



Northwest Trails

Newsletter of the Northwest Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Volume 25, No. 2

Spring 2010

In Pursuit of a Dream Showing in Oregon City

Combining the thoughts of Glenn Harrison, Lethene Parks, and Wendell Baskins

The April 10 showing of *In Pursuit of a Dream* in Oregon City went very well. People had a good opportunity to view displays of the trail, photos of the trail in Oregon, and see wind turbine and transmission line challenges to trail preservation. They could also see the OCTA video *Saving a Legacy*, visit, and have snacks—both before and after the showing. Several OCTA members were present, some in period clothing. The Oregon Heritage Excellence Award presented on April 9 to OCTA for *In Pursuit of a Dream* was on display. It was one of five awards given in 2010. It is a fired clay representation of the top of the Oregon State Capitol.

People were very impressed with the video and several wanted to buy a copy. Film participants Javonna Aariga (student) and Jane Lesch (Ranger Jane) were very well received. They were mobbed after the showing, including people seeking an autograph. John Salisbury, who was in a scene in the film, was there dressed for the occasion and assisted in handing out programs. Both Lethene and Jane got a chance to mention the OCTA website and the developing educational material. Jim Tompkins did a good job as MC and handling the money. We were within budget and made a nice amount for the Clackamas County Historical Society. Zoe, a little girl brought to the showing by her grandparents, emptied her purse into the donation jar.

There were 110 in attendance. Word of mouth should create quite a buzz. Some of the members of the Oregon Cultural Commission attended, as did an Oregon City mayor, a former state legislator, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who brought his grandchildren. Jim, Wendell, and Glenn know him well, and he is an Oregon Trail pioneer descendent.

Lethene was asked again about when the DVD would be available in gift shops, such as at Foster Farm, and for classroom use. OCTA is working on a marketing plan and hopes to have a corrected version available by fall. People want to use this film. Young people in the audience all seemed to relate really well to it; adults did too. Several of the Oregon City teachers wanted to use the DVD for its dealing with interpersonal relations as well as historical content.



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President's Message

As I have become older, I have reluctantly become wiser, just ask my children. I have come to realize that on most issues whatever efforts are made will not please all people. There will always be some to whom any effort is not enough and others who tread much more lightly. It is important to remember that as an organization NWOCTA needs to educate the public about our beloved trail without falling off the moral high ground.

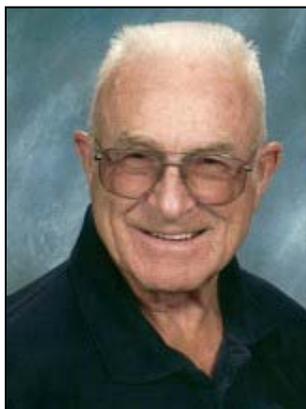
Late last year Dave Welch provided *Pathways* magazine two essays on wind power, the Oregon Trail, and viewshed. Back in January Dave wrote a letter to the editor of *The Oregonian*. Rather than print it, they put it on their on-line edition with a brief sentence in the printed edition referring to it. Then in February the topic of wind farms became front page business for *The Oregonian* when a wind farm was proposed for a state scenic icon, Steens Mountain. All of a sudden the people of Oregon were hearing the term "viewshed." Then *The Oregonian* gave print to the issue in Union, Oregon, where the Antelope Ridge project was protested for ruining their viewshed. The next day *The Oregonian* printed an editorial blasting wind mill farms for not considering viewsheds. If Dave's letter had been given print exposure, or had come in a more timely manner, we might have had our name or at least the Oregon Trail included in the editorial. Due to timing, we missed that boat.

At the annual meeting on March 13, I gave a brief history of NW Chapter's involvement with the wind farm business, as tactfully as I could. I made an appeal to start a letter writing campaign to local newspapers. The most effective letters are those written by local constituents, so I asked everyone to write to their local newspapers. Any letters written need to stress that as an organization we are not opposed to alternate energy, we love the trail and its role in our heritage, we do not want to see any more vestiges of the trail lost, and we would like to be able to preserve the viewshed.

