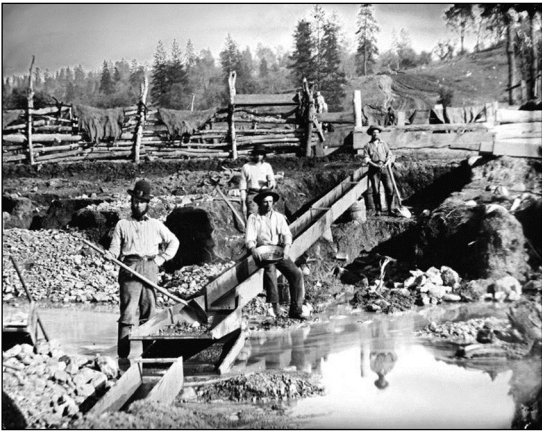


Oregon's Gold Rush

by Ralph Berry, Newsletter Writer



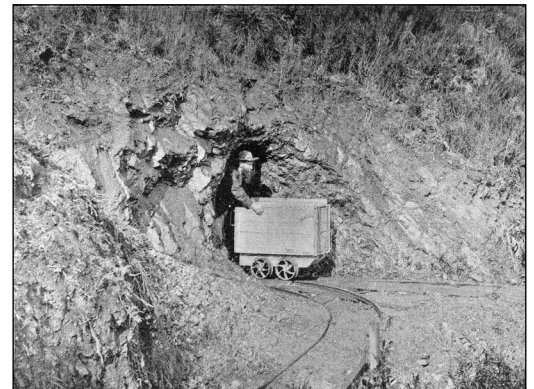
Placer mining. File photo

The California gold rush began in late 1848 when James Marshall found gold at Sutter's Mill in the American River near Coloma, California. Thousands of prospective gold miners traveled to California from all over the world in search of their fortune. Many of these early prospectors were from Oregon. A total of \$2 billion worth of gold was extracted from California mines during the Gold Rush, which peaked in 1852. After gold prospecting began to decline in California, miners started exploring other regions in the West.

Jacksonville - Gold was discovered in Oregon in Jackson County in December 1851 or early January of 1852 by James Cluggage and John Poole on Rich Gulch in Jackson Creek and Daisy Creek, two small tributaries of the Rouge River. Soon after gold was discovered, several mining districts were formed, which included

both forks of Jackson Creek and its tributaries of the Rouge River. One of the richest districts was the Applegate Creek area. The gold was found mainly in the gravel "bars" of the creek, which for a distance of four miles was very rich. Most of the gold in the Jacksonville area was removed by placer miners working gravel diggings, some of which were twenty feet thick. The annual value of gold in Jackson County averaged about \$210,000. Some very rich quartz ledges were also discovered in the county and lode mines were established. The Gold Hill vein, just northwest of Jacksonville, was discovered in January, 1859. About \$400,000 was extracted from the "vein" before it was exhausted. The Fowler vein at Steamboat City, twenty miles from Jacksonville, yielded \$350,000. As gold deposits began to decline in Jackson County, miners began exploring other areas in Oregon hoping to discover gold.

Canyon City - Gold was discovered in Canyon Creek in the Blue Mountains on June 7, 1862 by some gold seekers who camped along Canyon Creek. Some say that they were searching for the mythical Lost Oregon Blue Bucket Mine near the head waters of the Malheur River (1845). News of their discovery spread rapidly and within a month 300 miners staked claims in the area. Whiskey Gulch and Canyon Creek were estimated to have some of the highest concentrations of gold in the whole state of Oregon. At one time, as many as 10,000 people lived along Whiskey Gulch Street in Canyon City, crowded with businesses, which provided for the rapidly growing settlement. The discovery of gold led to land between Canyon City and John Day being valued at \$500 per square yard. Panning for gold could yield as much as seven ounces in each pan. It has been estimated that about \$8,000,000 was mined from the Canyon Creek diggings over ten years. "The preeminent geologist, Waldemar Lindgren, during his 1900 visit to the gold belt of the Blue Mountains, estimated that \$16 million in gold had been removed from Canyon Creek. At a fixed value of \$20.67 per troy ounce in 1900, this would correspond to roughly 800,000 ounces - worth about \$800 million today". (Potter 1995)



Lode mining. File photo

Many other mining towns sprang up around the area including Bates (Susanville District, which produced over 50,000 ounces of gold), Granite, and Prairie City (Dixie Creek produced over 20,000 ounces of placer gold). Most areas in and around Little Canyon Mountain were unnamed "tent cities." If you visit this area today, you will still see evidence of lode mines, mining shafts, and miner's cabins.

