



# History On The Hill

The Newsletter of the South Hill Historical Society  
South Hill, Pierce County, Washington

Volume 13 Issue 2 Spring 2015

HERITAGE CORRIDOR

## Northwest Oregon-California Trails Association Meets in Puyallup; Power line project threatens the Trail

by Jerry Bates

What's our Society's connection with the Northwest Oregon-California Trails Association, you may ask. It starts with our mission. The South Hill Historical Society's purpose is to uncover, preserve and communicate our unique history on the Hill, its people, events, early farming, schools and commercial enterprises. Our first major achievement as a Society was mapping and identifying the South Hill Heritage Corridor tracing the historic Naches Trail that crossed our community. This path over the Hill was originally an ancient Native American trade route but with white settlement the route became a Military Road. The old Indian path over the Cascades to Puget Sound was followed by the Longmire-Biles wagon train in 1853 establishing the North Fork of the Oregon Trail.

**Naches Trail Coalition  
& the Oregon-California Trail Association**  
In April 2010 members of our society helped form

the Naches Trail Coalition, an informal group of those concerned with promoting, mapping (Walla Walla to Steilacoom) and accumulating documenta-



This scenic portion of the Oregon Trail may soon have to share the Boardman to Hemingway power line. Towers up to 200 feet will cross the trail eleven times.



tation relating to the Naches branch of the Oregon Trail. The Naches Trail Coalition is affiliated with the Northwest Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) — hence, our Society's interest and involvement with this Northwest chapter of the OCTA organization. The Oregon-California Trails Association's

mission is to protect the existence of the great American trails trod by half a million pioneers, gold rushers, adventurers and families — people in pursuit of a better life in the West.

### Annual Meeting of Northwest OCTA

Saturday March 14 the Northwest Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association held their annual meeting in Puyallup at the Peace Lutheran Church, across the street from the Meeker Mansion. Our Society was invited to participate. The mayor of Puyallup, Harold Knutson and Bob

Minnich, president of the Puyallup Historical Society, greeted the attendees. A business meeting followed. After a build-your-own-sandwich lunch break, Puyallup/South Hill Historical Society member, Andy Anderson, gave a presentation and tour of the Meeker Mansion. Prior to Saturday's event, attendees were invited to a unique private viewing of the old Ezra Meeker covered wagon plus the maps he made on his return over the trail in 1906-1908. This took place at Washington State History Research Center in Tacoma.

For the Puyallup meeting, our Society set-up its display along with handouts. Jerry Bates gave a brief overview of a driving guide map made especially for the event. The guide was a detailed map following the approximate route of the 1853 Longmire-Biles wagon train over South Hill to its last campsite at the Mahan Ranch, today's Brookdale Golf Course.

### **The Power Line Story**

Among the topics on Saturday's agenda, one had special significance to the Northwest OCTA group, or any historic trail enthusiast — the proposed Boardman to Hemingway power line. This project has been in the works for over seven years and is very close to becoming a reality — a grim reality. One of the most scenic sections of the Oregon Trail cuts diagonally across the northeast corner of Oregon. Many parts of this landscape are virtually untouched since our wagon train pioneers and ancestors set foot there 160 years ago. Wagon ruts are still visible. This beautiful scenic landscape may soon also include an ugly power line. Towers approaching 200' tall will cross the trail eleven times. To get an idea how obtrusive these towers will be, Oregon's tallest trees in that part of the state are less than 100' tall. A right-of-way clearance will follow the power line wider than an eight-lane freeway with an access road, inviting noisy ATVs and four-wheelers.

There remain few places in the Pacific Northwest one can visit and experience exactly what those pioneers did—no sound, no freeways, no houses, factories, shopping malls or high rise structures and other distractions of our era.

This is huge project. The power companies involved have spent millions of dollars. A real uphill battle is ahead to stop the proposed plan. OCTA members are writing letters and a national fund of over \$300,00 has been generated so far to sup-

port an appeal process. This will probably take another three years to play out with a final decision to be made by a judge.

