



Building History

Discover the builder behind some of Deschutes County's beloved structures. See p. 2

Adventures in Archiving

Get to know our newest college intern, Hayden Larsen. See p. 4



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—MAY 2024

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

PEOPLE SAVING PLACES: WINDOWS INTO HISTORY



Celebrate the heritage of Deschutes County during May, a month dedicated to engaging in historic preservation.

The Deschutes County Historical Society, Deschutes County Historic Landmarks Commission, City of Bend Landmarks Commission, City of Redmond Landmarks Commission, the Three Sisters Historical Society, the Bowman Museum, Bend Parks and Rec, and other preservation partners work to demonstrate how historic preservation enhances our quality of life.

With a full schedule of events on page 7, starting with a kick-off event downtown Bend and Redmond, it is easy to understand how and why we are Saving Places.



2024 Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards

Presented by the Oregon Heritage Commission



Kelly Cannon-Miller

In preparation for National Historic Preservation month, the DHM staff attended the annual Oregon Heritage Conference in Forest Grove. There, our own Kelly Cannon-Miller was presented with a 2024 Oregon Heritage Excellence Award for her dedication, strategic vision, and collaborative spirit in Deschutes County heritage preservation efforts and beyond.

If you would like to watch the video produced for her award, visit www.oregon.gov/oprd/oh/pages/awards.aspx.



Ole K. Olson: Central Oregon Builder

By Janet Alexander

On September 24, 1911 a slight, middle aged man named Ole Olson stepped off the first train into Redmond, ate dinner, unpacked his saw, hammer and nails, began building, and three months later opened the First State Bank of Redmond in December 1911- Just that fast! Was this builder asked to come to Redmond to build or finish the Bank? Had a reputation for speed proceeded him? Did he come because he saw an opportunity for a builder in a fast-growing area? We know very little about this builder. The 1880 census listed him as 14 years-old living in Story County, Iowa with his father, Knut, his mother, Engeborg (both immigrants from Norway), and two siblings. The next documentable piece of information we have about him is his arrival in Redmond.

Little is known about Ole K. Olson's personal life. Where he learned the building trade and where he built other buildings between age 14 and 44 is unknown. Various census entries mention a single male, working as a carpenter by that name in South Dakota and Seattle, but there were hundreds of Ole Olsons in the mid- west and the north-west at that time. The only hint that he ever married is on the 1920 census where he is listed as widowed, living in Redmond. There is a reference in the Redmond Spokesman's obituary of Ole that he married in 1894 and that his daughter, Mrs. E. O. Reed, came down from Portland to attend his funeral. Tracking records through his daughter led to a 1943 Delayed Certificate of Birth issued to Nella Louise Reed (Mrs. E. O. Reed) stating her birth date as August 11, 1895, in West Bend, Iowa to Ole K. Olson and Antonette Kruger.

Ole Olson spent the rest of his life quietly building private homes and public buildings in Bend and Redmond. *The Bend Bulletin* called him "Bend's foremost contractor". He did not advertise his business. His name appears only twice in *The Bend Bulletin* columns detailing the comings and goings of Bend and Redmond residents. He seems to have been a very private person. Whatever his personal history, Ole brought an artist's eye for style, proportion, window placement, architectural detail and roof lines. He was comfortable building in styles as diverse as Egyptian Revival, Craftsman, Streamlined Moderne and others.

His first building may have been the Deschutes Grain and Feed warehouse that is now the Coop Antiques Mall at 106 SE Evergreen St. in Redmond. Tradition says he built the First State Bank of Redmond, better known as the Burdick Building, in 1911. It is gone but his next noted building, The First National Bank of Redmond, is still sitting on the corner of 6th and Deschutes Ave in Redmond. Built in 1919 it's an Egyptian Revival building, a style that can easily go wrong:



The wrong scale in the wrong place



The wrong decorative details



And then there's just plain wrong.



First National Bank Building in Redmond

This is Ole K. Olson's Egyptian Revival building.

Since no architect is listed on the Oregon Historic Resources Survey Form, very likely Ole Olson either took the design from the many builder's guide books available, designed it himself, or did a combination of both. His ability to adjust the building to the right scale, the

right proportions, with the architectural details edited for its location so that the building gives substance and dignity to the street is no small talent and it has helped shape the look of both Bend and Redmond.

