The convention was fun but exhausting. The tours dragged us all over northeastern Kansas, and it was hot enough that nine hours on a bus was pretty enervating. (It is always that hot, so what am I complaining about in Kansas. That is just the way it is for OCTA conventions.) Gary and I went on three of the four tours, and I understand that the one we missed was also very good. I suppose my personal favorites were going to the historical locations in Lawrence and Lecompton (and all the John Brown/Bleeding Kansas stuff), the trip to Alcove Springs - which was beautiful even when the weather was hot and dry, and the tour of the Konza Prairie where we saw many bison, turkeys and other birds as well as lots of flora. The warnings from the locals were strong about using bug spray. Chiggers and ticks were rampant, so they offered insect repellent every time we stopped to get off the bus. We seem to have gotten out of there without any bites, but Jenny Miller took a spill off a log and got about ten little deer ticks on her! She took a long soak once she got back to the hotel, and got rid of them all. Apparently if they are gone before 24 hours pass, you can't get infected with lime disease from them. So she should be okay.

THE TALE OF TWO CONVENTIONS

2003 IN KANSAS

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2004 IN WASHINGTON

The countdown is now on with about ten months to the opening of the Fort Vancouver convention. Major events are being firmed up and tour itineraries are being refined. The opening session speakers have been confirmed with Dr. William Lang delivering the keynote address after opening remarks by the executive directors of the Oregon Historical Society and the Washington State Historical Society, Dr. John Pierce and David Nicandri.

Another article in this newsletter outlines the proposed children’s workshop. Many members have encouraged inclusion of this activity in the convention. We need your help to make it happen.

The convention will be covered by the Clark County-Vancouver community television service. Presentations at the convention will be recorded for later broadcast and tapes will be made available to OCTA.

There are still many volunteer positions open. Areas with openings include workshop hosts, food service planning, the raffle and silent auction, tour guides and merchandise sales. If you have not volunteered and wish to do so, please contact Dave Welch at welchdj@comcast.net or 253-584-0332.

- Dave Welch

Would you like to participate in the Convention in an easy way? Contributing an item(s) to the Raffle is very convenient. Bring your item to the September Picnic, the October Board meeting, or the March General Meeting, the Convention—or, all four!

What should you contribute? Something you would like to receive with a Northwest theme is the best guide. Here are some ideas to start your creative juices flowing:

Hand made items: textiles, wooden, ceramic, paintings, prints, etc. Local Products: wine, candy, music CD’s, note cards, tuna or salmon canned by Indian tribes, etc. Books (always a favorite) Silk flower arrangements, Plants (bring to the Convention) Gift certificates from Vancouver or Portland merchants.

If it is something you would like to receive, so will Convention attendees.

- Raffle Chairmen: Suzanne and Chuck Hornbuckle.

Jim Tompkins has taken the lead on developing a children's workshops for the Fort Vancouver convention. Jim has suggested that the workshops be limited to those times when the parents would most likely be participating in events less oriented toward children such as the opening session, business meeting and papers. Children would be welcomed to all other activities. The excellent "alternative" program suggested by Jim is as follows:
WASHINGTON (Continued from page 1)

Wednesday Aug 11
8:00 am - 5:00 pm - Tour Vancouver Historic Reserve in morning, picnic lunch at Waterfront Park, afternoon tour Water Resources Education Center and/or Pearson Museum.
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - May attend Banquet with parents. Oregon Trail movies offered as alternative.

Thursday Aug 12
8:00 am - 5:00 pm - Tour EOTIC in morning, and visit North Clackamas Aquatic Park in afternoon.
5:00 pm - 10:00 pm - With parents/guardians for Music in the Park

Friday Aug 13
7:00 am - 5:00 pm - With parents/guardians for tours
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Oregon Trail films

Saturday Aug 14
7:00 am - 5:00 pm - With parents/guardians for tours
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm - BBQ

The program is targeted to children between 8 and 14 years old. We anticipate offering this two-day plus program for about $85. The cost may change depending upon the number of attendees and transportation requirements.

