

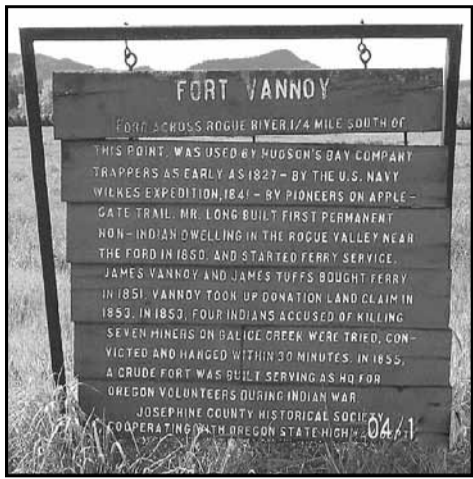
MONDAYS MAKE HISTORY

Fort Vannoy Farms Applegate Trail Project



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

There is a FORT VANNOY sign on Lower River Road co-sponsored by the Josephine County Historical Society and the Oregon State Highway Department that states: *Ford across Rogue River 1/4 mile south of this point, was used by Hudson's Bay Company trappers as early as 1827 by the U.S. Navy Wilkes Expedition, 1841 - by pioneers on Applegate Trail. Mr. Long built the first permanent non-Indian dwelling in the Rogue River near the ford in 1850, and started ferry service. James Vannoy and James Tuffs bought the ferry in 1851.*



Vannoy took up donation land claim in 1853. In 1853, four Indians accused of killing seven miners on Galice Creek were tried, convicted and hanged within 30 minutes. In 1855 a crude fort was built serving as HQ for Oregon volunteers during Indian War.
 (Editor's Note: JCHS is currently raising funds to replace this sign with a granite marker, in partnership with ODOT and Umpqua Joe Chapter, E Clampus Vitus.)

Earlier in 1846 Lindsey Applegate, Member of the Southern Expedition, identified the Rogue River ford going south.
"Traveling through a very broken country the sharp hills separated by little streams upon which there were small openings,

we came out at about noon into a large creek, a branch of Rogue River; now call Grave Creek, on which we rested about two hours. During the afternoon our course was over a more open country—through scattering pine and oak timber. Towards evening, we saw a good many Indians posted along the mountain side and then running ahead of us. About an hour by sun we reached a prairie of several hundred acres, which extends down to very near the bank of Rogue River. As we advanced towards the river, the Indians in large numbers occupied the river bank near where the trail crossed. Having understood that this crossing was a favorite place of attack, we decided as it was growing late, to pass the night in the prairie. Selecting a place as far from the brush as possible, we made every preparation for a night attack. In selecting our camp on Rogue River, we observed the greatest caution. Cutting stakes from the limbs of an old oak that stood in the open ground, we picketed our horses with double stakes as firmly as possible."

Later that year, two emigrants described the Rogue River ford going north to the Willamette Valley. Virgil Pringle was an 1846 pioneer and diarist traveling the Applegate Trail. His Fort Vannoy Rogue River ford diary entry follows: *Friday, October 16, 1846 - Cross Rogue River about 4 miles from last camp. Ford good. Camp on right bank.*
 Another 1846 pioneer was Henry A. Garrison, the son of Reverend A. E. Garrison, in Captain Vanderpool's party. He states in his reminiscences: *"From here we went down the river to the ford, near where Grants Pass is located. Before we got to the ford, Captain Vanderpool took fifty men, and went ahead of the wagons to look out the ford, and to clear it of Indians if there should be any there to give us trouble in crossing the river. On coming to the ford he divided his men, sending one party across the river, while the rest*

remained behind to give the advancing men protection if need be. When the (wagon train) was approaching the far bank, the Indians showed themselves but they did no damage, as they were driven back into the woods by them who remained behind. When all had crossed the river they scoured the (woods) thoroughly, but no Indians could be found, but blood was found, showing some of the savages did not escape with a whole hide. The men remained and held the ford until all was over.

One of the purposes of the members of the General Land Office Field Review Sub-Committee (*GLO Sub-Committee*), Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, is to inventory and mark sites within the Fort Vannoy Farms Applegate Trail Project (see Mondays Make History, Part 1 of 2, Mapping and Marking The Applegate Trail map). This project is to research, locate, and mark four 1855 - 1857 surveyed trail sites, the 1855 Vannoy house and barn, and the 1846 ford on the south and north sides of the Rogue River. An exciting aspect of this history project is its ownership by several co-sponsors: *Hugo Neighborhood*, Josephine County Historical Society (JCHS); Northwest Chapter of the Oregon California Trails Association (NWCTA); Fort Vannoy Farms, Inc; and Fort Vannoy Elementary School.

