



Northwest Trails Journal

Newsletter and Journal of the Northwest Chapter of OCTA

July 2004

President - Glenn Harrison Editor - Jim Tompkins

<http://www.nwocta.com>

OCTA 2004 CONVENTION READY TO ROLL ROLL ON, COLUMBIA, ROLL ON!

The fun is about to begin! After two years of planning and preparations, the Northwest Chapter's presentation of the 22nd Annual Convention of the Oregon-California Trails Association at Fort Vancouver, Washington, is just around the corner. Do you have your reservations for the convention? If not, please do it now.

A multi-themed approach was selected for this convention to take advantage of the unique history of the Columbia River. Native American stories, Western exploration, Oregon fur trade and Oregon Trail emigrant stories will be explored. We will celebrate the 199th anniversary of the arrival of Lewis and Clark at the mouth of the Columbia. Under the leadership of outstanding experienced tour planners, these stories will be told in visits to the key sites such The Dalles, the starting point of the Barlow Road and the descent of the Columbia, the Cascades of the Columbia, Fort Vancouver, Oregon City, Fort Clatsop, the Pacific "Ocien," Champoeg, Laurel Hill and others.

Most days will be capped with a special meal at Vancouver's Red Lion Inn at the Quay, followed by entertainment. We have The Trail Band, Carl Allen (as Woodie Guthrie), Susan Butruille (as Abigail Scott Duniway), Tom Laidlaw (as William Cannon), Phil and Vivian Williams, the OCTA Band and a special surprise guest. You won't want to miss the closing event at Pearson Airfield with a special program. The sun setting over Fort Vancouver will make up for the omission of fireworks. But there may be an air show and ...

So make your plans now and bring a friend. The convention is open to the public. Additional registration materials and the convention registration booklet are available through headquarters or online at <http://nwocta.com>. If there are questions please contact **Dave Welch** (253-584-0332 or welchdj@comcast.net).

DRESSING THE PART

Period clothing will be on display at the convention Wednesday evening, and again Saturday. Several members have indicated that they are attending two functions in clothing representative of the emigrant period. If you are interested in joining in the fun, plan to wear your period clothing for the Awards Banquet on Wednesday evening, and again for the barbecue on Saturday evening at Pearson Air Museum.

OCTAPELLA CHOIR REPEAT PERFORMANCE

Get out your dark blue NW OCTA convention polo to wear Wednesday at the Vancouver Convention General Membership meeting. Last year a group of Northwest chapter members doffed their new polos and wowed the general meeting with a specially revised version of "Roll On, Columbia"

This year we are planning an encore performance. You don't have the dark blue chapter polo? Shop for one at the chapter merchandise table before they are all gone; or choose a shirt of any color from your own stock, and plan to join the OCTApella choir in its command performance!

BUTTONS, BUTTON, BUTTONS

Dorothy Krugner of Vancouver, Washington, has all her buttons, in fact she has rooms full of buttons from many fashion/style periods and many countries. She will have buttons for sale as well as buttons on display.

Her display, located in the convention registration room, will include buttons of the Lewis and Clark era through about 1845. An interesting part of her display is the use of period accurate fabric behind the buttons.

FORT VANCOUVER TAPESTRY PROJECT

The Fort Vancouver Tapestry celebrates and honors landscape, events and people who make up the wonder and beauty of Vancouver, Clark County, and the entire Pacific Northwest. The history of this area and life along the Columbia River is embroidered with wool on linen with whimsy, awe and inspiration drawn from the community. Upon completion in Spring of 2005, the Tapestry will measure 108 feet long by 30 inches wide, include 70 different story panels and will have absorbed 120,000 hours of volunteer time from 40 stitchers.

Some of the panels tell the story of Lt. Broughton arriving in SW Washington, American Indians in the camas fields, Lewis and Clark's arrival, the immigrant wagon trains arriving at Fort Vancouver as well as scenes from Clark County and Vancouver through the present.

The Tapestry may be viewed on the web at www.fortvancouvertapestry.com. Selected panels will be on display at the NWOCTA convention in the registration room.

OTHER DISPLAYS

A representative from the U.S. Post Office will be at the convention Wednesday August 11 from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM to cancel envelopes and sell stamps. The 2004 convention stamp is Lewis and Clark. The table will be set up just outside the meeting room.

Mary Bywater Cross will display two of her quilts made in response to Jane Kirkpatrick's book "All Together in One Place." To view the quilts, visit the OCTA booth.

Baker City Trail Center display will encourage conventioners to stop and visit this important Oregon California Trail Museum while in the Northwest. Also view the work of young Washington State history students.

NW Chapter Directory

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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

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BOOK ROOM

The Book room will be open Wednesday, August 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, August 12 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday, August 12 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Some of the vendors are: Arthur H. Clark Press, Washington State University Press, Indian Scout Books, Jim Mundie Books, and High Plains Press. Northwest vendors include Jack and Pat Fletcher, Lee and Grace Nash, Charles Davis, Jane Kirkpatrick, and Mary Bywater Cross.

