



## Northwest Trails Journal

Newsletter and Journal of the Northwest Chapter of OCTA

April 2004

President - Glenn Harrison Editor - Jim Tompkins

<http://www.nwocta.com>

## 2004 ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN OREGON CITY

MARCH 13

*by Gary and Marley Shurtleff*

The chapter met for its 19th annual meeting on March 13th in the Tumwater Room of the Clackamas County Historical Museum of the Oregon Territory in Oregon City. The view of the falls is splendid.

The largest number yet for a general meeting - 86 people plus guests and presenters, began arriving by 9 a.m. for the 10 o'clock session. As members streamed through the door the general noise level in the room rose as clusters of people began discussing all that had happened since the last time they had seen each other. Board member **Rich Hermann** noted "It's like a family reunion every time chapter members get together!"



*Chapter President Glenn Harrison conducting business and National President Dick Pingrey reporting.*

Once we quieted down the meeting got underway on time. Sadly, President **Glenn Harrison** announced that board member **Carol Buss** is stepping down due to illness. We learned from **Joyce Bolerjack** that the chapter has gained money and lost membership over the past year. Membership was 267 in June of 2003, and is 220 today.

National OCTA President **Dick Pingrey** shared his views on the state of OCTA in 2004. He also encouraged chapter members to write to congressmen to get House Bill 1051 which supports the inclusion of numerous "minor" trails in the National Historic Trails System passed in the House this session.



*National Executive Director Travis Boley (seated at center).*

We had the pleasure of meeting the National Association Manager **Travis Boley**. Travis presented information on some of the activities he is pursuing at Independence and became acquainted with the chapter members.

**Chuck Hornbuckle**, who collects volunteer hours/costs, discussed how to do reporting. He encouraged us to send him OCTA-related travel time, hours spent in meetings, food costs, mileage, and other costs such as raffle donations. The information is included in the roll-up report that goes to congress each year to show the large volunteer contributions by OCTA members and encourage continued congressional support of BLM and NPS.

Chuck (who wears MANY chapter hats or caps) also reported on Mapping & Marking and Preservation. In 2003, marking along the Applegate Trail through the Modoc was essentially completed. In 2004, most of our time and effort is going toward completing convention activities. In 2005, Chuck hopes we will work on marking the area from Idaho border west and he is looking for volunteers. Nearly 40 of the new NW OCTA caps were passed out those who have participated in trail marking and preservation over the years.

**Muriel Carbiener**, chapter member, shared examples of clothing she has prepared in the styles typical of the Oregon Trail migration years. Later, **Marge Harding**, Oregon City area historical clothing expert and proprietor of the 1845 Francis Ermatinger House, met with chapter members interested in creating their own historically accurate clothing, or having it prepared for them. Several members are planning to have Marge help them prepare clothing for the Vancouver convention.

**Dave Welch**, national preservation officer (who also wears many caps), discussed the national OCTA decision to focus more closely on preservation. **Jim Tompkins** discussed 2004 outings. More information will be coming in the April and July newsletters.

After we enjoyed a catered lunch, guest speaker **Jim Henderson** kept us intrigued with his presentation on "What's in a Name?" He shared the results of his recent Cross Polarized Enhancement Protocol photography of names on a series of Oregon Trail register rocks between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Oregon City, Oregon. Henderson works after dark in difficult-to-access spaces to ensure the best lighting of the names. We were all impressed with the amazing detail he was able to capture through computer enhancement of the specialized photographs.

**Dave Welch** and some committee chairmen discussed convention plans. The theme, *Roll On Columbia, Roll On! River Trail of History*, will be developed through four areas of emphasis: Native American presence; Lewis and Clark; Fur Trade and Hudson's Bay; and The Oregon Trail.