This program can only be offered if we have sufficient qualified volunteers. The hours for which volunteers are needed are:

Wednesday 8 am to 5 pm (4 volunteers) and 6 pm to 9 pm (1 or 2 volunteers)
Thursday 8 am to 5 pm (4 volunteers)
Friday 6 pm to 9 pm (1 or 2 volunteers)

Volunteers working eight hours or more will receive a free ticket to the Saturday BBQ. Non-OCTA volunteers are welcome. Please contact Dave Welch or Jim Tompkins to volunteer or if you have other suggestions for the program.

- Dave Welch

KANSAS (Continued from page 1)

of the week. The population is 45,000 with kids, 22,000 without! All the tour guides were vociferous about their alma mater, whether it was Kansas State (Manhattan) or Kansas University (Lawrence). I heard a lot about the battles between the KSU Wildcats and the KU Jayhawks. (Jayhawks are about as real as Seahawks, and look mostly like Yardbirds to me, with huge beaks and a bizarre color scheme that looks a little parrot-y.)

-Vern Gortzitze accepted the nomination for vice-president, and Bernie Rhoades agreed to take over as the new secretary because Lethene is now on the board, so that is our line-up.

The Saturday trip out to Fort Riley was HOT but rather interesting. I enjoyed watching the cavalry group perform. There are usually fifteen people in the troop, but nine of them were overseas presently, in Iraq. So the six that were there went through their paces. Most of the speakers were okay. The emphasis in the different parts of the country is fascinating. In the eastern trail states, it is always about graves and locating ruts under fields and figuring out where all the various trails and roads intersected and took off from each other.

By the time things get to Oregon, the paths are pretty defined, and interests are more focused, I guess. The east is about having it fairly easy, except for the horrendous steep river crossings; and the west is about people who have been totally annealed by the hardships of the journey. No time to play by the time they get to the Blues, the Columbia, or the Cascades.
THE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Many Northwest OCTA members attended the 2003 OCTA Convention in Manhattan, KS. The Kanza Chapter put on an excellent, varied program of speakers, outings and activities. We were able to witness the arrival of a wagon train, buffalo, and a cavalry charge. Unfortunately, we had to choose between hearing several good speakers or going on an interesting bus tour.

NW Chapter members enjoyed promoting the 2004 Vancouver Convention and did well selling items. Our OCTAPELLA choir performed a reworded version of "Roll On Columbia, Roll On", although we were accompanied by the OCTA band. We all had a good time seeing old friends, meeting new people and socializing.

During the business meeting, the election results were announced and Lethene Parks and Glenn Harrison were two of the new additions to the board. The OCTA president is now Dick Pingrey. Vern Gortzite, from the Utah Crossroads Chapter, is the vice president. Bernie Rhoades is the new secretary. Joyce Boljerjack is the membership chair. Dave Welch continues as Trail Preservation Officer and board member along with Jack Fletcher. So our chapter is well represented at OCTA board meetings.

Bob and Barbara Kabel were presented with OCTA's Distinguished Volunteer Award for their extensive work on the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents and Emigrant Names CD. Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Joe Kabel of Washington for developing the Emigrant Names CD; Mike Metcalf, from Wyoming, who saved the trail from nine pipeline crossings; Jere Krakow, Superintendent of the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office; and Terry Del Bene of Wyoming.

Part of the fun of an OCTA convention is getting there and returning. Carol and I drove, so were able to make several interesting stops. Visitor’s Centers at Three Island Crossing at Glen’s Ferry, Idaho and the the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument at Kearney, Nebraska were musts. We viewed the pony express stations at Gothenburg, Nebraska and Marysville, Kansas on the way. We stayed with Carol’s cousin near Alcove Springs. On the return trip we visited Ash Hollow, Chimney Rock, and Scotts Bluff/Mitchell Pass plus the Hollenberg and Norton pony express stations in Nebraska. Then we did two cemetery searches for some of Carol’s relatives.