The public is encouraged to visit the bookroom during the scheduled open hours.
- *De Ann Wilson*

WASHINGTON'S OFFICIAL BAGPIPE BAND TO PERFORM

Arrangements are being completed for the appearance of the Fort Vancouver Pipe Band at the Saturday night BBQ. This 15-member marching bagpipe unit is Washington's official pipe band. Their music will bring to life the Scottish heritage of Fort Vancouver.

SPECIAL THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

As noted elsewhere in this Journal, conventions plans are in place and we are ready to go. I would like to thank the following for their substantial help in the planning process: Glenn and Carol Harrison, Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle, Vic and Nancy Bolon, Muriel and Gail Carbiener, Marley and Gary Shurtleff, Lee Smith, Jim Tompkins, Joyce Bolerjack, Sharon Brown, Tom Laidlaw, Wendy Welch, Roger Blair, Susan Badger Doyle, Lethene Parks, DeAnn and Gareth Wilson, Ray Egan, Carol Buss, Rich Herman, Keith May, Jenny Miller, Bob and Barbara Kabel, Bernie Rhoades, Lowell Tiller and Jack and Pat Fletcher.

Many of you have volunteered for activities at the convention and we are counting on you. Some have offered to "help where you can" and those assignments will be made in the registration room at the convention. See Wendy Welch at the convention for assignments and coordination.

Thanks to all. I am sure the convention will be a great success.
- *Dave Welch*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHWEST TRAILS JOURNAL

As we enter the final month before the 2004 OCTA Convention, our thanks and appreciation should go to the many Northwest chapter members, most especially our convention chairs, Dave and Wendy Welch, who have been preparing the Vancouver convention, to be held August 8-15.

Elsewhere in this newsletter convention issue, you will read of the numerous wonderful tours, the great entertainment, the interesting speakers, the well-stocked bookroom with displays, and the enjoyable meals such as the banquet and the barbecue. Getting the whole package put together has taken the efforts of many members, none more hardworking and exceptionally dedicated than Dave and Wendy.

Developing and implementing the plans for a smooth-running convention has taken a lot of the Welch's concentrated effort. What we don't see, or perhaps fully appreciate, are their hundreds hours of planning on their own and with others, coordination with speakers and dignitaries, hotels and venues, multitudes of e-mails sent and received, issues resolved, activities tracked, and many miles driven to ensure that locations are acceptable, and that activities will go as planned.

All that planning and preparation means that attending the convention is well worth your time. It is a great bargain for a week of entertainment, education, enlightenment, socialization and just plain fun. Don't put off getting your reservation in today! Pick the things you most want to do, and the days you want to be there. And when you get to the convention, be sure to say a big "Thanks" to Dave and Wendy for all their hard work spearheading the great 2004 Vancouver OCTA Convention.

- *Marley Shurtleff, NW OCTA Chapter Secretary*

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.

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

INTERVIEWS WITH THREE SPECIAL GUESTS

Woody Sings As Columbia Rolls

Woody Guthrie is coming to Vancouver again after 65 years. He was last here to write music for a documentary film project about the building of the Grand Coulee Dam. We asked Woody about what inspired his Columbia River Songs, and he said, "The gummint" turned me loose on a great, huge palette, the Pacific Northwest, and said, "Go paint me some songs about this place. I didn't mind a bit takin' the gummint dollar to say these things that needed to be said."

"Somebody once told me, "That man is stealin' your song!" and I said, 'Heck fire, he just steals from me, but I steal from everybody!' Mostly I just used old tunes I had learnt many years back, just changin' a note or two here and there to make it sound like a new song." Woody "wants to be known only as the man who told you something you already knew. I managed to work into these 26 songs all kinds of stuff about poor folks and wanderin' Okies. Mostly I just used old tunes I had learnt many years back, just changin' a note or two here and there to make it sound like a new song."

"I been knowed to say that I wanted to be known only as the man who told you something you already knew. Fer you deep thinkin' types, this means that my little songs point out the obvious to the oblivious, tellin you stories and tales to make clear to you what you didn't know you already knew. I ain't nothin' special on a stick, just a wanderin' Okie passin' through. If you find somethin' in my songs that speaks to you, for you, and about you, that'll be jest fine with me."

Carl Allen, portraying Woody, will be performing Tuesday, August 10, 7:30-9:30, at Re-enactors Night. Plan to be there to enjoy his presentation.

Abigail Scott Duniway, "Yours in Liberty"

Celebrated regional author and campaigner for equal rights for women, Abigail Scott Duniway will be in Vancouver for the Convention. Duniway's first novel, *Captain Gray's Company*, or *Crossing the Plains and Living in Oregon*, a fictionalized account of her family's trek west, was published in 1859.

We asked Abigail (Jenny to her family) what led to her dedication to the cause of woman's suffrage. She noted that she had traveled to Oregon as an eighteen-year-old in 1852. "When my father decided to move our family to Oregon, my mother had no say in the matter. And she paid the ultimate price."

Abigail soon married Ben Duniway. She and her husband eventually lost their donation land claim "because he signed a note for a friend, over my objections. But I had no legal voice and couldn't stop him."

Then, Ben was injured, and Abigail began working in a millinery shop to support her family. "I heard many stories of women badly treated and I would go home and pour out my heart to Ben. One night he said to me, 'You know, Jenny, things will never get any better for women until they can vote.' At that moment, I knew what I was to do."

