

HIGH DESERT VOICES

May 2015

News and Information published by and for Volunteers



Growing up Western Exhibit

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

A young girl brushes the hair out of her eyes and slowly writes a few letters on a small chalkboard in the *Growing up Western* exhibit. “Did they really sound like that Grandpa?” she asks. “Yes, and if you were bad you had to stay after and clean the chalkboards,” he answers.

Visitors can learn about what it was like for families growing up in the West and share some of their own experiences at the exhibit that opened on April 4, 2015. The exhibit features examples of the clothing children wore, the tools they used, and the toys they played with. A replica of a classroom with school desks all in a row and a large blackboard on the wall sits in one corner. A typical bedroom of a child sits in another. Visitors can try their hand at lassoing a cow made from a sawhorse with a cow’s head on one end of it. Just outside the exhibit, children can try on traditional clothing from the time period for a unique photo opportunity.

Western families in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s adapted to the challenges of a new environment. Families tended to be large so there would be more hands to help with essential household chores. Children tended gardens, hunted, fished, hauled water, cared for animals,



chopped wood, plowed, cooked, and did laundry. As girls entered their teenage years, they were expected to do the sewing. Children’s clothing often mirrored that of adults.



Asians and Europeans moved into the area and tried to retain their traditions, religion, and language in their new home. Native Americans relied on a tradition of storytelling and children modeling adult activities in their culture. Young Native Americans were forced into missionary schools in an attempt to make them learn the language and culture of the new arrivals.

Though much time was spent in doing chores, children also had time to play with toys. Many were well-loved, whether handmade or commercially made. Several of the toys in the exhibit related to the children’s life experiences. There are examples of child-sized sewing machines and washboards. Families were creative in using the materials available. There is an example of a cart made from a metal food tin in the exhibit. A one-armed doll is lovingly wrapped in a piece of flannel hand-sewn along one edge.

A video featuring interviews with Museum staff and volunteers about what their favorite toy was as a child plays in the back of the room. You may be surprised by some of the toys people you know at the Museum played with and be reminded of some of your own favorites. Lines of string border the screen and visitors can clip their comments up about what their favorite toys were with small clothespins. If you get a chance, stop by the exhibit and add a note about one of your favorites.

Living History - Area Overview (Part 1)

by Ralph Berry, Living History Team Lead



Adult and teen volunteers in the Living History program bring the history of the High Desert to life. Visitors are greeted at the entrance by the stage coach driver, Sourdough Sam (aka John Maloney). Often you can overhear visitors saying, “Is he alive?” Sourdough Sam is alive and well and his quiet presence begins the visitor’s experience of the wonders of the High Desert Museum.

The Living History program had its early beginnings in the 1980’s with the opening of the ranch in 1983 and the Spirit of the West (SOW) exhibit in the Hall of Exploration and Settlement in 1989.

The Miller Ranch

When the present “ranch site” was established in 1983-1984, it included a log cabin, wood shed, root cellar, and outhouse. Originally the site was designed as the Blair homestead (c 1880) patterned after the life of the Robbins family, who lived in the Ochoco Mountains near present day Prineville. There were guard rails in the cabin guiding visitors who passed through the cabin. Excerpts from Mrs. Robbins’ diaries were on the walls. In the mid-1990’s, third person costumed interpretation and demonstrations began intermittently at the Blair Homestead, demonstrating pioneer skills, and working in the garden.

In 1989 the Robert Lazinka family donated the sawmill to the Museum. The sawmill was originally operated on the Henry Lazinka ranch near Ukiah, OR in the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon. The first public running of the sawmill was on May 18, 1990.



Between the years of 2000 to 2004, the Museum started discussing the idea of the Blair homestead becoming a living site where visitors could exchange conversations with a High Desert historic family. The creation of the first person living history characters and National Association of Interpretive training began during this period. Additional historical research of families and different people who traveled through the High

Desert was used to create the fictitious Blair family. The guard rails were removed during this time to permit visitors to “walk through” the cabin and interact with living history characters.

The site has evolved over the years with the addition of a barn in 2005 in the original garden site. The barn was constructed by Museum volunteers with wood cut at the sawmill. The barn design is based on cattle baron Peter French’s long barn in Southeastern Oregon. The willow corral also was built by volunteers in 2005. Shortly thereafter, a sheep shed was added that became a chicken coop a few years later. Linda Evans (aka Mrs. Miller), Curator of Living History, said, “As things changed at the ranch, you can ponder how many times we moved the outhouse”.





