



### Seasonal Cycle

*Revisit the past sale of Mt Bachelor Ski Resort to Powdr Corp See p. 2*

### Giving the Gift of Local History

*There are many ways to support the DHM this year See p. 3, 4 & 5*



# The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—DECEMBER 2024

## Holiday Gelatin Salad Show



Enter your salad in one of four different categories:

**Best Presentation** — Knock our socks off with a molded creation Grandma would be proud of!

**Most Savory** — Gelatin isn't just for dessert!

**Your Family's Salad Recipe** — Let's face it, there is always that one salad that has to be at every family holiday. Maybe it's pink, maybe it's green. Whatever it is, we need to see it. (Bonus points if you have a family photograph with the salad in it.)

**Nailed It!** Best Ooops You Tried — Just because you bought the mold doesn't mean you can get it out of the mold. But we don't care! You gave it your best.

# December 14

## 1:00 p.m.

*Let your freak holiday salad shine! Enter your best holiday gelatin salad to win.*

*Visit [deschuteshistory.org](https://deschuteshistory.org) for more details*

# Mt. Bachelor's Last Sale

## Excerpted from Mt. Bachelor - A History by Glenn Voelz

The recent Powdr Corp. decision to sell Mt. Bachelor was big news for many Deschutes County residents, especially given the resort's sizable impact on the local economy. While the announcement may have come as a surprise, the sale is not without precedent. Around 25 years ago, the resort's original owners made a similar decision, leading them to sell the ski area to Powdr Corp. As with the current sale, the decision was controversial and provoked strong feelings in the community.



In 1998, as Mt. Bachelor celebrated its 40th anniversary, the ski industry was undergoing significant transformation. After several decades of rapid expansion, the industry was entering a period of slower growth. Many smaller ski areas were going out of business. Some survived by expanding, while large ski conglomerates purchased other struggling resorts. Unfortunately, industry trends were moving away from the business model of Mt. Bachelor's founder Bill Healy.

By the 1990s, more and more skiers were spending their money at destination resorts with slopeside lodging and amenities. For some local skiers, there was a sense that Mt. Bachelor was falling behind its competitors. The resort's annual skier visits had stagnated for most of the previous decade. Making matters worse, the 1999–2000 season ended with Mt. Bachelor facing a significant downturn in skier visits and two consecutive years of financial losses. In the spring of 2001, the board of directors and shareholders received an offer from the Utah-based Powdr Corporation to buy the resort.

At the time, the Papé Group was Mount Bachelor's largest shareholder. Randy Papé, president of the Eugene-based Papé Group, served as president of Mt. Bachelor Inc. Members of the Healy family held the second-largest block of shares. The Stevenson family of Bingen, Washington, was the remaining major shareholder. While everyone understood that the resort was in trouble, there wasn't a clear consensus on the best way forward. Randy Papé and the board promptly rejected Powdr's initial offer, with Wallace Stevenson reportedly being the only board member in favor of the deal. In a January 2001 letter to shareholders, Papé expressed concern about relinquishing ownership to "out-of-state interests." However, he acknowledged that the corporation faced a year of disappointing financial performance due to changing market dynamics and unfavorable weather conditions.

Despite the board's opposition, shareholders were divided over the best course of action, with the Healy family leaning toward accepting Powdr's offer. In an interview with *The Bulletin*, Papé said he believed that Mt. Bachelor could remain a stand-alone entity while competing against the large resort conglomerates. He believed skiers would be better served by maintaining local ownership while developing Mt. Bachelor into a destination resort by adding year-round recreational experiences, new snowmaking capabilities, night skiing, and lodging. At the time, Papé described Mt. Bachelor as an "overgrown day operation" with the lift capacity of a destination resort but none of the amenities.

Later in January, the board met again to review the offer and provide a nonbinding recommendation to shareholders. The Papé Group made a competing offer the following month. However, by that time, more shareholders were leaning towards accepting Powdr's offer, according to media reports. By the end of March, most shareholders pledged to sell their stock to Powdr. Shortly after the board's decision, the Healy family, holding 17 percent of outstanding shares, affirmed their desire to accept Powdr's offer. The deal closed for around \$28 million, giving Powdr nearly 70% of outstanding shares and ownership of the resort.

