

# Secret

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Drawson would still become famous for exploring and writing. His discovery of numerous gigantic trees kickstarted Oregon's Heritage Tree program, and he's credited with helping save some of the state's oldest groves.

Yet when he passed away in 2012, at the age of 87, the "Family Falls" issue remained unresolved.

His fight is not forgotten. Inspired by Drawson's books, Tom Kloster followed Drawson's footsteps to Family Falls in the early 2000s. The pictures he took, and website he created, brought the area to life for a new generation of Oregon waterfall hunters.

Now Kloster is planning to take another run at the Oregon Geographic Names Board, seeking to right an old wrong by changing "Henline Falls" to "Drawson Falls," and "Henline Creek" to "Family Creek."

"I believe that maps should contain a living history," said Kloster, who lives in Portland. "A lot of the names the Forest Service applied are a little static. I think that names should be updated with people who've had a positive impact in more re-



Maynard Drawson, right, was best known for big tree hunting, along with Oliver V. Matthews, seen here in a picture from the 1970s. PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPITOL JOURNAL ARCHIVES

cent times, and I think Maynard fits that category very well."

## Oregon's original ramblin' man

Maybe it was the quiet of the forest that made Drawson love the Pacific Northwest so strongly.

After three and a half years in the Navy and World War II — where he fought in the Pacific Theater and the Battle of Iwo Jima — perhaps the sweet sound of silence was a welcome reprieve.

"He never talked about his time in the war very much," his son Mark Drawson said. "I just know he loved the outdoors."

Once Maynard Drawson returned to Salem, settling with his wife, Dee Drawson, and raising seven children, he decided that exploring every corner of the "Oregon Country" was the life that suited him.

He was a barber by trade, but as one newspaper pointed out, he was no typical coiffeur.

Anyone who came into his barbershop at 864 Commercial St. SE would have seen a unique sign that said:

Monday ... The Lord's Day

Tuesday ... The Barber's Day

Wednesday ... Maynard's Day

Drawson took those Thursdays to travel anywhere and everywhere, visiting ghost towns and recording their history, searching out old-timers and pumping them for information about where to find the largest trees. Drawson discovered multiple "champion trees" — the largest of their species in Oregon — and submitted them to the Big Tree Registry of the American Forestry Association.

"Maynard had what you'd call the 'gift of gab,'" Mark Drawson said. "He could walk up to anyone — politicians in Salem or some guy on the street — and start a conversation. That was how he learned about so many of the places he wrote about. Just talking to people."

While trees were his forte, it was photography that brought him into the realm of Family Falls.

One day in the mid- to late-1960s — no one can quite agree on the year — Drawson and his friend Jerry Morey were visiting 126-foot Henline Falls, a well-known cascade northeast of Salem that is still popular today.

Drawson wanted a better picture, so the duo scrambled up the steep, forest-choked cliffs to the waterfall's top. After snapping a few photos, he gazed upstream, into the wild upper reaches of Henline Creek.

Something about it called out to him.

"We noticed the area

was wild and pristine, surprisingly free of signs of man, or litter of any kind," Drawson wrote in "Treasures of the Oregon country."

Bushwhacking upstream, through thick forest and steep cliffs, Drawson and Morey discovered one waterfall after the next, eventually reaching seven never-before-mapped cataracts, all clustered within one mile of each other in the narrow canyon.

They ranged in size from 23 feet to 79 feet, as impressive as any of Oregon's more famous falls, yet they were totally wild, what Silver Falls State Park might have looked like 500 years ago.

At first Drawson didn't think much of his discovery. The falls were impressive enough, he figured, that they would be difficult to miss, especially in a landscape marked by mining.

Yet the more research Drawson did — which included looking at the original survey map of Henline Creek from 1874 — and the more people he talked to, the quicker he became convinced that nobody had ever documented the falls. He took a host of notable people to view the falls, including Forest Service rangers and managers. All were surprised by what they found.

