



# Northwest Trails

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

Volume 39, No. 4

Fall 2024

## Annual Fall Meeting, Centralia, WA September 28, 2024

Nineteen Northwest Chapter members attended the annual fall meeting at Fort Borst Park, Centralia Washington. The business meeting in the morning included reports on the Pendleton convention, Blue Mountain explorations, and chapter preservation activities. During the lunch hour, a short board meeting was held to approve Jenny Miller as secretary-treasurer until the election later this fall. Dave Welch presented the program on Ezra Meeker and the Cowlitz Trail auto tour on Sunday. T-Shirt sales and the raffle concluded the meeting. Afterward the group toured the nearby historic Borst home on the park grounds.



*Glenn's award unwrapped.*

*Roger Blair presenting Glenn Harrison with an award thanking him for his many years serving as NW OCTA treasurer.*



*Above, lunchtime scenes. Left, chapter members on the back porch of the Borst Home. Photos by Roger Blair.*



## NW Chapter Leaders

**President**  
Susan Doyle

**Vice President**  
Wendell Baskins

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Jenny Miller

**Directors**  
Sherrill Beck  
Polly Jackson

Dave Welch

**Chapter Website**  
Sharon Brown

**Communications Chair**  
Marley Shurtleff

**Mapping Chair**  
Robin Baker

**Membership Chair**  
Sallie Riehl

**Preservation Committee**  
Dave Welch, Wendell Baskins,  
Jenny Miller



## President's Message

*By Susan Doyle*

This has been an eventful year for the Northwest Chapter, highlighted with hosting OCTA's 41st convention in Pendleton, Oregon, in July. The chapter held an annual meeting in Oregon City in March and a fall meeting in Centralia in September. Dave Welch hosted several monthly Zoom programs, which will continue through this fall. Robin Baker continued explorations with groups in the Blue Mountain in May and October.

Longtime chapter treasurer Glenn Harrison resigned at the end of September. Jenny Miller was approved to succeed him at the fall meeting and will be on the ballot that will be emailed in mid-November.

## NW OCTA Annual Financial Report October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024

*By Glenn Harrison,  
Outgoing Chapter Treasurer*

First Quarter ( Oct. 1, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2024)	\$18,331.46
Second Quarter (Jan.1 – Mar. 31, 2024)	\$18,295.56
Third Quarter (Aug. 1 – June 30, 2024)	\$18,765.90
Fourth Quarter (July1 – Sept. 30, 2024)	\$20,104.41

Fourteen donations ranging from \$25 to \$200 were received to support college student Charlie Zimmermann to attend the OCTA convention in Pendleton. We paid her registration fee, (including two tours and two dinners), lodging for five nights, and travel expenses. Charlie graduated with two majors, presented a ZOOM program on the Whitman Legacy to the chapter, and received the Young OCTAN award at the convention.

We gained \$3,492.63 from the OCTA convention in Pendleton as follows:

Convention Income	
Raffle, Silent Auction, Live Auction	\$2,469
Donated Alan Goodwin estate books	\$1,134
T-shirt sales	<u>\$1,120</u>
Total Income	\$4,723
Convention Expenses	
OCTA Convention Logo Quilt Prepared	\$103.37
T-shirts purchased	\$927
Donation to Frazier Farmstead Museum	<u>\$200</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,230.37

## Future Northwest Chapter Zoom Meetings 2024-25

*By Dave Welch*

- Nov 9, 2024 12:00 pm** Dave Freeman, "Lassen Ranch Research"
- Dec 14, 2024 10:00 am** Robin Baker, "NW OCTA Exploration and Mapping in the Blue Mountains"
- Jan 11, 2025 10:00 am** Susan Badger Doyle, Roger Blair, Dave Welch, "Emigrant Trails of Umatilla County"

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

## NW OCTA Election Ballot Coming Soon

The ballot for the 2025 election of officers will be emailed in mid-November. Two positions will be listed: Jenny Miller for Treasurer, Sherrill Beck for Director. Vice president Wendell Baskins is chair of the elections committee and will announce the results in the January newsletter.



