

# ***HIGH DESERT VOICES***

**March 2017**

*News and Information published by and for Volunteers*

## **New Exhibit Highlights World War II**

*by Dave Price, High Desert Museum Volunteer*



The High Desert Museum's new exhibit, *World War II: The High Desert Home Front*, opened to the public on Saturday, January 28. The exhibit commemorates the 75th anniversary of America's entry into World War II. Its displays highlight wartime activities that took place in the high desert country of the western United States as well as the war's long-term impact on the region.

The Museum opened its new World War II exhibit on January 27 with an exclusive evening social event for Museum members and their guests. The evening

program included an opportunity to preview the exhibit, a social hour with excellent hors d'oeuvres, and a special lecture by Dr. David del Mar. Dr. del Mar is a prominent historian from Portland State University. His brief lecture introduced the Museum's World War II exhibit, highlighting how the war altered the economy and culture of the high desert region. Approximately 350 people attended the evening event, which was free for Museum members.

The exhibit itself is excellent. It is expected to be one of the Museum's most popular programs in quite some time. As a result, the exhibit is scheduled to remain open through September 4, a much longer run than most of the Museum's temporary exhibits.

According to Laura Ferguson, the Museum's Curator of Western History, "World War II touched virtually every American, from the soldiers on the front lines to the men and women who expanded productivity at home to meet wartime demands. This exhibit brings this all together with a focus on how the war impacted the high desert."

The high desert's remoteness and relatively low population made it ideal for military training. The Museum's exhibit highlights Camp Abbot, an Army post south of Bend that was used to train combat engineers. The Camp Abbot site is now the location of Sunriver Resort. The Army also conducted a large-scale military training exercise in central Oregon. The *Oregon Maneuver* brought over 100,000 soldiers and airmen to our area for three months of realistic field training.

In addition, there were several internment camps located in the high desert.

These camps housed Japanese Americans who were relocated as a result of Executive Order 9066, signed by Franklin Roosevelt in 1942. The exhibit examines the wartime experiences of Japanese Americans who were interned at the camps. Among other things, it features works of art created by camp residents.





The high desert was also home to several Civilian Public Service camps, where conscientious objectors fulfilled their national service duty by performing non-military jobs such as fighting wildfires and helping with forestry and conservation projects across the region. The Civilian Public Service program allowed individuals to meet the requirements of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 without serving in the military. The public service camps were modeled after the New Deal's Civilian Conservation Corps.

Another special place in south central Oregon is Mitchell Monument near Bly. It is the only place in the continental United States where Americans were killed during World War II as a result of enemy action. On May 5, 1945, Reverend Archie Mitchell took his wife and five Sunday school children on a picnic outing. While Mitchell was unloading the picnic goods from his car, the rest of the party found a strange package hanging from a tree. When they investigated, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded, killing Mrs. Mitchell and the five children. Today, the site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A balloon bomb replica hangs from the ceiling of the exhibit.

With many young men serving in the armed forces overseas, the nation faced a labor shortage. In the high desert, farmers needed help harvesting their crops. The Emergency Farm Labor Service recruited a diverse workforce to help harvest crops including Japanese Americans, German prisoners of war, the Women's Land Army, and Victory Farm volunteers. In addition, an international agreement between the United States and Mexico called the *Bracero Program*, brought large numbers of Mexican workers into the United States to help harvest crops across the high desert.

Remote areas of the western United States were perfect for secret war projects, including a number of sites that contributed to the *Manhattan Project*. That top secret project developed, tested, and ultimately produced America's first nuclear weapons. Sites involved in secret war work included Hanford in Washington State, the Nevada National Security Site, and New Mexico's Trinity Site. The exhibit highlights the important role these secret sites played in the war effort.



"World War II is an interesting and complex period in American history. We have worked hard to bring this to life in our new exhibit. My hope is that visitors will discover an aspect of World War II history that they previously knew little about and that this exhibit will spark their desire to learn more," said Ferguson.

