



# Northwest Trails

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

Volume 31, No. 1

Winter 2016

## Northwest Chapter 2016 Annual Meeting *Saturday, March 5th*

**Holiday Inn Express East Portland  
477 NW Phoenix Dr, Troutdale, OR**

Please mark your calendars for the 2016 Annual Meeting of the OCTA Northwest Chapter, which will be held on Saturday, March 5th, at the **Holiday Inn Express** located in **Troutdale, OR**. The hotel is conveniently located in east Portland on I-84 at Exit 17, Marine Dr./Troutdale. This is a convenient location and easy to find on the south side of I-84 between Shari's Restaurant and Taco Bell. Please enter the hotel thru the front entrance lobby. The Holiday Inn Express has offered a discounted room rate for our meeting of \$99 for a king and \$109 for a double queen bed. When reserving a room, contact the front desk at **503-669-6500** and let them know that you are with the OCTA meeting to get the discounted room rate.

The meeting will start at 10:00 am, but come as early as 9:00 am to socialize and bring in your raffle items before the meeting starts. The annual business meeting will be from 10:00 am until noon, at which time we will have a deli style salad and sandwich buffet. After lunch we will have a program and then finish with the raffle. The raffle is always a great success and we will also have a silent auction. We welcome raffle items of books, artwork, glass items, jewelry, wine or food items, tools, plants, hand-made items, or any other items members would value.

Please mark your calendars with this important date as we all look forward to each other's presence.



**A registration flyer will be sent in February**

## NW Chapter Directory

### **President**

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## President's Message

Having been the victor in the recent hard fought battle to be your new unchallenged president for the NW OCTA chapter, I want to share a few heartfelt thoughts.

First and foremost, I want to thank Jim Tompkins for his leadership and dedication to our chapter during his term as chapter president. Ever since I have known Jim, when I joined OCTA in the early '90s, he has continually served our chapter in several significant positions. The most recent and significant of these was for his leadership as Chairman of the 2013 OCTA National Convention, which our chapter hosted. He provided leadership and put together a team of member volunteers who were able to put on a well organized convention. He made sure it happened and it was one of the most successful conventions which OCTA has had. Thank you Jim for a job well done.

I also want to thank you members for your confidence in allowing me to serve the chapter as your president. I want you to know that I will do my best to insure the success of our chapter as we move ahead in our mission of preserving our Oregon Trail heritage. OCTA, and especially the NW Chapter, is very important to me, as I consider you all as my extended family. I always look forward to our chapter gatherings and the camaraderie it provides.

While I am in the learning mode of being president, please feel free to coach me in what needs to be done, when it needs to be done, and especially what is not being done. I would appreciate your input and guidance, and I am open to your ideas and advice. Let's just get it done and have fun doing it.

—Rich Herman

## NWOCTA Election Results

The vote for all candidates was virtually unanimous. The full slate of new officers is:

President—Rich Herman

Vice-President—Paul Masee

Secretary—Polly Jackson

Treasurer—Glenn Harrison

Director—Lorna Waltz

A new election process was employed for the first time. The ballots were emailed to all members with email addresses, and they were asked to vote and mail back their completed ballot for tallying. Those without email addresses were mailed ballots in the usual fashion. This process saved the chapter a significant amount in postage. A total of forty-eight ballots were returned; this response was somewhat less than returns in the past. The board and officers will assess the success of this process and its future use. If you have any comments on the process, please contact Rich Herman or any officer or director.

# It Is Easy to Lose Sleep Over B2H

*By Gail Carbiener*

I am sure many of you are tired of hearing about the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line project and our efforts at moving it off the Oregon Trail or stopping it altogether. I assure you I am tired also, but we must continue our efforts as both Idaho Power and BLM count on us eventually walking away. That is if we feel saving just a little part of the Oregon Trail is worthwhile – I do!

Here are two subjects, not related, for you to read about.

## **Oregon and Idaho Public Utilities Commissions:**

The commissions require utilities to file biennial plans to serve as a status report on a utility's ongoing plans to adequately and reliably serve customers at the lowest system cost and least risk over the next 20 years. Inclusion of projects in the plan does not necessarily mean the projects will be built, but only that they are included in the utility's current plan, which could change as circumstances warrant.

Idaho Power has submitted its 2015 plan to both Idaho and Oregon. The staff of both agencies have made opening comments, Idaho Power will make responses, and the commission in Oregon will have a public meeting in March 2016.

Idaho staff said: “Although the 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) emphasizes the quantitative analytical process, the Company cites qualitative risk factors as the reason for selecting the preferred portfolio that the quantitative analysis did not find to be either least cost or least risk.”

Oregon staff said: “Staff does not support the selection of portfolio P6(b) as the portfolio of resources with the best combination of expected costs and associated risks and uncertainties for the utility and its customers.”

Neither of the staffs suggests that B2H should not be built, but they are beginning to question the increasing risk to ratepayers and stockholders. These recommendations have nothing to do with the BLM’s eventual decision when they publish the Final EIS.

## ***High Country News – For People Who Care About The West:***

It is important that we keep the B2H project in the public eye and spread our concern as far as possible. To that end, I have been attempting for some time to get this magazine to publish an article on the B2H project. In early November one of the senior editors called to say she got permission and funding to do an article on the Oregon Trail and B2H in Oregon.