## NW Chapter Directory

### President & National Board

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### Vice President & Editor

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### Secretary

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[wlbaskins@msn.com](mailto:wlbaskins@msn.com)

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[rutnut@eoni.com](mailto:rutnut@eoni.com)

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### Mapping and Marking

*Vic Bolon* Sequim, WA  
[bolonv@yahoo.com](mailto:bolonv@yahoo.com)

### Trail Monitors

#### Oregon Trail (8)

*Gail Carbiener (2), Keith May (4)*

#### Barlow Road (2)

*Roger Riolo, Jim Tompkins*

#### Applegate's South Road (7)

#### Meek Cutoff (1)

#### Free Emigrant Road (1)

*Gary Brumbaugh*

#### Naches Pass (1)

*Dick Pingrey*

#### Cowlitz Trail (1)

*Chuck Hornbuckle*

### Webmaster

*Tom Laidlaw* Vancouver, WA  
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### Archaeologist

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### Awards

#### Roger Blair

*Pendleton, OR*  
[rblair@oregontrail.net](mailto:rblair@oregontrail.net)

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*Sharon Brown* Vancouver, WA  
[sharon\\_brown@nps.gov](mailto:sharon_brown@nps.gov)

### National President

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[rhoarclass@aol.com](mailto:rhoarclass@aol.com)

### National Preservation & Board

*Dave Welch* Steilacoom, WA  
[welchdj@comcast.net](mailto:welchdj@comcast.net)

### National Board

*Jack Fletcher* Sequim, WA  
[jpfletcher@olympus.net](mailto:jpfletcher@olympus.net)



*It's like a family reunion when NW chapter members get together. - Rich Hermann*

**DeAnn Wilson** discussed plans for the convention bookroom and **Jenny Miller** shared information about the chapter-sponsored teacher scholarships to the convention.

Glenn presented a Chapter Award to **Delbert and Rachel Spencer** for their coordination efforts in locating and marking the Free Emigrant Road in Oregon, culminating in a signage effort in October, 2003.

This year's major award, The *2004 Richard and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award*, went to **Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle**. Truly deserved! Chuck responded by telling the group why he enjoys participation in OCTA and NW OCTA: "You meet the best people in the world in this organization."

**Eileen Fitzsimons**, former OHTAC representative to OCTA, discussed the Oregon Historic Trail Advisory Council's role as an Oregon state organization of volunteers, and thanked OCTA for our help on projects.

The meeting ended with a raffle of the items brought in by members lots of good stuff. **Andy and Joanne Hammond** of Chico, CA, invited members to take the homegrown lemons that they brought.



*2004 Ackerman Award winners Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle*

## DO YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Please let Joyce Bolerjack know when you change your street or e-mail address. You can reach her at 10813 NE 20th St., Bellevue, WA, 98004 or at [jpbolerjack@comcast.net](mailto:jpbolerjack@comcast.net).

Visit our chapter website at <http://www.nwocta.com>

# THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## NW OCTA TOP AWARD:

We had a great turnout for the NW OCTA Annual Meeting in Oregon City. There were positive comments about the program and the meeting. Thanks to those who made it and we missed the others. We especially thank James Henderson for the power point show of "What's In a Name?" and to Muriel Carbiener and Marge Harding for their clothing displays.

We realize that the cost is creeping up, but the room is great and food was good. Even with a discount the room rental fee is high. We have already booked the room a year in advance and have paid half the fee as a deposit for March 12, 2005. Jane Kirkpatrick has confirmed that she will be a speaker at next year's Annual Meeting. She will also have books to sell & sign. So plan to attend.

We are getting large enough at the Annual Meeting in March and at the Picnic in September, that we could use extra help. If you are willing to assist with the setup and will arrive early or could stay after the event and help move things back to cars, let one of the officers know.

At the NW Chapter Annual Meeting on March 13, this year's Richard and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award was presented to a couple who have done much over several years for OCTA and the trails. Chuck & Suzanne Hornbuckle have a great record of support of the many activities of the Northwest chapter. They were presented with a plaque and their names will be added to the permanent plaque at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City.

They are known for their friendly, enthusiastic greetings that make all members and visitors feel welcome. Suzanne has been the chapter secretary and assisted in many ways, such as helping with registration, selling items at meetings and conventions, and sewing the cool bands for sale by the chapter at the last convention and today. She has helped with many outings and convention activities. In addition she is very active with the DAR.