In 1871 the Duniways moved to Portland, where Abigail started a weekly newspaper called the *New Northwest*. "With the help of Ben and our six children, I edited and published my human rights newspaper in Portland for sixteen years." Then, because Ben believed the paper was not making enough money, she sold it in 1887 to finance a livestock ranch her husband and sons homesteaded in Idaho.

Abigail Duniway continued to support the suffrage movement throughout her life. "My proudest achievement was the part I played in challenging people to think! In the pages of my newspaper and my books, and in my thousands of public speeches, I presented different sides of issues and expected my readers and listeners to consider them. I urged people to think for themselves, and never, never to allow public figures such as politicians and preachers to think for them."

Susan Butruille will present the inspiring emigrant Abigail Scott Duniway, Tuesday evening, 7:30-9:30 August 10, at Re-enactors Night at the Convention.

Billy Cannon, From Sea to Shining Sea

Revolutionary war veteran and early Oregonian Billy Cannon has agreed to join us in Vancouver for the 22nd OCTA convention. It seems that he has always been where some historically significant activity was going on, and we asked him to share a little about his long life.

Cannon told us he had been born William Canning in 1755 in a region claimed by both Pennsylvania and Virginia. Starting his life there seemed to predispose him to spending the rest of his life in disputed activities or territories. After the Revolutionary War, he stayed on as a soldier, and parlayed his mechanical adeptness into positions at several frontier postings. In 1810, he got the opportunity to walk to the west coast of the North American continent with the Astorians. He said, "I wanted to be on the frontier. I tried to go with Lewis and Clark, but was in the wrong place at the time. When the opportunity came to actually expand on their discoveries, I took it. Besides, the pay was good."

Frontier life was all that he hoped it would be. He traveled in company with a number of great Pacific Northwest explorers: MacMillan, MacLeod, and Peter Skene Ogden. "All of these were first explorations, and I was the first American to be there. The trips were often grueling, and the excitement came from knowing I was first, on the frontier."

Cannon's proudest achievement during his long life was "helping to form the first Provisional Government of Oregon, in 1843." He noted that, "Thinking back over my life I feel very good about it all, because I took part in so many actions that produced a nation that stretched from sea to shining sea."

Tom Laidlaw, portraying Billy Cannon, will be performing Tuesday, August 10, at Re-enactors Night, 7:30-9:30. Plan to be there to enjoy his presentation.

OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 - (253) 584-0332

CONVENTION TOURS, TOURS, TOURS

Three pre-convention tours, four convention tours, and two post-convention tours offer local chapter members lots of options to get acquainted with new venues.

Pre-convention tours run on Sunday-Monday, August 8th & 9th, Monday only, or Tuesday, August 10th.

A. Vic Bolon is offering a two-day **Oregon Trail auto tour from Hermiston to The Dalles**, beginning Sunday, August 8th. (Check with Vic at [<bolonnv@yahoo.com>](mailto:bolonnv@yahoo.com) before signing up, the tour is filling fast and you may have missed your chance to take this eye-popping rut-lover's tour.) CBs.

B. Not all the emigrants who arrived at Portland turned left! Monday, August 9th, take a turn to the "right" and join Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle as they guide a fascinating one-day **auto tour of the Cowlitz Trail north from Vancouver to Olympia**. Contact Chuck or Suzanne at [<hornbucklecs@juno.com>](mailto:hornbucklecs@juno.com) to reserve yourself a slot on the tour. CBs. (Tour also available on Sunday, August 15th.)

C. Check out the **end of the Oregon Trail** in one day. Tuesday morning, August 10th, join a bus tour to the National Park Service HBC 1829 Fort Vancouver, on the River Route. Then travel to Oregon City, end of the Barlow Route, for visits to the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, The Museum of the Oregon Territory, a view of Willamette Falls, and more. Lunch provided.

Convention bus tours run Friday and Saturday, August 13th and 14th. Lunches are provided.

D. **The Columbia Gorge From The Dalles to Fort Vancouver**. Before emigrants traveled on rafts or in boats to get through the region of the river bounded by the Cascade Range, the Lewis and Clark Expedition passed this way. Explore sites on both sides of the river on this tour. The first bus will include a trail hike between Biggs and the Deschutes River.

E. **Lewis and Clark on the Lower Columbia**. This expansive history tour's stops will touch on four Lower Columbia themes: Columbia River exploration, Lewis and Clark's winter quarters, Hudson's Bay Company, and the British and American Territorial interests.

F. **Emigrant Destination: The Willamette Valley**. See the beautiful land that beckoned the emigrants west. There will be historic sites and missions, donation land claims, modern landmarks, remnants of the Applegate Trail, and a visit to Champoege, birthplace of Oregon.

G. **The Barlow Road, Final Link of the Oregon Trail**. First, explore the wagon toll road alternative to the hazardous river route, and then visit Foster Farm and the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Chose a tour with or without hiking at Laurel Hill Chute #3, Devil's Half Acre, Pioneer Woman's Grave, and Government Camp.

Post-Convention bus tours Sunday, August 15th.

