



Northwest Trails

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

Volume 38, No. 4

Fall 2023

Fall Chapter Membership Meeting Oregon City, October 7, 2023

Twenty-four attended the fall chapter membership meeting at the Abernethy Grange in Oregon City on Saturday, October 7. The social hour began at 9:00. At 10:00 Sallie Riehl opened the business meeting. The meeting included reports, motions, and award presentations until the lunch break at noon. Everyone brought their own lunches, but desserts were brought to share.

After lunch Don Scott with the Curtis Heritage Education Center gave a fascinating talk about the center that has a collection of more than 130 horse drawn vehicles and thousands of artifacts. When the meeting was over, a group followed Don to the storage building and toured the collection with him.

A highlight of the day was the raffle after the program. Sallie and her crew brought several boxes of books from the chapter's storage unit that needed to be disposed of. Raffle ticket numbers were called until the tables were opened for everyone to pick out books. When it was over, there was only one box of books left. Wendell Baskins took it to donate somewhere.

It was a satisfying way to distribute the books from chapter members' collections that had been given to the chapter. The books had been sorted, itemized, and stored for the past few years. It was an expensive, time consuming, and labor-intensive project that the chapter is not able to do again. Chapter members will need to find ways to pass on their collections, which is an ongoing discussion in OCTA chapters and OCTA board meetings.



Abernethy Grange.



Sallie Riehl leading her last chapter meeting.

NW Chapter Directory

President

Sallie Riehl

Acting Vice President

Wendell Baskins

Treasurer

Glenn Harrison

Secretary

Jenny Miller

Directors

Andy Anderson

Polly Jackson

Dave Welch

Chapter Website

Sharon Brown

Communications Chair

Marley Shurtleff

Mapping Chair

Robert Baker

Membership Chair

TBA

Preservation Officer

TBA

President's Message

Hello to all of you. I hope those of you who attended the chapter meeting in Oregon City enjoyed the day as much as I did. Our speaker, Don Scott of Oregon City, presented information on the Curtis Heritage Education Center located in the city. The group maintains a collection of horse drawn vehicles from the past. They visit schools and work with the teachers to inform and interest the children in ways that encourage innovation. They tell the history of the development of new ideas through time and how the ideas influenced products that we use today.

We also managed to disperse more of the book collection that has been in the storage unit. The unit will be empty by the end of October, and all leftover materials will be removed. We hope the Genealogical Forum will take some or all the materials.

I really appreciate all the work done over the past four years by Rich Herman to assist me in planning and producing chapter meetings. His wife Phyllis McGarety converted the book and pamphlet titles into Excel, and Sherrill Beck worked on the list of items that were not part of the trail or of Oregon History. They processed approximately 550 items and made the list available to the members to choose what they would like to have. I am sure that all of you who received the items will enjoy them. Many thanks to Becky Peterson for assisting me in our many trips to the storage unit the past two months.

I look forward to having just one task to do for the chapter. I'm willing to continue updating the membership list. I do look forward to assisting at the Pendleton Convention.

Sallie Riehl,

Chapter president until the end of this year

Auto Tour Route Interpretive Guide Across Oregon Now Available from NPS

By Sharon Brown

If any OCTA NW Chapter members would like to have a copy (or more) please have them email their request, including number of copies desired, shipping address, and phone number, to ntir_information@nps.gov, or they can call and leave Lee Kreutzer a message at 801-741-1012 ext 118, and she will take care of them.

Photos from the Fall Chapter Meeting



Dave Welch receiving a special award from Roger Blair for all he does for OCTA.



Robin Baker received OCTA's Distinguished Volunteer Award and NW OCTA's Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award.



Don Scott telling about the Curtis Heritage Education Center.



Michele Lanigan received NW OCTA's Distinguished Service Award from Jenny Miller a few days later.



So many books!

NW OCTA Annual Financial Report October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

*By Glenn Harrison,
Chapter Treasurer*

Beginning Balance		\$19,855.46
Income		\$3,334.07
Dues	\$2,495.00	
Donations	\$839.07	
Expenses		\$4,931.23
Storage	\$3,265.00	
Administration	\$1,008.43	
Preservation	\$282.80	
Meetings	\$375.00	
Ending Balance		\$18,258.30

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

By Dave Welch

The transmission line route has been approved by the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council. The approved route has no direct (physical) impact on the trail. There are nine locations identified by Idaho Power that will have significant visual impacts, i.e., the towers will be somewhat-to-highly visible. OCTA has identified five other locations where we are concerned about visual impacts. As a result of these adverse impacts, Idaho Power is required to provide mitigation.