Chuck has determined much of the Cowlitz Trail route and developed interesting outings on both the Cowlitz Trail and the Whitman Route. Chuck even gave a talk about the Cowlitz Trail at the first picnic. His tour booklets are well documented and nicely presented. He headed the Applegate Trail Marking project for the chapter cost-share grant. They have participated and assisted in many other outings, sometimes by bringing up the rear.

Chuck is always willing to take on additional, important duties. He has been our chapter Trail Preservation Officer for several years. He has worked with BLM to improve and standardize marking, mapping, and preservation methods. He has also served as the chapter Trail Marking & Mapping Chair and was recognized for this overload last year with a Presidential Award. Together they mapped and marked many trail segments and participated in several Passport in Time or PIT projects.

When we needed someone to keep track of our volunteer hours, Chuck volunteered and nudged us to turn in our hours. When we needed people to check out potential damage to the Oregon Trail, Chuck was one of the volunteers. When we needed help placing the Free Emigrant Road OCTA marker, Chuck was there.

Suzanne and Chuck often have displays at historical meetings and events promoting OCTA's activities and promoting membership. They are great educators finding ways to spread the word about the trails, both within the organization and in other community groups and events. They present information and generate interest in OCTA. Their trail bookmarks add to the promotion.

They are great team players, never needing to be in charge, but happy to help. For example Chuck drove to Centralia to pick up the key, so the building could be unlocked the following day for the first fall picnic. He printed convention seals for the chapter mailings. Chuck is always willing to figure out something, look up information, or provide an answer. They are dependable, promptly doing what they say they will do.

- *Glenn Harrison*

## **NEW BOARD MEMBER**

We are sorry that Carol Buss had to resign from the NW OCTA Board for health reasons. She has done a lot for OCTA for many years. We all wish her well. Filling out this last year of her term will be Wendell Baskins. Wendell is a retired teacher and former NW OCTA Vice President who served on the Oregon Trail Coordinating Council and the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council.

## **OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS**

Many thanks to all who sent cards and concerns for my ongoing health problems. I look forward sometime in the future to being back with you all on the Trail. Thank you for caring. - *Carol Buss*

# THE PEOPLE OF NWOCTA

## COED NATIONAL MEETING

Fifteen OCTA members gathered March 5 – 7 in Sacramento, California, to review COED Committee accomplishments of the past year, and to plot the course of future activities.

A key visible achievement for COED has been the completion of the *Emigrant Names* disk, available through the OCTA bookstore. By mid-March of 2004, 284 copies of the disk had been sold for revenue of \$8,520. Many people are benefiting from improved access to the index of names and locations. But, COED is much more than the CD, the names element (for genealogists) of the more comprehensive COED database. The current CD covers 2263 documents. About 1500 other documents have been assigned to surveyors and must be entered into the database in the next year or so, in order to produce a revised *Emigrant Names* CD.

Since the January 2003 COED meeting several COED activities have been completed. A major achievement was the revised Manual for COED Surveyors, completed by **Rose Ann Tompkins**. This manual will help make future surveys more accurate and tailored for inclusion in the COED database. **Dave Welch** has developed an administrative computer program to help the assignments coordinator, **Shann Rupp**, track the progress of surveys in work. **Sallie Riehl** has reviewed and updated the list of document repositories, and has included web sites. **Jim Riehl** and **Barbara Kabel** have edited the computer scans of the surveys in the current database so that they can be sold. Importantly, almost a thousand surveys, in various stages of completion, have been collected together and organized so that they can be tracked, checked for accuracy, processed, and incorporated into the COED database and a future release of the *Emigrant Names* disk.

The COED committee has much more to do. The COED website needs to be updated and revised. Potential document repositories and owners need to be determined and checked out. Partially processed surveys need to be completed before additional survey activity can begin in earnest again. The committee needs to begin planning for new products to develop from the information resident on the COED database.

