



KPOV CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY

Tune in for rebroadcasts of the Kessler Cannon "15 Minute Histories".

See Page 4

LEADING THE WAY

Women played important roles in Central Oregon communities in the early 20th century.

See Page 2



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—March 2019

Water Pageant Memories Shared at Annual Meeting



A snowy February day did nothing to discourage the Deschutes County Historical Society membership from gathering at the Pine Forest Grange Hall for our annual luncheon on February 9. Over 70 members gathered for lunch and to participate in a presentation by Executive Director Kelly Cannon-Miller and Vice President of the Board of Directors Sue Fountain on the Bend Water Pageant. Photographs and video of the water pageant brought back many memories for the group, including former Pageantarian Paul Reynolds and two former pageant princesses, Darlyne Hoover Haynes and Nancy Merrifield Wick. It was a chance for people to share their stories, including the dangers of a float breaking free and the occasional small fire!

Sue Fountain is still gathering stories, photographs, and film footage to create a comprehensive archive on this historic event that dominated Bend's summer activities for so many years. If you have family history on the pageant that you would like to share, please let us know at info@deschuteshistory.org.

WOMEN OF SAGE & PINE: Celebrating Women's History Month

By Vanessa Ivey *This is an abridged version of a presentation Vanessa gave at the February Volunteer Meeting.*

Trail Blazers in Education

In 1904, the small hamlet of Bend had grown from a population of 21 in 1900 to over 300 in four years. The one-room schoolhouse was full to the brim with students and the local school board advertised to hire additional teachers.

In New Brunswick, Canada, Ruth Louise Reid, 23, already a very successful and admired teacher and administrator, wrote a letter of application to the young city. Ruth received a reply of acceptance and after negotiating a monthly salary of \$60, she arrived in Bend ready to begin Fall term of 1904. Ruth taught alongside Grace Jones and Marion Wiest.



Ruth Louise Reid's wedding portrait, October 1910

Ruth soon discovered there was no local high school in Bend. Instead, parents sent their higher learners to the Willamette Valley. Understanding the value of education and seeing an opportunity for the community, Ruth wrote a curriculum and began teaching students of high school age above one of the local business after

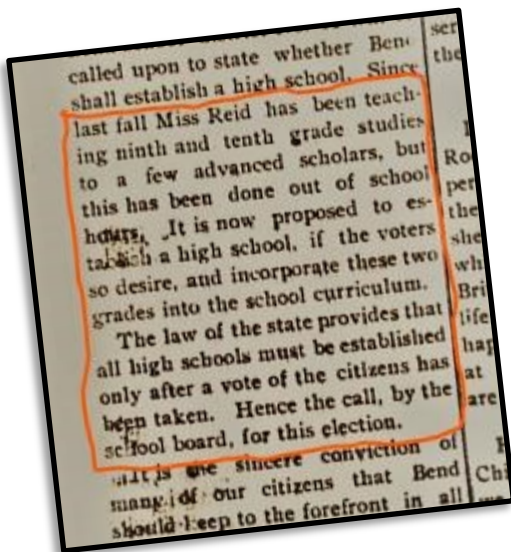
teaching all day at the schoolhouse. Editorial articles in the local paper expressed support for a high school in Bend, stating the money spent sending students away for study would be better used supporting the local economy. The community agreed and voted to establish a high school in Bend.

To accommodate the growing student population, Central School was completed and opened in the fall of 1906. The four-story building had enough room for all grades, the high school occupying the top floor. The school board promoted Ruth, making her the first principal of the Bend schools.

