

She was in traction for 9 months and doctors cautioned that she might not walk again, never mind drive the big trucks. This was not something that Evelyn Ishmael took lying down. In fact, they moved to Shoshone, California where her father had re-located. Her daughter, Elaine, said her mother continued physical therapy and soaked in the Death Valley hot springs, determined to recover.

Indeed, she did, and not only drove the local school bus for eighteen years, she taught school bus driving. "Little Bird" was as tough as ever. Evelyn and Lynn Ishmael spent their last years in Nevada. They are buried together in The Desert Hills Cemetery in Pahrump, Nevada. Lynn died in 1990 and Evelyn followed in 1995. They are together under one stone dedicated by their daughters.

## 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

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

### Museum Staff:

Kelly Cannon-Miller, Executive Director  
Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager  
Rebekah Averette, Collections Manager  
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer  
Michelle Patrick, Visitor Services



### 2024 DCHS Board of Directors:

Jane Williamson, President  
Karen Green, Vice President  
Heidi Kennedy, Secretary/Treasurer  
Adrian Bennett, Past President

### Board Members:

Mike Berry, Paul Claeysens,  
Tony DeBone, Greg Fulton,  
Erik King, Susie Penhollow,  
Liz Rink



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



# RELIABLE GLADIOLUS- Quality at a Reasonable Price



L-R: Harry Brandon, Sr., Jane, Naomi, Paul, and Harry, Jr., circa 1935

## "The Glad Ranch"

By Vanessa Ivey

Paul Brandon was like most young men growing up in the rural farmlands of Central Oregon during the 1930s. The oldest of three siblings, he finished school at the age of fifteen then worked on his family farm. Unlike most young men, Paul had an interest in hybridization, which as a farmer might not be so unique, but his passion was flowers. In a nutshell, Paul would exchange the pollen between different varieties of the same plant generating a completely new variety of flower. In his case, a new gladiolus.

Gladiolus, also known as "sword lily", is a perennial plant of the iris family. The "little sword" pierces lovers' hearts with a tall stalk of spiky blossoms ready to burst into a variety of colors throughout the summer.

Paul selected the physical features he liked from his garden of gladioli, (color, petal-structure, hardiness), collected pollen from the flowers' stamens, and mixed them together. He placed the pollen mixture on the pistil of another gladiolus and hoped for germination. A successful hybrid took time, patience, skill, and luck. Paul was successful.

Paul was seven years old when his father, Harry Brandon Sr., moved the family of five, from Colorado to farm 80 acres of irrigated land in Central Oregon in 1919. The property sat just north of his grandfather Eli Brandon's 160-acre farm, purchased a year earlier. Together the Brandon families cleared the land of sage and scrub, planting clover, hay, and high-grade potatoes three miles southeast of Bend in the Arnold Irrigation District. Bordering the Brandon farms were the Rastovich ranch and the Bradetich dairy.

In spring of 1930, the Bend Garden Club announced the date for Bend's annual flower show: August 20. The *Bend Bulletin* reported the varieties and categories early, "...so that Bend folk may have the opportunity of planting such flowers for the exhibition." Paul, then eighteen years old, was a first-time participant in the local event. From the flower patch he tended with his younger sister Jane and his mother Naomi, he made his selection of gladioli varieties to enter into the competition. The judges awarded Paul first place in the categories "Bunches of flowers: Gladiolus", "Scarlet & Crimson", "Yellow & Orange" and first and second place for "Lavender and Blue". He also won second place for his dahlias.

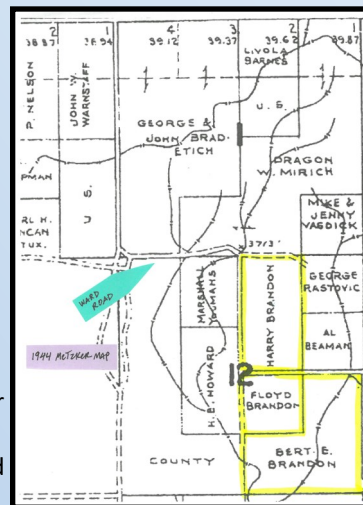
Over the next several years he and Jane entered this annual event, and together they brought home top prizes for their flowers. In 1933, Paul was the sweepstake winner for his gladioli. Paul credited the success of his flowers to the volcanic earth of the Deschutes country, as the soil make-up was free of plant diseases and harmful bacteria, giving natural resistance to the bulbs he produced.

