

1skitpe



A Publication of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation

Volume 5, Issue1

Spring 05

WINTER BOARD MEETING



NEZ PERCE TRAIL FOUNDATION
ANNUAL WINTER BOARD MEETING
LEWIS & CLARK DISCOVER CENTER
HELLS GATE STATE PARK
LEWISTOWN IDAHO
FEBRUARY 12, 2005

President Paul Wapato called the Winter Board Meeting to order at 9:00 am. Officers and Board Members present were:

Crystal White, Vice President, Jim Evans, Secretary, Brian McCormack, Joseph McCormack, Michael Seale, Ruth Wapato, Rosa Yearout, Gene Eastman, Mollie Eastman, and Dick Seymour. Quorum present to transact business. Guest: Marianne Love, Free Lance Writer doing an article for the Appaloosa Journal on the Nez Perce Trail Foundation, she presented the Foundation with a picture of her Father's Appaloosa Horse and Sally Seymour.

Continued on page 3

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY'S

CORNER

The heading is a little different than last time. As of March 1, 2005 I have accepted the Board's offer of the position of Executive Director for the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. As the first Executive Director I am honored to have accepted the position. It is a challenge to be able to meet the goals of the Foundation in helping the Foundation grow and complete the program as directed by the Board of Directors.

I will continue to hold the Secretary's position until the Annual Meeting in August. At that time we will elect Officers for the Executive Committee.

I hope to present you information that will keep you informed on the progress that the Foundation is making. There has been many things that are happening that will have a long term effect on the future of the Foundation.

Funding for our basic operation, which we receive from the USFS is in question. We have joined the ranks of other National Historical & Scenic Trail Associations/ Foundations in seeking additional money for the operations of the programs. One of the keys is the volunteer hours each of you commit to our Foundation. You will be receiving additional information on how we will collect and report this information.

The Annual Meeting will be held in Salmon, Idaho and will be one of the most important ones we have had in a while. We will be reviewing our Strategic Plan, have a Board training program and educational speakers. The program is developing and will have many interesting subjects and people for you to enjoy and learn from. We will get a tour of the new office located in the Sacajawea Center and visit the Big Hole Battle Field. Detailed information will be furnished in the near future. The dates to mark on your calendar are **August 4,5,6, 2005**. There are many challenges that we face and the only way we can accomplish these is with your individual help. We have many new members, so plan on making the Annual Meeting. Lilóoy 'ískit (Happy Trails)
Jim Evans

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation will be celebrating National Trails Day on June 11, 2005 by Exploring the Nez Perce Trail from Bannock Pass to the city of Leadore, Idaho. The event will have hikers and horse riders tracing the route as close as possible. The program is being sponsored by several of our partners, Salmon River Backcountry Horsemen, the Upper Lemhi Valley Chamber of Commerce, the City of Leadore, the USFS and BLM. We will have a camp site meal at the Smoky Cub BLM campsite and have several speakers on the events that took place here. All are welcome, start time is 9:00 am at the top of Bannock Pass.

This type of event can be done on many section of the Nez Perce Trail. If interested in doing something in your area, contact Jim Evans, Executive Director.



?skitpe is a Nez Perce word that translates to "on the trail, path or road." This newsletter is published on a quarterly basis and serves the members of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation.

Submission: All readers are encouraged to submit material, stories, photos, and ideas that relate to the Nez Perce Trail for publication consideration. All submissions are subject to editing for grammar, clarity, length, and the editor reserves the right to reject any submission. Submissions may be made via E-mail, on a 3.5" disk, or on paper. Submissions must be made by the following dates:

Spring: May 31 Summer: August 31

Fall: October 31 Winter: January 31

Subscriptions: Subscriptions are free to members of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. A one-year subscription for non-members is \$10 to cover the costs of printing and postage. For more information, call Jim Evans at 208.756 4870 or email secretary@nezperctrail.net.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

A summary of the year 2004 activities was given by President Paul Wapato.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Charlie Moses, Jr. the Treasurer's report was given by Secretary Jim Evans. The report was accepted.

