



A Photographic History

The studio behind the Van Vleet photos
See p. 2

A Watchful Eye

There is a new "face" in the DHM lobby
See p. 4



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—OCTOBER 2024

HISTORICAL HAUNTS OF DOWNTOWN BEND

RETURNS FOR ONE LAST SEASON

OCTOBER 11 - 12, 2024

In 2010, the Deschutes Historical Museum had an idea for introducing Bend's history to the community in a new way: walking tours combining local history with paranormal mystery. At the time, there wasn't anything like it downtown.

During the 14 years, what began with three interpreter guides has grown into an annual fundraising event with double the guides, sharing the stories of more than fifteen locations, businesses, and sites to over 6,000 locals and visitors. The tour will be retired, making this the final season for the museum's classic haunt walk tour, Bend's original haunted tours since 2010.

Want to join the fun before the final curtain call? With twenty-six one-hour tours over 2-nights there is still time to "Get Your Haunt On"! You'll stroll through Bend's historic downtown, stopping at the Museum's favorite locations, where the past is brought back to life. This year we have added new locations and "living" history. Tours leave every 20 minutes, with the first tour leaving at 4:00 p.m. and the last tour leaving at 8:00 p.m. Featured locations are operating businesses and tours do not enter any buildings.

While waiting for your tour, wander the halls of the museum to find this year's Creepiest Doll contestants and stop in the research room to view footage of the "Brosterhaus Ghost." Admission to the museum is included in your tour purchase.

For more information regarding this event or other happenings at the museum, visit our [website calendar](#), or call 541-389-1813.



[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS](#)

Only available online: [Eventbrite.com](#)

Additional dates and tour times click "More Options" on the event site. SPACE IS LIMITED AND TICKETS DO SELL OUT. Tickets are not refundable, but are transferable.

Tickets are \$20 per person, general admission, \$10 for museum members. A promo code will be sent to members in a separate email to receive the \$10 discount. *Ticketing service fees will still apply.*

Not yet a member of the Deschutes Historical Museum? Purchase four (4) or more tickets and receive one (1) Household Museum Membership FREE. Receipt required.



A Brief History of Elite Studio

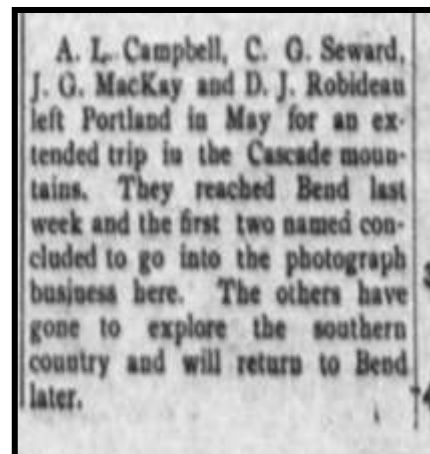
By Rebekah Averette



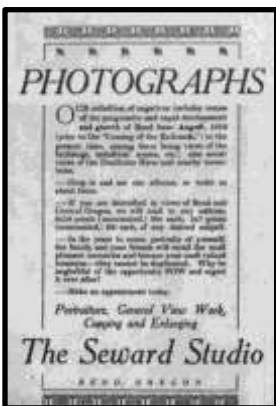
In October, DHM will open an exhibit featuring the photography of Elite Studio, a prominent local portrait and landscape photography studio. As mentioned in the September *Homesteader*, the exhibit will be comprised of a selection of photographs developed from glass plate negatives. The negatives were donated by the son of the last Elite Studio proprietor, Wilmer Roy Van Vleet. The images represent not just the work of Van Vleet, but of previous studio owners and partners, such as C.G. Seward, A.L. Campbell, R.J. Todd, C.K. Norcott, and several other photographers the studio contracted with over the years. Notably, some photographs bear the name of B.B. Bakowski, a Central Oregon-based photographer who disappeared and was presumed dead after traveling to photograph Crater Lake in the winter of 1911. Although his body was never found, his abandoned camp was.

Elite Studio, a casualty of the Depression's business downturn, closed in 1929. Roy Van Vleet was the last in a line of photographers who ran the business between 1910 and 1929. The original business was opened and operated by C.G. Seward and A.L. Campbell in 1910.