In 2011, the ranch located South of Bend opened as the Miller Ranch set in 1904. The Miller name was a common name in the area and the Robbins' diaries were used for story lines. The Blair home-
stead/cabin and the circa 1900 sawmill became part of the Miller Ranch living history site. Information from the Vandervert family was used to create the backstory for this new fictitious family. You will often hear Mrs. Miller refer to her Vandervert neighbors. This change brought interpretive talking points about the use of sawmills in the High Desert and combined the en-

tire living history area into one "believable" ranching family. 1904 was chosen because Bend was not incorporated at that time; Prineville and Shaniko were the major towns of the day. The High Desert story, about constant changes in the region, the industrial revolution, and working class ranchers, is shared at the ranch. Visitors relate better to the Miller Ranch located six miles from the township of Bend and its growth during this period. The garden was also moved in 2011 to its present location to make room for a new chicken house, which houses the heritage Faverolle breed.



Today, trained volunteer interpreters interact with visitors and bring history of the area to life. For example, on any given day you might encounter Ruby Borden (aka Chris Frey), a traveling school teacher, guiding children in practicing their writing skills in a makeshift classroom in the Miller barn. You also may visit with Sergeant Graham (aka Frank Graham), the freight agent for the Columbia Southern Railroad in Shaniko, who is usually at the sawmill. You also may encounter John Riverdell (aka Steve Magidson), a freight hauler from Shaniko, who brings goods to Bend, Prineville, and Laidlaw. During the summer, you may seek out the advice of Doc Hart (aka Ross Hart) who may recommend some of his elixirs to treat your ailments. He also serves as the local dentist, but beware.



Some days, you will find Susanna Smith (aka Kathy Schroeder) showing visitors her willow fly fishing pole and observing the skills of visitors as they cast toward a washtub filled with water. According to Mrs. Smith, "Some of the dads take their ability to cast very seriously, and often the little kids are the best casters". Mr. William Berry (aka Ralph Berry), a gold miner from Canyon City, sometimes travels to the Miller Ranch to help Mrs. Miller (aka Linda Evans) and Zack (aka Ethan Mark) with odd jobs around the ranch. He also is a good friend of Mr. Miller and brings news of him to Mrs. Miller. Other interpreters who you might meet at the ranch are Jane Harrington (aka Chris Moody), Mrs. Stewart (aka Elizabeth Eastwood), Mrs. West (aka Diane Burgess), Miss O'Neil (aka Lori Neil), Sarah Miller (aka Sarah Monda), Slim (aka Slim Stout), Mr. and Mrs. Potter (aka George Potter and Christy Clark), Mrs. Crisman (aka Kimberly Eberhard), Mr. and Mrs. Quiring, and several very enthusiastic teens, who engage visitors to scrub the porch, clean rugs, water the garden, or play hoops and graces.



Introducing Lani Wyman, Accounting Manager

By Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



Photo by Dave Gilbert

Walk into her compact office at the High Desert Museum, and you can easily make some guesses about Lani Wyman. Pinned to the corkboard behind her desk are a dozen photos. In one a young woman rides a horse hell-bent around a barrel. In another a guy with powerful legs is airborne in a broad-jump. One shows someone in a kayak. Others are of a cat and an Australian Shepherd.

Calculator paper tape curls into a pile on the floor in front of her desk. There's one visitor chair and no place to hang a coat.

If you guessed that Lani Wyman is part of an active family and works with numbers and money, you'd be correct. She's worked for the Museum for 19 years, the last 10 as accounting manager.

Lani was born in Dallas, Texas, in 1958, but was still an infant when her family moved to Mercer Island, WA. Her father, Robert,

was an architect; her mother, Peggy, originally a teacher, became a stay-at-home mom until Lani was through high school. Lani has two brothers, Paul and Derek, and a sister Liz.

College didn't take Lani far from home. She attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, majoring in art with a minor in business.

In the summer of 1980, after her junior year in college, "I got a job at the Rainier National Park restaurant as a hostess and cashier," she says, quickly adding "that's where I met Duane Wyman."

Lani returned to college to complete her senior year, and Duane took off to Alaska to climb Mount KcKinley. They came back together the following summer, both working for the national park.

She and Duane moved to Las Vegas, where Duane studied hotel management. But the magnetism of Mount Rainier National Park brought them back to the Pacific Northwest in 1983.

That June, they married. Duane managed the picturesque Longmire National Park Inn, built in 1911. Lani worked in the gift shop.

In 1984 they returned to Tacoma and Lani got her first of several positions with Mervyn's department stores. Duane was the front-desk manager at the Sheraton.

Mervyn's transferred Lani to Santa Fe in 1985. For the next two and a half years, "we did a lot of hiking and exploring in Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico," Lani says.

"But we wanted to get back to the Northwest and our family," she said. A warm smile lights her face. Her reddish-brown hair shows a few strands of silver.

In 1987 Mervyn's brought her to Everett, Washington, to open a new store. Three months later, she and Duane moved to Bend.

