

THE FIFTY-NINER

Quarterly newsletter of the
Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter
Oregon-California Trails Association
December 2009



**We wish you a merry christmas
and a happy new year**



**May you enjoy good health and
much happiness during 2010**

Best Wishes and Sincere Thanks from

The Transworld Tractor Trekkers

L to R: George & Anne Bass, Ron & Kerry Bywaters, Jeff Fordham, Jeff Smith, Wendy Fordham,
Hugh Campbell, Dick & Barbara Garnett, Allan & Carolyn Faulkner, Peter Barr, Neville Thompson

Photo courtesy of the "Farm Collector" magazine

Notes from the President

By Camille Bradford



I received the card on the first page from Ron and Kerry Bywaters, sending holiday wishes to our chapter from Transworld Tractor Treks in Western Australia. It is a very pleasant reminder of the group's visit to our convention in August.

Their visit here was one of the stops on their 5,000 mile trip across the United States. Their participation in the opening ceremonies and the events associated with the movie premiere certainly enhanced our convention. Photographs and a description of their visit are on the *Our Trip Diary* page on their website, www.transworldtractortreks.com.

Many thanks again to Susan and Duane Kniebes, and to Sharon Danhauer for their excellent talks at the October 24 meeting. Susan and Duane gave a presentation on graves and cemeteries along the Cherokee-Overland Trail in Larimer County (see map on page 8). Sharon, a member of the board of both the Loveland and Berthoud Historical societies, gave a presentation on Mariano Medina.

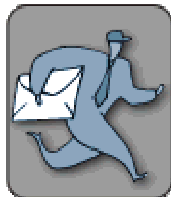
As discussed at the October meeting, we have formed a special committee which is now considering potential new chapter marking projects. The members of this committee are Jerry Blanz, Richard Deisch, Jack and Pat Fletcher, Roger Hanson, Susan Kniebes, Pat Surrena, Bruce Watson, Lee and Jane Whiteley.

Looking ahead to 2010 and the plans we have made so far, Susan and Duane Kniebes will give a presentation at a chapter meeting in May on their experience using dowsing rods to locate graves. Berl and Pat Meyer have offered to conduct an overnight outing along the Santa Fe Trail in June, and a day trip to Cripple Creek in July. We will be finalizing the dates and details for these events early next year. In August OCTA's 28th annual convention will take place in Elko, Nevada and we will have a chapter meeting there.

Finally, as always, I welcome your suggestions for future programs and your news items, photographs and articles for the newsletter. Many thanks to Jim McGill for his article, *Tim and Jennie Goodale in Colorado* which appeared in the September issue and for *Did Harriet Loughary See the Elephant?* in this issue.

Best wishes for the holidays and many thanks to all our members and friends who have contributed to a very successful year for the chapter.

Reminder:



Please send your year-end volunteer report forms to Bruce Watson
bgwatson@comcast.net

OCTA Is Now on Facebook

By Travis Boley

National Association Manger



OCTA recently decided to take advantage of the fairly new phenomenon known as "social networking." Like so many other non-profit organizations, OCTA now has its own Facebook profile. Though still new to social networking, it is expected that our outreach efforts via venues such as Facebook will continue to grow in the coming years.

Websites such as Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace are growing increasingly popular among wide swaths of the American populace. Several years ago, growth among teenage users at MySpace took off, and this year, the use of Twitter and Facebook has exploded among adult users. In fact, in January 2009 Facebook had 11.2 million users between the ages of 25 and 34. By July, this number had grown to 18.1 million users.

The fastest growing demographic on Facebook, believe it or not, is women over 55. Second place? Men over 55. Coincidentally, this is also the main demographic of OCTA.

So what is Facebook? It's probably easier shown than explained, and a quick visit to www.facebook.com will yield one a great deal of information. Users can add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. Additionally, users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region. In our case, users can also join a network such as the one created by OCTA.

The website's name "Facebook" stems from the colloquial name of books given at the start of the academic year by university administrations with the intention of helping students get to know each other better.