That same ability to translate the scale, proportion, and decorative detailing of a style into a building that satisfies the customer and enhances its location is evident in Olson's design of the Streamlined Moderne home at 623 SW 12th St in Redmond. Ole Olson and Elmer Erickson (more about him later) built the house for Milton Odem in 1937. Streamline Moderne grew out of the dynamic air flow research for

- 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

www.deschuteshistory.org
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.

Continued from P. 2— Ole K. Olson

airplane design. During the bleak Depression it offered something new and exciting, and a hope for a more prosperous future symbolized by the airplane and air travel, expressed through a long flowing roof line, rounded walls, glass bricks, and curved window glass. It's a big sweeping design best applied to planes, trains, ships, cars, factories and office buildings.

It does not translate well to small buildings and is perhaps best left entirely alone by some.

Ole Olson's success in designing and building Milton Odem's tiny house (the kitchen is only 8' x 8' 6"), in the grand sweeping style of Streamline Moderne so that the proportion and characteristic elements stay pleasing and true to form is a tour de force. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the best example of a small Streamline Moderne home in Oregon.

Ole often teamed up with another Redmond builder, also of Scandinavian heritage, Elmer Erickson. Born in Delano, Minnesota in 1877 to immigrant parents from Norway and Sweden, he fought in the Spanish American war in 1899, and came to Redmond in 1914.

Olson's skill as a builder and a contractor was well regarded by local and Portland architects and his architect designed buildings have lasted long and served Bend and Redmond well. Together Erickson and Olson built:

- The Central Oregon Cooperative Creamery in 1925, still in use at 640 SW Evergreen Ave. It's now the Redmond Proficiency Academy's theater, the McClay Center for the Performing Arts.
- The Beckwith-Atkinson Building in 1928 now housing Rincon Azteca a Mexican Restaurant at 526 S 6th St, Redmond
- The Davidson Meat Market building now the Brick House restaurant. While not architecturally significant, it has been designed to sit attractively next to Olson's Egyptian Revival First National Bank without making a statement of its own.
- The Union High School of Redmond, built in 1922 at 411 SW 9th St was designed by Lee A. Thomas, the well-known Bend and Portland architect. When preparing to convert the school into the present-day Redmond City Hall, in a testament to Olson's and Erickson's building expertise, the repurposing assessment made by Robert Dortignacq stated that the exterior was in surprisingly good condition,



Example of Streamline Moderne



Example of Streamline Moderne done badly.



Milton Odem's home

needing only minor repairs.

- The Bend Clinic at 731 NW Franklin Ave in Bend, built in 1924 by Ole Olson, designed by Bend architect Hugh Thompson, in a style reminiscent of Italian country estates. It is still in use as apartments and offices.
- The New Redmond Hotel on 6th St, built by Olson and Erickson in 1928, designed by Hugh Thompson, Bend Architect in the Georgian Revival style. It is now known as SCP Redmond Hotel.
- The Allen Elementary School built in 1931 on the corner of Franklin Ave and Third St in Bend, a lovely building designed by the Portland architectural firm Johnson, Walwork, and Johnson burned down in a spectacular fire December 17, 1963.

Between the building of large public projects, Olson built many private homes in Bend and Redmond. The Craftsman style Lew Smith home at 1329 SW Evergreen Ave in Redmond, built by

Olson in 1920, is so far the only other documented example of his private homes. This handsome home is a significant advertisement for Ole's skills. Thomas Hubka, the author of *A Guide to Home Styles*, said, "The fact that a house is common or utilitarian is not to be viewed as unimportant or insignificant. Most common houses were ultimately influenced by local builders responding to local needs and preferences and often reflect increments of change in

domestic life." Olson's work perhaps gave a more accurate picture of what the town was experiencing than the large public buildings.

Ole K. Olson died in 1938 and is buried in the Redmond cemetery. His skill as a builder and his contribution to the look of Bend and Redmond were noted and duly praised, but the memorial piece in the May 17, 1938 *Spokesman* by the publishers, Joe and Mary Brown, captured the man and his dedication to his art and his towns:

"He welcomed each new contract, not as a business deal, but as an opportunity to carry on this work. Just as each leaf or cloud is as important to the landscape painter as the whole of his picture, each rooftop or sill or staircase was essential in Olson's scheme of Redmond (and Bend). That explains the glow that used to come into his eyes as he would stand back and survey the results of a day's labor and explains why he always delivered more in craftsmanship than the blueprints of any architect required."

