



Smorgasbord!

This month's recipe honors the Pine Tavern's 1956 expansion.

See page 5

Blazing the Trail

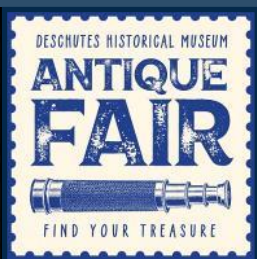
Discover the origins of the Skyline Trail.

See page 2



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—AUGUST 2026



FIFTH ANNUAL ANTIQUE FAIR AUGUST 8, 2026

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Explore vintage items and antiques from vendors that come from all over Oregon to participate in this fun-filled day! Whether your passion is glass, dishes, fiber arts, or militaria, you are sure to find a treasure that speaks to you! Enjoy baked goods from Sisters' own Madi Cakes bake shop, start your family tree with help from the Bend Genealogical Society, and settle in to lose yourself in the music of Loren Irving and Jay Bowerman. Buy a raffle ticket for a tamarack church pew, newly refurbished by our very own Greg Fulton.

Returning vendors include the *Blue Nickel* from Otis, *Salvage Finds* from Grants Pass, *On the Fringe* and *Historical Americana and Militaria* from Bend. Discover treasures from new vendors like *Wolf and Swan Vintage* from Bend.

This event and museum admission for the day is free. We hope to see you there!



Central Oregon's Famous Skyline Trail

By Glenn Voelz

Central Oregonians are spoiled for exceptional hiking trails. We are fortunate to have one of America's most famous and historically significant hiking routes right in our backyard. Today, that footpath is known as the Pacific Crest Trail, but before it took that name, it was known as the Oregon Skyline Trail.

The Skyline Trail began as an ambitious proposal by the U.S. Forest Service to build a 260-mile scenic highway stretching from Crater Lake to Mount Hood. In 1920, the agency sent forester Frederick Cleator on a four-month survey of the proposed road. While the highway along the Cascades ultimately proved impractical, by the mid-1930s, the route Cleator surveyed became the centerpiece of the new Pacific Crest Trail system stretching from Mexico to Canada.

While Frederick Cleator was the first to scout and map the Skyline route, the trail had a long history, spanning thousands of years. Sections of the trail began as intermittent footpaths created by Oregon's native tribes and were used to access seasonal encampments in the High Cascades. By the mid-nineteenth century, fur trappers, explorers, and government land agents used the same trail system for their journeys through the unmapped forests.

One of the first Oregonians to explore the future Skyline route was Judge John Breckenridge Waldo. For twenty-seven summers starting in the late 1870s, Waldo made annual excursions into the Cascades and became a passionate advocate for their protection. Waldo was a leading force in creating the Cascade Range Forest Reserve in 1893, establishing a contiguous, protected wilderness area along the trail's entire route.

Another early traveler along the route was Government Land Office ranger Cy Bingham, one of a handful of rangers responsible for patrolling the Central Cascades. In 1905, the Land Office assigned Bingham to blaze a trail from McKenzie Bridge to Crater Lake. Large sections of that route through the Central

Cascades became part of the Skyline Trail in the 1920s.

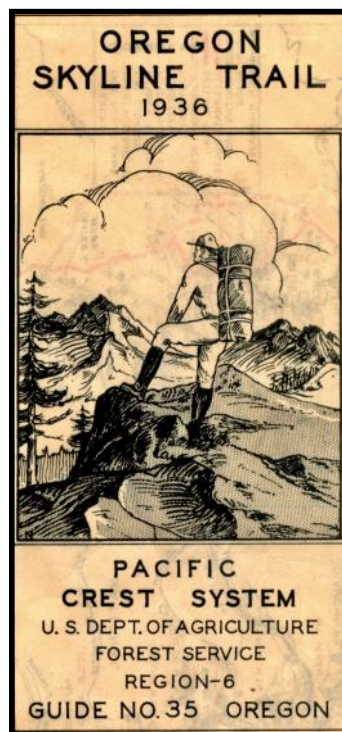
It took Bingham two summers to complete the section. To mark his way, he cut blazes in the trees along his route, which became known as "Bingham Trees." The exact number of trees along the Skyline route is unknown - Bingham claimed to have lost count after thirty. One of possibly five remaining "Bingham Trees" is currently on display on the first floor of the Deschutes Historical Museum in the "Changing Skyline" exhibit.

