



The Chatterbox

BMD Daze: Where to go and what to do!

BY BETTY KAISER
For the Sentinel

Howdy, folks! Welcome to Bohemia Mining Days here in beautiful Cottage Grove, Oregon. This weekend, we're putting out the welcome mat for everyone to come and enjoy some good old-fashioned fun. It doesn't matter whether you're a born-and-bred Grover or a first time visitor—you're going to enjoy some great history and hospitality.

Bohemia Mining Days celebrates the discovery of gold in them 'thar hills southeast of Cottage Grove in 1863. Legend has it that two men (fleeing from Roseburg after killing an Indian) made their way into the Calapooya Mountains, where they accidentally found gold while skinning a buck. And the rest, as they say...is history.

Eventually an area called Bohemia City was established as miners began the hard work of picking out a living. In the early 1900s they even had a few parades to celebrate their mining efforts. Then, in 1955, a really big 10-day celebration honored the 100-year birthday of the settlement of C.G. A parade precedent was established.

"Radio Ray" Nelson (who loved the mining life) is credited with stirring up interest to celebrate Oregon's Statehood Centennial in 1959. To help with financing the event, he founded the "Prospectors and Goldiggers Club" to be a booster group for mining. He soon became known as "Bohemia Ray." Nearly 60 years later, the financial backing, traditions and enthusiasm of this event are still reflected in to-

day's Bohemia Mining Days.

Of course, there have been changes. The entire event has certainly grown since Chuck and I rolled into town in the late 1980s. As I recall, some activities such as carnival rides, food vendors and other concessions were located in a dusty field in what is now WalMart's parking lot. I also remember a year when the carnival rides were set up in the old Madonna property located off Highway 99—a long walk from Main Street and Bohemia City.

And speaking of walking, the free BMD Express Train will once again be offering rides along the Main Street route from Coiner Park (Bohemia City) to the carnival rides at Bohemia Park and the Opal/All America Square. The Express will also go to Trinity Lutheran's chicken dinner and First Presbyterian's ice cream social. Times vary so check the printed schedule.

The festivities actually begin this evening (Wednesday) at Bohemia Park Amphitheater with a free show. "The Fret Boy—Al Bennett," will be performing classic rock. Seating is limited, so bring some folding chairs or a blanket for the grass and rock on!

Thursday afternoon from 3-9 p.m., Bohemia City opens in Coiner Park. First there is an opening ceremony. Then, the sky's the limit: Every day there's a "Cultural Stage" talk, musical performances, pony and camel rides, an antique engines exhibit, food and drink vendors, a beer and wine garden and on Thursday only, a miner's dinner near the basketball court. It ends when steaks run out!

On Friday, there are some additions: the Kiddie Parade will scamper through downtown; a family friendly melodrama will entertain at Cottage Theatre, 700 Village Dr., on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Cost \$7. The Oregon Aviation History Center will be open along with the Bohemia Gold Mining Museum and CG Historical Museum. A Gold Rush 5K night run or walk through town begins at 9 p.m. at Washington and Sixth Street. Cost \$20-\$30.

The Ice Cream Social and Quilt Show is one of BMD's oldest events. The quilt show opens at noon on Friday at First Presbyterian Church, Adams and Second Street. Then, from 4-8 p.m., homemade cakes, brownies, pies and a choice of ice cream are dished up. Proceeds benefit the FPC youth music program and Community Sharing. Cost: \$1.50 kids; \$3.50 adults.

Saturday, of course, is the really big show (as Ed Sullivan used to say). The eagerly awaited Grand Miner's Parade starts off at 10 a.m. As of this writing I don't have a float schedule, so the line-up will be a surprise! But you can count on the parade beginning with a Color Guard procession followed by bands, batons, dogs, horses, old cars, music, people of all ages and floats decorated from the ridiculous to the sublime. It always ends with the wail of fire engines.

Then, if you're brave, you might want to check out times to compete in one of the feud contests. For many years, the Lemati Gang re-enacted an original running feud from the late 19th century. They enter-

tained BMD audiences with their western themed shoot-outs, hangings and jailbreaks. This is the third year of the resurrection of "The Slabtown vs Lemati Feud." Feud contests range from the ridiculous to the sublime on the Gazebo stage.

Saturday also features some great food. In addition to corn dogs, curly fries and cotton candy (I hope!), there's a chuck wagon breakfast from 7-11 a.m. in Bohemia City. An always-fabulous BBQ chicken dinner plate at Trinity Lutheran Church runs from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. or whenever chicken runs out!

Sunday at 6 a.m., the 51st Annual Miners Breakfast on the Mountain will begin. It's a great grab to not only get some grub but appreciate the scenery up the winding road to the Bohemia Mining District, 40 miles SE of Cottage Grove. The breakfast ends at 1 p.m. but the fun goes on in town at Bohemia City until closing at 5 p.m.

