



Northwest Trails

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

Volume 27, No. 1

Winter 2012

Northwest Chapter 2012 Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 10

The Highcliffe Restaurant

602 7th St.

Oregon City, OR

503-212-2008

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Northwest Chapter will be held on Saturday, March 10, at the Highcliffe Restaurant in Oregon City. The Highcliffe is located on the first bluff above Main Street. It is the same location as our last two convention planning meetings.

Activities will include the annual meeting, a “three-options” lunch menu, a program, and a silent auction and raffle. We will convene at 10:00 a.m., but come as early as 9:00 a.m. to socialize and bring in raffle items before the meeting starts. The raffle is always a great success, and we will also have a silent auction. Please bundle issues of the same title of journals or magazines together.

The annual business meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. until noon, followed by lunch. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. The program is being finalized and will be announced in the registration flyer that will be sent out in February.

For more information about The Highcliffe see their website www.thehighcliffe.com



NW CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS

Reelected are Jim Tompkins, President; Rich Herman, Vice President; and Polly Jackson, Secretary. Glenn Harrison was elected Treasurer. Lynne Alvord was elected director.

NW Chapter Directory

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President's Message

Just a few bits and pieces from your temporarily overworked president. (How can a mostly retired teacher be overworked? Must be Christmas and birthdays for 7 of the 8 kids and grandkids!) I would like to mention a couple of upcoming meetings, what to look forward to, and some expectations as well as opportunities.

On Saturday, February 4, the planning committee for the 2013 national convention in Oregon City will be holding its next meeting. We have been meeting about every third month, and the pace will pick up as we get closer to July 2013. The February 4th meeting will be at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon, the host hotel for the convention. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. in the small ballroom and will last until around 2:00 p.m. We will discuss the daily schedule of the convention, take a tour of the facilities available to us for the convention, have lunch (on our own, off the menu), and then discuss budget requests.

The convention planning committee meetings are open to all interested people. If you cannot attend, but want to stay informed, I have a worksheet that I update after every meeting. You can request one by emailing me at tompkins@bctonline.com. There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer your talents. Very soon we will start focusing on the planned bus tours. We will need script writers, tour guides, and volunteers to take practice tours (these will be the bulk of our chapter outings this year). There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer at the convention as well.

On Saturday, March 10, NWOCTA will hold its annual meeting. Vice President Rich Hermann has arranged the meeting this year and has an announcement elsewhere in this newsletter. As usual there will be reports from all officers and committees, a lunch, a program, and an auction/raffle. I am still working with Rich on the program, but my suggestion is to see if we can get one of the musical groups that we are considering for the convention to audition for us at the annual meeting.

I would like any members who are authors to consider bringing a copy of your work with you and putting it in the silent auction. You can name a minimum price if you need to be reimbursed. In return I will designate a time on the agenda to open the floor to authors to publicize your work, sell copies, or at least let us know where we can order a copy (OCTA bookstore, Amazon.com, etc).

—Jim Tompkins



WANTED! Your Hours, Expenses, and Mileage for 2011

By Chuck Hornbuckle, Volunteerism Coordinator

At this time last year our Chapter's part of protecting our heritage revealed over 11,000 hours of volunteer work and expenses of nearly \$69,000. At this time, I only have 3,215 volunteer hours and about \$27,000 in member expenses to report.

I desperately need your hours, miles, and expenses—especially if you attended the Chapter Annual Meeting and Rock Springs Convention. If it's trail related, and it doesn't have to be just the Oregon Trail, send it to me for OCTA's report to the NPS and Congress. Your part however small is important.

I may have...
Disturbed You,
Annoyed You,
Bothered You,
Troubled You,
Pestered You,
Irritated You,
Bugged You,
or got on your Nerves!!
So, today, I just wanted to tell you:



Suck it up, Cupcake!!

'Cause there
AIN'T NO CHANGES
planned for 2012!

**"Happy New Year and report
your hours, miles, and
expenses!"**

Report to:
Chuck Hornbuckle, Volunteerism Coordinator
hornbucklecs@juno.com
360-352-2113

Education Committee

By Bill Hill, OCTA Education Chair

The annual packet from the OCTA Education Committee has been sent to chapter presidents, reminding us that it is that time of the year to get in nominations for education awards and programs. Additional thought should be made towards the 2013 convention when it will be held in Oregon City. We would especially like to honor local teachers at that time.

Each year, at the annual convention awards banquet, OCTA bestows its Outstanding Educator Award. Awards carry a \$250 honorarium. There are five categories for elementary, middle school, high school, post secondary (college or adult education), and museum or institution that show outstanding achievement in educating students about the westward migration. Applications can be obtained from me, Bill Hill (91 Wood Road, Centereach, NY 11720-1619), or from OCTA headquarters (www.octa-trails.org). Applications for the 2012 awards are due March 31 and recipients will be notified in June.

Outstanding Educator applicants need to be nominated by someone personally aware of the applicant's project or program about westward migration. In addition to information about themselves, the applicant must provide a description of the project or program and three letters of recommendation from people (including the nominator) who can give an accurate evaluation of the project.