His next step was to measure each of the falls. He actually brought his children — including 7-year-old Mark — into the canyon to see the waterfalls he'd named after them.

"We were rugged little kids, so it really wasn't a big deal for us to hike into a place like that, even though it was pretty rough," Mark Drawson said. "He loaded us up and off we went. We went on adventures with him all the time."

Maynard ordered each waterfall to correspond with the ages of his children. The tallest waterfall was named Jerry Falls, for Jerry Morey. The next tallest falls, at 58 and 55 feet, became Dan and Steve falls, his two eldest boys. Dave (40 feet), Ron (37), Mark (29) and Jackie (23) came next.

The smallest feature in the canyon wasn't actually a waterfall, but more of a slide. It became Deanna's Slide, for Drawson's 3-year-old daughter.

Later, Drawson had a sign painted that said "FAMILY FALLS" with the name and height of each. With his family in tow, they carried a ladder to the ridge above the canyon of Henline Falls and tacked the sign on a tree, Drawson wrote.

Having the names tacked to a tree still didn't make them official, and Drawson faced increasingly stiff headwinds to have his find officially recognized.

He attended multiple meetings of the Oregon Geographic Names Board to little avail. They rejected naming the waterfalls for his children, since his children were alive and a new name can only be included for someone who is deceased.

Countless trips to the waterfalls, with bureaucrats and officials, members of the Forest Service and the OGNB, were to little avail. The board rejected even the name Family Falls.

"I have been asked to work with the Forest Service to pick APPROPRIATE names," Drawson wrote, "names which will again be considered within the due process of the OGNB. Some feel the name Family Falls is a good choice, as do I."

The area remained unnamed, and the issue largely forgotten until the 21st century.

## Rediscovery of Family Falls

Tom Kloster grew up reading every page of

Drawson's books.

The Portland native remembers coming across volumes of "Treasures of the Oregon Country" in his junior high library, around 1975, and not being able to put them down.

"I remember checking them over and over again, just poring over every chapter," Kloster said. "They were just fascinating and easy to read, in this fun, narrative style. Family Falls stuck in my mind because of that picture of all the kids holding the sign with the height of the waterfalls. It made me want to go there someday."

He would get his chance.

Starting in the 1980s, Kloster became a self-described waterfall hunter, the type who looks for waterfalls far from the beaten path. He explored the Salmon River Gorge in 1983 and his obsession continued, as he explored hidden cascades in the Columbia River Gorge and around Mount Hood.

By 2002, Kloster turned his attention to Family Falls. The only information he had was Drawson's old guide book, which doesn't provide much detail other than climbing above Henline Falls and then bushwhacking upstream.

On June 8, 2002, Kloster and three others set off.

"After planning the trip for years, I had prepared myself for the possibility that the waterfalls would be less than impressive," Kloster wrote on a blog and website devoted to Family Falls. "But as we climbed above Henline Falls, and into the secret upper canyon, we were awed by the pristine beauty and spectacular waterfalls."

His first trip yielded five waterfalls, but he would return multiple times and eventually develop an entire website devoted to Drawson and Family Falls. Kloster created a tip sheet, simple map and guide, helping a new generation of motivated photographers and canyoneers discover Family Falls.

Kloster even got a chance to meet Drawson and show him the website. They met at White's Restaurant in Salem, where Drawson had become such a fixture over the years that the menu includes "Maynard's Meatloaf."

"I loaded my laptop and showed him the website — he loved it!" Kloster said. "He didn't remember much about his Family Falls trips, but he had a pretty salty sense of humor about it, saying he'd have to be dead before they'd name a waterfall after him."

## The plan

The rules for renaming a landmark in Oregon — when it comes to an individual — are fairly straightforward.

The person must be deceased for at least five years, a person's surname is preferred and that person must have some historic connection or have made a significant contribution to the local area.

