

# History of the Hippies of Takilma

By  
**Kindi Fahrnkopf**  
*IVN Contributing Writer*

## Part 7-The Takilma Forge and Stories from Jim

People like Jim R. were coming from college degrees, professional lives, and trading them in for humble digs in Takilma. Jim was a producer of classical records, who, bored with his job, took off for Pennsylvania to learn blacksmithing. That summer of 1974 he headed west, and stumbled on the town of Takilma after driving all the way through to Sun Star at night, in hopes of finding his friends. The mythical place, Sun Star was akin to a Shangri-la for hippies and had attracted many people with tales of its remote beauty. Jim lived at Sun Star until 1978.

The next few years were times of big changes, as hippies were slowly assimilated into the Illinois Valley. Jim recalled one event which really affected how people perceived the police. “John Boy and his friend were riding their motorcycle on 199 near O’Brien one day, when a carload of Orange County deputies on their way to a convention ran them off the road. Well, they went back to the pay phone in O’Brien and called the Sheriff with their report and gave a description and even a license number. Well, sure enough, those guys were arrested on their way back to Grants Pass and they said, ‘but they’re just some hippies!’” to which the Sheriff replied, ‘Oh yeah, well you can do whatever you want to your hippies, but these are OUR hippies and you’re not gonna hurt em!!!’” It seemed that hippies were finding some unexpected allies.

During those early years Jim met Delbert who was keeping his mules up in the Sun Star barn. Soon they traded their skills and Jim was shoeing horses for Delbert. Jim recalls his first job in Takilma. “Yusef wanted a bracket made for his wooden butcher block table, and he wanted to trade me some elk hides for it. I later made my bellows out of those hides.” Soon Sun Star became “like a three ring circus”, and he was invited to come to TA’s land and start a commune there. “The very next day, I was building the shop at TA’s (which is still there) and everything I owned was moved there. I also helped build another little log cabin there,” said Jim.

Soon Jim acquired an apprentice; Michael L. from Magic Forest Farm. He found out about some land for sale downtown. Jim recalled, “Michael looked up the number, dialed it and handed the phone to me. Mr. Putlitz owned a prime spot, but couldn’t pass the perk test for a septic system, so he sold it to me for what he paid. I bought it the next day, in 1981.”

Jim continued, “I had been shoeing horses for Delbert for 5 or 6 years and one day, when he heard that I bought this, he came to me, to his credit, and said, would you trade for framing and roofing a

building here? I said, you bet!! The very next day he had a crew over here to start.” Eventually Jim, “made trip after trip in my old Chevy pick-up, to get all those boards with the bark edges from his portable sawmill. The price was right!”

Once the place was built, his rustic, blacksmithing shop made wagon wheels, hinges, fireplace tools, kitchen tools and implements with embellishments of artistic ironwork. Ironically Jim, who lived a life without luxuries in a small cabin added to the back of his shop, still read by candlelight and enjoyed his voluntary simplicity. He was a respected craftsman yet also a talented musician, who played beautiful baroque classical music on the flute, oboe and recorder.

Jim recalls the earliest beginnings of his Jefferson Baroque Orchestra. “I was visiting friends the first winter in Sun Star, who’d come up from Santa Barbara and I knew that they were both musicians. So I found some of my old sheet music and took it to Steve and Sher’s cabin and asked them if they’d like to play, and they said sure. So I taught them this music called “Oh My Heart; a Little Love Song” by Henry VIII. In 15 minutes we were singing it as if we’d been singing it all our lives. So within a year we had added Sue and we had a soprano. Soon we had four of us singing with a repertoire of 40 songs we could sing by heart. So in 1976 we went as a group to the Country Faire and walked right through the gates, singing and in costume and everybody just assumed we belonged. We didn’t buy food the whole three days! Later I started going as a blacksmith.” When asked why he chose to play Baroque music, Jim intoned, “Order; it’s logical, temperate, symmetrical, and at the same time there is an element of freedom and improvisation in it,” as he showed me his beautiful hand-built harpsichord.

No stranger to hard work, Jim was one of the earliest volunteers at the new Takilma Fire Station, built in the early 80’s. When asked how it was that the station got built, Jim recounted the strange events leading up to that. “There was a time when the Sheriff’s Department was doing a lot of busts for marijuana. This particular year, they had started using a lot of reserve deputies, who were basically volunteers who had no discipline whatsoever, and would just go in and tear a place apart” said Jim. So, “When the word got out that a couple carloads of deputies had gone up Duval’s Road to bust Dan K., about 200 very angry hippies blockaded the road, so they couldn’t get out. They thought they were doomed, and they called for help. About two hours later, (it took awhile to marshal all their resources and call for the Fire District) after this long motorcade passed to go up there, the obstacles were put back on the road. It then took them another two to three hours to get out of town. I remember there were four or five deputies, with shotguns at port arms, facing this angry crowd, walking backwards and just scared to death. One of the hippies walked up to one of these scared deputies and points a finger at him and said,

‘I smoked dope with you!’ And someone else said, ‘Yeah, immature bud’, because everybody knew that the stuff they confiscated, well very little of it ended up as evidence.”