Crystal White gave a report on the activities on the Certification Project at Fort Leavenworth. It was a great success and Crystal was congratulated for her efforts in putting the event together.

President Paul Wapato offered a proposal that the Foundation contract with Jim Evans to act as Executive Director. The contract negotiated with Evans was presented and the job description contained therein was discussed.

MOTION made by Joe McCormack and seconded by Michael Seale to accept the Executive Director contract for Jim Evans as the Executive Director of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation effective March 1, 2005.

Discussion followed. Vote was called for. Motion passed 8 YES 2 NO 1 Abstention. Motion Passed.

Rosa Yearout asked to explain her NO vote. She stated that she was not against the motion but thought it should be presented to all the board members and given additional time to study the proposal.

Discussion followed as to the Secretary's Position, that the present Secretary, Jim Evans should resign as Secretary since he was contracted to be the new Executive Director. Should an officer of the Foundation hold an elected office and also be a contracted employee of the Foundation?

MOTION: Made by Rosa Yearout, seconded by Molly Eastman to have Jim Evans as Executive Director research the legal aspect of the question and report back to the Executive Committee as how to resolve the matter. Motion Passed 6 Yes 4 No 1 Abstention

Discussion followed on selection of the 2005 Annual Meeting.

MOTION: Rosa Yearout moved and Dick Seymour second the annual meeting be set for August 4,5,6 2005 in Salmon Idaho. An addition to the motion was accepted to hold the Annual Winter Board Meeting on the Second Saturday of February each year. Amended Motion Passed

The arrangements for the meeting were assigned to the President and the Executive Director.

The board agreed to present Life -Time Memberships to Horace Axtell and Wilford Scott at the Annual Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned for Lunch.

The lunch was arranged by Brian McCormack, Crystal White and Rosa Yearout.

After lunch the meeting resumed. Rosa Yearout asked to be excused.

President Paul Wapato appointed a Nominating Committee to find candidates for the Executive Committee Offices election to be held at the Annual Meeting.

Appointed were Joe McCormack, Chairperson, Dick Seymour and Michael Seale.

Discussion was held on the 2005 Oklahoma Historic Site Certification Project.

Crystal White, Vice President was authorized to continue with her development of the Certification Project. She will be traveling to Oklahoma in March to continue work on the Project. She will report to the President on the progress. (continued on page 4)

Ruth Wapato gave a report on her experience at the Fort Leavenworth Site Certification. She had presented the Board with a book with stories and pictures of the Certification. Also the Board was presented with the opportunity of purchasing a Quilt which depicted the story of the Nez Perce War Trail.

After much discussion it was decided not to take any action on the purchase of the Quilt.

Suggested Goals and Objective were presented to the Board.

No action was taken.

President Paul Wapato discussed the funding request with the Nez Perce National Historical Trail and the need to have a meeting with the USFS and the NPNHT administrator to resolve the quest for funding. The Executive Director is to arrange a meeting.

President Wapato also observed that the Executive Director would attend the Partnership for the National Trail System Advocacy Week in Washington, D.C. at the end of February. In addition to the usual lobbying visits to important Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill, this year's gathering will include a session on PNTS Leadership Council and a special meeting of USFS Headquarters personnel with the USFS Trail Administrators and representatives of the corresponding Trail nonprofit's.

There being no future business the Meeting was adjourned.

A tour of the Lewis & Clark Discovery Center followed.

Respectively Submitted

Jim Evans

Secretary

Committee Members Needed

At our Winter Board Meeting in February, we instituted a Nominating Committee to select nominees for Officer vacancies. That is a function much-needed by the Foundation. There's a number of other area where the Foundation would be improved by having more Member input. Specifically, we would like to form the following committees:

Membership Committee -- to deal with increasing membership, improving involvement and communicating Member concerns to the Board and the Officers.

Finance Committee -- to oversee Foundation finances, including development of corporate sponsors and grant support

Program Committee -- to work on Annual Meeting concepts, outreach opportunities and Trail development programs.

Communications Committee -- to provide input and recommendations to our newsletter, *'Iskitpe*, our website and other Foundation promotional activities.

Serving on these committees is open to all Members. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Executive Director Jim Evans.