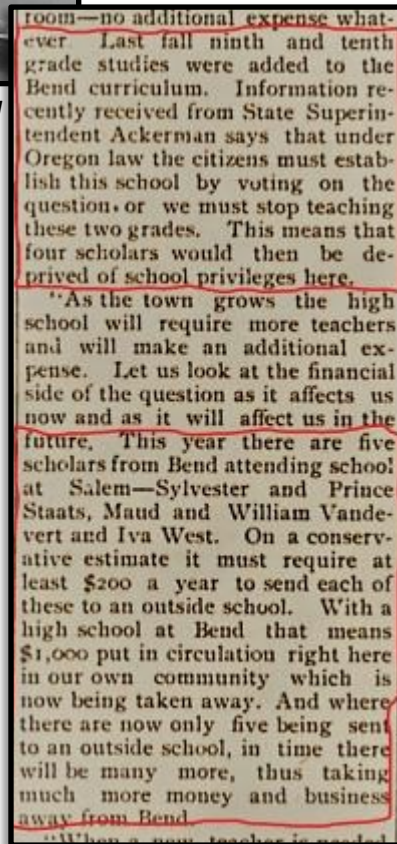
In 1909, Bend graduated its first high school class. One year later Ruth Reid retired from teaching, choosing love over career. In recognition of her educational contributions, the first modern school in Bend was named for her in 1914, Reid School. In 1953 Ruth and her husband moved to Hood River where she lived until her death in 1965. She is buried at the Pilot Butte Cemetery next to her husband H. J. "Jim" Overturf.

Editorial from The Bend Bulletin February 2, 1906

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Editorial from The Bend Bulletin February 23, 1906



**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

Museum Staff:

Kelly Cannon-Miller, Executive Director
Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager
Rebekah Averette, Registrar
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer



2019 DCHS Board of Directors:

Marsha Stout, President
Sue Fountain, Vice President
Adrian Bennett, Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members:

Mike Berry, Paul Claeysens,
Tony DeBone, Beau Eastes,
Dan Ellingson, Greg Fulton,
Karen Green, Tor Hanson,
Andrea Hunnell-DuPree, Loren Irving,
Heidi Kennedy, Bill Olsen, Susie Penhollow,
and Jane Williamson.

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



www.deschuteshistory.org
info@deschuteshistory.org

Continued from Page 2 — Women of Sage and Pine

“Pink-cheeked, full of adventure and dreams of the wild and romantic west, Gertrude and I landed in Bend August 1909” - Anne Markel Forbes in a 1953 KBND interview with Kessler Cannon.

Anne and Gertrude Markel left Bartlett, Illinois late in the summer of 1909. Anne, a graduate of Rockford College, had accepted a four year teaching position at Bend’s Central School (1909-1913), while Gertrude took a job at a local real estate office. Anne once described their first introduction to the West: “We had traveled many miles after leaving Shaniko by stagecoach, and we arrived in Bend in the evening, stopping at the old Bend Hotel. Our first glimpse of the mighty men of the West was Hugh O’Kane who weighed 300 plus pounds. He was peacefully dozing in the late sunshine with his faithful dog at his feet.”

The sisters had no money, as they had never traveled before and were not aware of the expense. Anne and Gertrude boarded with school director Mr. Fred Ray and paid for their hotel stay out of Anne’s first paycheck. As one of two high school teachers, Anne earned \$75 a month. “No specializing for us! My subjects were English, German, Latin and History. While Miss Reid taught mathematics and science.”

Anne played on Bend’s all-women basketball team made up of a few high school girls, teachers, and ladies from town. They played in bloomer suits and black stockings. “I recall one trip to Prineville, where we played the Prineville girls. We were successful, and when we landed in Bend we were met at the [railroad] depot by the brass band and last by the bank officials, who presented each of us with a big box of chocolates. That surely was a triumph.” Older sister Nell later joined Anne and Gert in Bend. Under the Cash Entry Act of 1820, the three sisters each purchased property on what is now Awbrey Butte, where they built a cabin and homesteaded. The property now is part of the COCC campus.

In the collections of the Deschutes Historical Museum, a scrapbook of Anne’s holds all kinds of treasures including a note with the word “Private” across the envelope. The handwritten and signed note is to Anne from Bulletin owner George Palmer Putnam in regards to a photograph of her. Although she went out dancing with the handsome newspaper publisher, Anne later married Vernon Forbes, a Crook County politician and Bend’s first state representative. The couple were married four years when Vernon drowned in a boating accident at Crescent Lake July 7, 1918, leaving Anne to raise their young son, Vernon Jr.



The Markel siblings c. 1909: Anne, brother Chester, Gertrude, and Nell.

