

HIGH DESERT VOICES

June 2016

News and Information published by and for Volunteers

Fashion, Dance, and Music from the 1930's Event

by Heather Duchow, Newsletter Writer



above the band as Curator of Living History, Linda Evans, in a flowered and flowing dress, and Assistant Curator of Living History, Ethan Mark, in an era-appropriate suit and bowler hat, welcomed the audience. A well-paced lineup of Depression-era fashions alternated with musical performances, dance numbers, and descriptions of life in Bend in the 1930's to captivate the crowd.



The showcased fashions included a wide range of garments. Highlights included flapper dresses, the sensible attire of the newly emerging career women, luxurious evening dresses of glamorous ladies, rodeo wear, a wool Bend Elks baseball uniform, and the ever-comfortable and not-at-all-itchy wool swimwear of the time. With a few exceptions, much of the clothing came from the Seattle Goodwill Vintage Fashion Collection. Hats, props, and the baseball uniform were on loan from the Deschutes Historical Museum. Historical United States Forest Service uniforms were provided by the Forest Service, along with research and models. High Desert Museum volunteer, Les Joslin, also provided some Forest Service items and information. The clothing was modeled for the most part, by High Desert Museum staff members, a few living history and teen volunteers, and some Deschutes Historical Museum staff members.

As living history and collections volunteers are likely aware, matching vintage clothing to models is quite a trick. Linda Evans pointed out that models must fit the clothing without putting stress on the garments and that garments from the era tend to be on the smaller side. Based on the uni-

forms, Civilian Conservation Corp and Forest Service men were some lean fellows. Volunteers Chris Moody and Lori Neal helped prepare the costumes for the show and inventory them afterwards. The vintage fashion fun wasn't confined to the stage. Several attendees dressed in period-appropriate attire, which added to the celebratory atmosphere.





The audience seemed to thoroughly enjoy the musical acts. The Harmonettes, a female trio in the style of The Andrews Sisters, took to the stage in jewel-toned dresses and fur wraps. Their performance of *Bei Mir Bist Du Shein* included some impressive scat singing. The Notables Swing Band accompanied the honey-voiced Betty Berger. Ms. Berger performed *I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Baby* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. The crowd was clearly pleased with the selections, and I was reminded how much I like big bands.

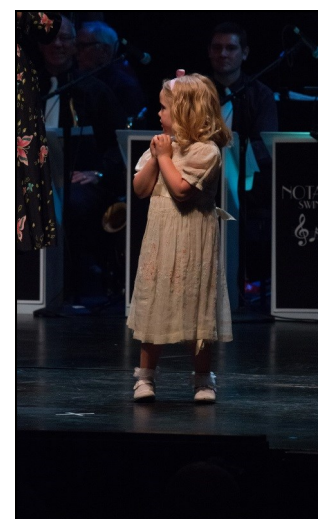
Dances performed by Terpsichorean Dance Studio students were inspired by historical Bend events and traditions. The Pet Parade Dance took its cue from the Bend July 4th Pet Parade. Did you know this quintessential Bend tradition dates back to the 1930's? One Bend July 4th event that is now purely historical is the Mirror Pond Water Pageant. The Mirror Pond Pageant Dance recalled the spirit of the event beautifully. The dancers wore fluttery white costumes that echoed the costumes worn by the pageant court in a vintage photo.



The exuberant final dance number was set to swing hit *Sing, Sing, Sing*, and while not related directly to a piece of Bend history, it was the perfect celebratory note on which to end the evening. After the dancers finished their performance, the band struck up their rendition of *Sing, Sing, Sing*, and all performers and models crowded onto the stage for a final bow. The fabulous event was the culmination of much planning, and congratulations should be extended to all who planned and participated.



To see more photos of the event, go [here](#).



Open 'Til Dark

by Adair Sullivan, Newsletter Writer



On Friday May 20, the Museum was open from 6-9 pm for the event, Open 'Til Dark, which featured music and dance from the 1930's.

Life during the Great Depression was stressful, bleak, and mournful. Swing, a genre of music that became popular during that time period, offered an alternative. With its upbeat tempos, it invited listeners to forget their troubles and dance. After all, it's hard not to feel happy and optimistic when your toes are tapping and you're grinning from ear to ear.

The infectious live music from "hep-cats", COCC's Big Band Jazz made it feel like time traveling back to that era, and their music caused people to smile and lose themselves in the rhythm, just as swing did for Americans nearly 80 years ago.

