HOW DO YOU GET YOUR NEWSLETTER?

About 300 copies of the newsletter are sent out quarterly. 74 copies are sent by e-mail, the rest by mail. It costs nearly a dollar to print and mail each one. E-mailed newsletters are free, requiring only a free download of Adobe Acrobat Reader, which most computers already have (one is available on the chapter website). Want a hard copy? Hit Print, it costs far less than $1!

The advantages of receiving the newsletter by e-mail include color, as opposed to all those black and white mailed pages. Another feature is that you can enlarge the size on the screen. Visually impaired readers can have large-type versions. One can also pick up the nuances of the editor’s twisted mind by enlarging the photo below to see what musical (?) instrument the four ladies on the left are playing. Can’t do that with the photocopied Print & Mail edition. Check out the website nwocta.com to see what you are missing.

If you have e-mail and do not get the newsletter on it, then contact Joyce Bolerjack at jpbolerjack@worldnet.att.net!

Beat the drum for computers. E-mail the newsletter and buy the CD.

OCTA TO SELL NOP-CD

REPORT ON COED

By Bob Kabel

Many readers are aware of the COED (Census of Overland Emigrant Documents project but may not be fully acquainted with the details and current status. Over a period of fifteen years, some two hundred volunteers, led by Kathy Roubal and Chuck Dodd, have developed a database, the COED Database, containing “(1) Basic bibliographical data [author, title, description of published and unpublished documents, and location where relevant]. (2) Trail geographical data [departure & arrival locations, routes taken, and places mentioned]. (3) Vital statistical data [all names, gender, ethnicity, deaths, graves, births, marriages, occupations, origins, parties and Indian encounters].” (Dodd, February 3, 2002)

The Emigrant Trails Researcher’s Tool is a sophisticated and complex computer program intended to efficiently query the COED database for answers to a wide variety of anticipated questions. As a bibliographical tool, it “allows researchers to identify documents that contain data of interest to them.” Currently, the Researcher’s Tool is being tested by a few trail experts. No date or mode of availability has been established for it at the present time.

The Names On The Plains (NOP) computer program is primarily a genealogical tool, currently covering 66,551 citations of 14,212 different surnames from 2263 documents. Surname searches of the COED Database are conducted with the Soundex system, familiar to genealogists. Reports of successful searches include identification of the document in which the name of interest was found and the location of that document, so that the recipient of the report can seek out the document for further information. Names On The Plains searches have been conducted at OCTA headquarters for a fee upon written or walk-in request since 1993 and also upon request via the OCTA online bookstore since 1996.

The Names On The Plains program has now been adapted for use on a compact disk (NOP-CD). The NOP-CD will enable its owner to search for any name of interest. Success, of course, will depend upon whether the name of interest has appeared in a surveyed document and, perhaps, on the ingenuity of the searcher. At the annual meeting of OCTA’s Northwest Chapter, Dave Welch demonstrated the NOP-CD and, along with the author, answered questions about it. The NOP-CD is expected to be available for sale to OCTA members at the Reno convention in August of 2002.
THE NEWS OF NWOCTA

2002 GENERAL CHAPTER MEETING

by Marley and Gary Shurtleff

Fifty-one chapter members braved blustery, cold, snowy weather to attend the 2002 chapter meeting at the Rivershore Hotel in Oregon City, Saturday, March 16.

2000-2001 Immediate Past President Lethene Parks introduced 2002-2003 President. Glenn Harrison, Joyce Bolerjack awarded Lethene with a crystal covered wagon as recognition for her service to the chapter.

Glenn moved the business meeting along quickly. Joyce reported that the chapter has a balance of $10,115.16 in the bank, and has a total membership of 265 people. Chapter secretary Marley Shurtleff talked about the recently completed officers handbook that has been distributed to officers and committee chairs. Glenn discussed the Bylaws changes, and the membership approved them.

Jim Tompkins discussed the outings and activities scheduled for 2002. Activities coming up in the next three months include the Award Fairbanks Marker installation in Boise (with the Idaho Chapter) at the Oregon Trail Reserve, on April 24; the May 25 – 26 Tour in the Spokane area, looking at Fur Traders, Missionaries, Soldier and Settlers in Stevens County (with Lethene Parks); the three-day “On the Oregon Trail” mini-convention at Pendleton May 31 – June 2 (with Keith and Christina May, Jenny Miller and Roger Blair); and the Oregon Trail Flyover, from Pendleton to the Dalles on Saturday, June 8 (Dick Pingrey.)