After Vernon’s death Anne continued to live in Bend raising her son. She operated a gift shop until she was able to get her real estate license and open her own office, which she ran for many years. Anne continued to be active in Bend’s community as a member of the Presbyterian Church, American Legion Auxiliary and was secretary for the Red Cross following World War One. She never lost the wanderlust spirit which originally brought her out West, and traveled extensively throughout the U.S., Mexico, and Europe. Anne died August

5, 1955 in Elgin, IL, at age 69. She is buried in Bend next to her husband at the Pilot Butte Cemetery.

Role Models for the Community

The women of early Bend were not timid, nor shy. They were go-getters, willing to get their hands dirty as they organized women’s sports, participated in outdoor recreation, owned businesses and property, and formed clubs and organizations. When the community was in crisis or need, women were there setting the standard. During both the First and Second World Wars, women filled mill positions vacated by fellows heading off to fight. When the influenza pandemic broke out in 1918, women stepped in as caregivers and rolled bandages for those in need.



All women box factory workers at Brooks-Scanlon, photographed by Elite Studios on October 16, 1917.

May E. Arnold came to Bend in 1909 with her husband John, and before her death in 1965 she left her mark in this community as a leader in civic activity. May was active in many organizations, including the PEO, Deschutes Pioneer

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DCHS NEWS

Shevlin-Hixon Firetruck Gets A Make-Over

Many members may remember the Shevlin-Hixon Model A fire truck in the collection from Christmas Parade



appearances in the 1990s. Donated in 1990 by Casper and Grace Werner and originally used at the Shevlin-Hixon mill site, the 1931 Model A truck chassis is outfitted with American LaFrance equipment including a siren, soda-ash extinguishers, intake hoses and couplings, hose and reel attachment, ladder rack, axes, nozzles, and pumps. While Casper and Grace farmed their property along South Highway 97 for over 45 years, like many area families, farming was a second job. Casper worked for both Shevlin-Hixon and Brooks-Scanlon over the years until his retirement in 1974. It was through his association with the mills that he acquired the truck.

Sadly, during the winter of 2017 the roof of the storage building that housed the truck collapsed, damaging the cab. With a generous grant from The Hixon Family Foundation, the truck has been delivered to Tomahawk Enterprises where it will start with an engine overhaul and body work to follow. We hope to have the truck restored and available for appearances later this year.



Carol Selle
DHM Volunteer
from
2012-2015

We are sad to report the passing of Carol Selle in February. Carol volunteered at the Deschutes Historical Museum for three years in a variety of roles. She could be seen meeting and greeting at the front desk and behind the scenes for the annual chili feed. She never missed a July 4 Open House, and always made sure every kid had a t-shirt and popsicle at the Summer Shootout marble tournament. When Carol left in 2015 her presence at the museum was greatly missed. Remembrances may be sent to her daughter:

Leslie Selle PO Box 424 Vashon, WA 98070

"15 Minute Histories" To Air on KPOV

Starting in March, KPOV (88.9FM), High Desert Community Radio, will air "15 Minute Histories" rebroadcasting stories told by Central Oregon pioneers and homesteaders to KBND's Kessler Cannon during his 1953 radio series. The series was originally inspired by the Deschutes Pioneer Association and offered as a part of Bend's 50th Anniversary.

The digitized series is the result of a collaborative effort between the Deschutes County Historical Society and the Deschutes Public Library. KPOV will play two oral histories each month on their community affairs program, *The Point*, scheduled weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The interviews will air on the second Friday and third Wednesday in a segment called *Historic Moments of Central Oregon*.

In honor of Women's History Month, join *The Point* host Carolyn Esky, Friday, March 8, as she shares Jeannette Keyes Johnson's interview. Then Tuesday March 20, *The Point* co-hosts Louise Kaplan and Mary Ann Hart rebroadcast the Kate Rockwell (Klondike Kate) interview.

Tune your radio dial to 88.9 FM or stream live at www.kpov.org. For more information on *The Point* series, *Historic Moments of Central Oregon* visit kpov.org or call 541-322-0863. It's an opportunity not to be missed.



KPOV High Desert Community Radio, by the People and for the People of Central Oregon, Listener Supported and Volunteer Powered.