Mark Zuckerberg founded Facebook in 2004 with some of his college roommates while he was a student at Harvard University. The website's membership was initially limited to Harvard students, but was expanded to other colleges in the Boston area, then throughout the Ivy League, and then Stanford University.

It later expanded further to include any university student, then high school students, and, finally, to anyone aged 13 and over. By September 2009, the website had more than 350 million active users worldwide.

We plan to continue adding material and updates to our Facebook profile. Pictures, videos, notes, announcements, invites, and myriad other things can be generated and sent to you instantaneously to keep you up-to-date regarding OCTA developments.

You can also pose questions and generate discussions on OCTA's Facebook page, and in addition, you would have the ability to add your own trail-related photographs, videos, diary quotes, or any other information you'd like to share in this public venue.

We hope you'll add OCTA to your own Facebook profile and stay informed as announcements are made.

Photograph of Travis Boley by Roger Blair.

Clarice Crowle

1926-2009

By Garry O'Hara

Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society



Clarice was the “heart and soul” of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society (CCVHS). She was born in California on November 21, 1926. She received her undergraduate degree in biology from Fresno State College and went on to earn an M.A. in microbiology at Stanford University in 1949. At Stanford she was a laboratory technician and medical researcher. There she met Fred, her future husband, who was then working on his doctorate in microbiology. In 1956 they came to Denver when Fred received an appointment as a professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Living in the Park Hill area of Denver, they had son Nelson in 1956 and daughter Cindy in 1958. They moved to the area that eventually became Foxfield in 1966.

Clarice was a lifelong learner. She and Fred became trained leaders of discussion groups on the Great Books of the Western World. As their children grew older she became a Cub Scout den mother and a Girl Scout leader. A nationally licensed parliamentarian, she wrote the bylaws for the town of Foxfield.

Traveling was one of Clarice’s favorite activities. She trekked to numerous Colorado ghost towns and climbed all but two of the state’s “fourteeners.” She and Fred traveled to all of the 50 states and to every continent except Antarctica. (“We have to get started soon enough to get there,” she would say.) Their last trips were to the northwest U.S. to follow in the tracks of Lewis and Clark.

She perhaps is best remembered for her passion for history in general and for her contributions to local history in particular. Clarice devoted much of her time studying and documenting the Smoky Hill Trail from Kansas to Denver. She became one of the Trail’s best historians and worked for many years trying to get the Smoky designated a National Historic Trail (a designation that may be achieved in the near future). In 1974 she persuaded the Cherry Creek School District to name its new school Smoky Hill High School because it lies along the Smoky Hill Trail.

She spearheaded the successful effort to save and preserve the old Melvin Schoolhouse. In 1975 she co-founded CCVHS and diligently worked to collect data on the history of the Melvin community and the six “mile houses” that were built along Cherry Creek in the 1860s. She was largely responsible for having 17-Mile House placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Clarice became the historical society’s first (and longest-serving) president and served the organization in many capacities over the years.

Clarice died on October 14 at the age of 82. She requested that there be no memorial service. Her final trip will take place when her family takes her ashes next year to the Basin of Tears in western Colorado and scatters them at the base of the Mount of the Holy Cross. She wanted the granite of this mountain to be her gravestone.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society and sent directly to the Treasurer, Kevin Sear, 1628 South Oakland Street, Aurora, CO 80012.

Photograph by Camille Bradford. Clarice Crowle (seated) at the dedication of the Smoky Hill Trail marker, Aurora, Colorado, May 20, 2006.

Renewable Energy and the Oregon Trail

By David J. Welch

Former Preservation Officer

Oregon-California Trails Association



Most of us agree that the pursuit of renewable energy sources is a necessity. We may not agree on the justification, but in the end the need is there. This recognized need has resulted in a rush to build renewable energy sources not unlike the oil field developments in the late 1800s and early 1900s. We are still living with the adverse impacts of those developments. Are we repeating the same mistake today?