Discussion of possible mitigation activities is currently underway. Dave Welch and Dave Price are involved in those discussions. Idaho Power has offered to replace and upgrade signage and interpretation in selected areas. That was “an opening gambit,” but not the end of the story. This package would provide improvements at Alkali Springs and nearby areas, Birch Creek, Farewell Bend, and Flagstaff Hill. We are expecting a much wider range of projects to be identified at our next meeting.

Because much of the impacted areas is on private land and are not accessible without landowner permission, it is expected that mitigation will emphasize projects not associated with a particular location. A few of the suggestions we have made include financial support for OCTA and the Northwest and Idaho chapters, the 2024 convention in Pendleton, the Baker City Interpretive Center, and special research projects.

Future Northwest Chapter Zoom Meetings 2023-24

By Dave Welch

Oct 14, 2023 10:00 am	Robin Baker, "Blue Mountains Trail Research"
Nov 11, 2023 12:00 pm	Jack & Pat Fletcher, "Cherokee Trail Overview"
Dec 9, 2023 10:00 am	Dennis Larsen, "1880 Wagon Train"
Jan 13, 2024 10:00 am	To be determined
Feb 10, 2024 1:00 pm	Dave Nicandri, "Captain Cook and the Northwest Passage: A Cartographic History"
Mar 9, 2024 10:00 am	Leta Neiderhiser, "Cynthia Applegate"
Apr 13, 2024 10:00 am	Caroline Gilson, "The 1864 Travel Diary of Ernest John Heinen: Nebraska to California via the Overland Trail"
May 4, 2024 10:00 am	To be determined
June 8, 2024 10:00 am	To be determined

Please consider making a presentation. Topics may include trail history, trail research, family history, local history, or preservation. Contact Dave Welch (welchdj@comcast.net) for additional information. Each meeting will also include a short business meeting and an update on tours and explorations.

Mark Your Calendar

By Roger Blair, Convention Chair

Mark your calendar to attend next year's convention at Wildhorse Resort and Casino, July 21-25, 2024, in Pendleton, Oregon. There will be a full slate of speakers discussing various topics involving the history of the area around the Umatilla and Walla Walla Rivers.

There will be two days of bus tours to visit Tamastslikt Cultural Institute, Whitman Mission, and the newly reopened Interpretive Center in Baker City. Additionally, for those who want a shorter bus ride, plans are underway to offer a visit to local Pendleton sights: Pendleton Woolen Mills, Round-Up and Happy Canyon Museum, Pendleton Underground Tour, and Heritage Station Museum.

We will also have the usual Book Room, Raffle and Live Auction, and Awards Banquet. We will need your help. Volunteer to be a bus guide, work the registration desk, oversee the book and raffle rooms, and other efforts. This is your convention—give your thoughts and ideas to Roger Blair to make this an unforgettable convention.

Contact Roger at rblair@oregontrail.net

Remembering Lorna Waltz

1928 – 2023

Lorna Waltz was a longtime and enthusiastic member of OCTA and the Northwest Chapter. Lorna died July 16, 2023, in McMinnville, OR, at age 95.

From the *East Oregonian*, July 27, 2023: Lorna entered the world in Kokomo, Indiana, the oldest child of Lois Comstock and Homer Leffel. Lorna and her siblings, Janet and John, lost their mother when Lorna was ten. This event would shape her life in two ways.

She learned the importance of family from the support of her mother's family, especially her aunt, Lucy. Secondly, the family enlarged when Homer married Leona McNamee Leffel in La Grande, Oregon, where she was raised. The two additional siblings that came with the marriage, Jim and Mary McNamee, also influenced her greatly.

These two important events shaped the life she led that you all knew and loved. She held family close and friends as well. Many of you felt the reach and depth of her love and openness when she included you in her life. She had room for everyone in her heart. This included the residents and young women and men who were her caregivers at Hillside. It's often been said that Lorna never met a stranger.

Lorna had many passions, interests, and spheres of influence. First and foremost was family, friends, reading, skiing, birding, traveling, camping, hiking, Blizzards at DQ, tai chi, the RAC, her church family at PPC, her sisters in PEO, the members of the bird club, and all the thousands of students she taught in Pendleton.

Lorna was also an adventurer. She and C. J. traveled extensively. Later she traveled to Antarctica, north of the Arctic Circle in Finland to see 24 hours of daylight, Cuba, traveling the Lewis and Clark Trail in 2004, several river trips in Europe and many other great adventures.

She married C. J. Waltz in 1949. They were married for 52 years until his passing in 2001. It was a difficult match since he was attending the U of O (Ducks) and she was attending OSU (Beavers). Two sons were born to them, Bruce and Alan; she was up to that challenge. The family moved to Pendleton in 1959, where she lived until moving to McMinnville in 2021.

As she grew older, she threw herself into her six grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Lorna was preceded in death by her husband, CJ; her grandson, Brett; her siblings Jim, Mary, and Janet. A celebration of life will be held in Pendleton on October 26.