The above is a very brief overview of the proposed power line project. There's much more to this story. For more information, see these Websites: [boardmantohemingway.com](http://boardmantohemingway.com)  
[octa-trails.com/chapters/northwest](http://octa-trails.com/chapters/northwest)

## **Apple Tree Hill a green space forever...**

*by Jerry Bates*

Jade Trevere was our guest speaker for February. Jade is unique nowadays — she's a South Hill Farmer.

Her story on the Hill begins in the early 1970s. Her then husband, Dr. Charles Barth, needed a home close to his South Hill veterinary clinic. The couple found one — a little farmhouse and apple orchard on five acres crossed by Silver Creek.

After their lives went separate ways Jade focused her energy on the little farm, bringing its 350-tree apple orchard back to productive life. With an old tractor and tools left by the former owners and a lot of hard work and "living very simply" she succeeded. For twenty years she sold fresh apples and hand-pressed cider directly from her farm.

The little farm's former owners were Bob and Lennie Spencer, who built the current little house on the property in 1931 and raised two daughters there. As a retirement project they planted the apple orchard in the late 1950s, about thirteen years before Jade moved in.

The majority of the trees are Gravenstein apples, "the most delicious tasty apple," said Jade. Her cider was hand-pressed and, left unconsumed, with time would change from sweet cider to hard cider and to "wonderful" vinegar. She can no longer sell apple cider from the farm due to pasteurization laws. Her apples ripen a bit late for the Puyallup Farmers' Market so she drives them to the Seattle Fall Commodities Exchange, "a group

of farmers trading each other's produce—apples for potatoes and carrots for example” said Jade. Jade also augments her food supply with “sweat equity. Every week I trot on down to the valley... I go to work on a little farm and in trade I get some fruit and vegetables to eat for the week.”

### **A relationship to the land**

What's most impressive about Jade is her emotional and philosophic attachment to her land. Jade recalled talking to her grandmother, learning



**Jade Trevere, February's speaker, tells the history of her apple orchard and her views on South Hill's environment.**

how her ancestors made a living from the land. Jade said, “I know how much our being depends on a relationship to the land, so for me a piece of property has a life of its own. I just get to hang out on it and, of course, work very hard as my grandparents did.”

Jade reminded us that as generations pass, local farmland is changing hands and is

not being preserved as farmland. There are many young people eager to farm that cannot afford to compete against developers for available farmland. “We still have choices and we don't have to always choose commercial development,” said Jade. Her current mission is to make sure her land “always remains a green space.” For the last four years she has been investigating conservatory organizations to help her with her plans.

Jade left us with an important thought, “What do we want South Hill to look like? It takes vision, it takes the developer's vision, and it takes a conservancy mind as well, but I would really like to see us work together and not just automatically think that more development is always best.”

We thank Jade Trevere for an inspiring presentation — also, for becoming a member of the South Hill Historical Society!

## **Pat Drake – Naches Pass & George Himes Story**

*by Jerry Bates*

Writer, former educator and longtime South Hill Historical Society member, Pat Drake, spoke for the March General Meeting. Pat and her husband, Dan, have been teachers in the Northwest for over thirty years. She's lived in Puyallup since she was ten years old, and prior to that, said Pat, “I was a Navy brat...my dad had been all over the world and said the Puyallup area would be where we'd settle.” She graduated from Puyallup High School. Fellow South Hill History Society member Art Larson was her Social Studies teacher — a favorite subject that she would later teach.

Her historical connections to Puyallup go back to her great-grandfather, an early racecar driver. In 1910, in a Moline car, he took part in an automobile race from Chicago to Texas and back, 2800 miles in all — a great feat in those times. She has a picture of him talking to Ezra Meeker, comparing the covered wagon and the Moline car — suggesting next time he could use a car to cross the Oregon Trail.

In the first part of Pat's talk she told us of her life as a teacher. Her early teaching career began in California, followed by teaching in Germany and Japan. At that time she did not have a strong interest in history, and now regrets not taking the opportunity to teach local history during her overseas assignments — especially when she taught in Hiroshima and could have had survivors of the atomic bomb tell their stories to the students. Pat is impressed with our Society's efforts to reach out to local elementary schools to introduce young people to the history that happened in their own backyards.