At the Three Island Crossing Visitor’s Center is a diary quote by Robert Robe, who settled in Brownsville, OR and a quote by Abigail Scott Dunway, who lived in Albany and several other places in Oregon. At the Scotts Bluff Visitors Center there was a diary quote by P. V. Crawford, who settled at Crawfordsville, east of Brownsville.

Yes, I’m putting together a Willamette Valley tour for the 2004 convention. Many others are working on other aspects of the convention. If you want to add your name to those helping in some way at the Vancouver convention next August, contact Dave Welch at welchdj@comcast.net. - Glenn Harrison
THE PEOPLE OF NWOCOTA

ALBANY PROGRAM

Al LePage, living history interpreter and Director of the National Coast Trail Association, will offer a special presentation Alexander McLeod Trail: Encounter, Exchange & Exploration along the Pacific! at 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 19 at the Lakeside Center of the Mennonite Village in Albany. This program, sponsored by the Linn County Historical Society, is free and open to the public.

“It’s 1826 and a Chief Trader of the Hudson’s Bay Company, Alexander Roderick McLeod, is leading the first expedition to ever explore the central Oregon coast,” notes LePage. “There are mountains to climb, long beaches to travel, deep rivers to cross, rocky headlands to surmount, lush forests to push through, trapping to be done, and encounters with tribal members to trade for furs, food, and canoes. Join Al as Hudson’s Bay Company officer “Alexander McLeod” takes us back in time from the gates of Fort Vancouver to the tribal village site on the Siuslaw River at Florence. Colorful slides of this historic route and stories of the expedition promise to be both entertaining and informative.

This presentation goes beyond being merely educational and entertaining. It is meant to bring history alive so that people will make a personal connection with McLeod, see the route he traveled and the places he saw, and even experience the things he could have experienced on the expedition. Take advantage of this unusual opportunity to learn about this historically significant and essentially unknown expedition. Make some history yourself and meet Alexander McLeod!

LePage has invested much of his personal time, energy, and resources to become an authentic “Alexander McLeod.” He developed his first-person characterization of this Chief Trader based on McLeod’s journals, the writings of those who knew him, and general information about fur brigades and those who led them. His costume, easily valued at $1,000 or more, was carefully researched and required bringing together the diverse and unique skills of many generous people. He even learned how to speak with a Scottish accent specifically for this very role. His background includes certification as an interpretive guide through the National Association for Interpretation, experience portraying other historic figures in the National Park Service’s living history programs at Fort Vancouver, creating and implementing living history events at various historic sites, and course work in voice and improvisational theater. LePage actually retraced McLeod’s 150-mile historic route by bicycle from Fort Vancouver to the coast at Lincoln City, and then on foot in costume as “Alexander McLeod” on to Florence.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Saturday October 18, 2003
Board Meeting in The Dalles, Oregon
Saturday January 10, 2004
Board Meeting in Vancouver, Washington
Saturday March 13, 2004
Annual Meeting in Oregon City, Oregon
Museum of the Oregon Territory

SACAGAWEA BOOK

What do Harry Potter, Sacagawea, and the Oregon Trail have in common? Fourth-generation pioneer descendant -- and native Oregonian -- Joyce Badgley Hunsaker, that's what!

Scholastic Corporation, which sells more than 320 million of its books a year -- including the popular HARRY POTTER series in the U.S. -- is one of the world's leading publishers of books for children. Now, this prestigious producer of the ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA has selected Joyce Badgley Hunsaker's acclaimed living history performance of Sacagawea for its ground breaking online encyclopedia, THE NEW BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE.

Beginning this month, students in participating schools and libraries around the globe will be able to access THE NEW BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE via the internet to see Hunsaker's live portrayal of Lewis and Clark's famous tribal interpreter. This is the same performance seen at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. <http://www.ScholasticLibrary.com>

And for those whose historical tastes run to the printed page, Hunsaker's newest book about the Oregon Trail has just been released by Texas Tech University Press. SEEING THE ELEPHANT (VOICES FROM THE OREGON TRAIL) spans nearly half a century of pioneer westward migration in the generations after Sacagawea.