In addition to the activities already mentioned, individuals attending the meeting stepped up to the many tasks involved in guiding COED through the next year. Although **Bob and Barbara Kabel** are easing away from their previous major level of involvement with the committee, Bob is completing some initial COED website revisions with **Kathy Boub**. **Bob Evanhoe** will tie in with **Rose Ann Tompkins** to maintain the Manual for COED Surveyors. **Cherie Evanhoe** communicates with people who have contacted COED in the past with information about diaries or other source material. **Sallie Riehl**, **Lethene Parks**, and **Betsy Kanago** are focusing on the repositories. **Charlie and Nola Little** and **Shann Rupp** are coordinating their lists of documents ready to be surveyed. **Dave Welch**, **Wendy Welch**, **Jim Riehl** and **Gary Shurtleff** will continue managing the COED database. **Sallie Riehl** will chair the committee next year and **Sharon Manhart** and **Marley Shurtleff** will serve as vice-chairs. - *Sallie Riehl and Marley Shurtleff*

## THE CALIFORNIA RHOADS FAMILY

*“Thomas Foster Rhoads, his wife, Elizabeth Forster Rhoads, and thirteen of their fourteen children - John, Daniel, Isaac, Thomas Jr., Henry, Foster, Sarah, Polly, William, Catherine, Elizabeth, Caleb, and Lucinda - together with 35 members of their extended family and 1 friend set out for California in 1846 from Ray County, Missouri. The oldest Rhoads son, Forster remained in Missouri to oversee the extensive farmlands owned by the family.*

*Thomas Sr., a devout Mormon, had come to Ray County from Illinois in 1838 in order to escape the escalating violence against the Mormons in that neighboring state and to oversee in secret the sizable Mormon interests remaining in that part of Missouri. Family tradition has it that, in 1846, Thomas Sr., who had training as a surveyor and was thus eminently suited to the task, was asked by Brigham Young to leave Missouri with his family, and, continuing to keep his ties to the Mormons completely secret, assess and report back on the relative merits of the alternative routes by which the Mormons could be moved westward as well as on possible suitable places beyond the borders of the U.S. in which the Mormons could permanently settle.”*



*Unveiling OCTA marker at Rhoads Family Cemetery*

So begins a new OCTA marker at a small cemetery in Lemoore, California. At the dedication was **Bernie Rhoades**, NW chapter member, and self-appointed carrier of the family history banner. Bernie spoke about his family. His lengthy remarks began:

“Looking out on the 120 or more of you, I’m thinking that each of you has a story to tell. Some have more interesting stories than others, a few of you actually may know nothing of where you came from, and who you are. Perhaps I can entice you to look into your own roots by sharing our family’s emigration history. I’m going to tell you a story that probably few of you, outside the family, has ever heard before, history books of the west rarely if ever, mention the Rhoads emigration. It’s rarely written by a Rhoads, usually it is written about them in some obscure periodical. My popa used to joke, “we don’t write history, we make history.”

But it’s actually a wonder that I’m even here today because 168 years ago my Irish catholic ancestors in Illinois were shooting at my German Mormon ancestors, and I’m only here with you, because they were obviously both bad shots.”

## REQUEST FOR ACTION FROM NATIONAL

The following Legislative Alert comes from **Travis Bo-ley**, OCTA's executive director in Independence:

The help of every OCTA member is needed now for HR 1051 - The Pioneer National Historic Trails Studies Act. This bill awaits approval by the House Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Congressman Richard Pombo of California. Only then can HR 1051 be voted upon by the full House membership.

This OCTA support needs to be a bipartisan effort. Please write your Congressional representative immediately and ask him/her to support and cosponsor this bill. It will authorize the study of additional routes for inclusion in the Oregon, California, Pony Express and Mormon Pioneer Trails.

HR 1051 needs to be passed before Congress adjourns August 31, or it dies.

Note: Please do not send emails. They are only counted and placed in a pile. Please send a fax or a letter to your representative at their district headquarters or at their Washington office addressed as follows:

The Honorable (First & Last Name)  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 10515  
with the salutation, "Dear Congressman ----" or "Dear Congresswoman ----."

If possible, please send a fax, as many Congress people no longer accept snail mail due to security concerns.

Background information: On February 26, during Trails Advocacy Week in Washington, DC we learned that Congressman Doug Bereuter again asked Chairman Pombo for favorable action on HR 1051. Although similar legislation was approved by the House during the 107th Congress it was not passed by the Senate until this 108th Congress. This House bill matches the Senate bill wording.

