

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS



THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 1019 Independence, MO 64051-0519 (816)252-2276

September 1989

BOISE WAS BEAUTIFUL! #1

OCTA's Seventh Annual Convention in Boise, Idaho, August 9-13, 1989, was Another Rousing Success.

By Roy Stewart

For some 250 souls, the convention began with a pre-convention tour to the Silent City of Rocks, near Malta, Idaho. This "city" is a collection of large rocks that nature has shaped to resemble such disparate objects as a giant toadstool, a bathtub, and what J. Goldsborough Braff saw as a "sarcophagus."

This tour began at Twin Fall's Perrine Bridge, which at 1500 feet long and 450 feet above the Snake River is billed as the "Longest Span Bridge in America." Here, the three busloads of people from Boise met with the two busloads from Twin Falls. A continental breakfast was served in the large picnic area, where reunions between people who had not seen each other for a year were much in evidence. The scenery at this spot is spectacular. The Snake River, which lies some 400 feet below, has cut a deep canyon. In the bottom of this canyon several homes and two beautiful, green golf courses provide a stunning contrast with the steep, lava cliffs on the canyon's north face. Mike Bateman, an Idaho Trails expert from nearby Pocatello, implied that we had better enjoy it. He said to me, "This is the prettiest scenery that you'll see all day." By the end of the day, I agreed with him.

From the bridge the busses headed southeast to the City of Rocks, with one stop at the Miner Interpretive



Photo by Roy Stewart

The beautiful Three-Island Crossing, as shown from a bluff on the south side of the Snake River, provides the background for this group photograph.

L-R: Sharon Manhart, Curtis Grant, Steve Larmore, Susan Doyle, Hal Manhart, and Nancy Grant.

Center near Burley. The City of Rocks is well away from any major highway. Access is by bladed road, from the small towns of either Oakley or Malta. The busses took a circuitous route to Malta, so that we would enter the City from the east, just as the emigrants did. The scenery, while brown and dusty, was far from being uninteresting. With high mountain ranges on all sides, the landscape was majestic. The scenery was all the more picturesque because of the mountain peaks. They disappeared into the billowy cumulus clouds that dotted the day's hazy, blue Idaho sky.

Lunch was served in a mountainous plateau that provided a marvelous view of this geological masterpiece. Here we were treated with expert talks by the BLM, Na-

tional Park Service, and "Himself, our own Tom Hunt. Following lunch, we visited both "Register Rock"—where emigrant names are still visible—and the large rock formation described variously by diarist as "Steeple Rocks," "Cathedral Rocks," or its now common "Twin Sisters." Near this latter rock formation, the combined routes formed by the earlier joining of "Hudspeth's Cutoff" with the "Fort Hall Road" met with the trail coming up from Salt Lake City. This resulted in a unified "California Trail." From this point the California Trail headed southwest to climb Granite Pass and disappear into the sagebrush hills and valleys of northern Nevada.

Continued on page 3.

President's Corner

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Dick Ackerman for his dedicated service as OCTA President and to thank Trudy for her support of Dick and for her many efforts on behalf of OCTA. Both put in two very busy years. They spend weeks and months in Independence, Missouri working with the City and community to establish and open our first national headquarters. Dick hired Jeanne Miller who has done so much to provide headquarters support for all of OCTA. During Dick's administration, OCTA continued to grow in membership and the variety of volunteer activities undertaken to preserve and protect the trails. THANK YOU DICK and TRUDY, from all of us.

Continued on page13.



Photo by Cari Sloan

*Beautiful Wild Horses!
Excitement for OCTA members hiking on the trail.*



Photo by Carl Sloan

Dallas McKennon



Photo by Carl Sloan

OCTA Members at the City of Rocks

BOISE WAS BEAUTIFUL! #2



Photo by Carl Sloan

Larry Jones, Convention Chairman, presiding at the Awards Banquet

Boise was Beautiful! #1

Continued from page 1.

Leaving the City of Rocks, the busses followed a northwesterly route to the Stricker Ranch and its Rock Creek Store and Stage Station, where we were scheduled to have dinner. A small thunder storm that pelted us with a cold rain, however, caused a switch to "Plan B": dinner and trail music at a supper club in Twin Falls. This dinner of roast beef and broiled rainbow trout, with its convivial atmosphere and cold, cold beer provided for most a fitting end to a glorious day. For Steve Larmore and I, however, we were to be treated to one more trail experience.

