



Oregon Heritage Programs Spring 2007 Newsletter

OREGON



HERITAGE
TREE
PROGRAM

Welcome!

The Oregon Heritage Programs Newsletter is brought to you quarterly by Oregon Travel Information Council (TIC). Featured in this special publication is the latest information about the Oregon Heritage Tree Program, and its stewardship by TIC.

OREGON



HISTORICAL
MARKER
PROGRAM



TOLLGATE MAPLES MARK THE OREGON TRAIL ON MT HOOD

Near the town of Rhododendron, two bigleaf maples trees stand on each side of the replica tollgate that marks the western-most and last tollgate operated on the Barlow Road—the branch of the Oregon Trail that crossed Mt Hood. The original tollgate was in operation on this site from 1879 until 1915, and the tollgate maples are believed to have been planted in the 1880's by Daniel Parker who was the tollgate keeper at that time.

The Tollgate Maples will be formally inducted into the Oregon Heritage Tree Program on April 4, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. The ceremony will be held

at the tollgate historic site in the highway way-side for the Pioneer Bridle Trailhead on US Highway 26 located ½ mile east of Rhododendron. Parking will be available in the day use area of Tollgate Campground located between Rhododendron and the tollgate wayside.

Speaking at the dedication event will be Gary Larsen, Forest Supervisor of the Mt Hood National Forest, Lloyd Musser of the Mt Hood Cultural Center, Cheryl Gribskov, Executive Director of the Oregon Travel Information Council, and Doug Grafe of the Oregon Heritage Tree Committee.

DEDICATION EVENT HONORS THE MITCHELL MONUMENT SHRAPNEL TREE

By Todd Kepple, Klamath County Museum Manager

Residents of the Bly, Oregon area have a living connection to one of the nation's unique historic sites: a ponderosa pine tree that withstood the blast of a Japanese balloon bomb that killed a woman and five children on May 5, 1945.

The Mitchell Monument Shrapnel Tree located near Bly was designated an Oregon Heritage Tree in 2005, and residents of Klamath and Lake counties gathered at the bombsite on October 5, 2006 to dedicate its Heritage Tree plaque at the base of the tree.



Photo taken Oct. 5, 2006, by Todd Kepple.

In the group photo, from left: Ken Hamlington, Steve Cornell, Leda Hunter, Cora Conner.

Klamath County Historical Society members Cora and Norman Conner attended the dedication. Cora was a telephone operator in Bly when the bomb incident occurred, and has first-hand memories of the federal government's effort to keep the news quiet for several days.

Leda Hunter, president of the Bly Community Action Team, and Orlando Gonzalez, a former ranger at the Forest Service's Bly Ranger Station, spearheaded the effort to have the pine recognized as an Oregon Heritage Tree. Steve Cornell, a recreation specialist for the Bly Ranger District, and Ken Hamlington, supervisor of the community corrections work crew from Lakeview, constructed the stone masonry base for the Heritage Tree plaque.

*These New Oregon Heritage Trees will also be dedicated in 2007.
Look for the Summer Issue of the Oregon Heritage Program Newsletter for details.*

THE GIANT SPRUCE OF CAPE PERPETUA



Half a century before Christopher Columbus sailed to the America's, a tiny Sitka spruce began its life nourished by a nurse log on the Oregon coast. Today, it is the largest and oldest tree in the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area of the Siuslaw National Forest. Nearly 600 years old, it stands over 185 feet tall and has a circumference of 40 feet.

The Cape Perpetua Scenic Area is located about three miles south of Yachats on US Highway 101. The Giant Spruce is

easily accessible from the Cape Perpetua Interpretive Center via the Spruce Trail.

Nearby the tree, indigenous people dwelled at the mouth of Cape Creek for 1500 years and in the 1850's the Coos and Lower Umpqua people were forcibly relocated here to the Coast Reservation. In the 1930's the Civilian Conservation Corps established a camp here and built the first trail to the Giant Spruce, probably opening up an ancient Indian trail.

HISTORIC OAK GROVE AT THE STATE FAIRGROUNDS

Dating back for six to ten thousand years before the arrival of Euro-American settlers, Kalapuya Indians lived in the Willamette Valley and relied upon on the valley's oak groves as a source of acorns and other food resources such as Camas. The practice of following Seasonal Rounds to gather food and plant materials led the native people to recurrent camp grounds, one of which is believed to be the oak grove at the State Fairgrounds in Salem.



Camping at the Oregon State Fair Grounds, about 1911.

When the State Fair was established on its current site in 1862, visitors came in wagons, carriages and on horseback and camped in the oak grove continuing a tradition of historic use. Camping arrangements at the Oregon State Fair evolved into a unique plan that had streets, lots, numbers, a city directory, and a reservation system that encouraged a social atmosphere. The first automobile arrived in camp in the early 1900's and in 1910, there is a record of ten cars being in the camp. By 1922, it is estimated that at least 2,000 autos were on the grounds.

Your Contributions Help!

The Oregon Heritage Programs continue through the stewardship of Oregon Travel Information Council, individual contributions, and grant funding.

We invite you to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Oregon Heritage Tree Program and/or the Oregon Historical Markers Programs, and help us continue the good work.

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229 Madrona Ave. SE | Salem, OR 97302 | 800-574-9397 | www.oregontic.com