Paul Wapato

President



BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLE FIELD'S NEW SUPERINTENDENT



Tami DeGrosky
Superintendent

Jim Evans
Executive Director

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation's Executive Director in one of his first official actions visited the Big Hole National Battlefield, Nez Perce National Historical Park's new Superintendent Tami DeGrosky at the park Headquarters in Wisdom, Montana. A graduate of the University of Montana School of Forestry, Tami has worked for the National Park Service for 22 years. Her career has taken her to Glacier National Park, to Grand Teton National Park, to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Tami's extensive experience and management skills in natural resources and cultural resources will enable her to apply all this to her duties at the Big Hole.

Tami and her husband Mike, who is retired from the Montana Department of Natural Resources fire program and has his own consulting firm plan to live on site.

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL

The 1877 flight of the Nez Perce from their homelands while pursued by U.S. Army Generals Howard, Sturgis, and Miles, is one of the most fascinating and sorrowful events in Western U.S. History. Chief Joseph, Chief Looking Glass, Chief White Bird, Chief Ollokot, Chief Lean Elk and others led nearly 750 Nez Perce men, women and children and twice that many horses over 1,170 miles through the mountains, on a trip that lasted from June to October of 1877.

Congress passed the National Trails System Act in 1968, establishing a framework for a nationwide system of scenic, recreational, and historic trails. The Nez Perce (Nimipu or Nee-Me-Poo) Trail stretches from Wallowa Lake, Oregon, to the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Montana. It was added to this system by Congress as a National Historic Trail in 1986.

Forced to abandon hopes for a peaceful move to the Lapwai reservation, the Nez Perce chiefs saw flight to Canada as their last promise for peace. The flight of the Nez Perce began on June 15, 1877. Pursued by the Army, they intended initially to seek safety with their Crow allies on the plains to the east. Their desperate and circuitous route as they tried to escape the pursuing white forces is what we now call the Nez Perce National Historic Trail..

This route was used in its entirety only once. However, component trails and roads that made up the route bore generations of use prior to and after the 1877 flight of the nontreaty Nez Perce. The Appaloosa Horse Club's Chief Joseph Trail Ride has retraced the route 40 times. The Trail starts at Wallowa Lake, Oregon, then heads northeast and crosses the Snake River at Dug Bar.

(Continued Page 6)

Continued from page 5

It enters Idaho at Lewiston and cuts across north-central Idaho, entering Montana near Lolo Pass. It then travels through the Bitterroot Valley, after which it re-enters Idaho at Bannock Pass and travels east back into Montana at Targhee Pass to cross the Continental Divide. It bisects Yellowstone National Park, then follows the Clark Fork of the Yellowstone out of Wyoming into Montana again. The trail heads north to the Bear Paw Mountains, ending 40 miles from the Canadian border.

The Nez Perce story does not end here. They were placed in captivity in Oklahoma before being returned to Idaho, and Washington reservations.

It is up to us to respectfully use the trail while remembering that is part of all our heritage. To the Nee-Mee-Poo, the trail is part of their sacred land, land they still use. If we want those who come after us to have a sense of the trail history, it is up to us as members of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation to preserve and protect it.

This land is an important source of spiritual strength for all races of people including the Nez Perce who share it with us. Its natural and historic sites should be left undisturbed by all who visit.

Through our use of the Trail we hope to preserve and respect the events that took place on this Trail. We hope that we can learn from the events and not let this happen again. In the memory of all, the Nez Perce and U.S. Army, who were left on the Trail, let us honor them by preserving the Trail for future generations.



Win a Picture of Chief Joseph by enrolling 5 new members for the Nez Perce Trail Foundation.

The more members we have the more Preservation we can accomplish.

'Iskitpe—Page 6

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since our last issue, we've been moving closer to getting a home for the Foundation, at the new Sacajawea Center in Salmon, Idaho.

Our Annual Meeting this summer, on August 4th and 5th, will be in Salmon—we're planning an interesting meeting, and you'll have a chance to see our new home and visit the Sacajawea Center. And, of course, the Big Hole Memorial will be on Saturday, August 6th, just over the hill from Salmon. We will take part in that observance.

