



History On The Hill

The Newsletter of the South Hill Historical Society

Volume 7 Issue 3 Summer 2009

Recognition for the North Fork

by Jerry Bates

Our South Hill Historical Corridor will one day be included in an expanded Oregon National Historic Trail.

Part of a recently passed bill in Congress will launch an effort to mark the entire Naches Pass Trail followed by the Oregon Trail pioneers from Walla Walla to Steilacoom.

As we all know, among other uses, our South Hill Historical Corridor was part of the early settlers route (Naches Pass Trail) as it crossed today's South Hill.

Thanks to S.22: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 new attention will be focused on the Naches Pass Trail.

One component of this huge public lands bill expands the National Trails System. As a result, an effort to study and expand the Oregon National Historic Trail has been set in motion. What's significant for us is for the first time the tributaries of the Oregon Trail will be officially recognized. There is no question the Naches Trail was part of the Oregon Trail, but it has never been a National Historic Trail.

The actual Oregon Trail has been compared to a rope with tasseled ends. Those pioneers

that were part of the westward migration to the Oregon country in mid to late 1800s had many ultimate destinations. Not all were ending their trip in Oregon's Willamette valley but instead followed forks branching from the main trail. For example many pioneers chose to start new lives in the Puget Sound region, for them the journey west extended the Oregon Trail through the Cowlitz corridor or the Naches Pass.



The Historic Corridor across South Hill will become part of The Oregon National Historic Trail

Association). OCTA is a national organization headquartered Independence Missouri dedicated to marking and preserving emigrant trails of the West. The attendees consisted of various interest groups, historical societies, authors and interested individuals. Paul Hackett, Carl Vest, the late Bill Goelzer, and yours truly (Jerry Bates), represented our Society.

Local interest forming
On the local level, partly in anticipation of the S.22 Bill passing Congress, a meeting was held last February at the Puyallup Library. The gathering was organized by Andy Anderson of the Meeker Society and Marley Shurtleff and Dave Welch of OCTA (Oregon California Trails

A large part of the program was given over to Dave Welch of OCTA. His presentation covered

the known trail between Walla Walla and Fort Steilacoom with maps and aerial views. The second part of his talk introduced us to the science of trail marking. The OCTA organization has published a manual *Mapping Emigrant Trails* that describes in detail, research methods, field verification techniques and a classification system to establish trail locations. This publication is the first attempt to establish a disciplined approach to historic trail marking, its currently in its forth edition.

formed to organize involvement in future trail marking and promotion activities. Briefly these volunteer groups will cover such areas as research and documentation, field trips, public relations etc., associated with the Naches Pass Trail.

As time goes by expect to hear more on mapping the missing links of the trail as it went from Connell's Prairie to cross our area and on to Steilacoom.

Before the meeting concluded committees were

Picnic Reunion great success!

Things couldn't have turned out better for the first Firgrove School reunion; even the weather cooperated. This newsletter covered the organizing effort for this reunion in the last issue. Don & Mary Glaser and Katherine Bennett had the idea to bring together all the old students, teachers, friends and families associated with the school prior to 1965 for a reunion/picnic, August 9, 2009. The reward for all the hard work was a large turnout and a lot of fun had by all during the near perfect August afternoon. There were lots of hugging, handshaking and sharing of memories among people who hadn't seen each other for years or even decades.

Bob Ballou and Marilyn Burnett gather information from reunion guests under our South Hill History Society canopy.



Old pictures with captions recalling times past were on display at various locations.



From the Treasurer

by Ben Peters

A warm welcome to our new member:

Vernon Cox

Please 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.

Where to Find Us

The South Hill Historical Society meets regularly on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of the month, 11:15 AM, (*no meetings July and August*) at the Highlands in the Community Center. This complex is located at 502 43RD AV SE, adjacent to and east of the Mel Korum YMCA.

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

Updated Roster Available

A printed roster including members' addresses and phone numbers is available on request. Call Ben Peters at 253-845-7028.

In Memoriam

The South Hill Historical Society regrets the passing of

Mildred A. Dobbs

May 29, 1929 - August 13, 2009

Society Help Needed

We need storage space

Contact Paul Hackett 253-845-7691

VCR to DVD transferring (Equipment furnished)

Contact Ben Peters 253-845-7028

Newsletter contributions and editing

Contact Jerry Bates 253-848-6558

South Hill Historical Society Officers

President, **Don Glaser (acting)**

Vice-President, **Don Glaser**

Secretary, **Joan Vosler**

Research Coordinator, **Carl Vest**

Treasurer, **Ben Peters**

Newsletter Editor, **Jerry Bates**

Public Relations Coordinator, **Paul Hackett**

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South Hill Historical Society Membership/Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Home 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**



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South Hill, WA 98374-4905

To: