



Northwest Trails

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

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Fall 2015

B2H – The Continuing Saga

By Gail Carbiener

Several OCTA members who have been participating with BLM in preparing the programmatic agreement (PA), the document that establishes the process for compliance with environmental or cultural resource laws, received an email saying it has been delayed. Is this good? Maybe!

Here is what BLM said:

BLM has determined that it is prudent to hold off signing the PA until we have a better idea on which variations will move forward to the Final EIS (FEIS). BLM is currently looking at these proposed route variations and available data, and will make determinations on which routes can be considered but eliminated from detailed analysis for the EIS, and which route variations will be considered through the initial level of analysis to provide sufficient information to enable a decision on whether to carry the route variation forward for detailed analysis or eliminate it from detailed analysis in the FEIS. A NEPA team meeting is anticipated in early December to review the results with the ID Team and Cooperating Agencies. Thus, we anticipate the PA will be revised in early 2016. We will complete the minor edits and clarifications recommended, resolve the signatory language, and then circulate the final revised PA at that time.

I asked if BLM would give me details. Tamara Gertsch (National BLM lead, currently in Wyoming) responded:

The BLM is currently evaluating potential routing options that were suggested in comments received on the DEIS. The BLM is currently working internally with our interdisciplinary team, cooperating agencies, and management and will determine if detailed analysis of routing suggestions is/are warranted. This information is internal and pre-decisional at this juncture and is not publicly available. If a new routing option or alternative is ultimately analyzed in detail, BLM will adhere to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) requirements (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500), and agency regulations regarding the next step in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Bottom line, looks like BLM is considering routes suggested by those who made comments. Certainly we can be optimistic.

It is also interesting to report that Idaho Power and BLM have contracted with yet another consulting firm, EPG, to assist with the Final EIS. This is the fourth consulting firm that has been used by BLM and Idaho Power.

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President's Message

Another OCTA convention is in the books, their thirty-third. On a personal note, this was my twenty-fifth, and I have never felt better. I actually walked portions of the trail in what seemed to be straight up hill at an altitude of nearly 7000 feet and did not becoming winded. It was good to see old friends like Frank and Mary Ann Tortorich and Don Buck. It was sad not to have Suzanne Hornbuckle with us.

National conventions are changing. New activities are being tried. Fewer and fewer old timers like myself are taking bus tours. Challenges are ahead for future conventions. Next year in Idaho will be an attempt to include Native Americans. This has not been all that successful in the past as what we see as a pioneering movement, they see as a loss of a lifestyle. Two years from now a convention in Iowa will be led by national headquarters in a state without a chapter. Local members with convention experience are the heart and soul of conventions.

As we plan for another year of outings on the trails of Oregon and Washington starting next spring, there are many possibilities. Mapping and marking has a renewed interest as Henry Pittock took advantage of the Trails Inventory Project to make new contacts. I can still smell the lavender. There are two proposals for trail symposia. Lethene Parks wants to hold one in Vancouver, Washington. California-Nevada president Mark Wilson would like to hold a joint symposium, possibly in the Medford area, looking at the trail that connected California and Oregon before the Gold Rush.

So we enter the winter season reinvigorated after another successful convention and look forward to a refreshing new outings season next spring.

—Jim Tompkins

Volunteer Time and Expenses Report

Please report your hours, miles driven, and other non-reimbursed expenses to **Chuck Hornbuckle**, Chapter Volunteerism Coordinator, **as soon as possible**. Volunteer activities include attending or participating in any historic trail function, program, or other activity in which you were an active participant or which you attended to learn about any historic trail. Time and personal expenses should be reported "home-to-home."

Email or mail to: Chuck Hornbuckle
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Suzanne Hornbuckle

Suzanne died suddenly without warning on Wednesday, September 9th, at home. A memorial service will be held October 27th, which would have been her 76th birthday. She and Chuck were married 56 years and were great friends for 59 years. Incidentally, she and Chuck are blood related through two common Mayflower ancestors.

She was born on the family farm on the Washington-Idaho border near Palouse, Washington, in 1939. She attended school at Palouse, and it was in 1956 that she and Chuck met as high school seniors. Chuck attended an Idaho school nine miles from Palouse. Suzanne graduated from Lewis-Clark Normal School in Lewiston and received her Teachers Certificate in 1959 and taught school at Enterprise and Klamath Falls, Oregon.

She and Chuck were married December 26, 1959.

The following year they moved to Klamath Falls, where Chuck graduated from Oregon Technical Institute, and then they moved to Yakima, where Chuck began work with the Washington State Department of Highways. Two sons, Nick and Jon, were born there. In 1967 the family moved to Olympia where they have since resided. Suzanne was an Educational Assistant with the North Thurston School District for 27 years and retired in 1997.

Suzanne had 17 ancestors who came west by wagon between 1846 and 1860, which, in addition to the coaxing of her uncle Robert Lee, inspired her and Chuck to join OCTA in 1993. The following year they became Life Members. Since that time, Suzanne and Chuck have been very involved with OCTA, especially the Northwest Chapter. She participated in numerous outings and trail marking and mapping PIT projects. She especially enjoyed working with Jack and Pat Fletcher in documenting the Cherokee Trail over which Chuck's ancestor traveled with a Cherokee wagon train in 1850.



