

## YESTERYEAR

## Actor Kurt Russell signs with Bend ball team in 1971

Compiled by the Deschutes County Historical Society from the archived copies of The Bulletin at the Deschutes Historical Museum

## 100 YEARS AGO

For the week ending  
May 8, 1921

## Husband given up for dead in war surprises 'widow'

Late in the fall of 1918, Mrs. Ed Ackton, then of Big Timber, Montana, received word from Washington, D.C., that her husband, in the government service, was recorded as wounded, then as missing. She gave him up for dead until he arrived in Bend yesterday and found her at the home of Mr. And Mrs. H.K. Brooks, where she has been employed for the past year. Ackton is spending the day in Bend, and leaves tonight to rejoin his ship. His journey to Bend was from New York.

Ackton went into the service at Vancouver barracks, then was transferred, and his wife lost track of him completely, she explained. He had found it just as difficult to keep in touch with her, and at the time she came to Bend from Montana, she believed herself to be a war widow.

## Two towns to be sold at auction to satisfy taxes

Two Central Oregon towns will be sold at auction, according to a notice of Sheriff's sale for taxes posted today. They are Harper and Imperial, and 90 per cent of the lots platted several years ago will be placed on sale. The auction will be held in front of the court house at 10 o'clock, May 21.

## New phone book comes with new numbers for all

A new number for every phone on the Bend exchange of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. is given in the new books, distribution of which is completed tonight. Books have been mailed to every subscriber, says Manager J.L. Gaither, and those who do not get them by tomorrow should inquire at the post office.

"People who have been in the habit of carrying half the phone book in their heads will have to stop it and use the book," Mr. Gaither remarked. It was at first planned to make the change in numbers at the same time as the move to the new exchange, but this plan was given up because of unforeseen delays in opening the new building.

## Circus day opens with snow

The manager of Campbell Bros.' shows was dumbfounded this morning on awakening to open the circus season in Bend to see snow falling on his half-erected canvases. So far as is known, the elephant did not express his opinion.

A number of Bend merchants closed their doors this afternoon to attend the circus.

## 75 YEARS AGO

For the week ending  
May 8, 1946

## Bend plans out parade float

Plans are shaping for the building of a Bend float to enter in the forthcoming Portland Rose Festival parade, it was reported here today by Wilfred Jossy, general chairman of the float committee. He said that tentative drawings of the float have been made and will be taken to Portland for completion by experts.

The float will depict the lofty snow-clad Cascades and feature fishing, hunting and other recreation lures of the region, Jossy said, and show Bend as the center of the vast playground area. The Bend float will be entered in the June 7 parade, in connection with the far-famed festival.

## Big fireball leaves trail in sky

A brilliant meteor streaked toward the horizon east of Bend at about 8:57 o'clock last night, leaving a trail of "blue flame" that remained visible for 20 or 30 seconds, members of the Bend fire department reported this morning. The tailed fireball was observed by Bob Cecil, Vance Barber and Vernon Carlon, fire department members, and Gene McDermott when returning from a fishing trip in the upper Deschutes country.

The four men were driving north about half way between Lava butte and Bend when the fireball, described as huge, was spotted. The meteor was falling at a steep angle, the firemen said. The long tail was bright blue, the observers said, and remained in the sky after the head of the meteor had disappeared in the east.

Just before the fireball disappeared over the eastern horizon, it shed sparks, and became more brilliant, the firemen added.

## 22 radio stations to carry North Unit dedication talks

Dedication on May 18 of the North Unit project will be broadcast over 22 Mutual-Don Lee radio stations, as the first water flows on segregation lands in southern Jefferson county, it was announced here today as final arrangements were completed. The broadcast will be released to stations in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The program will originate

over KBND and will be fed to the other stations on the big network. Representatives from the program department of KALE, Portland will assist the Bend station in the presentation.

The broadcast will start at 2:30 p.m. on May 18, as the Deschutes water, delivered through an irrigation system constructed at an overall cost in excess of \$9,000,000, flows out of the huge canal and into one of the major laterals. This point is about a mile and a half south of Culver, on The Dalles-California highway.

## Headlines

Arabs warn Great Britain Palestine will defend rights — Tojo to enter innocence plea at war trials — Radically new light-weight plastic auto revealed in Detroit — Paralysis of coal strike spreads across U.S. — Alcatraz island prison under siege.

## 50 YEARS AGO

For the week ending  
May 8, 1971

## Disney's Kurt Russell: Actor to play for Rainbows

The local theater won't be the only place that will showcase Hollywood actors in Central Oregon this summer.