Origin of the Skyline Trail

The original idea for building the Skyline Road may have come from a 1915 article by Lewis Ankeny McArthur, Oregon's foremost authority on geographic place names. In the *Oregon Journal*, McArthur cited its potential scenic value and its practical uses for firefighting and military purposes. He noted that such a road would "open an almost incomparable storehouse of magnificent scenery of the most varied type."

The highway idea emerged amid an era of ambitious roadbuilding projects and enthusiasm for automobile-based tourism. The proposal found support among prominent Oregonians like the famous photographer Fred Kiser, who was an enthusiastic promoter and believed it would become "one of the most wonderful scenic highways in the world." In 1916, a provisional route appeared on a map presented to the state legislature by the Oregon Highway Commission. Three years later, the Forest Service began surveying a segment of the proposed road around the west side of Mount Jefferson.

Over the summer of



Cover of the 1936 Skyline Trail Map



One of the only remaining "Bingham trees" is on display in the Deschutes Historical Museum.

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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-Zabak, Collections Manager
Donna Burklo, Development Director
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer
Rashelle Maplethorpe, Support Staff



2026 DCHS Board of Directors:

Heidi Kennedy, President
Karen Green, Vice President
Eric King, Secretary/Treasurer
Jane Williamson, Past President

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Adrian Bennett, Paul Claeysens,
Tony DeBone, Greg Fulton,
Brad Lemmon, Julie Lowy,
Liz Rink, Glenn Voelz,
Deb Zitella



Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office.
Tax ID# 51-0186079

Continued from page 2— Skyline Trail

1920, Frederick Cleator began his four-month assignment to survey the section from Crater Lake to Three Fingered Jack. His team included nine horses, a government packer, a road engineer, two grazing experts, and a cook. In addition to their camping kit, the team carried surveying equipment, photography gear, and even carrier pigeons for communication.

When Cleator began his survey, there were only a handful of developed hiking trails in the United States. At that time, the Appalachian Trail had not even been formally proposed. Meanwhile, the Forest Service was starting to embrace the idea of recreation on system lands. Cleator was one of the agency's first recreational planners and oversaw the development of much of Oregon's early recreational infrastructure.

A few weeks into his survey, Cleator climbed Diamond Peak to scout his path north towards Waldo Lake. While on the summit, he had a revelation. That day, he wrote in his diary, "I am beginning to think that a Skyline Trail, the full length of the Cascades in Washington and Oregon, joining a similar trail in the Sierras of California, would be a great tourist advertisement." That diary comment was the first documented mention of the idea that would eventually become the Pacific Crest Trail.

When Cleator completed his survey in October 1920, his trip report revealed numerous challenges with the road proposal,



Fredrick Cleator taking a photograph from the top of South Sister during his 1920 reconnaissance of the Skyline Trail

including rugged terrain, persistent snowpack, and high development costs. The following year, the Forest Service issued a detailed map of Cleator's route; however, the plan for the scenic highway stalled as the agency pursued other projects.

Nevertheless, during the 1920s, the Skyline route became a popular backcountry escape for hunters, anglers, and outing clubs. The remote footpath inspired books, poems, photo exhibits, and travelogues. Bend's famous ski club, the Skyliners, took its name from the trail when the club formed in 1927.



Bend's famous Skyliners Ski Club took its name from the trail

By the end of the 1920s, most of the route remained unimproved and challenging to access. With the start of the Great Depression, the Forest Service lacked the resources to improve the trail. However, the nation's dire economic crisis had a silver lining for the Skyline Trail. Starting in 1933, New Deal-era work programs intended to stabilize the economy brought thousands of young men into the Cascades as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). At the time, Frederick Cleator was in charge of planning recreational projects in the region. He directed CCC crews to construct shelters, improve access points, and reroute several difficult sections of the trail.

