

Living History - Area Overview (Part 2)

by Ralph Berry, Living History Team Lead

In the May volunteer newsletter, part 1 of the Living History Area Overview covered the Miller Ranch. In part 2, we cover the Spirit of the West (SOW) exhibit in the Hall of Exploration and Settlement.



The Spirit of the West

With the opening of the Spirit of the West in 1989 came new opportunities for Living History interpreters to engage Museum visitors. The SOW exhibit is an opportunity for visitors to travel through 100 years of history of the High Desert. The exhibit begins with a diorama of a Plateau Indian scene. As visitors travel through time, they will encounter John Riverdell (aka Steve Magidson) in the fur trade scene portraying an 1826 Hudson Bay Company fur trader.



Mr. Riverdell describes the life of a fur trader and how they trapped beaver pelts to ship to Europe to make men's top hats.

As visitors travel along, they will encounter Hannah Perkins (aka Muriel Carbiener) washing a few small items of clothing in a bucket with just a little bit of water from Rabbit Hole Springs. Caroline Fearnly (aka Ann McGranahan), talks about "the hard times that she and her family are having as they travel along the Oregon Trail on their journey westward".



She dreams about the time when the journey to the Willamette Valley is over and she can once again enjoy her favorite pastime of reading. The overland scene contains many artifacts that travelers took with them or left behind on their long journey to Oregon.

Sergeant Graham (aka Frank Graham) of the 9th Infantry Regiment explains how surveying the West in 1855 helped settle the West. Sergeant Graham has visitors use a "chain" to measure distances between points so accurate maps could be drawn.



William Berry (aka Ralph Berry) may greet you as you enter the Gould and Curry hard rock silver mine in Virginia City, NV. He explains how miners spent 12 hour shifts loading ore carts which were transported to the surface for processing. Mr. Berry also may be found in the placer mine attending to his sluice box recovering gold, which he takes to Silver City, ID, where he may be found weighing his gold and waiting to talk to the assayer. He trades his gold at the Wells



Fargo Bank which may be guarded by Mr. Cad Iler (aka Mike Ford) the Wells Fargo Agent or Sergeant Graham, who serves as the sheriff of Silver City. Mrs. Smith (aka Kathy Schroeder) also may visit Silver City from time to time to show children rocks found in the area such as obsidian, pumice, thunder eggs, and fool's gold. She also may play the sleight of hand card game, Three-Card Monte, with the children. "Kids are dumbfounded", she says. Mrs. Smith advises children to be careful "not to be cheated by sharps and riverboat gamblers" which makes their parents laugh.

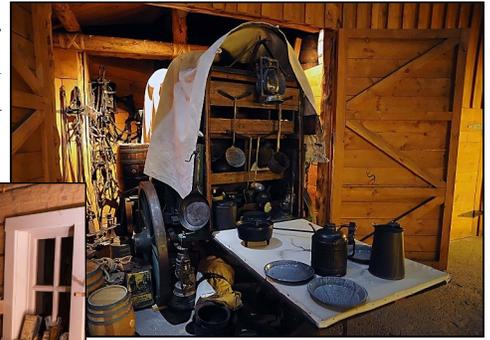


Living History - continued

When you arrive at the Buckaroo scene, you might once again encounter Sergeant Graham who serves as the cattle crew foreman. At special events, you also might encounter Hack Ramsey (aka Wayne Heuple) in the Buckaroo scene.

When visitors emerge from the SOW, they have experienced 100 years of history brought to life by Living History interpreters.

Daily tours of the SOW are given by the following Living History volunteers: Dick Frey, Gary Dolezal, Frank Graham, Jennifer Bradley, Jim Langton, Ron Ross, Steve Magidson, and Susie Linford.



Several volunteers participate in sewing many of the period-correct clothes that are used in the Living History Department. Some volunteers in the Living History Department enjoy doing research which bolsters the Department's historical knowledge and can be used to develop character descriptions.