By 1934, the flower garden he had planted with his mother and sister had grown into an enterprise of more than half-a-million gladioli plants, with bulbs representing species from all corners of the globe, some of the bulbs originally selling for \$1000 each. The "Glad Ranch", as it came to be known, offered affordable beauty to the people of Bend and the surrounding region. What had started as a hobby for the young farm boy had blossomed into one of the largest gladioli farms in the region, with over 800 varieties to choose from.

At first, Paul advertised his product in the local paper, inviting customers to visit the farm, tour the blooms, and make selections for their own gardens. In 1935, he released 500 copies of his first catalog. Titled "Reliable Gladiolus," he told his customers, "I try to list nothing but reliable, consistent performers as I don't think most gardeners want to bother with any flower requiring special care when they can have just as much beauty without it."

He sold bulbs for five cents apiece, with rare or limited quantities of stock selling for more. Buying in bulk was a favorite recommendation as, "To really enjoy a variety you should have more than one bulb." The Glad Ranch grew in popularity and by 1938 Paul printed 1500 copies, distributed both nationally and internationally. Filled with tips for both planting and cutting blooms, letters from customers pleased with their purchase, and special bargains for wholesalers and

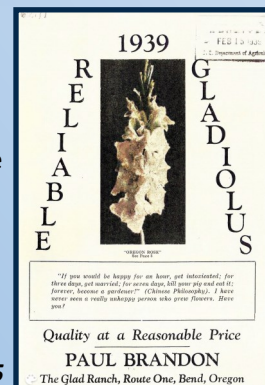
- Continued on page 5



1944 Metzger map



Naomi and Jane Brandon, circa 1935  
colorized photo



# VOLUNTEER CORNER

## Dave

## Howe

*By Rebekah Averette*

This month's volunteer corner highlights Dave Howe, whose work with the museum is an example of one of the ways volunteers can contribute without being part of our frontline staff team. Many readers probably know Dave Howe from his days with the Bend Fire Department, from which he retired a few years ago. Dave is passionate about preserving and celebrating the history of the Bend Fire Department and the community he calls home. He has spearheaded a project aimed at doing just that!

Long before the days of recorded 9-1-1 calls, the Bend Fire Department kept handwritten logs of incoming emergency calls. These old ledgers are safely kept in archival boxes at the Tumalo Firehouse, but the fascinating information they contain is not accessible to the public. Recognizing the valuable resource these logs represent in constructing a narrative of Deschutes County History, Dave facilitated the loan of the fire logs to the Deschutes Historical Museum. With a team of volunteers, including former firefighters, he has organized a plan to transcribe and digitize the fire logs. The goal is a website that history enthusiasts can explore and which will allow visitors to take a deep dive into Deschutes County fire history.

Transcription is the first step, after which Dave hopes to find links to individual fire history in other historical documents and resources to flesh out the story of these fires. He understands that making this valuable record accessible to the public will bring another aspect of Deschutes County history to life that many residents and visitors don't always consider.

Dave's roots are in Massachusetts, where he was born and raised in what he calls a "typical middle class" household. After attending Deerfield Academy, a Massachusetts prep school founded in the late eighteenth century, Dave decided the East Coast life wasn't what he wanted for his future. After graduating, he began his migration west. Dave attended college in Ohio and fell in, as he describes it, "with a bunch of hippies" at Oberlin College. In 1970, the band of friends decided to relocate even further west and landed in Eugene, Oregon. Dave's first job was driving a school bus for Parks and Rec. He recalls a firefighter coming to make a presentation to the kids, but he felt the firefighter was really talking to him. The course of his future was charted!