OCTA's education committee will also be holding a competition again this year to create a calendar. The 2013 calendar is themed "Emigrant and Indian Clothing and Equipment." The history and art competition is open to all elementary students. Fourteen pieces of artwork will be chosen. The artists will each receive \$50 and two calendars (for themselves and their schools). The deadline for submitting artwork is April 15, 2012. Additional details can be obtained from myself, Bill Hill, or OCTA headquarters.

Additionally, OCTA is holding a raffle for classroom sets of popular books sold in the OCTA bookstore. There are four titles being raffled and participants may enter more than once. The books are *Following Lewis and Clark's Track: The Story of the Corps of Discovery*; *Reading, Writing, and Riding Along the Oregon-California Trails*; *Finding the Right Place: The Story of the Mormon Trail*; and *Here Comes the Pony: The Story of the Pony Express*. To enter send a separate postcard for each trail book or entry to OCTARaffle, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519. Each card must include: 1) teacher's name, 2) subject/level taught, 3) school name, 4) school address, 5) school telephone number, 6) number of students in class, and 7) specific title of the book you wish to receive. Postcards must be received by February 1, 2012.

Despite OCTA's best efforts to publicize the video *In Pursuit of a Dream*, it is possible that not all schools know that it is now available. See the OCTA website at www.octa-trails.org for information and ways to publicize the video in the schools.



A Book Review by a Chapter Member

Lives Lived West of the Divide: A Biographical Dictionary of Fur Traders Working West of the Rockies, 1793-1858, by Bruce McIntyre Watson (Kelowna, B.C.: Centre for Social, Spatial, and Economic Justice, University of British Columbia, 2010). Available from *Lulu.com* in two formats: Paperback, 3 volumes, \$13.50 per volume; or as a free eBook (PDF) download (1274 pages).

Reviewed by Lethene Parks

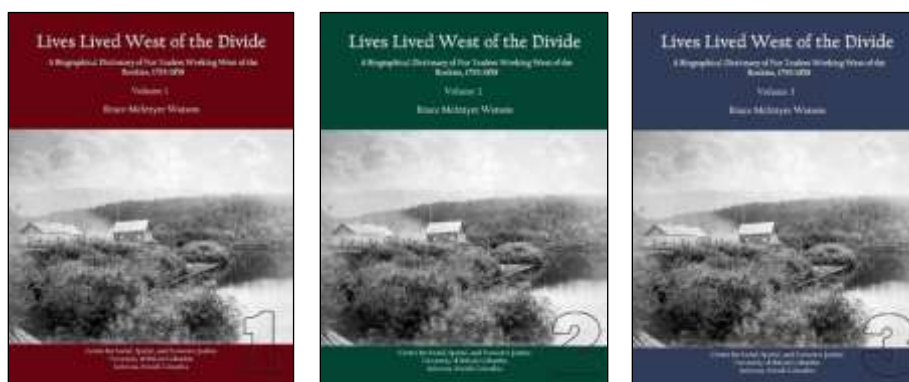
This book is a magnificent resource. I had the privilege of meeting Bruce Watson during the time he was researching this book. He had a vision of a story he believed needed telling, and in this work he has succeeded, and then some. The story he wanted to tell is “the story of those resilient individuals who were part of the fur trade which, during the first half of the 19th century, extended from northern British Columbia to southern Oregon. The subsequent imposition of international and regional boundaries . . . fragmented and erased from view this once vibrant era which this book reconstructs and returns to life.”

To research this story, Watson spent most of his time for over twenty years, traveling to archives from the Orkney Islands to the Hawaiian Islands, and many places in between, seeking original records and documents. He traveled extensively in western Canada and the northwestern United States, talking to local historians and descendants of fur trade families. He paid for most of the research and travel out of his own pocket.

The book includes brief biographies of nearly 3,300 fur trade employees. For the most part, the information comes from original sources, supplemented by information from secondary sources and from descendants of fur traders. These biographies, most of which are very brief, take up about two-thirds of the book. But there is more: a summary of the people involved in the fur trade, both the indigenous peoples and the various European, American, and mixed-race groups; a list of the various fur trade companies that operated on the Pacific slopes and the years in which they operated; a list of all the fur trade posts in the area, when they were built, and by whom; diagrams of typical fur trade posts and the structures they included; information on equipment built for transportation, from snowshoes to ships. Then comes a capsule history of the fur trade and details of life at a fur trade post.

Several appendixes list the fur trade posts, the ships that served the fur trade, medical instruments and medicines used at fur trade posts, and lists of goods that fur traders ordered from “outside” for themselves and their families. The Hudson's Bay Company had a circulating library, and there is a list of the books it contained, as well of lists of titles in several eminent fur traders' personal libraries. There is also a list of fur traders who became settlers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia. And finally, there is a glossary, a general index, a biography index, and an extensive list of sources.

Everything you ever wanted to know about the western fur trade is here, and if it isn't, where to find it probably will be. There is a lot here for the price, and I know I will referring to these volumes often.



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Material may be submitted via email, on disk, or as email attachment in Word or Text format. Pictures may be sent via email, on disk (JPG format), 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



2012 NW OCTA Annual Meeting

**Saturday, March 10
at the
The Highcliffe Restaurant
Oregon City, OR**

**A registration flyer will be sent
out in February**

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