JEANNETTE KEYES JOHNSON



15minute HISTORIES

Memorials

Shey Hyatt

Bette Andrew

Oregon Quilt Project Documentation Day in Sisters March 8-9

Quilts tell a story about a maker, a place, a journey, or a historic event. A quilt's pieced top design, choice of fabric, and its quilting pattern carry a long history of changing styles and stories. Across the country, groups of quilt historians, enthusiasts and quiltmakers have organized a system of documenting these stories through "Quilt Projects," to preserve and share the stories of quilts.

As the destination of one of the largest emigrations in our nation's history, as well as the home of the largest single-day outdoor quilt show in the world, it is only natural that Oregon would participate in the effort to preserve the stories held within these historic textile documents, often made by women whose stories may be otherwise unrecorded. In 2009, Oregon's own quilt project was launched, then reorganized in 2012 as a project of the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem. It has recorded more than 1,400 quilts since the first quilt documentation day in April, 2010.

Quilts have been arriving in Oregon since the 1840s and have continuously been made since that time. What can these textile documents tell us about their makers and the time in which they were made? On a larger scale, can quilts made in or brought to Oregon tell us about community history in our state? Are Oregon quilts unique in patterns, colors, techniques styles or materials? The Oregon Quilt Project hopes to find some answers to these and other questions by documenting "Oregon Quilts."



Friendship quilt made for the birth of Viva Lucille (McDaniel) Fosback, of Cloverdale by Cloverdale Grange members, family and friends, in 1935. One of two quilts from DCHS collections to be documented.

What qualifies as an "Oregon Quilt?" The quilt must be in Oregon when it is documented. It can be old or new, made elsewhere, or it may be going to another location, but it must be recorded within the boundaries of our state. Quilt tops that have not been quilted, "summer quilts" (with a backing but no quilt padding), tied quilts and quilted garments may also be documented.

A documentation consists of two parts: a history of the quilt and its maker, and a physical examination of the quilt. Quilt owners make a reservation to document their quilt, and receive a form in advance. If the quilt owner does not know the history of the quilt or its maker, or is unsure of details, some history of the quilt can still be gleaned from the textile itself. Inheritors or purchasers of a quilt are often surprised at what the textile can reveal!

The second part of the documentation is a physical examination of the quilt itself by a documentation team. Volunteers open the quilt flat on a table and record information about the top, back, batting and condition. Volunteers record the quilt's measurements and its pattern, using several universally accepted reference sources. After the quilt's history and physical history are collected, volunteers photograph the quilt. The owner signs a release form to share the information and photo through The Quilt Index for research purposes.

The Documentation Day in Sisters was organized with the help of the East of the Cascades Quilting Group, and will take place at the Stitchin' Post quilt shop on East Cascade Ave. Please see the attached flyer for information about making an appointment to document your quilt(s). As there is a charge to document each item, owners may decide how many they want to have recorded. The charge, \$10 per item, covers the costs of the documentation.

The Deschutes Historical Museum has two quilts in its collection that will be documented by DHM volunteer and founding member of the Three Sisters Historical Society, Kathy Swank. For more information about the Oregon Quilt Project, visit oregonquiltproject.org.

Continued from Page 3 — Women of Sage and Pine

Association, and the Deschutes County Democratic Central Committee. As a founding member of the Women's Civic Improvement League (WCIL), May was a driving force behind Bend's first park development.

In 1920, Bend had two of the largest mills in the world, a population of 7500, and was the seat of the newly formed Deschutes County. However, the city had no designated parks. Stretched along the east shore of the Deschutes River, extending north from Tumalo Ave. to what is now the Brooks Alley parking lot, sat 10 acres of property originally owned by William Staats and then by Alexander Drake. Giant ponderosa pines shaded undergrowth of juniper, sagebrush, and bunch grass. Local developers and city council planned to sub divide the river property and offer it for sale as home sites, thus generating more tax revenue. However, the WCIL, with May as its leader, had other plans: create a park centrally located to the downtown area, something the whole community could benefit from. The WCIL met with resistance from city leaders. Through the determined and fiery efforts of the WCIL the council was confronted with a petition bearing 1,500 signatures that put the issue on the city ballot. The measure passed and in 1921 the city council purchased the 10.5 acres of riverfront property for \$21,000 for the purposes of forming a park. It was named Drake Park in 1928.

