

MONDAYS MAKE HISTORY



The Conclusion Of Mapping and Marking The Applegate Trail

by Mike Walker and Karen Rose, Co-Project Leaders of the *Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee*
 Edited by Jean Boling, Historic Sites Chair, Josephine County Historical Society.

These verified surveyed *Trail* sites greatly facilitate the search for the *Trail* by showing the researcher where to look for *Trail* traces. They help solve the mystery of several trail traces or logging skid roads in the vicinity and in determining and verifying which of the traces or evolved roads are related to emigrant wagon use. For example, now that you are looking at the terrain at the surveyed site, where would you really travel as a high-centered wagon hating wet areas and sideling? When encountering hills on steep ascents or descents, wagons normally traveled directly up or down to avoid sideling or side hilling on steep slopes, and the real possibility of tipping over.

An effective means of applying diaries, journals, reminiscences, and government reports, including GLO survey notes and maps, to locate and verify particularly vexing segments of emigrant trails is creating a composite trail description. You begin by gathering together as many accounts as possible that describe in any way the trail segment under study. Descriptions, for example, could include references to rivers and creeks, fords, mountains, bluffs, ridges, ravines, roads (i.e., Road from Willamette Valley to Jacksonville and Road to Illinois Valley via Van Noys Ferry), forks in the *Trail*, and any distances or directions recorded. Arranging all of these descriptions, really clues, in some kind of sequential order will reveal the course, direction, and location of the trail. In this way, a

detailed composite description of the trail segment under study can be created.

Diaries, journals, and reminiscences that describe human thoughts, actions, and fears for a particular trail segment bring the physical terrain alive with human suffering and hope for the future.

The accuracy of the 1850s GLO and DLC surveys has been verified by local surveyors in Josephine County, Oregon as well as an independent researcher (Atwood, Kay, 2008.

Chaining Oregon, Surveying the Public Lands of the Pacific Northwest: 1851-1855. McDonald & Woodward Publishing Company. Granville, OH).

In northern Josephine County the 1850s surveys for the Rogue Valley, except for the later Rogue River ferries, accurately reflect the emigrant wagon use from 1846-1855. The rationale is simple. There were not many settlers in the Rogue Valley who needed improved year-round roads until the Indians were defeated and moved out of the valley in 1856. In 1855 there were only five settler families in the entire Jump-off Joe Creek drainage: Haines, Harris, Niday, Wagner, and Walker brothers.

Except for the Harris cabin, all these families were burned out by the Rogues on Oct. 9, 1855. Until late 1855-1856 emigrants were mainly on a one-way fall/winter route north to the Willamette Valley. These emigrants were not building, improving, or relocating the *Trail* for year around use to avoid the wet bottoms of

winter. They were not dallying in the valley checking out possible settlement sites. They were moving as fast as they could north through the dry bottom lands and ridges of October and trying to avoid an encounter with hostiles.

Another ongoing *Trail* project is the Fort Vannoy Farms Applegate Trail Project to research, locate, and mark sites on the Illinois Valley Road of the *Trail* from the Rogue River to Fort Vannoy Elementary School (last week's map). The seven co-sponsors of this project are: Fort Vannoy Farms, Inc., Fort Vannoy Elementary School, *Hugo Neighborhood*, JCHS, NWOCTA, Riviera Mobile Park, and the Riviera Mobile Park Association, including private landowners.

Editor's Note: If you look closely at the map from last week, you can see two distinct trails until you reach the Niday place in Hugo, where the two merge into one trail to cross Mt. Sexton and continue on. This occurred because wagon trains crossed the Rogue River at different places, depending on the flow of the river at the time of their crossing. One crossing was east of Grants Pass, and another was west of Grants Pass. You can read more about the upcoming Fort Vannoy Project in future Mondays Make History columns.

Please contact Mike Walker, Co-Project Leader of the *Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee*, if you think you might be interested in helping with locating the Applegate Trail 541-471-8271).



Left to Right: Rick and Kathy Marshall, Joe Neiderheiser, Wayne and Janet McKy, Glen Campbell and Mike Walker. (JA-10A = JR Of Applegate Trail: Monument Drive.)



Left to Right: Wayne and Janet McKy, Kathy Marshall, Kelly Rarey, Rick Marshall, Karen Rose, Glen Campbell & Joe Neiderheiser. (JA-10B = JR Of Applegate Trail: Niday DLC Survey; this site is in the right-of-way of Monument Drive.)



Glen and Wendy Swanson, Michele Shearer, Kelly Rarey, Janet McKy, Glen Campbell, Wayne McKy, Joe Neiderheiser, Kathy & Rick Marshall and Karen Rose's knees. (Clubhouse)

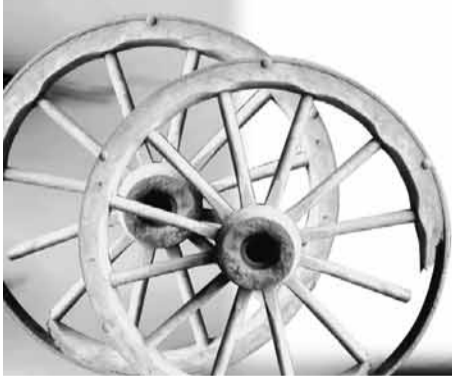


Left to Right: Glen Campbell, Joe Neiderheiser, Kathy Marshall, Mike Walker, Wendy Swanson, Kelly Rarey, Gary Swanson, Wayne McKy, Michele Shearer and Janet McKy. (JA-6A = JR Of Applegate Trail: Harris Road 3; this site is in Hall's Draw named by us for the 1867 Tombstone of Hall at entrance to JCSA lands.)

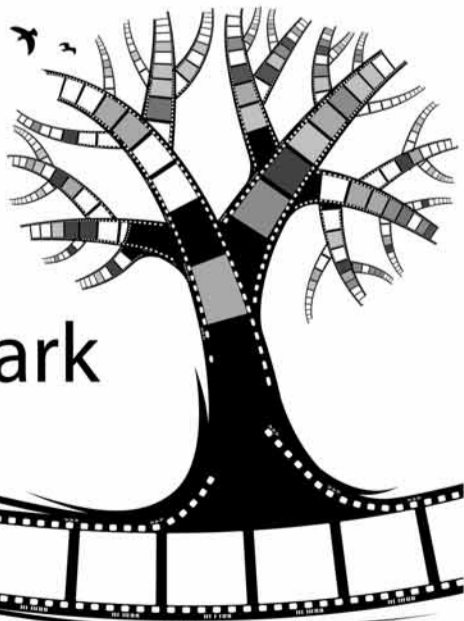


Kelly Rarey, Gale Johnson (Past Director, JCSA), Michele Shearer (Director, JCSA) & Michael House (Range Manager, JCSA). (JA-7A = JR Of Applegate Trail: Harris Road 4.)

The Josephine County Historical Society thanks Evergreen Federal Bank for sponsoring this week's "Mondays Make History"



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 Movies in the Park



Josephine County Parks & Grants Pass City Parks



Grants Pass
 RECREATION
 PROGRAM

Evergreen is proud to be a sponsor of Movies in the Park. This year the Josephine County Parks and the Grants Pass City Park Recreation Program plan to show two movies at Tom Pearce Park and have added one at Reinhart Volunteer Park. We hope these free events will provide Friday night fun for you and your family.

Jeffrey Hyde
 Jeffrey Hyde
 President, Evergreen Federal Bank

Movies start at dusk

Next movie:
Tom Pearce Park: Friday, August 26th

For more information call: 541-471-6435