Of course she wanted to walk in the ruts to experience and see what the emigrants saw, in November!! So on a very cold, windy, and muddy day we met the reporter and a photographer in Vale for an emigrant experience. Muriel, also known as Hannah Perkins, in her 1852 clothes, and I did our best to describe 100 degree temperatures, hot winds, and blowing dust. With tape recorder going and over 500 pictures, goodness knows what will be the result. Look for the February issue.



*“Hannah Perkins” 1852*

# **The Historic Trails of Southern Utah Symposium**

## **St. George Utah**

### **March 18–20, 2016**

The Oregon-California Trails Association presents the 2016 Historic Trails of Southern Utah Symposium in St. George, UT, Friday, March 18, to Sunday, March 20. The Best Western Plus Abbey Inn is symposium HQ. The symposium will focus on regional American Indian populations, early explorers, the Old Spanish Trail, and the Salt Lake to Los Angeles wagon road. Reserve your discounted room of \$118/night (normal price \$210; special rate expires on February 17) by mentioning OCTA at (435) 652-1234.

#### **AGENDA**

Friday, March 18, 2016

09:00 AM - 05:00 PM: OCTA Board Meeting

06:00 PM: Registration table opens

07:00 PM - 08:30 PM: Reception and Edward Leo Lyman on Washington County and St. George History

Saturday, March 19, 2016

07:30 AM: Registration table opens

08:00 AM: Opening remarks and welcome

08:15 AM: Stephen Madsen, 'Old Spanish Trail Into Utah by the South Branch (from Monticello to Green River), Including Macomb Military Reconnaissance'

09:15 AM: Break

09:30 AM: David Miller, 'Expeditionary Artists on the Old Spanish Trail'

10:30 AM: Break

10:45 AM: Wade Allinson, 'Salina Canyon to Elk Mountain (Moab), Including the First Wagon Travel from Anglo-American Travelers, 1849-1858'

12:00 PM: Lunch

01:15 PM: Robert Leonard: 'Fish Lake Cutoff of the Old Spanish Trail, Including Verification of Route and Later Uses'

2:15 PM: Break

02:30 PM: David Ogden, 'Jedidiah Smith Through Utah, 1826-27, Including the Mystery of a Disappeared Paiute Village in the St. George Area'

03:30 PM: Break

03:45 PM: Edward Leo Lyman: 'The Salt Lake to Los Angeles Trail from Salina Southward Along the Sevier River, Over Bear Valley Summit, and Through Southwest Utah into Arizona'

05:00 PM: Cocktail hour

06:00 PM: Dinner

07:30 PM: Keynote Speaker T. Michael Smith, 'Mountain Meadows'

Sunday, March 20, 2016

09:00 AM - 03:00 PM: Tour A - 'Leaving Utah to Virgin Hill in Nevada,' Edward Leo Lyman, Tour Leader

09:00 AM - 03:00 PM: Tour B - 'Mountain Meadows,' T. Michael Smith, Tour Leader

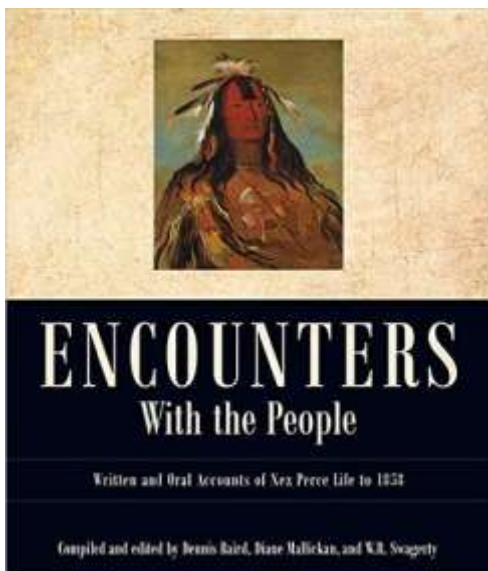
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## A Newly Released Book of Note

### **Encounters with the People** **Written and Oral Accounts of Nez Perce Life to 1858**

*Compiled and edited by Dennis Baird, Diane Mallickan, and William R. Swagerty*

**Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2015. \$50.00 cloth.**



*Encounters with the People* is an edited and annotated compilation of primary sources related to Nez Perce history—oral histories, diary excerpts, military reports, maps, and more. The book begins with early Euro-American contact and extends to the period immediately after the Treaty of 1855 held at Walla Walla.

Tribal elders shared their collective memory of stories passed down through generations. One described the level of attentiveness required to preserve their oral history as “so still to listen that you could hear a bird take a drink of water on the other side of the mountain.”

The editors collected numerous documents related to regional cultural and environmental history. Most of the selected material is published for the first time or is found only in obscure sources. The editors received formal research permits from three tribal entities: the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. Elders from each tribe examined the draft manuscript and offered pages of comments, some of which are included in the book. Those not included are archived in the University of Idaho Library’s Special Collections.

This 522 page book is organized chronologically and thematically. It is not only readable and comprehensive but also is an essential reference to anyone interested in the Nez Perce, Native American Studies, Lewis and Clark, early missionary work, and Inland Northwest settlement.

*Encounters with the People* is a timely resource for the 2016 OCTA Convention at Fort Hall.

# *Northwest Trails*

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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 (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 Avarad Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.



## **Fort Hall: Cultures and Changes**

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