

**APPENDIX B. MARCH 8, 2012 MINUTES:  
“APPLEGATE TRAIL I (ATI) NORTH SEXTON PASS I-5 EAST” FIELD TRIP**



**Hugo Emigrants Trails Committee  
Josephine County Historical Society  
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the field trip was to physically investigate the Applegate Trail (*Trail*) site at the uphill side of the physical ATI (Appendix AA) road/*Trail* (i.e., uphill of I-5 boundary fence line) for any possible traces of the footprints (holes) of the old telegraph poles or actual down poles per the two papers: *Applegate Trail I North Sexton Pass I-5 East: I* and *Telegraph Lines and Applegate Trail at Smith Hill Pass.*<sup>1</sup> Maps of the ATI can be found at the web location of the papers (Appendix BB).

**II. PARTICIPANTS**

Jim Ford, Kelly Rarey, Karen Rose, Anne Southcombe, and Mike Walker visited the Applegate Trail I (ATI) on March 8, 2012 from noon to 2:00 p.m. They parked at the old U.S. Weather Bureau parking area.



*Photo 1. Jim Ford at Pole No. 1 & Hole*

**III. FIELD INVENTORY**

It was overcast, wet, and the seasonal streams were flowing, but there was no snow. Jim showed the group the two down poles and associated two holes in a line uphill from the I-5 boundary fence line, and the pile of rocks they had previously discovered.

**Bearing and Distance Experiment** The group conducted a field experiment by applying a bearing and distance to one of the telegraph footprints recorded on the 1940 OR Construction ROW Map to the ground.<sup>2</sup>

This method assumed that the square symbol on the ROW map was the physical concrete pad at the summit. The method was considered close, but would not work as the site located was 30' - 35' to far to the west (i.e., in the ATI). They brain-stormed other locations on the ROW map that

ere on the ground for future bearing and distance experiments (e.g., old paved Pacific Highway, culvert on old highway, location of Smith homestead pig house, 90 degree bend in Eastern Upridge Road, etc.). The idea was the possible use of triangulation to locate telegraph pole locations from the 1940 map to the ground.



*Photo 2. Anne Southcombe At Windless Well Candidate*

**Windlass Well Candidate** It appeared that the pile of rocks had been a structure and the upper portion had been removed several feet to the west and uphill of the base of the rocks remaining. The base of rocks had a circular pattern slightly depressed in the middle approximately 4' - 5' in diameter. The rocks did not appear to be local. The location of the rocks was approximately 20' from a small seasonal stream. A working hypothesis is that the rocks are the remains of a windlass hand-dug well associated with the old ca., 1880 - 1910 Smith homestead (Photo 2 & Photo 3).

The most common traditional 20<sup>th</sup> century Josephine County homestead method of obtaining domestic groundwater in rural areas, and in today's developing world, was and is by means of hand-dug wells. The volume of the water in the well below the standing water table acts as a reservoir, which can meet demands on it during the day and should replenish itself during periods when there is no abstraction. One method water is abstracted from the bottom of the well is by the means of a bucket and hand-operated windlass above the dug access hole.

**Poles and Holes Analysis** The group would end up investigating three down poles and two holes uphill from the I-5 boundary fence line. They were located approximately two to six hundred feet from the parking lot.

Pole 1. The group investigated down pole 1 (i.e., the one closest to the parking lot and close to the pile of rocks). It looked like what one would expect of an old postal telegraph pole at its base and center segment (Photo 1). However, its upper portion showed clear thinning into a smaller diameter natural tree with the remains of smaller branches. A tentative conclusion was that this was not the remains of a postal telegraph pole.



*Photo 3. Windlass Well Candidate*

Pole 2. This down pole was laying across the I-5 boundary fence line. There was no identifiable associated hole. A tentative conclusion was that this was a potential candidate as a postal telegraph pole. More research and field work is needed (Photo 4 & Photo 5).

Pole 3. This pole was resting at a an angle into the air and its upper segment was held semi-vertical in a tree branch. A positive identification was that this was a natural tree as Ann Southcombe dug into the hole at its base and discovered decomposing roots.

#### IV. MINUTES

Minutes were recorded by Mike Walker: March 25, 2012.

