

Historic Crossings

Explore past bridge sites
of the Deschutes River
See page 2

Grad Season

New to collection: 1919
Bend High School
diploma See page 4



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—JUNE 2025



Saturday, June 7
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



**The Archaeology of
Art and Craft**

We are capping our National Historic Preservation Month celebrations with activities and exhibits for all ages. Over 15 government and private organizations, tribal members, colleges, historical societies, and non-profit archaeological groups will share information about how archaeologists and historians are studying the ways people of Oregon have historically incorporated art and craft into their lives. Bring your found object for a discussion with our experts (*no appraisals given*). Some of our exhibitors include:

Basketry of The Klamath Tribes
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Geo Vision of Warm Springs
Fiber art with Klamath member Perry Chocktoot
Archaeological Society of Central Oregon

Atlatl Throwing with US Fish and Wildlife
COCC's Anthropology Students
Oregon Archaeological Society
Maryhill Museum of Art
The University of Oregon

Oregon Fish and Wildlife
Deschutes Historical Museum
Central Oregon Geoscience
Three Sisters Historical Society
Assoc. of OR Archaeologists

The event kicks off with a welcome from the event's tribal participants at 11:00 a.m. Short presentations will be held on the hour:

12:00 "An Example of Klamath Basin Rock Art" by Robert David

1:00 "Rimrock Draw Rock Shelter: 18 thousand Years of Deep History" by Pat O'Grady

2:00 "Overview of Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act" (NAGPRA) by Garin Riddle

Free and Family Friendly!



Deschutes River Bridges

Part 2 of 2

By Brad Lemmon

In February 2024, Mike Berry, John Kent, John Frye, and I started working on identifying every Deschutes River bridge that has existed in Deschutes County (about half of the Deschutes River's 252-mile length is in Deschutes County). Part one of this article appeared in the January 2025 *Homesteader*, and discussed three dismantled bridges. For part two, I will discuss four more dismantled bridges. For more background information on the overall project, see the previous article. A map of all the bridges (existing and dismantled) is currently on display in the museum lobby as the Map of the Quarter.

Linster Bridge (GPS 44.066868, -121.312863)

Henry Linster was born in Luxembourg in the early 1850s and immigrated to the US in 1883. He came to Bend in 1903 and soon after bought the Steidl Mill, located slightly downstream of current-day Pioneer Park. Linster became a US citizen in 1905. He built a boom bridge across the river just upstream of First Street rapids. The bridge was often used by fishermen, but was washed away in a December 1909 flood; it is unknown if the bridge was ever rebuilt. While the research group was investigating Linster's property, we found that one of his deeds was incorrectly transcribed from the Crook County deed books to the Deschutes County deed books (Mike put in a request to have it corrected).

Riley Bridge (GPS 44.106490, -121.337650)

Three-Barrel Bridge (GPS 44.125077, -121.332352)

(about a mile away from each other in Tumalo State Park)

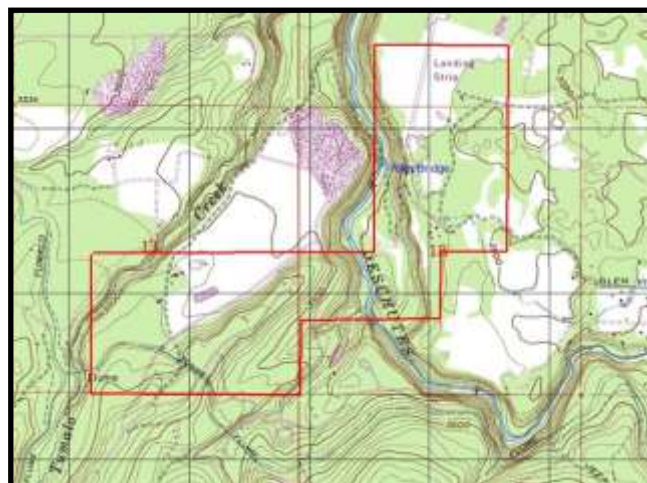
Ovid William Brocket "O. B." Riley was born in Ohio in 1875. By 1880, he and his parents were living in Missouri. O.B. came to Central Oregon with his mother in the 1890s and made a homestead claim on 160 acres a few miles north of Bend in 1897. He patented that land in 1904 and also bought a few hundred adjacent acres. His land straddled the Deschutes River. In 1903, he and three other men built the Riley Bridge. The bridge was still shown on a USGS map in 1975, but it is unknown when it collapsed or was taken down. Remnants of the bridge can still