Kloster believes all of those circumstances will apply to Drawson in 2017, the five-year anniversary of his death.

While he concedes it would be difficult to get the waterfalls named for Drawson's children — they are still alive, after all — he envisions naming two landmarks in Maynard's honor.

Henline Falls, the popular 126-foot waterfall that launched the expedition, would become "Drawson Falls." And Henline Creek, where the Family Falls collection of cascades is located, would become "Family Creek."

"You couldn't even say we were disrespecting Mr. Henline," Kloster

said. "There would still be a mountain named for him right there."

(Mr. Henline, according to the brief information in "Oregon Geographic Names," was an "early settler who was interested in a mining enterprise nearby.")

Kloster will likely face an uphill challenge.

Phil Cogswell, the current president of the OGNB, said existing names are rarely changed, except when a derogatory name is involved. In recent years, for example, there has been movement to change the name of places that carry the name "Squaw," a denigrating word used for Native American females.

"There is a pretty firm policy about changing established names, unless the name is derogatory or redundant — like there were two Elk Creeks within a few miles of each other," Cogswell said. "That said, every proposal is considered on its merits and maybe there is a good case to be made here. We'll never say no, and we're always happy to help people navigate the process."

Cogswell said Kloster, were he included, would have a difficult time applying the name "Family Falls" to the hidden waterfalls as well, because they now reside in a federal wilderness area, where naming new features is discouraged. Cogswell emphasized that these were federal policies, and OGNB only makes recommendations to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which makes final decisions.

Kloster said he's OK with the difficulty.

"I always like a challenge, especially when it's against an entity like OGNB!" Kloster said. "My back up plan might be legislation, and I do think I could pull that off, too."

Despite the naming issues, one thing few people debate is Drawson's impact on Oregon, and you don't have to look much farther than the Oregon Department of Forestry building in Salem for evidence. An 18-foot-tall Oregon white oak is planted in Drawson's honor, celebrating his many accomplishments in forest conservation.

Drawson is widely credited with preserving the Valley of the Giants, a 50-acre patch of Coast Range forest home to some of Oregon's largest and oldest trees. And, he helped inspire the Oregon Heritage Tree Program, which now has an award named in his honor, the Maynard Drawson Memorial Award.

"It not only carries on his name but carries on his mission — acquainting folks with the rich tree history we have in this state," Al Tocchini of the Oregon Heritage Tree Program committee told the Statesman Journal in November 2015.

In the end, Drawson will likely be most remembered for his love of trees. But one day almost 50 years ago, he also made a discovery that changed the course of history for those waterfall hunters crazy enough to make their way to Family Falls.

**Postscript:** Despite Kloster's efforts and some early momentum, the Family Falls remain a blank spot on the map and not much has changed in the years since this story was published.

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# Obituaries

## Timothy Butsch

**MT. ANGEL** - Tim Butsch passed away May 6, 2020. He was 79. Born February 2, 1941 in Mt. Angel Oregon to Norbert and Dorothy (Miller) Butsch. Tim grew up in Mt. Angel, graduating from Mt. Angel Prep all boys School and then joining the Navy where he worked on submarines in Hawaii and the San Diego bay. After 4 years in the Navy, he returned home and met the love of his life, Mary Ellen Bates, who was attending Mt. Angel College. The two were married a short time after and spent the next 51 years together until Mary Ellen's passing last year. Tim worked at Yoder as a mechanic before becoming part owner in the 70's of the Mt. Angel Foundry, where he spent the rest of his career as a Foundryman. Tim is preceded in death by his parents and brother Paul and is survived by his sisters Carol and Mary, and brother Mark; son Norbert, daughter Joan and her husband Jeff and 5 adoring grandkids, Nathan, Emily, Andrew, Henry and Albert. A private service will be held May 13, 2020 at Calvary Cemetery. Arrangements by Unger Funeral Chapel- Mt. Angel.



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