Living History volunteers formed the Thorn Hollow String Band in September 2006. They play music from the late 1800's and encourage visitors to stomp their feet and dosey doe to the pioneer-inspired jigs. Members include Skip Paznokas on guitar and mandolin, Bob Foster on guitar, mandolin, and harmonica, Elaine Berry on banjo, Amanda Berry on guitar and washboard, Steve Knapp on bass, and Leon Patenburg on fiddle and mandolin.



Being a volunteer in the Living History Department doesn't require any previous experience or a special skill, just a passion for sharing your love of history with visitors. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer in the Living History program, contact Linda Evans or Ethan Mark. They will explain the necessary training requirements. If you join the Living History team, you will become a part of a large group of dedicated volunteers numbering about 50 to 60 which also includes By Hand Through Memory volunteers (see the March 2015 issue of the High Desert Voices Newsletter for the By Hand Through Memory – Area Overview).



Photos by Todd Carey, Lee Schaefer, John Williams, and file

Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in May. VAC president, Frank Graham, thanked all of the **VAC Team Leads** for the work they do for all volunteers. He appreciates the effort they all put in. His good leadership was also acknowledged. **Damian Fagan** was thanked for sending out a schedule to the Photography Team and for always being willing to talk to people who drop into his office. **Siobhan Sullivan** was thanked for putting together the "book" of profiles. She pointed out that the **writers and photographers** deserve credit. Kudos to all of you!

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

On April 20, 2015, 90 volunteers showed up for the Volunteer Appreciation BBQ inside the Museum's main entrance. Each volunteer received a certificate of appreciation. There was a large buffet table with several salads, fresh vegetables and fruit, chips, burgers, and hot dogs. For dessert, Eberhard Dairy Products provided Death by Chocolate, Huckleberry Marble, and Salted Caramel flavored ice cream. Staff served a variety of beverages.

Several staff members thanked the volunteers. Dana Whitelaw remarked on the "amazing things you do every day". Shannon Campbell said that volunteers were "the heart of the Museum" and that we formed a "large and engaged group". She said that volunteers had worked 27,000 hours at the Museum in 2014. Linda Evans said it was "a great personal privilege to thank such an awesome crew".



She spoke of how the volunteers bring "freshness to the exhibit" in the By Hand Through Memory area. Volunteers diligently work at sharing Central Oregon history. At the Miller Ranch, she said the interpreters "close the gap between the past, present, and future". Faith Powell talked about the volunteers that work behind the scenes in Collections and how talented they are. She thanked them for helping to create exhibits, engage visitors, and maintain exhibits. Nicole Swarts and Julie Sturges thanked volunteers for "being at the Museum and doing an awesome job". Molly Black-Hissong had special thanks for the people that help with filing. She said they really help keep the Museum on track. The events crews and volunteer bartenders were also thanked. John Goodell thanked volunteers who had been at the Museum for a long time as well as new volunteers. He spoke about the behind the scenes work that involves "a lot of critical animal care" year round. He thanked volunteers for doing public interpretation because it "sets us apart and it's dynamic and engaging work". Carolyn Nesbitt thanked all of the volunteers who had worked at Frontier Days, Free Days, and numerous other events. She said we had served thousands and thousands of kids that "can't wait for the next year". Christina Cid appreciated all of our "dedication and effort".

Thank you to all of our volunteers!



Photos by Todd Carey

High Desert Ranger Station-Area Overview: “On the Main Road but off the Beaten Path”



Seven years ago—on June 26, 2008—an historic structure arrived at the High Desert Museum after a 550-mile trip from central Nevada. Placed on a waiting foundation between the entrance road and the parking lot, a year of restoration preceded its July 1, 2009 opening as an outdoor exhibit called the High Desert Ranger Station. Every day every summer since—between July 1 and Labor Day—that exhibit has been open to Museum visitors who learn something of the story of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System it administers for all the people of the United States.

That story, as are so many other Museum stories, is shared with visitors by High Desert Museum volunteers—many of them Forest Service retirees who lived the story they tell. Those members of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, which sponsored the exhibit, are supplemented by other High Desert Museum volunteers who treasure their national forest heritage. The summer 2015 season roster still has room for—and needs—a few more volunteers who would like to learn about this heritage and share it with others.