After returning from Japan, she began teaching at Woodland School where she met her future husband, Dan Drake. Both teachers were featured on the front page of the *Sunday Tacoma News Tribune*, July 16th, 1969. Following the news story, she was asked to teach with Dan Drake. She taught Social Studies and Language Arts while he taught Science. “Dan was a fantastic Science teacher. He conducted all kinds of class activities — setting off rockets, cutting up cow lungs, rat mazes... how was I going to com-

pete with that?! Well, I got busy with Social Studies to make it interesting — that was the catalyst for my career,” said Pat.

### **The George Himes Story**

After Pat and Dan were married, the school moved her and she found herself teaching fourth grade with the requirement of Washington State



**Pat Drake with technical assistant/husband Dan Drake. Pat wearing her Seahawks hat "It's part of history."**

history. Pat wondered how she could make history relevant and interesting to fourth graders. In her research, she found *Pioneer Reminiscences* by Ezra Meeker. On page 101, she found the answer to her problem. “Meeker tells that he wishes every young child [aged] ten years old could know about what George Himes went through on the Naches Trail,” said Pat. George Himes was ten-years-old when his family traveled to Puget Sound on the Oregon Trail in 1853. George Himes was a prolific writer from an early age and in his later years wrote of his experiences as a child on that historic journey. Pat discovered the key to interest her fourth graders in history—adventures of a child their age on the Oregon Trail.

Pat told our group some of these stories, fascinating for a child’s mind and ours. We heard of young George’s introduction to his dad’s unfriendly dog; the crossing of the White River on a log by his reluctant mother; being rescued by

James Biles; and the Columbia River crossing, among others. The Himes’ writings chronicle a young family’s perils and experiences heading west on a wagon train.

Pat also touched on many of her experiences over the years associated with the Naches Trail and her career.

While listening to Pat, we came to realize she is well equipped to inspire the younger generation to appreciate their history. Pat is currently continuing a long-delayed book project. We all hope to hear more about her progress and look forward to hearing more from Pat in the future.

## **He Loved South Hill Don Glaser (1930-2015)**

*by Jerry Bates*

I met Don and Mary Glaser for the first time in 2003—during the early days of our Society. My strongest, among many memories of Don, was his straightforward honest nature and his love of South Hill. He lived here his entire life, his family went back generations on the Hill. He felt a real commitment to our organization, attending all the meetings always eager to share his recollections of a long life on South Hill; he also served as president and vice president. Don had a real passion to explore our history, always full of energy and curiosity. Helping to satisfy that curiosity, I remember Don coaxing me into various excursions: Our investigation of the new storage tanks at the McMillin Reservoir. Arranging a Knutsen rhubarb farm tour for the two of us (his grandfather raised rhubarb on South Hill 1935-1943), and of course, like many others I joined him and Mary bouncing over the old Naches Pass trail in his Jeep Cherokee 4X4.

Don was particularly attached to his old school—the Firgrove School. The old brick schoolhouse we see today on Meridian once had a six-year-old Don Glaser sitting in it. That was in 1936. The building was constructed as a WPA project one year earlier. In 1895 the first Firgrove/Patzner School was built thanks to his great-great grandfather, John Patzner. Don and Mary in 2009 organized the 'Save Our School' committee when the old brick building he attended was threatened with demolition. The school bond for construct-

ing a new school didn't pass, delaying demolition plans, and the old structure's future remains uncertain. Also in 2009, Don and member Katie Bennett organized the Firgrove School First Reunion Event held for 1935-1965 classmates. A second event was organized in 2010. Both occasions were held in August at the Meridian Habitat Park and were very successful bringing together many old-timers, scattered all over the country and who hadn't seen each other in decades.

Don had a real love of logging history working in a logging camp as a youth. Don's love of the outdoors and history drew him to the Naches Pass, the old wagon route traveled through the high Cascades in the early years of white migration to Puget Sound country. Don began exploring the trail in the 1960s with his jeep club and helped restore the route. Many of our members were lucky to be invited along on one of his yearly trail trips. Don needed no map; he just drove us into the rough country following "roads" only passable on foot or with a four-wheel drive vehicle.