The Museum's new World War II exhibit will get you started exploring this important period in American history, but it's only a beginning. There is a lot more to learn so the Museum will present a number of special World War II related programs over the next few months. Information on these programs is available on the Museum website. In addition, the Deschutes Public Library is hosting a series of special programs that focus on various political, economic, and cultural aspects of World War II. The library programs are scheduled throughout the month of February. So if you want to learn more about World War II, plan to attend some of the special programs at the Museum or the library ... but start with High Desert Museum's excellent new exhibit, *World War II: The High Desert Home Front*.

Photos by Todd Cary & Lee Schaefer

## Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in February. **Sandy Cummings** and the **Communications staff** were thanked for the excellent, and clever, TV commercial about the new WWII exhibit. The **Facilities staff** was thanked for making sure walkways were free of snow. The **Wildlife staff** was thanked for keeping up with the snow around wildlife areas. **Daniel Wyllie**, **Patrick Johnson**, and **Curt Belshaw** were thanked for their work in moving and lighting the sagebrush sculpture. The **newsletter writers** were thanked for working on the great articles in this and other issues. The **Photography Team** was thanked for always getting what is requested quickly. **Carolyn Nesbitt** has been instrumental in coordinating Free Day and her hard work has been appreciated. Kudos to all of you!



## Introducing “Hannah Perkins” aka Muriel Carbiener

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



Muriel Carbiener & Ann McGranahan

At Rabbit Hole Springs, the water has dried up. However, Hannah Perkins bends over a wooden bucket partly filled with precious water, washing a pair of her husband’s long wool socks. She asks a child if she would like to help.

“How much will you pay?” the child inquires. Hannah grimaces slightly, but reaches into her pocket, fishing out two large copper pennies, minted in 1842. “That’s all I have,” she says.

Hannah still carries the pennies. They are emblematic of another woman’s insistence on the correctness of historic detail.

That woman is Muriel Carbiener, who calls the High Desert Museum “my second home.”

Muriel laments that Rabbit Hole Springs in the Museum’s Living History exhibit is dry. She knows that the real Rabbit Hole Springs has water, even if it “has green slime.” How does she know that? Because Muriel went there herself, again led by her imperative for knowing the facts.

Muriel was born in Oakland, California, though she is reluctant to give a date. In 1957, as a student at the University of California, Berkeley, she “didn’t know what I wanted, so majored in general curriculum.”

There she met Gail Carbiener, and “he talked me into marrying him.” They still are married, and Gail is also a volunteer at the High Desert Museum.

A bit more than half way through college, Muriel dropped out to support Gail in his last semester, after which, he entered the Army for three years. Muriel was able to return to college at California State University, Stanislaus, and complete a degree in history. There she developed a passion that profoundly affected her future.

The couple had two girls, Terrie and Cathy, and a son, David. Today they have seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

For 20 years, Muriel worked as a field director for two Camp Fire councils in California.

Muriel’s future was really set by her deep interest in women’s experiences on the emigrant trails that brought some half-million Americans west in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. She worked for an historical museum in Modesto in artifacts and as part-time assistant to the director.

In 1995, they retired to a home they had built in Sunriver. Both were naturally drawn to the High Desert Museum.

Through the years, she and Gail became deeply involved in the Oregon-California Trails Association. She has done extensive research in the journals of trail pioneers; they own more than 200 books on the trails; they have worked to preserve old wagon ruts and campsites; they have found, marked, and fenced pioneer graves.

As Muriel talks about her work, her hands are in constant motion, her voice becomes intense. Her sharp eyes peer through half-frame glasses, and her short, gray-silver hair caresses her head like a well-fitting cap.

Muriel talks about something she cannot explain. It happens sometimes when she and Gail are exploring an historic trail site.

“We hear them,” she says. “We hear the people who were there. Is it a feeling? I don’t know.” In one case, what she heard led her to an unknown gravesite of a pioneer woman who had died in childbirth. “That’s happened a couple of times,” she says.