As the CCC crews worked, a California businessman named Clinton Clarke organized a conference in 1935 to promote the development of a long-distance hiking trail from Canada to Mexico. Oregon's Skyline Trail was the linchpin of that project. While Cleator had a challenging relationship with Clarke, he nevertheless worked to connect the Skyline route to Washington and California. Cleator personally mapped the section extending south from Fourmile Lake to the California border. Meanwhile, CCC crews helped connect existing trails between the Columbia Gorge Ranger Station on Herman Creek and the new Timberline Trail around Mount Hood.

Clarke enlisted the support of YMCA groups to help reconnoiter the final route. The project included eight teams of young Oregonians who covered the trail from the California state line to the Columbia River over the summers of 1936 and 1937. Later in 1937, the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) was declared "passable." However, one regional forester described the new

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Map and Document of the Quarter

The next time you visit the Deschutes Historical Museum, carve out some time to explore the Map and Document of The Quarter. Volunteer researcher and board member, Brad Lemmon, encounters many interesting maps and documents while working in the DHM archive. "As I spend more and more time at the museum, I become aware of the amount of interesting things that are in the drawers and boxes. I want people to see more of those things than they get to see in the permanent or rotating exhibits."

The July-September Map of the Quarter on display in the museum lobby belonged to Arthur M. Lara who ran an early Bend dry-goods store. The base map is Bend of 1912 by Robert Gould, but there are hand-written additions to it. Two that caught Brad's eye are a different location for Miller Lumber and a Stone Quarry along the river that eventually became a recreation area. Come in and see if you can figure out which park it is now.

The Document of the Quarter is a late 1960s flyer urging citizens to vote yes for a new sewer system. It has some disturbing photos of the system they were living with at the time.

Millie's Chili and Life Lessons

by Kelly Cannon-Miller

New Date and Time:
Friday, September 25, 2026
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The only constant in life is change. If there were no change, there would be nothing for us historians for us to record, after all. For three decades, the Holiday Bazaar and Chili Feed graced the halls and classrooms of the museum the second weekend of November.

I can still picture Susie Penhollow and Louise Brogan in the kitchen during my first ever chili feed. Many other faces come back to me as I think about the event over the years: Mary Jane, Ruth, Clara, Marilyn, Dorothy, Chuck, Harriet, Leon, Dee and Ralph, to name but a few. Lois Wolcott in the dining room, cracking one-liners to anyone who gave her any guff is among my favorite memories, second-only to getting to learn the Millie's Chili recipe myself and cook it with Susie. That memory is priceless.

Slowly the event lost its pieces as the craft room, Grandma's Attic, and the bake sale did not have enough volunteer support to keep them going. External forces took their toll as more and more holiday bazaars competed against ours. Soon, the holiday bazaar ended and it simply became the chili feed. But if you attended last year, you'll know that the chili feed has not lost any of its steam. In fact, it has outgrown our indoor space!

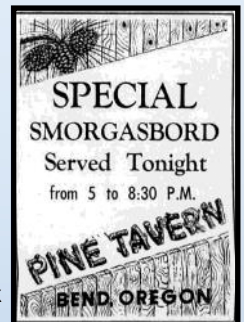
With the blessing of the Rastovich-Penhollow clan who helped Susie make Millie's Chili, and with ideas gathered from the over 100 responses to our recent membership survey, the museum is moving the chili feed away from its traditional weekend in November to September 25. The most important aspect of the chili feed has always been the opportunity to sit together, eat, and visit while at the same time supporting the museum. That's why its popularity continues to grow. Please join us **Friday, September 25, 2026**, as we continue Millie and Susie's legacy with a reinvigorated, expanded chili feed.

Recipe of the Month: Swedish Meatballs

The year 1959 was big for the *Pine Tavern*, lead by Maren Gribkov and Martha Bechen. They got their start in the Bend restaurant business with the *O.I.C. Cafeteria* on Wall Street in 1919, then later opened the *Pine Tavern* in 1936. In the first half of 1959, the *Pine Tavern* underwent a \$7500 renovation, which doubled the size of the dining area by adding the glassed-in back terrace that diners still enjoy today. A "specially constructed" roof was added to accommodate the two pine trees still visible in the middle of the room.

In August, "Maren's Pine Tavern Menus and Recipes" was published, which *The Bulletin* lauded as the "book of the month" for its adaptation of Pine Tavern favorites for home kitchens.