Easily identified in their forest green polo shirts and blue jeans, these volunteers welcome Museum visitors to the High Desert Ranger Station—an authentic, one-room district ranger’s office built on the old Mono National Forest in 1933 now furnished to stimulate questions and illustrate answers about what forest rangers did and why. Volunteers with and without a Forest Service background sign on and qualify not only as a Museum volunteer but also as a High Desert Ranger Station interpreter. They get training for the job, and there’s an informative handbook for study and backup during their five-hour days.

Again this summer, as he has for the past six summers, High Desert Ranger Station volunteer team leader Les Joslin—who, by the way, worked out of this little one-room office in its original location in 1962—is scheduling volunteers for the 68 days the exhibit will be open this summer. He’s looking forward to welcoming and training new volunteers interested in this unique project. Volunteers serve five-hour days starting at 11:00 a.m. and continuing until 4:00 p.m. With a team of a dozen or so, each volunteer typically serves five or six days during a summer.



Photos by Les Joslin and file

If you are interested in being a High Desert Ranger Station volunteer, you may contact Human Resources and Volunteer Manager Shannon Campbell at 541-382-4754, Ext. 391, or Les Joslin at home at 541-330-0331 or by email at lesjoslin@aol.com.

Oh, about that “On the Main Road but off the Beaten Path” phrase in the title of this article? That’s in the interest of full disclosure. High Desert Ranger Station volunteers aren’t swamped by visitors. Most wish they received more. Even though this historic white and green ranger station with the flag flying in front of it is seen by every visitor who drives into the High Desert Museum, only a small percentage find their way to it. A sign in front of the main Museum entrance and flyers at the reception desk help, but this is likely to remain the case until the planned relocation of the exhibit within the Museum’s outdoor exhibits area becomes a fact.

In the meantime, High Desert Ranger Station volunteers enjoy meeting the visitors who do visit the ranger station exhibit and meet “the ranger.” You can be part of that!

Contributed by Les Joslin, High Desert Ranger Station Team Lead

Central Oregon Attractions—Bowman Museum in Prineville

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

If you are looking for something to do that isn't too far away, consider a trip to the Bowman Museum located in downtown Prineville. The main part of the Museum is in what used to be the Crook County Bank building, built in 1910. You walk past bank teller cages and through the vault doors as you explore the Museum. Downstairs there are displays on the railroad, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Prineville Hotshots, local sports, and an interesting firearms exhibit.

There is a great collection of books for sale near the Museum's entrance. Many relate to regional and local history. There are also nature related books and several novels.

Upstairs, themed rooms show some of the ways people lived and the services they used. A dining table sits ready to feed a large family. A medical office shows what a typical exam room looked like. Be sure to pull open the drawers to get a closer look at some of the medical tools of the time. A tack room contains intricately designed saddles and bridles as well as more utilitarian chaps and lassoes. A general store shows some of the items early settlers purchased.



In 2012, the Crook County History Center opened in an adjoining building. Displays along one wall focus on the local cattle business, the roles women played in the family and business, local businesses and events, and Native Americans. In one corner of this building, there is a research library maintained by The Genealogical Society. Another room is devoted to the history of Les Schwab and his now thriving business. The company started in Prineville with the purchase of a run-down tire business.

The Timber Exhibit Hall has lifelike models of ponderosa pines shading parts of the exhibit. You will learn about the history of logging in the area and the process a log goes through in becoming usable in a variety of ways. Open the cabinet doors and look inside for a few examples of wood products.

Here are a few facts learned on a recent visit with Bend Park and Recreation District. Be sure to visit the Bowman Museum to see what new things you can discover.

- When the railroad bypassed Prineville and decided to build the rail lines to Bend, the city of Prineville voted to fund their own line. They thought it would cost \$100,000 but it ended up costing \$300,000.
- Loggers who used the two-man whipsaw burned 8,000 calories a day.
- Unlike some other North American tribes, the Northern Paiute were able to retain much of their language.



