



GATEWAY TO CENTRAL OREGON

Sisters' friendliness and small town charm have been a characteristic of life here since the earliest pioneers.

The original settlement in Sisters actually began five miles north of the current townsite, at Camp Polk, in 1865. Camp Polk was a military installation built for the protection of settlers from natives, but with few attacks, the base was closed one year after opening.



SISTERS MARKET BY ICENINEJON

An 1888 contest to name the new post office led to the suggestion Three Sisters, which was then shortened to Sisters. At that time, the three Cascade Mountains that dominate the skyline each had names – Faith, Hope and Charity. Now they are known as the North, Middle and South Sisters.

The town became an important way station for the mail route over McKenzie Pass, a rugged pathway through lava flows and Pacific Northwest old growth forest. It was also a stopover for fur trappers and the only stopping

point for livestock ranchers from the east passing through on their way to and from the alpine pasture lands in the Cascades.

Local businesses thrived supplying these summer visitors, a trade that continues to this day, and one of the reasons we are such a welcoming community. Lumber became the area's primary industry in the late 19th Century.

In 1923, half the town was destroyed by fire, but bucket brigades manned by volunteers managed to save the Sisters Hotel. Disastrously, the remaining half of Sisters burned to the ground the following year.

Expected by many to become a ghost town, Sisters rebuilt, and the town was officially incorporated in 1946. In 1963, the last lumber mill in Sisters shut down, ending an economic era. Again, many thought it was the beginning of the end for Sisters.

The town persisted, redeveloping around an Old West architectural theme in the early 1970's. Now visitors can experience the hospitality of the Old West with unique 1880's storefronts throughout the community.

Stroll through Sisters and explore the one-of-a-kind boutiques, galleries, antiques stores, book shops and restaurants. Visit with the store owners and find that unique souvenir, special gift or inspiration for your next project. Let the kids play at the lovely in-town parks, enjoy convenient campgrounds and explore local trails right from town.

Sisters borders the Deschutes National Forest in the high desert of Central Oregon and boasts wilderness areas, ski resorts, whitewater rivers, premier vacation resorts, golf courses – and, of course, small town charm!

~ Sisters Chamber of Commerce
www.SistersCountry.com



DOWNTOWN COURTESY OF
 SISTERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE BIGGEST LITTLE SHOW IN THE WORLD

by Bonnie Malone

In the era when life still moved slowly enough for daydreams and neighbors visited each other on front porches, cowboys competed in the first Sisters Rodeo.

These cowboys, amateurs and professionals, wore cloth squares hand-painted with numbers pinned to their backs and waited for their events. Because the small-town rodeo offered purses of \$500, equal to those offered at Pendleton and Cheyenne, the cowboys tagged Sisters Rodeo "The Biggest Little Show in the World." The year was 1940.

Except for the announcer and the stock suppliers, the rodeo was an all-volunteer production, a tradition that has not changed.

In 1988, the association was accepted as a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, the Big Daddy of pro rodeo. It joined St. Paul and Pendleton in this highly-sought membership, an indication of the fine reputation Sisters had built through nearly 50 years of quality rodeo.



BY JERRY BALDOCK

74th Annual Sisters Rodeo June 13-15, 2014
www.SistersRodeo.com



BY JERRY BALDOCK

A member of the Columbia River Circuit of rodeos throughout the Northwest and northern California, Sisters Rodeo was recognized at the Rodeo of the Year in 2009. It has been featured in the New York Times and on The Late Show with David Letterman.

Sisters Rodeo Association has maintained its quality of rodeo stock and high purses, guaranteeing that the best in the sport make Sisters part of their annual schedule.

Now held during the second weekend in June, Sisters Rodeo has the highest purse in the nation. This is a sure draw for top competitors, and world champions return year after year.

With nearly 200 members, the association has also remained a valuable member of the Sisters community, granting annual student scholarships and supporting local charities and other non-profit organizations. In fact, the Western theme of the city of Sisters was inspired by Sisters Rodeo.

SISTERS COUNTRY IN STITCHES

The Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show envelopes this small, 1880's Western-style rural town in rich texture and color, every year on the second Saturday of July, with displays of over 1,300 quilts and dozens of special exhibits. This free event is open to the public and offers a variety of activities to delight the entire family.

A part of the fabric of the community, the quilt show began when Jean Wells hung a dozen of her student's quilts outside of her quilt shop, the Stitchin' Post.

Now, 38 years later, the event is billed as the "Largest Outdoor Quilt Show in the World" attracting visitors from as far away as England and Australia, and quilts from every corner of the world.

The exhibit includes everything from traditional quilts and treasured family heirlooms to modern and contemporary quilts displayed both inside and outside of local businesses, on buildings, fences and railings all around town.

The week prior to the show, activities includes classes, lectures and artist demonstrations, historic walking tours of the town and surrounding recreation lands, and almost-daily artist receptions and gallery tours.

Historic Walking Tours, a tour of Deschutes Land Trust's Camp Polk Meadow Restoration, an award reception at the Chamber for the Wish Project and "From Fleece to Finish" – a tour of a working alpaca ranch – get visitors out and about to experience the best of what Sisters has to offer, in addition to quilting.

38th Annual Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show™
 Saturday, July 14, 2014 ~ 9 am - 4 pm
www.SistersOutdoorQuiltShow.org



SISTERS QUILT SHOW BY RACHEL WENTE-CHANEY



COURTESY OF SISTERS OUTDOOR QUILT SHOW