Of particular concern is the impact of wind farms and solar fields on cultural resources. I am especially concerned about impacts to the Oregon National Historic Trail and its setting in eastern Oregon. Beginning about five years ago we began to see wind turbines in the plains between Pendleton and The Dalles, Oregon. This region is traversed by the Oregon Trail and while the land is cultivated over much of the area, pristine trail remnants remain in a few places. Even in plowed fields the Trail appears as a variant green ribbon when the wheat sprouts to about six-inches.

For the most part, the Trail is avoided by the turbine structures themselves, but road and transmission line crossings are inevitable. The major impact has been to the setting which up until now has retained a bit of the feeling of the emigrants' journey, in particular the views from the plains of the Cascades and their spectacular volcanoes. Today these views are often disturbed by the presence of 400-ft wind turbines spinning triple 90-foot blades. Spaced closely together, the scene is more like some multi-engine aircraft struggling to get airborne than an historic emigrant route.



Wind farm on Vansycle Ridge above the Walla Walla Valley, site of the Whitman Mission. Wind turbines, transmission lines and test towers are visible. Singly a wind turbine has a degree of grace and beauty, but this is lost in noisy complexes numbering in the hundreds.

Recently, wind turbine construction has also intruded into the Columbia River Gorge east of The Dalles. This is the route of Lewis and Clark and includes many of their campsites along the way. Another renewable energy source, hydroelectric power, flooded many of the historic sites associated with their journey more than 50 years ago. Many Native American sites like Ceililo Falls also disappeared. The loss is irreplaceable.

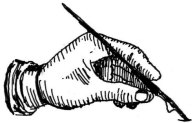
North of Pendleton, on the edges of the ridges above the Walla Walla Valley, turbines have also sprouted and proliferated over the past 10 years. This is the route of early travelers to the Whitman Mission and the Hudson Bay Company's Fort Nez Perce. The trail has always been difficult to find in this area, but any prospect of locating it is probably now gone. Until the turbines appeared, the setting was still evocative of the emigrants' and traders' journeys.

One of the most disturbing new proposals is for wind turbines on the ridges at the southern end of the Grand Ronde Valley on historic Ladd Hill. These turbines, like the others I have described, are on private land and thus only subject to the approval of local land use authorities and the Oregon Industrial Siting Council. Regulations require that they consider cultural impacts when developing these facilities, but in the end it is really up to the landowner to decide how the property is used. It should be noted that the Trail through the area contains "high potential sites and segments" as defined by the National Trails System Act and listed in the Trail's comprehensive management plan.

South of the Grande Ronde Valley toward Baker City, still more turbines line the trail corridor. In areas where the land is administered by the Bureau of Land Management, wind farm developments are subject to Section 106 actions and as a result are generally sited to minimize the impacts to the Trail and its setting.

In the beginning I raised the issue as to whether we are repeating the errors of the past by destroying near pristine landscapes and historic sites with a new form of pollution. Is all of this being done to meet an immediate expedient of “renewable energy” with little view to the future? Is a system and infrastructure being built that due to its inefficiencies will not meet the energy needs for which it is being built? I am afraid the answer is yes. We do not ask that all of these developments be stopped, but that they proceed in a more considerate manner with regard to their productivity and their impact on irreplaceable and fragile cultural resources.

This article and the photograph of the Windfarm on Vysacle Ridge originally appeared in Pathways Across America, Autumn 2009 Issue. Reprinted with permission of the Partnership for the National Trails System. Photograph of David Welch by Roger Blair.



Did Harriet Loughary See the Elephant?

By Jim McGill



The expression, “seeing the elephant,” has become so closely associated with emigrant trail history and the wagon trains that took so many of our forefathers west in these United States that a related question recently arose about a specific person, at a real location, on an accurate date during the great migration.

The question is: Did Harriet Loughary on August 2, 1864, traveling Goodale’s Cutoff on the bluffs east of the mouth of Little Willow Creek, overlooking the Payette River and valley NW of Emmett, Idaho, see the elephant?