The last five pages of the cookbook are dedicated to the popular Scandinavian-inspired "Pine Tavern Smorgasbord," offered through the winter from 5:00 p.m. to close. Smorgasbord diners selected from up to sixty different dishes "arranged carefully as though it were the center of attraction," all displayed around "simple but striking centerpieces."



Ingredients

2 lbs chuck beef
1 lb lean pork
1 small onion
1 egg
1 cup mashed potatoes
1 tsp sugar
1.5 tsp salt
½ tsp nutmeg
½ tsp pepper
½ tsp mace
Pinch of ginger
1 cup milk
3 cups water or meat stock
6 Tbsp flour

Directions

Grind meat and onion together three or four times. Add eggs, potatoes, seasonings, and milk and mix well. Form into small balls and brown on all sides in a heavy skillet. If necessary, add a little bacon grease to prevent sticking.

Remove meat balls and add water or stock. Stir to dissolve drippings. Add flour mixed to a paste with additional water or stock and stir over low heat until thickened and smooth. Place meat balls and gravy in a casserole and bake ½ hour in a 300 degree oven.



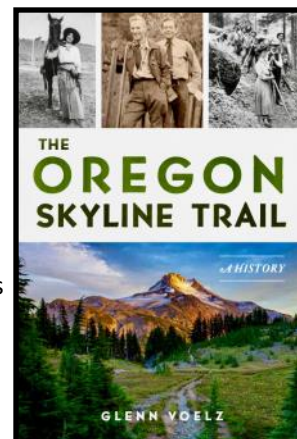
Maren Gribkov sitting by the pine trees in the Pine Tavern.
Image 2007.DHS.0376 from the DCHS collection.

Continued from page 3— Skyline Trail

route as "more of a myth than a trail." Nevertheless, the original Oregon Skyline Trail was one of the most well-developed sections of the new PCT, owing mainly to the work of Frederick Cleator and thousands of CCC enrollees who worked to improve the route.

After the surge of activity during the 1930s, the Skyline Trail was somewhat forgotten during World War II, as outdoor recreation waned and the Forest Service focused on supporting the war effort. However, there was renewed interest in outdoor recreation in the post-war years. As Oregonians went to the forests in search of adventure and relaxation, the Forest Service tried to balance the competing demands for natural resources, recreational needs, and changing expectations for environmental protection. These factors led to the creation of several wilderness areas along the old Skyline route, including the Three Sisters and Mount Jefferson wildernesses.

In 1968, the old Skyline Trail was redesignated as a National Scenic Trail as part of the Pacific Crest Trail system. Over time, the old Skyline Trail signs gradually disappeared and were replaced by the iconic diamond-shaped PCT trail markers. Today, most hikers know the Skyline route simply as the Oregon section of the PCT and have forgotten its original name and long history. You can learn much more about Central Oregon's most famous hiking route in Glenn's book, [*The Oregon Skyline Trail - A History*](#). See a selection of Frederick Cleator's photos juxtaposed with photos taken 100 years later in "Our Changing Skyline," on loan through August from the Oregon Historical Society.



History Bricks: Winning Builds

The inaugural History Bricks event brought hundreds of visitors on July 4th to see the thirteen entries. With almost 450 votes cast, the winners are Kelsey Hulbert for the Big Kid category, Everett Alasantro in the Kid category, and Amy Unthank took the Museum Staff award. Thank you to all our builders, and mark your calendars for next year!!



Big Kid Winner: Old Mill/ Mt Bachelor/
Deschutes River by Kelsey Hulbert



Kid Winner: "Farewell Bend
Mill" by Everett Alasantro



Staff Pick: The Pilot Butte Inn
by Amy Unthank

August History Pub: Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Oregonians Experiencing Archaeology

Take a behind-the-scenes look at the research and field work that leads to new episodes of OPB's *Oregon Experience* program, "Unearthing Oregon," featuring access to exciting archaeological work happening in Eastern Oregon. From revelations about Chinese cowboys and doctors to early-twentieth-century logging families, archaeologists are making significant new conclusions about Oregon history. In this special presentation, archaeologist Chelsea Rose, OPB *Oregon Experience* executive producer Arya Surowidjojo, and OPB producer Christie Goshe share historical context and on-the-ground stories about how the documentaries are made—including new footage from the 2026 Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology (SOULA) summer field school.