As noted, the Glasers were among the earliest pioneers on South Hill. His great-grandfather, Nicholas Glaser, bought three 40-acre tracts just southwest of the Tacoma Water Reservoir in 1912. The present day location would be on the

west and north side of the intersection of 122nd AV and 144th ST. Intermarriage joined the Glasers with their neighbors the Patzner family. Both families had roads named after them that joined at the above-mentioned intersection. Don and his brother, Wayne, were featured in a 2008 renaming ceremony organized by Pierce County in recognition of the old road names. Glaser Road and Patzner Road signs now hang proudly at the intersection in honor of his great-grandparents.

I'm not the only one among many Society members who hold special thoughts of Don. A few remembrances expressed at our May 2015 officers meeting: "I remember Don as a first class guy. Always helpful and proud of South Hill," "Don will be remembered for his passion for preserving the history of Firgrove School, South Hill and Naches Pass jeep tours..." "The list is long of his contributions to family and community... he will be missed," "Don had the energy/enthusiasm of the logger on South Hill. He leaves a legacy," "Don has been such a treasure of information—he will be missed," "Thanks to Don and Mary for all you have done for the SHHS," and "What a loss for our Society, the trips over the Naches Pass plus all the past remembrances of South Hill History. We will miss him dearly."



Don reminisces with Firgrove School Principal Charmaine Krause 2010.



The First Reunion, Habitat Park 2009



Brother Wayne & Don



Government Meadows ahead, Naches Pass

# Lewis & Clark – first ophthalmologists west of the MS River

by Debbie Burtnett

Daniel Patrick Moynihan once said “all politics is local” (*sic*) but we could easily say that “all history is local.” After moving to South Hill in 2004, I learned that I traded the Natchez Trace for the Naches Pass and Hernando de Soto for Lewis and Clark! Recently, I attended a University of Alabama at Birmingham lecture entitled Lewis & Clark: First Eye Care Practitioners West of the Mississippi.

William J. Benjamin, O.D., Ph.D., and Director of Advanced Refractive Services in Birmingham, became interested in L & C after reading Stephen Ambrose’s *Undaunted Courage*. He concluded that the team was the first eye care practitioners west of the Mississippi.

Both Lewis and William Clark had served during Northwest\* Indian War with “Mad” Anthony Wayne, so both had the military discipline and the wherewithal to explore the unknown territory—in secret as the Louisiana Territory was still French land in 1804. Lewis had served President Jefferson for two years as a Secretary-Aide and knew key figures in government, including Dr. Benjamin Rush in Philadelphia, a physician from whom he obtained essential gear and treatments. Although it is not known exactly what Rush shared with Lewis, a comparison of their respective notes and ‘recipes’ for treating “soar eyes” (wrote Lewis), it’s likely this occurred. Jefferson charged the leaders of the expedition with documenting and sending back flora, fauna, animals, fish, and information about Native Americans.

They had some idea of what the members of the expedition might experience in terms of eye problems. For example, everyone on the frontier suffered malaria; indeed, both of their journals describe the misery of mosquitos—even while using mosquito nets. The best treatment for ma-

laria was Peruvian bark, source of quina, which had ocular side effects. Today, that ingredient is known as hydroxchloroquine and treats malaria, lupus, and RA. Patient information cites its “toxicity, atrophy, edema, and blurred vision” as side effects. There were no sunglasses, but the explorers suffered from sunburn and reflected UV rays while on the rivers.

In 1805, Lewis recorded in his journal that “soar eyes” was a common complaint among the party and the Native Americans were also afflicted. Captain Clark wrote of his observation of the loss of sight in an entry of April 6, 1806. Dr. Rush taught Lewis how to treat sore eyes from *Sydenham’s Treatment for Ophthalmia*. The eye water created used zinc oxide, a quieting draught of an ounce of syrup of white poppies (which helped the eye to feel better), slippery elm bark, dissolved in two quarts of melted snow or fresh spring water. Today’s product, Refresh® Celluvisc, contains the ingredient Carboxymethyl cellulose sodium of 1% — (slippery elm bark!)

Rush’s recipe for two quarts of eye water included white vitriol (zinc sulfate); sugar of lead (acetate); and two quarts of melted water from snow or spring water (Refresh uses Purite® or purified water.)