The **NW OCTA Annual Meeting** will be held at the End of the Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City, Oregon, on **Saturday, March 15, 2025**. Details will be sent in the new year.

# Remembering the 2024 OCTA Convention

*By Roger Blair, Convention Chair*

By most criteria the 2024 annual convention was a success. Two hundred forty registered for the convention held at Wildhorse Resort and Casino at the end of July. This was an increase over the 170 that have registered for the last few conventions. Of particular note were the sixty-five first-timers, a great deal more than the usual handful.

There were favorable responses to the speakers' lineup and topics. However, there were unwanted hitches related to the tours. All of eastern Oregon seemed on fire, and I-84 experienced intermittent closures, one of which caught the tour to Baker City Interpretive Center on the road. Fortunately, they were able to turn around and get back to Pendleton.

Even though I-84 was open, the second day's tour to Baker was cancelled out of fear of stranding passengers in Baker if the route closed while there. They were reassigned to one of the other two tours that day. One of those tours, however, experienced its own problems when it broke down on the trail to Whitman Mission, miles from a shade tree or town, and passengers were stranded in nearly 100-degree heat. We were able to dispatch Wildhorse shuttles to take the stranded victims to a shady park in Adams, Oregon, where they passed the time until a working bus rescued them. Although rescued from the heat, after the convention was over, eleven people reported that they came down with Covid, all assigned to the stranded bus. Typically, OCTA convention-goers took all the problems in stride.

The raffle and auctions were a great successes, raising \$2, 469.00 for the chapter in the live auction, silent auction, and raffle. T-shirt sales brought in \$1,120.00. And \$1,134.00 in donations was raised by the chapter for the books from the estate of Allen Goodwin, a chapter member who bequeathed his library to the Northwest Chapter. After expenses the net income from the convention for the chapter was \$3,492.63.



*Roger Blair receiving the Certificate of Appreciation as Convention Chair from Kathy Buob. Jenny Miller photo.*

## Thank You to the Convention Volunteers

*By Susan Badger Doyle*

The OCTA convention would not have been a success without the work and commitment of our chapter volunteers who worked their stations throughout the convention. Muriel Carbiener, Sallie Riehl, and



*The registration team: Muriel, Sallie, and Becky. Jenny Miller photo.*

Becky Peterson worked at the Registration Desk. They checked in registered attendees, handed out convention bags and booklets, made sure people picked up their meal tickets, and handled the occasional problems that arose. Rich Herman and Phyllis McGarry worked in the Raffle/Silent Auction Room, keeping the raffle winning ticket lists running smoothly. Glenn and Carol Harrison sat at the tables in the hall with books for donations and T-shirt sales. Wendell Baskins, Rich Herman, and Robin Baker helped load lunches, snacks, and drinks onto the tour buses. Polly Jackson and Sharon Brown checked in bus tour passengers.

Alys and Beth Webber were lunch hosts. Sharon Brown, Lynn Baskins, Jenny Miller, and Kay Forsythe displayed items at the silent auction.

Others to thank include Mary Cross for mounting a wonderful exhibit of historical and topical quilts on three sides of the room where we ate meals; bus tour leaders Dave Welch, Sam Pambrun, Robin Baker, Roger Blair, Wendell Baskins, and myself; and Skyler Rudd for displaying two trail-era wagons outside of the complex for the convention attendees as well as the public to see. A special thank you to Sam Pambrun for arranging shelter and facilities for the stranded passengers on the bus that broke down on the Whitman Route tour until a replacement bus arrived.



