

Relive Oregon Trail

The Oregon Trail enters Morrow County from the east in the Butter Creek area and leaves in the west near Cecil. There are 12 miles of undisturbed ruts known as the Boardman hiking segment in Morrow County. Wagon trains stopped at Wells Springs and at Willow Creek (Cecil). Access to the hiking segment, can be gained from Bombing Range Road on Hwy 207, from Ella Road at Ione and from Hwy 74 at Cecil.

The mileage from Bombing Range Road turnoff on Hwy 207 is 11 miles (3.2 are gravel). The mileage from Heppner Junction on I-84 to Wells Springs by way of Cecil is 28 miles (14 miles gravel).

The Cecil to Ella Rt. via Emigrant Road route is not recommended for large or 5th wheel RVs. Instead, use the Ione to Ella Road route which is 13 miles to Wells Springs.

A pioneer cemetery is located near the Wells Springs site.

In 1843, J.W. Nesmith described Morrow County as barren sand, with no timber along the river. Emigrants with their laden wagons followed the

only trail known, and from 1842 on, the Wells Springs area became a welcome camp for weary emigrants, soldiers, and Indians on the Oregon Trail.

In the upper right hand corner of the large granite rock at the Lower Wells Springs is the inscription: "Oregon Trail". Another inscription, "1847" has been all but weathered away.

Of all the western trails used by fur traders, gold seekers, missionaries, and emigrants, the Oregon Trail was most important. Beginning in 1841 and lasting for over 20 years, it was the route over which many thousands of emigrants traveled the 2,000 miles from western Missouri to Oregon's Willamette River Valley and other locations in the Pacific Northwest. This tide of emigration and settlement caused England to relinquish her hold on Old Oregon Territory in 1846, when it became part of the United States, comprising the present states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, as well as parts of Wyoming and Montana west of the Continental divide.

Lake Popular Recreation Area

Willow Creek Lake formed after the construction of Willow Creek Dam in 1983, is a popular recreation area located only two miles from Heppner. Visitors to the lake can enjoy boating, waterskiing, fishing and swimming.

Trout fishing is excellent, and the lake also has bass and crappie.

The lake has a new day park, boat launch and docking facilities, as well as restrooms and handicapped parking.

An RV park and campsite are planned for the near future.



Willow Creek Lake

Fun on the 4th

By Anne Morter

The Lone Fourth of July Celebration was deemed another success by organizers. The weather cooperated nicely bringing in large crowds from out of town as well as many local people. Approximately 250 hungry folks were fed at the chicken barbecue and a large crowd turned out for the fireworks display held at the football field.

Welcome to the HISTORIC MORROW COUNTY COURTHOUSE OPEN for your convenience SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th

Tour Hours

7 p.m. till 9 p.m.



Cycle III Gives New Meaning to Food

Think you've seen food? You haven't seen "nothin'" yet, according to Cycle III Heppner Food Coordinator, Marlene Currin.

"Boy, did I begin to learn new things while participating as the local food coordinator," says Marlene. "I have always been around harvest crews, but this group is giving new meaning to grocery lists, and recipe amounts. I'd like to share our Garden Marinated Salad with all of you readers and please note the amounts that we are ordering. Then following will be a recipe for you and your family which will make a great summer dish."

GARDEN MARINATED SALAD serves 2,000
225 pounds carrots
240 pounds cauliflower
240 pounds broccoli
LIGHT FRENCH DRESSING
10 cups salt
5 cups dry mustard
5 cups paprika

2 cups plus 8 tbs. black pepper
10 gallons vinegar
3 cups plus ¼ cup onion juice
1 pound plus 4 oz. dill weed
8 cups plus 8 tbs. basil leaves
13 tbs. plus 1 tsp. oregano leaves

Mix the above ingredients well. Then marinate for about 4 hours. Add the salad oil just before serving. That's 20 gallons of salad oil.

Now for the average family. This will make about 25 portions—
8 oz. carrots, sliced (steam until tender and drain)
1 pound cauliflower flowerets
1 pound broccoli, slice the stems too
Optional: 8 oz. mushrooms. Combine with Light French Dressing.
½ Tbs. dill weed
½ Tbs. basil leaves
½ tsp. oregano leaves
1½ Tbs. salt
2 tsp. onion juice
1 Tbs. dry mustard
1 Tbs. paprika
½ Tbs. black pepper

2 cups vinegar
1 qt. salad oil
Mix and beat well all ingredients, except salad oil. Marinate for 4 hours. Add salad oil just prior to serving. Can be served chilled.