Linster Bridge near First Street Rapids



Approximate location of the Linster Bridge (in yellow)



O.B. Riley's land (red) and the Riley Bridge location (blue circle and font)

- 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



2025 DCHS Board of Directors:

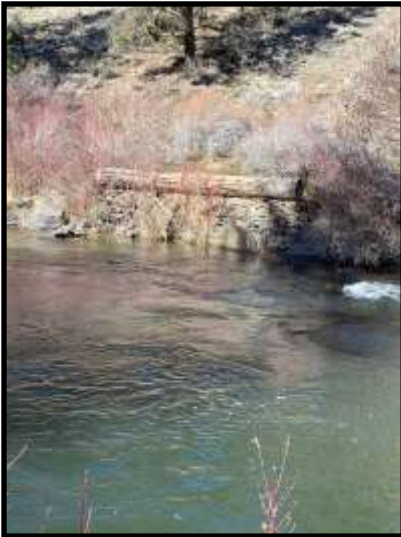
Jane Williamson, President
Karen Green, Vice President
Heidi Kennedy, Secretary/Treasurer
Adrian Bennett, Past President

Board Members:

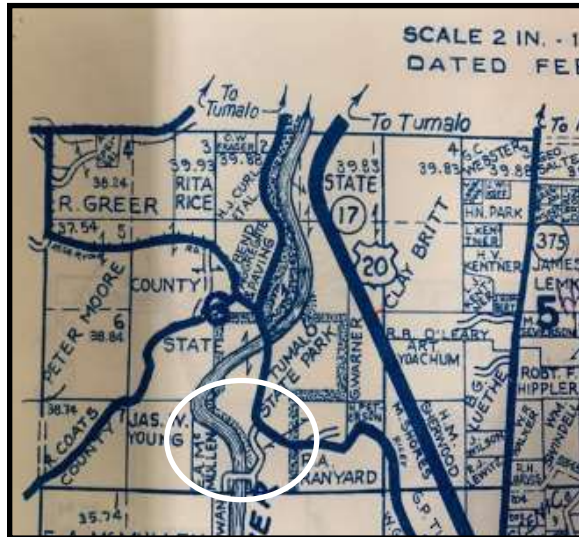
Paul Claeysens, Tony DeBone, Greg Fulton,
Eric King, Brad Lemmon, Julie Lowy,
Liz Rink, Glenn Voelz



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



Riley Bridge remnants on the west side of the Deschutes



Three-Barrel Bridge on 1972 Metsker map



Three-Barrel Bridge remnants

be seen on both sides of the Deschutes while walking along the trail on the east side of the river. The bridge remains are located at the boundary separating Tumalo State Park and Riley Ranch Park.

The remains of Three-Barrel Bridge are still standing in the river at Tumalo State Park. This bridge was built before 1962 and was dismantled after 1982, but the exact dates of both are unknown. The bridge builder is also unknown.

Benham Log Boom Bridge (GPS 43.932914, -121.417105)

We are glad we figured out this bridge story or it might have been lost forever, because the physical evidence has almost disappeared. The two photographs at right took many hours of work to find.

In 1939, 23,000,000 board feet of lumber in the area that would become Wickiup Reservoir was cut down, floated 40 miles down the Deschutes River to Benham Falls (which included going over Pringle Falls), was pulled out of the river with two McGiffert loaders operating from the Benham Log Boom Bridge, and railroaded to the Shevlin-Hixon mill in Bend.

Here is how we think the railroad operation worked: an empty train traveled from the Shevlin-Hixon mill to Benham Falls on the west side of the river. The train crossed to the east side of the river on the Benham Falls railroad bridge (southeast corner of aerial photo at right). Then the train backed up over the log boom bridge to the west side of the river. The rail spur on the west side of the river went up a slope (the red oval on the aerial photo, right). We suspect this was to avoid a marshy area near the river. The empty cars were lowered down the slope and loaded by the McGifferts while on the bridge. After the entire train was loaded, it drove south to a railroad "balloon" which allowed the loaded train to turn around and head back the Shevlin-Hixon mill in Bend. The balloon (GPS 43.907, -121.421) appears on a George Conklin 1943 timber cruising map and can be seen on LIDAR maps and aerial photos. The rail grade up the slope is still intact, although it is grown in with some 85-year-old trees. Much of the bridge has decayed and disappeared. There is an interpretive sign by the eastside remnants that incorrectly incorporates information about the two regular Shevlin-Hixon railroad bridges that were built in 1920 and 1922.

