

MCARTHUR: Rim is significant feature of Sisters skyline

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Governor Oswald West appointed Tam to the Oregon Geographic Names Board in 1914. Two years later, McArthur became the board's secretary, a position he held for 33 years. During that time, he researched the history of Oregon place names, studying the journals of early explorers, reading pioneer diaries, digging through newspaper archives, and scouring every Oregon history resource he could find. He even interviewed surviving pioneers to further expand his sources.

The result of all this work culminated in his publishing of the first edition of "Oregon Geographic Names," at his own expense in 1928. He completed and financed a second edition in 1944, shortly after retiring from PP&L. Declining health forced him to resign from the Geographic Names Board in 1949, but he still finished work on a third edition shortly before his death in 1951. It was published the following year by the Oregon Historical Society.

After Tam McArthur died, his son, Lewis L. McArthur, assumed responsibility for



IMAGE COURTESY OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Lewis A. "Tam" McArthur, for whom Tam McArthur Rim is named.

continuation of the book. "I was good friends with Tom Vaughan of the Historical Society," he said. "He was trying to figure out how to continue work on the book, and I said 'I'll do it.' That's the way I got started on it."

Like his father, Lewis L. graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, and writing was always in his blood. "My father wanted me to have a good command of the English language," he said, "and he corrected my letters home from college with a blue copyright pencil."

The book, Oregon Geographic Names, is undergoing editing of its eighth edition, with the help of Lewis L.'s daughter, Mary McArthur. It remains the definitive resource on the history of Oregon geographic names and is published by the Oregon Historical Society Press.

FOOD BANK: Cash donations are most helpful to program

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Needy families are given gift cards to purchase food at Food 4 Less or Melvin's Fir Street Market. Last year, gift cards were distributed to 169 families (512 people). Applications for the Foodshare Program can be filled out at the Kiwanis Food Bank on Thursday, December 17.

Food Bank donations (cash or check) may be mailed to Sisters Kiwanis, P.O. Box 1296, Sisters, OR 97759 or dropped off at the food bank, 328 W. Main Ave., any Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. All donations are tax-deductible. The donations purchase food for families whose income simply isn't sufficient.

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