On August 25, 2011 there were six participants from the *GLO SubCommittee* marking three of these sites: Glen Campbell, Jim and Rene Ford, Joe Neiderheiser, Kelly Rarey, and Mike Walker. Other participants were *Hugo Neighborhood* Representative Karen Rose; JCHS Representatives Richard and Kathy Marshall, Directors JCHS; NWCTA Representative Leta Neiderheiser; Fort Vannoy Farms, Inc. Representative Bob Crouse; Fort Vannoy Elementary School Representative Kathie Hill, Principal; and Jim Kriz, 3rd Grade Teacher at Fort Vannoy Elementary School.

The three *Trail* locations are owned or administered by either private property owners, Fort Vannoy Farms, Inc., or the Fort Vannoy Elementary School. The carsonite markers were donated by NWOCTA.

Leta Neiderheiser stated on the field trip, "As a member of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council and a descendant of Jesse Applegate, the captain of the explorers that laid out the Applegate Trail, it is my hope and desire that our marking of the Applegate Trail at the Fort Vannoy School and Fort Vannoy Farms will help to educate the local school children about the importance of the trail to our early history. It is also my hope that the knowledge that they can actually walk on a portion of this historic trail will inspire them to dig a little deeper into the history of the westward expansion of our country."

For additional information on the Fort Vannoy Farms Applegate Trail Project check out Hugo's 2011 Applegate Trail field trip minutes and inventory brochures at www.hugoneighborhood.org/fieldtrips.htm and www.hugoneighborhood.org/inventorybrochures.htm.

For additional information on the 1846 Rogue River ford check out our Applegate Trail "ford" inventory brochures at www.hugoneighborhood.org/applegatetrailfords.htm.

Hugo's Fords
 1846 & 1847 Wagon Companies
 1846 & 1847 Rogue River Fords
 Rogue River's Fort Vannoy Ford
 Rogue River's Vannoy Creek
 Ford Diaries

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).



Applegate Trail Rogue River Vannoy Ferry Crossing Site - Trail Crew At Applegate Trail Site IV-N1B Along Rogue River. Left to Right Standing: Richard & Kathie Marshall, Jim Ford, Joe Neiderheiser, Rene Ford, Kathie Hill, Leta Neiderheiser, and Kelly Rarey. Kneeling: Jim Kriz, and Karen Rose.



Applegate Trail North Lindsey Applegate Prairie Site IV-N3B - Trail Crew At Applegate Trail Site IV-N3B Along Upper River Road Across From Fort Vannoy Elementary School. Left to Right Standing: Jim Kriz, Rene Ford, Joe Neiderheiser, Jim Ford, and Richard & Kathie Marshall. Sitting: Mike Walker.



Applegate Trail Fort Vannoy School Site IV-N4B - Kathie Hill, Principal Fort Vannoy Elementary School, & Jim Ford, Member Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council, Pounding Applegate Trail Marker On School Property At Applegate Trail Site IV-N4B.



Co-Sponsor Representatives At Fort Vannoy Elementary School Applegate Trail Site IV-N4B. Left to Right: Leta Neiderheiser, Northwest Chapter of Oregon-California Trails Assoc.; Kathie Marshall, Jo. Co. Historical Society; Kathie Hill, Fort Vannoy Elementary School; Kelly Rarey, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society and Bob Crouse, Fort Vannoy Farms, Inc.

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

Thank you!

As another summer comes to an end, Evergreen wishes to thank everyone who helped make "Finding Bigfoot" a wonderful success. It is with the generosity of local business owners, merchants, artists, and volunteers that events like these are possible. We hope everyone who visited Bigfoot's Headquarters was entertained and enjoyed the story of his journey to Grants Pass.

Thank you: Hellgate Jetboat Excursions, Weasku Inn, Taprock Northwest Grill, Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce, Wildlife Images, Sandi's Candies, Chet's Garden Center, Chesi Jo's Baby Boutique, Powderhorn Cafe, Iguana Comics, The Music Shop, Ol' Champion Outlet, The Kitchen Company, Elegance, Bill Rossknecht, Carl Johnson, Bob Eding, J Maust, Del Hearn, Kel Letvinchuck, Jon Peterman, Joseph Johnson, Don Oliver, Richard Duncan, Adam Coleman, Teresa Hailey and the Flash Mob Dancers, Hidden Valley FBLA, Towne Center Association, and the Boys & Girls Club of the Rogue Valley.

Jeffrey Hyde
 President
 Evergreen Federal Bank

Brody Johnson
 Executive Vice President
 Evergreen Federal Bank



Bigfoot will be moving on to his "Magnificent Twinkie House" at Evergreen's Bear Hotel. Don't forget to stop in and see him; to schedule a tour call (541) 479-3351, ext. 3083



Congratulations to Camille Trahan, winner of the "Best River Town in America" grand prize.