



How it all began

Explore a brief history of the DCCHS See page 2

Celebrating the Bracero

We honor the sacrifices of the Bracero in post WWII Redmond See page 5



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—AUGUST 2025



August 9, 2025

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.



- *Over 15 Antique Vendors including On the Fringe from Bend, The Blue Nickel from Otis, Worthy Vintage Goods from Redmond, Apple Pie Antiques from Cottage Grove, Salvage Finds from Grants Pass, and many more!*
- *Pastries by Madi Cakes*
- *Live Music by Jay Bowerman and Loren Irving*
- *Begin a journey through your family history with research support from the Bend Genealogical Society*



Instilling Pride and Awareness in the History of Deschutes County: The Founding of the Deschutes County Historical Society

By Mike Berry and Brad Lemmon



The original DCHS logo, designed and painted by Judy Hoiness

In 1975 the nation was ramping up for the 1976 USA bicentennial year. The excitement was palpable and plans were being made for thousands of events across the nation.

Among the events planned on a national scale was the 1976 BikeCentennial, a 4,250-mile, coast-to-coast bike route from Astoria, Oregon to Yorktown, Virginia (via the towns of Sisters, Redmond, Prineville and Mitchell in Central Oregon); an International Naval Review in New York Harbor; a 25,388-mile tour of the 48 contiguous states by the American Freedom Train; and the Man in Black, Johnny Cash, agreed to be the Grand Marshal of the July 4, 1976 US Bicentennial Parade in Washington D.C.

Across the US, in cities, towns, villages, townships and counties, communities made plans for parades, socials, dances, town beautification projects, beard growing contests and other patriotic community events. This nationwide pride and nostalgia on the eve of the Bicentennial year was the genesis of the founding of the Deschutes County Historical Society.

In early 1975, at the home of Judy and Don Hoiness, the Bend branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), encouraged by National AAUW to do something for the Bicentennial, decided to start a county historical society. The Bend

AAUW enlisted the help of Oregon House of Representatives legislator and future mayor of Redmond Sam Johnson, a member of the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) state Bicentennial Committee, along with local historians Keith and Donna Clark.

A series of planning meetings were held in the spring of 1975 that included members of both the AAUW and the Deschutes Pioneers Association along with local residents interested in the area's history.



Judy Hoiness, founding member of DCHS

These planning sessions culminated in the May 22, 1975 organizational meeting. The meeting had 18 attendees. More than half of the 18 were active or retired teachers or librarians. OHS field representative Elizabeth Buehler of Portland was present to offer suggestions and information about the task at hand. At the conclusion of the meeting, seven temporary officers were elected for the proposed Deschutes County Historical Society. They were: Faith Hall, president; Ed Jackson, vice-president; Edrey Anker, secretary; Laura Wonser, treasurer; Judy Hoiness, Leroy Smith, and Betty-Marie Baker, board members. Additionally, eleven other meeting attendees

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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

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.
Tax ID# 51-0186079

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joined the freshly minted society, constituting the 18 original founders.

In the next half year the board hustled to officially form the historical society. Their work included drafting bylaws and the accompanying documents needed to officially incorporate the organization, recruiting charter members and organizing the first annual meeting to vote for the first permanent board. A variety of committees formed and volunteers were assigned tasks within these committees. The state of Oregon certified the incorporation of DCHS on August 4, 1975.

The first annual meeting of the Deschutes County Historical Society was held on Veterans Day, November 11, 1975 (the 57th anniversary of the end of World War I), in Room A of the Deschutes County Courthouse Annex. By then membership had risen to 172 charter members. The board elected by the membership represented a balanced cross-section of Deschutes County locals. The first board of directors was:

John Myers of Sunriver, president; Rod Rosebrook of Redmond, vice-president; Edrey Anker of Bend, secretary; Laura Wonser of Bend, treasurer; Leroy Smith of Bend, Betty-Marie Baker of Bend, and Willard Cyrus of Sisters, board members.

Attorney Donald V. McCallum was awarded a plaque in recognition for his work on the society's incorporation and was given an honorary membership, as was Elizabeth Buehler of the Oregon Historical Society. The Sunriver Woman's Club was granted a charter membership after they donated \$50 and gave the society an additional \$50 towards the purchase of a display case. Faith Hall received a commemorative Bicentennial plate in recognition of her work as organizational president.

It is worth noting that the Deschutes Pioneers' Association and the Deschutes County Historical Society collaborated throughout the forming of the latter organization and both groups continued to cooperate together during their dual existence. Many Pioneers, right from the get go, were also members and leaders of DCHS.