Tom Laidlaw will lead an informal tour of **Ridgefield Archaeological Site**. See a reconstruction of a Chinook plank house and an archaeological excavation. Personal cars and ride sharing. Contact Tom at [<tomlaidlaw@uswest.net>](mailto:tomlaidlaw@uswest.net) to confirm.

Oregon City Tour. Last Chance! Meet Jim Tompkins at the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (EOTIC) in Oregon City for a special tour of EOTIC, McLoughlin and Ermatinger Houses, and other historic sites. Contact Jim at [<tompkins@bctonline.com>](mailto:tompkins@bctonline.com) for details.

If you couldn't make it to the Monday one-day **auto tour of the Cowlitz Trail north from Vancouver to Olympia**, go this Sunday. Contact Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle at [<hornbucklecs@juno.com>](mailto:hornbucklecs@juno.com) to join the tour. CBs.

Are you ready to pack your wagon and go? Then download a convention registration form and brochure at the Northwest OCTA website: [<http://nwocta.com/>](http://nwocta.com) and get ready to roll!

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FALL PICNIC:

Fort Borst Park, Centralia, WA

Saturday September 18

Joyce Bolerjack and Marley Shurtleff, leaders

jpbolerjack@comcast.net - shurtgarymarley@comcast.net

(425) 454-7118 - (425) 271-2485

Chapter Picnic - Joanne and Ralph Heinz to perform "Oregon Fever" presentation

Mark your calendars early for this post-convention blow-out. A bring-your-own (and a dessert for 6-12) lunch is followed by a historical drama presentation.

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NW CHAPTER FALL BOARD MEETING

Lewis County History Museum, Centralia, WA

Sunday September 19

Glenn Harrison harrison@cmug.com - (541) 926-4680

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NW CHAPTER WINTER BOARD MEETING

Harrison home, Albany, OR

Sunday January 15, 2005

Glenn Harrison harrison@cmug.com - (541) 926-4680

Special Program at Mennonite Center January 16

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Fall Mini-Conference - Olympia, Washington

postponed until Spring 2005

Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle leaders

hornbucklecs@juno.com - (360) 352-2113

Postponed due to conflicts with other events.

OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES

RECENT EVENTS

LOCAL HISTORY MINI-CONFERENCES AND TOURS

Spring - Bend, Oregon
Friday and Saturday June 18 - 19

TRAIL MAPPING WORKSHOP:

Gorge Discovery Center
The Dalles, OR
Saturday and Sunday June 5 - 6

A new concept in NW chapter outings was introduced successfully in Bend, Oregon. Its stated purpose was to introduce Bend to OCTA and OCTA to Bend. **Roger Riolo**, a Forest Service ranger at Lava Lands segment of Newberry Crater National Monument, and NW chapter member (as well as trail monitor for the eastern half of the Barlow Road) did a superb job of putting together the program.

About 30 people, both chapter members and nonmembers alike, met Friday evening at Rustic River Grille for a dinner and slide show by **Steve Lent** of Crook County Historical Society in Prineville. He showed images of the Lost Meek Party of 1845 along with diary entries and descriptions of the route.

Saturday morning the group met at the Deschutes County History Museum in Bend to view, among other items, a juniper branch inscribed "1845 Lost Meeks." The group then caravanned out to Lava Lands and carpooled up to the top of the tall cinder cone for a remarkable view of the Deschutes River valley from Sunriver to Bend, as well as the many volcanoes of the central Cascades and Central Oregon. Roger showed how all traffic - from animals to Indians to emigrants - had to funnel through a narrow gap at the base of the cone. Back down on the level we were shown the remnants of the Huntington Road. The president of Deschutes Historical Society and an ODOT surveyor gave the history of Huntington and his road.

After the morning program, a few NW chapter members went to the High Desert Museum to look for **Muriel Carbiener**. She could not be found, but an 1852 emigrant, Hannah Prescott, looked very much like her.

Members attending the two day conference met many friends at Cousins for breakfast then were off to the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Over thirty people met in the classroom downstairs. **Vic Bolon**, chapter mapping and marking chair, was in charge with **Chuck Hornbuckle**, chapter preservation officer, assisting. Vic had a very energetic agenda outlined, including the goals of preservation, its various roles, the various hurdles and paperwork needed to accomplish the goals, and copies of forms and the Mapping Emigrant Trails manual.

We went around the room and introduced ourselves. It is remarkable how many people active on both the local and national level joined OCTA since 1993. Special guests included national Preservation Officer **Dave Welch** and **Kay Threlkeld** of the National Park Service out of Salt Lake City. They briefly explained their roles in trail preservation. It is apparent that although the three purposes of preservation - mapping, marking and monitoring - are equally important, their application has not been equal. Many local trail segments lack monitors and we have few members in some trail areas. The role of mapping has been lessened by the reliance on computer programs. Marking is highly visible due to cost share money from the NPS, but many trail segments remain unmarked. Methodology also is disparate as only a few members present knew how to use the MET manual and the NPS has a different set of criteria for what to include on maps and how.

The original plan for Sunday was to travel out to the ridge above the John Day River crossing, but access could not be secured. At the suggestion of **Stafford Hazelett** and the concurrence of Chuck Hornbuckle, a trip was taken out to Tygh Ridge, overlooking Tygh Valley. A section of the Barlow Road on a State of Oregon Antelope Refuge is known to have a remarkable view as well as an emigrant grave.

