



Northwest Trails

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

Volume 26, No. 3

Summer 2011

NW OCTA Fall Annual Picnic

Borst Park, Centralia, Washington

Saturday, September 10, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Northwest Chapter's annual celebration of western trail migration history will again be held at Borst Park in Centralia, Washington. We will begin with a coffee hour at 9:00 a.m., and the meeting will begin at 10:00. We will be meeting in Kitchen 1 this year. It is enclosed, so cold or damp weather will not be a problem.

Please bring your own picnic lunch. Beverages will be provided. After lunch there will be a raffle and silent auction along with the dessert table. A flyer will be sent out in August giving more information and driving directions.

§ A VERY SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT IS PLANNED §

Tacoma resident John Salicco, living history reenactor, writer, and musician, will perform a one-man show featuring several Stephen Foster songs and original 19th-century material taken from a song book published by Mart Taylor in the 1850s. John performs this material using an authentic antique 19th-century guitar and a self-made replica 19th-century fretless banjo.

Salicco's performance, "Mart Taylor and his Original Company," is based on an authentic historical person who entertained throughout the California gold camps of the 1850s. John adapts this presentation for the 1850s Puget Sound when regular steamship service made it possible for theatrical troupes, minstrel shows, and other forms of entertainment to profitably ply their trade in the Washington territory.

Salicco has training in both theatre and fine arts. After nearly thirty years working in data communications, he returned full time to more creative pursuits, particularly developing historic restoration and reenactment programs. He frequently performs at Fort Nisqually Living History Museum in Tacoma.



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!!Trail Monitor Information Needed!!

Billy Symms, our recently-appointed NW OCTA Preservation Officer, needs information from **You!**

The trail monitor effort has been less active during the past few years, and Billy is anxious to get it running smoothly again. He has been informed that several people have agreed to monitor a section of trail, but he needs current information from them.

Billy is also looking for volunteers. If you are currently a trail monitor, please contact him to let him know what section you are monitoring. If you are interested in becoming a monitor, contact him to let him know what section you are interested in monitoring.

Contact Billy (using either his email or land mail) to send your contact information (both email and land address, and phone number). Be sure to mention which section of the trail you monitor, or are interested in monitoring.

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Trail Mapping and Marking Opportunity

By Henry Pittock

Field work is planned at the Montague Wind Farm south of Arlington on October 18 and 19. If the weather is not cooperative, it will be postponed until November 1 and 2. The area extends from the Four Mile Canyon BLM kiosk to just west of Cedar Springs, but probably concentrated in three segments.

We will be trying to locate the trail in a couple of places. If possible, we'll be pounding in some new posts and resetting a couple of concrete posts. GPS and photography is also involved. Metal detection is still under discussion, but I expect it will be limited to just putting in "pin flags" where we get hits (no digging). The developer is limiting us to 12 people. If you are interested, please contact Henry Pittock at hpittock3@mac.com, or 541-752-6139 as soon as possible.

President's Message

When my children were younger we used to take them on camping trips. At the end of the vacation we would arrive home and at least start to empty the car before the kids would go their own separate directions and resume their lives, including sharing with their friends what they did the last week and the tortures they had to endure. For mom and dad the trip wasn't over. We had to finish unpacking, start cleaning up and putting everything away in its proper place.

There was a similar parallel with the Oregon Trail experience. Authors who have written about various years on the trail seem to think that once the wagon wheels stopped rolling the trek was over. Arriving at Oregon City or the various other ends of the trail was not the end of the experience. Since the pioneers arrived at the onset of the rainy/snowy season, they usually wintered over at their end of the trail. Unless they already had family in the Willamette Valley or Puget Sound area, they next had to locate and claim a piece of the Eden at the end of the trail. Then came the process of starting a farm or business, building communities, and resuming growing families.

In 2013 Northwest Chapter will be hosting the annual convention for OCTA. The theme is "End of the Trail and Beyond," which will focus on the different ways the pioneers ended their trek. The convention is still in the planning stages, so no set-in-stone agenda is yet available. The convention will probably be in late July, but could be a week or two later if conditions require. The host hotel will probably be either in Clackamas or Wilsonville (unless Oregon City builds a convention center next year, which is unlikely). All of the fun stuff associated with conventions will happen, including tours, hikes, music, banquets, and speakers. You will be hearing more as we get closer.