"We moved a lot," Lani says, "but once we were here in Bend we settled in." What they settled into was a 700 square foot house on the west side.

Daughter Alicia was born in 1989 and "we needed a bigger house," Lani says, smiling again. They found one near Bear Creek Elementary School and son, William, joined the family in 1991. When Alicia was 5 and William 3, the family moved to a log home south of Sunriver on the Deschutes.

Lani was an accountant for Mount Bachelor for five years and Central Oregon Community College for four. She came to the High Desert Museum in November of 1996.

Growing up Alicia was into horses and competed on the high school equestrian team. William excelled in soccer, has played semi-pro ball, and coached.

Both of them were active in the High Desert Museum teen volunteer program.

The entire family is outdoorsy. They enjoy hiking, camping, kayaking, and "running with the dog," Lani says. She also enjoys "all kinds" of cooking.

In her 19 years at the Museum, Lani has seen lots of changes. "It's a very positive place," she says, and "moving in a very good direction". She notes, in particular, the "good feelings between the staff and volunteers."

She sums up her feelings: "We're cruising."

Fun at Frontier Days



Playing at Playful Pastimes



High Desert Museum Area Updates from April 2015

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

By Hand Through Memory – They have barely enough volunteers to have one person working per day. This area has been closed for cleaning. Items such as blankets and beds are very thoroughly cleaned in case bugs or mice decide to make a home in them.

Naturalists – They need at least one more volunteer for a full team. In the Desertarium, there will soon be new talks on fish and reptiles of the High Desert. Red-sided trout will soon be in the indoor tank. Staff and volunteers have been trying to eliminate the brook trout in the outdoor stream. The naturalists are also looking into a Nature Exchange where people can trade things like photographs, drawings, rocks and minerals, animal bones, feathers, and casts of tracks. The program exists in other museums and zoos and may be tried here as well.

Collections – This is cleaning week. May is a quiet month since none of the exhibits will be changing. The fire truck that was in the Desertarium hallway was on loan from the US Forest Service and it has been returned to them. The *Art of the West* show is accepting submissions right now. There will be a closing bash for the *Brewing Culture: The Craft of Beer* exhibit on May 29.

Birds of Prey - They recently put shades over the mews and weathering yards for the birds. They are looking forward to interns coming in soon. The peregrine falcons are being trained to do some new stunts for future shows.

Mammals - There was a training on April 28 at 10:00 am. The team is currently doing one cat talk and two otter talks per day. The new raccoon has been a big hit with the public.

Living History - Mike Ford, a “retired” volunteer, is back to work in the Spirit of the West exhibit as Mr. Iler. Be sure to say hello to him if you get a chance. He has led tours of By Hand Through Memory in the past and plans to do one-hour tours beginning in June. Unfortunately, the Mother’s Day Tea has been cancelled this year because the city-wide chicken coop tour is on the same day, May 9. The High Desert Museum and their Faverolle chickens are the first stop of that tour. Maps of the route are available for \$10 and all proceeds go to the High Desert Museum. Summer Miller Ranch hours of 11:00 am to 4:00 pm begin on May 23.

High Desert Voices Newsletter - They have been busy compiling profiles of staff and volunteers that currently work at the Museum. It will be limited to profiles from the last ten years and will be available to view online soon. A hard copy will also be available in the lunchroom.

Silver Sage Trading Center – There is a limited supply of High Desert Museum ceramic mugs that look like green enamelware. Other mugs are available as well. There is a new t-shirt with a drawing of a swimming otter. There are several Dover drawing books on subjects such as camping, the Old West, and animal tracks. There are decks of playing cards with Western themes available. Fragrant bath balms would make a great Mother’s Day gift. Large, beautiful scarves with detailed bird designs would also make a great gift.

Admissions/Greeters – Everything has been going fine. They recently started displaying the brochures related to summer activities and events at the Museum. They are losing some volunteers this summer.

Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in April. The **Education Program** was thanked for overseeing a well-organized Frontier Days where everything went smoothly. The **volunteers and staff** that worked during Frontier days were also thanked. Thanks to the **staff** for putting together the Volunteer Appreciation BBQ. Volunteers said it was “the best”. The food was delicious. Special thanks to **Eberhard’s Dairy Products** for donating ice cream and to **Kim Eberhard** and her daughter **Emily** for serving it to the volunteers. **Ethan Marks** was thanked for putting in an unbelievable amount of hours building a period-correct musket just in time for Frontier Days. Thanks to **staff** that were involved in putting together the *Growing Up Western* exhibit. The background research for displays, graphics in the displays, construction of the exhibit, and the film featuring input from staff and volunteers all made it a great exhibit. Kudos to all of you!