We can tell the location of the train Harriet was on by her notation in her journal for the following day, August 3. Having followed the progress of the train from her accounts out of the new small town of Boise, they arrived at the Payette River shortly after traveling down the first Freezeout Hill on July 31. That was Goodale’s narrow ridge trail from Camel Back down to the Payette Valley. That river crossing, now in Emmett, was named by W. P. Horton in March 1863, as “Tim Goodale’s Crossing,” and was known by many emigrants who followed Goodale.

On August 1, Harriet wrote that the train crossed at a ford and traveled all day down the river, meeting several “‘prairie schooners,’ drawn by six [yokes of] mules or six yokes of oxen.” These would surely have been the large freight wagons heading to the Boise City and/or into Boise Basin and the mines. (The remaining trail remnants at that location show the great amount of traffic and/or heavy wagons that once traveled there!)

This would have put the train up on the high bluff above the north side of the river, climbing northwest up from the river bottom from Sand Hollow canyon. That evening they would have camped on the highlands and somewhat away from the river.



On August 3, Loughary wrote, “Now on a stage line.” That put the wagon train west of where they came down from the bluffs at the mouth of Little Willow Creek. In the bottom land and near the confluence of the river and the creek was a junction of the stage route, which also became an emigrant alternate on the south side of the river in 1863, and Goodale’s original trail. This second trail, opened by the Umatilla-Boise Stage line in 1863, crossed the river near that location and that became Bluff Crossing of the Payette. Thus on August 2, the train had been traveling on the bluffs, and may have dropped down to Willow Creek to camp that evening.

The question arises from Loughary’s inscription in her journal on August 2. It is an unusual and curious entry. “Still going down the Payette river Met to day a circus from Oregon going to the mining towns.” That was all she wrote concerning that day. So, did Loughary see the elephant? It could be difficult to establish whether that early “circus” had elephants, but there is some following positive-suggesting evidence! The circus would have been headed toward the Boise area.

The *Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman* in Boise just happened to begin printing on August 2, 1864. Volume 1, Number 1 was published on that date! In the second issue on August 4, the following note was printed on page 4:

CIRCUS COMING. Everybody has seen [ring master] Dan Rice’s circus in *one part of the world or another*, and everybody goes to see it again when they have an opportunity. The names that appear in their advertisement are familiar to the public, and insure a full attendance. Go everybody and laugh at Aymar’s drolleries. They will show to morrow night for the *first time in Idaho Territory*.

This appeared to be some kind of international show, not just a local group. On August 9, the *Statesman*, with a headline, “PIONEER CIRCUS,” reported that “Mr. Wm. Aymar, with his Circus Troupe” had been performing to a full pavilion. Good reviews were given, and two particular outstanding performers were named, Painter and Draper. The animals with the group were not listed, with the exception of the “educated ponies and mules” doing tricks. By that year there were international circuses which included elephants, but they did little more than appear as a curiosity with the shows, no performing animals.

On September 16, 1864, the *Eugene Register-Guard*, (Oregon) reported that the same “Aymar” circus had visited Portland, Oregon, on July 12. The newspaper reported that the money raised by one of the three performances in Portland was for the benefit of emigrants who were coming to the area on the Oregon Trail.

Another source reported that William T. Aymar had started in the circus business in 1841, and in 1855 he and another man, referred to only as Flagg, became co-proprietors of their own circus. By the mid 1860’s one of their acts included an “elephant [named] Hannibal.”¹