FYI: Congressman Bereuter sponsored the 1992 legislation authorizing the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails. After 13 terms in Congress, he will retire August 31, 2004. His strong support on behalf of our trails will be greatly missed.

## GEARING UP FOR THE 2004 CONVENTION

Would you like to participate in the Convention in an easy way? Contributing an item(s) to the Raffle is very convenient. Bring your item to the Convention!

What should you contribute? Something you would like to receive with a Northwest theme is the best guide. Here are some ideas to start your creative juices flowing:

Hand made items: textiles, wooden, ceramic, paintings, prints, etc. - Local Products: candy, music CD's, note cards, tuna or salmon canned by Indian tribes, etc. - Books (always a favorite) - Silk flower arrangements, Plants (bring to the Convention) - Gift certificates from Vancouver or Portland merchants.

If it is something you would like to receive, so will Convention attendees. - *Raffle Chairmen Suzanne and Chuck Hornbuckle*

## GHOSTS ALONG THE OREGON TRAIL

The Overland Trails List on the internet, operated by OCTA, has some interesting discussion topics at times. One of local interest was about ghosts on the trail.

"I've read a few different people here on the thread talking about the "ghosts" they've felt when they've visited trail sites. Truly? Have many people have had these experiences? What did they see/hear/sense?"

I'm not a huge believer in the paranormal, but I always find it interesting to listen to experiences that others have had. I guess I like ghost stories (and heck, it'd be neat to have a few to tell the kids the next time we're camping in Oregon)." - *Kari D.*

"I do not believe in the paranormal at all, but standing on top of Laurel Hill on the Barlow Road and realizing how many of my relatives stood at the same spot, I get an eerie feeling of the presence of those who have gone before. I don't see apparitions or visions of pioneers looking over my shoulder, but share a realization that I am not alone at that spot." - *Jim Tompkins*

"Like you Jim, Spook talk impresses me little, BUT, I dare any Trail follower to walk from the White River Crossing to Barlow Pass without feeling the strong presence of others all along the way. Unfortunately too few Trail strollers living in or out of Oregon will ever make the effort to experience that truly marvelous and too little known about section of the great Barlow Road. I thought I would see a wagon straining up the hill as I cleared any one of the many curves. This is one of the most natural Trail routes I have traveled. There is very little or no "today" but lots and lots of 'yesterday.'" - *John Bristow*

"Like many of you, on my journeys along the Oregon trail I found myself listening to the sound of creaking wagons, men yelling, and children laughing, and straining my eyes for the appearance of heavily loaded wagons, buffalo, or smoke drifting downwind from cooking fires in the evening. "Paranormal," - not scientifically explainable - is close enough for me. We are so lucky!" - *John Porter*

"How I envy all of you who are able to travel to a site and feel what it is like to stand in the footsteps of your ancestors! I'm adopted, sort of a lone (but very blessed) spirit without a genetic history, and I think you are very lucky to be able to preserve the heritage that you've been given. Thanks for sharing it with me!

"As far as the "favorite place" question is concerned - as a trail "virgin," my first experience of the Trail was last year, when we took our small children on a road trip through Oregon, using the wonderful advice of "Oregon Jim" and others. Like Laura, I loved the Blue Mountains site, with its obvious ruts and its markers with quotes from pioneers. My photo of my five-year-old daughter posing as an ox in the traces of the wagon there is priceless. It was also very neat to experience a frightening hailstorm at the top of Flagstaff Hill, which made us all grateful we were in a minivan instead of a covered wagon. I'll be trying to persuade the troops to brave the Whitman Mission this year..." - *Kari*

# OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **NEW - LOCAL HISTORY MINI-CONFERENCES AND TOURS Spring - Bend, Oregon**

Friday and Saturday June 18 - 19

**Roger Riolo leader** [rriolo@bendcable.com](mailto:rriolo@bendcable.com) - (541) 312-3656  
**Friday dinner and speaker at Rustic River Bar & Grille**  
**Saturday Deschutes County Hist Soc and Lava Lands**  
**view of old routes, walk in swale**

**Roger Riolo** has put together a slam dunk weekend for the NW chapter in the Bend area in late spring/early summer. On Friday night June 18th we will meet for dinner at 7:00 PM at the Rustic River Bar & Grille, located at 415 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Bend (on Business 97, approx. one block south of Franklin).