Photos by Siobhan Sullivan

Introducing Nickie Broesel, Wildlife Assistant

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



Photo by Dave Gilbert

A man's voice comes from the communication device Nickie Broesel wears on her belt at the small of her back. He wants to meet about the "badger box." That's like a giant ant farm that allows Museum visitors to watch through a transparent panel as Bonnie and Clyde, the two badgers, create tunnels and burrows.

It's a busy time for Nickie as the Museum gears up for the summer season. She's the associate curator of wildlife and manager of the Don Kerr Birds of Prey Center. And if her frequent laughter is any indication, she loves her work.

Nickie was born 30 years ago in Columbia Falls, a Montana town of fewer than 5,000 people on the Flathead River, near Glacier National Park.

She says her name is Nicole, "but only my mother calls me that...when I'm in trouble." She laughs. Her extensive family has lived in the Flathead Valley for three generations. Her father, Chris, is a builder; her mother, Bettie Lou, is in real estate; Nickie is sandwiched between two sisters, Megan and Chelsea.

After Nickie graduated from high school in 2003, she enrolled at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage, majoring in outdoor studies. It was a long way from her roots.

"I lasted a year before I came home," she says. More laughter. Nickie earned an associate degree from Flathead Community College, then attended the University of Oregon where she earned her degree in biology in 2013 "after nine years of school."

She applied for an internship at the High Desert Museum and moved to Bend.

Nickie is still getting used to her last name, although she met Eric, the man who gave it to her, in Montana when she was 17. They both worked at the same restaurant. They became friends, but it wasn't until Nickie returned from Alaska that they began to get serious.

Nickie and Eric travelled widely, as far as Jamaica and Mexico, to indulge a shared love for jam bands and progressive rock music. Their journeys were one reason, Nickie says, it took so long to complete her degree.

But finally, "we had to stop playing and grow up," she says, laughing. They moved to Central Oregon and Nickie went to work at Aubrey Glen restaurant "to pay the bills while I learned how to become a biologist."

Her internship led to a full time position at the High Desert Museum in 2014. She and Eric married on September 17, and they live in a rented home in Redmond.

Straight light brown hair cups her face. Her eyes sparkle through squarish-framed glasses as she describes her work, which involves "basic animal care" for raptors and small mammals. That means feeding, then cleaning up, but also training. One of her favorites is a turkey vulture named Gilbert, whom she laughingly describes as "an amazing creature."

"He's very smart," she says, but "he can be a real challenge. I love him."

Nickie's love of animals is not confined to the Museum collection, however. She and Eric own "a very amusing Boston terrier named Mitten," and a "lovin, geriatric American Staffordshire terrier who's quite a monster at 75 pounds."

They also share their home with a western hognose snake named Nag, who "is about as cute as a snake can get."

When she's not working with animals, Nickie enjoys "good beer and decent wine." She's happiest in the outdoors, she says, enjoying hiking, gardening, photography, camping, and traveling.

She describes the High Desert Museum as "a rewarding place to work. It's so different from a typical zoo."

Even though there's stress leading to the summer season, she says, "I love my co-workers. We get along well, support each other and laugh a lot."

Their aim, she says, is to "make visitors passionate about what we're passionate about." And their work is made easier by the Museum volunteers, whom she calls a "fantastic group of people."

"It's the visitors that drive us," she says. "That's what we're here for."

High Desert Museum Area Updates from May 2015

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

By Hand Through Memory – They have been beefing up their schedule for summer hours.

Naturalists – They currently have a full team and even have a spare volunteer. They will be meeting this month or next month to discuss the *Nature Exchange* program. Each item will have a certain value and can be traded for other items. Facts about the item could include what it is and where it was collected. Additional points might be attached to it if it is in the iNaturalist data base. They are still working out the details of the program. Fish talks will begin soon.

Collections – Margaret Lee recently moved on from the Museum. On May 29, the *Open 'til Dark* event will take place. Seven breweries and one cider company will be there with samples of their products. Upcoming exhibits include *Glow* (about bioluminescence) and *Art of the West*. In September there will be an in-house created exhibit about weather.