Conventions need volunteers, lots of volunteers, from planners to coordinators, from tour guides to ticket sellers. Please think about how you can get involved. The next open planning meeting is Saturday, October 15, in Oregon City. If you would like to attend, or just be kept in the loop, email me at tompkins@bctonline.com. By then the Wyoming convention will be history, and everybody will have an idea of how to continue the good stuff or make improvements when it is our turn again. We should know by then what our host hotel will be and can concentrate on the responsibilities of committees and what activities we want to try.

Another way you can contribute is to think about the theme. One of the activities will be descendants sharing the experiences of their ancestors. If you have ancestors who came over the trail or have knowledge of pioneers, please write down a brief (paragraph or two) biography. As an example—my pioneer ancestor Chatman Hawley came in 1848 as part of the Van Buren County Iowa Methodist Church that transplanted itself as a whole to Oregon in 1847 and 1848. The advance party came over the Southern Route in 1847 and ended up in Benton County, between Corvallis and Eugene. Hawley arrived in 1848 over the Barlow Road and came straight to the Belknap Community, complete with already-built cabins for the families. They arrived in Oregon along with news of gold being discovered in California, so the first winter the women doubled up in cabins and the men went to California. In 1849 everyone was home, a few rich, and they started building the church.

If you are still interested, take the time to read the OCTA convention manual. It is at the OCTA website at www.octa-trails.org/media/pdf/policy/Convention%20Guide.pdf.

—*Jim Tompkins*

Boardman Spring Outing

By Roger Blair

Eight diehard rutnuts braved cool, windy, and wet weather to retrace Oregon Trail ruts from Well Spring to Four Mile Canyon on Saturday, May 21, 2011. After meeting in Boardman, Oregon, Jenny Miller, Jim and Sallie Riehl, Tuck and Kay Forsythe, Lethene Parks, and Roger Blair carpooled to Well Spring, led by leader Rich Herman. At the spring site on the south edge of Boardman Bombing Range, the group viewed the interpretive panels and spring. We braved the weather to follow the swales a short distance on foot before retreating to the covered kiosk where we “nooned.”

After viewing the nearby pioneer cemetery, we headed west as a caravan, stopping at good view points to inspect the trail. At one location on Nature Conservancy property, a small group of hikers walked east for a mile or more in the ruts. Fortunately, the weather was improving by then. Proceeding on, there was a brief stop at the Willow Creek crossing pullout where several of us had been present a couple of years ago for the dedication of the sign and site. We then visited the nearby Cecil store before retracing the trail to the BLM Four Mile Canyon Interpretive Site.

We posed for a group picture before hiking west on the trail for a considerable distance. By then the weather was breezy, but sunny and dry. Returning to our vehicles, we said our goodbyes and offered our thanks to Rich for a great outing, before heading to Arlington and home.



Roger Blair, Rich Herman, Jenny Miller, Jim Riehl, Sally Riehl, Kay Forsythe, Tuck Forsythe, and Lethene Parks.

NPS Public Scoping Meeting

By Susan Badger Doyle

The National Park Service held a public scoping meeting for a feasibility study on the inclusion of new trails into the National Trail System at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles, on June 4, 2011. The meeting was conducted by Gretchen Ward, assisted by Aaron Mahr Yáñez, and Lee Kreutzer. Several NW OCTA members attended. A scheduled OHTAC meeting in The Dalles the same day also afforded the opportunity for their members to attend and for NPS staff to participate in the OHTAC afternoon trail tour to several potential segments.

This was one of several meetings for the public to present information to Park Service staff as to why a trail should be considered for inclusion into the system. The information gathered at the meetings will be presented to Congress for legislative consideration.

NW OCTA members also attended the public scoping meeting on June 3 at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.



Gretchen Ward, Lee Kreutzer, and Aaron Mahr Yáñez leading the public scoping meeting at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Photograph by Roger Blair.

Quilt Exhibit

Treasures in the Trunk: Quilts and Women After their Trail Journey

Mary Bywater Cross is curating an exhibition of the quilts from her book and elsewhere that connect to the Trail for the Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill in Salem for next fall. The exhibit will run from September 23 to December 24. The theme will be women and their role in community development after they arrived in Oregon. Fifteen quilts will be displayed, including one from the American Folk Art Museum in New York City. There are new quilts, new photos, and new stories of women's contributions to establishing farms and community.



Letter to the Editor

5 march 2011

460 miles was my long drive today, but the NWOCTA Annual Meeting was well worth the trip. One thrill was seeing ranchers Pat and Margaret Davis receive NWOCTA Friend of the Trail Award!