Sumpter - Gold was discovered in 1862 when five men from South Carolina, on their way to California, camped near Cracker Creek in the Blue Mountains. They discovered gold while panning the gravels along the creek. They decided to stay and work the area rather than continuing to California. They built a small cabin between Cracker Creek and McCully Creek and named it Fort Sumter (remains of the cabin can still be seen today). The name of the town was changed from Sumter to Sumpter in 1883 when the Post Office was established to avoid confusion for mail delivery. During this time, placer mining was most common in gold-bearing gravel in streams. Hard rock mining began about 1895 with the invention of the pneumatic drill, stamp mills for crushing the ore, and new methods to chemically extract the gold from its alloys. By 1897 Sumpter had grown to a population of 300 and it took on the name *The Queen Town*.



Gold dredge. Photo by National Park Service

Millions of dollars of gold were extracted from the lode mines. The peak came in 1900 with an output of \$8,943,486 from thirty-five mines. The first of three dredges to mine the gravels of the Powder River began in 1913. The Sumpter Valley Gold Dredges recovered gold valued at \$4,500,000. Dredging continued until 1953 when the dredges went silent. The irony is that most of the gold was collecting on the bedrock in the Sumpter Valley and is still there waiting. River gravels deeper than the dredges ability to dig were undisturbed and when the bucket line came into contact with bedrock, the dredge could not break it down to catch the gold. Despite efforts to keep things going, the miners from Oregon's 100-year gold rush from Jacksonville (1851) and Canyon City (1862) to Sumpter (1862) moved on to other strikes in their quest for the Mother Lode.

Gold was discovered in a ledge outcrop in Cline Butte (between Redmond and Bend) in April 1904 (Bend Bulletin Newspapers 4-15-1904, 4-22-1904, and 6-10-1904). More than 50 claims were purchased for \$5.00 each. The assays were sent to two different assayer offices. The values of \$1.86 and \$1.05 to the ton gold and silver were received. This amount was determined to be inadequate to successfully pursue further development and mining never developed in the Bend area.

Additional Reading:

Hoffman, Charles S. and Bert Webber. *The Search for Oregon's Lost Blue Bucket Mine, The Stephen Meek Wagon Train of 1845 – An Oregon Documentary*. Webber Research Group. Medford, OR. 1992. 102 p.

Potter, Miles F., 1995. *Oregon's Golden Years, Bonanza of the West*. The Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, ID. 181 p.

Ladies' Night Out: An Evening of Music and Cowgirl Poetry



Photos by Todd Cary & Heather Duchow

Introducing Brian Hoover, Assistant Visitor Services Manager

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



Photo by Dave Gilbert

Picture this: A tour bus pulls up to the High Desert Museum. A group of Chinese tourists files from the bus to the Museum entrance speaking excitedly in Mandarin. They enter to the welcome desk, looking a bit lost, perhaps a bit unsure of this place. A man behind the desk greets the visitors warmly—in their own language.

That happens if Brian Hoover is on duty at the desk. Brian is the Museum's assistant manager of Visitor Service and is conversant in the Mandarin language.

He's medium height, with short black hair, and a wide smile that pinches his eyes into a squint: very welcoming.

Brian is a Bend native, born in St. Charles Hospital in 1993. He attended kindergarten through eighth grade at Seven Peaks School, where his mother, Tammy, was a teacher. He graduated from Mountain View High School in 2011.

"I got no fancy recognition or anything," Brian says with a shrug. However, he was a good enough student to get into Linfield College in McMinnville.

His interests gravitated toward archaeology, history, and cultures, "the way people work." His roommate was a Chinese youth from Tibet, which he admits "took a little getting used to."

He combined all that into an anthropology major and a minor in Chinese.

In the fall of his senior year, Brian took advantage of Linfield's vibrant study-abroad program, and immersed himself in the Mandarin language at Peking University.

"It was a very busy few months," he says. He studied Mandarin from 8 am to 5 pm every day. Students had to sign a pledge not to speak anything but Mandarin, even at home. A professor lived with the students to make sure they stuck with the program.

That lasted four months. Brian spent the final month traveling "all over," studying many of the numerous Chinese minority groups. Among his adventures was a visit to the famous Terracotta Army, a collection of large terracotta sculptures, and a raft trip in southern China.

"The river flowed around tall limestone pillars," he said. His face softens with the memory. "I was able to climb one and just sat there. It was beautiful."