*Charlie Zimmermann receiving the Young OCTAn Award from Dave Welch and Kathy Buob. Jenny Miller photo.*



*Convention center lunch with some of the quilts exhibited on the walls in background. Jenny Miller photo.*



*Lunch at Frazier Farmstead Museum on the Museums Tour. Roger Blair photo.*



*The tour group at Tamastsiht Cultural Institute on the Museums Tour. Roger Blair photo.*



**Entertainment Evening**

*Far left: Laura Dean, Music in the Westward Expansion.*

*Left: CTUIR Drummers and Dancers.*

# OCTA Post Convention Tour

## July 26, 2024

*By Wendell Baskins*

On July 26, 2024, an eight-hour post OCTA Convention Tour group travelled from Pendleton to The Dalles. The group of thirteen vehicles visited significant Oregon Trail sites. The sites visited were the two swales at White House Road outside of Echo, the BLM site at Echo Meadows, Well Springs at the back of the Boardman bombing range, Fourmile Canyon site, and the sites at the descent to the Columbia River and the crossing of the Deschutes River. At each site exploration and discussion time was taken. Lunch and rest breaks were taken at the Marina Park in Boardman and at the rest area in Arlington.



*Oregon Trail swales at the BLM Fourmile Canyon site near Cecil, Oregon. Phyllis McGarry photo.*



*The tour group at the BLM kiosk at Fourmile Canyon. Phyllis McGarry photo.*

# Blue Mountains Explorations Summer and Fall 2024

*By Robin Baker*

We had a very successful OCTA convention hike at Blue Mountain Crossing Interpretive Site on Tuesday, July 23. Around 24 convention attendees were shuttled to the interpretive site by bus from the Wildhorse Casino. We followed Class One trail ruts south for about a mile and a half, then returned to the parking area for lunch. We then hiked about a mile to the north, again on Class One trail ruts, and returned. This portion of the Oregon Trail is unique in that it winds through ponderosa pine and white fir forest, with only occasional clearings. We lucked out and enjoyed blue, smoke-free skies and moderate temperatures at 4,000 feet altitude.

On Saturday, October 5, the NW Chapter Exploration Team (Jenny Miller, Mark Mulvihill, Bob Camp, and myself) plus Dave Yerges, a local trail enthusiast, were escorted by landowner Doug Bean up Deal Canyon Road west of La Grande. We drove steeply uphill past Table Mountain to his property on top of the extensive plateau traversed by Oregon Trail pioneers. Our exploratory hike followed indistinct trail ruts west for two plus miles, recording a GPS track and taking photos, and then returned to our vehicles. This was a good reconnaissance trip for a more extensive hike further west to the Grande Ronde River at Hilgard State Park planned for our **annual Blue Mountains outing, May 12–18, 2025**. We are looking forward to this more extensive spring trek when the grass will be green, and the trail ruts will perhaps be more visible.



*The OCTA convention tour hike at Blue Mountain Crossing in the Blue Mountains on July 23. Robin Baker photo.*

# Cowlitz Trail Auto Tour

## September 29, 2024

*By Susan Badger Doyle  
Photographs by Roger Blair*

On September 29, the day after the chapter fall meeting, Dave Welch and historian Karen Johnson led an auto tour of the Cowlitz Trail from Kalama to Tumwater, Washington. The water and land trail began thousands of years ago as a Native American link from the Columbia River to the Puget sound. From about 1825 it was used by the Hudson Bay Company to link Fort Vancouver with Fort Nisqually on the Puget Sound. In 1845 the route was used by the first American emigrants, the George Bush and Michael Simmons families, to establish homes in the New Market (now Tumwater) area.

Nineteen people in seven cars participated in the tour. The tour visited several historical locations between Kalama and Tumwater. Tour leaders Dave and Karen provided a tour guide, maps, and informative commentary at the sites. It was a congenial and rewarding tour.



*Tour leaders Karen Johnson and Dave Welch.*



*Listening to Dave at the starting place at a monument in Kalama.*



*John R. Jackson home, 1859, a well-known stopping place for travelers on the Cowlitz Trail.*



*The tour ended in Tumwater at the memorial for early settler George Bush.*



## **A Letter from a Member of the Northwest Chapter Preservation Working Group**

In early 2024 the Northwest Chapter formed a Preservation Working Group (PWG) that will function as a “chapter preservation officer.” The PWG began its work with a review of projects considered by the Oregon Department of Energy’s Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). The EFSC publishes a monthly list of each project and its activities. The chapter PWG will review and discuss the list each month via a Zoom meeting. Initial members of the PWG are Dave Welch, Jenny Miller, and Wendell Baskins. Chapter president is an ex officio member.