Each chapter of SEEING THE ELEPHANT is presented in conversational style by a real, historical person who shares his or her true adventures (and misadventures) while traveling the Oregon Trail. Included are stories and references to the Salt Lake - or Mormon - Trail, the California, the Santa Fe and the Bozeman Trails.

From missionary bride Narcissa Whitman's crossing in 1836, to Lucy Alice Ide's self-proclaimed "modern passage" in 1878, SEEING THE ELEPHANT offers personal accounts of the tumultuous years that secured America from sea to sea and helped forge a new national identity.

A free online teacher and student supplement are available from Texas Tech University Press which makes SEEING THE ELEPHANT particularly useful in the classroom or home school. <http://www.ttup.ttu.edu>

Hunsaker served as Executive Director of the Oregon Trail Preservation Trust in Baker City during planning and construction of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. She received the Oregon-California Trails Association's highest award for national service in 1998. Her book SACAGAWEA SPEAKS was named History Book of the Year by ForeWord Magazine in 2001.

"Hunsaker has given history new life and breath to honor the sacrifices, by all the cultures of the Trail, that have made our country what it is today." Gerry Frank, fourth-generation Oregonian and former Chair, Oregon Tourism Commission.

"Hunsaker probably knows more about her subject, particularly as it applies to women in their epochal trail journey, than anyone else on earth. You may be certain that she is accurate and right on the money." Gregory Franzwa, founder of OCTA

CONTACT: Joyce Badgley Hunsaker
Fanny & Friends Historical Interpretation
Hands-On History
P.O. Box 86, Kanab UT 84741 (435) 644-8676
OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES

FRENCH PRAIRIE

On Saturday, July 12th, a group of 12 took an enjoyable field trip through the French Prairie area of the Willamette Valley. We met at the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and divided up into vehicles with CBs. Our group included Gary and Marley Shurtleff, Lowell Tiller and Ruth Mahoney, Jerry Snyder, Rich Herman, Jim and Sallie Riehl, Tuck Forsythe, and Gary and Jenny Miller. Jim Tompkins, our fearless leader, had prepared a booklet with highlights of the day mapped out for us.

First big stop was the overlook of the Falls at Oregon City. It was hard to imagine what it looked like originally because of all the industry. Then it was off on the tour. Some of the sites we passed included Canemah, Rock Island and New Era. Stops in Barlow and Aurora to learn about the gentlemen who settled there were interesting.

Our lunch stop was at Champoeg where many of us enjoyed a tour through the museum. We also had a chance to request two movies: one about steamships that used to travel the Willamette, and the other about Champoeg itself. Lunch was a picnic under the trees near the obelisk - X marks the spot! - where the fabled vote took place to determine American or British rule.

Upon leaving Champoeg, we went to St. Paul to see the oldest Catholic church west of the Rockies and north of California. The nearby cemetery was interesting to walk through, as was the one in St. Louis. We headed off for Boones Ferry Road to go to the site of Boones Ferry itself. After a detour we came it from the north and walked down to the river. Many of us commented on the approach to the river while a few of us commented on the bikini-clad women on the river. A couple of more stops led us back to the Center. It was a very enjoyable day.

- Jenny Miller

UTTER ROUTE

I travelled to Murphy, Idaho, September 13-14, for an outing jointly sponsored by IOCTA and the Owyhee Country Historical Society, to visit sites related to the so-called Utter Disaster that occurred along the South Alternate Route in September 1860. Leaders were Jim McGill, President of IOCTA; Jim Hyslop, President of OCHS; and Don Shannon, author of the book The Utter Disaster on the Oregon Trail.

