



# Northwest Trails

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

Volume 34, No. 1

Winter 2019

## Northwest Chapter 2019 Annual Meeting Saturday, March 23rd, Stevenson Community Library

Please mark your calendars for the 2019 NW OCTA Annual Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, March 23, at the Stevenson Community Library, 120 NW Vancouver Ave, Stevenson, WA 98648, phone 509-427-5471.

The meeting will start at 10:00 am, but you may come as early as 9:00 am to socialize with a coffee hour before the meeting starts. The annual meeting will be from 10:00 am until noon. We will include a chapter business meeting, a recap of this year's events and discussion of other important issues for the coming year.

Bring your own lunch and drinks (picnic style). We do not want to take more than 45 minutes for lunch because of time restraints. We want people to stay on site and visit with each other. Bring a desert for the desert table to share with others as we have at previous meetings.

Preregistration is not necessary but be prepared to pay a minimal fee at the door to cover space rental and other picnic costs.

After lunch at 1:00 pm, we will have two guest speakers and then finish with an opportunity to visit the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum (next to the Skamania Lodge) or join in a car convoy trip of the historical Oregon Trail portage on the north side of the Columbia River. Details of each will be explained at the meeting. In order to allow time to enjoy these options, **we will not have our traditional raffle.**

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

Driving directions: The Stevenson Community Library is in downtown Stevenson, just off Hwy 14. Turn north at Columbia Street, drive 2 blocks to Vancouver Street. It is located on the NW corner of that intersection.

Questions: email Rich Herman at [buddy359@comcast.net](mailto:buddy359@comcast.net) or call 360-977-8184.

**Note: no raffle at this meeting**

## NW Chapter Directory

### **President**

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TBA

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## Special Donations Report

NW OCTA Treasurer reports that through December we had received \$750 in donations and have a total of \$7,393.24 in the NW OCTA account.



## Election Results

Vice President: Sallie Riehl

Director: Ray Egan



# President's Message

*By Rich Herman*

Happy New Year to all of you and thank you for all that you do to contribute to the success of the NW OCTA chapter.

Our chapter has had the opportunity to show its presence at several public events this past summer by hosting information booths to make the public aware of our effort to preserve the Oregon Trail in Oregon.

In addition to the summer's events, in the fall we hosted a meet-and -greet event in October in Vancouver for Pat Traffas, National President, John Cannella, NPS, and Travis Boley, OCTA. They were attending a Partnership for a National Trails System meeting, and NW OCTA hosted a get-together so they could meet some of the local OCTA members. Pat Traffas shared some interesting information about national OCTA goals and words of encouragement. The following day Henry Pittock, Sharon Brown, and I led a bus tour of the Barlow Road for some members of the Partnership convention who signed up for our tour. They were very excited about what we showed them, and they had the opportunity to hike near Barlow Pass and Laurel Hill. Several of our guests were flat-landers from the Midwest and East Coast and said it was just awesome to hike in the rugged mountains for the first time.

Also in October, Lethene Parks and I were guests of the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington in Battleground. Lethene was the keynote speaker and gave an excellent slide presentation of the Oregon Trail. Our audience was very involved and eager to ask questions and share family history. Naturally, we passed out membership applications because some were OT descendants and they could get access to our COED database.

Now looking at the future, I am pleased to welcome Sallie Riehl as our newly elected Vice President for this coming year. I am looking forward to working with her and getting her new input and creative fresh ideas for the future success of the NW Chapter. Both Sallie and Jim are enthusiastic longtime members who can be counted on to participate and volunteer at most of our events and outings.

I also want to thank past VP Paul Masee for his service by helping to coordinate and arrange chapter activities, meetings, and outings during his term. Paul has been very involved for the last several years with mapping and documentation of the Barlow Road for the Trail Inventory Program as a team leader for the Barlow Road Segment.

I also want to make you aware that Billy Symms has had to resign as Chapter Preservation Officer because of multiple health related issues. Billy has contributed much to our chapter's effort to preserve the trail by his persistent involvement at meetings at all levels throughout the state including chapter outings. He has been our representative at the Oregon State committee level and our voice to support our cause. He has also been our chapter representative on the Oregon Historic Trail Advisory Council as well as a member of the OCTA National Board. Thank You, Billy, for your service and get well.

Gail Carbiener continues his involvement with saving the trail and activities with the B2H power line project in eastern Oregon. He always welcomes assistance and would appreciate any help you may provide. Contact him directly if you are interested.

## October 23 OCTA Meeting

*By Sharon Brown*

OCTA President Pat Traffas, Association Manager Travis Boley, and National Park Service staff met with Northwest Chapter members on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, in Vancouver, Washington. Chapter President Rich Herman shared the Oregon Governor's 175th Oregon Trail Anniversary Proclamation with Pat, and everyone enjoyed dinner at a local restaurant. Pat, Travis, and Bill Martin were in town to attend the Partnership for the National Trails System convention in Vancouver.



*OCTA President Pat Traffas and NW OCTA President Rich Herman.*



*NW OCTA members at dinner with Travis Boley and Pat Traffas.*



# Partnership Hike October 24

*By Sharon Brown*

Fifteen intrepid modern-day trail travelers from across the country journeyed along the Oregon Trail river route and Barlow Road in Oregon on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, as participants in a Partnership for the National Trails System convention “mobile workshop.” Northwest Chapter members led the group on two hikes through dense forest at Barlow Pass and Laurel Hill, discussed the perils of Columbia River passage at Cascade Locks, and engaged in dialogue about the challenges of protecting, signing, and interpreting the trail. The weather more than cooperated - no rain! – and the trail travelers were rewarded with gorgeous views of Mt. Hood. It was a great day out on the Oregon Trail in honor of its 175th anniversary!