Jenny Miller is a member of the PWG and recently sent a letter to the EFSC urging the council to examine existing land uses when considering new project proposals. Her letter makes important observations on the wider impacts of infrastructure development. It is reprinted here.

To the EFSC,

My comments are general in nature, not directed toward a specific project in particular. As more and more projects come online, or are put into the works, I’d like the council to take a look at how those projects fit in with other projects that have been established. It seems like much of Oregon has now been targeted for more and more projects, whether they are wind turbines, transmission lines, solar farms, or a combination.

I understand that we need to have energy. I am, however, very alarmed at how fast our beautiful state is being covered by projects. People came west 170 years ago for opportunity and land. That land is rapidly being taken out of farmers’ hands and covered up. The process seems willy nilly. I love eastern Oregon and the wide spaces. This is my backyard, so to speak. It is becoming impossible to look in any direction without seeing some kind of development. I believe productive farmland is sacred and needs to be kept in production. Farmers should not have to fight tooth and nail to keep their land growing crops and raising animals for our food. I don’t believe every ridge needs to be covered by some kind of project.

My request is that when a new project is proposed, the big picture is examined. Look at how it will affect the land use that is in place. Some farmland has become so industrialized that it can never be used for farming again. Instead of looking at projects as individual entities, pull back to see how the whole region is being affected. Leave some space uncovered for the people, the animals, and the birds.

Also, stay on top of the latest research. Does the entire cost of windmills, or solar panels—fabrication, transportation, installation, upkeep, and replacement—justify the energy that’s being produced? Is there something better out there that needs to be developed that would cost less to manufacture and perhaps produce more at less cost to the land?

Thank you for your consideration.

Jenny Miller  
445 SE 9th Dr  
Hermiston OR 97838

# In Memoriam

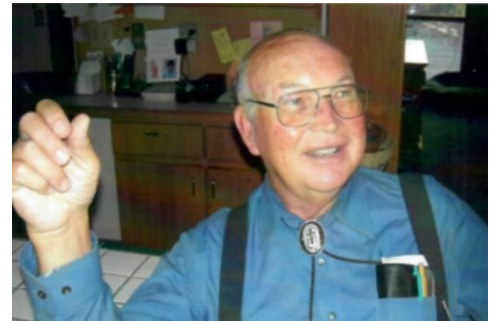
## Lawrence “Larry” Lindsay February 1, 1937 – September 8, 2024

*East Oregonian*

Sep 18, 2024 Updated Oct 9, 2024

Lawrence “Larry” Lindsay was born during a snowstorm February 1, 1937. His parents Rosella and Alex Lindsay almost didn’t make it to St. Anthony’s Hospital in Pendleton from their home near Lexington due to weather and car trouble. Larry was their miracle child, an only son they thought might never be, their pride and joy. His little boy footprints are stamped in concrete at the end of the front walk outside the “home ranch” house where he grew up and where he passed away September 8, 2024, surrounded by his family.

Larry attended grade school in Lexington before transferring to St. Joseph’s Academy in Pendleton. After high school (Class of 1955), he attended the University of Portland where he studied finance, participated in Air Force ROTC, and met his future wife, Corrine (Remily). He graduated valedictorian of his UP class in 1959, then attended Georgetown Law School in Washington, DC.



When his father died suddenly in June 1960, Larry’s future plans changed. After serving his country in the Air Force, he returned home to the ranch—all the while courting Corrine who had graduated valedictorian of her UP class (1961) and was then studying chemistry on a Fulbright Scholarship in Germany. Larry put his exceptional writing abilities to good use and convinced her to marry him and become a rancher’s wife. They celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on September 7, 2024.