Portrait photography was popularized after 1839, when Louis Daguerre introduced the world to the first commercially viable means of producing photographic portraits quickly and inexpensively. By the time the city of Bend was incorporated in 1905, no booming western town was complete without a photography studio or two. Burgeoning communities like Bend, always looking to encourage growth, also used photography to attract would-be investors, businesses, and residents to the area. Local organizations such as the Commercial Club and the Emblem Club existed primarily to encourage this growth and photography was a valuable tool. If interested parties couldn't travel all the way to Central Oregon, photography allowed Central Oregon to travel to them.



Bend Bulletin, 1910



1912 Seward advertisement

When C.G. Seward and A.L. Campbell first arrived in Bend in September 1910, the *Bend Bulletin* announced the pair had set up a studio. Seward & Campbell Studio, like many frontier studios of the time, appealed to people hoping to capture photographs of themselves and loved ones for posterity. They also advertised "general view work" and documented nature, industry, commerce, recreation, agriculture, and daily life in Central Oregon.

Seward's partnership with Campbell and later D.J. Robideau were short lived, and Seward Studio continued as a solo operation until 1913. That year, the *Bend Bulletin* reported that Seward was leaving Central Oregon "for some time". This was a bit of an understatement. Seward would be gone, traveling the country and the world, for six and a half years.

- Continued on page 3

 <p>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</p>	<p>Museum Staff:</p> <p>Kelly Cannon-Miller, Executive Director Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager Rebekah Averette, Collections Manager Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer Michelle Patrick, Visitor Services</p> <p>●●●●●</p> <p>2024 DCHS Board of Directors:</p> <p>Jane Williamson, President Karen Green, Vice President Heidi Kennedy, Secretary/Treasurer Adrian Bennett, Past President</p>	<p>Board Members:</p> <p>Mike Berry, Paul Claeysens, Tony DeBone, Greg Fulton, Erik King, Brad Lemmon, Liz Rink, Glenn Voelz</p> <p>●●●●●</p> <p>Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office.</p>
--	---	--

**BEND BEST OF ALL
SAYS PHOTOGRAPHER**

**C. G. Seward Returns After Six
Months' Absence, to Become
Manager of Elite Studio.**

After an absence of six and a half years from Bend, C.G. Seward, has returned to this city and has bought back into the photo business which he founded here in 1910, entering into a partnership with R. J. Todd, of the Elite Studio, but assuming the managerial end of the business. Mr. Seward has travelled extensively since leaving Bend, but declares that he considers opportunities are better here than in any other city he has visited. During the last two years he was in the signal corps, and made a number of trips to the Philippine Islands.

The studio in the Lara building on Oregon street is being remodeled to take care of increased business, and will be reopened shortly. Mr. Seward will take a special interest in commercial work, while portrait photography will remain largely under the direction of Mr. Todd.

Bend Bulletin January 30, 1920

In his absence, R.J. Todd and C.K. Norcott picked up where Seward left off and operated what would eventually be called Elite Studio.

C.G. Seward returned to Central Oregon in 1920, declaring that Bend, despite his worldwide travels, was the best place to be:

Coming to Bend after a wide experience in San Francisco, New Orleans and Chicago, I have decided that your city offers an unusual opportunity for a first class photographer, and I have taken active charge of Elite Studio. ...I solicit your patronage.

He jumped back into the photography business with Todd and Norcott, and 1920 to 1924 witnessed a revolving door of partners and various associates linked to Elite Studio in some form.

In 1924, Roy Van Vleet, a longtime Shevlin-Hixon employee and an established local photographer, left the timber industry and purchased Elite Studio from then owner, C.K. Norcott.

For the five years Van Vleet ran Elite Studio, he continued the work of his predecessors. The studio had, over the years, not only continued the studio portrait end of the business, but proprietors offered scenic shots of Central Oregon for purchase and traveled around the state and even the country with photographic displays documenting the riches of Central Oregon. Portrait photography might have kept the lights on, but Elite Studio also served as a photographic ambassador, spreading the word of Central Oregon's beauty and commercial and recreational promise.

**PREPARE PICTURES
FOR PORTLAND SHOW**

Exhibit To Be Made By Bend Commercial Club At Tourist And Sportsmen's Fair.

Seward & Norcott and Symons Bros., Bend scenic photographers, are preparing some of their best pictures to be sent to Portland for exhibition in the space allotted to Bend in the Tourist & Sportsmen's fair at the armory. Clyde M. McKay will go to Portland June 21, to spend several days arranging the exhibit, this having been authorized by the Bend Commercial club directors at today's meeting.