# Women's Quilts and Voices from the Oregon Trail

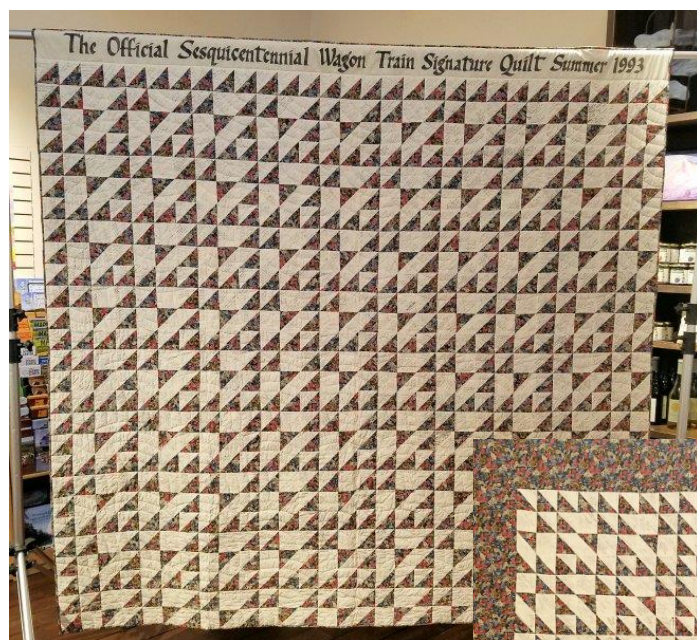
NW Chapter members Mary Cross and Susan Butruille presented a superb presentation on women's quilts and voices from the Oregon Trail on December 1 at the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City. The event took place in the admissions building, with two quilts displayed as backdrops. Mary talked about the quilts and Susan presented women's voices from the recently published revised edition of her book. NW Chapter members who attended the program were: Roger Blair and Susan Doyle, Glenn Harrison, Chuck Hornbuckle, and Judith Glad.



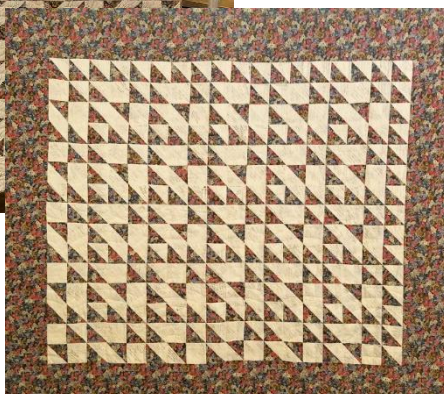
*Mary Bywater Cross*



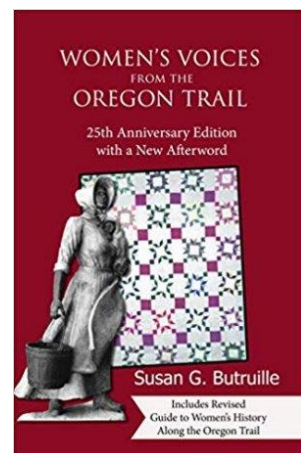
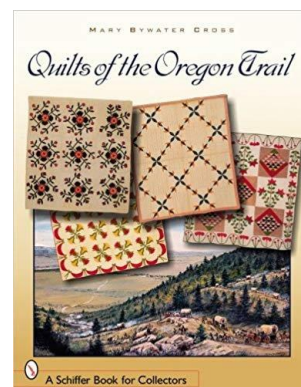
*Susan Butruille*



*Above: Front of the Sesquicentennial Wagon Train quilt, 1993. Flying Geese pattern representing migration. Signatures are on the light triangles.*



*The back of the quilt has the signatures panel of those who signed later, on a multicolored-on-brown floral background.*



*Above: Books by Mary Bywater Cross and Susan G. Butruille.*

# A New Year's Reflection

*By Roger Blair*

As many NW OCTA members know, I have been researching Walter Meacham and the Old Oregon Trail Association. Walter was a poet and left at least three dozen poems on different topics, some lighthearted or humorous and some heartfelt. Writing this article a few days after New Year's Day, I find one of his poems particularly appropriate for this time of year, and it reflects my feelings about our trail family. It was published in the Klamath Falls, Oregon, newspaper, *Klamath News*, December 25, 1928, p. 1, col 6–7.

May the new year bring happy trails and strengthen friendships.

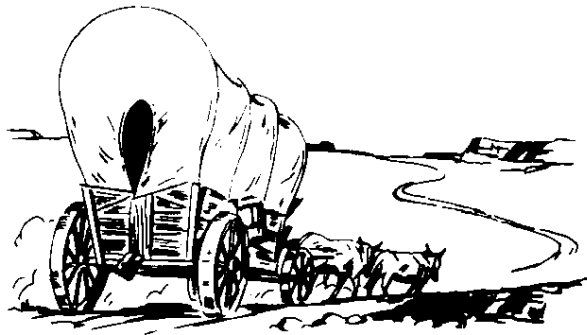
## *The Greatest Gift*

*Christmas time and the glad New Year,  
Have come with hope and cheer  
Mellowing and healing the wounds of yore  
And preserving the memories dear.*

*To some it brings the treasures of earth,  
To others the way looks drear  
But the good God gave true friends to me,  
To gladden this time of year.*

*For the treasures we buy may crumble,  
And the pictures we paint may fade  
So I cherish the greatest gift of all,  
The love of the friends I've made.*

—Walter E. Meacham,  
Formerly of Oregon, now of San Francisco.



# *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 Avarð Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.



## *2019 NW OCTA Annual Meeting*

**Saturday, March 23**

**Stevenson Community Library**

**Stevenson, WA**