Dinner is your choice of "Chateau Cut" Top Sirloin Steak, Chicken Piccata, or Fettuccini Alfredo. Grilled or blackened chicken or shrimp may be added. All dinners include a garden salad and a choice of soft drink, tea or coffee. There is one price for dinner: \$13.95.

At 8:00 PM the group will be addressed by **Leslie Hickerson**, USFS Archaeologist, Crescent District. The topic will be the Free Emigrant Road. She has hosted several PIT project in the area. [Speaker is subject to change.]

Saturday June 19th will begin at 8:00 AM at the Deschutes County Historical Society, 129 Idaho Ave. (between Wall St. and Bond St. - Just south of the County Library in Downtown, Bend). A highlight of the DCHS visit is a Juniper limb carved by the 1845 Meek party. There we will meet John Frye, expert on local historical roads and trails.

At 8:45 AM we will depart for Lava Lands Visitor Center. Admission is \$5 per vehicle. We will proceed to the top of Lava Butte [no motor homes or vehicles with trailers are allowed up to the top of the Butte].

From the top is a great view of the pass used by Elliott, Macy, and Huntington and routes of Wyeth, Fremont, Abbott and Williamson. A ranger will talk and point it out.

Descending to the visitor center we will view a swale of the Huntington Road. John Frye and Gail Carbiener will lead a walk in the path of Huntington. PIT projects for the past two years have been tracing the Huntington Road. Gail and John have done much the planning for them.

The field excursion should be completed by noon. Muriel Carbiener has offered to present "Hanna" her living history character at The High Desert Museum. It is possible that Mike Banks (OCTA member) could lead a tour of the *Spirit of the West* Exhibit following the program. The Museum contains a nice little cafe for lunch.

Several fine motels are located in Bend for those from out of town. Contact Roger at [rriolo@bendcable.com](mailto:rriolo@bendcable.com) or (541) 312-3656 for suggestions then contact your friends to make a group event. Let Roger know how many are coming.

### **Fall - Olympia, Washington Saturday-Sunday October 2-3**

**Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle leaders**  
[hornbucklecs@juno.com](mailto:hornbucklecs@juno.com) - (360) 352-2113  
**Dinner site to be announced in July newsletter.**  
**Washington Territory Sesquicentennial theme.**

### **TRAIL MAPPING WORKSHOP: Gorge Discovery Center The Dalles, OR**

Saturday and Sunday June 5 - 6

**Vic Bolon and Chuck Hornbuckle leaders**  
[bolonv@yahoo.com](mailto:bolonv@yahoo.com) - [hornbucklecs@juno.com](mailto:hornbucklecs@juno.com)  
(360) 681-7309 - (360) 352-2113  
**Discussions, Classes,  
Hands-on Demonstrations, Field Work**

**Vic Bolon** has arranged for this first ever chapter workshop on trail preservation. All trail monitors, potential trail monitors, trail mappers, persons helping place Carsonite or other trail markers, and just plain interested people are encouraged to attend.

Registration and information obtained by contacting Vic or Chuck at the addresses or numbers above.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **NATIONAL CONVENTION: Red Lion Inn at the Quay and Fort Vancouver NHS Vancouver, WA**

Wednesday-Saturday August 11-14

**Dave Welch leader** [welchdj@attbi.com](mailto:welchdj@attbi.com) - (253) 584-0332  
**Speakers, Dinners, Concerts, Tours, Hikes to include  
Trail Marking, Book Room, and more**

See you in August at Fort Vancouver. Roll On, Columbia, Roll On!