In Memoriam Gary Brunbaugh

1937 – 2023

Gary Brunbaugh of Albany was active with NWOCTA for several years, especially scouting out and following the route of the Free Emigrant Road from the Cascades and Lane County. That was the route his ancestors had followed to Eugene before settling in Junction City. Gary was born on June 30, 1937 and died on July 22, 2023 at age 86. Five years ago, his wife Lola died, and for the last five years he battled dementia. His obituary was printed in the Albany *Democrat-Herald* and in the Corvallis *Gazette-Times*. He along with Glenn Harrison and several Lane County residents including Del Spencer and a Forest Service volunteer mapped and led hiking tours on that route.

An Oregon Trail Story

A plate that was brought to Oregon over the Oregon Trail is currently on exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society. An intriguing story is on the label for the plate:

Serving Dish

1839

Throughout its history, OHS has collected objects from pioneer families. According to the donor, this plate belonged to Rebecca Maple Parrish, who came to Oregon in 1842. When the wagon she was traveling in got stuck in snow in the Rocky Mountains and items were being unloaded to lighten the load, Parrish refused to be parted from her trunk and was left by the wagon train. Twenty-eight days later, she arrived at the Whitman Mission with her trunk, which contained this plate, amongst other possessions. It is unknown how she accomplished the journey.



OHS Museum, 86-189.5

The Real Story

Further research reveals that Rebecca Maple Parrish (1803-1880) was the second wife of Rev. Edward Evans "E. E." Parrish (1791-1874). E. E. and Rebecca Maple Parrish and eleven children from both of his marriages traveled to Oregon in 1844, arriving in Oregon City in December 1844. E. E. Parrish kept a diary in 1843-1845 that includes the overland journey. His entries are brief and describe the weather, trail conditions, activities in camp, and the health of his family. While he mentions his own and other family members' illnesses and accidents, he does not mention his wife Rebecca's health.

This may be an example of how family lore preserves an ancestor's story, and in the process of handing it down through generations it becomes very different from what really happened. In this case, there is abundant documentation of the Parrish family and their Oregon Trail journey.

Sources include:

findagrave.com: Rebecca Anne Maple Parrish, Edward Evans Parrish.

oregonpioneers.com/1844, Rev. Edward Evans PARRISH and family (Stephenie Flora's excellent website that lists Oregon Trail emigrants by year, as well as articles on all aspects of emigration).

Rumer, Thomas. *The Wagon Trains of '44*. Spokane, WA: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1990.

Webber, Bert. *The Oregon Trail Diary of Edward Evans Parrish in 1844*. Medford, OR: Webb Research Group, 1988-1994.

Oregon Trail Signatures Quilt

By Claire Kellogg

Mary Bywater Cross suggested that I tell you about a quilt show in which I exhibited three quilts that incorporate signatures that were left along the Oregon Trail by the emigrants. I printed photographs of the names onto fabric and then used them in different ways on the quilts. It began with my interest in signature quilts in general and one idea led to another. I'm no scholar of the Oregon Trail, I just got hooked on the idea of what I could do to memorialize the names of these hopeful pioneers. The tradition of putting one's name on a quilt—to leave a lasting note of friendship, to show support for an idea (suffrage...), to document one's support for an organization (fund for church bells, etc.), to be remembered for so many years by so many unknown people—what a forward-thinking thing to do!

I have access to this large collection of signature images because my friend Jim Henderson had a grant with the National Park Service to document the signatures along the route and the first quilt I made in this series was for him and his wife.

Two of the quilts are designed as traditional signature/friendship quilts and the third is a map representation of the Oregon Trail route into Oregon. I live in Beavercreek, OR, a small unincorporated community just outside of Oregon City, and I've enjoyed learning from the several local museums about the trail experiences. At the quilt show, I set out OCTA's *Overland Journal* that I have, and some other trail info I've gathered, but I did not represent myself as a trail historian. I'm not qualified! I just got a quirky idea. The attached photos are just a bit of what I've done.

The quilt with the map of the Oregon Trail generated quite a bit of interest in quilt show goers who talked about where their relatives had traveled. Some who weren't so interested in quilts were interested in the trail research I'd done.

The Skip-a-Week Quilt Club Quilt Show was September 15-16, 2023, at the Grace Crossing Bible Church in Estacada, OR, part of the Portland metro area. Skip-a-Week Quilt Club is the oldest quilting group in Oregon, being established in 1921 in the Garfield area outside of downtown Estacada. We now meet EVERY week at the Garfield Grange.





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



42nd Annual OCTA Convention

A Shifting Legacy

**July 21-25, 2024
Pendleton, Oregon**



After the meeting a group followed Don Scott to the building where the Curtis Collection is being stored. There were so many interesting vehicles and objects to look at while Don explained the purpose and extent of the collection.

