

STARTING AT THE ROOTS

‘Swedes in Oregon’ features stories of local Swedish immigrants

BY ALYSSA EVANS

Oregon’s first Swedish-born immigrants started settling in the 1850s.

Now, about 170 years later, the stories of these first immigrants and their successive generations are being told in a new book.

“Swedes in Oregon,” released this week, is the newest “Images of America” book, which features several historical photos, maps and recounts of Swedish immigrants.

The book’s authors, David A. Anderson and Ann Baudin Stuller, are president and secretary for Swedish Roots in Oregon, an organization that researches and preserves the history of Swedish immigrants in Oregon. The organization decided to create the book after hosting an exhibit two years ago featuring historical photographs of Swedish immigrants.

Join Coast Weekend’s book club

Coast Weekend is launching a book club and you’re invited to participate.

Read ‘Swedes in Astoria’ before Dec. 14, then tune into Coast Weekend’s Facebook page at 6 p.m. for a live interview and Q&A session with the book’s authors, Ann Baudin Stuller and David A. Anderson.

After the interview, submit your questions through the event’s chat, to be answered by Stuller and Anderson.

The book is available at bit.ly/2lcAtmU.

“The response was very positive. People were asking, ‘Can we have a book for this?’” Stuller said.

The group plans to host the exhibit again once it can safely be done, Anderson said.

Many photographs from the exhibit are included in the book.

“We had the photos from the exhibit, which was a good foundation. Then, it was a matter of looking for more,” Anderson said. “We got in contact with different people who had private collections and checked eBay periodically for photos and postcards.”

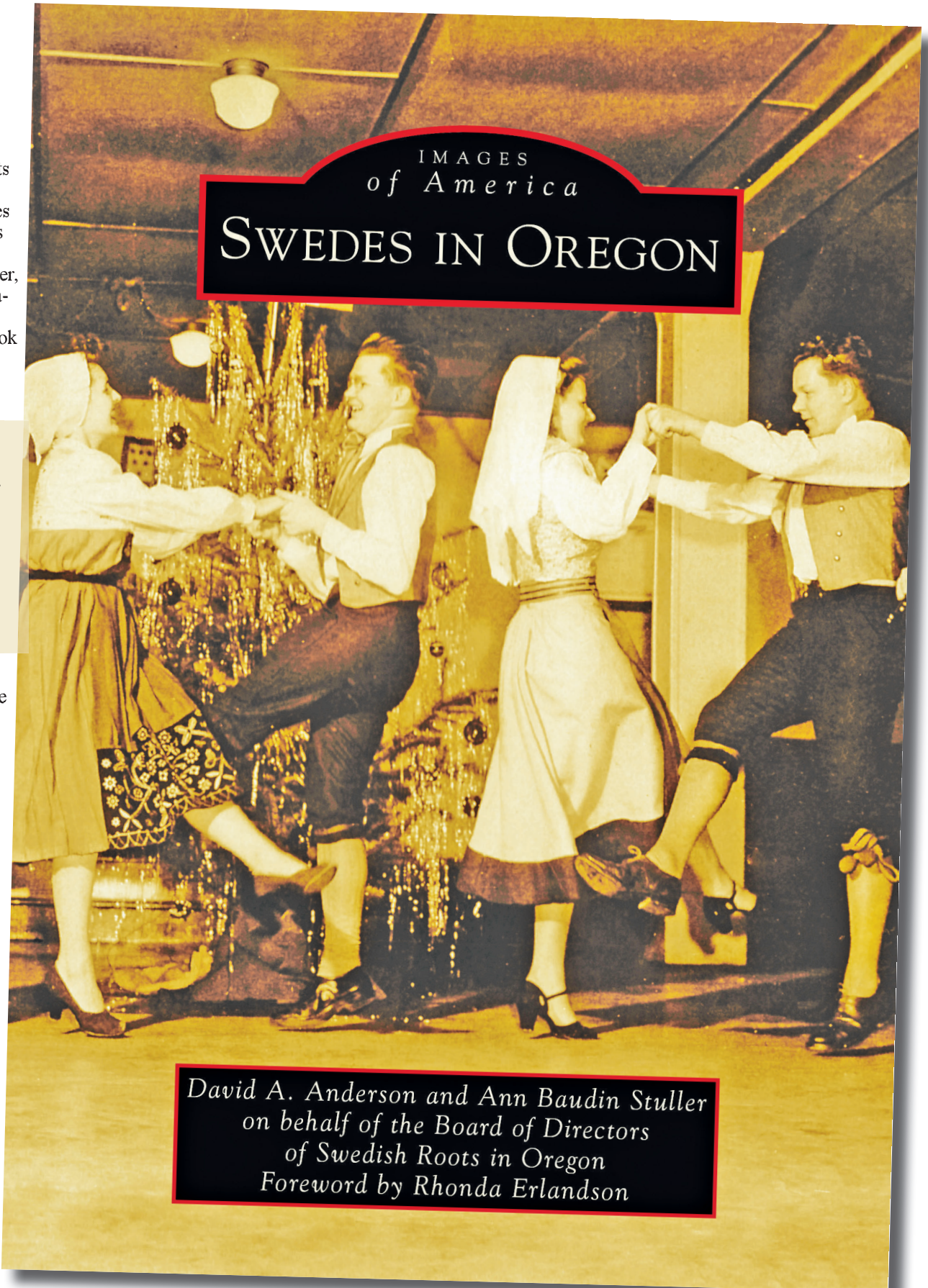
“We also dugged in family albums. Swedish Roots has an archive so David and I both went through that like tooth and comb, pulling out additional photos,” Stuller added.

The authors

The Swedish Roots group has published booklets and four books, in addition to the exhibit. Anderson previously published a book about Mount St. Helens for the same publishing company, Arcadia Publishing, that published “Swedes in Oregon,” which helped connect the organization and the publishing company.

“It felt kind of natural to do a book with photographs and tell a story through a pretty wide variety of photos from private collections and different historical societies,” Anderson said.

Stuller is a former modern language instructor. She also is an artist, a skill that came to use with one of the photos inside the book.



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