

ORVW at Belknap Springs, OR May 12 – 15, 2017

If you have ever wondered what life was like over a hundred years ago, the ORVW rally at Belknap Hot Springs (one of Central Oregon's hidden jewels) would have given you that glimpse. The lodge, with its large meeting room, is surrounded by photos of the adventurous souls who made their way up the McKenzie River trail in carriages, model T's, and by horseback.



The hot springs, which can still be seen today, bubbles out of the ground at over 180°. The early pools provided a welcome warm relief to the campers and mail carriers that visited the area.

Our group of 30 women enjoyed the large swimming pools (104°). We gathered in groups of 4 or 5, sometimes as many as 10, to soak in the pools and catch up on our adventures during the winter months.



The many meandering trails took folks on nature walks to the rhododendron trees and rose gardens. Several women found their way to Sahalie Falls and brought back stunning pictures of the very full McKenzie River and falls.

MarJo led a walk to the secret garden (built in 2003 by Frank Perry Bigelou). This garden is

often the setting for weddings or meditative groups that seek its serenity and beauty.



The rain and lack of TV reception kept our women soaking in the pools and enjoying the large meeting room to play cards, do some knitting, or to chitchat.



Our rally hosts, Pam and Ann, had assembled gift bags for the campers filled with home-made peanut brittle, small candles, and lilac and lemon bath bombs. They even brought sun hats (just in case there was some sun...there was not) to greet the women as they arrived. The breakfast treats were wonderful. The ham baking in the oven offered the perfect aroma for our Saturday night potluck.

Our ten-mile jaunt to Takoda's (a local restaurant) on Sunday night was rewarded with great food and drink. Everyone left happy and full.

MarJo Sankey