\* \* \* \* \*

### **FALL PICNIC: Fort Borst Park, Centralia, WA Saturday September 18**

**Joyce Bolerjack and Marley Shurtleff, leaders**  
[jpbolerjack@comcast.net](mailto:jpbolerjack@comcast.net) - [shurtgarymarley@comcast.net](mailto:shurtgarymarley@comcast.net)  
(425) 454-7118 - (425) 271-2485  
**Pot Luck Picnic - Joanne and Ralph Heinz to perform  
"Oregon Fever" presentation**

Mark your calendars early for this post-convention blow-out. A potluck lunch is followed by a historical drama presentation complete with costuming.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **NW CHAPTER FALL BOARD MEETING Centralia, Washington Sunday September 19**

**Glenn Harrison** [harrison@cmug.com](mailto:harrison@cmug.com) - (541) 926-4680

### **NW CHAPTER WINTER BOARD MEETING Albany, Oregon**

Sunday January 15, 2005

**Glenn Harrison** [harrison@cmug.com](mailto:harrison@cmug.com) - (541) 926-4680  
**Special Program at Mennonite Center January 16**

## 2004 NORTHWEST CHAPTER PRESERVATION REPORT

by *Chuck Hornbuckle*

This Trail Preservation report summarizes concerns and activities since January 2003. The Northwest Chapter has been mostly spared from adverse corridor projects plaguing other Chapters.

### BACKGROUND:

Trail Preservation includes not only corridor activities impacting the trail, but also the commitment of Northwest members to support OCTA goals, sponsor and participate in Chapter activities and very importantly, to enlist new members. That commitment is the foundation of our efforts to preserve remaining segments of the western migration roads and historic sites for the enjoyment and education of future generations.

During the past 12 months members participated in many events related to emigrant travel in the mid- to late 1800s. Each of these events attracted outside interest and several new members to our OCTA family.

Our Volunteer Report to **Bill and Jeanne Watson** revealed that members of the NW Chapter contributed over 6,000 hours and nearly \$20,000 in non-reimbursed trail related expenses. I believe this is far less than what was really contributed since only 12 individuals submitted their forms. As a whole, Bill's report to the NPS shows OCTA contributed nearly 80,000 hours and \$1,526,000 toward Trail Preservation efforts. This will undoubtedly increase with more accurate reporting.

### TRAIL PRESERVATION:

#### Main Oregon Trail:

Trail Monitors report very little adverse trail activity between the Idaho State Line and The Dalles. **Keith May** led several NW members on a trail impact survey in September. The review was in response to tree thinning work near the Blue Mountain summit west of LaGrande. While several segments were adversely impacted, the contractor did a good job overall avoiding direct trail impact. We were, however, disappointed the land owner declined to reimburse the Chapter for several trail markers that appeared to have been destroyed during the thinning operations.

#### Barlow Road:

**Jim Tompkins** is awaiting the USFS report on the archaeological survey in the area where emigrant rock inscriptions were located.

#### Cowlitz Trail

I am still pursuing the proposal made to the Tumwater Historical Association to secure auto tour route between Fort Vancouver and Puget Sound. My next step after meeting with the Highway Heritage Corridor folks is to work with the State and Region Traffic Engineers. In addition to that signing, the State Archives Office has undertaken a project to do a video tape documentary of the Cowlitz Trail and Military Road between the Columbia and Fort Steilacoom. That project is progressing well with filming tentatively scheduled to begin in late May.

### TRAIL MARKING:

#### Main Oregon Trail:

Working with local ranchers OCTA members installed several markers east of Ladd Canyon.

#### Applegate's South Road to Oregon:

In 2003 NWOCTA members joined other volunteers for two weeks surveying and marking the trail as it crosses the Modoc National Forest. That essentially completed our work leaving only a few locations available for marking.

**Richard and Orsola Silva** and **Stafford Hazelett** worked with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and BLM to conduct a study of the trail as it crossed Clear Lake. This was made possible by the very low water level in the lake this year

#### Free Emigrant Road:

In June we toured the Free Emigrant Road west of Vale, placing markers at strategic locations. It was rewarding to see more nonmembers participating than members. As with the October 2002 outing near Crescent Lake, Oregon, many of the visitors were descendants of the 1853 emigrants.

### SUMMARY:

The fact that tree thinning was conducted in the Blue Mountains must be a reminder to each of us, not just Trail Monitors, that we must remain vigilant and report potential and real impacts to a Chapter Officer as soon as known.

While I foresee no major trail marking projects this year due to our convention commitment, I do want to secure volunteers to begin assembling information so that we can begin marking the main Oregon Trail between the Idaho line and LaGrande.