It would be helpful for historians to know of other Olson-built homes. If your home was built, remodeled, or expanded between 1915 and 1937 you can use the Deschutes County Property Information (Dial) website to find the builder of your home or home improvements. The Dial website has an instructional page that can help you locate early records of your home:

www.deschutes.org/cd/page/deschutes-county-property-information-dial-instructions

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Hayden

This month's volunteer corner features our most recent college intern! We have had interns from all over the country, and this spring, we were thrilled to welcome Hayden Larsen. Hayden is an anthropology student at California State University, Channel Islands. As a creative way to complete his degree through distance learning, his professor encouraged Hayden to search for an internship opportunity in a field related to anthropology. Luckily he found the Deschutes Historical Museum!

Larsen

By Rebekah Averette

Hayden was born in Marin County, California. Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, he spent copious time outdoors, played baseball, rode mountain and dirt bikes, surfed, and was an avid bass fisherman. Hayden's mother, Carianne, owned and operated a daycare and his father, Eric, was a general contractor. Hayden didn't have much experience with Central Oregon until his parents chose to retire here just over a year ago. Able to complete much of his college coursework remotely, Hayden made his way to the area last summer to spend time with his parents and decided to stay. Although a love of surfing was one of the reasons Hayden initially chose to go to school at California State, Channel Islands, in the last few years, rock climbing has become the sport Hayden is most passionate about. The excellent climbing in this area makes Deschutes County the perfect fit for him. Hayden also enjoys the winter sports offered by the high Cascades and this past winter, while continuing his studies, he worked as a lift operator at Mount Bachelor.

Hayden recently finished cataloging one of our newest archives, the Bob Woodward Collection. Bob Woodward is a former mayor of Bend, journalist, adventurer, and a member of the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame. He recently transferred years of his personal work to the museum and into our care. With his similarly adventurous spirit and active lifestyle, Hayden seemed like the perfect fit to sort and catalog the extensive collection. He even ran across the name of his high school mountain bike team coach in the archives! "Working on the Bob Woodward collection opened my eyes to the vast history of mountain biking in Bend, Oregon. I was surprised to learn that Woodward also had some old bike race logs from Marin county California, where I grew up. Marin is also considered one of the birthplaces of mountain biking. It was interesting to see this fusion between two different states creating the sport of mountain biking which has now turned into a very popular sport. Archiving the Woodward collection was a great experience because not only do I get to keep this history alive and maintain his legacy, but it was also fascinating working through the collection and looking at all of the amazing photos he took throughout his career."

Having done a crack job cataloging of Bob Woodward's life work, I was excited for Hayden to catalog another newly acquired archive, the Charles "Bill" Boyd collection of artifacts and history related to the Boyd family, one of the earliest homesteading families in the area.

To add to Hayden's catalog of accomplishments, he also speaks Swedish! His mother was born there, and his father also has Swedish ancestry. He still has grandparents and other family overseas and grew up visiting his Swedish relatives regularly.

Hayden is slated to graduate with a degree in Anthropology in June. He has considered a number of career paths, including possibly becoming a pilot. For now, he has secured a job as a river raft guide with the Seventh Mountain Resort this summer, which is a challenge he is very excited to take on. If you see Hayden out on the river this summer, give him a shout and thank him for the hard work he has put in helping us update and maintain our museum collection this year.

If you are or know a college student who could use some museum work experience for credit, or just resume building, contact me at Rebekah@deschuteshistory.org, or call the museum at 541-389-1813.



Remembering Charles “Bill” Boyd

December 27, 1939-February 29, 2024

We are fondly remembering our longtime volunteer, former board member, and dear friend Bill Boyd. Born in Bend to a homesteading family, Bill graduated in the 1958 class from Bend Senior High School where he was student body president. After achieving his Masters Degree in biology from Oregon State University, Bill taught biology in various high schools in the Pacific Northwest until settling at Mountain View High School where he taught from 1978-1995.