May Arnold became the first Deschutes County chairperson for the March of Dimes, earning a personal audience with then First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt who presented Mrs. Arnold with a bowl made from Central Oregon juniper. May was also honored with the medal of patriotic service for selling one million dollars in war bonds between 1941 and 1945. Between 1942 and 1943, she and her husband opened up their private home to make small rooms available for war brides who arrived to be near their husbands stationed at Camp Abbott. May E. Arnold died in 1964 in her home on Irving Avenue, a Bend resident for 55 years.

This freethinking spirit of independence and adventure, being part of a community, taking risks, and putting yourself out there has not ended. The women of sage and pine are still here, in your neighborhoods, with you at work and at home. Deschutes County has a long legacy of women who have made a difference then and today, and will continue to into the future.



May Arnold receiving the Medal of Patriotic Service.

Mark Your Calendars

MARCH

- 8 **"15 MINUTE HISTORIES" REBROADCAST OF JEANETTE KEYES JOHNSON INTERVIEW**
9:00 a.m. KPOV (88.9 FM)
- 8 **OREGON QUILT PROJECT DOCUMENTATION DAY**
2:00-5:00 p.m. The Stitchin' Post 311 W. Cascades St. in Sisters
- 9 **OREGON QUILT PROJECT DOCUMENTATION DAY**
9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Stitchin' Post 311 W. Cascades St. in Sisters
- 20 **"15 MINUTE HISTORIES" REBROADCAST OF KATE ROCKWELL (KLONDIKE KATE) INTERVIEW**
9:00 a.m. KPOV (88.9 FM)
- 26 **HISTORY PUB: GIVING THE NOOSE THE SLIP;**
An Analysis of Female Murderers in Oregon, 1854-1950
Presented by Jenna Barganski, Museum Manager at the Clackamas County Historical Society
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7:00 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m.
First-come-first-served seating, no reservations required.

McMENAMINS OLD ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL HISTORY PUB
HISTORY PUB NIGHT



GIVING THE NOOSE THE SLIP:
AN ANALYSIS OF FEMALE MURDERERS
IN OREGON, 1854-1950

presented by
JENNA BARGANSKI
Museum Manager at Clackamas County Historical Society

Twenty-five women were convicted of homicide in Oregon between 1854 and 1950. During these years the majority faced all-male court and penal systems. As such, they were handled differently in accordance with various social, cultural, and legislative shifts relating to women's roles as citizens. This presentation will examine three distinct periods relating to these shifts.



TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019
6:30 p.m. doors, 7 p.m. event - Free - Minor with parent or guardian

700 N.W. Bond St. • Bend • (541) 382-5174
mcmenamins.com/history

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
McMenamins History
CE
Deschutes Historical Society

Every Quilt Has A Story

Tell us your story...



Oregon Quilt Project Documentation Day

Dates: Friday, March 8th
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 9th
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: The Stitchin' Post
311 W. Cascade Street
Sisters, OR 97759

Contact Zeta Seiple for Information and Appointments: 541-549-6157

What Kind of Quilts?

The quilt must be in Oregon when it is documented. It can be old or new, made elsewhere, or it may be going to another location, but it must be recorded within the boundaries of our state. Quilt tops that have not been quilted, "summer quilts" (with a backing but no quilt padding), tied quilts and quilted garments may also be documented.

The Quilt's Story

A documentation consists of two parts: a history of the quilt and its maker, and a detailed physical examination of the quilt. Appointments will be scheduled to allow 30 minutes for each documentation. Each person may bring two (2) quilts for documentation. **Documentation appointments are limited and will be scheduled on a first come first served basis.**

There is a \$10.00 charge to document each item which includes a registration number with the Oregon Quilt Project Archives. (<http://oregonquiltproject.org>) If the owner agrees, the OQP will register the quilt with the Quilt Index at no charge. (<http://www.quiltindex.org>)

This project is sponsored by the Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show, East of the Cascade Quilters, Three Sisters Historical Society and The Stitchin' Post.