At the High Desert Museum, Muriel was, for a time, Mrs. Robbins in the homestead cabin. That experience led her to Rabbit Hole Springs and her creation of Hannah Perkins. In the process, she became so identified with Hannah, Muriel says, that “then one day, I was that person.”

Hannah began her overland journey in Sangamon County, Ill., leaving the graves of her three babies. Muriel knows Sangamon County because she went there to see where Hannah began.

Hannah wears a “crummy old dress” based on a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century pattern. Muriel made three dresses. “A woman needs more than one, you know.”

Hannah concentrates on the kids that visit her in the Museum. She encourages their questions, and solicits their help with chores. If a young visitor wears glasses, she often compares them to her “spectacles,” with their tiny lenses and a bridge that lets them slide low on her nose so she can peer over them at her guests.

Muriel was Volunteer of the Year in 2001. She won the Barbara Sharp Award in 2007. She has been team lead of both Living History and Collections. In both areas, she wants to make everything as historically correct as possible. “My desire,” she says, “comes from this Museum.”

Photo by John Williams

## Introducing Three New Birds of Prey at the High Desert Museum

by Heather Duchow, Newsletter Writer

You may remember hearing about the excitement surrounding the naming of a young red-tailed hawk at The *High Desert Rendezvous* in August. The opportunity to name the raptor was auctioned off at the event and it proved to be a highly coveted item. You might not know much about the hawk besides her name, and you may not realize that two additional birds have come to the High Desert Museum since Desert Dusty arrived.

Desert Dusty, or Desi, is a female red-tailed hawk with an interesting origin story. Her parents built their nest on a power pole near Marine Corps Air Station Marimar in San Diego. The nest was removed because the pole provided power to the base, and Desi was taken from the nest at about two weeks of age. She is imprinted on humans and is, therefore, unable to survive in the wild. She made her way to the Museum via The Fund for Animals in San Diego. Desi is still in juvenile plumage, and she is in “flight school,” learning to fly from perch to perch when tempted by small bits of quail. She may eventually participate in free-flight demonstrations like *Sky Hunters* or *Raptors of the Desert Sky*, but “[s]he is already doing an amazing job as an educational bird and an ambassador for raptor conservation,” says Jon Nelson, Curator of Wildlife. She is currently the only red-tailed hawk at the Museum.



Ziggy is a female Swainson’s Hawk that came to the Museum from Ironside Bird Rescue in Cody, Wyoming. At just under two years old, she is still in sub-adult plumage. She has a number of malformed or missing feathers because of follicle damage on a wing and her tail, so she is unable to fly. The wildlife staff hopes that a healthy summer molt encouraged by a healthy diet and good care will lead to better mobility for Ziggy, but she will likely not regain all her feathers. Ziggy can be found on exhibit outside the northwest entrance to the Donald M. Kerr Birds of Prey Center. She is the second Swainson’s Hawk currently at the Museum. She joins Marley, a male, who has been at the Museum since 2011 and participates in flight demonstrations.

A great horned owl has recently become a new Museum resident. This owl, whose gender is not known, is non-releasable due to being imprinted on humans. It was at the California Raptor Center prior to coming to the Museum. While the other great horned owls at the Museum participate in interpretive talks (Mack) or are on exhibit (Luna), the new owl is being trained as a flight bird and is starting to fly from perch to perch. The new owl is, of course, the same species as the owls in the picture in the Rimrock Cafe of the founder of the High Desert Museum, Don Kerr. It is fitting that, as new birds come to the Museum, we are reminded of the Museum’s origins.



Photos by Jon Nelson



# D-Day in the Kitchen: WWII Cooking in the American Homeland (WWII “Cooking for Victory” – An event at the Deschutes Public Library)

by Imelda A. Cerillo, Newsletter Writer



February 7, 2017 was not an ordinary snowy day; this was “D-Day” for an audience of 22, myself included, for an extraordinary journey with Rose Archer, a famed chef and food consultant in Central Oregon, to re-live the WWII dinner table in the Homeland.