Dave Welch, 2004 Convention Chair, presented the planned “Roll On, Columbia” theme for the Vancouver convention in a multi-media show, complete with audio accompaniment of the Woody Guthrie song of the same title. We discussed the numerous excellent activities that can become tours or events for the convention, and noted that the difficulty is likely to be how to choose among them. Dave encouraged us to start signing up to help with the various activities for the convention, reminding us that we can be helpers if we don’t want to be solely responsible for a task.

The Dick and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award for 2002 was presented to Lowell Tiller, a popular choice. After Lowell received the plaque, accolades from Glenn, and some “roasting” from Dick Ackerman, Joyce Bolerjack, last year’s recipient of the award, requested a moment to make some remarks. She informed Lowell that, contrary to his book’s claim, the Blue Bucket mine had yielded a lot of gold. Immediately numerous chapter members stepped up to present Lowell with small blue buckets full of sparkling “gold” nuggets! (see photo on page 8) A slightly bemused Lowell was last seen carrying his treasure trove away. (A correction in the next edition of the book is expected.)

Members purchased $166 worth of raffle tickets for the chance to snag some good reading material.

After lunch, we were entertained by three gents from the early days in Oregon as they discussed “The Oregon Question.” John McLoughlin (more familiarly known to most as Tom Laidlaw, chapter member), Medorem Crawford, (Clackamas County Historical Society Director Patrick Harris), and Joe Meek (Ron Peterson of CCHS) made history seem personal as they told us about early government and goings on in Oregon. (see photo on page 8) Dr. McLoughlin no doubt walked home afterwards, his house being just up the street.

Later, Dr. McLoughlin, er, Tom Laidlaw returned to run the projector for Dave Welch as he showed “The Oregon Trail in Wyoming by Air,” a presentation of photos shot from helicopter, prepared by Russ Tanner of the BLM. We were glad to learn of the Wyoming BLM study to define guidelines that will permit uniform treatment of applications for surface-disturbing activities near the trail. The study is expected to make a big contribution to the preservation of hundreds of miles of trail in Wyoming.

When the meeting adjourned, members hurried to get home before the snow could begin to stick on the road.
This issue really looks great! It's amazing what color can do for a newsletter, and sending it via e-mail makes the use of color affordable.

Karen Farwell - Salem, Oregon

Thanks for that "packed" Feb 2002 issue!

Tuck Forsythe

Take a bow! The newsletter this time is simply great!

Marley

{What can I say? The choices were doing my best or not doing it at all -ed.}

Please pass on a heartfelt pat on the back to your editor. The newsletter is breathtaking! What a phenomenal job.

Jeanne Robinson

I received the NWOCTA newsletter this weekend and it was really good. The articles were in good order and not spread out all over the place. Lots of interesting news.

Bob C.

Yes, the UPDATE was a winner. The past issues were good, but some improvement was needed. The color dazzels 'em, but the content is what counts, right????

Joyce

Nice job on the newsletter. I print from the Internet and everything came out great. And thanks for the prime placement of the call for volunteers. I didn't find your secret message, but I haven't read all of the articles. Clues?

Dave Welch

{Just another example of the editor’s twisted sense of humor. Dave wanted his article placed in a prominent location. I asked if that would be the front page or the comics? He said next to Garfield would get the most attention. Hence the little Garfield in his article. -ed.}

Dear Jim,

How the devil are you?

I just got back from 7 weeks in Florida. My third trip there and not my favourite place scenery (or trail!) wise but the weather and wildlife sure beats that in England in Jan and Feb!

Last fall I was sent a newsletter as an attachment but let someone know (not sure who) that it just refuses to open with my software. If its not a problem I think I would like to resort to the good old mail man - thanks. If it is a problem, not to worry - just keep me copies for Reno!!!

Kindest regards

Chrissie

{Chrissie and Nick Mobbs of Beaconsfield, England represent NWOCTA’s European division. We are working on getting Adobe Acrobat to England. Until then I will be sure she gets a color printout sent to her -ed.}

A great issue and I am glad you're back to multiple columns. And the inserted period pictures are an asset. You asked for thoughts on name change. I would like to suggest "Northwest Journal." To me it connotes a diary to the northwest.

Chuck

The name UPDATE is due for a change. If you have an idea for a new name for the newsletter, please send it to Jim Tompkins at the address above.