So MARK THOSE DATES on your calendars!

As we have known for some time, the Foundation needs to find private sources of continuing financial support.

Thus far, we have leaned heavily on the U.S. Forest Service, thru the Nez Perce National Historical Trail funds. But competition for the Federal funds continue to grow.

If you know of a company that might be receptive to becoming a corporate sponsor, let Jim Evans or me know about them. And if you feel that you have a personal relationship with a candidate organization allowing you to approach them yourself, please do so. Or ask us to go with you. This is an area that we all must try to develop.

One last topic—some of our long-time members have ignored several dues reminders. We really don't want to drop members unless that's their explicit wish. My first assumption is that (1) they are either too busy to respond; or (2) they disagree with our assessment of their expiration date. If it's the latter (2), we'll admit we're not infallible, so please contact Jim or Charlie Moses with your recollection of your last dues payment and we'll sort things out. If you've just haven't got around to it, please drop a check in the mail.

Paul Wapato, President

BOARD MEMBER HIGH LIGHT

Each issue we will present an in-depth view of our Board Members. This issue we look at:

Rosa Yearout of Lapwai, Idaho. As I with many of our members the association with the Nez Perce Trail Foundation is a Family Affaire.



ROSA YEAROUT BOARD MEMBER

Family History:

The tribal elders say that when we tell our story, we don't do it just for our children and ourselves but for all the other families, too, since we are all related. My family background reflects the ethnic and tribal diversity of many of today's Nimiipuu (Nez Perce).

My mother, Rena Katherine Lott Ramsey, was enrolled with the Nez Perce Tribe and one of many descendants of Chief Red Grizzly Bear, who met Lewis & Clark in 1806. Her father, Sam Lott (Many Wounds), was a tribal historian and primary interpreter for L.V. McWhorter's historical books, "Yellow Wolf: His Own Story" and "Hear Me, My Chiefs." Sam's father, Wottolen, was a prophet and a prominent warrior during the Nez Perce War of 1877. He escaped from Bear Paw into Canada with Chief White Bird, eventually returning to Lapwai. Wottolen's wife, We-tse-sa, was with him during the War and they lost a daughter, Ipnasapahutsaw, during Colonel Gibbon's surprise dawn attack at Big Hole.

Wottolen's father, Chief Blackeagle, was one of the four Nimiipuu who were sent on a historical journey to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1831 (some say in search of the "Book"). Black Eagle and Speaking Eagle (aka Man of the Morning) became ill and died in St. Louis and are buried there. In 2003 their descendants went to St. Louis to bless and dedicate a new Monument placed at their gravesite in honor of all four war-

riors who made this quest. Only one, Rabbit Skin Leggings, returned to the Northwest but did not bring back the "Book," only news of the deaths of two relatives who had to be left in a land far away. However, missionaries hearing and interpreting this dramatic story soon followed.

Due to her heritage, Mom became the Whip-woman for the Chief Joseph & Warriors Pow Wow when it first started on the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the War on June 17. After her passing in 1999, I inherited her position and her Indian name, which belonged to her grandmother, We-tse-sa (Born and Reborn). Mom's heritage also includes Cayuse and Yakama bloodlines from her mother's side. My father, Titus Spencer, was descended from a Nez Perce and Flathead grandmother, Elizabeth, and a soyapo (white person) grandfather, Benjamin Decoursey Penney, who left Arkansas for the California gold mines via a ship around Cape Horn, later coming to Idaho and serving at Ft. Lapwai as a soldier. My parents divorced when I was a child, and Dad moved to California to work for the rest of his life as a movie extra. Mom later remarried and I have three younger living siblings. Like Jon, my parents and grandparents are all gone, so now I'm responsible for learning more about my ancestors and passing their stories down.

