

**HISTORY: Sisters started tiny and has grown mightily**

*Continued from page 3*

attendees on a trip through the earlier days in Sisters, talking about the fire lookout tree, Sorenson's Motor Court and service station, his father's grocery store in the building that now houses the Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store, and the fires of 1923 and 1924 that leveled a good share of Cascade Avenue businesses. He has a notebook full of historic photos of buildings no longer standing or repurposed for different uses. He will tell the true stories behind the false Western fronts.

Alex Smith came to Sisters in 1900 and bought some land. He sold part of that land to his brother Robert. A year later, the two brothers had

six city blocks platted as the original town site. The area lay within the boundary of Cascade Avenue on the south, Adams Avenue on the north, Elm Street on the west, and Larch Street on the east.

They dedicated public easements for the streets and alleys. All of the city lots were the same size: 40 feet wide by 114 feet deep. All blocks measured 240 feet square and were bisected east and west by 12-foot-wide alleys, which still exist today in most blocks. The streets were a generous 80 feet wide.

The Davidson Addition was added to the south of town, including Hood, Washington, and Jefferson avenues (all named after peaks in the Cascade Range). About two decades after the original platting, in 1919 a part of the original John Smith homestead was donated, in two additions, by the McCaffreys — Benjamin



PHOTO PROVIDED

Peter J. Leithauser, great-grandfather of Floyd Leithauser, in front of his barber shop in 1911 Sisters.

and Frank and their wives; and John and Myrtle Dennis. The addition contained six blocks west of the original town site and two blocks east of it.

In the early 1970s, the city limits east of town were extended to include the Edge O' the Pines addition, which included sites for mobile homes as well as houses. Since then, the city has expanded to include the light industrial area and the airport north of town. Other expansion included the land to the northwest out on McKinney Butte Road, including the middle and high schools and many of the churches. To the east, expansion included the Timber Creek neighborhood off East Cascade Avenue. The Sokol family's development of Pine Meadow Village to the west joined the city in the early 2000s.

Like many early small towns in Oregon, by 1904,

according to an article in a Salem publication, Sisters was able to support "two good stores, a hotel, a blacksmith shop, a saloon, a real estate office, a livery barn, and a splendid school house costing \$1,800, and a short distance from town a fine lumber mill. The largest store in town, owned by Smith and Wilt, carried \$5,000 in

stock: groceries, hardware, harnesses, stationery, and drugs." A stage arrived from Prineville every afternoon. The town had a jail but the story goes that it never held a prisoner.

Leithauser will pick up the story there, painting word pictures of the buildings, businesses, and people of earlier Sisters.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Floyd Leithauser, pictured here in the 2018 Sisters Rodeo Parade, will lead a history tour of Cascade Avenue on Saturday, May 18.

**RE/MAX**  
Land & Homes  
Real Estate  
— Serving all of Central Oregon —

**Sandy Goodsell**  
Principal Broker  
ABR, CDPE, CIAS, GRI, SRES  
**541-480-0183**

**GOODSELL & HICKS**

**Jonathan Hicks**  
Broker  
**865-335-6104**

LICENSED BROKERS IN THE STATE OF OREGON

**www.goodsellandhicks.com**

"Realtor Ross is our new best friend. He helped us find our new home in Sisters, and we worked well together — both when we were in town and from a distance. **What we liked best about working with Ross is how well he listened to our needs and what we were looking for in a home.** He always remembered what we had previously told him and was always flexible with his time."

— Dale S. & Robin G.

**Ross Kennedy**  
Principal Broker  
Luxury Home Specialist  
**541-408-1343**

BLACK BUTTE REALTY GROUP

Serving Black Butte Ranch & The Greater Sisters Area



**813 S Sparkling Water Ct.**  
Build your dream home on this .31-acre lot at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac in city limits of Sisters.  
**\$209,000. MLS#201807186**



**Price Reduced!**

**16948 Ponderosa Cascade Drive**  
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,960 sq. ft. situated on level fully fenced 1.47 acres. Large 30x40 heated shop and attached 2-car garage  
**\$745,000. MLS#201903356**

**Sheila Jones**  
Broker  
503.949.0551  
sheilajones.sisters@gmail.com

Cascade Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

**CUSTOM HOMES • RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PROJECTS**  
*Serving the Sisters Area Since 1976*

J.P. Pierce

GENERAL CONTRACTING LLC

CCB#159020  
CCB#16891

Strictly Quality

John P. Pierce • 541-549-9764 [jpierce@bendbroadband.com](mailto:jpierce@bendbroadband.com)

*New Name* (formerly Howells Realty Group) | *New Location* 414 W. Washington Ave., Sisters

2 NEW LISTINGS!

GLAZE MEADOW 380 • \$780,000 • mls 201902946  
Custom home on the 15th tee of the Glaze Meadow Golf Course

EAST MEADOW 18 • \$895,000 • mls 201903657  
Ideal home for large family gatherings with gourmet kitchen and master bedroom on main level

**Exclusive Onsite Realtor for the Ranch**

Don Bowler, President and Broker 971-244-3012  
Gary Yoder, Managing Principal Broker 541-420-6708  
Ross Kennedy, Principal Broker 541-408-1343  
Carol Dye, Broker 541-480-0923 | Joe Dye, Broker 541-595-2604  
Shana Vialovos, Broker 541-728-8354

Open daily, 9 to 5, by the Lodge Pool Complex

541-595-3838 Black Butte Ranch • 541-549-5555 in Sisters

see all our listings at [blackbutterealtygroup.com](http://blackbutterealtygroup.com)