High on top of Tygh Ridge, several classifications of trail were present, from Class 1 (pristine ruts) to Class 3 (swales impacted by roads and nature). At the grave site, a demonstration by Dave Welch of an expensive NPS programmable GPS system was upstaged by a \$5 set of divining rods. The twenty people present each had an opportunity to walk over the grave with the rods. Only one person did not experience movement of the rods when passing over the grave. One gentleman had an extreme reaction opposite to everyone else (the rods moved out rather than in when crossing the grave). He later explained that he had a very rare blood type and this may have effected the rods. Several skeptics had reason to change their opinions of divining. The biggest discovery of the day was that there are three bodies in the grave, laying parallel to each other, not just the one marked by rocks and a foot stone inscribed with an "L."

It was agreed that another training session is needed, probably after the NPS mapping conference in Salt Lake City next year.



Roger Riolo



Following in their ancestors footsteps at the Bend Conference.



Hannah Prescott



Vic Bolon



Kay Threlkeld divining three Barlow Road graves at The Dalles Conference.



Stafford Hazelett

THE PEOPLE OF NWOCTA

HAUN MEMORIAL

Juanita Haun was born on January 22, 1921 at Errols Heights in Oregon. She graduated from Canby High School and married Lyle Haun that June. They were married for over 60 years and both were active in NWOCTA. She died on March 25, 2004 and is survived by 4 children, 7 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

Juanita worked at Ellis Gardens in Canby during the 1950s. Then starting in 1961 in the Technical Services Division at the Portland State University library. She retired in January 1983 and they moved to Lincoln City, Oregon.

She had many talents including making pastries, decorating cakes, baking pies, crocheting, and designing greeting cards.

For several years they went on NW chapter outings and took pictures. They maintained a series of 8 scrapbooks as the chapter historian. Although the last two years were difficult, Juanita was comforted by viewing the scrapbooks of OCTA's early efforts in trail marking and mapping. Their daughter will see that the chapter receives these scrapbooks.

The Hauns were very active in the early years of trail marking. They also worked very hard at the 1993 OCTA convention in Baker City, she in the book room and Lyle as a driver to get people where they needed to go. That included several trips to the Portland airport.

APPLEGATE SOUTHERN ROUTE TRAIL GUIDE

Trails West, Inc. is pleased to announce the long awaited Applegate Trail Guide is now available. Please go to the Trails West website at <http://www.applegatetrail.org/> to review samples of this wonderful guide. Click on SITE MAP and then THE APPLEGATE TRAIL GUIDE. After clicking on HERE you can view the Table of Contents and then follow the links to seven sample pages.

You may order this guide from the OCTA Bookstore by phoning 1-888-811-6282 and speaking with Kathy or Suzanne. The retail price is \$29.95, less the 10% discount OCTA gives its members!

- Tom Fee

BARLOW ROAD DRIVING TOUR ON CD

The Clackamas County Tourism Development Council (Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory) just recently completed the production of the Barlow Road Driving Tour on Audio CD. It is a 73-minute narrated tour of the Barlow Road from Barlow Pass to the End of the Oregon Trail in Oregon City. The package contains a 32-page tour booklet along with the audio CD.

We have established the following price structure: Audio CD with 32-page tour booklet: Suggested retail price of \$16.95. 32-page tour booklet only: Suggested retail price of \$4.95

- Jeannine Breshears

- editor's note - I had the opportunity to contribute to this work and highly recommend it. Although it filled the gap left by the non-print status of *Discovering Laurel Hill*, it is much more comprehensive. *DLH* will soon see the light of day again as the Mt Hood Information Center has received a grant to reprint the booklet, complete with color maps, for sale at its book store in Brightwood. -jt

WELCOME WENDELL BASKINS

Introduced in our last newsletter, here is more information about our newest chapter board member, **Wendell Baskins**. A lifetime member of Northwest Chapter as of 2003, he has previously served as chapter vice president. He was a member of governor's Oregon Trail Advisory Committee (later the Oregon Trail Coordinating Council), serving as their first chairperson. Wendell retired as a teacher in the Oregon City School District in July 2004. He continues to give presentations about and lead groups on the Trail as needed.

Asked about why he joined OCTA, he stated it "was the chance to help on a worthy cause, to further my education about the overland trails, especially the Oregon Trail, and continue to work with some great people I was working with on the various other projects and committees."

This editor first remembers meeting Wendell as a young farmer on the Oregon Trail, as he represented himself to hundreds of school kids in Oregon and Missouri, taking part in a series of teacher exchanges between the two ends of the Oregon Trail - Independence, Missouri, and Oregon City, Oregon. I recall at the time that he and his wife Linn claimed to be natives of Missouri. Oregon claims him now.

NEW OCTA COMMEMORATIVE COIN SERIES

We are pleased to announce the unveiling of the first in what is certain to be a long-line of commemorative coin series. The goal of this series is to honor the memory of those who blazed the trails westward and eventually settled at the western edges of our continent. As this is the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark expedition, we felt it essential to launch this series with a tribute to Lewis & Clark. Don't hesitate; we are only minting 1,000 of these coins and once they're gone, they're gone! They'll be available later this week, and we don't expect them to last long. Please stay tuned, as much more is in the works. We'll see you down the trail! For more information contact Travis Boley at tboley@indepmo.org.