Bend's Municipal Ball Park will have at least one actor displaying his talents on its grass this summer as the Bend Rainbows announced today the signing of Disneyland actor Kurt Russell to a baseball contract.

Rainbow general manager Ward Goodrich said today that Russell, a semi-pro player in Los Angeles over the past four summers, will report to Bend in late June upon completion of a movie he is making.

Russell, an actor for 10 years, signed for "a very modest salary and no bonus," according to Goodrich. The 20-year-old Russell has been scouted by San Francisco and St. Louis, and previously indicated he was going to play baseball this summer in the Mexican League.

Goodrich signed Russell for the Hawaii Islanders, who own the Rainbows — the only minor league team in baseball that runs a farm club. Goodrich is an acquaintance of Kurt's father, Bing Russell, and actor on the "Bonanza" series and a former minor league ball player.

Young Russell's decision was not a complete surprise. Base-

ball has been his "first love" for years, and he even had a stipulation put in one of his television contracts that he be through work early enough in the day to play baseball.

He said recently in an interview with The Oregonian: "If I could have everything my way I would play pro baseball and produce movies." Well, maybe the producing will come later. Russell, a second baseman, hit .406 in 58 games last summer in the semi-pro league. Goodrich said Russell can play anywhere in the infield, but probably will stick at second. Russell is now making his sixth movie for Disney Productions, and he played the lead in his latest release, "Barefoot Executive." Other credits include "The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes" and "The Horse in the Gray Flannel Suit."

John Carbray, president of the Northwest League of which Bend is a member told Goodrich that Russell "can be a terrific crowd attraction for the Rainbows and the whole Northwest League."

Rainbows' home season begins June 23 and runs through August 31.

## 25 YEARS AGO

For the week ending  
May 8, 1996

## U.S. boxers train in Bend

The U.S. Olympic Boxing team began its first full day in Bend today with, of course, breakfast, feasting on scrambled eggs, bacon, pastries and fresh fruit at the River Building at the Shilo Inn.

The 12 Olympians and 12 alternates arrived Tuesday evening.

"There's fresh air out here," said coach Al Mitchell. "It doesn't have a lot of distractions. We want them to be aware that no one individual is

bigger than the team. The team is everything. This is where it starts. Right here."

The schedule is still being set, but the boxers will report to a big tent on the Shilo Inn lawn about 2 p.m. each day to train. The team will spar at about 6 p.m. Some of the sparring sessions will be closed, but some will be open as well.

The team, completed April 20 with a box-off in Augusta, Ga., will train in Bend until May 15. It will then head to the Rose Garden in Portland for a May 17 fight with the German Olympic team, which will be televised nationally.

Most of the U.S. boxers grew up in large cities in the East. They have been in Oregon before, to compete in the Pan Am Trials in Portland, but this is their first trip to Bend and their first training camp as members of the U.S. squad.

"It gets us away and gets us focused," said lightweight Terrence Cauthen, who trains at Joe Frazier's Gym in his hometown of Philadelphia. "It means a lot to us to get out here and get prepared."

## Retail complex set for west side

While new stores continue to take Bend's east side by storm — the latest being OfficeMax — the city's west side has remained largely untouched by this retail flurry.

But a development partnership thinks the west side is ready for some retail of its own. Westside Village Associates is about to file land-use documents for a project called Westside Village, to be located on 6.5 acres at the corner of Simpson Avenue and Century Drive.

Although no tenants have signed contracts yet, developers are in discussions with a tenant for a 35,000-square-foot grocery and mercantile

outlet in the heart of the site. They are talking with banks and a sports-oriented family restaurant about two smaller pads with entry drive frontage as well.

Plans also call for a 20,800-square-foot building housing a group of small shops, freestanding quarters for a new city fire station and a series of mini-storage units along the north edge of the property.

"What we have is a marketplace that is organized for a number of retail and business establishments so that people on the west side can perform different retail tasks in one place," said Jim Rozewski, a partner in the project.

Bend's west side has been considered risky by many retail developers. Axel Hoch recently went ahead with a 9,500-square-foot retail and office complex on Century Drive, but it remains mostly vacant so far.

Luxury subdivisions in the area, such as Broken Top and Awbrey Glen, are long on lots but short on homes with full-time residents. And there are few businesses promising to draw a steady stream of motorists into the area.

"The west side has its own personality," said Steven Toomey of InvestWest real estate, which is listing the property. "For people who want to shop, they have to go downtown, go through the congestion, and then go out to Highway 97. Everyone we talk to on the west side really doesn't like to do that."

Rozewski hopes to save 75 percent of the trees on the heavily wooded parcel, exceeding city landscape requirements. He plans to include a park-like green space with a pond and a central plaza with pedestrian walkways.

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