At the ensuing board meeting we created a chapter Education Committee. In addition to recognizing good teaching, it is the committee's goal to 1) tell the community who we are, 2) provide assistance to schools or educators who ask for it, 3) show appreciation and educate private land owners who have the trail on or near their property about the heritage resource they have, and 4) assist planning groups, such as county commissions or alternative energy siting commissions whose decisions impact the trail. Many thanks to Keith May and Jenny Miller, who volunteered to co-chair the committee.

—Jim Tompkins

In Remembrance



Victor Royce Bolon

Victor Royce Bolon, a longtime active member of the NW Chapter, passed away in Sequim, Washington, on March 7, 2010, after a long battle with cancer. Vic was born November 26, 1929, in Clarkston, Washington, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bolon. He was the youngest child, with four older sisters.

The family moved from Clarkston to Endicott to Oakesdale and settled in Connell, Washington, where Vic grew up. After graduating from Connell High School, he joined Marines Officer Training and then transferred to the Navy for flight training. Following his military service, he attended college in Cheney and then Central Washington in Ellensburg, where he met his future wife, Nancy Price.

Vic and Nancy were married on July 28, 1956. Nancy finished college and became a teacher. Vic obtained two undergraduate degrees and a master's degree from Central Washington University, and then a PhD in Educational Psychology from Northern Colorado University. He taught Psychology at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma and then was appointed Director of Student Affairs and taught psychology at Olympic College in Bremerton.

Vic and Nancy settled in Silverdale, Washington, where they raised their family while running a small ranch with Black Angus cattle and white Samoyed dogs, another one of Vic's great loves. Vic retired from teaching in 1989. He continued with his hobby of raising cattle on the farm while waiting for Nancy's retirement. When Nancy retired in 1995, they moved to Sequim to truly retire and travel together.

Vic was a past National Director of OCTA. He researched, mapped, and marked the Oregon Trail through the entire state of Oregon. He also was instrumental in planning the Sequim non-profit Cooperative Community of Clasen Cove. He loved landscaping and gardening. He read constantly, and especially enjoyed history and genealogy. Vic loved to sing and was a member of the Straitmen Chorus and sang with the Sunbeam Jammers. He played all sports and especially enjoyed baseball. He continued playing softball until his middle 70s. Vic and Nancy loved traveling, both in the states and abroad. For several years, Vic and Nancy spent the winter months in El Centro, California, which included sightseeing trips to the surrounding area and into Mexico.

Vic is survived by Nancy, his wife of nearly 54 years; two daughters, Bonita Burrows and Amy Jo Bolon; one son, Scott Bolon; four granddaughters; Lyndzi, Carlee Jean, Alanna, Isabelle, and one grandson Royce James. Three of his four sisters, Maxine Schwisow, Barbara German, and Beverly Reeve, live in Eastern Washington.

Vic enjoyed a full and active life. He loved his wife, family, and friends, and he was loved and respected by countless people. He will be greatly missed. Vic's life was celebrated at a memorial service on Saturday, March 20, at the Sequim Community Church. The service was followed by a reception.

2010 NW OCTA Outings

June

Saturday, June 5: National Trails Day Outing, “Wind power in Oregon,” a hike and picnic centered in the Echo, Oregon, area. Contact: Keith May, 541-276-8206, drighsighed@uci.net

June 18–20: Goodale Workshop and Tours, at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and Baker City, Oregon, area. Contact: Jim McGill, 208-467-4853, jwmcgill@cablone.net.

Tuesday, June 29, to Thursday, July 1: Marking Event, Barlow Road at the Davis Ranch. Contact: Dave Welch, 360-923-0438, welchdj@comcast.net.

July

NOTE: Previously scheduled Naches Trail Outing has been postponed. The dates will be announced when the outing is rescheduled. Contact: Dave Welch, 360-923-0438, welchdj@comcast.net.