Copies of the directors' resolution, opposing the extension of Crater Lake National park to include Diamond lake, were ordered sent to the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce and other organizations throughout the state.

Bend Bulletin June 1, 1922

Announcement

The Elite Studio Is Under New Management

Coming to Bend after a wide experience in San Francisco, New Orleans and Chicago, I have decided that your city offers an unusual opportunity for a first class photographer, and I have taken active charge of the Elite Studio.

To complete the plant additional apparatus has been installed and I am now fully equipped to handle all classes of photography—Portraiture, Panoramis, Viewing, Interiors, Exterioris, Flashlights, Copying, Enlarging and Kodak Finishing. I have specialized in commercial photographic illustrating and I will be pleased to figure with you on any pictorial or catalogue work you may have in mind. No work too large and none too small to receive the same prompt service.

For your convenience, a film box has been placed at the right of the stairway. Mark your name on the roll or package, show the number of prints wanted and drop it in the box. The Kodak Finishing is handled in connection with the commercial work and receives the same careful attention of paper for each individual negative. Have your work finished by a professional photographer.

Remember—that the Elite Studio has a north skylight under which the best lighting results are obtained. I solicit your patronage.

C. G. SEWARD
Elite Studio, Bend, Oregon

Bend Bulletin February 14, 1920



Map and Document of The Month

The map of the month is a plan of World War II Camp Abbot (present-day Sunriver). One of the interesting features of the map is a hand drawn road and bridge crossing the Deschutes River. The bridge existed until the Forest Service tore it down around 1960. The abutments can still be seen from a path on the west side of the river.

The document of the month is an August 2, 1985 edition of the Rajneesh Times newspaper that was published by the religious community near Antelope, Oregon in Wasco County. The museum has about 20 issues that span April to November 1985. Perhaps the documentary film makers read these newspapers?

Both of these fascinating resources are on display in the Research Library. Stop by to check them out in person!

DCHS NEWS

DCHS Swears in Two New Board Members

The Board of Directors is excited to announce two new members, whose names you may recognize:



Brad Lemmon was born in upstate New York and lived there for about 10 years until his family relocated to northern Virginia. He attended Virginia Tech where he received both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering. He also has a M.A. degree in Teaching

(Elementary) from OSU-Cascades.

In 2007 Brad, his wife and their two young daughters hit the Oregon Trail and drove from Virginia across the country to settle in Bend. Brad's interest in history dates back to his parents' enthusiasm for visiting museums and to living amid many Civil War battlefields. At the Deschutes Historical Museum he delights in perusing old maps, studying original documents, examining historical objects and, especially, unraveling historical puzzles.



Glenn Voelz served as an intelligence officer for twenty-five years in the Army and spent over a decade living and working in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. He held senior leadership positions at the Pentagon on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the White House Situation Room, and at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

During his career, Glenn served as an assistant professor of history at West Point. He has published over a dozen books and journal articles on history, government contracting, military innovation, and emergency management. His recent writing focuses on the history of outdoor recreation in Oregon, including books about Mount Bachelor, the Skyline Trail, and the history of Oregon Search and Rescue. He's currently working on a book about the Civilian Conservation Corps in Oregon and its development of the state's recreational infrastructure.

When not researching and writing, Glenn is a professional ski patroller at the Mount Bachelor Nordic Center and a Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue volunteer.

New Installation: "She Who Watches" In Memory of Marsha Stout



The next time you visit the DHM, take a moment to admire "She Who Watches," a new addition to the DHM lobby. This ceramic mask is a rare piece created by local Wasco, Warm Springs, and Yakima artist Lillian Pitt. The ceramic mask was fired in fellow artist Richard Roland's renowned anagama "Dragon Kiln" in Astoria, Oregon. It is

embellished with abalone shell, and has been custom framed by Greg Fulton.



Marsha's husband, Mel Stout, gifted the mask to the museum in memory of Marsha, "who watches over her people."

Volunteer Meeting: *The Homesteader* Planning October 9 1:00 p.m.

If you love what you see in our monthly *Homesteader* newsletter, please consider joining the volunteer newsletter team! This will be an opportunity to suggest articles, monthly segments, or other content.

Volunteers may enjoy writing articles, creating content, or just proofreading drafts. Sometimes we have volunteers that enjoy doing the research, and others who enjoy writing, and we match them together.