But my favorite event was the after-lunch talk by Dennis Larsen about a pioneer of 1852, Edward Jay Allen. Dennis and historian Karen Johnson's research on Allen had already appeared in NWOCTA Northwest Trails in January 2009 and October 2010. But now they have uncovered Allen's actual trail diary, and Dennis and Karen have now written an interpretive book.

Allen of 1852 may be the one Oregon Trail emigrant for whom the most different actual 1852 contemporary records survive, as his letters home survive, as well as letters from home to him, as well as his trail diary, and even an 1852 photo! He interacted with Ezra Meeker during the overland journey of 1852, and later in Washington, and Allen wrote a reminiscence in 1908, possibly with Meeker. Also, George McClellan lived at Allen's cabin, then Allen did early work on the Naches Pass wagon route. Allen was on the first known ascent of Mt. Adams.

But the fascination of Dennis's story is mostly the retelling of their gradual discovery process—uncovering one clue after another, sometimes by traveling back East with Pat Ziobran. Over the years Dennis and Karen accumulated one spectacular rediscovery after another. After I returned home, I checked genealogical sites for Allen's family information, but the only detailed information I found was posted by Dennis himself at <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=63251832>.

—W. "Tuck" Forsythe, Ellensburg



Congratulations, Katie Welch!

Katie Welch, granddaughter of Dave and Wendy, won the state National History Day competition in Washington for a website done by one person. Her website is about the London Charter of the International Military Tribunal (World War II).

Katie went to the University of Maryland in June to compete at national. Although she did not place in the top three in the national competition, she enjoyed her week in the DC area. She also got to visit George Washington University, which is one of her top choices after she graduates from the Charles Wright Academy next year.

Katie's interest in history is a wonderful example of how Dave and Wendy have encouraged involvement with history in their son Adam and his children.

2013 OCTA Convention

The initial meeting of the planning committee for the NW OCTA 2013 national convention to be held in Oregon City was held Saturday, July 9, at 10:00 a.m. in Oregon City at Weatherford's Restaurant.

Jim Tompkins led the meeting, with a full agenda of brainstorming ideas for activities, speakers, tours, and coordinators for the committees. Attending the meeting were thirteen chapter members and four guests from Oregon City: Mike and Alice Norris, Daphne Wuest, and Karin Morey.

Upcoming OCTA Conventions:

- 2011 Rock Springs, Wyoming
- 2012 Lawrence, Kansas
- 2013 Oregon City**
- 2014 Kearney, Nebraska

Northwest OCTA Library

By Glenn Harrison

Weldon Rau has donated his trail related library to NW OCTA and Nancy Bolon donated the books that Victor Bolon had in his library. Together they are worth about \$7,000. NW OCTA in turn is donating these books as prescribed in a carefully written Memorandum of Understanding. Hopefully, several other OCTA members will donate books to NW OCTA for support of OCTA libraries. Thanks to Rau and Bolon for the donations and to Rau, Glenn Harrison, Wendy Welch, and Chuck Hornbuckle for assisting in transporting many boxes of books for sorting and placement.

On January 21, 2010, the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a Northwest OCTA Library at the Oregon State Library in Salem was presented to James Scheppke, Oregon State Librarian, by OCTA Past President Glenn Harrison. Others participating are, from the left, Robert Hulshof-Schmidt, Program Manager for Government Research Services, and Information Specialist David Hegeman, who helped coordinate this effort.



OCTA's Mattes Library in Independence has first pick of the donated books and other material.

Then the Oregon State Library gets those books that it doesn't have at least two copies. Other OCTA libraries will be offered the remainder to fill out their holdings. "We know these books will be well cared for and used for research," said Harrison, who chairs the Northwest OCTA Library Committee. OCTA Secretary and NW OCTA Library Committee member, Lethene Parks, also assisted in reviewing draft MOUs and in meetings with Hegeman. The MOU is signed by Scheppke and Hulshof-Schmidt and, after electronic approval by their boards, William Martin for OCTA and James Tompkins for NW OCTA.



The Oregon State Library, which is across the street from the Capitol building in downtown Salem, has metered underground as well as some on-street parking. The Northwest OCTA collection is on the second floor.

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**PUBLISHED QUARTERLY, SUBMISSIONS DUE
January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1**

Material may be submitted via email, on disk, or as email attachment in Word or Text format. Pictures may 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 Avard Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



NW OCTA Annual Fall Picnic

**Saturday, September 10
Borst Park, Centralia, WA**

Flyer Coming Soon

Northwest Trails

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