We first stopped at a large, new interpretive sign along Idaho highway #78 detailing the Utter Disaster. We then followed the trail north and west to the crossing of Castle Creek where the Utter train camped the night before the battle, and we viewed the flat where the 30-hour siege is believed to have occurred. The flat extends to the Snake River, to which most of the survivors of the siege escaped. We then drove down to the mouth of Sinker Creek where several days later the Indians bombarded the survivors with rocks from some high bluffs. All that remains of trail swales are remnants here and there. Four wheel drive was required and in places the alkali dust was at least 6 inches deep.

On Sunday we met on the Oregon side of the Snake River just south of Adrian. We first stopped at the Oregon Trail kiosk between Adrian and Nyssa where a new sign has been erected to bring attention to the Starvation Camp established by survivors that reached the Owyhee River crossing. We followed this with a dusty trip to where the Starvation Camp is believed to have been, then to Keeney Pass, the Henderson gravesite, Vale, and on the Trail route to Alkali Springs for lunch. We crossed on down to Farewell Bend.

A third new sign commemorating the disaster has been erected in the parking area next to the restaurant at Farewell Bend. Our final stop was on old highway 30 toward Huntington at the marked Van Ornum Gravesite. The Van Ornum family and several individuals left the starvation camp at the Owyhee and pushed on. They reached as far as just west of Farewell Bend where their mutilated bodies were found by an Army rescue party sent out to find any survivors. The gravesite, on the south side of the road, has recently been fitted with a standard OCTA rail fence enclosure and small marker.

An interesting sidebar to this trip was the maiden voyage of the traveling privy that followed us every mile of the way. OCHS enlisted the aide of a high school industrial arts class for design features and some generous benefactors for material and labor, and now owns a highly visually presentable, trailer-mounted, self-contained traveling toilet is outfitted with an RV-style sit down, fresh water tank for flushing, and waste water holding tank. The unit is enclosed with aluminum attached to a frame. Each side of the unit bears a large logo of OCHS and implores people to join.

- Wayne Burck
The day of the second annual NW OCTA picnic at Cen-
tralia’s Borst Park September 27 was unseasonably warm and
wonderful, matching the temper of the day.
Early arrivals helped Joyce Bolerjack set up the larger
Kitchen 2, an excellent meeting place with lots of room for
displays, and various items for sale or raffle, as well as a spot
for desserts and coffee.

By 10:45, nearly 60 people had arrived, and Lowell Till-
er had sold lots of tickets for the after-lunch raffle.

Marie Oberg, Cowlitz County historian from the Toledo
area gave a very informative and interesting talk about the
eyearly history of the area. She shared some excellent pictures
and displays, including a couple of wooden covered wagons
that were snapped up by Pendleton’s first grade
teacher/author/ teacher instructor, Keith May, during the raf-
fle. Marie has invited us to join her in Toledo at the history
museum there, for another year’s picnic.

Dave Welch discussed plans for the 2004 convention,
and encouraged people to sign up to assist if they had not al-
ready done so. Dave specifically mentioned the special activi-
ties for children that Jim Tompkins was trying to get set up
during the general meeting and papers times, and asked if
people would volunteer, or knew of some groups that might
be interested in volunteering to assist with children’s activi-
ties at those times.

The group broke for lunch, and everyone enjoyed talking
with old friends, meeting new people, and eating plenty of
the luscious desserts that 16 members had brought to share.

The raffle, held after lunch, was an expeditious affair, with
winning numbers drawn and called rapidly, and people getting
up from all around the room to snag an item from the tables.

Then Keith May regaled the group with stories of taking
teachers on the Oregon Trail to educate them in the realities of
what the trail route and experience was like. We heard of ratt-
tlesnakes in the dust, thunderstorms, stuck cars, and lots of
historical misconceptions that got corrected (we hope!).

The final event of the day was a presentation by Seattle
NW OCTA members Phil and Vivian Williams, of the musical
history of northwest region from the time of the first
“European” musical instruments that would have been heard in
the area in 1792, to the latter part of the 19th century. The
Williams’ presentation was excellently prepared, well paced,
very charmingly presented, and enthusiastically enjoyed by all
present. Several of us have begun lobbying to fit them into the
2004 Convention program somewhere!

