

# Deschutes County Historical Highlights

- 1813** First white men to enter Central Oregon: Reed and Seton from the American Pacific Fur Company.
- 1843** Fremont Exploration: lead by John C. Fremont and his party which included Kit Carson, Thomas "Bad hand" Fitzpatrick, and Billy Chinook.
- 1848** Oregon Territory created.
- 1851** Clark Party camps on the bank of the Deschutes River near the future townsite of Bend.
- 1859** Oregon gains Statehood.
- 1862** Felix Scott Jr., Marion Scott, John Craig and Robert Millican bring 900 head of Cattle into Central Oregon and spend the winter here. Reputed to be the first white men to do so.
- 1874** William P. Vandvert settles on the Deschutes River south of present site of Sunriver.
- 1877** Farewell Bend Ranch established by John Y. Todd.
- 1878** Tetherow Crossing built (oldest home standing in Deschutes County).
- 1882** Crook County formed from Wasco County.
- 1886** Post Office established at Farewell Bend Ranch by John Sisemore.
- 1894** Passage of Carey Act which allow free land to those who irrigate it, opens the high desert to development.
- 1900** Columbia Southern Railroad reaches the City of Shaniko.  
Alexander M. Drake arrives in the future town of Bend.
- 1901** City of Sisters platted.  
Construction begins on Pilot Butte Canal.
- 1902** Name of post office changed temporarily from "Bend" to "Deschutes"  
Millard Triplett constructs Bend's first frame building.
- 1903** Bend population reaches approximately 250 people.
- 1904** Tumalo platted as Laidlaw.  
Water turned on in the Pilot Butte Canal.  
First phone lines laid between Bend and Prineville.
- 1905** City of Redmond platted.  
City of Bend officially incorporated with 500 people (104 votes in favor - 3 in opposition).
- 1908** Deschutes National Forest established.
- 1909** Race up the Deschutes River canyon by the Union Pacific RR and the Great Northern RR begins.  
Terrebonne platted as Hillman.
- 1910** City of Redmond incorporated.  
LaPine platted as townsite.  
First electric light turned on in Bend and Redmond.

First attempt made to create Deschutes County from part of Crook County.

- 1911** Great Northern RR (Oregon Trunk Line) reaches Bend and Redmond.  
First tuff stone building erected in Bend (J.I. West Building).  
Civic and business leaders in Bend urge for the Preservation of trees.  
First stucco structure built in Bend (Dream Theatre on Bond Street).  
Mrs. S.M. Whitted of Bend becomes the first women in Oregon to vote in a local election.  
Mrs. Hattie Corkett of Bend becomes the first woman in Oregon to sit on a jury.
- 1912** Mrs. Della W. Nichols of Laidlaw (Tumalo) becomes first woman candidate in Deschutes Co. (running for school superintendent).  
Vernon A. Forbes become first person from Bend to be elected to a statewide office.
- 1914** Jefferson County formed from part of Crook County.
- 1915** Shevlin-Hixon Company builds lumber mill in Bend.  
Redmond Potato show begins (forerunner of County Fair).  
Gold discovered outside of Redmond on the Deschutes River.
- 1916** Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company builds lumber mill in Bend.  
*Deschutes County existence officially proclaimed by Governor Withycombe on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.*
- 1917** U.S. enters World War I on April 2nd.  
17<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed by Congress allowing prohibition.
- 1918** First Deschutes County WWI death: Percy Steven (Bend) and Elmer Houston (Redmond).  
Deschutes County Fair Association established.  
WWI ends on November 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Drake Park created by city bond levy.  
Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company reaches a payroll of over 1 million dollars.  
Shevlin Park donated to city of Bend by Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Company.  
19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution passed giving women the right to vote (August 26<sup>th</sup>).  
Mail carrier service starts in Bend.  
Assessing of property begins in Bend.  
Deschutes County Library Board organized.  
Women's Civic Improvement League builds "Day Nursery".  
Bend Civic Council organized to promote community welfare and growth.
- 1921** First streets to be paved in Bend (Wall, Bond, Congress and Delaware Avenue).  
Half of the town of Sisters burns to the ground in a fire. Next year, other half is destroyed.
- 1922** John Sisemore cabin from the Farewell Bend Ranch demolished.  
First water fountain installed in Bend on Wall Street.  
Deschutes County Library Board organized.  
Bend Civic League organized to promote community welfare and growth.
- 1923** Over a million board feet if lumber cut by Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company.