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*Photo 4. Anne Southcombe At Pole No. 2*



*Photo 5. Mike Walker, Kelly Rarey, & Jim Ford At Pole No. 2*

Minutes were reviewed and edited by the following participating members of the Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee: Jean Boling, Jim & Rene Ford, Kelly Rarey, Karen Rose, and Mike Walker.

#### Photos

- Photo 1. Jim Ford at Pole 1 & Hole
- Photo 2. Anne Southcombe At Windlass Well Candidate
- Photo 3. Windlass Well Candidate
- Photo 4. Anne Southcombe At Pole No. 2
- Photo 5. Mike Walker, Kelly Rarey, & Jim Ford At Pole No. 2

#### Appendices

- Appendix AA. Trail Names
- Appendix BB. Maps of ATI

#### Footnotes

1. Walker, M., Rarey K., & Rose. K. January 30, 2012. *Applegate Trail I North Sexton Pass I-5 East: I*. For Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR; 2. Boling, Rarey, Rose, & Walker. February 22, 2012. *Telegraph Lines and Applegate Trail at Smith Hill Pass*. For Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society & Josephine County Historical Society. Hugo, OR. (HETC's Web Published Applegate Trail Inventories: [http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/miscellaneous\\_research\\_papers\\_and\\_documents.htm](http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/miscellaneous_research_papers_and_documents.htm)).

The Smith Hill Pass was unnamed until ca., 1890s. For the purposes of this paper there are three different named passes representing the same geography: Grave Creek Hills Pass: ca., 1846 - 1890s, 2. Smith Hill Pass: ca., 1890s - 1940s, and 3. Sexton Mountain Pass: 1940s - 2012. Smith Hill was used in the title of the paper "*Telegraph Lines and Applegate Trail at Smith Hill Pass*" because of the pole data from the 1940 highway map.<sup>2</sup>

2. Oregon State Highway Department. August 1940. *Right of Way Map, Sexton Mt. Section. Pacific Highway, Josephine County*. Scale 1" = 100'. Part 1 of 2, Drg. No. 5B-28-11 (1940 OR Construction ROW Map).

**Appendix AA. Trail Names** Understanding the Applegate Trail and its evolution at North Mt. Sexton Pass east of I-5 is fascinating. This understanding has created a need for the description of four linear Trail/Road features. Road feature No. 2, the 1,060' "*Applegate Trail I (ATI) For North Sexton Pass I-5 East*" is the most significant as it is the original location of the Applegate Trail (*Trail*).

**Road Feature 1. New Access/Fire I-5 Road (200')**

**Road Feature 2. Applegate Trail I (ATI) For North Sexton Pass I-5 East (1,060')**  
"Y" Road No. 1 to "Y" Road No. 2 (760') &  
"Y" Road No. 2 to Clearing Before I-5 Sign (300')

**Road Feature 3. Applegate Trail II (ATII) For North Sexton Pass I-5 East (1,300')**  
"Y" Road No. 1 to "Y" Road No. 2 (760') &  
"Y" Road No. 2 to Highway Marker Post (540')

**Road Feature 4. Applegate Trail III (ATIII) For North Sexton Pass I-5 East (1,853')**  
"Y" Road No. 1 to "Y" Road No. 2 (760') &  
"Y" Road No. 2 to beyond the Highway Marker Post at I-5 Ditch (1,093')

**Appendix BB. Maps of ATI: *Telegraph Lines and Applegate Trail at Smith Hill Pass***<sup>1</sup>  
[http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/miscellaneous\\_research\\_papers\\_and\\_documents.htm](http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/miscellaneous_research_papers_and_documents.htm)

Map 1. 1.8 Mile Applegate Trail At Smith Hill Pass From JA-14 To JA-16: 1901 - 1902  
Map 2. Telegraph Lines At Old Smith Homestead Smith Hill Pass: 1940  
Map 5. Telegraph Lines At Applegate Trail I North Sexton Pass I-5 East: 1940  
Map 7. Applegate Trail At Sexton Pass: 1998

**Maps of ATI: *Applegate Trail I North Sexton Pass I-5 East: I***<sup>1</sup>  
[http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/miscellaneous\\_research\\_papers\\_and\\_documents.htm](http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/miscellaneous_research_papers_and_documents.htm)

Map 2. Old Smith Homestead At Smith Hill Pass: 1940  
Map 5. Applegate Trail North Sexton Pass I-5 East: 1940  
Map 7. Applegate Trail At Sexton Pass: 1998