August

August 10–14: National Convention, Elko, Nevada. Presented by the California-Nevada Chapter.

Saturday, August 28: Outing in conjunction with OHTAC (Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council) on the Free Emigrant Road, centered in Oakridge, Oregon. Contact: Del Spencer, 541-913-2055, del.spencer@yahoo.com.

September

Saturday, September 11: Applegate Trail, Grants Pass area, in conjunction with the Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society. Contact: Leta Neiderheiser, 541-862-9077, letan@oigp.net.

Saturday, September 18: NW OCTA Fall Meeting in Centralia, Washington. Contact: Joyce Bolerjack, 425-454-7118, jpbolerjack@comcast.net.

October

Saturday, October 2: Outing in conjunction with OHTAC (Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council) on the Meek Cutoff, centered in Burns, Oregon. Contact: Wendell Baskins, 503-655-0311, wlbaskins@msn.com.



Notes and Announcements

The National Park Service has certified Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, near Pendleton, Oregon, as an official interpretive site on the Oregon National Historic Trail. Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the NPS National Trail System, visited Tamastlikt in March and said:

It's rare to have the opportunity for the American public to see the other side of the story, perhaps challenging traditional and cultural myths, understanding that these were not vast vacant lands, they were homelands, and the pioneers were coming into land already settled.

Bob Coward received a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation at the annual meeting in March. The text of the award reads:

With gratitude for the significant contribution rendered to OCTA as an unsung hero who, quietly and without fanfare, has contributed in countless ways to the organization's success.

150th Anniversary Mullan Road Conference
Fort Benton, Montana
May 20–22, 2010

Registration deadline is May 17.
For information contact River & Plains Society
(Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to Noon),
406-622-5316, fbmuseums@mtintouch.net,
or Ken Robinson, 406-868-3635,
KennethGR@aol.com.

Keith May received the 2010 Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award at the annual meeting in March.

Karen Haas will present “Narcissa Whitman: Lady at the Crossroads,” on May 16 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Center at the Mennonite Village Retirement Center, 2180 54th SE in Albany.

Book Note

Dennis M. Larsen, *Slick as a Mitten: Ezra Meeker's Klondike Enterprise* (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2009).

NW OCTA member Dennis Larsen has written a remarkable book about Ezra Meeker's experiences in the Klondike gold rush. A multitude of photographs and three years of letters, most from Ezra to his beloved wife Eliza Jane, tell the story of Ezra's amazing life in the Yukon.

Larsen is a retired history teacher who lives in Olympia. For the past decade he has researched and written about Ezra Meeker and early Pacific Northwest pioneers.

Dave Welch's Op-Ed in *The Oregonian*

Dave Welch's Op-Ed piece was published in *The Oregonian*. *The Oregonian* published a notice in the newspaper on the Editorial Page about the article, but the whole text was only online.

The full piece is online at:

http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2009/12/renewable_energy_and_the_orego.html.



The Biglow Canyon wind farm near The Dalles

Annual Meeting in Oregon City



49 people attended the annual meeting in Oregon City on March 13.



Jenny Miller and Rich Herman calling raffle numbers.



Roger Blair received a crystal covered wagon as past president.



Raffle table.



Keith May received the 2010 Ackerman Award.



Another delightful buffet.



Jim and Theona Hambleton presented a program on the Lost Meek Trail.

Visit our chapter website to see more: <http://www.octa-trails.org/chapters/northwest/index.php>



Entering Oregon: Crossing the Snake River near Parma. Glenn Harrison



Keeney Pass, OR: Between Nyssa and Vale in Eastern Oregon. Wendell Baskins

(Do you have great pictures to share? Contact Susan or Marley)

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Pictures can be sent via email, on disk (JPG format), or originals for scanning. Please send pictures separately from text document.

MASTHEAD: Replica of *The Old Oregon Trail* bronze relief sculpture created in 1924 by Avarð Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2010 OCTA Convention

August 10–14

Elko, Nevada

**Presented by the
California-Nevada Chapter**



Northwest Trails

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