A particularly satisfying moment came late in his stay in China. On a cab ride alone he engaged in conversation—in Mandarin—with the driver. "We actually had a conversation," Brian said, his grin punctuating his pride.

Brian returned to Linfield in 2015 for his final semester before "heading into the real world."

The first step in that journey was to go with his Linfield girlfriend, Savannah, to help his mother finish a house she was building in Newport. His father, Peter, remained in Bend, which is both Brian's and Savannah's home town.

So the second step, naturally enough, took the couple back to Bend where they have a rented home "across the creek from Fred Meyer."

They have no pets, "not even a goldfish," Brian says, though he adds they would like to "have a pup someday."

Savannah found work as an executive assistant to the local director of Lutheran Community Services.

During three summer breaks from college, Brian had been a custodian at the High Desert Museum.

"This is a very hard place to stay away from," Brian says, "even when I wasn't working here."

He was drawn to the Museum, not only because it incorporates his abiding interests in people, culture, and history, but because of its "organization, its mission, the part it plays in the community."

"I wanted to work for a place that tries to effect change in its community," Brian says. So he did, starting in February 2016, up front where he greets Museum guests.

His interests have also lured him into helping in the Museum's Living History and Spirit of the West exhibits.

There may be more schooling in his future, perhaps pursuit of a master's degree and work in archaeology. Right now though, he's where he wants to be. Up front, welcoming visitors to the place that has drawn him.

High Desert Museum Area Updates from January 2017

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

High Desert Voices Newsletter - The Area Overview articles are completed for each volunteer area of the Museum. The articles, written by people working in the areas, will soon be available on the hdm-gems website. It is hoped that these articles will be helpful to new and veteran volunteers to learn more about each area.

Desertarium - They are looking for a few more volunteers and are grateful for the work of current volunteers.

Collections - Work has been slowed due to illness and the accumulations of snow. The set up of the upcoming World War II exhibit is on schedule. Cleaning of the Spirit of the West and By Hand Through Memory areas will be taking place in the near future with exact dates to be determined.

Mammals - The porcupines have been moved off of exhibit due to the snow. In the otter area, microphones have not been working as well due to weather conditions. A "teacher voice" has been found to be effective. Walkie talkies are needed for everyone that works in outside areas. Ungulate talks are going well and visitors have been amazed by some of the facts presented. They appreciate being able to learn more about their "neighbors."

By Hand Through Memory - Four volunteers will be working at Free Day on January 21 but two more are needed. Staff, volunteers, and visitors need to be reminded to eat in designated areas only. Food attracts "critters" that can damage and destroy artifacts.

Photography - On Saturday, January 7, the Museum hosted its first Wildlife Photography workshop. It was well-attended and another workshop, featuring photographer George Lepp, will be available in the spring. Attendees at the recent workshop had opportunities to photograph animals in the Desertarium. They also took pictures of some of the Museum's raptors in both inside and outside settings.

Birds of Prey - Staff members have been very busy digging snow out from around the outside areas of the mews. The team was happy to host a two-hour visit by a volunteer from BHTM and encouraged other volunteers to see what they do in the Birds of Prey area. They still need volunteers for Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Naturalists - They have a new volunteer with a background in geology. He would like to add geology-related information to Nature Walks.

Living History - In honor of John Maloney, his boots and hat are now on display on the mud wagon near the main Museum entrance.

Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in January. Thank you to staff members that encouraged volunteers to stay home and stay warm during the recent snowstorms. Thanks to **Jon Nelson, Damian Fagan, and the Wildlife Team** for digging out the snow around the outside areas for the birds of prey. Thanks to **Claudia Nix** for helping out with some bookkeeping work and for getting it finished so quickly. A huge thanks to all of the facilities staff for digging out the paths, roads, and parking areas. Thanks to **Dan Wyllie** for noticing that the outdoor covered wagon was getting covered with snow and tilting due to the load. He put a lot of time into digging it out. Thanks to **Abbott Schindler, John Williams, and John Cioffi** for the work they did related to the Wildlife Photography workshop. Participants were very happy with the workshop and they were encouraged to submit their best shots to the Museum. **Thad Grudzien** was thanked for leading several Nature Walks when he filled in for absent volunteers. Kudos to all of you!

Free Day

February 25

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Volunteers Needed

High Desert Voices

Editor: Siobhan Sullivan

Team Leader: Siobhan Sullivan

Contributing Writers: Ralph Berry, Dave Gilbert & Siobhan Sullivan

Proofreading/Editing: Phil Meurer

Computer: Ralph Berry & Siobhan Sullivan

Photographs: Todd Cary, Heather Duchow, Dave Gilbert & Siobhan Sullivan

Aloha Owyhee!