HEPPNER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WELCOMES "HEPPNER SURVIVORS" OF THE FIRST LEG OF CYCLE OREGON III — 9-9-90

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|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| *Oregon — 1123 | *Washington — 126 | *California — 395 |
| *Alabama — 1 | *Alaska — 10 | *Arizona — 4 |
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| *Delaware — 0 | *Florida — 19 | *Georgia — 3 |
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| *Indiana — 1 | *Iowa — 6 | *Kansas — 2 |
| *Kentucky — 0 | *Louisiana — 4 | *Maine — 0 |
| *Maryland — 5 | *Massachusetts — 10 | *Michigan — 4 |
| *Minnesota — 5 | *Mississippi — 3 | *Missouri — 0 |
| *Montana — 3 | *Nebraska — 2 | *Nevada — 6 |
| *New Hampshire — 2 | *New Jersey — 8 | *New Mexico — 3 |
| *New York — 5 | *North Carolina — 1 | *North Dakota — 2 |
| *Ohio — 2 | *Oklahoma — 1 | *Pennsylvania — 5 |
| *Rhode Island — 3 | *South Carolina — 0 | *South Dakota — 0 |
| *Tennessee — 0 | *Texas — 18 | *Utah — 5 |
| *Vermont — 0 | *Virginia — 4 | *West Virginia — 1 |
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CYCLE OREGON III 775 SUMMER STREET, N.E. SALEM, OREGON 97310 1-800-CYCLE OR

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Heppner Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 1232, Heppner, Oregon 97836

MORROW'S LUCK OF THE IRISH

by Jo McIntyre

(Editor's Note: Reprinted from the Aug. 1990 edition of Oregon Business. Jo McIntyre is a free lance writer.)

"Nostalgically proud of their family names and of their ancestors, the wandering Celts have supplied to each of their adopted countries an exciting ancestral background, unequaled by any other national group. Is there another nation on the face of the earth whose history has not recorded the valor, the courage, the music, the social grace, the humor, the intellectual brilliance and the drinking ability and inability, of this race of happy warriors whose wars were merry and whose songs were sad?"—John F. Kilkenny, Shamrocks and Shepherds.

The power of family and ethnic support to individuals searching for new economic opportunities have been responsible for major population moves throughout history. Such support to Irish settlers in eastern Oregon, in particular Morrow County, was an important influence in the early development of the state.

Although the first wave of immigrants came west in response to religious zeal or the search of beaver pelts, later waves were attracted by an entirely different set of lures. Among those lures was the freedom of wide-open spaces. It was a powerful attraction to Irish immigrants, many of whom established huge empires based on sheep.

When the Irish began moving into eastern Oregon, we can see both family and ethnic ties at work. Eastern Oregon was so sparsely populated that other economic forces did not affect the Morrow County Irish immigrants until several decades after their arrival.

For a few decades in Oregon, between the early pioneer era and modern times, the Irish were a potent force in eastern Oregon.

A most eloquent description of life in the high mountain desert is found in *Shamrocks and Shepherds: The Irish of Morrow County*, published in 1969 by John F. Kilkenny, who was born in Morrow County and later became associate justice of the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

Kilkenny claims, tongue in cheek, that the "the origin of the name "Oregon" is that the area was discovered, long before the advent of the Indian, by a wandering group of Celts under the command of one Michael O'Regon. Doubters have failed to disprove this most plausible suggestion, and theirs, I feel, is the burden of proof."

Actually, the first recorded Irish settler in the Heppner area was William Hughes, who arrived in 1870. Hughes, born in County Tipperary in 1849, lived in California a number of years before he moved to Heppner. He went back to Ireland for a visit, then returned to Heppner "financing farmers and livestock men, including many of the Irish, until 1900 when he moved to Portland."



Sheep shearing on the Arthur Minor ranch near Heppner took a crew of 18 men two months. This photograph probably was taken about 1910.

Photograph Courtesy Oregon Historical Society

By 1890, about 12 more men from Ireland had arrived. They were the leaders and paid transportation for friends and relatives waiting in Ireland. In 1892, two Irishmen from County Leitrim, including Kilkenny's father, borrowed money from Hughes and started in the sheep business. "In the early days, the bunch grass was so abundant in the north end of Morrow County that it was unnecessary to arrange for winter feed," Kilkenny noted. Kilkenny wrote of his father: "He was one of the first to use power-driven sheep-shearing machinery. One of the first to use small tractors in farm operations. The first to install electricity in the ranch house and barn. One of the first to install a telephone. One of the

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