At the Deschutes Public Library, a warm and welcoming aroma immediately took control of my olfactory receptors setting the stage for the journey with Rose. Three popular recipes during the WWII period were set into motion as Rose marshalled us through rationing and Victory Garden—and what a journey it was! A good part of the audience actually lived those years as they were then between the ages of 8-12. They shared their actual memories thus validating every step of the journey.

Food was in short supply during WWII because: much of the processed and canned foods were reserved for the military and Allies overseas; transportation of fresh foods was limited because priority was given to transporting soldiers and war supplies instead of food; and importation was restricted thus limiting imported



goods like coffee and sugar. The “battle cry” was, “Food is a Weapon, Don’t Waste It! Buy Wisely-Cook Carefully-Eat It All!”

The government adopted a two-pronged approach to make sure there was enough food for the troops, as well as, for the people in the Homeland: rationing of foods in short supply, and planting Victory Gardens.

Every American was issued a series of ration books which contained stamps with expiration dates and good for certain rationed items. One could not buy a rationed item without the right ration stamp. Rationing meant planning meals carefully, being creative, and not wasting food. Sugar, coffee, meat, cheese, butter, margarine, canned foods, dried fruits, and jams were rationed.

The government disseminated books on how to garden. The ideal Victory Garden produced fresh vegetables in season and plenty to be preserved for winter. Backyards and open lands were transformed allowing agricultural produce to be used for the military and Allies. In all, more than 20 million Victory Gardens were planted across the United States which increased morale and food supply.

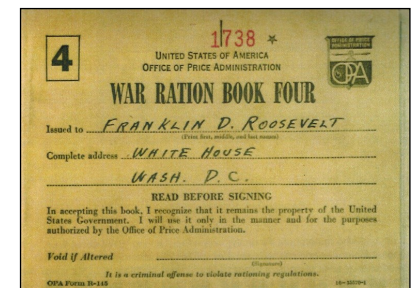


Our journey started with the Panama Radish Salad, straight out of a WWII poster which read: “Save Ration Points-Save Fuel-Save Time-Get Vitamins with Salads from Your Victory Garden!” Radishes, onions, mint, parsley, and tomatoes were dressed with Heinz pure cider vinegar and Heinz olive oil made for an unusual, fresh and crispy salad which we all enjoyed.

This was followed by White Chicken Chili, using produce from Victory Gardens and rationed items. Hearty soups were encouraged in posters that read: “Hearty Soups in Rationed Menus,” a convenient way of making a little bit go a long way.

Rose wound up the experience with the War Cake from an anonymous cookbook. The cake boasts: “no butter, no eggs, no milk, delicious,” and so it was!

The dinner table in the Homeland during WWII was not bad at all!



Documents pictured from National Archives and Library of Congress



# Camp Abbot - Then and Now: Part 1

by Lynne Schaefer, Newsletter Writer



In the railroad survey section at the Museum's Spirit of the West exhibit, visitors learn that young Lt. Henry L. Abbot led an Army Corps of Topographical Engineers (all West Point graduates) to survey a proposed Pacific Railroad from Sacramento, California, north to The Dalles. On September 2, 1855, they camped in the meadow at what is now Sunriver.

In the Museum's current exhibit, *WWII: The High Desert Home Front*, visitors learn that in October, 1942, the U.S. Army bought 5,500 acres to establish the 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Replacement Training Center (ERTC) on that same site to construct roads and canals and to train corpsmen for amphibious assault combat in the European theater.

The area was selected for its winter weather and terrain—similar to the conditions soldiers faced in France and Germany. The Deschutes River substituted for the Rhine, and trainees built pontoon and permanent bridges only to blow them up afterward.

In November, 1942, construction of a self-contained community to sustain a population of 10,000 began with roads, water and sewage, barracks, café, post chapel, recreation building and tennis courts, repair and storage buildings, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, and an Officers' Club.