So, there you have it. It's BMD! Time to celebrate the colorful and rich history of Cottage Grove with your family and friends. A full three days of celebration of carnival rides, history, melodramas, food, musical entertainment, cherry seed spitting and beard growing contests. There's something for everyone. Don't miss it!

Betty Kaiser's Chatterbox is about people, places, family, and other matters of the heart. Contact her at 942-1317 or via e-mail — bchatty@bettykaiser.com

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Worship Directory

<p>6th & Gibbs Church of Christ 195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822 Pastor: Aaron Earlywine Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey Services: 9am and 10:30am Christian Education Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade www.6thandgibbs.com</p>	<p>Cottage Grove Bible Church 1200 East Quincy Avenue 541-942-4771 Pastor: Bob Singer Worship: 8:30am, 11am Sunday School: 9:45am Youth Group Mondays 6:30pm AWANA age 3-8th Grade, Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm www.cgbible.org</p>	<p>First Presbyterian Church 3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479 Pastor: Rev. Bruce Cameron Worship: 10:00am Sunday School: 10:00am www.cgpresbynews.com</p>	<p>Old Time Gospel Fellowship 103 S. 5th Street • 541-942-4999 Pastor: Herb Carson Sunday Service: 10:00am Sunday Bible Study: 6:00pm We sing the old time hymns.</p>	<p>United Methodist Church 334 Washington • 541-942-3033 Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen Worship: 10:30am Adult & Sunday School: 9:30am Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free) Mon. 5-6:30pm cottagegroveumc.org</p>
<p>Calvary Baptist Church 77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290 Pastor: Riley Hendricks Sunday School: 9:45am Worship: 11:00am The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm</p>	<p>Cottage Grove Faith Center 33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851 Lead Pastor: Isaac Hovet www.cg4.tv Sumer Schedule Sunday, Service - 10am Full Children's Ministry available</p>	<p>Grove Community Church 77820 Mosby Creek Rd. Cottage Grove, OR 97424 541-942-0123 Pastor: Bryan Parsons Worship: 10:30 a.m. Nursery: Infant - Pre-K Kid's Church: K to 5th grade</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches 1025 N. 19th St. 541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712 Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J. Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm Sun. 10:30am St. Philip Benizi, Creswell: 552 Holbrook Lane • 541-895-8686 Sunday: 8:30am</p>	<p>"VICTORY" Country Church 913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913 Pastor: Barbara Dockery Worship Service: 10:00am Message: 11:00am "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"</p>
<p>Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove 1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza) 541-942-6842 Pastor: Jeff Smith Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am Wednesday Service 6:45 pm Child Care 10:45am Service Only Youth Group Bible Study: Wed. 6:45 pm & Sat. 6 pm www.cgcvalvary.org</p>	<p>Covered Bridge Nazarene Church 152 S. M St. 541-942-4422 Pastor: Cindy Slaymaker Sunday School: 9:30am Worship 10:30am</p>	<p>Hope Fellowship United Pentecostal Church 100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061 Pastor: Dave Bragg Worship: 11:00am Sunday Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday www.hopefellowshipupc.com "FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"</p>	<p>St. Andrews Episcopal Church 1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050 Rev. Lawrence Crumb "Church with the flags." Worship: Sunday 10:30am All Welcome</p>	<p>Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, please contact the Cottage Grove Sentinel at 541-942-3325.</p>
<p>Center for Spiritual Living Cottage Grove 700 Gibbs Ave (Community Center) Rev. Bobby Lee Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m. Info: 541-767-0182 (Mrs. "T")</p>	<p>Delight Valley Church of Christ 33087 Saginaw Rd. East 541-942-7711 Pastor: Bob Friend Two Services: 9am - Classic in the Chapel 10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium</p>	<p>Living Faith Assembly 467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612 Pastor Rulon Combs Sunday School All Ages 9am Worship & Children's Church 10:30 am "The Bridge" Saturday Evening Service 6:00pm Youth ABLAZE: Wed. 6:30pm Children's Breakout Class: Wed. 6:30pm</p>	<p>Seventh-day Adventist Church 820 South 10th Street 541-942-5213 Pastor: Kevin Miller Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm</p>	
<p>Church of Christ 420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565 Sunday Service: 10:30am</p>	<p>First Baptist Church 301 S 6th St 541-942-8242 Pastor: Steve Johnson Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11:00am Come Worship with us</p>	<p>Non-Denominational Church of Christ 1041 Pennoyer Ave * 541-767-0447 Preachers: Tony Martin & Robert Evans Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm www.pennoyeravcoc.com</p>	<p>Trinity Lutheran Church 6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373 Pastor: James L. Markus Sunday Worship 9:30am Adult Education 10:45am Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups trinitylutherancottagegrove.com</p>	