- 1924** Harmon Park in Bend established by grant from Harmon Foundation of New York City.
- 1925** McKenzie Highway completed.
- 1926** Rear of the Congress Street Apartments in Bend dynamited by moonshiners.
- 1927** Charles Lindberg files the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean.
- 1929** Stock market crashes leading to the great depression.
- 1931** Natural Gas Service extended into Bend.
- 1932** Amelia Earhart becomes first women to fly solo across the Atlantic (2<sup>nd</sup> wife of former Bend resident George P. Putnam).
- 1933** First Water Pageant held on Mirror Pond in Bend.  
Prohibition repealed by Congress.
- 1934** 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Redmond paved.
- 1937** Deschutes County Courthouse destroyed by mysterious fire (old 2<sup>nd</sup> Central School).  
Amelia Earhart (wife of former Bend resident G.P. Putnam) disappears over the Pacific on her round-the-world flight.
- 1938** First commercial radio broadcast in Central Oregon (KBND).  
First permanent home of the Deschutes County Library completed (Whitehouse & Church Architects)  
Camp Redmond CCC camp established outside of Redmond (largest CCC Camp on west coast).
- 1939** Deschutes County Courthouse completed, Truman Phillips architect.  
WWII begins with the German invasion of Poland.
- 1940** Construction of a modern airport at Roberts Field begins.
- 1941** U.S. enters WWII after a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.  
Deschutes County begins land-use planning.
- 1942** U.S. leases Roberts Field for a WWII B-17 bomber and P-38 training base.
- 1945** WWII ends with the Japanese surrender aboard the *USS Missouri*.  
Commercial air service begins in Central Oregon at the CAP Airport.
- 1946** City of Sisters incorporated.
- 1947** Deschutes County Pioneer Association founded.
- 1948** First jet plane lands in Central Oregon at Roberts Field in Redmond.
- 1950** Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Company saws its last log on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 1951** Streets in downtown Redmond changed to a one-way grid system.
- 1954** Demolition of Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Company buildings begins.
- 1956** A.M. Drake Lodge demolished by Leonard Lundgren Lumber Company.
- 1957** Three Sisters Wilderness Area established.
- 1958** Pomalift starts operation at Bachelor Butte.

- 1959** Downtown Redmond transformed into "board town" for State Centennial Celebration.
- 1963** COCC breaks ground for campus on Awbrey Butte.  
President Kennedy shot in Dallas, Texas.
- 1964** Astronauts arrive in Central Oregon to train at Lava Lands for moon landing.
- 1965** Kah-Nee-Tah resort opens for business.  
Sunriver master plan developed.  
Last Bend Water Pageant held.
- 1967** Bond and Wall Streets in Bend become a one-way grid.
- 1968** Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the surface of the moon.
- 1970** Deschutes County finishes first comprehensive plan.
- 1972** Pilot Butte Inn becomes first building in Deschutes County to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places  
Pilot Butte Inn demolished after being declared a fire hazard.  
U.S. signs the Paris peace agreement ending U.S. involvement in Vietnam War.
- 1973** Oregon establishes Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) and statewide planning goals.
- 1980** Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company sold to Diamond International.
- 1987** All remaining Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Mill buildings demolished.
- 1990** Awbrey Hall fire destroys numerous homes west of Bend.
- 1991** Oregon Trunk Rail Road trestle across the Deschutes River demolished.
- 1992** Daw/Crown Pacific Lumber Mill (formerly Brooks-Scanlon Mill) closes.
- 1998** Deschutes County's population breaks 100,000 citizens.
- 1999** Bend Amateur Athletic Club rehabilitated after being vacant for over 20 years.
- 2000** Failed attempt by residents of the LaPine area to incorporate as city.  
Oregon Trunk RR Depot in Bend moved to Old Mill District and rehabilitated as art school.
- 2001** City of Bend receives approval for first National Register Historic District.