The Magma Chamber Below Newberry Caldera Lecture

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



View west from Paulina Peak. At 7,989 ft., it is the highest point in the caldera.

The lecture at a recent Natural History Pub event was about how geologists are visualizing or “imaging” the magma chamber that sits beneath the Newberry Caldera. Newberry is a 1,200 square mile shield volcano. Repeated eruptions covered much of the local area in lava flows. The caldera formed nearly 75,000 years ago when the magma chamber emptied in a major explosive eruption and the overlying rocks collapsed around it. The most recent activity occurred 1,300 years ago at Big Obsidian Flow.

Dr. Emilie Hoofst, Associate Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Oregon, updated the audience on her latest research at the caldera. The United States Geological Survey

did limited studies in the area in the 1980’s. There was only one seismometer on Newberry volcano. Current research uses a variety of tools including closely spaced seismic recording stations, seismic tomography, and waveform tomography.

Based on the findings, researchers have estimated the approximate size and shape of the magma chamber. The chamber lies beneath the caldera and extends to the north. It is about two to three miles underneath the bottom of the caldera. They have been able to map out which parts of the chamber have crystallized and which are still hot. There are indications that this area is at the intersection of several faults so magma easily works its way to the surface. Temperatures measured 3,000 feet under Paulina Lake and East Lake reach 500 degrees Fahrenheit. Though Newberry is hot, it is relatively small and is not considered to be as big of a threat to public safety as other nearby volcanoes.

There are 170 active volcanoes in the United States. Seventeen are considered to be very high threats to public safety and 10 of those are in the Cascade Mountains. In Oregon, Newberry, the South Sister, Crater Lake, and Mt. Hood are all in this category. The classification is based on activity in the recent past and proximity to human population areas.

To see a 30-second video of a 3D model of the magma chamber structure and learn more about the project, go to <http://pages.uoregon.edu/emilie/WebPage/Research.html> and click on the link to the Newberry Volcano Magma System.



Big Obsidian Flow



Obsidian from Glass Butte, East of Bend



Photos by Siobhan Sullivan

Senior Day

Free admission for everyone 65 or older

May 13, 2015

Volunteers Needed!

High Desert Voices

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*The
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2015



2015

Kitchen Patrol: Living History

May

- 1 **Summer Hours Begin:** 9:00 am-5:00 pm.
- 2 **Weekend Workshop: Gardening 101.** 10:30 am-12:00 pm. Paired pricing—1 adult & 1 child: Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Each additional \$5. Registration and pre-pay required.
- 2 **Thornhollow String Band.** 11:00 am-3:00 pm.
- 6 **Teacher Training: Biomimicry.** 4:30-6:30 pm. RSVP.
- 7 **Beer tasting: Sours & Belgians.** 4:30-8:00 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. Beer tasting package \$10 for glass & five tastings. Additional tastings \$1 each. RSVP.
- 9 **Off-Site Field Trip: Central Oregon Birds.** 8:00 am-12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$20. Registration and pre-pay required.
- 10 **Mother's Day:** Moms get in free. 9:00 am—5:00 pm.
- 12 **Natural History Pub: The Evolution of Central Oregon Wildlife: From Tropics to High Desert.** 7:00 pm. (Doors open at 5:30 pm). McMenamins. RSVP.
- 13 **Senior Day.** Free admission for everyone 65 or older.
- 16 **Off-Site Field Trip: High Desert Wildflowers.** 8:00 am-12:00 pm. Sorry FULL.
- 16 **New Teen Volunteer Orientation/Interview Day.** 11:00 am-4:00 pm.
- 19 **High Desert Museum Bookclub.** Discussion of *The Meadow* written by James Galvin. 6:00-7:00 pm. Free. Downtown Bend Library. RSVP.

May—continued

- 19 **VAC meeting.** 2:00-4:00 pm.
- 21 **History Lecture: The Chemawa Indian School: Assimilation to Affirmation 1880's to 2010's.** 6:00 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. No-host bar. RSVP.
- 29 **Open 'til Dark.** 5:00-9:00 pm. Adults \$8; Children or students w/ID \$5; Beer tasting package \$10 for glass & five tastings. Additional tastings \$1 each. RSVP.

June—Save the Date!

- 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 **Thornhollow String Band.** 11:00 am-3:00 pm.
- 9 **Natural History Pub: A Wild Solution for Climate Change.** 7:00 pm. (Doors open at 6:00 pm). RSVP.
- 16 **VAC meeting.** 2:00-4:00 pm.
- 21 **Father's Day:** Dads get in free. 9:00 am—5:00 pm.
- 25 **Waterston Desert Writing Prize Award Ceremony.** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

To RSVP: <http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp>
To pre-register: www.highdesertmuseum.org/program