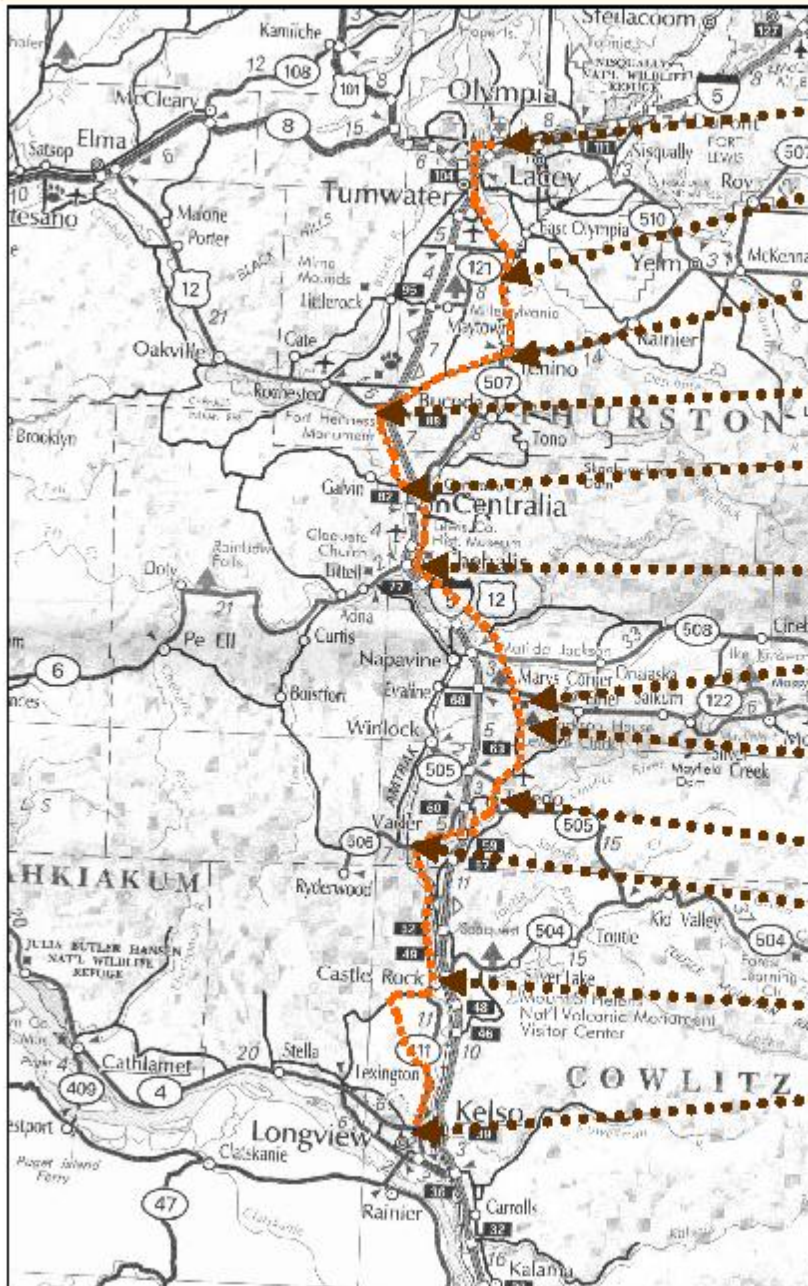


Territorial Express Stage Coach Run

September 19 – 21, 2008

Territorial Express Stage Coach Run 2008 Sept. 19 thru Sept 21



Begin Madison Elem. School
Stage Stop #1
1225 Legion Way SE

Plumb Station
Stage Stop #2
South of Waldrick Road

Tenino
Stage Stop #3 Overnight
City Park at 300 Park Ave.

Grand Mound
Stage Stop #4
20600 Old Hwy 99 SW

Centralia Wayside #1
Borst Home & Park

Chehalis
Stage Stop #5
Woodland Estates
2100 SW Woodland Circle

Jackson House Wayside #2
Jackson Hwy south of US 12

Lewis & Clark State Park
4583 Jackson Hwy.
Stage Stop #6 Overnight

Toledo
Wayside #3

Vader
Stage Stop #7
1201 8th St.

Castle Rock
Stage Stop #8
120 Fair Lane

Longview Fairgrounds
Stage Stop #9
Sept. 21 End of Stage Run



**Homesteaders Posing Before the
Territorial Express**

STAGE COACH IS A'COMING!

by Suzanne Hornbuckle

“Was it a rough ride?” “How many people were inside the coach?” “How many horses pulled the coach?” “Did you like the ride?”

These are some of the questions asked after I rode in the stage coach from Grand Mound to Tenino, Washington on September 22, 2007. The answers are “No, very smooth.”, “Five”, “No horses, but four mules.”, and “Yes, very much”

It took about 2 hours and 15 minutes to make the ten mile journey in the stage coach and fifteen minutes to travel the same distance in my car. What a difference! As we traveled by stage coach, I saw details along the way that I had never noticed before, as well as closely observing the people, horses, dogs, alpacas, beef cattle and dairy cows. The most excited group of all was the dairy herd. I imagine the dairy farmer didn't get much milk on the 22nd, as the milk cows were amazed and discombobulated to see the stage coach traveling by. The beef cattle didn't pay any attention, but the horses and dogs had the time of their lives running back and forth and announcing the presence of such a strange sight! Perhaps it was the noise, which was produced by the iron wheels on the blacktop road. Most of the humans along the route were excited and rushed out to wave and enjoy a unique sight.

Travel by stage coach in the 21st Century was very comfortable. With only five passengers, we were not crowded inside. How many passengers on the top? There were several, and they did get a few raindrops. None of us had the dust to contend with that passengers in the 1860's would have had. Also, 2 hours 15 minutes can not compare to 28 hours seated on a hard wooden plank, dust boiling up—or pouring rain and mud splattering everywhere.

I'm probably not ready to trade in my Subaru for a stage coach, but I would take advantage of the opportunity to ride in that beautiful coach any time!

Editor's Note:

The September 21-22-23, 2007 ninety mile Territorial Express Stage Coach run from Monticello (Longview) to Olympia, Washington, was sponsored by the Tumwater Historical Association and supported by the communities along the route. In addition to passengers, the stage carried U S Mail and freight. Profits from the run support the Tumwater Middle School “Homesteader's” program.