Larry lived a full life with both joys and sorrows. Losing his dad at a young age taught him to lean into the promises of Christ. “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take up my yoke and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart: and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). He loved the Lord, especially in the Eucharist. For a time, he drove his family to monthly all-night adoration devotions at Holy Rosary Parish in Portland, instilling in his children the wondrous mystery of the presence of Christ, so that home on the ranch, in the dust and sage, they knew Christ was present there, too. He prayed the Scriptures, rosary, and often daily Mass.

He lived his faith through acts of generosity, both small and large, such as when he and Corrine sponsored several Vietnamese families—40 persons in all—escaping the aftermath of war. He loved to read, especially about history and his faith. He preserved several sections of the Old Oregon Trail on the family ranch and wrote a history of the Catholic Church in eastern Oregon. He loved music, played the violin and accordion, and encouraged his children with music lessons and access to a symphony of instruments.

He was a pioneer in irrigation and served over fifty years as an elected commissioner of the Port of Morrow, bringing economic development to the region. He relied on God’s grace to see him through the rough financial times that so many family farms faced in the 1980s. Grace sustained him through the deaths of three of his children (John, Claire, and Barney), and it was grace that fortified him for the difficult journey through dementia.

While grace is present in sorrow, it is more readily recognized in joy. Larry could laugh so hard he shook all over. He clipped cartoons from the newspaper and shared them with his family. He delighted in a good joke and often had one ready for his many speaking engagements on various community

boards. He attended his kids' (and then his grandkids') ball games, brought snacks and treats to the harvest field, and was a master fly swatter.

Larry was a good man, devoted to God and family, country and community. May he rest in peace. Larry is survived by his wife Corrine, children Ann (John) Murray, Cathy (Lawrence) Pedro, Alex (Terreca) Lindsay, Theresa (Arne Henning) Pihl, (Kimberly Lindsay), Dan (Ashley) Lindsay, Joe (Leanne) Lindsay, thirty-one grandchildren, and nineteen great-grandchildren.

A recitation of the rosary will be held Tuesday evening, September 17, 2024 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner, OR. A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, September 18, 2024 pm at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner, Oregon. A graveside service with military honors will take place at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton, OR at 11 a.m., Thursday, September 19, 2024.

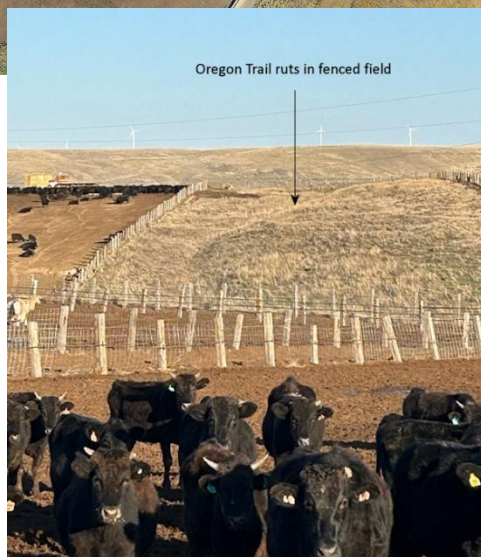
## 2004 OCTA Friend of the Trail

Larry and Corrine Lindsay, Lexington, Oregon, received the OCTA Friend of the Trail Award in 2004 at the Annual OCTA Convention in Vancouver, WA. The Lindsays operated a cattle feed lot east of the Boardman Bombing Range and fenced off Oregon Trail ruts on their property to keep the cattle from damaging them. Below are photos taken by Jenny Miller.



*Left: aerial view of Lindsay property with arrows pointing to the protected Oregon Trail ruts in the fenced field.*

*Below: An OCTA marker in*



*Left: The Lindsays protected the Oregon Trail ruts by fencing the field adjacent to the feed lot.*

# *Northwest Trails*

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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 Avarad Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.



## **42nd Annual OCTA Convention**

*Colorado's Historic Trails:  
A Journey Through Time*

**September 7-12, 2025  
Pueblo, Colorado**

### **The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Drummers and Dancers at the Pendleton Convention**



*Roger Blair photos.*