Some ideas handed to the editor at the annual meeting include:

Northwest Journal
Northwest Trails
Northwest Trails Update
Northwest Exposure
Eden’s Prate

{Eden’s Prate, rhymes with Eden’s Gate. That’s good, but Webster says prate means to talk long and idly, chatter, to utter foolishly, or to babble. Is there some editorial comment there Dr. Blair? Doest I prater on? -ed.}

The domain NWOCTA.com is registered by me, but it has always been my intention that the domain and content should be owned by the chapter.

So, I would appreciate it if someone else would step up to bat start working with me to make a transition.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Laidlaw

Seeing the elephant in Oregon City. An 1891 circus parade.
Dr. Jack Ingram, 83, a charter member of our chapter died January 25, 2002. His ancestors left Iowa in 1852 for Oregon on the Oregon Trail. They made up the entire train. Seven members died on the trip, including Elva Ingram, buried in Wyoming near Guernsey, Mrs Keenan buried at Ash Hollow in known graves. His great grandfather's name is on the lower south side of Independence Rock. The only known diary from the family is that of James Akin.

Jack was active in many organizations but supported OCTA financially as well as assisted in getting much of the Applegate Trail marked in Southern Oregon. He also led tours on the Barlow Road that route.

He and his wife attended many OCTA Conventions and chapter meetings. They had also traveled the entire length of the Oregon Trail.

Mildred Solbak Burchfield died Feb. 22 in Portland. She was born in South Dakota and taught school after her children were in school. She and her husband Burch had traveled the length of the Oregon Trail and were charter members of National and NW chapters of OCTA. She was well known for her love of family, church, and volunteerism. She was volunteer of the year one year while they lived in Salem. Three children survive, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Elwin Shibley died in a car accident late last fall. He attended all the chapter meetings when they were in Oregon City. He was a local trail monitor for a section of the Barlow Road since monitoring’s inception. He has done tours on the Barlow Road and would furnish horses.

He gave us a video that the "Friends of Foster House" had made called The Oregon Trail: One Boy’s Journey. He played the part of William Hockett who was 9 years old when the family left Salem, Iowa for the Oregon Territory. Sixty six years later he wrote its account of his adventures. Elwin was the person sitting on the porch of Foster House and writing the diary. It was quite well done and had actual film from all the states used on the trip. Merrill Mattes gave the diary its account of his adventures. Several segments, mostly that developed a job description for the National Trails Preservation Officer (NTPO).

The NTPO serves as the preservation liaison with the local chapters, encouraging the appointment of Chapter Preservation Officers and assisting them to establish relationships with local, state and federal agencies, landowners and trail groups or organizations, so that mutual trail and heritage preservation issues can be addressed.

Our chapter is fortunate to have active and dedicated trail preservationists within our ranks. Dick Ackerman served as the NTPO from 1999 until mid-2001. Dave Welch took over the position in 2001 after completing his term as OCTA president. Chuck Hornbuckle has served as the NW OCTA Preservation Officer since 1997.

Chuck has tried to fill Local Trail Monitor positions for all trail segments within the chapter jurisdiction. Several segments, mostly along the Applegate, are still awaiting monitors. As you hit the trail this year remember that trail preservation is the reason OCTA exists. Consider what you can do to help preserve our network of emigrant trails.
VOLUNTEERS HOURS NEED TO BE RECORDED

The NW chapter is a partner with the National Park Service in a cost-share basis. We get funds and materials from them in return for hours of volunteer time. It is therefore important that all volunteer hours be recorded.

Below is a sample chart for recording your hours. If you are not sure if your time qualifies, record it, describe the activity, and let the chapter authority decide.

Better to have time and not count it than to not have countable time. If you are not sure who to send it to, send it to a chapter officer and they will pass it on.

Sample Form - copy or make a similar one

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<td>Notes:</td>
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THIS JUST IN

Vic Bolon recently resigned as Chapter Trail Marking Chair and has been replaced by Chuck Hornbuckle.

Marley Shurtleff, our tireless chapter secretary informs us that the Northwest Chapter, one of OCTA’s oldest, is now officially rechartered.

While preparing the chapter handbook, she noticed the absence of a written charter. So she used a standard charter from National and wrote one.

As of March 8, with the signature of Randy Wagner, we are official again.

NW chapter is now both one of the oldest and the youngest chapter!

