

SMITH ROCK | BIRTHPLACE OF NORTH AMERICAN SPORT CLIMBING

VERTICAL PIONEERS

BY CRISTINA PETERSON
For The Spokesman

Rock climbers today follow established routes up a wall. In sport climbing, bolts provide protection from long falls so climbers clip into them. A route typically ends at a set of anchors that the climber also clips into and then lowers back to the ground. Guidebooks and websites provide maps and descriptions of routes so climbers can choose which ones to try.

But how are these routes found? And who equips them with the bolts and anchors? Route developers put in the hard work, often spending several days to establish a new route and their own money to purchase the gear.

They are the pioneers of the vertical world, and the rest of the climbing community enjoys the result of their labor.

Alan Watts, local legend and author of "Rock Climbing Smith Rock State Park," started climbing at Smith Rock in 1975.

There weren't many routes back then, and he quickly climbed all of them. He wanted better and harder routes, so he started developing more himself.

Just a few local climbers comprised the climbing community then, and they all knew one another well and climbed together often.

New routes were established by giving feedback and coming to a consensus about local ethics and best practices. This small group of extremely dedicated and talented climbers created the first, and some of the hardest, sport climbs in North America. Their legacy and reputation are known internationally.

In the decades since, Smith Rock and climbing have only grown in popularity. Climbers from around the world come to Smith to try these iconic routes. The increase in climbers brings unique challenges, including overcrowding at the state park. Some local climbers tire of the busy scene in main areas of the park. This led to a resurgence of route development at Smith Rock and in the broader Central Oregon area.

Alan Collins' father climbed at Smith in the 1990s and developed new routes. Inspired by his dad, Collins knew he wanted to develop his own routes, too. He started to explore different areas of Smith Rock where there were few

or no routes and fewer people. He discovered that a lot more rock in the area could be climbed.

"I went out with my dad to learn how to start the overwhelming process of developing a new route," Collins said.

A lot goes into establishing a new rock climb. Aimee Roseborough, another long-time climber in the Central Oregon scene, said she spends a lot of time staring at rock walls. She looks for interesting features that look climbable, then fixes a rope from the top and rappels down to see if the line could be climbed. That's just the beginning though.

If the route looks good, developers then clean off any loose rock and decide where to put bolts and anchors.

Roseborough learned from a mentor and said "the relationship is incredibly invaluable because there are a lot of intricacies to route development. The decisions you have to make about where the bolts go to make a safe and enjoyable route are quite involved."

Roseborough has been climbing for over 20 years and never thought she'd enjoy route development because it's so much work. But she discovered, "the work is extremely rewarding. It's a nice way to give back to the climbing community." Collins and Roseborough both said the community is what they loved about climbing in Central Oregon.

Collins said, "The people keep me stoked."

And Roseborough feels "there are really enthusiastic climbers and developers here," she said. "You could even say some of us developers are irrationally exuberant, but sometimes that's what it takes to get hard work done."

Roseborough is well aware rock is a limited resource.

"We put a lot of thought into the routes we develop, and we care about the environment in Central Oregon,"



Aimee Roseborough/Submitted photo

Dave McRae puts in the work for developing a route at Smith Rock.

she said. "It requires a lot of time and effort to develop quality routes and we're not just putting up bolts unnecessarily."

Watts feels he's been "lucky to play a role in the route de-

velopment here," he said. And he's "proud of how influential climbing in Central Oregon has been in America and to the rest of the world."

Reporter: 541-383-0349, djasper@bendbulletin.com

SOLUTION

Crossword on A2

S	N	A	P	A	B	A	F	T	T	O	O	T
P	E	S	O	S	A	M	O	A	W	A	R	Y
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C	A	R	A	T	D	A	I	L	S	O	S	O
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L	O	N	E	H	A	E	C	L	A	N	G	E
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S	T	E	T	T	O	R	T	S	S	E	E	S

OBITUARY



Elizabeth (Liz) Larrie (Reed) Scanlon

September 14, 1933 - June 27, 2022

Elizabeth was born in Haines to Iva E. (Loftus) Reed and John L. Reed. Liz grew up in various logging camps on Yamsey Mountain, Grand Round Island, Forest Grove Dayton and near Deep Creek. She also attended school in Chiloquin near Ft. Klamath. The family later lived in Prineville where Liz graduated from CCHS in 1951.

Liz is survived by two children, Steve (Lisa) Scanlon of Redmond and Jamie (Steve) Scanlon-kanski of Everett, Wa. She is also survived by grandchildren Joshua(Dara) Capehart, Randa(Lance)Bechtel, Travis(Angie) Maze, Andy Kanski, and Tony(Cassie)Kanski, Liz has 14 great-grandchildren. Her siblings all predeceased her: Jim and Ray, Lovetha, Ruth, Irene, and Edith.

Liz lived an exciting and rewarding life as an Air Force wife, through Boeing assignments, and other positions held by husband James B. Scanlon who passed in 1997. She lived in Japan, Malta, Saudia Arabia, Iran, South Korea, California, Oregon, and Washington. She volunteered through the years for Soroptimist of Redmond, the church, Humane Society of Redmond, Pet Evacuation Team, SVDP Redmond, and Jericho Table.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Pet Evacuation Team - P.O. Box 5171, Bend, Or. 97708; or Jericho Table- 205 NW 4th, Redmond, Oregon 97756. No service will be held.

SOLUTION

Sudoku on A2

6	5	3	2	8	7	9	4	1
8	2	9	4	5	1	3	7	6
1	4	7	3	6	9	2	8	5
4	7	1	9	2	3	5	6	8
5	8	2	7	1	6	4	3	9
9	3	6	5	4	8	7	1	2
2	9	8	1	7	4	6	5	3
7	1	5	6	3	2	8	9	4
3	6	4	8	9	5	1	2	7

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Father Todd Unger, Pastor

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First Saturday 8:00 am (English)

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Probate Department Case No. 22PB05972

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

In the Matter of the ESTATE OF MARTHA SUE FLYNN, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that KELLY P. RAEL has been appointed as Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned attorney for Personal Representative at 1865 NW 169th Place, Suite 202, Beaverton, OR 97006 within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, Personal Representative or the attorney for Personal Representative. Kelly P. Rael Personal Representative Meredith L. Williamson (085922) Attorney for Personal Representative NW Estate Law, LLC 1865 NW 169th Place, Suite 202 Beaverton, OR 97006 DATED and first published: July 12, 2022.

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