

NACHES PASS TRAIL 1861.

"Naches Pass Road Meeting," Puget Sound Herald, Steilacoom, Washington Territory, February 28, 1861.

Pursuant to a call published in the Puget Sound Herald of the 1st instant, the citizens of Steilacoom met in Goodburn's building on Tuesday evening, 26th Inst. to take into consideration the opening of the road over the Nachess Pass to the Wenatchee mines. The meeting organized by calling D.H. Byrd, Esq. to the chair and appointing G. Ford Secretary.

The chairman state the object of the meeting to be to take into consideration the proper expenditures of funds already subscribed and called upon the citizens present for an expression of their views on the subject; whereupon Messrs. McCaw, Webber, Tucker, Prosch and others addressed the meeting, setting for the advantages of this route over all others to the newly discovered mines on the Wenatchee river and its tributaries and suggestion various modes of proceeding about the work immediately to make it an easy road for travel.

It was stated the \$950 had been subscribed for the work and that other subscriptions had been promised which would considerably increase the aggregate amount. The sum already subscribed was deemed sufficient to open a road upon which there had previously been \$30,000 expended and which only required the removal of the fallen trees and other obstructions which had been accumulating for the past three or four years.

The meeting decided on sending out two men to view the road and report as soon as possible the present condition and probably cost of so improving it as to make it an unobjectionable road for travel.

Messrs. H. G. Williamson and William Tidd were chosen for this duty and authorized to employ a third person as guide....

"The Naches Road," Puget Sound Herald. Steilacoom, Washington Territory, February 28, 1861.

Messrs. McCaw, Williamson and Tidd with a party of some fifteen men left Steilacoom on Monday last to remove the obstructions from the road leading to the Naches Pass and the Wenatchee Mines. They expect to be absent about a fortnight

in which time they hope to open a road as good as the best ever traveled by a pack train, here or elsewhere.

When this is done Steilacoom will possess advantages as an outfitting and starting point for the Wenatchee and Northern Mines equalled by no other town either on Puget Sound or the Columbia River.

Most of the distance to the western slope of the mountains is over level prairie which the pass presents a grade easily traveled by wagons. On this eastern side, the country is represented as open, with very few natural obstructions. Add to this the proximity of the mines to our town, within one hundred and fifty miles, and it will readily be perceived that our claims to the attention of miners and packers are not without foundation.

While the time required to reach the Wenatchee from The Dalles is from two to three weeks, the same mines have been and can be reached from this place inside of six days.

But we have not space in this issue to set forth fully the advantages of this over other routes. At some other time we shall dwell at length upon this subject and endeavor to impart such information as may be of interest to our readers and of service to miners.

"The Naches Pass Road," Puget Sound Herald. Steilacoom, Washington Territory, April 4, 1861.

As we started last week the road party completed their labors before the close of the week and several of them returned to town on Sunday last. They were in good health and excellent spirits and elated as the success they met with.

Although the weather they encountered was the most disagreeable of any we have experienced for years, they seem to have enjoyed the time spent on the road. They represent the fund subscribed as amply sufficient to defray all expenses incurred, and state that the amount of labor required was much less than they anticipated. The thanks of the public are justly due to Messrs. McCaw, Williamson and Tidd for the prompt and faithful manner in which they discharged the duty assigned to them.

Below we give a brief report of these gentlemen in which it will be seen they state

among other things that they found gold along White River. They conclude by estimating the distance to the summit of the pass at eighty-five miles.

In this they differ from the actual measurement of the Topographical Engineers who make the distance to the summit sixty-five miles from Steilacoom.

An Indian who served as guide and who accompanied three of the party through to the mines stated when on the summit that the Wenatchee was just two days travel from the summit, making the total time required from Steilacoom to the mines between four and five days.

The following is the report above alluded to:

Steilacoom, Washington Territory, April 3rd, 1861.
To the Editor of the Puget Sound Herald.

Deeming it due to the public that some report should be made by the commissioners appointed to superintend the cutting and clearing of the Nachess trail, we respectfully furnished the following short summary of our proceedings.

Starting from here at noon, March 18th, we reached Connell's Prairie on the evening of the 20th. There is a good wagon road about thirty miles. On the 21st our work commenced; cutting to White River, two and a half miles, and crossing at Porter's, the old crossing, found it rather bad crossing owing to large boulders in the river.

Thence we cut on up White River, clearing the way from day to day, until the 27th when having got to the foot of the snow, and completed the trail we prepared to return. This point is about six miles from the summit of the mountain pass.

We kept on the left or north side of White River all the way after crossing. On the morning out the 27th we fitted out three of the party who wished to go on to the mines. Captain Dayton and Mr. Miller proposed to accompany them to the summit and report as to the snow, etc.

The remainder returned to Boise creek three miles above the old crossing of the White River where we crossed at a remarkably good crossing near Mr. Flett's claim. Thence we cut a good trail, this way to South Prairie, from which there is a good wagon road to Fennell's Prairie, twenty-five miles from Steilacoom, where it intersects the road traveled out.

We would recommend this latter route and the crossing at Boise Creek, near Flett's as being better than the one taken going out.

We arrived here on the 30th ult. being absent twelve days. Captain Dayton and Mr. Miller arrived two days afterwards and reported the snow about six feet deep at the summit. They traveled up without snow shoes, packing about forty pound each.

They left the party going over in good spirits about a mile beyond the summit. From appearances, the snow is somewhat deeper on the east slope of the mountain.

In our judgment, a good wagon road from there to the summit can be made for the sum of \$3,000. In no instances is there remarkably long or steep grades.

We found gold at all points on White River in small quantities.

We compute the distance from Steilacoom to the summit at about eighty-five miles.

Samuel McCaw
William Tidd
H.G. Williamson