In addition to OCTA, Suzanne was a member of 13 historical groups, including DAR, Sons & Daughters of Oregon Pioneers, and Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington. Suzanne and Chuck enjoyed travel and participating in each other's involvements, including the Tumwater Historical Association, Washington State Historical Society, Lacey and Olympia Historical Societies, and many more.

Chuck writes that we will miss visiting with our many OCTA friends, and our family takes solace in knowing we are in their thoughts and prayers. A memorial service will be held at the Littlerock Church on October 27th.

Chuck's home address is 7245 118th Ave SW, Olympia, WA. 98512-9264





**“A Tribute to Suzanne”
from her friends in all of the
Thurston County Historical
groups**

October 4, 2015

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**Anne Kelleher, Tumwater
Historical Association Board
Member shares memories of
the many projects Suzanne
participated in with all
Thurston County Historical
groups**



**Photo collage of Suzanne
in several of
many persona for
Thurston County Thru
the Decades bi-annual
events**

**Bev York, THA and
Daughters of the Pioneers of
Washington plays “Amazing
Grace” with tears in her
eyes during the
Tribute to Suzanne**



NWOCTA Base O' Blue Mountains Oregon Trail Symposium

By Tuck Forsythe

The NWOCTA symposium and tour at Pendleton July 24–26 was a fun chance to get to know 40 other students of early NWOCTA history. Thank you Roger and crew, and all the speakers and participants!

At the great talks my understanding was revolutionized, even in a couple subjects where I already knew a lot:

Bonnie Sager made the life of Marie (Mrs. Pierre) Dorion (1788–1850) come alive for us. And Bonnie told us so much more detail and context about the 1811 Fort Astoria overland expedition and seagoing Astorians. She added the “rest of the story” (unknown to early historians who lacked the Native side of the story) as to why the Astorians’s ship *Tonquin* was exploded in June 1811 at Clayoquot Sound north of Tofino, BC, Canada. with all but one life lost, including Alexander McKay.

Fort Nez Perce/Fort Walla Walla, 1841-onward, was near the mouth of Walla Walla River, Wallula, WA. But Fort Nez Perce, 1816–1840, was nearer to Pasco WA at the confluence of the Snake River and Columbia River, according to Sam Pambrun, a direct descendant of the Hudson’s Bay Company head of Fort Nez Perce.

We got to meet Dan Clark, another prime-mover of the Frenchtown Historical Foundation, telling us the miracle of how they obtained permission for a 57-acre park in order to interpret the heritage of the local pre-Whitman settlers, beginning in 1822.

Sam Pambrun enriched our understanding of the name by which the Whitmans themselves called their mission, *Waiilatpu*. An oral recording by a native speaker pronounced waEEE-La’pu, although the mission interpretive display now has two slightly different pronunciations—one means “the tall Rye grass,” *Elymus salina*, growing around there and at the wonderful Frenchtown Historic site, and the other,, with variant pronunciation, means “the Cayuse people.”



Sam Pambrun talking with Jenny Miller, and Carol Harrison in the background. Photo by Tuck Forsythe.

Future OCTANS Encountered on the California Trail at OCTA Convention

At the 2015 OCTA convention, Gail and Muriel Carbiener, Billy and Karen Symms, and Tuck and Kay Forsythe had a memorable day on September 23 while hiking the California Trail in Luther Pass. We



encountered (planned by them, but a surprise to us) 30 seventh and eighth graders dressed in 1860s-style emigrant clothing, hiking the trail alongside their six mules and three wagons, led by their teacher Dave Vixie and his wife Karen. They'd been walking the California Trail across Nevada for a week, sleeping out and cooking breakfast and dinner in cast-iron pots.

The students elected their own trail boss management team to make decisions and had to work out some of the conflicts among themselves. The students were very open to talking with us adults, and at first they were mostly interested in CA-NV chapter's Ford Osborne's demonstration of how our organization determines that rust spots left on smoothed granite rocks from iron wagon wheels help confirm that we were walking on the actual 1860s trail bed.

— Tuck Forsythe

Walking the trail. Photo by Gail Carbiener.

The OCTA members were asked by Mr. Vixie to be a “rescue party” by delivering letters from home to the students. The students had no communication with parents for seven days while on the trail. These letters brought more than a few tears.

— Gail Carbiener



Reading letters from home. Photo by Gail Carbiener.



Another OCTA Convention Photo

The trail as seen part way up the Devil's Ladder on the Johnson Cutoff convention tour. It is a little like trying to move wagons up Laurel Hill.

—Glenn Harrison.

Ann Roelofson Scott OCTA Marker

Randy Brown will place an OCTA marker at the grave of Ann Roelofson Scott at Box Elder Springs, Wyoming, who died of cholera June 20, 1852. The marker will be framed in concrete since the landowner prefers a ground-level marker over the grave. Ann was the mother of Abigail Scott Duniway, who was so important in Oregon history.



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Material may be submitted via email, on disk, or as email attachment in Word or Text format. Pictures (JPG format) may be sent via email, on disk, 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.



Fort Hall: Cultures and Changes

**2016 OCTA Convention
Fort Hall, Idaho
August 1–5, 2016**