The evening began almost like a middle school dance, with people sitting around the edges of the dance floor, but with only a few brave couples actually dancing. Now, perhaps for some, it was the cocktails that Oregon Spirit Distillers were sharing that gave them some liquid courage; for others, it was simply the draw of that swing beat. Soon, the chairs along the wall were virtually abandoned.



After a brief interlude, the band was back and that's when the evening's fun truly began. Swing dance instructor, Sean Meehan, and partner, Kara Tadezik, delighted the audience with their graceful dance moves. They also provided easy to follow dance lessons. Former wallflowers made their way to the dance floor and were soon in the groove. People partnered up, moves were practiced, and then the band began to play another "killer diller" song.

Feet were moving, dresses were twirling, and people were smiling and having a great time. It made for a perfectly fun 21st century evening. The music's message is timeless and its appeal just as great today.

It is simple to see the appeal of this music, and the dances that accompanied it. Swing offered Americans exactly what they needed at a time they needed it most. It's effortless to lose yourself in the music and dance and leave all your troubles, including the bleak reality of the Great Depression, at the door. After all, as Duke Ellington sang, "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing."



Photos by Lee Schaefer & Adair Sullivan

Autzen Otter Exhibit Opening

by Siobhan Sullivan , Newsletter Editor



On May 21, cool drizzly weather didn't deter visitors from viewing the renovated exhibit area for the Museum's northern river otters. After spending several months in a kiddie pool, the otters were grateful to have more space. The otters, Brook and Rogue, turned somersaults through the water in a show of appreciation.

One of the people most excited about the opening of the Autzen Otter exhibit has been volunteer, Johnny Goddard. He is one of the local

experts on Brook and Rogue. Johnny has been keeping us up to date on the otters and on the progress of the renovation. He told several staff members and volunteers that he wanted to be the first one to try the water slide in the new exhibit space. Brook and Rogue may need a little encouragement to try it out.

The otter exhibit originally opened in 1983 when the Museum was about a year old. The renovated exhibit space includes an outdoor pool area, a slide, and an indoor viewing area with informational displays. The indoor and outdoor areas now have sections with glass walls that greatly improve viewing opportunities. The exhibit is also more handicap accessible. The indoor part of the exhibit displays a large mural painted by Sisters-based David Rock Studios. There is a new 750-gallon aquarium that contains native fish such as redband trout. Behind the scenes, new energy efficient pumps and filters help keep the water clean. A new lighting system and noise-reducing ceiling tiles were installed. A new roof for the indoor exhibit area was also constructed.

The work on renovating the exhibit began last fall after a successful fundraising campaign. The fundraiser had the catchy title of "Invest in Otter Space." The Oregon Business Development Department contributed \$250,000 in the form of a matching grant. A total of \$800,000 was raised for this project. Foundations that made generous contributions included The Autzen Foundation, The Bend Foundation, The Collins Foundation, The Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund, and The M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust. Many additional donations from individual donors helped make this proposed project a reality.



May Showers Make the High Desert Flower



Lupine, *Lupinus* sp.



Sand lily, *Leucocrinum montanum*



Large-head clover, *Trifolium macrocephalum*



Cushion buckwheat, *Eriogonum ovalifolium*



Purple sage, *Salvia dorrii*, and Desert Indian paintbrush, *Castilleja angustifolia*



Whitestem fraseras, *Frasera albicaulis*



Bitterroot, *Lewisia rediviva*



Foothill death camas, *Zigadenus paniculatus*

High Desert Museum Area Updates from May 2016

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

By Hand Through Memory – They have a new volunteer named Imelda and she helped out on Senior Day. The *Lone Ranger* program is once again playing on the TV in the exhibit. Everyone is glad to have it back. A group of students from Germany visited the exhibit last week but our two volunteers that speak German happened to be out of town.

Silver Sage Trading Center – The store has many designs of blank stationery cards available ranging in price from \$2.50 - \$4.00 each. There is a cute otter plush toy to go along with the reopening of the exhibit. T-shirts for young kids with a High Desert Museum motif are available. There are also new shirts for adults related to the *Art for a Nation* exhibit. A book about Woodie Guthrie entitled *26 Songs in 30 Days* would make for some interesting reading. Board books and Dover coloring books would make great gifts. There is a unique small ceramic bowl for sale that has been fired eight to ten times. There are more of the kitchen towels with measurement-related themes available now. Small, strap-on noses of farm animals are popular.