The Deschutes Pioneers' Association was created in 1947 with the purpose of "renewing old acquaintances and preserving artifacts." The majority of the members were actual pioneers and their descendants who settled in the area in the late 1800s and early to mid 1900s. In 1968 the Pioneers acquired the 1919 A.J. Tucker building on Greenwood Avenue to serve as a museum for the artifacts they were

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**Founding Members of the DCHS
May 22, 1975, at the home of Don and Judy Hoiness**

Edrey S. Anker	Donna Meddish	L.E. Smith
Betty-Marie Baker	Arvilla Murphy	Doris Smith Specht
Janie Erickson	Jack Myers	Faye Van Hise
Ivy Grover	Marilyn Myers	Laura Wonser
Faith Hall	L.L. "Nick" Norton	Keith Clark, advisor
Judy Hoiness	Louise Ogden	
Ed Jackson	Marcia Schonlau	

Charter Membership recorded November 11, 1975

Christina Anker	Samuel S. Johnson
Edrey S. Anker	Bob and Esther Kemry
Kenneth and Shirley Asher	R.G. and Joan Kickbush
Betty-Marie Baker	Frederick T. Lewis
Ruth Barnes	Donald and Mary Mcallum
Clarence W. Bells	Eldon. G. McNeil
Carol Boyd	Oreta Magill
Fred and Retta Boyle	Mary and Wynn Manning
Phil and Louise Brogan	David and Tansy Marsh
Dave and Evelyn Brown	Dick and Donna Meddish
Dolores H. Bullat	Bill and Connie Miller
Ken and Dorothy Cale	Karen Mills
Ralph and Carolyn Cantrell	Cecil and Charlcia Moore
Sid and Sonia Carter	Ronald and Barbara Morris
Cleon and Wanda Clark	Arvilla Murphy
Keith and Donna Clark	Jack and Marilyn Myers
Dick and Linda Connelly	Hal and Louise Ogden
Amy Cruikshank	Sandra M. Orr
Gary and Janet Cruikshank	Louise A. Pavlicek
Alvin Cyrus	Helen S. Peak
Willard and Mae Cyrus	Deborah Reckling
Gerald and Margaret De Broekert	Doris and Ray Redding
Thomas M. Del Nero	Ruth Reid (posthumously)
Paul and Heather Eggleston	Rodney and Mabel Rosebrook
Lewis and Lorene Ehrlich	G. Foster and Maybelle Rucker
Donald and Dale Ellis	Kathleen P. Ryan
Janie Erickson	Kevin Ryan
Lorance and Kathryn Evers	Marguerite Sawyer
Joe and Bonnie Fitzgerald	Marcia and Jim Schonlau
James and Jean Fleming	Ruth Simonis
Harold and Ruth French	Barry and Joyce Slaughter
John and Jean Frye	Frank and Elise Smith
Patrick Gisler	Leroy and Mary Smith
Jeanne Gough	Doris and Walter Specht
Fred and Gerry Greenfield	Marguerite and Norman Tharp
Rich and Erleen Griffeth	Claude and Jean Vandevent
Ivy Grover	Helen S. Vandervort
Tom and Faith Hall	Faye and Wallace Van Hise
Laura Bishop Varco Hansen	Nellie Van Hise
Nadine W. Harmon	Reta Womack
Sharon Hoblit	Dorothy Wonser
Don and Judy Hoiness	Frank and Opal Wonser
Jess and Shelley Holloway	Laura Wonser
Marie Hunt	Peggy Ann Wonser
Ed Jackson	Dave and Ann Wood
Conrad and Sharon Jacoby	Evelyn A. Yaw
Robin Kay Jacoby	

DCHS NEWS

August Volunteer Meeting: Fall Programming

Wednesday, August 13 from 1-2:00 p.m.

Although summer is still in full swing, it is time to gear up for discussing our fall events, including our newest fundraising event: an escape room!

We will be sharing opportunities for volunteers to get involved in the annual Chili Feed and Raffle in November, school group tours, and of course the Little Woody beer and whiskey festival at the end of this month. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about our newest October fundraiser as well.

Volunteers and members are welcome to attend, Wednesday August 13, 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.



Legacy Business Reception

Saturday, September 6 2-4:00 p.m.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Deschutes County Historical Society. As part of our celebration, DCHS wants to shine a light on other legacy businesses around Deschutes County that have reached 50, 75, or even 100+ years, as well as business owners who were born in Deschutes County. As we reflect on our own history, DCHS strives to ensure we preserve the stories of businesses throughout the county as well.

We have invited businesses with strong ties to the Deschutes County community for a celebration on September 6 from 2 to 4:00 p.m., and we encourage our members and the public to help us celebrate these "legacy businesses."

Join us on the lawn of the Deschutes Historical Museum for socializing, root beer floats, and strawberry shortcake. Business owners are encouraged to bring items reflecting the history of their business to share such as a poster, promotional items from the past, pictures, stories, or articles. These will be displayed during the event, with the possibility that the materials be donated to the museum as documentation of the historical aspects of these businesses.