After the deal closed, the new owners began trimming costs to restore the operation to profitability. Management ranks were cut nearly in half, along with additional reductions in seasonal staff. However, there were some concerns over - *Continued on page 5*

### 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](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)  
[info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto: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



#### 2024 DCHS Board of Directors:

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

#### Board Members:

Mike Berry, Paul Claeysens,  
Tony DeBone, Greg Fulton,  
Erik King, Brad Lemmon, Liz Rink, Glenn  
Voelz



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

# A Message from Board President Jane Williamson

This past year has been a remarkable one thanks to you, our supporters and friends who share a passion for preserving the unique history of Central Oregon. Together, we have accomplished so much:

- Inspired the next generation** by awarding two Leon Devereaux Pioneer Scholarships to local graduates.
- Enriched young minds** by hosting over 1,000 schoolchildren at the museum.
- Brought the community together** with seven History Pubs at McMenasins, attended by over 650 residents.
- Preserved history** for the future by cataloging the Bob Woodward photo archive and digitizing over 18,000 negatives from *The Bend Bulletin*.

With your continued support, we can do even more in 2025. Your gift will allow us to:

- Share history** in new ways with dynamic exhibits from our collections.
- Reach more students** with affordable school field trips and off-site visits.
- Create cherished memories** at events like the Archaeology Roadshow and the Antique Fair.
- Enhance public spaces** by collaborating with partners like the Bureau of Land Management and Bend Park & Recreation District.

*“The Deschutes County Historical Society is the go-to organization to help our community preserve its important cultural resources... Their expertise and dedication to keeping our past relevant in an ever-changing community is priceless.”*  
— Don Horton, retired, Bend Park & Recreation District

Your partnership is more vital than ever. This season, I invite you to make a tax-deductible gift to the Deschutes County Historical Society using the enclosed form or online at [deschuteshistory.org](http://deschuteshistory.org). Let’s continue celebrating and safeguarding the stories that define our community, for today’s residents and future generations. Thank you for believing in the power of history to connect, inspire, and unite us.

With Gratitude,



## DESCHUTES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GIVING FUND

**YES!** I want to help DCHS keep history alive!

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$25     \$50     \$100     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU**

Please return this form with your payment.  
Make checks payable to:

Deschutes County Historical Society  
129 NW Idaho Avenue  
Bend, OR 97703  
541-389-1813

Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest amount allowed by law. Our tax ID: 51-0186079

Or pay online via our  
secure website:  
[www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)



**For DCHS use:**  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

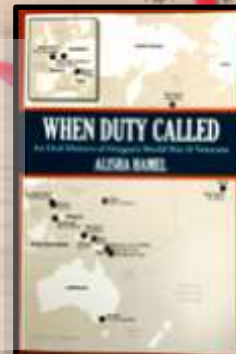
*The Deschutes Historical Museum Gift Shop is brimming with treasures from local authors and artists! Here are a few ideas for all ages on your list*

*Gift Ideas from the DHM Gift Shop*

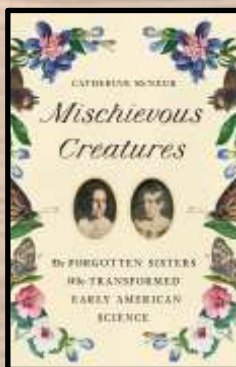


**The Oregon Skyline Trail**  
by Glenn Voelz  
Paperback- \$24.99 each  
Also by Glenn Voelz enjoy *Mount Bachelor A History*, and *Oregon Search & Rescue, Answering the Call*  
**\$65.00 for 3-book set (while supplies last)**

**When Duty Called**  
**An Oral History of Oregon's WW2 Veterans**  
by Alisha Hamel  
Paperback \$18.00



**SECRET Bend, Oregon, A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful and Obscure**  
by Joshua Savage  
Paperback \$27.00  
Also available by Joshua Savage *100 Things to Do in Bend, Oregon, Before You Die* (\$18.00)



**Mischievous Creatures The "Forgotten Sisters who Transformed Early American Science"**  
by Catherine McNeur  
Hardcover \$32.50



**Farewell Bend**  
by Sue Fountain  
Paperback: \$15.00  
Also available by Sue Fountain, *Too Cold To Snow* (\$15.00)

**Toys and Games:**  
**Triangle Solitaire/Noughts & Crosses/ Nine Mans Morris/Knights**  
Beautiful classic wooden puzzles  
\$15.00

**Adventure Series**  
Campfire Kit \$20.00  
Multi-Use Torch \$15.00  
Magnifying Glass \$5.00  
Compass \$5.00  
**Grandprix Board Game \$20.00**



## ***DCHS Memberships make great gifts for long-time Central Oregonians and newcomers alike!***

With benefits like free museum admission, discounts in the DHM Gift Shop, and free guided tours, not to mention the monthly *Homesteader* newsletter, the gift of membership is a perfect fit.