He fought fires in Eugene for eight years, then made a trip to Deschutes County in 1976 on a 20-man hand crew. He got a taste of Bend and decided he liked what he saw. Dave joined Bend Fire Department in 1978, which then was a department of 27 people. There were usually about seven people on shift, a couple of chiefs, a fire Marshall, and a HUGE area to cover. Dave started as an engineer (driver) and helped with dispatch. He was made a lieutenant in 1983 and captain in 1984. Chief Langston came in and decided the department needed more structure and management, so Dave was first made a shift commander, then a Battalion Chief. In his last few years at the department, Dave became the public information officer and retired in 2020. Dave still writes the fire district newsletter and plays in the Bend Fire Department Pipes + Drums band, which plays on St. Patrick's Day around town, for graduations, retirements, and notably for line of duty deaths that occur around the state.

Dave got hooked into carpentry and moonlighted in contracting and construction. This wasn't in any way a stretch because Dave gained a passion for woodworking in elementary school where he participated in a woodshop class and learned to use hand tools. He still produces beautiful pieces, including a cutting board that was raffled at our chili feed in 2022. Besides woodworking, Dave enjoys photography, reading non-fiction, and of course is passionate about history. As he eloquently says, he is interested in "what people leave behind and the traces of what came before."

Dave loves spending time with his wife, Barb Smiley, who he married in 1989. Barb is a local gal who was born on Bend's "Hospital Hill" and is herself a talented ceramic artist. The couple have three children. True to his love of history, Dave and his family have always lived in the old town area of Bend, first in a house on Georgia, and now on Delaware, where they live to this day.





### Continued from P. 3— The Glad Ranch

the individual, the catalog was an opportunity for Paul to share his knowledge and passion of flowers—especially his hybridization successes.

"White Deschutes", "Oregon Rose", a variety of "Picardy", "Dream Pink", "Klondike Kate", "Moonlight Lady", and even a variety named for his mother, "Naomi Elizabeth," were some of the successful varieties of *Gladiolus* Paul Brandon cultivated, grew, and distributed on the farm.

When the United States entered the second World War in December 1941, Paul enlisted in the army. Knowing he would be called up soon, he informed his patrons, "I have been unable to find anyone to handle this business so will sell the stock, hoping to be back with you when peace is again with us all." The 1942 catalog was small, and he impressed upon his customers to order quickly. By spring of that year Paul found himself at Sheppard Field, Texas serving with the 159th Infantry from February 1942 to November 1945, achieving the rank of sergeant.

While Paul served overseas in Germany and France, his mother Naomi passed away and his sister Jane married. No longer able to maintain the farm, Harry Sr. sold his land and moved into Bend. The Brandon Glad Ranch was no more. However, the story doesn't end there.

After the war, Paul returned home. With his father, his sister and her family they moved to Grants Pass, Oregon, where they set down new roots, raising gladioli and dahlias. The year he turned 42 Paul married and with his wife Grace running the office, Paul continued to create winning hybrids, his gladioli receiving accolades at fairs and events across the state.

Paul often said that the success of the Glad Ranch was in part due to the combination of conditions the high desert of Central Oregon offered, "Our water comes from the Deschutes river which has its source in the snowfields of the Cascade Mountains. Hot days, cold nights, sandy soil, high altitude, controlled irrigation and careful attention all combine to produce fine bulbs." This writer imagines it was also due to his creativity, determination, and love he gave to the flowers he produced.

At a grand age of 97, Paul passed away (1911-2008) in Grants Pass after dedicating more than fifty years of his life to the gladiolus. In the Victorian language of flowers, the gladiolus whispers strength of character, faithfulness, moral integrity and remembrance; all the qualities a farm boy turned flower cultivator from the high desert possessed.



Left to Right: Harry Sr. in the glads, Naomi Brandon, circa 1935, colorized photos

## February Volunteer Meeting Recap: Volunteering at DHM Events

Despite the winter weather, DHM volunteers shared the love on Valentine's Day by attending our first volunteer meeting in over a year! The focus of last month's meeting was volunteer needs at DHM Events, and there are many.