**Lewis and Clark were the first eye care practitioners west of the Mississippi, says Dr. William J. Benjamin, O.D., Ph.D.**

Dr. Williams concluded that the success of the expedition was in no small part due to goodwill created on the passage because of the eye care given to Native Americans. They were exposed to the technological capacity of the young nation and welcomed its medical care as well as the expedition members, and the ability to trade eye water for food and provisions sustained the group as they neared the end of the journey.

*\*The Northwest Territory, composed of what would become the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin; this region a/k/a North-Western Territory by the Hudson Bay Co., lay northwest of the Ohio River and was the most northwestern part of America prior to the Louisiana Purchase.*

# From the Treasurer

by Ben Peters

*Welcome to New Members*

**Robert & Lynn Daughtery  
Myrna K. Kucklick  
Gary Leicht  
Jade Trevere**

Please call, e-mail or write any change of address to me, Ben Peters, 253-845-7028, poppa-ben2002@yahoo.com, 14602 106th Avenue Court E., South Hill, WA 98374.

**Also, don't forget that we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Dues, donations, etc., are fully deductible from your income taxes if you are able to do so. If you need a receipt for tax purposes, contact Ben.**

## **Dues Reminder**

I will attach a sticky note to the Society newsletter mailed closest to your renewal date. **No need to fill out the membership form unless there is a change of some kind.**

The South Hill Historical Society meets regularly on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of the month, 11:00 AM, (no meetings July and August) at The Highlands in the Community Center. This complex is located at 502 43rd Ave. SE, adjacent to and east of the Mel Korum YMCA.

We welcome you to our monthly meetings. For more information, contact Paul Hackett at (253) 845-7691.

# Our Current Members

Andy G. Anderson	Gary Leicht
Andy & Ruth Anderson	Terry Maves
Elizabeth Anema	Laurienne Stewart Minnich
Marion Armstrong	Kaye Murrell
Bob Ballou	Carolyn Nelson
Teresa Best	Dorothy Nelson
Jerry Bates	Juanita & John Nordin
Katherine Bennett	Mark & Dorothy Norris
Marilyn Burnett	Ron & Lois Pearson
Debbie Burtnett	Wes & Suzy Perkinson
Vernon Cox	Ben Peters
Dave & Patti Curtiss	Bill Riley
Robert & Lynn Daughtery	Bernice Fisher Rinehart
Karen Day	Sheila Rinker
James H. Dixon	Vern Rockstad
Pat Drake	Helen Rohlman
Joan Ellis	Earl Root
Arthur & Luverne Foxford	Stan & Margery Salmon
Ira Gabrielson	Lori Stock
Mary Glaser	Marge (Crosson) Swain
Paul Hackett	Ralph & Yvonne Thorpe
Alberta Hagen	Jade Trevere
Cecil & Doris Herbert	Margo L. & Joe Tucci
Evelyn Swalander Hess	Lee Van Pevenage
Wilma Walsworth Hinshaw	Carl Vest
Alan & Linda Hoenhous	Neil & Celia Vincent
Joe & Rhoda Hoenhous	Joan Vosler
Maybelle Hoenhous	W. Louise Walsworth
Matt Holm	W. Lynn Williams
Leslie Huff	Lenore Nicolet Winton
John Knierim	Ed Zeiger
Myrna K. Kucklick	Hans Zeiger
Mike Kupfer	Allan S. & Ellen M. Zulauf
Art & Lorraine Larson	Beverly Zook

## **In Memoriam**

The South Hill Historical Society  
regrets the passing of

**Don Glaser**

## South Hill Historical Society Officers

*President, **Bob Ballou***  
*Vice-President, (vacancy)*  
*Secretary, **Pat Drake***  
*Public Relations Coordinator, **Paul Hackett***  
*Research Coordinator, **Carl Vest***  
*Treasurer, **Ben Peters***  
*Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, **Jerry Bates***

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# South Hill Historical Society Membership/Renewal Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal, *check here*

**Annual Dues: Society membership \$25.00**

*Note: Please do not send cash.*

Make check or M.O. payable to South Hill Historical Society  
and mail with this application to:

**SHHS Membership, 14602 106th Avenue Court E.  
South Hill, WA 98374-4905**



14602 106th Avenue Court E.  
South Hill, WA 98374-4905

To: