

Northwest Trails Journal

The NWOCTA UPDATE
Newsletter and Journal of the Northwest Chapter of OCTA

October 2002

President - Glenn Harrison Editor - Jim Tompkins
<http://www.nwocta.com>

END OF SUMMER PICNIC BRINGS MEMBERS TOGETHER

CENTRALIA IS SITE OF SEPTEMBER 28th EVENT



Kitchen helps Lethene Parks, Joyce Bolerjack and Suzanne Hornbuckle



Check out the dessert table



Carol Harrison visits Borst House after picnic

Saturday September 28, 2002, was an unseasonably warm day in the great Pacific Northwest.

Sixty-one members and friends of NWOCTA assembled around noon at Fort Borst Park, along the Skookumchuck River in Centralia, Washington, about half way between Portland and Seattle.

Joyce Bolerjack and Marley Shurtleff had an idea. Let's bring together as many people as we can to just socialize and chat about the NW trails. They rifled the treasury for enough money to buy pop and coffee. A few people brought desserts to share. Everybody brought their own picnic lunch - some from home gardens and others from Safeway's deli.

Since the Cowlitz Trail went directly under the kitchen structure in which we were meeting, it was appropriate for Chuck Hornbuckle to give a brief presentation about the route from Fort Vancouver to Puget Sound.

After lunch was devoured and a dent was made in the dessert table, we heard a report about OCTA's role in preserving the Oregon Trail, sort of a sales pitch, from our National Preservation Officer, Dave Welch.

Then came the raffle. Most attendees brought items to donate, nearly everybody paid for a chance to take home a new treasure, and the treasury gained \$40.30 after expenses.

After the picnic broke up thirty-seven people took a tour of the historic Borst House located nearby.



Dave Welch gives preservation report



Carol Buss selling raffle tickets



Susan Doyle wins a raffle prize and Lowell Tiller makes sure she takes only one



One room schoolhouse at Borst Park

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DO YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Please let Joyce Bolerjack know when you change your e-mail address. You can reach her at 10813 NE 20th St., Bellevue, WA, 98004 or by e-mail at jpbolerjack@worldnet.att.net.



The Mays and the Kabels



Jack, Vic, and Chuck



Barb, Vic, Carol, and Dick



Roger and Susan being attentive



Pat Fletcher animates her story



Vic has Tom's attention



Jack amuses Susan and Roger



Dick Klein explains it to Marley



The Egans engrossed in a story



Pat and Jack Fletcher likewise

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

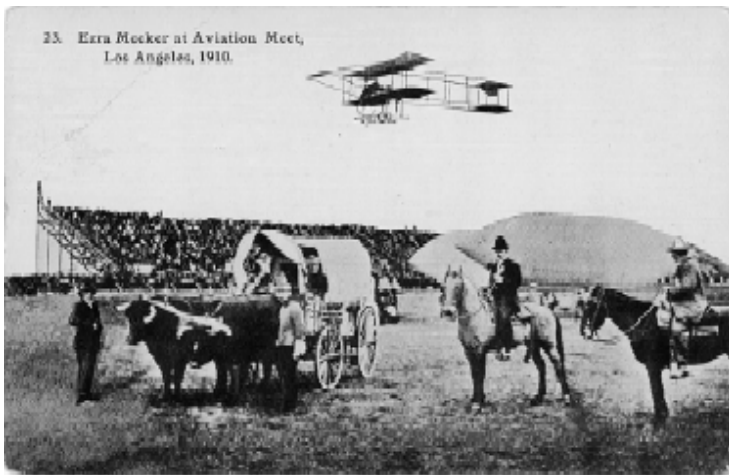
Are We Promoters?

Let's continue with the thought of last newsletter - Are We Promoters? Ezra Meeker used any excuse to promote marking and preserving the Oregon Trail.

The Dominguez Hills International Air Meet was held near Los Angeles from January 10 to 20, 1910.

Planners attempt to get as many aeroplanes (changed to airplanes after WWI) and famous aviators as possible to attend. Since this was just another kind of transportation, Ezra Meeker showed up to promote the trail.

Ezra Meeker postcard



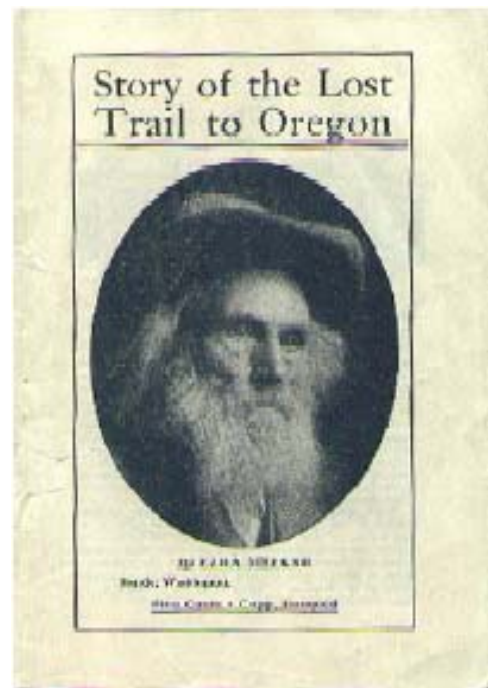
Ezra Meeker at the 1910 Dominguez Hills International Air Meet. He used this California trip to sell books, some of which he autographed. My copy of his 1909 book *Ventures and Adventures of Ezra Meeker* includes this inscription.

Ezra Meeker autograph

Meeker continued to be a trail promoter and attended the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. He wrote a 6 1/8" x 4 1/4" booklet titled "Story of the Lost Trail to Oregon". It was published in Seattle, Washington for distribution in the Washington State Building at the Panama Pacific Exposition. While there Meeker lectured, showed moving pictures and displayed his stuffed oxen and wagon that he had driven across the United States from west to east in 1906 when he retraced and brought attention to the old Oregon Trail. This national attention and his eccentric manner resulted in many monuments being placed along this historic emigrant trail.

Each of us should do our part in the continuing efforts to locate, map and preserve all the Westward Migration Trails and the records of those who traveled on those trails. We need to tell the story to others, encourage others to attend meetings with you and help them see the advantages of joining OCTA and the Northwest Chapter. Thanks for all that you do.

The current membership year has been extended until December. The Northwest Chapter had growth of 11 in Chapter membership through June 30. Let's keep the upward trend going. Remember that two people in a family membership get to vote. Life memberships are discounted this year only.



Booklet written and distributed by Ezra Meeker

WINTERING - IN NW CHAPTER HAS PRESENCE AT OHS EVENT



Rich Herman practices his greeting smile.



Rich Herman sells OCTA to a family that stopped by the table.

SHARING

The NW Chapter of OCTA is an affiliate organization of the Oregon Historical Society. So we were invited to have a table and share information at the September 21-22 Wintering In on Sauvie Island. The crew for Sunday included those pictured - Carol & Glenn Harrison, Stanton & Addie Rickey and DeAnn Wilson - resting in the shade as the table was in the bright sun. Others who helped were Lowell Tiller, Chuck & Susanne Hornbuckle and Rich Herman.

Thanks to the many members who support OCTA and NW OCTA at similar local and county historical events throughout the year.

Glenn Harrison

The Oregon Historical Society Wintering-In Harvest Festival took place at Howell Territorial Park on Sauvie Island west of Portland, Saturday and Sunday, September 21 and 22. As an affiliate of the OHS, NW OCTA was invited to participate.

A table was set up in an old apple orchard, covered with NW chapter posters and publications, and manned with volunteers to talk to visitors about the Western trails and OCTA.

They handed out membership applications to likely new members. During off time volunteers visited with other groups, made reduced price purchases from OHS, and got plenty of food.

The sun was out and shade was at a premium, but a small apple tree provided some relief from the hot rays. Our next door neighbors included the McLoughlin House and Clark County Historical Museum.



Addie Rickey at the table.



Carol and Glenn Harrison, Stanton and Addie Rickey, and DeAnn Wilson hard at work finding shade.

OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES UPCOMING EVENTS

FUR TRADERS, MISSIONARIES, SOLDIERS AND SETTLERS IN STEVENS COUNTY

Saturday - Sunday May 3 & 4 - Lethene Parks, leader

This tour starts in Spokane with stops that include Tshmakain (sites of Eells and Walker mission), St. Paul's Mission, Hudson's Bay Co. Fort Colville, U.S. Army Fort Colville, and a presentation on migration into the area by Oregon Trail emigrants and their descendants. There will be a booklet of background information and maps.

Since it's anybody's guess as to if or when the water will be low enough

to hike to the old fort site, Lethene has a plan A for if we can do the hike and a plan B for if we can't. It's a matter of adjusting the times a little, as the hike takes a couple of hours.

She has a local gentleman who is a professional map maker ready to do a map and is working on a good tour booklet, with quite a lot of old photos and some basic historical background information on the various sites.

The sites will be mostly missions and military and fur trading posts, and some retracing of old routes. We'll do a Saturday evening program in Colville and maybe Sunday brunch at the Parks domicile (which is located on or very near an old Indian path over the Huckleberry Mountains). Lethene has quite a lot of local people already interested, and the local county library will co-sponsor the event.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

Saturday, October 26, 2002,
Glenn & Carol Harrison home
1132 30th Place SW
Albany, Oregon
10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

(This is a later date than that reported in the last newsletter.)

Let Glenn know if you plan to attend.

From I-5 take exit 234-B to Albany. You will be on old Hwy 99E, but it is called Pacific Blvd. It will join Hwy 20 and briefly become four lanes. Work your way to the second lane from the left as the right lanes end. Pacific Blvd will turn south as you go over the railroad overpass. There is a traffic light at Queen Ave. and one at 29th Ave. Turn right at 29th by the Professional Plaza. Continue past a dead end sign to the end of 29th. It makes a J turn into 30th. Look for a tan split level.

MAKING GAINS

NW Chapter Treasurer/Membership Chair Joyce Bolerjack reported that, On July 1, 2002 the chapter membership had reached 275 an increase of 11 since the same time last year. We still have 26 of the original Charter members and 18 memberships from out-of-state. On June 30, 2002 we had \$9,604.05, an increase of \$21.94.

If you want the newsletter in color, sign up with Joyce for e-mail.

Upcoming Quilt Exhibition
"QUILTS: Heirlooms from the Homefront"
October 12-January 5
Museum of the Oregon Territory
211 Tumwater Drive in Oregon City
Special Event: Veterans Day, 11/11
1-3 PM Gallery Tour with Quilt Owners
3-4 PM Quilt Sharing*
***Guests are invited to bring similar theme quilts made to honor, to commemorate, and to support, whether emotionally or financially**
4-6 PM Catered Reception in the Tumwater Room

Guest curator Mary Bywater Cross has gathered historic and contemporary quilts from across the country that have never been seen in the Pacific Northwest to honor and celebrate Americans' support of military forces from the Civil War through the year 2000. Included is a quilt from Roger Blair's family.

For more information on events and activities, please call: the Museum at (503)655-5574 or www.orcity.com/museum Or Mary at (503)222-6216 or mbcquilt@web-ster.com

SUMMIT MEADOWS VANDALISM

Roger Riolo, East Barlow Road Monitor, was in Summit Meadows and found marked stakes and numerous spots marked by blue plastic ribbon.

He wrote Jeff Jaqua, District Archaeologist, Zigzag Ranger Station. He asked if there had been a surface survey in the area lately, or if the markings were signs of things to come. He was hoping this represented something good.

Jeff replied. "The site was looted last September by an individual with a

metal detector. The stakes and flagging are the result of the subsequent investigation. At least forty-three areas within the site were disturbed. The good news is that most, if not all, artifacts were recovered. The incident also forced me to excavate the looter's backfills. More artifacts were recovered. Though certainly not the way I would have wished it to happen, it has provided us with more archaeological data that may be of value if we ever are able to do a truly scientific excavation of the site.

THE PEOPLE OF NWOCTA

RENO CONVENTION

Congratulations & Thanks

Board Congratulations to the newly elected members of the OCTA Board including NW members Dave Welch and Jack Fletcher. Tom Laidlaw resigned from the Board. We appreciate the work of Bob Kabel on the National Board and with the COED project (Emigrant Names). Barb Kabel, Dave and Wendy Welch also spent many hours on that project. Dave continues as the National Preservation Officer. Lethene Parks continues as OCTA Secretary. Roger Blair is Past President for the 4th year.

Writing

Jim Tompkins, NW OCTA vice president and newsletter editor, won the Merrill J. Mattes Award for the best article in the *Overland Journal* in the past year. "The Law of the Land" appeared in the Fall 2001 issue.

Article and photos by Glenn Harrison



Gareth Wilson leads the way on the 40-mile desert, east of Reno.

Richard Klein is about to "discover" some discarded items on the 40-mile desert.