On May 12, 1943, Col. Frank S. Besson, a 1909 West Point graduate with honors who also won the Sabre as the Academy's outstanding athlete, transferred as commander of the ERTC at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri to assume command of Camp Abbot, named for the first young lieutenant who camped there. Abbot was later cited for gallant service during the Civil War, and named by President Theodore Roosevelt to the Board of Consulting Engineers planning construction of the Panama Canal.

Camp Abbot was the third and largest of the nation's three ERTC installations. The other two were Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and Fort Leonard, Missouri. Ninety thousand men prepared for combat conditions in Europe, 10,000 trainees at a time. A nighttime temperature of 20 degrees below zero greeted the first trainees on their arrival in March, 1943.



team for three weeks to build bridges under simulated combat and prepare the way through field mines for the troops. Sealed orders were revealed to the trainees one day at a time.

The 17-week training cycle included three phases:

Phase 1: Six weeks instruction in basic military physical training, hand-to-hand combat, rifle marksmanship, map reading, camouflage, combat drills, hand and anti-tank grenades, defense against chemical, air, and mechanized attack, and first aid.

Phase 2: Eight weeks of specialist training in a choice of administration, cooking, carpentry, sawmill operation, automotive maintenance, motor vehicle or heavy equipment use along with physical training, military orientations, and night maneuvers.

Phase 3: Those not selected for specialist training advanced to the technical and tactical



Col. Besson's welcome to his recruits, published in the weekly *Abbot Engineer*, told about the Army Corps of Engineers' reputation and skills to uphold. He believed in training soldiers who were the "first ones in and the last ones out when the going is toughest." Besson participated in many training exercises with his men. He crawled through an obstacle course under live fire and officially opened the rifle range by hitting the bull's-eye with his first shot.

Besson encouraged team and individual sports competition. The first baseball game on June 6, 1943, was won by the Bend Elks, 11 to 1. Although table tennis was the most popular activity, soldiers competed in boxing, track meets, bowling

leagues, and volleyball tournaments. Besson tossed up the first ball at center court in the first basketball tournament in October, 1943.

Radio listeners looked forward to the Big Band sounds. Camp Abbot personnel were especially proud to hear Fred Waring dedicate one of his Victory Tunes broadcasts "to the new camp in Central Oregon."

Photos by Lee Schaefer

## High Desert Museum Area Updates from February 2017

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

**Living History** - The team will have a training in late March or early April. They have a new (old) sewing machine. The Museum is working in cooperation with the Pacific Northwest Blacksmith Association to get a working blacksmith display. They hope to open it in July.

**Collections** - Every single bird nest, feather, beak, leg, or other body part in the Museum's collection will have to be identified by species as part of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requirement. If eagle feathers are not used at least 12 times/year, they go into a repository where Native Americans can acquire them for ceremonial purposes.

**Birds of Prey & Wildlife** - Nickie Broesel went to a training session of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators. Birds are being trained for the flight shows. Two Pacific lamprey eels, donated by the Umatilla tribe, will be donated to the Museum. They will be raised to maturity and then released in area rivers.

**Mammals** - There has been a lot of interest in the new talk on ungulates. The porcupines are being put back into their exhibit area after the excessive snowfall affected their living space.

**Naturalists** - The team is well staffed with a surplus of volunteers. The plant identification photo board is still being worked on. The metal sagebrush sculpture has been moved about 20 feet so now it is easier to view it.

**Silver Sage Trading Center** - Visitors can participate in the Adopt-an-Animal program by making a purchase of \$25, \$50, or \$150. All participants get a certificate with the animal's name. You get additional benefits with higher donation amounts. The Museum purchased 1,100 pairs of special eclipse viewing glasses. The eclipse occurs in August and the glasses are expected to be a hot seller. Six video cameras have been installed in the store. They will have the capability to replay clips if shoplifting is suspected.

