



Northwest Chapter

of the
Oregon-California Trails Association

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Northwest Trails

President/Editor: Glenn Harrison

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Baker City Event

Thanks to the work of **Gail Carbiener**, the Baker City outing on **July 9** will be an important OCTA event. At 10:00 am in the theater of the Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill, Daniel Slosberg will present Pierre Cruzatt, who was a fiddler, paddler, and hunter for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Then Sarah LeCompte, Director of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will welcome us. **Chuck & Suzanne Hornbuckle** and **Dave & Wendy Welch** will be recognized as the 2004 and 2005 Richard and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Service Award winners and their names will be added to the permanent plaque.

Thirty-six registered for the soup bar and build your own sandwich lunch will be served in "Old Dining Room" at Geiser Grand Hotel. Dave Welch will discuss OCTA's preservation efforts.

At 1:30 pm we will then caravan to the North Powder River crossing of the Oregon Trail where diary quotes will be read and a trail marker will be installed. We will continue the car caravan to Clover Valley exit on Interstate-84 and up to newly discover and marked ruts. After a reading of several diary quotes of this area there will be a 1/2 mile hike up gradual hill.

Then we will return to Baker City and the Geiser Grand dining room, where forty-two have registered for a 5:30 pm dinner. Marian Brown will portray as an "Emigrant Grandmother on the Oregon Trail."

Convention Highlights



Utah Crossroads Chapter, the 2005 OCTA Convention host, gets its name from the many emigrant trails that cross the state. Several trails pass through, meet, or end in Salt Lake City. Their logo calls attention to the roads entering from the east - a branch of the California Trail (including the Hastings Cutoff) and Mormon Pioneer Trail, the Southern Route heading for the San Bernardino country in the Los Angeles Basin, the Hastings Cutoff passing west from Salt Lake across the Great Salt Desert, and north of the city Hensley's Salt Lake Cutoff of the California Trail - a route pioneered by returning Mormon Battalion members but soon used by 25,000 Gold Rushers - and a connection to the Oregon Trail. The Old Spanish Trail traversed Utah south of Salt Lake.

For more information about the many excellent tours and speakers, visit the Utah Crossroads website at <http://www.utahcrossroads.org/OCTA2005>. I hope you have made your reservation for the convention and your accommodations. See you there!

Three Island Crossing



The reenactment of Three Island Crossing at Glens Ferry, Idaho is at 11:00 am on Saturday, August 13. This may fit in with your schedule going to Salt Lake City for the OCTA Convention.

OCTA Is Growing

Thanks to the efforts of many enthusiastic members including Association Manager Travis Boley and President Dick Pingrey, two OCTA Chapters are being revitalized and reactivated. The Colorado

chapter and the Nebraska Chapters are becoming very active and both are planning on hosting future OCTA Conventions.

The acting president of the Colorado Chapter is Camille Bradford, stepdaughter of Howard Driggs, who succeeded Ezra Meeker as President of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association. Merrill Mattis referred to OTMA, which grew into the American Pioneer Trails Association, as OCTA's "spiritual ancestor".

In Nebraska, Loren Pospisil, Director of the Chimney Rock State Historic Site, is the acting chapter president.

Trail Markers

by Jenny Miller

On **May 23rd**, a first grade class led by **Keith May**, Gary Miller's fifth grade class, as well as several parents and OCTA members gathered at the Echo BLM trail site to mark a segment of the Oregon Trail. As the children arrived by school bus, **Jenny Miller, Gail and Muriel Carbiener**, and **Glenn Harrison** were there to greet them in period dress. The children were divided into groups mixing the older students with the younger. Gloves were passed out and markers grabbed and all headed out to the trail. A quick demonstration of how to pound in the markers was done by OCTA President **Dick Pingrey** and then all set out to find a flag indicating where to install markers. Each student had a chance to pound in a marker with everyone doing a good job of taking turns.

Both classes had a great time and seemed to enjoy themselves a great deal. The adult chaperones also had a chance to pound in the markers and many remarked that this was a great hands-on field trip. After the marking was over, a bit of trail history was discussed.