After I moved to Lapwai, Idaho, as a teenager, I met and married my first husband, Larry McFarland, a direct descendant of Old Chief Joseph through his daughter, Sarah, sister to Young Chief Joseph and Ollokut. Larry's ancestors includes Chief Twisted Hair, mentioned in the journals of Lewis & Clark, and Chief Lawyer, the main signer of the "Thief" Treaty of 1863. Also, we found that we could both trace our separate lineages clear back to the aforementioned Red Grizzly Bear and Black Eagle. Since the Nimiipuu have a long

and rich history, many families share stories similar to mine. Also, as far as the events of 1877 are concerned, many Nez Perce have both treaty and non-treaty ancestors.

Personal Background:

I am 65 years of age, a member of the Nez Perce Tribe, and was born and raised in Kamiah, Idaho, close to the site where the re-treating Nimiipuu bands and their thousands of horses crossed the Clearwater River in mid-July, 1877, in advance of General O. O. Howard's troops.

Larry and I were married for 15 years and had seven children - Michael, Larry Jr., Dawn, Kathy, Angel, Joyce and Gloria. We lost Larry in a tragic car accident in 1971. To help take care of us, God sent a blonde bachelor from Wapato, Washington, into our lives - Jonathan (Jon) Yearout. We have been married 32 years and added two more sons to the family, Jack and Abraham. So far, we have been blessed with 20 grandchildren with two more "on the way."

I retired in 1994 after working 35+ years for the Bureau of Indian Affairs office at Lapwai. Most of my BIA years were spent as an Accounting Technician in the Branch of Forestry manually keeping books on tribal and allotted timber sales. After most of Forestry's functions were contracted by the Coeur d' Alene and Nez Perce Tribes in the 1980's, I stayed with the BIA and continued my duties until the staff was down to one - me. Then, I made a good decision and retired on an early-out option. My BIA co-workers provided me a second family, and I cherish all those special years that we shared working on behalf of the people and their land.

Over the years, I have served on many boards and committees connected to my faith, family, Tribe, culture, work, community, school, hobbies and interests (which brought me to the Nez Perce Trail Foundation). My post-secondary education was mostly work-related; however, I did complete a Portfolio course where I received

30 college credits in business for documenting my life experiences, work skills and training.

Horses

Like many families on the reservation, my family always had horses. We would ride our horses from Kamiah to the Camas Prairie to pasture them for part of the summer, while we traveled by bus and train to nearby reservations to visit relatives, work picking fruit, and attend celebrations and memorials. Gradually, the automobile and the move from rural living caused a decline in horse ownership on the reservation, but, in my memory, there was never a complete loss of horses as some think. When I was growing up, the Nez Perce families who had horses preferred a variety of breeds, including Appaloosas of course, and as I understand from the elders, this was much like the situation in 1877.

The treaty Nez Perce who remained on the reservation in 1877 still had horses, so not all were lost after Bear Paw. Also, the captured Nez Perce obtained horses while in exile in the "hot place" (Kansas/Oklahoma), and when they returned by train to the Northwest in 1895 horses were still the primary way to travel.

Larry, and I owned some Appaloosas of unknown origin, which we still had when I met Jon, who also came from a long-time horse family.

His father, Jack, was a recognized Thoroughbred racehorse owner and trainer on Northwest tracks, so Jon brought some Thoroughbred mares and a Yakama tribal horse, Cherish, with him when he moved permanently to Nez Perce Country. We like to say that we joined not only two families but also two horse herds! After obtaining an Appaloosa colt foaled by Chub Ralstin's mare, Bonnie, and a Les Saur Appaloosa mare, Rainbow, both with strong foundation bloodlines. Our Appaloosa breeding program really took off in the early 1980's. In 1995,

(Continued on page 9)

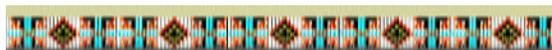
(continued from page 8)

