

The Oregon Spectator, May 13, 1847, page 2, column 4 from Oregon Historical Society microfilm; transcribed June 18, 2009, by Stafford Hazelett.

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Clatsop Plains, April 2d, 1847. / Mr. Editor --I have found among my old papers an account of the route from Wallawalla to Nisqually. I have thought as there appears to be some interest felt as to the practicability of a northern route from Wallawalla through to the sound, that this paper would give the information desired and save the expense of another passage of the same route for the same purpose. The paper is from the pen of the deceased Mr. Cornelius Rogers: he passed the route in company with the deceased Mr. Pambrun, for the express purpose of exploring in view of a road from Wallawalla to Nisqually. They both reported it practicable, with the difficulties mentioned. They estimated that it would take eight men some twenty days to clear the brush and logs so that cattle and pack animals could pass with ease. A wagon route is practicable, with but little more difficulty than passing the Cascade mountains by Mr. Barlow's road. / W.H.G.

ROUTE FROM WALLAWALLA TO NISQUALLY

August 31st. Left Wallawalla and encamped on the Jankama river, about twenty-eight miles from the Fort.

Sept. 1st. Traveled about forty miles and encamped near the head of a small coulee, which runs towards the Columbia, emptying below the Priests Rapids.

Sept. 2d. Traveled about thirty miles, crossing the north branch of the Jankama, and encamped on a small branch coming in from the west.

Sept. 3. Traveled about eighteen miles and encamped on the south branch of the Jankama.

Sept. 4th. Made about thirty-six miles, having followed the same branch up, crossing and re-crossing until about ten A.M. reached the forks, and after following up the northern branch until three P.M., ascended the mountain and encamped on its western declivity.

Sept. 5th. Descended the mountain and about 2 P.M. came to what we called "White water river," running from the region of Mount Ranier towards the N.W. Encamped on its banks after following down it about two hours. Very little grass. Made about twenty miles.

Sept. 6th. Made about eighteen miles and encamped on the same stream with good grass.

Sept. 7th. Following down the river a short time: we left it on our right, and traveling southwest, passing three small rich prairies in the early part of the day, and some open timber land in the latter part, we encamped on another river from the southeast, running to northwest, nearly of the same size as the one which we left. Distance about thirty miles.

Sept. 8th. About ten A.M., entered the plains of Nisqually and arrived at the Fort about three P.M. Distance about thirty miles.

Distance estimated at two hundred and fifty miles.

The first four days of the route, the road is excellent.

The fifth crosses the river often, and has some underwood, but is not bad. A few rods only of

steep ascent to the top of the mountain.

Sixth--the descent of the mountain is good, but after that, the forest is very bad.

The 7th and eighth days, very bad from underwood and fallen timber.

The early part of the ninth is bad, having as before fallen timber and thick underwood. Last part of the ninth, level plain.

[*end*]