- Travis Boley, Association Manager, Oregon-California Trails Association, Independence, Missouri (Headquarters)

FAIRBANKS SIGN DEDICATION

William Johnson notified OCTA that the heirs of I. B. Remington in The Dalles, Oregon, have rebuilt the monument at Fairbanks. They moved it about 90 feet southeast of the original site. The reasons for doing this was to provide better accessibility to the monument site and to make it more visible to the traveling public.

The monument was originally built in 1938 at the request of Ezra Meeker's son. The site was visited in 1938 by a Wasco County Sheriff's posse tracing the Oregon Trail. The Remington heirs had a rededication of the monument at the site on April 25. They invited OCTA members to attend. Glenn Harrison represented OCTA. This is in part an outgrowth of the effort of Vic Bolon and his crew to mark the trail through that part of the country.

There were 82 people attending the dedication and 58 of them were relatives.

- Glenn

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COED PROJECT

OCTA's Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED) project is once again very active, with a dedicated committee working to bring hundreds of exciting emigrant documents into the research program we started over 15 years ago. The Emigrant Names CD disk for sale from OCTA and based on over 2200 survey entries already in the COED database has been very successful. With over 1000 new surveys of documents ready to be added, an updated version of Emigrant Names is planned within the next year.

This is where OCTA members come in. We are looking for both former surveyors and new volunteers. Would you like to join this enthusiastic team by helping with document obtaining and surveying? We need volunteers to comb local resources such as public and university libraries and historical societies. In addition, help is needed to discover private sources for copies of emigrant diaries, letters, and news accounts. The most exciting and rewarding of all is finding previously unknown original diaries of the Western Migration!

We are especially in need of volunteers for particular areas to obtain copies of documents and/or to survey the documents. The particular areas are the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield, the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis, the Iowa State Historical Society in Iowa City, the Iowa State Historical Library in Des Moines, and Yale's Beinecke Library at New Haven, CT.

We have a new COED Instruction Manual for Surveyors with new survey forms and terrific maps. The committee has volunteers to act as mentors, ready to help you fill out surveys from the original emigrant writings.

Join our ranks of OCTA folks who are challenged by working with historic documents, and by doing so, add to the COED database for research and make available to all the rich heritage of the Emigrant experience.

Contact: Shann Rupp at syr50@sonnet.com or at **PO Box 753, Jamestown, CA 95327** or Sallie Riehl at salliek@comcast.net.



PASSPORT-IN-TIME (PIT) FOR RUT NUTS

While writing the article that follows, it occurred to me that many of our OCTA members may be interested in participating in a **Passport-In-Time** project.

Passport in Time (PIT) is a volunteer archaeology and historic preservation program of the US Forest Service. We work with professional archaeologists and historians on projects including archaeological excavation, rock art restoration, historic structure restoration, and locating and mapping emigrant and military roads. Does that sound familiar? That is just a small sample!

These are real, ongoing research and management projects for which the Forest Service is responsible. The Forest Service professional staff of archaeologists and historians are the hosts, guides, and coworkers. There are usually from 10-20 volunteers selected from submitted applications.

Because PIT is a volunteer program, there is no fee to participate. However you must get to the project site and provide your own food and lodging. We stay at local motels or RV Parks and travel to the site each day. Some of the more adventurous camp at the work site. Most projects are for one week.

In the last couple of years, I have volunteered for over 1000 hours. If some of my PIT projects sound like they could be OCTA projects - you're correct! Look at these:

- Modoc Forest - Locating Applegate Trail; 2000
- Wallowa-Whitman Forest - Oregon Trail Survey; 2001
- Shasta-Trinity Forest - Emigrant Wagon Road Survey; 2002
- Modoc Forest - Applegate Trail Marking; 2002
- Stanislaus Forest - Tracing a Trans Sierra Wagon Road; 2002
- Shasta-Trinity Forest - Locating Military Pass Road; 2003
- Deschutes Forest - Mapping the Huntington Wagon Road
- Lassen Forest - Nobles Trail Historic Identification; 2003
- Shasta-Trinity Forest - Lockhart Wagon Road; 2004
- Deschutes Forest - Finding Elliot/Huntington Roads; 2004

There is a catalog that is published in September and March each year. It lists and describes all the PIT projects. There is a web page at: <http://www.passportintime.com/> or give them a call at: (800) 281-9176 and ask to be put on the mailing list.

For those of us who like to get out on the trail more frequently than that which is provided by our chapter, this offers the means to do so. The article that follows was done in response to many of my friends who ask why I drive so far, so often. The same feelings exist when I am on the emigrant trail pounding in those carsonite markers. See you on the trail! - *Gail Carbiener, Sunriver, Oregon*



In a not-too-subtle attempt to cram the Oregon Trail down a Reed College physics major's head, my son and I just completed a 4300 mile road trip. At South Pass I proved rutnuts are crazy drivers.