Naturalists – They are trying to find a volunteer to work on Saturdays to lead the Nature Walks. Four Mammal Team members are interested in learning to give the Fish Tales talks and they met with Thad Grudzien and Jon Nelson on May 18. Heather Duchow has been working on taking pictures of plants on the grounds of the Museum and helping to update their display board.

Collections – They have been working on condition reports. The team is waiting for Mylar sleeves that will be used to protect photographs in the collection.

Mammals - The team will begin otter talks on May 28. The Autzen Otter Exhibit opens to the general public on May 21. The otters have been in the renovated exhibit for three weeks but they are still adjusting to the changes. Mammal volunteers will be working on the otter talks and feeding schedule and will be trained on the new sound system.

Living History - During Senior Day “all of the seniors in Central Oregon” seemed to be visiting the Museum. There were four additional volunteers in the Spirit of the West area. It gave a nice direction to the tour since the volunteers stood in front of the display and gave a brief talk about it to the many visitors.

Photography - John Williams recruited a new person from a photography group he is associated with. The team can always use more volunteers to cover events and exhibits.

Admissions/Greeters – They will soon get inserts to go in the brochures that have the current talk schedule and locations.

Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in May. **Burt Douglass** was thanked for working on the display board for the Naturalist Team. It turned out great. The **Living History** team was thanked for putting on the 1930's fashion and dance performance at the Tower Theatre on May 13. **Linda Evans**, **Ethan Mark**, and all of the other models put on a very informative show. The staff was thanked for the nice memoriam about long-time volunteer, **Ann Aines**, in the Museum newsletter. Her granddaughter called to let us know of her passing and the Museum was one of the first to be notified. **Siobhan Sullivan** was thanked for filling in at the last minute to take notes for the Minutes of the VAC meeting. Kudos to all of you!

Some of Our Many Visitors During Senior Day



If you would like to nominate someone to fill the Vice Chair or Secretary position for the Volunteer Advisory Council, please contact the current Vice Chair, Steve Magidson, at steve.magidson@gmail.com . You may also self-nominate. Nominations will be accepted through June 14.



Desert Sage Society Members at the Autzen Otter Exhibit Opening



High Desert Voices

Editor: Siobhan Sullivan

Team Leader: Siobhan Sullivan

Contributing Writers: Heather Duchow, Adair Sullivan, & Siobhan Sullivan

Proofreading/Editing: Phil Meurer

Computer: Siobhan Sullivan

Photographs: Heather Duchow, Lee Schaefer, Adair Sullivan, & Siobhan Sullivan

Printing: Siobhan Sullivan



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

2016



2016

Kitchen Patrol: Naturalists Team

June	July - Save the Date!
4 Exhibit Opening: <i>Smokejumpers: Firefighters from the Sky.</i>	2 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
4 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.	4 Independence Day. Museum closed.
9 Lecture: <i>Traditional Imagery and Radical Dreams in Oregon's WPA-era Public Art.</i> 6:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	17 Exhibit Closing: <i>Rain, Snow or Shine.</i>
14 Lecture: <i>Pat Courtney Gold: Columbia River Native Culture and Basketry.</i> 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Free. RSVP martie@uoregon.edu .	21 Exhibit Opening Reception: <i>Art of the West.</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. RSVP.
15 Off-site Event: <i>Printmakers of the WPA: Cheers to Art!</i> Atelier 6000. 7:00 - 8:30 pm. \$10 Admission./No RSVP.	22 Exhibit Opening: <i>Art of the West.</i>
17 Bat Walk. 8:30 - 10:00 pm. Members \$5, Non-members \$10. Registration and pre-payment required.	22 Bat Walk. 8:30 - 10:00 pm. Members \$5, Non-members \$10. Registration and pre-payment required.
18 Lazinka Sawmill Demonstration. 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.	30 Lazinka Sawmill Demonstration. 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.
19 Father's Day. Fathers admitted free.	
25,26 Off-site Event: <i>Figures at Work: Capturing the Style of the WPA.</i> Atelier 6000. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. A6 Members \$200, Non-members \$250. \$25 materials fee. RSVP at 541-330-8759.	
25 Off-site Event: <i>The Wizard of Oz.</i> Tower Theatre. 6:00 - 8:30 pm. \$10 (plus \$2 historical theater restoration fee). RSVP at towertheatre.org .	
28 Waterston Desert Writing Prize Award Ceremony. 6:30 - 8:30 pm. RSVP.	

To RSVP: www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp or
541-382-4754 ext.
To pre-register: www.highdesertmuseum.org/program