Jon was working for the Nez Perce Tribe's Young Horsemen Program when it started the Nez Perce Horse Registry with Akhal-Teke and Appaloosa crosses. To support the Tribe's endeavor, we bred some of our Appy mares to the purebred Akhal-Teke stallions that were donated or loaned to the tribe. Jon was pleased with the first crop and more so after he rode them as geldings. So, our NPHR herd increased also. We now have over 80 head of fine horses of both lines with Yawka's Round Dancer as our Appaloosa stallion, and Ciikowis Timina as our NPHR stallion, and, as with our grandchildren, there are more "on the way." When our daughters were young, Jon and I helped start the Te-token 4-H Horse Club. Then, when the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club and the Chief Joseph Foundation were formed in 1991 after Bob Browning's donation of several Appaloosas, we both became members of the Club and I served for several years on the CJF board. Now, our major youth and family horse activities are with the NPAPHC, and we have traveled extensively to do trail rides along the sacred Nimiipuu Trail in conjunction with memorial ceremonies at the 1877 battle sites and, also, with the Appaloosa Horse Club's annual Chief Joseph Trail Ride (this year, 13 years for me and 9 for Jon).

We've both been members and I've been on the board of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation since we attended our first meeting at Cody, Wyoming, in 2000. We support the Trail, which is so meaningful to our history, and like the idea of healing and better understanding among our people and between cultures that the Foundation promotes. It was after Cody that Charlie Moses and Ruth Wapato, his sister, (Chief Joseph/s band) and I became aware that we are related through my great-grandfather, Wottolen (White Bird band). I look forward to more meaningful discoveries like that.



ROSA AND JON YEAROUT



ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Meeting of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation will be held in Salmon Idaho on August 4-5-6, 2005.

The Meeting will be held in the Conference Center of the Stage Coach Motel in Salmon.

The meeting will be highlighted by Tours and Program at the Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural, and Educational Center. And the Big Hole Battle Field.

There will be, in addition to the Business Meeting where the Strategic Plan for the Foundation will be reviewed, a workshop on how to be an effective Board Member.

There will be several informative Programs presented. The Key Note Speaker will be the Executive Director of the Partnership for the National Trail System, Gary Warner.

Detailed information and registration information will be sent out in mid June. Be sure to mark the dates.



Is Your Membership Current?

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation relies on membership fees to provide many valuable services to our members. With your continued financial support, the Nez Perce Trail Foundation is able to continue serving the community as an advocate for the Nez Perce Trail. Please take a few moments to check the status of your membership. To verify your membership expiration date, please email Jim Evans at executivedirector@nezperctrail.net. To update your membership dues, send a check to Nez Perce Trail Foundation; 194 Highway 28 Salmon, ID 83467.

Annual Dues:

Individual: \$30 Senior \$15 Family: \$50

Non Profit/Gov/Sponsor \$100 Corporate: \$500

Check your address label for expiration date

OFFICERS NEZ PERCETTRAIL FOUNDATION 2005

PRESIDENT: Paul Wapato , Spokane, Washington

president@nezperctrail.net

VICE-PRESIDENT: Richard Seymour Wallowa, Oregon

vicepresident@nezperctrail.net

TREASURER: Charlie Moses, Jr., Elmer City, Washington

treasurer@nezperctrail.net

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / SECRETARY Jim Evans, Salmon, Idaho

Executivedirector@nezperctrail.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian McCormack, Lapwai, Idaho

Joseph O. McCormack, Wallowa, Oregon

Porter L. Pierce, Vancouver, Washington

Michael D. Seale, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Ruth Wapato, Spokane, Washington

Rosa Yearout, Lapwai, Idaho

Gene Eastman, Weippe, Idaho

Mollie Eastman, Weippe, Idaho

Rich Wandschneider, Enterprise, Oregon

Myrna Tovey, Malad City, Idaho

Dick Seymour, Wallowa, Oregon

Paul C. Wapato, Avon, Colorado

Leah Conner, Pendleton, Oregon

Nick Hudson, Park City, Utah

Cathy Quistgard, Joseph, Oregon

Nez Perce Trail Foundation
194 Highway 28
Salmon Idaho 83467

WEB SITES

**Nez Perce Trail
Foundation**

www.nezperctrail.net

**Nez Perce National
Historical Trail**

www.fs.us.gov/npnht

**Nez Perce National
Historical Park**

www.nps.gov/ncpe

Sacajawea Center

www.sacajaweacenter.org

Nez Perce Tribe

www.nezperce.org

Wallowa Band Interpretive Center

www.wallowamezperce.com

Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian reservation

www.umatilla.nsn.us