SUMMER PITS MAKE FOR WINTER DREAMS

Gail Carbiener

A number of our friends have asked why I go to PIT projects. Answering that question has always been difficult and awkward, and my answer never seems quite adequate. Especially when my friends walk away looking at me with questioning eyes, obviously not understanding my reasons, and certain that in my advancing years, something must have snapped.

Oh sure, I give them all the “normal” reasons for leaving my wonderful wife of 47 years at home, when I drive several hundreds of miles to volunteer in the dirt!

1) *It is a learning experience.* We learn how to dig a hole one meter square and several feet deep with a small trowel and a brush. In addition, we get to put the dirt into buckets and then sift it through screens to see what might be there, maybe a flake or chip of chert or obsidian. By looking at the type of chip or flake, the archaeologist can frequently tell what was likely going on at the site. My friends by this time are usually trying to change the subject!

2) *It gives me a chance to stay in shape.* We get to walk over several miles of forest each day, frequently up very steep mountains, carrying equipment and a backpack. Of course, it sometimes rains, but most of the time the sun is shining and temperatures are near the century mark. We use insect repellent and sun block. My friends remind me that I go regularly to the doctor to have skin cancers burned off my face!

3) *We get to volunteer with the Forest Service.* Volunteering is rewarding and makes you feel good. We get to help the archaeologist complete projects that would not get done without volunteer labor. Most of the time, we are working on real and important projects. Projects like surveying for prehistoric sites, surveying burned over lands, mapping old roads, restoring historic buildings, and cleaning and cataloging artifacts, take time and money both of which the forest archaeologist has less and less of each year.

4) *I get to meet many new friends.* The PIT projects bring volunteers from all over the world who are interested in archaeology. Although we see several of the same volunteers, many new friends are made with each new project.

The volunteering and meeting new friends are generally better understood, while learning and staying in shape, get less favorable acceptance. But these are not the real reasons that I apply, attend, and enjoy PIT projects. My reasons are much harder to explain, and I feel certain that many others involved in PIT must feel the same way. It is what I call my “Winter Dreams.” Let me explain.

Over the past couple of years, I have had the pleasure of volunteering on PIT projects that have taken me to wonderful, unique, and special places.

1) With my metal detector, I found the campsite of the US Cavalry at the edge of Yosemite National Park. We were near Soldier Creek, on the old road, where we saw only one car all day!

2) Near Flaming Gorge, Utah, we helped put on a new roof on the barn of an old homestead. The homesteader never used mechanical power in his farming adventure. Two bull moose came down to the road in the evening.

3) At the base of Mt. Shasta in California, in the thick forest, we located the old emigrant and military road by finding artifacts with our metal detectors. The following week we did the same thing on the flank of Mt. Lassen. That day a beautiful Red Tailed Hawk flew over carrying a snake in its talons.

4) Near the edge of the Grand Canyon in Arizona, we mapped an old railroad used for copper mining. We found a large previously unidentified prehistoric site containing several grinding stones and a large number of salmon colored chert points, some complete. The archaeologist lead us to a canyon wall covered with pictographs, none of which had been disturbed.

5) On a PIT with only two volunteers, on the back side of a lake in Southeast Oregon, we located and mapped a homestead cabin and barn that had been burned in a forest fire over 12 years ago. A Great Blue Heron challenged us each day for use of the cool spring.

6) After hiking five miles and gaining over 1000 feet elevation, we looked down over the vast desert toward Mexico to the south and the White Sands National Monument to the west. Our PIT crew did this for five days, locating and mapping cavalry and Indian battle sites.

For me, these are the activities that make for “Winter Dreams.” Each PIT provides at least one special moment, perhaps a view, finding a complete point, eating dinner with the crew, avoiding a hail storm, locating the old emigrant trail, finding cavalry cartridges, looking at the new restored roof, or hundreds of other moments that will remain ready for that day dream.

So, you want to change the subject? I understand.

WIND, PRAIRIE DOGS, WILD HORSES AND TRACES OF EMIGRANT TRAVEL IN THE WYOMING BACK COUNTRY

Chuck Hornbuckle

Someone said "The wind never blows in Wyoming." To them I say, "Mister, where you from? It'll peel an unripened plum. I carry this rock in my pocket for good luck and here's one for you. Every little bit helps in Wyoming, and if you're skinny, you better take two!" (Condensed) Courtesy Baxter Black, Cowboy Poet, 1996.

The Cherokee Trail across southern Wyoming and northern Colorado was the gateway to new lands with almost limitless possibilities for the pioneer, gold seeker and cattleman during the last half of the nineteenth century. That name was noted on General Land Office surveys because two Cherokee wagon trains blazed the trail in 1849 and 1850. During June 2004 Suzanne and I joined Jack and Pat Fletcher to document significant sites of the trail.

In addition to being historically interesting I had a personal connection through my great-great-great grandfather Lewis Ralston. He traveled that route with the 1850 Cherokee train on its way to the California gold fields. During a layover near present day Arvada, Colorado (north of Denver) Lewis panned about five-dollars worth of gold from an unnamed creek. A journal kept by one of the Cherokee noted, *"We call this Ralston Creek for the man of that name who found gold here."* However, it was not enough to change their goal of California.