Group Effort {Gail Carbiener photo}



Several pictures were taken of the classes in the ruts. Keith's class then climbed the hill to the overlook of the trail while Gary's class got a brief clothing talk. Gary's class then went up the hill to the same viewpoint.

The field trip was a great success in that the children got to get out on the trail. They and the grownups were exposed to what OCTA is all about, and had a great time while at it. Both teachers said that it was one of the best ever field trips and would love to do something like it again.

Sara Shepard, staff writer for the Hermiston Herald, participated in the field trip and wrote a great article "Keeping the trail alive", which appeared the following day. It contained much information about OCTA and its educational and preservation efforts as well as publications.

Investing in the Future

The raffle and auction at the 2004 OCTA Convention produced a sizable influx of extra cash to our chapter. At a special called meeting of the Chapter officers and board on the morning of June 4, approval was given for the following expenditures:

- A digital camera for educational CD development,
- The purchase of a laptop computer to be used with a GPS Unit for \$538.99 if not approved as part of NPS preservation cost share grant,
- \$500 for the OCTA Unrestricted Endowment Fund,
- Adding \$1,000 for OCTA's Loomis Preservation Endowment Fund to partially offset OCTA's expenditure of \$25,000 for the City of Rocks land purchase. Earlier in 2004-05, the chapter had donated \$500 to the Loomis Preservation Fund.

In the approved 2005-06 Chapter budget more expenses were approved: •\$200 for the High Desert Museum Reenactment of an 1853 Free Emigrant Road layover, •\$500 for the OCTA Unrestricted Endowment Fund, •\$500 to OCTA's Loomis Fund, and •\$3,000 for Chapter preservation requests.

City of Rocks

The National Park Service and the property owner have agreed on a purchase price of \$209,000 for the Register Rocks area of the City of Rocks on the California/Applegate Trail in southern Idaho. \$25,000 of that amount would come from OCTA with the land owned by NPS. That is within the guidelines approved by the OCTA board.

The offer to sell is contingent upon the State of Idaho buying other property outside of the reserve. OCTA is not a party to other purchases. The owner originally wanted \$300,000 for the City of Rocks property, but he has reduced his asking price contingent upon the state purchasing the other land.

Once the deal is in its final stages, **Dave Welch**, OCTA's National Preservation Officer, will have the agreement reviewed by an attorney. At least \$6,000 in donations was pledged to OCTA for this project before our chapter's action.

Plan Ahead

The 2006 NW OCTA Annual Meeting will be Saturday, March 11 at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles.

In the afternoon we will have two sections of about 45 minutes each. First Lethene Parks and Jenny Miller will have a slide show "A Visual Journey Along the Oregon Trail". Linda Crew, author of [A Heart for any Fate: Westward to Oregon 1845](#), will emphasize the Meek cutoff story and her research on that part of the saga. She will also discuss the art of the trail and the different works I uncovered while searching for a cover image.

Linda is an OCTA member who lives in Corvallis, OR. She has done considerable trail research. Her historical novel for older children is based on the King family who took the Meek Cutoff and settled in Kings Valley in Benton County, Oregon. Her book won the Jasper G. and Minnie Stevens Literary Prize for 2004 from the Oregon Historical Society. Check it out and other works at www.lindacrew.com.

Collecting Northwest History

The Tumwater Historical Association and the NW Chapter of OCTA jointly sponsored "Collecting and Preserving Northwest History" on **April 30** and **May 1** at the Coach House State Capital Museum in Olympia, Washington.

Mike Iyall discussed "The Cowlitz - Before and After HBC and American Settlers." Dick Carter presented "My Ancestors' Journey on the Oregon Trail." Following a visit to the Museum, Winifred Olsen presented her program of "George Bush and His Family - Their Legacy." The afternoon program

included Detective Mark Curtis, who told about the "History of Thurston County Sheriff's Office."

Mary Thompson described "The Role of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation" and Michael Houser discussed the "State's Role in Historic Preservation." A highlight of Saturday's program was Shelton minister and historian Ray Frederick, who shared his "Adventures in Collecting Northwest History" including several important papers and artifacts relating to Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens. Part of his collection was on display at the museum.