During the month of December when you join the Deschutes Historical Museum at the Household level or higher, **get a free Household membership to gift to family and friends**. Already a member? Upgrade to a Sustaining Circle membership at \$5 per month, **receive a regular Household Membership to gift**. Joining is easy online, and every new membership or new sustaining circle membership will receive a gift membership in the mail for your gift recipient.

**Contact the Deschutes Historical Museum for information: (541) 389-1813 or [info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:info@deschuteshistory.org)**

### Continued from P. 2—Mt Bachelor's Last Sale

how Powdr planned to reverse Mt. Bachelor's recent financial losses. The new management cut back on some of the traditional perks enjoyed by the community, like free skiing for local sixth graders. The price of season passes also increased. Annual skier visits remained relatively stable during the first five years under new ownership, hovering around five hundred thousand. However, the company reported a significant increase in adjusted gross revenue. At the same time, Powdr Corp. was moving forward with several significant investments to modernize the resort's infrastructure, including new snowmaking equipment, upgrading the Pine Marten Express lift, and renovating the West Village Lodge. Over the next two decades, skier numbers fluctuated but gradually returned to the record numbers last seen during the resort's heyday in the late 1980s.

## Wanted: Bend Post Office Objects and Ephemera

The historic Bend Post Office on Wall St. is undergoing significant renovation with the goal of opening as a boutique hotel. Deschutes Historical Museum staff were delighted when owner and developer Gil Burgess reached out and expressed interest in preserving the historical essence of the building:

*"This building embodies Bend's rich history and has been a symbol of connection and industry in the community since the 30s. We knew that to do this building justice, we needed to celebrate its character and preserve not only its foundation, but also its spirit. While the restoration of the space is an undertaking, we have taken it on with a deep sense of pride and commitment to honor its stories. By collecting objects and artifacts from the site, we hope to share the stories of the people before us and create a sense of connection to the beauty and people of Bend for today's guests."*

Mr. Burgess would like post office artifacts of all types from the 1930s and 1940s from Bend or other regional post offices (e.g., lights, PO Boxes, scales, tools, desks, chairs, other artifacts, mailbags, etc...). He is also interested in photographs from the Bend Post Office between the 1930s and 1970s, with an emphasis on the '30s and '40s.

If you have anything that fits into this category and are interested in having it used in the new hotel, please e-mail [rebekah@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:rebekah@deschuteshistory.org) with a photograph, description of the item or items, and tell us how and where it was acquired.

Thank you for helping DCHS help historic-minded organizations preserve our cherished local history.



## Map and Document of The Month

The Document of the Month is a November 3, 1964 Deschutes County General Election Ballot Sample. Some local names that may be recognizable to Deschutes County residents are: Allen, McKay, Penhollow, Skjersaa, and Devereaux.

The Map of the Month was created by Gale Ontko and was mentioned in last month's newsletter article. Gale Ontko was born in Prineville in 1927. He annotated a set of BLM maps over many decades while serving as a fire manager and researching his *Thunder Over the Ochocos* book series. It was recently discovered that one of the sites on the map is likely labelled incorrectly, so it is important to realize that the notes on the map have differing amounts of research evidence behind them.

## New Ways to Give to DCHS:

### Flights Wine Bar

There's more than one way to support the Deschutes Historical Museum, and this method will warm the cockles!

A 2024 winner of The Source's "Best of Bend", Flights Wine Bar is a local favorite for "good wine, good food, and good friends." Flights donates a portion of their Pinot Noir pours each month to a different local non-profit organization. They have chosen the Deschutes Historical Museum as their beneficiary for December!

So, share a glass of pinot noir with friends, share stories about the place you call home, and support local history.

[FlightsWineBend.com](http://FlightsWineBend.com) 1444 NW College Way #1 Bend, OR



## Memorials

### Ruth Burleigh

Bette Andrew  
Kathryn Eckman

### Susie Penhollow

Gayle Norona

## Tributes

### Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Curtis

# 20% OFF

One (1) regular priced item in the Deschutes Historical Museum Gift Shop.

Not valid online or with any other discounts or offers. Must present coupon at time of purchase.  
One coupon per customer. Special photo orders not included.

Good through 12/31/2024

Deschutes Historical Museum | 129 NW Idaho Ave. Bend, OR 97703 | [www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)

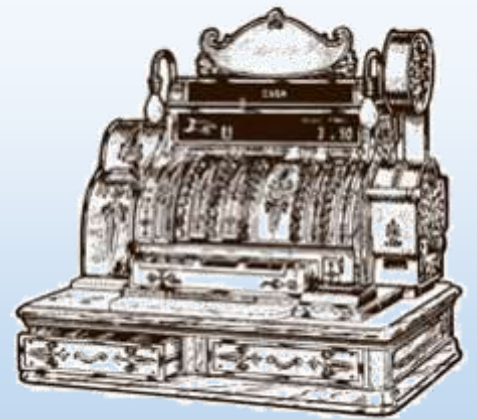


## Volunteer Meeting: Front Desk Training

Wednesday, December 11 1:00 p.m.