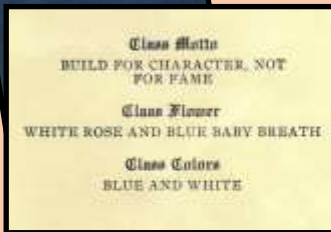


Benham Log Boom Bridge on 1943 Army Air Corps aerial photo (current Benham Falls footbridge which replaced the Shevlin-Hixon railroad bridge is at lower right)

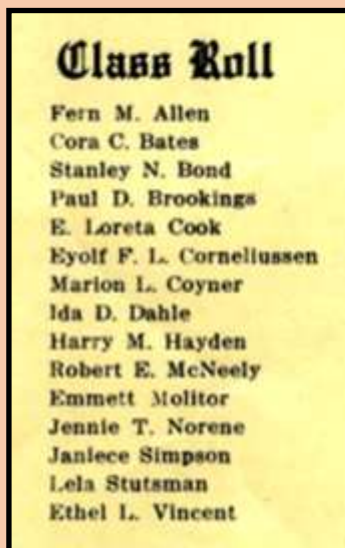


McGiffert loader on Benham Log Boom Bridge (summer 1939)

New to the Collection: Cora Bates' 1919 Bend High School diploma



On back of diploma: class motto, flower, colors and roster



DCHS recently acquired Cora Bates' Bend High School class of 1919 diploma. The class had just fifteen graduates and was the tenth class to graduate from Bend High School. A new, more modern school dedicated entirely to high school classes opened just two years earlier, in 1917.

Cora's senior year was marked by national turmoil; she and her classmates witnessed the end of World War I and lived through the 1918 flu pandemic. The 1919 Pilot (the BHS yearbook) features a photo of a service flag on the assembly stage, its fifty-three stars representing members of Bend High School in the service of the United States. One current and one former BHS student are listed in memoriam including Percy Stevens, the first Bend native to die in World War I, and Clara Rogers, a sophomore who died of typhoid fever. Also listed is Eric P. Bolt, a 26 year-old former BHS principal who died of Spanish influenza in 1918.



Detail of central motif

Cora C. Bates
Sage (2) (3) (4); Senior Play (3);
Lyceum ticket seller (4).

"Her voice is soft and sweet and low.
An excellent thing in woman."

Despite the challenges of living through a war and a global pandemic, Cora and her classmates made time for participation in sports and clubs, study, and a wealth of socializing and fun. Like teenagers throughout time, the 1919 BHS graduates prioritized living life to the fullest, even in a time of unrest.

June Volunteer Meeting:

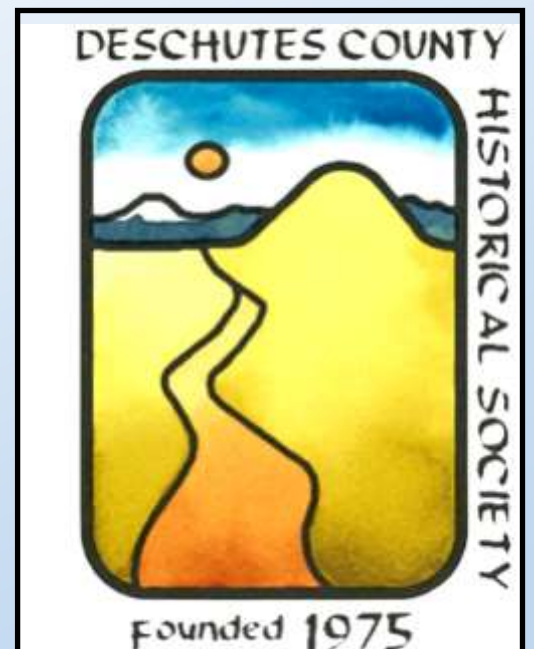
DCHS History 101

Wednesday, June 11 from 1-2:00 p.m.

This year the Deschutes County Historical Society celebrates 50 years of collecting, preserving and sharing the county's local history. We want to share our story and the history of Reid School with our summer visitors. Join Vanessa Ivey, museum manager, as she highlights the Society's beginnings and the story behind the building the organization now occupies. Vanessa will also open the floor to questions you may have about Bend and the county.