## NORTHWEST PLACE NAMES

*Wahkiakum* - "Wuh - ki - uh - kum".

*A very small Washington county on the north bank of the Columbia River and about 12-miles from the Pacific Ocean. Founded by the Washington Territorial Legislature on April 25, 1854 it is derived from the Native American term for "big trees". It was also the name of the Indian tribe and their chief.*

\* \* \* \* \*

A handout of "unusual" northwest place names will be given to attendees at the August Convention in Vancouver. **Chuck Hornbuckle** invites NWOCTA members to submit names for inclusion in the handout

The name should include dictionary pronouncing, or the closest you can come to it, along with its origin, location, and, for towns or counties, when it was founded.

If you have one in mind please send it to Chuck at 7245 118<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Olympia, WA 98512-9264, E-mail it to [hornbucklecs@juno.com](mailto:hornbucklecs@juno.com), or phone 360-352-2113.

Let's make it fun, interesting and educational for our out-of-state friends. - *Chuck Hornbuckle*

[Editor's note - Both Oregon and Washington have books of geographic names. Dig them out and look up those strange names - like Anacortes, Boring, Cecil, Dusty, Echo, Friday Harbor, Government Camp, Hoquiam, Issaquah, Joyce, Keno, Lookingglass, Multnomah, Nyssa, Ohanapecosh, Puyallup, Quinalt, Rickreall, Sequim, Trail, Usk, Vida, Wamic, Yachats, or Zigzag (or Zillah).]

## The Cowlitz Trail – *“Mud and misery on the way to Puget Sound”* by Chuck Hornbuckle

The Cowlitz Trail had its roots long before the arrival of American settlers in 1845. Prior to emigrant travel, the route was used by Hudson’s Bay Company fur-traders as a portage to their McKenzie and Fraser River trading posts north of the 49th parallel. And for many generations before that, it was a trade route between Puget Sound Indians and tribes to the south.

To the HBC fur-traders the overland route was known as the *“Cowlitz Portage”* or the *“Road from Cowlitz Farms to Nisqually.”* To American settlers it was called the *“Road from Cowlitz Landing to Olympia.”*

With the arrival of American settlers the first demands were to establish post offices and improve roads. The U.S. Army was charged with the “construction” of the *“Fort Vancouver to Steilacoom Military Road”*.

Although the Military Road replaced most of the river travel between Monticello (Longview) and Centralia, the Cowlitz Trail itself lived on as a transportation corridor. By the 1870s the Northern Pacific Railroad brought improved travel along the Cowlitz Trail corridor.

The first steam boat navigated the Cowlitz in 1852, and mud-wagon (stage) service from Cowlitz Landing to Olympia was established in 1853.

With the dawning of the twentieth century travel by horse and stage yielded to the automobile and the “modern” Pacific Highway was completed in 1923. Gas and power lines to satisfy the needs of a growing population were constructed within the Cowlitz corridor.

Today an interstate freeway, a railroad, numerous utility lines and, six-miles up, jet airplanes follow the ancient Indian path we call the “Cowlitz Trail”.

In order to increase public education and appreciation of our history, the Tumwater Historical Association (THA) requested the Washington State Department of Transportation to place Auto Tour signing at strategic locations along the trail corridor.

More recently, the State Archives Office began a project to video document the Cowlitz Corridor as part of the Washington Territorial Sesquicentennial celebration. Plans tentatively include up to five one-hour segments which would be available to local TV. Filming will document historic sites featuring individuals and groups reenacting events of the 19th century.

Roger Easton and Karen Johnson, volunteers at the Archives Office, and Terri Juillerat, State Archives Video Specialist, are leading the project. Chuck Hornbuckle, THA Board Member and Oregon-California Trails Association Chapter Preservation Officer, is assisting the effort which, in part, is based on his Cowlitz Trail research.

NOTE: Readers, especially pioneer descendants, wishing to share Cowlitz Trail and Military Road information, including journals, diaries, etc., should contact Chuck Hornbuckle through the Newsletter Editor. Contributions will be greatly appreciated and all materials used in the documentary will receive full credit. However, funds are not available to reimburse donors.