Bring a sack lunch and your ideas for fun, interesting, and engaging content.

Do you have a suggestion for The Homesteader newsletter? What do you enjoy most, what would you like to see or learn about? Please send your input to Tracy

Alexander:

tracy@deschuteshistory.org



October History Pub: About Mt. Bachelor's Nordic Center and the History of Cross-Country Skiing in Central Oregon

Presented by Bob Mathews and Glenn Voelz

Tuesday October 29, 2024



McMenamins Old St. Francis School

7:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

\$5 Fee, Registration Required

In 1976, Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort's founder, Bill Healy, approved a one-page proposal creating a cross-country ski area at the resort. What began with a seven-kilometer loop on Dutchman Flat evolved into one of the nation's premier Nordic ski areas and a training ground for numerous Olympians.

Join Mount Bachelor's first Nordic director, Bob Mathews, and local author Glenn Voelz as they discuss the history of cross-country skiing in Central Oregon and Mount Bachelor's Nordic Center.

Bob Mathews moved to Bend in 1973 and worked as a ski instructor at Mount Bachelor. In 1976, he presented the one-page memorandum to Bill Healy, proposing to create the cross-country ski area. Over the next twenty years, Mathews led Mount Bachelor's cross-country ski program and developed it into one of the premier Nordic ski areas in the United States and a training ground for numerous Olympians.

Glenn Voelz is a professional ski patroller at the Mount Bachelor Nordic Center and the author of *Mount Bachelor: A History*. He specializes in Oregon's outdoor recreation history.

[Click Here to Buy Tickets: mcmenamins.com/old-st-francis-school](https://mcmenamins.com/old-st-francis-school)

This event sells out, please plan to arrive early. Limited tickets will be available at the door

Consider a Legacy of Local History

An online memorial donation was recently made to the Deschutes County Historical Society. When the name of the loved one being memorialized was not found in the membership database, an online search found the name of a man from Rhode Island who was highly involved with his town's historic preservation community, Scott Mathieson. In his memory, Mr. Mathieson's family requested that, in lieu of flowers, folks make a donation to their local historical society.

Mr. Mathieson's cousin Debra did just that. She went on to say that his home town will be having a historic preservation tour in his memory, highlighting the many buildings and projects that he contributed to with his renovation construction skills.

We are honored to be part of Mr. Mathieson's legacy of celebrating local history, and hope that the community of Deschutes County will consider following his example.

Memorials

Scott Mathison

Debra Gallino

Susie Penhollow

Robert and Elaine Costner

Cheryl and Rudy Park III

Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Curtis

Ed and Barbara Grayson

Lynne Roe

2024 Creepy Doll Contest

The Creepy Dolls are Back and they are Creepier Than Ever!

The contestants for 2024's Creepy Doll Contest have all submitted their applications and are vying for their chance to be a finalist! In what has become an annual October dogfight, these blushing baby dolls go head to head to be crowned the creepiest of all.

The 2024 Creepy Doll finalists will be unveiled on our website and social media on October 11 and will make their debut in the museum the same day. Despite their winning personalities, these dolls are shy, so visitors will have to hunt high and low throughout the museum to find their hiding spots.

You will be able to vote for this year's Creepiest Doll on our website between October 11 and October 31. Naturally, the winner will be crowned on Halloween!

*Creepiest Dolls of
2022 and 2023*



Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Chili Feed and
Raffle

November 8 & 9

11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars

OCTOBER

9 **VOLUNTEER MEETING: THE HOMESTEADER NEWSLETTER PLANNING**
1:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

11 & 12 **HISTORICAL HAUNTS OF DOWNTOWN BEND WALKING TOURS**
4:00– 8:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
[Click Here for Tickets](#) or visit Eventbrite.com *only available online*

29 **HISTORY PUB: MT. BACHELOR'S NORDIC CENTER AND THE HISTORY OF CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING—A Conversation with Bob Mathews and Glenn Voelz**
Presented by Bob Mathews, Mount Bachelor's first Nordic Director, and Glenn Voelz, local author and DCHS Board Member
McMenamins Old St. Francis; 700 NW Bond St., Bend
Father Luke Room, 7:00 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m.
[Reservations required, \\$5 per person](#)



SAVE THE DATE!



November 8 & 9: Annual Chili Feed and Raffle