Sunday's program began with a tour of the Union-Pioneer Cemetery in Tumwater, where Jim Brown shared stories of the Bush family and other notable pioneers interred there. The two day program continued with a tour of the Grand Mound Cemetery led by Jan Watson, a Rochester history teacher. Jan along with the help of several cemetery board members and students will recount the story of local Indians and pioneers memorialized by a variety of markers. **Chuck Hornbuckle** planned the program.

Trail Monitor Workshop

Chuck Hornbuckle conducted a workshop for sixteen Trail Monitors on **June 4** (National Trails Day) in Salem, Oregon. **Dave Welch** took part as well. The participants were eager to help out.

Willamette Valley Tour

On the afternoon of **June 4** there was a private guided tour of Salem's Thomas Kay Woolen Mill and Methodist Mission houses, which are on the grounds of Mission Mill Museum.

Then **Glenn Harrison** led a car caravan to Albany, where 16 people had dinner and listened to Glenn discuss the area's history and about what the valley was like when the pioneers arrived.

On Sunday, **June 5** the caravan continued to Brownsville, where we saw an early campground and, at the Moyer House, and the Linn County Historical Museum, many items brought over the Oregon Trail plus an actual covered wagon that followed the Applegate Trail. We drove to the Shedd Museum, to see some Oregon Trail items, including a trunk that opens into a table and an actual Oregon Trail diary. Sixteen people (somewhat different from the June 4 training and the dinner) connected by CB drove by an 1858 water-powered mill, through the farmland, saw the Oakville Cemetery where some Pattison family members are buried. Thanks to a very cooperative landowner, we got to walk in the ruts of the Applegate Trail/Southern Road on the land where Levi Scott built a log cabin north of Corvallis.

Then we visited the Polk County Historical Museum, where it was noted that emigrants had been arriving in the area from Fort Vancouver from the northeast for four years before that 1846 trail opened. So this is another extension of the Oregon Trail or another "End of the Oregon Trail."

Replica Plankhouse Tour

On **June 18**, **Tom Laidlaw** led a car caravan tour to the replica Cathlapotle plankhouse and Wapato portage at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge north of Vancouver.

Once one of the largest Chinookan villages encountered by Lewis and Clark, Cathlapotle is now one of the few archaeological sites on the Lower Columbia River that has withstood flooding, looting, and development. The Chinookan people lived on the river long before Lewis and Clark first observed Cathlapotle in 1805.

Plaque Repair

An OCTA marker noting a trail death was placed at Butter Creek in 1990. The marker was hit by a truck in the pullout for the sign. Jenny Miller gathered it in. A new post was purchased by the chapter and on **July 8** the slightly scratched marker will be replaced by **Jenny Miller, Gail Carbiener, and Glenn Harrison**.

We Remember

Many of you knew **John Bristow** as he was active in NW OCTA and went on several outings. The following is adapted from obituaries in the Eugene Register-Guard and the Springfield News.

Joyce Bolerjack
10813 NE 20th Street
Bellevue, WA 98004-2907

The graveside funeral and a celebration of life was held May 12 for retired Marine Col. John Blair Bristow of Pleasant Hill, who died May 4 at age 84 after a yearlong battle with Glioblastoma, a malignant brain tumor. Bristow was born August 25, 1920, in Shanghai, China, to John and Francis Blair Bristow. He and his wife, Sandra, were married in Eugene on May 28, 1983.

He received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Colgate University and a master's degree in Chinese language and culture from the University of California at Berkeley.

Bristow served in the Marine Corps for 30 years, retiring in 1970 with the rank of colonel. He was a prisoner of war in 1947. He served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. John served on the Pan Mun Jom Peace Commission. He also had served as commanding officer of the 2nd Marine Regiment at Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton and the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center.

For several years and served in World War II and was a prisoner of war in North China for six months. He served in the Korean War and two tours of Vietnam. He was also senior instructor at Vanderbilt University for the Officer's Basic School.

He was very involved in many civic activities including his 33 year membership in Lane Leaders Association and serving as Executive Director of from 1972 to 1982. He also taught business classes at Lane Community College and sales training courses for local employers. He was a member of the Eugene Downtown Athletic Club and the Oregon-California Trails Association.

Note: Since our chapter covers such a large area, if you learn of a member who dies, please let one of the officers or directors know the information, so it can be included in a future newsletter.