Bill was a tireless advocate for the preservation of natural spaces and historic landmarks in Central Oregon. In addition to serving on the DCHS board of directors from 2007-2012, Bill led the effort to relocate and preserve the Charles Boyd Homestead, a group of three buildings that make up the oldest remaining pioneer ranch complex in Central Oregon and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He researched and oversaw significant restoration of the three buildings during the last decade of his life, ensuring their continued presence as a resource for the next generation of Central Oregonians. What remains of the Boyd Homestead is a 3/4 -acre lot located between what is now WinCo and Macy’s, and houses Pomegranate, a home décor shop.

Bill is survived by his wife of 57 years, Bonnie (née McKean), sons John Charles (Jessica) and James William (Misook), and grandchildren Jonathan (Amanda), Dustin, Tasha, Alyssa, and William, and great-grandchildren Charlie, Rylee, and Jesse. He was preceded in death by his son, Charles “Charley” William Boyd, IV.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Deschutes County Historical Society.

For more information about the Boyd Family Homestead, revisit the [November 2015 issue of the Homesteader](#) for an article written by Bonnie Burns.



Memorials

Charles “Bill” Boyd

Lennard and Delane Sholes

Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Curtis

At the Crossroads of the Past and Future, History and Sustainability

By Dave Howe

A while back, I spotted some 100 year-old wooden windows outside a renovation project in Bend. The windows were clearly set out for the taking, and I texted a couple of people who I thought might have an interest in them. One message led to another, and within a day, all seven windows were spoken for and will be re-used. These were all four vertical panes over one large pane, casement windows built in the old style. Clearly they needed some restoration attention, but they have been given new life, and in return, they will let light into someone’s home.

In this age of high construction costs and diminishing resources, it is appalling to see so much demolition and construction waste heaped into dump trucks bound for the landfill, especially when clearly, much of the material, properly handled, can readily be reused, repurposed and otherwise kept out of the dump. The more we “throw away” (there is actually no “away”), the more demand we create to remove more trees from the forests, further reducing their carbon storage and oxygen-producing benefits.

Perhaps as significantly, the materials represent something we cannot get back: time and energy from a bygone era. The historic homes in our town were literally built by hand, using time-tested methods and knowledge that built our young nation. The trees from which the wood came were standing on this land before Europeans stepped onto the eastern beaches. They endured centuries of winters, drought, windstorms and harsh weather that made them strong enough to be our shelter over the decades. The people who built our old homes often put their hearts and souls into the work, and today we admire the stately structures which still stand.

This community, Deschutes County, which was built from the stately grandeur of the Ponderosa pine, owes a huge debt to the ones who came before us, who preserved the forests and who used the wood to build our homes. We owe a debt to the trees which store carbon and give us oxygen, as well. Perhaps the best way to repay them is to preserve what we have, resolve not to waste, and honor those who have stood the test of time, be they trees or humans.



The Archaeology Roadshow

2024 The Archaeology of Food

Deschutes
Historical Museum

Saturday June 1

11 am - 3 pm

FREE

- Throw an ancient spear
- Make stone tools
- Family friendly
- Expert ID of your personal objects
(No financial appraisals)



www.archaeologyroadshow.org

Mark Your Calendars

MAY

- 4 READ/CREATE: A NOVEL IDEA 2024 EXHIBIT OPENS**
HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 11 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 17, 18 HIGH DESERT HORROR AND THE LAVA LAKE MURDERS**
7:30 p.m. Open Space Event Studios: 220 Northeast Lafayette Ave., Bend
Buy Tickets: bendticket.com/events/
- 18 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 19 HIGH DESERT HORROR AND THE LAVA LAKE MURDERS**
3:00 p.m. Open Space Event Studios: 220 Northeast Lafayette Ave., Bend
Buy Tickets: bendticket.com/events/
- 25 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 28 HISTORY PUB: PRESERVING HISTORIC BARNs**
McMenamins Old St. Francis; 700 NW Bond St., Bend
Presented by Michael Houser
Father Luke Room, 7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Reservations required.

