

Wyman White Interview

Latitude & Longitude Field Trip For Maple Creek & South Rat Creek: ■ JA-14 & ■ JA-15¹ OR-JA-00-34-06-22-White Property



January 15, 2006
1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Maple Creek ■ JA-14

42" 35' 50.35" N. Lat.
123" 23' 7.35" W. Long.



South Rat Creek ■ JA-15

42" 36' 30.25" N. Lat.
123" 22' 55.60" W. Long.

As part of the January 15, 2006 field trip Wyman White provided a tour of the White Property, including an interview, and the old roads he remembered in the area. The interview started on a drive up Hasis Drive to his old home.

Location 1: Lower Hasis Drive Location is approximately 200 yards from the junction of Hasis Drive and Hugo Road. Looking east toward a brown house was the location of the White's old driveway prior to the establishment of Hasis Drive. The old drive way road was the location of the old telegraph line with the triangular split poles, including cross member and glass insulators. The telegraph line was just above their old drive way. From Location 1 you could see what Wyman said the family called the "S" curve. The end of the White's old driveway is today the entrance to the ??? property where the green gate is. Jeff White found a 1910 dime at the junction of their driveway with Hugo Road while waiting for the school bus. This area on the hill above their old road is decomposed granite. Wyman had found several items in this area: an arrow head, old cast bottle, and good slick blue clay deposits (now built at Plunkett property).

Location 2 : Present White Driveway At Bridge On Maple Creek This location contains another example of the old White driveway which at this point is probably the evolution of the Applegate Trail/1853 Military Road.

Location 3: Old Concrete Bridge Next To White House The old concrete bridge was there when the White's arrived. The lower water hole below the bridge washed out in the White's time here. However, it was always a pretty good hole here where they found a lot of iron (e.g., wood barrow stays and hoops, wood spoke wagon hubs (iron with wood spokes). Drake thought this structure looked like a culvert.

Location 4: Stage Coach Station Location Where the trailer is presently location are some cement slabs where Wyman was told they parked the old stage coaches. In this area the White family found many items association with a stage coach line (e.g., several old tackle, iron buckles, horseshoes, late 1800 or early 1900 barrel staves found in vegetation, etc.).

Location 5: Old Barn There used to be three barns similarly constructed to the one still on the White property when they arrived. It did not have the shed roof addition no longer there.

Location 6: Meadow/Orchard East of Barn

Location 7: JA-14, Maple Creek This area did not have the east little Creek at the bottom close to the I-5 fill when Wyman lived here. The real Maple Creek is to the west side of the meadow. There was a lot more level ground in this area which is today covered by the I-5 fill slope. The following information is from work being done by the 1856 GLO Field Survey Sub-Committee.

■ **JA-14. Maple Creek** (the following information is from the 1856 General Land Office (GLO) field survey notes).

SUBDIVISION LINES, T. 34, R. 6 W. Surveyed March 31, 1856

Page 593 - Subdivisions of T. 34 S., R. 6 W. - **North Bet [Between] Secs [Sections] 22 & 23**
Var S⁷⁹°30'E

Chains

| | | | | |
|--------------|--|----|----------|-------|
| 2.6 | a Branch 1Lk [Link] wide c S 60NW | 15 | | 14 |
| 6.25 | a Ridge c S.W | | | |
| 18.50 | Road to Jacksonville S30°W&N20°E | | ← 330' → | ● |
| 22.10 | Spring branch [Maple Creek] 3 Lks [Links] wide c S30°N | | | JA-14 |

Pages 593 & 594 - Subdivisions of T. 34 S., R. 6 W. - **North Between** 22 | 23
Secs 22 & 23 330' East from Corner

80.00 Set Post Cor [Corner] to Secs [Sections] 14.15.22&23
Surface very broken with high hills. Poor 2nd rate Soil of gravel & Stream?
Timber, Pine, Oak, Fir, Laurel & Dogwood. Un? G? ?? [undergrowth?], Laurel,
Sel??, Tan?? Oak. Jacksonville road about 5 chs? East

JA-14 Latitude & Longitude

| <u>Chains</u> | | <u>Feet</u> |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|
| 18.50 | Road to Jacksonville S30°W&N20°E | 1,221' North |
| 22.10 | Spring branch [Maple Creek] 3 Lks wide c S30°N | 1,459' North |
| 80.00 | Jacksonville road about 5 chs? East | 330' East from corner |

The 1856 GLO field survey notes showed Maple Creek to be 238' north of the Jacksonville Road and the Jacksonville Road to be approximately 330' east of the section corner.

Location 8: Road Segment One Of Pre-pavement 1922 Pacific Highway Old road bed above the present underground cable right-of-way. This is a very short old graded road.

Location 9: Road Segment Two Of Pre-pavement 1922 Pacific Highway Old road bed above the present underground cable right-of-way and Location 7. This was a short 300 - 500 foot old graded road. It had rock shoring in a few places. It is more modern than a wagon road, but perhaps it was part of the old military road and later pre-pavement 1922 Pacific Highway.

GPS Road # 5. North end of road segment at rock work/culvert/ tile pipe (Wyman remembered seeing there)

GPS Road # 6. South end of road segment in draw at fill of I-5. Rock there.

Location 10: Old House Location/Dug Well

Location 11: Older Segment of Road Parallel to Powerline Road This short road segment had a definite line of trees on the creek side making the location of the swale.

Location 12: Upper Powerline Road Curve at Bottom of 310' Military Road Segment

Location 13: Old Oak GPS Old Oak # 4. Oak down in road. Wyman remembered it had "Old Trail" words on it either painted or burned.

Location 14: Local Parcel Monument Sign/yellow Metal Marker on Tree above Road Same lat & long as Old Oak #4 as it is only about 30' from oak. Both Malcolm & Kelly climb up to read information on metal marker (1/16 Corner East of Section 22; SE 1/16 Corner, T.34S., R.6W., Section 22).

Location 15: North Ox Oow Vegetation Line Mike wants to investigate a vegetation line on a photograph that looks like it could be a road going roughly east-west from White house to old Penny house location. Wyman remembered an old road few hundred feet south of the White house going west and he leads the way.

The group finds an old narrow, winding, level roadbed on slight slope. Cut banks on high side are from 1 to 1½ feet high. First approximate 900' 1,000' of roadbed is mostly in open grass land where vegetation pattern changes into buck brush, oak and madrone. Next 300' or so is found intermittently in forest in failing light of day. The group ends the day's investigation near north-south draw to west (Wyman takes bearing to a home at 160 degrees south) and returns to Jeff White's fire near his home. This old roadbed looks promising as potential old 1856 road.

Location 16: Orchard Below White House

Location Home: White Home and Fire at Home

At the end of the day Jeff White stated that members of the Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee could come back and investigate historical features on his property anytime they wanted. Mike Walker thanked him and assured him that an advanced request would occur every time committee members wanted to conduct another field trip.

Wyman and Jeff discussed with Mike that the grasslands around the White home had always been grassland since their family had arrived in the winter of 1960/1961. There might be some combination of water and soil on a south slope that inhibited the natural establishment of a forest cover. Wyman wondered whether it may have been burnt in years gone by.

They also discussed the forest ground on the White property west of the open grass lands and in the probably location of the North Ox Bow road through the saddle north of the knob. This forest land probably had not seen much logging, certainly not during the White's time on the property after 1960. Walker raised the issue that perhaps this ground on a south slope was not real good ground for growing conifers as today it was mostly oak, madrone, and manzanita fields. Some stumps present indicate some logging activity in the past (1940s?) (see later soil analysis that identifies the ground as having good commercial timber potential).

Soils Analysis: May 13, 2006, by Mike Walker²

The lower creek bottom land is 38C – Foehlin gravelly loam, 3 to 12 percent slopes (both orchards, barn, creek, etc.). The potential North Ox Bow Road from house is 53D, Manita loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, until it moves into forest where it becomes 42D – Holland sandy loam, cool, 12 to 20 percent slopes. The potential North Ox Bow Road in western portion of White property and all of Boldway property is 42D. The knob is 42D.

The Oregon Department of Forestry's position is that soils supporting 20 cu/ac/yr is forest land. Most experts would agree any soil capable of producing more than 85 cu/ac/yr is commercial forest land.

38C Foehlin agricultural land not rated for forest productivity
42D Holland 143 cubic feet per acre per year for Douglas-fir
53D Manita 86 cubic feet per acre per year for Douglas-fir

1. Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee. May 2005. *Mapping Action Plan for Applegate Trail*. Hugo, OR.; Public Outreach & Educational Brochure Committee for Hugo's Emigrant Trails. February 2005. *Public Outreach & Educational Brochure Program: Hugo's Emigrant Trails*. Hugo, OR.; Public Outreach & Educational Brochure Committee for Hugo's Emigrant Trails. July 2005. *Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee*. Hugo, OR.; and Public Outreach & Educational Brochure Committee for Hugo's Emigrant Trails. February 2005. *Hugo Applegate Trail Field Notes*. Hugo, OR.
2. Soil Conservation Service. 1983. *Soil Survey of Josephine County, Oregon*.