HISTORIAN DIES

Historian Keith Clark of Redmond, Oregon died on July 5. In 1966 with Lowell Tiller, he coauthored *Terrible Trail: The Meek Cutoff, 1845*, which has since been revised and printed in paperback. With his wife, Donna, he wrote *Daring Donald McKay, or The Last War Trail of the Modocs*. He contributed to *High and Mighty: Short Sketches about the Deschutes Country* and authored *Redmond: Where the Desert Blooms*. Keith was a professor at Central Oregon Community College and served on the Editorial Board for the Oregon Historical Quarterly. He was a speaker at the 1993 OCTA Convention in Baker City.

Lowell Tiller recalls that Keith Clark was selected Teacher of the Year in Oregon some years ago. Lowell attended the ceremony down on the coast.



Hunter Creek enters at the site of the 22nd crossing of the Truckee River, west of Reno.



UPDATE FROM JIM RENNER

I am monitoring my office email from home by logging onto the server. Its awkward, but works in a pinch. I am still homebound with my leg in a cast, but am telecommuting about four hours a day. If you want to write me at home, my home email is molallarenner@hotmail.com.

I want to thank you for your get-well card and the card signed by all the NW OCTA folks at the convention. That was very thoughtful of you and has helped my spirits. Thank you very, very much!

Best regards, Jim Renner

Since sending the above message August 28, Jim has returned to work at the Travel Information Council. He is getting around quite well and attended the OHTAC meeting October 6. On September 21, with his leg in a movable cast, Jim, his brother and son played several musical instruments at a fundraiser for the Boston Mill near Shedd, Oregon.

AID REQUESTED

James Henderson of Oregon City, representing Applied Photographic Research, recently made a report to the US Fish & Wildlife archaeologist Anan Raymond about his work in the Ruby Valley of Nevada. Using his polarized digitally enhanced photography method (reported in this newsletter two years ago) Henderson has located names (Miller and Pike) associated with the Donner Party of 1846.

Raymond says he has done previous work in the area known as Cave Creek Cave. His research puts the Donner Party at Cave Creek on the 23rd or 24th of September, but if someone knows better and/or can help him with rosters of other immigrants on the Hastings Cutoff, he would like to talk to them.

He can be reached at his office in Sherwood, Oregon, (503-625-4887) or at [<anan_raymond@fws.gov>](mailto:anan_raymond@fws.gov).

PREVIOUS EVENTS

FREE EMIGRANT ROAD TREK AND OAKRIDGE MEETING

On October 5, 15 hikers followed the route of Elliott (1853) and Macy (1854) and thousands of others on the Free Emigrant Road. It was "free" because, unlike the Barlow Road and Applegate Trail, no toll was charged.

On the outing most walked for about 7 miles on the south side of Crescent Lake from the east while 3 in a van traveled near the Free Emigrant Road from the west. OCTA members were joined by members of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council and two Forest Service archaeologists, a representative of the northwest region of the Forest Service, and Jere Krakow, Director of National Park Service Long Distance Trails. Hikers were lead by Gary Brumbaugh and Del Spencer drove the van. The Free Emigrant Road is one of Oregon's 16 state recognized historic trails, so OHTAC was keeping up on that trail.



Del Spencer addressing the group.



Part of the group gathered for some trail history.



Second bridge.

A six part series "Cutoff Fever", written by Leah Collins Menefee and Lowell Tiller, was printed in the Oregon Historical Quarterly from Dec. 1976 through Spring 1978. Don and Leah Menefee assisted in marking the route about 55 years ago. Over the years boy scouts and forest service archaeologists have continued the marking. Leah also compiled an emigration roster of those who took the route. Edward Gray also wrote about this route.

For about 28 years, Del and other local historians from Oakridge have looked for segments of the trail. Gary joined them for the last few years using his GPS. The Forest Service archaeologists have gotten increasingly involved. A PIT project has been conducted with some OCTA members participating. Two weeks ago several artifacts were found verifying the route.

This cutoff has drawn national attention. Jere Krakow has contracted with Gail Evans & Michael Hatch to do a study of the trails that might be included in the next additions to the National Trails Act. The Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council then held its regular meeting on October 6 in



Dennis Larson and Gary Brumbaugh standing on the first of four log bridges over creeks that we saw.



Blaze and the trail.

Oakridge. Evans-Hatch left the meeting to explore the trail.