Lewis' Cherokee connection was through his wife Elizabeth who was of Irish, Scottish and Cherokee descent. During the 1830s they lost most of their holdings in Georgia as Cherokee lands were opened to white settlement. That may have been an inducement for Lewis turn to the gold fields to regain his wealth. His success or lack of it has not been determined, but we do know the route he took and the legacy he left. That legacy has been preserved by the City of Arvada in their newly dedicated "Ralston's Gold Strike Park". More about my part in the dedication later in this article.

In the years following the gold rush, emigrants from the southeastern states intent on improving their life followed the Cherokee Trail west. From Texas and Kansas, cowboys drove hundreds of thousands of cattle to new settlements in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, California and Washington during the waning years of the 19th century.

Jack and Pat had researched the Cherokee Trail over the last twenty-years and when they invited us to walk in the footsteps of my great-great-great grandfather, we quickly accepted.

Our first base camp was at the Rock Springs. From there we began recording GPS coordinates eastbound from the Green River south of Green Springs, Wyoming. In 1850 this was a deep flowing river. Today the water is slack and deeper behind Utah's Flaming Gorge Dam. Here we saw our first and only rattlesnake resting under a large rock and somewhat oblivious to three nearby fishermen. From the Green River we followed the 1850 route from west to east.

After camping a mile east of the Green, Ralston and his friends crossed the river on July 23rd. There John Lowery Brown wrote in his journal, *"This morning we commenced crossing the River by riding our horses and carrying the packs on our shoulders as the water was very deep. The country along the banks of the River is very rugged, looks dreary & desolate, with high bluffs on the west bank."*

One mile east of the Green River we came upon wagon ruts and nearby the first of 56 Cherokee Trail posts installed by the Bureau of Land Management. The trail of yesteryear passed through a land of sometimes hostile conditions and is just a little less so today. Lewis and his train endured the heat, dust, wind, and rain. We did also but from the luxury of our air-conditioned four-wheel drive pickup. However, some areas were off limit to vehicle travel and we set out on foot to record ruts by coordinates and photos.

We logged over 200 miles of dusty, bumpy, steep, high center trail from the Green River east to the Laramie River while taking more than 200 pictures and recording more than 175 sites. Along the way we worried about approaching storms while enjoying the antics of prairie dogs and antelope and their insatiable curiosity towards the two-legged interlopers. The dogs would scurry across our path, dive into their hole only to emerge a few seconds later to gaze as we passed by.

Wild horses paid little attention to our passing while American and Bald Eagles kept an eye on our progress. Just inside the Colorado border a cow moose and her toddler watched warily as we passed their creek side dining table. A short distance beyond, a beautiful full antlered bull moose showed his unconcern by nonchalantly glancing our way.

And there are still cattle drovers pushing herds through small towns of Wyoming. Our second base camp was Lazy Acres RV Park in Riverside a thriving town with a population of 59. Early one morning before arising as we were contemplating what was in store for that day, we plainly heard sound of nearby hooves and cattle lowing. Peering out we witnessed about 100 black Herefords followed by half a dozen riders. Seems their trail to summer pasture in the Sierra Madres meant a short section up Riverside's main street, past the "Bear Trap Café and Bar" and the "Mangy Moose Saloon". Such is real life in Wyoming.

Several days later we neared the Laramie River a mile or so north of the Colorado line. There we discovered six parallel wagon ruts about 3-feet deep, evidence of emigrant travel that may not have been previously documented. We were awestruck by the chance discovery which laid near the crest of a steep climb on the west side of the Laramie.

Now back to the "Gold Strike Park" dedication. I first learned the City of Arvada planned to improve and preserve the site of Lewis' gold discovery while we were on our way to the 2000 Hornbuckle Family Reunion. A local friend, who researched Lewis Ralston's legacy to Arvada's history, kept us posted on the park's progress. In May she said the park would be dedicated on June 22, 2004, a date that worked perfectly with our time in Wyoming. She then hinted I might be asked to say a few words at the ceremony since I would be Lewis' only descendant in attendance.

On June 22nd we arrived at the park for the dedication. I was introduced, briefly shared my family story and concluded by describing our current work to document of the trail Lewis rode exactly 154 years earlier. My message was short and I'm sure the 150 or so in attendance appreciated that since a few of the politicians were on the long end of a short speech. Later that day I read in the city Newsletter that "*- - - the great-great-great grandson of Lewis Ralston will give a speech.*"

Today there are many references to "Ralston" in Arvada, Colorado. They are as proud of their "first gold discovery in Colorado" heritage as I am of Lewis Ralston.

While we recorded coordinates along the Cherokee Trail, five historic covered wagons spent two weeks traversing the Trail from Encampment, Wyoming to Greeley, Colorado. Hard times plagued the modern wagon folks as it often did 150 years ago. They suffered through wind, snow, rain and lightning. Their most difficult loss was the death of a mule while pulling a wagon up a steep ascent. Participants on this wagon train were a credit to their ancestors and would have made it in an earlier time.

We enjoyed our time in Wyoming, especially the gasoline prices. The price in Olympia, Washington was \$2.38 per gallon when we left the first of June. We were delighted with Wyoming's "cheap gas" at \$1.78. Never thought I'd say cheap at \$1.78! And yes, the wind does blow in Wyoming and if you're skinny you better carry two or maybe even three rocks.