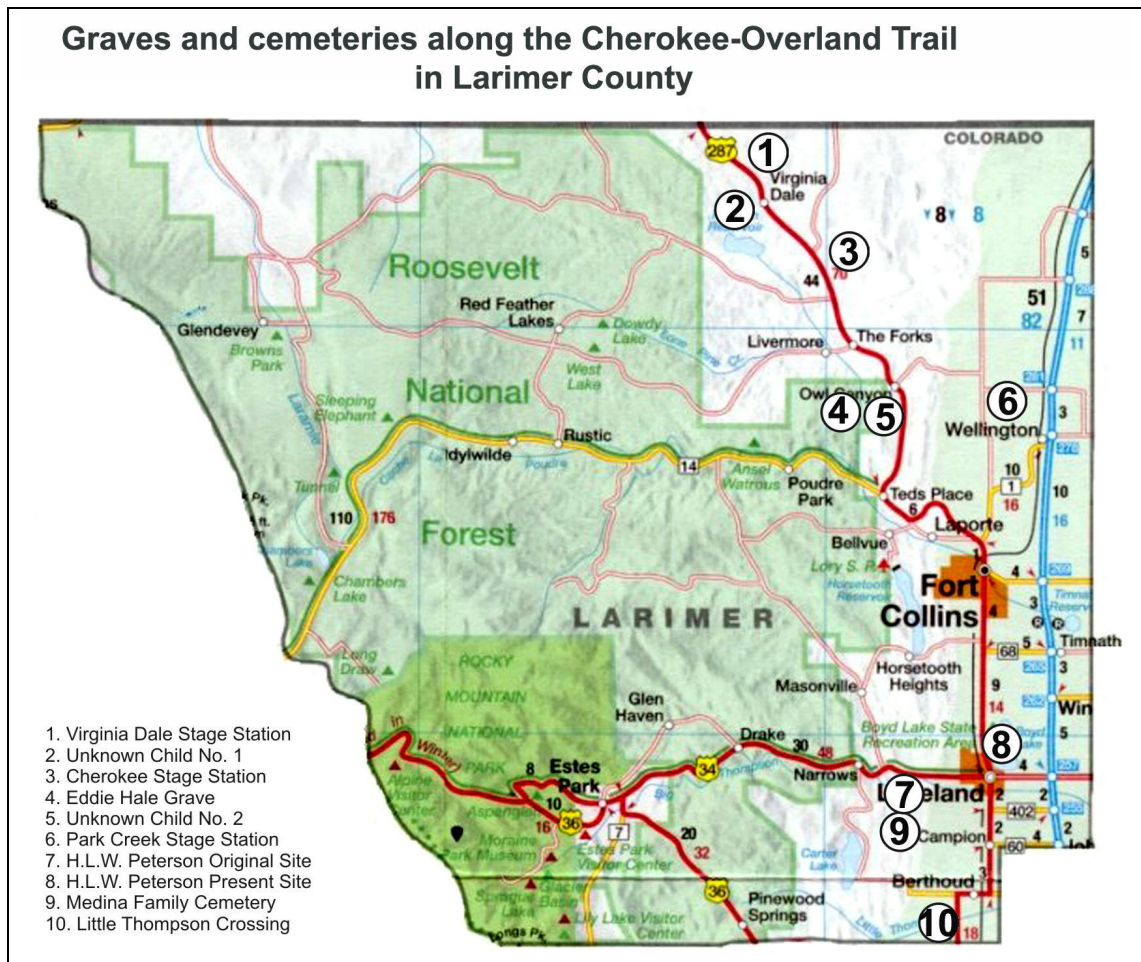
¹ www.circushistory.org/Olympians



This became an international and a high class circus, and the train with the circus that followed Goodale's Cutoff east in 1864 seems to have had along at least one elephant! They were the first circus ever to follow emigrant trails, The Oregon Trail to the Olds Ferry, Goodale's Cutoff to Boise, and later included "going overland to California" after the Idaho performances at several places across Southern Idaho.

Harriet Loughary did undoubtedly see "Hannibal" on August 2, 1864.

Photograph of Jim McGill by Phil Bradford. Illustrations by Jim McGill.



Handout accompanying the presentation of Susan and Duane Kniebes, October 24, 2009.

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION
 Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter
www.octa-colorado.org
 Camille Bradford, President
 11515 Quivas Way • Denver, CO 80234
 303-460-0371 • bradford@usa.net