Between two of his many jaunts as chapter president and other hats that he wears, Glenn Harrison managed to find time to send in an abbreviated President’s Message (normally found on page 2).

Participation

I hope you plan to be involved with the many interesting NW OCTA activities planned for this year. If you haven’t registered there is still time, but some limited numbers or a limit on the number of vehicles. Contact a leader to add your name. You are encouraged to take part in the activities of the Chapter and to attend the OCTA Convention in Reno that will include a Chapter meeting. Check the website [nwocta.com] and newsletter [this rag] for additional information and outings as they are added.

Recognition

Be thinking about nominating someone to receive an OCTA or Chapter Award. You may send the name, address and supportive information to me.

Glenn Harrison
OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES
UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY - “ON THE OREGON TRAIL”
MAY 31, JUNE 1 & 2
PENDLETON, OREGON

Where
Art Center of Pendleton
214 N. Main Street
Pendleton, OR

Events
Friday May 31
6 pm Reception and Buffet Dinner
Overview of events: Keith May
Guest speaker: Roger Blair
Romance on the Oregon Trail

Saturday June 1
8 am Breakfast,
explain morning options*
arrange tours
* 9 am Pendleton Underground Tours
1.5 hours - look at the extensive
underground city - $10 at door
* 9 am Tour Pendleton Historic homes,
ante shops, etc.
* 10 am Umatilla County Historical
Society Museum
* 11 am Historic Home Tour of the May House
adjacent to the Art Center
11:30 am Lunch on your own
12:30 am The Blue Mountain Experience-
Carpool from Umatilla County
Historical Society for drive to Blue
Mountains. Tour includes trail sites
from Blue Mountain Summit, through
Meacham, Emigrant Springs State
Park, Deadman’s Pass, and summit of
Poker Jim Hill (Mt. Prospect). Tour
Stops include emigrant diary readings.
6:00 pm Buffet dinner at the Art Center
Guest Speaker: Christina May Pioneer Clothing Worn by the Emigrants
Guest speaker: Jenny Miller - The Trail Experience From the Women’s Point of View

Sunday June 2
8:00 am Breakfast.
9:13 am The Invaders: From the Native American Perspective Meet at the Umatilla County
Historical Society parking lot. Drive route of Oregon Trail from base of Poker Jim Hill through
the Reservation to Tamustalikt.
12:00 noon Optional lunch at the museum or drive to Echo Meadow trail sites.

Motel and B&Bs in Pendleton
Oxford Suites 2400 Court (exit 209 great breakfast included) 541-276-6000
Best Western 400 SE Nye (exit 210) 541-276-2135
Red Lion 304 SE Nye (exit 210 site of 1998 convention) 541-276-6111
Econolodge 620 SW Tutuilla Rd (exit 209) 541-276-8654
Tapadera Inn SE 1st & Court (downtown) 541-276-3231
Parker House 311 N Main (adjacent to Art Center) 541-276-8581
Dorie’s Inn 203 NW Despain Ave (adjacent to Art Center) 541-276-7974
A Place Apart 711 SE Byers Ave 1-888-441-8932

Questions???
Keith May
541-276-8206
drighsid@ucinet.com

Please fill out registration sheet
COWLITZ TRAIL TOUR - MAY 11
TOLEDO TO OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

May 11 - Cowlitz Trail - Chuck Hornbuckle

The Cowlitz Trail was one of two overland routes to the Puget Sound. This final 60 mile “push” was one of the most difficult due to early winter rains when settlers arrived. We will follow the route of the emigrants who chose to turn north upon reaching Fort Vancouver.

This tour is limited to 10 vehicles!

Registrants are to meet along the Cowlitz River at Toledo at 9:00 AM. The tour will end about 3:00 PM at Heritage Park in Tumwater.

The tour honors the 150th Anniversary of Thurston County and is a practice run for one 2004 OCTA Convention tour in Vancouver.

A tour booklet will be available for $5. Registrants will be given more information about the tour booklet prior to the tour.

During the 2004 Convention this tour will not be open to NW chapter members living in Oregon or Washington!!

NW chapter members are urged to take this tour either this year or in 2003 as the convention tour will give a priority to people from outside Oregon or Washington.

Contact Chuck Hornbuckle as soon as possible to be one of the 10 vehicles this year.