Inclusion of alternate routes takes time, but it would be nice if there could at least be a recommendation for inclusion of the Free Emigrant Road as a cutoff from the 1845 Meek Cutoff and the Oregon Trail next year. It would be 150 years since the route was first used.

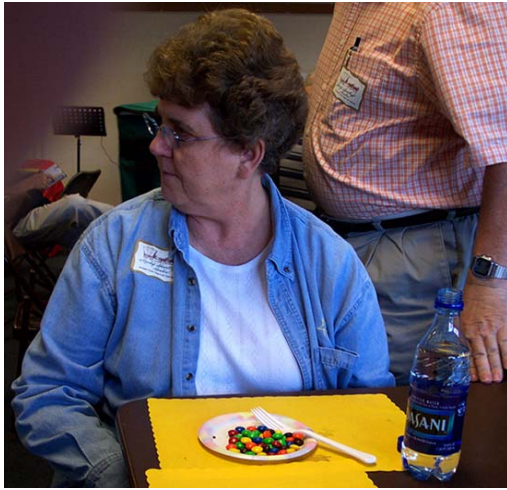
Article and photos by Glenn Harrison



View of the trail.



Hikers on the trail.



Marley and her magical M&Ms and Lowell Tiller at the Centralia picnic

MARTIN'S COVE BILL REVIVED

The bill directing the Bureau of Land Management to sell 940 acres including Martin's Cove in Wyoming to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was revived on October 1. Representative James Hansen of Utah bundled it with 83 other bills and attached them to a bill sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle. It passed the house on a vote of 357 to 37.

Wyoming Senators Craig Thomas and Mike Enzi and Representative Barbara Cubin are opposed. But HR 4103 is now part of SB 434.

This site is important to most Oregon Trail pioneers, but is the site where many Mormon pioneers froze or starved in 1856. SB 434 had passed the Senate in July, but stalled in the House. If it again passes in the Senate it would set a precedent for the sale of public land to religious organizations.

2004 CONVENTION UPDATE

Saturday September 28, just before the picnic in Centralia, Washington, Dave Welch gave an update report of progress in planning the August 8-16, 2004 activities.

Although everything is still subject to change, a lot is known about that summer event. The convention, to be held at the Red Lion at the Quay in Vancouver, Washington, adjacent to Fort Vancouver is themed **Roll On, Columbia! River Trail of History!** The main topics will be the Native American culture and presence, Lewis

and Clark, the Fur Trade of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Oregon Trail.

The exact schedule is still to be determined, but all of the usual elements of a national convention will be present, including pre- and post-convention tours, a board meeting, workshops, chapter meetings, papers, bus and hiking tours, a social, authors night, a special evening event (or two), barbecue, raffle, book room, and awards banquet.

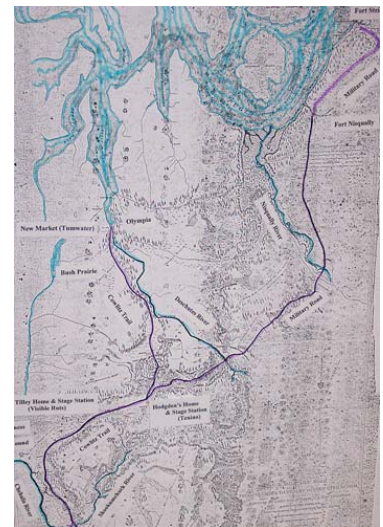
Pre-convention tours might include an auto tour from the Snake River to The Dalles, the Applegate Trail, the Cowlitz Trail, and Fort Vancouver-Oregon City. Convention tours could include the Columbia River to The Dalles, the Columbia River to Astoria, the Barlow Road, and the Willamette Valley. Post-convention tours might include the Cowlitz Trail, the Willamette Valley, the Oregon Coast, and an unescorted tour of Mt. St. Helens. There will be a single tours publication and supplemental material.

Workshop topics could include archaeology, trail marking, genealogy, COED, and children's activities.

A couple of innovations this convention might include a teachers institute (attending the convention for college credit) and a children's program (fun stuff for the kids to do while the adults are attending meetings).

Special event could include a reenactors night, Marv Ross's Trail Band, a salmon bake (possibly including a steamboat), and opportunities to visit Fort Vancouver Historic Reserve and the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

Dave Welch, convention chair, says that there are still plenty of positions that need volunteers.



The Cowlitz Trail