Instead of taking one of the busses, we joined Mike Bateman for a ride to Boise in his pick-up. On the way there, Mike—in a spur-of-the-moment decision—pulled off I84 at a place near the Malad Gorge. Here, a collection of rocks and pebbles, thought to be made by Indians, had formed a puzzling archaeological curiosity (see photo on page 13). Since Mike could not remember exactly where this curiosity was located, he and Steve tramped about in

the brush with a flashlight looking for it, while I trailed along behind in Mike's truck. After nearly an hour (10 to 11 p.m.), Mike found it. I took photographs, which I've passed on to Sharon Manhart for further study. Sharon is chairperson of OCTA's Archaeology Committee.

The Convention began with a continental breakfast and "Meet Your Board" session on Wednesday morning at Boise's Red Lion Riverside Inn. Here again, as at the Perrine Bridge in Twin Falls, there was much hugging and handshaking as OCTAans reunited.

Following this reunion and meeting with national board members, the group dispersed. Some went to the book room, while others proceeded to a meeting room to hear national committee reports. Following a no-host lunch, most of us repaired to conference rooms to participate in workshops. I sat in on the Publications Workshop, which comprised a panel of writers and editors consisting of Lois Daniel, Chuck Dodd, Judith Austin, and Jim Heaney. Lois edits the *Overland Journal*; Judith edits *Idaho Yesterdays*, the quarterly journal of the Idaho Historical Society; Jim is a book editor for the

More on page 5.

The Inside View

*By Larry Jones,
1989 Convention Chairman*

For a time, it seemed like the never-ending story, but ultimately the OCTA's 1989 Convention reached a successful conclusion.

The Board of Directors met on the Sunday and Monday prior to the convention and efficiently dispatched a large amount of business. On Tuesday, August 8, nearly 300 participants met in Boise and Twin Falls for a preconvention tour to City of Rocks. After viewing the rocks and trail segments, the group headed for a dinner stop at the historic Stricker Ranch. Enroute, a stop was made to view Granite Pass. Thanks may be due to "Himself" (Tom Hunt) who somehow must have arranged to have the pass illuminated by sunlight streaming through the dark clouds of an approaching rainstorm. The view was spectacular! The rain arrived at the Stricker Ranch before the arrival of the tour, but the caterer quickly arranged a move to an indoor facility in Twin Falls. After an abbreviated tour of the ranch, an excellent dinner of Idaho trout and beef awaited the group. It was a very long, but rewarding day for the participants.

Workshops were held on Wednesday afternoon, August 9, and that evening a Potato Bar and reception was held at the Idaho State Historical Society Museum.

Nearly 450 participants, representing 30 states, had registered prior to the reception. On Thursday morning, August 10, professional papers were presented at the Red Lion Inn Riverside, the headquarters motel. In the afternoon, a barbecue lunch was served at the Nampa public park, and afterwards the group visited the Owyhee County Historical Society Museum in Murphy before traveling to Givens Hot Springs for dinner and entertainment.

On Friday, two hiking tours and a bus left the hotel. All three met for

Continued on page 12.

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

The following is an excerpt from a final memorandum to the Board from Past-President Dick Ackerman.

Another banner year has drawn to a close for OCTA members and trail preservationists. It certainly has been an encouraging year. There is no doubt about it: there is a new awareness and interest in the history and heritage of the trans-Mississippi Nineteenth Century western migration. This renewed interest is evidenced not only along the entire migration routes but almost

Continued on page 14.



Photo by Carl Sloan

Riders fording the Snake River at Three Island Crossing in a special show for OCTA members.



Photo by Carl Sloan

A medical technician accompanying OCTA hikers on the trail.



Photo by William Dillinger

A docent performing for OCTA members at Three Island Crossing State Park

BOISE WAS BEAUTIFUL #3



Photo by William Dillinger

*Artifact found on the trail by an OCTA hiker.
(Found, inspected, and then replaced.)*

Boise Was Beautiful #1

Continued from page 3.

University of Idaho Press; and Chuck is a past editor of the *OJ*, along with being a freelance writer and trail historian.