7245 - 118th Ave SW       Olympia, WA  98512
360-352-2113        hornbucklec@juno.com

FUR TRADERS, MISSIONARIES, SOLDIERS AND SETTLERS - MAY 25-26
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

Saturday-Sunday, May 25-26 - Fur Traders, Missionaries, Soldiers and Settlers in Stevens County - Lethene Parks

Tour starts in Spokane with stops that include Tshmakain (site of Walker and Eells mission), St. Paul’s Mission, HBC Fort Colville, U.S. Army Fort Colville, and a presentation on migration into the area by Oregon Trail emigrants and their descendants. There will be a booklet of background information and maps.

Contact Lethene Parks for further information or to register.

3214 Clark Lane Rd           Hunters, WA  99137
509-722-6161           lethene@theofficenet.com

OREGON TRAIL FLYOVER: PENDLETON TO THE DALLES - JUNE 8
PENDLETON, OREGON

Saturday, June 8 - Oregon Trail Flyover: Pendleton to The Dalles - Dick Pingrey

Participants in the June 8th flights over the Oregon Trail route between Pendleton and The Dalles are requested to meet at the Pendleton Airport Terminal Building at 8 a.m. Saturday morning, June 8th. There will be a briefing either at the Terminal or at the fixed base operator's building about two blocks west of the Terminal. Look for signs to direct you to the proper location. The pilots are expected to arrive with their aircraft between 8 and 9 a.m. There will be an additional briefing for the pilots and passengers with the assignment of passengers to specific aircraft at about 9 a.m. We hope to have all aircraft in the air by 10 a.m. Flight time to The Dalles and return to Pendleton should be about two hours, possibly a little more. We hope to arrange a group lunch, de-briefing and question and answer period for about 1:30 p.m. That will conclude the activity for OCTA members although a tour of the Pendleton Underground is planned for the pilots and OCTA members are welcome to join the tour if they have not already take it sometime earlier.

OCTA members are reimbursing the pilots for the approximate cost of the aviation fuel they use. Because the pilots are bringing their airplanes from the Yakima area and returning home after the trail over flight, we estimate the fuel cost at more then $175 per airplane. We hope to assign only two passengers to many of the airplanes and some can carry only one passenger. For this reason we are setting the cost per person at $85. Payment should be made when we first meet so the pilots can be reimbursed prior to their return flight home.

If you did not sign up for the flights at the March Annual Meeting and wish to participate please send your name to Dick Pingrey at PO Box 130, Selah, WA 98942 or by e-mail to rpingrey@msn.com. In the possibility that we have more participants then available airplanes we will try to do some second flights over the route in the afternoon. It is possible that we may have to limit registration as well. It is also important that we know of any cancellations as early as possible.

Weather is always a concern. Should there be a major storm we may have to cancel the activity. Check the weather prior to leaving home and if bad weather is forecast call Dick Pingrey either Thursday after 6 p.m. or Friday prior to 9 a.m. Dick's home number is 509-697-4765 and his Cell number is 509 952-9157.
Keith May at the Annual Meeting in Oregon City. Keith will head the three day trail celebration of National Trails Day in Pendleton, May 31, June 1 and June 2.

Lowell Tiller the 2001 recipient of the Ackerman Award at the Annual Meeting reacts to the customary kidding about the lost gold mine referenced in his book.

John McLoughlin (center Tom Laidlaw) reacts to a point made by Joe Meek (left Ron Peterson) regarding the Oregon Question as Medorem Crawford (right Patrick Harris) looks on.
Registration:

Please write a number of how many in your party will attend each of the events. Note that the only items that require advance payment are the evening events at the Art Center. The dinners are buffet style. The other events need a tally so we can plan accordingly. Thanks!

___ May 31st pm - Dinner and Guest Speaker at the Art Center  $12.00 per person

___ June 1st am - Pendleton Underground Tour ($10 payable at the door)

___ June 1st am - Umatilla County Historical Society Museum ($2.00 payable at the door)

___ June 1st pm - Driving Tour of the Blue Mountains

___ June 1st pm - Dinner and Guest Speakers at the Art Center $12.00 per person

___ June 2nd am - Tour of Tamustalikt ($6 payable at the door)

___ June 2nd pm - Driving Tour to Echo Meadows

Total Amount enclosed: __________

Please include this form with a check for dinner events to:

Joyce Bolerjack  
10813 NE 20th Street  
Bellevue, WA  
98004-2907

MAIL THIS FORM NO LATER THAN MAY 15TH !!!!!!