DHM hosts and produces several events. Fundraisers for the DCHS include the Antique Fair in August, the Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend in October, and the Chili Feed and Raffle in November. Other events, like The Little Woody and the Oregon Festival of Cars, are held at the museum but are organized by a third party.

Volunteers can support DHM staff in a variety of ways at these events, as each event has its own unique demands. All events need volunteers greeting visitors at the main doors and extra support at the front desk. In this role, you are an ambassador for the museum. Greeters welcome visitors, briefly direct them to exhibits and restrooms, and answer general questions about the museum and event. Other events may require set-up, clean-up, and interpretation. Some events, especially our fundraisers, require extra support in planning.

The first event of the year: [Oregon Archaeology Road Show](http://www.archaeologyroadshow.org) on June 1! This event is in partnership with PSU. Tracy Alexander is looking for help planning the event, and support on the day of. Look for information in upcoming *Homesteaders*. Visit [www.archaeologyroadshow.org](http://www.archaeologyroadshow.org) to learn more.

If you would like to volunteer at any of our upcoming events, please contact Vanessa Ivey: [vanessa@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:vanessa@deschuteshistory.org).



## Memorials

**Bonnie Burns**

Andrea Hunnel-DuPree  
Carl and Anita Elliott

## Tributes

**Douglas Carter**

Diane Carter

**Ralph C. Curtis**

Jean Rotter

## Staff and Volunteer Training Opportunity

# Mental Health Matters

**Wednesday, March 13**

**1-2:00 p.m.**

In this training, we'll promote awareness of mental health conditions and help you gain de-escalation strategies for handling visitors in crisis/emotional states. Discover why self-care isn't selfish and how to manage your own mental health by setting boundaries, making time to nurture yourself and decompressing after stressful situations. Learn the do's and don'ts of a healthy work/volunteer environment and about the community mental health resources available in Central Oregon.

### Casey Munck is

Programs Manager for the National Alliance for Mental Illness's (NAMI) Central Oregon chapter. She is focused on expanding awareness for mental health services, advocacy and education and increasing fundraising, partnerships and connections with NAMI in the Central Oregon community.



Prior to joining NAMI, Munck served as a senior marketing leader in the technology industry and worked with other nonprofits, including the Leukemia Lymphoma Society, Tourism Cares, relief efforts in Haiti, Transition Projects and Family Kitchen.

She is originally from Arkansas and enjoys exploring Central Oregon with her sheepadoodle Max.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024

## Vendor Applications are Now Open!

Visit [DeschutesHistory.org](https://DeschutesHistory.org) for a vendor application.

*The DHM would like to thank vendors Iron Horse and Worthy Vintage Goods for their participation in the 2023 Antique Fair.*



## Mark Your Calendars

### MARCH

- 1 WINTER COMES OPENS AT BEND CITY HALL  
710 NW Wall Street
- 13 MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS TRAINING FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS  
1-2:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 16 BELKNAP EXHIBIT CENTER GRAND OPENING  
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 136 NE 3rd St. Prineville see attached flyer for details

### Save the Date!

- April 1 Deadline to apply for the [Leon Devereaux Pioneer Scholarship](https://deschuteshistory.org/ldsolar): [deschuteshistory.org/ldsolar](https://deschuteshistory.org/ldsolar)
- April 10 Volunteer Meeting: Collections Jobs, 1-2:00 p.m. DHM Library





# BELKNAP EXHIBIT CENTER

## GRAND OPENING



**Dr. Belknap: Crook County  
Doctor**



**Crook County's Pioneer Queens**

**Celebrate the rich  
history of  
Crook County**

**Explore New Exhibits  
&  
Meet Mr. & Mrs. Belknap**

**The Belknap Exhibit Center  
Grand Opening:**

Saturday, March 16, 2024

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

136 NE 3rd St., Prineville, OR



Questions:  
541-447-3715  
[Bowmanmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:Bowmanmuseum@gmail.com)



246 N. Main St.  
Prineville OR 97754  
[crookcountyhistorycenter.org](http://crookcountyhistorycenter.org)