Chelsea Rose is the director of SOULA and a historical archaeologist who focuses on the American West.

Arya Surowidjojo is a documentary filmmaker, visual journalist and public media executive.

Christie Goshe is a documentary producer, cinematographer, editor and a key creative partner in the OPB *Oregon Experience* and SOULA archaeology series.



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

**Reservations required;
\$5 per person**

www.mcmenamins.com/events/

August Volunteer Meeting: Up and Coming Fall Programing Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 1- 2:00 p.m.

Although summer is still in full swing, it is time to gear up for discussing our fall events. Changes are afoot and we want you to be in the know!

Volunteers will learn what is happening with the annual Chili Feed and Raffle, now moving to September, find out how to be a guide for school group tours, help with Little Woody (end of August), and with *Escape the Museum* (October). Early sign-up for favorite programs will be available, with information shared on additional volunteer opportunities at the museum.

Volunteers and members are welcome to attend, Wednesday August 12 from 1-2:00 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.

AUGUST 29 One Day Only!



The Little Woody Beer and Whiskey Festival combines the historic technique of brewing in aged wooden barrels with the historic landmark, Reid School, as the venue. 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! Sadly, this will be the last Little Woody, and it will be held on one day only.

As the beneficiary of the event's proceeds, the museum's volunteers and staff look forward to sharing local history with event participants and remind everyone that the museum is open and free for them to explore during the event. This is the last time we will be hosting this event, so mark your calendars!

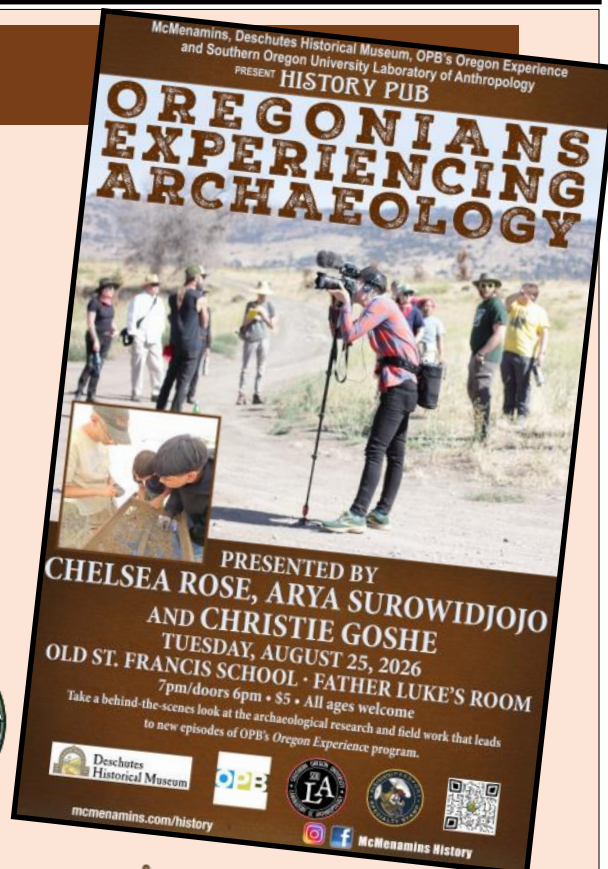
[For more information and tickets visit: thelittlewoody.com](http://thelittlewoody.com)

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

Mark Your Calendars

AUGUST

- 1 & 22 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 8 ANTIQUE FAIR**
9:00a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 12 VOLUNTEER MEETING: FALL EVENTS**
1:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 15 & 29 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 25 HISTORY PUB: OREGONIANS EXPERIENCING ARCHAEOLOGY**
Presented by Chelsea Rose, Arya Surowidjojo, and Christie Goshe
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 LAST LITTLE WOODY**
12-9:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
[Tickets Required](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

September 19: Lay It Out Events Presents: Oktoberfest!

September 25: Annual Chili Feed and Raffle NEW DATE AND TIME!