Volunteers and members are welcome to attend, Wednesday June 11, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the museum's research library.

This meeting is open to ALL volunteers, and those who are interested in becoming volunteers. Please RSVP vanessa@deschuteshistory.org if interested in attending. We look forward seeing you there.



June History Pub: Lynching and Mob Violence in Oregon and the Wider Pacific West

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Presented by David Johnson,

Professor Emeritus, History, Portland State University

Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Assailant of Oregon
Girl Hanged by Mob
Masked Men Take a Prisoner
From an Officer.

David Johnson will discuss the history of mob violence from the 1850s to the middle of the 20th century that he presents on the website Unjust-Justice.org. He will describe different types of mob violence—lynchings, contrived lynch courts, vigilance committees, mobbings, and massacres—and summarize some of the most notorious examples, such as the lynching of Alonzo Tucker in Marshfield (Coos Bay) in 1902, as well as the less well known, widespread mobbings of Asian communities from the 1880s to 1920s. The talk will explain how users of Unjust-Justice.org—students, teachers, scholars, public historians, and the historically interested public—can explore the contours of mob violence in places throughout the state of Oregon and in neighboring states. Finally, Johnson will encourage the audience to consider why it is important to study this difficult and troubling side of our history.

David Johnson is Professor emeritus of history at Portland State University, where he taught from 1979-2019. His book, *Founding the Far West: California, Oregon, Nevada, 1840-1890* received the 1992 Best Book Award from the Pacific Coast Branch, American Historical Association. He is working on a book entitled “The Curious Tale of the Hanging of Juanita,” a study of history writing about lynching violence, race, and gender in the California gold rush.

Reservations required, \$5 per person

www.mcmenamins.com/events/



County seeks volunteer for Historic Landmarks Commission

Deschutes County is accepting applications from community members who are interested in serving as a volunteer on the County's Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC). There is currently one opening for an unpaid, at-large member.

The HLC plays a key role in the preservation of historical and cultural landmarks within unincorporated Deschutes County and the City of Sisters. As a citizen advisory body, the HLC holds hearings, coordinates with county, state and federal historic preservation programs, and makes historic and cultural policy recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the Sisters City Council.

The HLC meets quarterly on the first Monday of the month in February, May, August, and November. Meetings are held at the Deschutes Services Building, 1300 NW Wall St. in Bend, at 5:30 p.m. Additional meetings and locations throughout the County may be required.

To apply, please visit www.deschutes.org/jobs and submit an application by 9 a.m. on Monday, June 30. The individual appointed to the vacant position will serve for the remainder of the existing term until March 31, 2026, with an opportunity to apply for an additional four-year term.

For questions, please contact Tanya Saltzman at (541) 388-6528 or tanya.saltzman@deschutes.org.



Memorials

Mark Carlton

Wayne and Carol Cupp

Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter



Thursday, June 19

Deschutes Historical Society will be open with free admission from 10:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. in celebration of the Juneteenth holiday.

A Call for Bracero Stories



The Deschutes County Historical Society—in collaboration with the Latino Community Association and the Deschutes Public Library—will be hosting a Bracero Day celebration and is seeking stories of the first Braceros to come to the Redmond Camp during World War II (1943-1946) and through the camp's closure. If your family has roots from the early Braceros in Central Oregon, we are inviting you to share your family's history and experience with us.

Please call or text LeeAnn O'Neill at (541) 241-6467

Mark Your Calendars

JUNE

- 7 **OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY ROADSHOW**
11:00 a.m.-3:00p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 11 **VOLUNTEER MEETING: DCHS HISTORY 101**
1:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 14 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 19 **JUNETEENTH OPEN HOUSE**
- 21 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 24 **HISTORY PUB:**
Presented by David Johnson
McMenamins Old St. Francis; 700 NW Bond St., Bend
Father Luke Room, 7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:00 p.m.
[Reservations required, \\$5 per person](#)
- 28 **HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum



Save the Date!

JULY 4: ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY OPEN HOUSE: Help us celebrate 50 years of preserving local history!

JULY 20: VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

AUGUST 4: BRACERO DAY

AUGUST 9: FOURTH ANNUAL ANTIQUE FAIR

AUGUST 29-30: THE LITTLE WOODY BARREL AGED BEER AND WHISKEY FESTIVAL