December is a busy time at the DHM front desk! In addition to an uptick in winter break visitors, holiday shoppers will be taking advantage of our 20% off coupon, buying gift memberships to share, and making their year-end donations. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy while Museum Manager Vanessa Ivey reviews the procedures for documenting donations, adding discounts and coupons to sales, selling gift memberships, and trouble-shooting issues with the point-of-sale.

Meeting will take place at the Deschutes Historical Museum research library.



## Mark Your Calendars

### DECEMBER

- 11 **VOLUNTEER MEETING: FRONT DESK TRAINING**  
1-2:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 13 **DESCHUTES COUNTY'S 108<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY**
- 14 **HOLLINSHEAD OPEN HOUSE**  
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. 1235 NE Jones Rd.  
**HOLIDAY GELATIN SALAD SHOW**  
1:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum  
*Check-in for salads begins at 12:00 p.m., judging at 1:00 p.m.*

**24 & 25 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY : MUSEUM CLOSED**

**31 & JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S EVE HOLIDAY: MUSEUM CLOSED**

*Save the Date!* **January 28: History Pub**- Madness in Progressive Era Oregon: The Experience of Women at the Oregon State Insane Asylum from 1900-1910  
*Presented by DCHS Collections Manager Rebekah Averette*



# THANK YOU CHILI FEED VOLUNTEERS!

*The Board and Staff of the Deschutes County Historical Society would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Chili Feed and Raffle a successful event! The joy in seeing so many returning friends and new ones make this a truly beloved event. To the pie donors, servers, bussers, dishwashers and cooks, raffle donors, piano players, and all the volunteers, THANK YOU!*

Lorlee Ackerman	Deedee Garnett	Cindy McCabe	Addy
Caroline Amberger	Nunzi Gould	Greg McCarthy	Schappacher
Robin Baraybar	Karen Green	Susan McKnight	Jon & Sue Sholes
Jill Bennett	Dave Howe	Jerrie Melton	Paula Simila
Mike Berry	Carla Hunt	Karen Nelson	Jackie Souza
Bonnie Boyd	Susan Keith	Donna Owens	Tom & Juanita
Jon Cain	Heidi Kennedy	Tammy Perkins	Thompson
Paula Chuhaloff	Joyce Kesterson	Martha Pyle	Marge Trayser
Susan Cline	Harriet Langmas	Emily Rastovich	Glenn Voelz
Bob & Elaine Cosner	Sara Langton	Nancy Rastovich	Cher Wagner
Lynne Cosner	Lisa Lee	Liz & Dave Rink	Nanda Webb
Jai Darnell	Brad Lemmon	Robin Roemer	Jane Williamson
Tina Demelo	Anna Lenzmeier	Kathy Rood	Gretchen Williver
David Depew	Staci Louie	Caroline Russell	Deb Zitella
Cheryl Gardner	Elouise Mattox	Natalie Saint-Clair	

**Chili Feed:** Prep— A Chef's Kitchen ☻ Rastovich Farms Barley Beef ☻ Strictly Organic Coffee  
**Raffle Items:** Bend Golf and Country Club ☻ Adrian Bennett ☻ Bill Cannon ☻ DCHS Board Members ☻ Deschutes Public Library ☻ Desperado ☻ Deedee Garnett ☻ Dudley's Bookstore ☻ Karen Green ☻ Maya Hahn ☻ Carla Hunt ☻ Celestia King ☻ Jerrie Melton ☻ Mt Bachelor Resort ☻ Newport Market ☻ The Old Mill District ☻ Oregon Feed and Irrigation ☻ The Pine Tavern ☻ Savory Spice ☻ Isabelle Singer ☻ The Tower Theatre Foundation ☻ Trader Joes ☻ Glenn Voelz ☻ Wanderlust Tours ☻ Wild Birds Unlimited ☻



# an old fashioned holiday



## Hollinshead Homestead Holiday Open House & Historical Tour

Saturday, December 14  
10 am - 2 pm  
1235 NE Jones Rd, Bend

Join us for a festive open house at Hollinshead Park.  
Enjoy a free tour and homemade holiday treats.

For more information, visit  
[bendparksandrec.org](http://bendparksandrec.org)  
Questions? Call (541) 389-7275



*play for life*