Jim continued his story, “A week later they did the same thing again and again. The Sheriff’s Department in those raids spent two years of budget and overtime, because it cost so much. Meanwhile Chief Yanase, was just furious at getting involved in this. The very next day he was at the Clinic apologizing and they got to talking about how the Fire District could better serve Takilma. So the Chief mentioned E. Dittman, a gentleman who had a place right on the SW corner of Four Corners. He had a little triangle of property that he was willing to give to the Fire District. So after talking to Dr. Jim and the people at the Clinic, the Fire District decided to accept that offer and build a station there. Chief Yanase refuted the Sheriff’s actions and placed himself entirely on the side of our community. So that was how the station got built, and when the rigs arrived there were quite a group of people who were volunteers from Takilma.” From that time on, until the Fire of ’87 Jim R. was a volunteer fire fighter, and served as Captain for two years.

*Author Kindi Fahrnkopf is a poet and flower child of the 60s who has lived in Takilma for 33 years. She moved to Cave Junction in 1979 with her husband and two little children to open the Cave’s Cobbler shoe repair and Birkenstock shop.*



Jim R. blacksmithing at the Country Faire. (Photo Courtesy of Jim Rich)

## Dutch Bros to donate all sales to Muscular Dystrophy Friday

Grants Pass, Ore. (April 26, 2013) — Friday, May 3, is MDA Day, when all Dutch Bros. Coffee locations company-wide will donate all proceeds to the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), the world leader in fighting Lou Gehrig’s disease, also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

The event kicks off ALS Awareness Month and is held annually in honor of company co-founder, Dane Boersma, who was diagnosed with ALS in 2005 and passed away in late 2009. All Dutch Bros. Coffee locations company-wide will be donating all proceeds.

Dane’s memory continues to inspire everyone within the company to give their all every day. On MDA Day, all employees and loved ones proudly wear and proclaim the event slogan, “Drink One for Dane.”

“We all knew him as The Wiseman,” says Travis Boersma, surviving brother and company co-founder. “He lives on today...through our business, through his efforts, and just how he did what he did.”

Last year, Dutch Bros. contributed a record-breaking \$174,000 to MDA for research and family services funding. Since becoming involved with MDA in 2007, Dutch Bros. has donated over \$625,000.

ALS is a disease that affects the parts of the nervous system that control voluntary muscle movement. There is no cure for ALS, and most people with ALS die within three to five years. To learn more about the MDA and ALS, visit [mda.org](http://mda.org).

There are 31 Dutch Bros. Coffee locations in the Rogue Valley and 198 locations company-wide. To find the location nearest you, visit [www.dutchbros.com/locations](http://www.dutchbros.com/locations), or download the new Dutch Bros. Coffee iPhone app.

If you can’t make it by a stand on May 3, supporters may also make donations at [danesdrive.org](http://danesdrive.org).

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Celebrate National Women's Health Week: May 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2013

# Women's Health Day

Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 2013  
Wellness for women and teen girls

**Schedule:**

- 10:00-10:20: Health for Aging Women: Pat Jenkins RN
- 10:25-10:45: Relationship Basics: Nicole Rensenbrink LCSW
- 10:50-11:05: Breast Health: Joya Feltzin, Nurse Practitioner
- 11:10-11:40: Stress Release through Yoga: Lindsey Gillette RYT
- 11:45-12:00: Preconception Health: Ida Madsen RN
- 12:05-12:50: Healthy Lunch: Health Coach Lisa Rhode
- 12:50-1:20: Truths about Girls: readings and research by Nicole Rensenbrink
- 1:25-1:45: Natural hair and nail care: Becky Boatman of Tropical Island Tans
- 1:50-2:10: Natural Skin Care: Carmen Burgess
- 2:15-3:00: Self Defense for Women and Girls: Martial Artist Jody Conrad M.S.

**FREE!**

Contributions Welcome!

*Supervised play area available for young children.  
Please call 541-592-4888 with any questions.*

**Presented by:**  
**Illinois Valley Counseling and Support 535 E. River St. Cave Junction**  
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