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



Owyhee River. Photo by Bureau of Land Mgmt.

well known for their maritime expertise, they were hired as replacement workers. They were also known to excel in swimming, fishing, hunting, and in the construction of posts and forts.

After the war of 1812 ended in 1817, the border between Canada and the United States had still not been established. Fort Vancouver, in present day Vancouver, Washington, was built in 1824 since it was thought the Columbia River would become the border between the countries. Hawaiians continued to work in the fur trade and were often referred to as *Kanaka*, the Hawaiian word for human being. Many Hawaiians moved to the fort and part of the site was referred to as *Kanaka Village*.

In 1819, three Hawaiians working for the North West Company were trapping on a river in southeastern Oregon. They were exploring uncharted territory and disappeared and were never seen again. They were likely killed by members of the Bannock tribe. The river and surrounding areas were named *Owyhee* after these men. The Owyhee River is 280 miles long and winds through parts of Nevada, Oregon, and Idaho.

The Hudson's Bay Company took over the North West Company in 1821. Hudson's Bay Company began to trade other items with Hawaiians including timber and salmon. The voyage to the islands took about three weeks. Oregon was still considered to be "off the beaten track" and much of its international news came from sources in Hawaii.

Beaver skin hats began to fall out of favor in the late 1840's and the fur market collapsed when the Gold Rush began in 1858. Tensions mounted when Hawaiians were denied basic citizenship rights. Many headed towards California in search of gold.

Some briefly settled in Kanaka Flat, about a mile west of Jacksonville, Oregon. Hawaiians, Native Americans, and Portuguese moved there to placer mine for gold. Though the area had a reputation as being a site where fights and murders took place, [recent evidence](#) suggests that it was primarily made up of single families. Newspaper articles of the time referred to the area as being "wild" but this may have been partially due to intolerance of the racially diverse population. Kanaka Flat was abandoned in the 1880's.

Fast forward to today. Bend seems to have quite a connection with Hawaii. Maybe it's partly because the city is also in an area shadowed by volcanoes. Here in Bend, there are two Hawaiian restaurants (owned by former residents of Hawaii) and three Hawaiian food trucks. One of the food trucks is well known for its colorful servings of Hawaiian shaved ice.

There is an annual gathering of ukulele players known as [Uke U](#) that is sold out months in advance. Students in our schools play ukuleles. Some of the instruments have been donated by local manufacturer [Outdoor Ukulele](#).

Hokule'a Ohana Dancers are based in Redmond, Oregon and they specialize in Polynesian dancing. They can be seen performing the graceful hula at area events. Here is a [link](#) to one of their performances. Dance lessons are available at their studio.

Faith, Hope, and Charity Vineyards, Sunriver Resort, and the Bend Spay and Neuter Project have all put on luaus in the summer. These events feature traditional Hawaiian food, song, and dance.

There is a [Big Wave Challenge](#) on Mt. Bachelor where snowboarders compete on a course that includes wave-like features. They are judged as if they were in a big surf competition. There is a luau after the event and it has featured local Hawaiian musician, Bill Keale. Here is a [video](#) of Bill Keale and Kim Breedlove performing.

Aloha!



Hanauma Bay, HI. Photo by Siobhan Sullivan



*High Desert
Museum, Inc.*
59800 S. Highway 97
Bend, OR 97702

2017



2017

Kitchen Patrol: Clean up after yourself

February	March - Save the Date!
4 Lecture: <i>Oregon Eagle Foundation</i> . 2:45 pm. Donald M. Kerr Birds of Prey Pavilion.	11 Thorn Hollow String Band . 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
4 Off-site Event: <i>Winter Raptors</i> . 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Members \$15, Non-members \$25. Registration and pre-payment re- quired.	
11 Thorn Hollow String Band . 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.	
12 Exhibit Closing: <i>Smokejumpers: Firefighters from the Sky</i> .	
14 Off-site Event: <i>Restoring the Range</i> . McMenamins. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Program starts at 7:00 pm. Free. RSVP.	
18 Weekend Workshop: <i>Finding Fossils</i> . 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Paired pricing for one adult and one child; Members \$10, Non- members \$15. Registration and pre-payment required.	
18 Museum Event: <i>Scrapbooking with the Millers</i> . 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.	
25 Free Day . 10:00 - 4:00 pm.	
27 Lecture: <i>A Daughter's Reflections</i> . 6:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	

To RSVP: www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp or 541-382-4754

To pre-register: www.highdesertmuseum.org/program