Joyce reports that the picnic made a small profit this year.
Wendy and Joyce netted almost $500 in pre-convention sales
of merchandise from the NW OCTA chapter. Evidently mem-
ers like the items available and got their choices early!

Numerous members remarked at the end of the day that
they considered it to be a great success, and they were im-
pressed with the quality of the presentations.

- Marley Shurtleff

**TAKING THE SILENT AUCTION UP A NOTCH**

The Silent Auction has become a popular event at OCTA conventions. It is a place for items that have a higher value than
the items in the raffle. For the raffle and silent auction we rely on the generosity of OCTA members for the items. We need lots
of large and small items. Things that are trail-related are always popular as are crafts. Another idea is to donate things that are
specialities in our area, especially foods such as Almond Roca, blackberry jam, etc. Let your imagination have fun with thinking
of ideas. It would be great if every NW OCTA member could donate at least one item.

Some of the popular silent auction items in Manhattan were garden stones with the OCTA logo, a handmade quilt, a deco-
rative wrought iron wagon and ox, a doll with a chest full of homemade clothes, a painting, and many more. We want to add
a new dimension for this convention by adding things that buyers can do.

So far we Betsy and Jerry Kanago have offered a full week Bed and Breakfast for two at their home on the Kenai Peninsula
in Alaska with the bidding to start at $400. Dick Pingrey is offering a two to three hours flight over the Oregon Trail in eastern
Oregon for two with a starting bid of $200. Barbara and Bob Kabel are offering their condo in Seattle that overlooks Pike Place
Market for two for two nights with the bidding starting at $200.

Do you have something you could offer? Does any one own or know someone who owns a private boat who would be will-
ing to offer a cruise on the Columbia River? Please let Suzanne Hornbuckle <hornbucklecs@juno.com> know if you have a big
item you can offer. We want to advertise the big items ahead of time.
23 April 1866: Start from Bloom (Chicago Heights), Cook County, Ill., "We had a sad parting but hope to have a happy meeting again some day."

Rock Island, Iowa City, Des Moines, Council Bluffs.

15 May: "We saw General Sherman. He was in the same ferry boat with us as we crossed the Missouri."

18 May: "Crossed Loup Fork on a pontoon bridge."

23 May: After Fort Kearny, "Our next sight of a house will be at Fort Laramie."

28 May: "Came on great sandhills today. Picked lots of flowers."

Accident approaching Laramie, father sets broken leg.

19 June: Crossed North Platte bridge. "It seems so homelike to see telegraph poles again."

28 June: "Went through South Pass but did not know exactly when."

3 July: Camp without water but have "both kegs full."

7 July: "Came over the roughest, steepest, highest mountain roads ever seen or imagined. Camped near a forest. Had some snow."

8 July: Smith & Thomas Forts.

11 July: "Passed Soda Springs. We were very much disappointed in finding a few log huts instead of the city we expected. Water tasted like water with soda in it."

Goodale Cutoff, Boise, Payette River, LaGrande.

8 August: "Crossed the Blue Mountains. The road was fine for a mountain road. Went through pine forests all day. Got gum."

17 August: "Entered the Cascade Mountains. Camped in a dreadful, lonely place in the woods on a sidehill. Ate supper by candle light."

18 August: "Came over some fearful roads. Camped where a pleasure party were having a picnic. We are going to see Mt. Hood soon.

Sunday, 19 August: "Had raspberries for supper. Dreadful roads. Came down Laurel Hill. Not as bad as expected. Grandma fell out of the carriage."

21 August: "Camped at a man's house who had negroes."

Silverton, Knox Butte.

23 August: "Got apples and potatoes for nothing. Farmers are generous in Oregon. Crossed the Saniam River on a ferry."

25 August: Cross Willamette to Eugene.