PEOPLE
SAVING
PLACES

NATIONAL
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
MONTH

For a list of events visit
DeschutesHistory.org



See attached flyer for
comprehensive list of Historic
Preservation Month activities
around Central Oregon and QR
Code to the DCHS Preservation
Month website



JUNE 1: OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY ROAD SHOW: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF FOOD

Historic Preservation celebrations continue with this family friendly free event at the Deschutes Historical Museum!
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Visit archaeologyroadshow.org for more information



NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

For full descriptions and details visit deschuteshistory.org/about-us/historic-preservation-month/

- May 1, 5, 15, 26, & 29
10:00 a.m.** **Downtown Sisters Historic Landmarks Walking Tours**
Led by a docent from the Three Sisters Historical Museum, tours are about an hour and a half and will travel about a mile on accessible sidewalks. Tours are free but reservations are required.
Call 541-549-1403 or email: museum@threesistershistoricalsociety.org
- May 2, 9-4:00 p.m.** **Deschutes Land Trust Geology Hike, Smith Rock State Park**
Register online at deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes
- May 2, 4:30 p.m.** **Historic Tours of Downtown Redmond: A Journey through Time**
Meet at SCP (Historic Redmond Hotel): 521 SW 6th St., Redmond
- May 3, 5-8:00 p.m.** **Preservation Month Kick Off: First Friday Art Walk Scavenger Hunt**
Scavenger hunts available at shops in Downtown Redmond and Downtown Bend
- May 4, 7:00 p.m.** **Steel Stampede- Central Oregon's Longest Running Vintage Motocross and Trials Event**
May 5, 5:00 p.m. Deschutes County Fairgrounds Buy Tickets: bendticket.com/events/
- May 9, 6:00 p.m.** **Lecture Series: History of Central Oregon 1825-1889**
Bowman Museum, 246 N. Main St., Prineville
- May 15, 7:00 p.m.** **Bend City Council Proclamation in support of National Historic Preservation Month**
Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall St., Bend
- May 16, 6:00 p.m.** **Lecture Series: History of Central Oregon : People From Our Past**
Bowman Museum, 246 N. Main St., Prineville
- May 17, 18, 7:30 p.m.** **High Desert Horror and the Lava Lake Murders**
May 19, 3:00 p.m. Open Space Event Studios: 220 Northeast Lafayette Ave., Bend
This theatrical event is an immersive experience complete with an exhibit curated by DHM and songs from the era. Buy Tickets: bendticket.com/events/
- May 19, 8:00 a.m.-noon** **Bicycle Bonanza Day at Troy Field**
690 NW Bond St., Bend
- May 19, 2:00 p.m.** **Open House at Historic St. Francis Church**
599 NW Lava Rd., Bend
See and learn about the window restorations that were recently completed.
- May 20, June 12
10:00 a.m.** **Camp Polk Cemetery Tours**
69875 Camp Polk Rd., Sisters
Tours are about one and a half hours in length and are free, but reservations are required.
Call 541-549-1403 or email at museum@threesistershistoricalsociety.org
- May 25, 11:00 a.m.** **Grand Re-Opening Celebration of the Nels Andersen Farmhouse**
63291 Nels Anderson Rd., Bend
Food and live music with the band Desert Sun
- May 28, 12:00 p.m.** **Lunch and Learn- Turning 50: History, Photos and Stories from Your Park and Recreation District**
Larkspur Community Center, 1600 SE Reed Mkt Rd., Bend
- May 28, 7:00 p.m.** **History Pub: Historic Barns of Central Oregon**
McMenamins Old St. Francis; 700 NW Bond St., Bend
Michael Houser, presenter
Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Reservations required
- May 30, 9-3:00 p.m.** **Deschutes Land Trust Geology Hike, Metolius River Preserve**
Register online at: deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes
- June 1, 11-3:00 p.m.** **The 12th Annual Oregon Archaeology Road Show: The Archaeology of Food**
Deschutes Historical Museum; 129 NW Idaho Ave., Bend
Hands-on archaeology exhibits, activities and demonstrations.



HIGH DESERT HERITAGE EVENTS THROUGHOUT MAY

WINDOWS TO THE PAST CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY & CULTURE

JOIN US FOR A MONTH OF
HISTORY, HERITAGE,
CULTURE AND PRESERVATION

SCAN THE QR CODE OR WEBSITE
BELOW FOR ALL THE EVENTS



Pictures from the
St Francis Catholic Church
stained glass window restoration.



FOR COMPLETE INFO: WWW.DESCHUTESHISTORY.ORG

PRESENTED BY: DESCHUTES, BEND, & REDMOND LANDMARK COMMISSIONS,
AND THE PARTNERS BELOW



This publication has been funded with the assistance of a matching grant-in-aid from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1449 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20540.