

Clearing marker a near-forgotten tradition

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

It has become a tradition in the best sense of traditions, yet those who participate receive little recognition for making a near-forgotten Oregon Trail marker a bit more presentable for those who care to pay their respects. They come armed with rakes, shovels, weed-eaters, work gloves, and almost the attitude of paying their condolences to the small brass plate that was dedicated and placed, in 1916, by the Multnomah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Some of the participants refer to the gathering as a work party, while to others, it's a clean-up. Actually, it's a patriotic rendezvous. It happens every year, just about this time, when a

also stationed in Turkey

Staff Sgt. Kern J. Kelso, son of Richard P. Kelso of Oroville, Calif., and Bernice Cicchetto of Boring, has arrived for duty at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Kelso, a telecommunications control technician, was previously assigned at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

large band of ravens invade a 30-acre meadow situated along Henry Creek, in Rhododendron. People know when they hear the seemingly-

haunted calls of the black-feathered birds, and watch their mischievous antics, that a handful of locals will be doing their part to keep history alive.

They meet at the place where Arlie Mitchell Road, Little Brook Lane and Highway 26 all merge, near the southwestern tip of the Mt. Hood Food and General Store parking lot. Here, they gather around a small but heavy stone, and begin cutting down the grass and brushing away the dirt to reveal the inscription, "The Oregon Trail 1845."

This year's gathering took place on July 17 and consisted of Jack Arnold and his wife, Beth, Dale Lamoreaux and Jack

Baker. They were joined by Bill Stark, the owner of the Mt. Hood Food and General Store.

This was actually only the third year for the gathering, said Baker. Originally, when the marker was first placed, residents from the town took on the task of keeping the site cleared and flowers planted around it.

However, over the years as the old-timers died off,

the marker was forgotten as tall grass and weeds overtook it.

Why donate their time? Baker said it is being done out of the respect for our ancestors who emigrated west from Missouri and other points and braved the long months of travel so they could settle in the Willamette Valley.

2000-MILE ORDEAL
When the wagons reached the base of the

11,245-foot peak that the Indians called Wy'East (now known as Mt. Hood), the most difficult and dangerous segment of the 2000-mile ordeal had to be undertaken.

The pioneers wove their way through the thick

timber that spanned steep hillsides on the southern slopes of the mountain.

These early-day travelers accomplished this task by tying ropes on to their wagons and slowly lowering them down to the canyon's floor.

Registration is open for watercolor class

The director of Rhododendron's new Glacier Gallery, Sharon Smith, is taking registration for watercolor classes, which will begin next Monday, July 26.

Smith, who has been painting and teaching watercolor classes the past 10 years, said classes will be limited to 10 students each. This will allow her to individually help each student on a one-to-one basis.

Classes will be held on Mondays, for eight weeks, in three-hour sessions.

A class will be held for beginners and intermediates from 9 a.m. to noon. Advanced and intermediate classes will be held from 7 to 10 p.m.

Cost for the watercolor class is \$50 per student, which includes supplies.

Smith said space is still being sought for the class but during the nice weather she will have her students take advantage of the

mountain area parks. Interested persons should contact the Glacier Gallery at 622-4110.

Staab, Nicholas on honor roll

There were 106 students named to the president's list (4.0 grade point

Jackie Lee welcomed

Roy L. Hyde and Liz Graybeal Hyde of Hillsboro announce the birth of their daughter, Jackie Lee, July 11.

She joins a brother, Scott Alan and a sister Amanda Carole. She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 20 inches long. She was born at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland.

Grandparents are Jack and Carole Graybeal of Sandy. Great-grandmother is Sylvia M. Jackson of Sandy.

average) at Western Oregon State College, while another 286 students were named to the honor roll (for a 3.5 to 3.9 gpa)

Area students named to the honor roll this spring included Sonya Hiilaniwai Staab of Boring, and Marybeth Nicholas of Sandy.

Class of '72 reunion set

The 1972 class of Sam Barlow High School will hold its 10-year reunion Aug. 7 and 8.

For more information contact Toni Toland Stanhope at 668-8620.

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