Living History - Summer hours at the Miller Ranch of 11:00 am - 4:00 pm have started. Interns and seasonal staff will begin working soon. Staff and volunteers were thanked for their work.

Silver Sage Trading Center – Publications on invasive plants, edible plants, common wildflowers, and medicinal plants are now available. A small coin purse with a bird print is for sale. Visitors may be interested in purchasing a *Life is Better in Oregon* magnet to remember their trip. A company out of Tumalo is selling lavender gourmet lemon pepper. A cute t-shirt with a raccoon print is available in sizes for babies up to size 4. There is a set of kitchen towels with plant prints. There are several Junior Adventurer accessories for young children including field glasses, a compass, and a magnifying glass. There is also a set of small stuffed animals that make interesting noises and fit neatly into a little soft cabin.

Photography - Returning volunteer Todd Carey has been taking lots of photos and he is particularly good at getting pictures of people. If other people want to take photos for the team, all input is welcome. You don't need an expensive camera. Great shots can be taken with a phone.

Birds of Prey - They are getting ready for summer raptor shows. New volunteers are working out well. They may be getting a behind-the-scenes intern.

297 Senior Visitors on Senior Day!



High Desert Voices

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Photos by Todd Carey, Lee Schaefer, & John Williams

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

2015



2015

Kitchen Patrol: Naturalists

June

- 1-30 **Raptors of the Desert Sky.** 12:30 - 1:00 pm.
- 5 **Schwabe, Williamson, & Wyatt Charity Golf Classic.** 11:30 am - 7:00 pm. Entry amount varies. Preregistration required at <http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/schwabe-williamson-wyatt-charity-golf-classic> .
- 6 **Thorn Hollow String Band.** 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.
- 8 **Natural History Pub: *A Wild Solution for Climate Change.*** 7:00 pm. (Doors open at 6:00 pm). RSVP.
- 9 **Field Trip: *Cascade Carnivores.*** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Registration and pre-payment required. www.highdesertmuseum.org/field-trip .
- 12 **Member’s Opening: *Glow.*** 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Light hors d’oeuvres, no-host bar. Members Free; guests \$5. RSVP.
- 13 **Exhibit Opening: *Glow.*** 9:00 am.
- 16 **VAC meeting.** 2:00 - 4:00 pm.
- 21 **Field trip: *Flora of the Sage-steppe.*** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Registration and pre-payment required. www.highdesertmuseum.org/field-trip .
- 21 **Father’s Day.** Free museum entry for Dads. 9:00 am.
- 25 **Field Trip: *Bird Banding.*** 8:00 am - 11:00 am. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Registration and pre-payment required. www.highdesertmuseum.org/field-trip .
- 25 **Waterston Desert Writing Prize Award Ceremony.** 6:00 - 8:00 pm. RSVP.

July— Save the Date!

- 1-31 **Raptors of the Desert Sky.** 12:30 - 1:00 pm.
- 4 **Museum closed.**
- 7 **Picnic in the Past.** 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Members \$3/person and \$10/family; Non-members \$5/person and \$20/family. RSVP.
- 11 **Thorn Hollow String Band.** 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.
- 14 **Field Trip: *Cascade Carnivores.*** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Registration and pre-payment required. www.highdesertmuseum.org/field-trip .
- 17 **Field Trip: *Bird Banding.*** 8:00 am - 11:00 am. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Registration and pre-payment required. www.highdesertmuseum.org/field-trip .
- 17 **Bat Walk.** 8:30 - 9:30 pm. Members \$5; Non-members \$10. RSVP.
- 25 **Field Trip: *A Bird in the Hand.*** 8:00 am - 11:00 am. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Registration and pre-payment required. www.highdesertmuseum.org/field-trip .
- 26 **Exhibit Closes: *Growing Up Western.***
- 30 **Art of the West Opening Reception.** 6:00 - 8:00 pm. RSVP.
- 31 **Exhibit Opening: *Art of the West.***

To RSVP: www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp or 541-382-4754 ext. 241

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