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collecting. This collection became the nucleus of the Deschutes Historical Museum when it was transferred to the DCHS in the late 1970s for the purposes of creating a new museum at Reid School in 1980.

As attrition slowly diminished the ranks of the Deschutes Pioneer Association, the group was folded into the DCHS and the Deschutes Pioneer Association was dissolved in 2023. Former Pioneer members carry a special pioneer designation in our membership database. DCHS created a Pioneer Committee to oversee and continue the legacy of the Deschutes Pioneer Scholarship and the Deschutes Pioneer Queen programs.



August History Pub: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Oregon: A Living Legacy



Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Presented by Glenn Voelz, DCHS Board member
Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Presentation at 7:00 p.m.



Amid the depths of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt formulated a bold plan to put millions of unemployed Americans to work and restore the nation's public lands. Between 1933 and 1942, over 86,000 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollees worked on Oregon's national forests, state parks, and tribal lands. Their labor transformed the landscape and created some of the state's most beloved recreational areas. Today, it's almost impossible to travel around Oregon without encountering reminders of its legacy, from irrigation canals to ski lodges. Glenn Voelz will discuss his new book about the CCC, including its many projects in Central Oregon.

Glenn Voelz served as an intelligence officer for 25 years in the Army, holding senior leadership positions at the Pentagon, the White House Situation Room, and NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. He was an assistant professor of history at West Point and has authored several books on Oregon history including *The Oregon Skyline Trail*. He serves as a board member of the Deschutes County Historical Society and the Deschutes Historical Museum.



Reservations required, \$5 per person www.mcmenamins.com/events/

A Tribute to Bracero Workers in Central Oregon



Monday, August 4 4-6:30 p.m. Redmond Library

Join the Latino Community Association, the Deschutes County Historical Society, and the Deschutes Public Library to celebrate Bracero Program Day and learn how the Bracero Program contributed to the agricultural success of Redmond and Central Oregon. This day honors the contributions to our farming community of the Bracero workers — Mexican men who came to the United States on short term contracts — and recognizes their sacrifices, hard work, and dedication.

The Bracero Program is one of the untold chapters of the history of the city of Redmond. The program began in 1942 and helped Central Oregon sustain agricultural production during World War II, in particular, the potato harvest during a time when potatoes were "king of the crops." Braceros faced many hardships, including violence, discrimination, unfair labor practices, and substandard living conditions. The Redmond Bracero camp was located at the old Grange Hall, original CCC Camp Barracks, and the Army Airfield (where the Redmond Airport is currently located) from 1943 to 1962.



Community members are welcome to come starting at 4 p.m. to explore a bilingual exhibit, to learn about how to support our local Latine community, and to enjoy light appetizers. A short presentation on the Bracero workers who lived at the Redmond Bracero camp, their stories, and their contributions to our Central Oregon community will begin at 5:30 p.m., and will be in English with Spanish translation.

Memorials

**Robert and Hazel
LeBlanc**

Linda Bostic
Sue Fountain
Sharon Stasiowski

Ann Maudlin

Bette Andrew

Tributes

Charlie Chambers

Stacie Johnson

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter



AUGUST 29 & 30



The Little Woody Beer and Whiskey Festival combines the historic technique of brewing in aged wooden barrels with the historic landmark, Reid School. This blend makes an epic event we at the Deschutes Historical Museum love. There is a little something for everyone: beer, cider, whiskey, live music, food vendors, and a gnome costume contest!

As the beneficiary of the event's proceeds, the museum's volunteers and staff look forward each year to sharing local history with event participants and remind everyone that the museum is open and free for them to explore during the event.

[For more information and tickets visit: thelittlewoody.com](http://thelittlewoody.com)

If you are interested in volunteering for the Little Woody, please contact Vanessa Ivey: vanessa@deschuteshistory.org or 541-389-1813

Mark Your Calendars

AUGUST

2 & 23 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum



4 HAPPY BIRTHDAY DESCHUTES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY!
BRACERO DAY
4-6:30 p.m. The Redmond Library; 827 SW Deschutes Ave., Redmond



9 FOURTH ANNUAL ANTIQUE FAIR
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum



13 VOLUNTEER MEETING: FALL PROGRAMMING
1-2:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum Research Library

16 & 30 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

26 HISTORY PUB: THE CCC IN CENTRAL OREGON
Presented by Glenn Voelz
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](#)



29 THE LITTLE WOODY BEER AND WHISKEY FESTIVAL
5-9:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
30 Noon-9:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
For tickets: thelittlewoody.com



SAVE THE DATE!

September 6: Legacy Business Reception
September 21: Oregon Festival of Cars