**Photography** - The team will be working with Collections to photograph artifacts.

**By Hand Through Memory** - There are many visitors that like to read the tags on the blanket tower but they cannot reach all of them. A request was made to print out the stories on the tags and put them into a notebook.



### Smithsonian Affiliate Designation

Harold Closter, Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Director, presented a plaque to High Desert Museum Executive Director Dana Whitelaw proclaiming that the High Desert Museum is now a Smithsonian Affiliate.

### High Desert Voices

**Editor:** Siobhan Sullivan

**Team Leader:** Siobhan Sullivan

**Contributing Writers:** Imelda Cerillo, Heather Duchow, Dave Gilbert, Dave Price, Lynne Schaefer, & Siobhan Sullivan

**Proofreading/Editing:** Phil Meurer

**Computer:** Siobhan Sullivan

**Photographs:** Todd Cary, Lee Schaefer, & John Williams

**Printing:** Siobhan Sullivan





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

2017



2017

**Kitchen Patrol:** Mammal/Wolf Teams

| March  | April - Save the Date!   |
|--|--|
| <b>10 Museum Event: HDM: After Hours.</b> 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.  | <b>1 Raptor Demonstration: Sky Hunters.</b> 11:00 am and 1:30 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$5, plus admission. Registration and pre-payment required.                                       |
| <b>11 Thorn Hollow String Band.</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.  | <b>2 Exhibit Closing: From the Vault: Pat Courtney Gold Baskets.</b>   |
| <b>14 Off-site Natural History Pub: Forest Management and Martens.</b> 7:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. McMenamins. Free. RSVP.   | <b>6 Lecture: A Pollinator's Plight.</b> 6:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.  |
| <b>18 Weekend Workshop: Northwest Native American Plant Fiber Basket Making Class with Pat Courtney Gold.</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Members \$40, Non-members \$45. Registration and pre-payment required. | <b>8 Thorn Hollow String Band.</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.   |
| <b>18 Dinner &amp; a Movie: The Great Escape.</b> 4:30 pm. Doors open at 4:00 pm. Members \$10, Non-members \$15. RSVP.  | <b>11 Off-site Natural History Pub: Water Resources and Community Collaboration.</b> 7:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. McMenamins. Free. RSVP.   |
| <b>21 Conversation Project: Where Are You From? Exploring What Makes Us Oregonians.</b> 6:00 pm. Free. No-host bar. RSVP.  | <b>13 Lecture &amp; Book Signing: Resurrecting the Shark.</b> 6:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.   |
| <b>25-31 Raptor Demonstration: Sky Hunters.</b> 11:00 am and 1:30 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$5, plus admission. Registration and pre-payment required.   | <b>14 Weekend Workshop: WWII Aircraft Field Trip.</b> 9:00 am - 1:30 pm. Members \$15, Non-members \$25. Registration and pre-payment required.  |
|  | <b>21 Museum Event: HDM: After Hours.</b> 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.  |
|  | <b>22 Off-site Event: Field Trip: Swainson's and Squirrels.</b> 7:00 am - 2:00 pm. Members \$15, Non-members \$25. Registration and pre-payment required.                                    |
|  | <b>23 Exhibit Closing: The Buzzsaw Sharks of Long Ago.</b>   |
|  | <b>24 Lecture: A Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program in the Pacific Northwest.</b> 6:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7, Students with ID free. RSVP. |
|  | <b>27 Lecture: Our Public Land Heritage: BLM History.</b> 6:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.  |
|  | <b>29 Weekend Workshop: WWII Aircraft Field Trip.</b> 9:00 am - 1:30 pm. Members \$15, Non-members \$25. Registration and pre-payment required. SORRY, FULL.                                 |
|  | <b>29 Museum and Me.</b> 4:00 - 7:00 pm. RSVP.   |

To RSVP: [www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp](http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp)  
or 541-382-4754

To pre-register: [www.highdesertmuseum.org/program](http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/program)