The Publications Workshop was a lively and spirited session in which the four panel members provided a wealth of advice on how to get started writing an historical piece, how to locate sources and format a bibliography, and what editors like to see when receiving an author's draft document. For the latter topic, their most emphasized point was for authors to **DOUBLE-SPACE** their documents, *including the footnotes*. If all of the workshops were as enlightening and entertaining as this one, then they were, indeed, excellent.

At 6:30 pm, we were bussed across town to the Idaho Historical Museum. Here, our hosts fed us Idaho baked potatoes (with all of the trimmings) and treated us to Dallas McKennon's humorous and musically poetic presentation of life on the

Trail. Many of us remembered Dallas from the Carson City convention, where he entertained us with a similar program. Dallas, a tall man in period dress with a Gabby Hayes beard, provided a touch of authenticity as he accompanied us on the bus tours.

Thursday morning began bright and early with papers. In an effort to save time, the first- and second-two papers were read concurrently, using two different meeting rooms. All four papers were excellent. The only thing to regret was that it was impossible to hear all four papers because of the concurrent presentations. Following the break, we returned to the now combined meeting rooms for the last three papers. These papers provided information on how to research and on what types of materials can be found in the National Archives and Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino, California. The Huntington, which is privately financed, is a prime repository for emigrant diaries and other historical materials dealing with the American West.

There is still more, on page 8.

From Notes and a Letter from Doug Crary (Modesto, California)

My wife Eloise and I attended our first of OCTA's convention in Boise and we really enjoyed it a lot. She had two relatives come to California in 1852, and we have a copy of an 8-page letter one of them wrote to his brother back in Iowa.

We were in Boise for two weeks, as I stayed there another week after the convention to play in the National Senior Tennis Championships (Indoors). I am now playing in the National Grass and Clay tournaments back east.

One convention attraction that will surely be remembered clearly was the demonstration of knife and hatchet throwing and loading and firing of early American muskets and rifles, put on by a group of men and women called "Idaho Free Trappers," wearing early-day costumes at the site of the Canyon Creek stage stop. Some OCTA members may be surprised and puzzled to learn that Hawaii is actively represented. At the convention, a grand award was given to Carl and Mae Kawahara of Hawaii, as they had attended *all* of OCTA's conventions! We don't know if there were ever any Hawaiian fur trappers but, at the Stage Stop mentioned previously, photographers really had a field day taking pictures of Carl wearing a complete outfit of the "Free Trappers" group, complete with a breech clout. (Yes he took off his pants, in full view of everyone!)

Join the Fun!

**Come to the
OCTA Convention in
Omaha.**

August 8-12, 1990

OCTA HONORS

OCTA's annual Awards Banquet makes it very clear that OCTA is both blessed and much in the debt to the friends of the trails and to its dedicated volunteers. The Boise Convention saw the following awards.

The Rancher of the Year Award was presented to Paul and Ruby Tschirky for protecting and preserving the rock carins on their property at Bloody Point on Tule Lake. An award was also presented to Herb and Mary Allen.

An Institutional Award presented to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation was accepted by Brian Miller.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Congressman Larry Craig of Idaho for his efforts on behalf of trails.

Larry Jones received a Certificate of Appreciation for his fine work as Convention Chairman. Larry thanked his many co-workers on the Convention Committee, especially Dennis Coyle, Carol Foster, Marilyn Weiss, Jane Wylie, Judy Austin, John Davis, Burt Silcock, Clair and Virginia Ricketts, and Wally Meyer.

Tom Hunt recognized the achievements of the following chairpersons who were resigning from their positions: Betty Lee, Archaeology; Reg Duffin, Graves and Sites; Mary Mueller, Membership; Barbara Magerl, NFP Editor and Public Relations; and George Watkins, Awards. He also presented OCTA pins to Jeanne Miller, Elaine McNabney, and Polly Fowler in recognition for their invaluable services at OCTA Headquarters; to Lois Daniel for editing the *Overland Journal*; to Kathy Roubal for surveying 60 diaries for COED; and to Wally Meyer for placing numerous markers on the Idaho trails.

OCTA's highest award, the Meritorious Achievement Award, was presented to outgoing Treasurer, James Bowers, who was one of the founding fathers of OCTA, who served as OCTA's Treasurer since OCTA was founded, and served as a Member of OCTA's Board of Directors for four years.



Photo by Carl Sloan

*Jim Bowers
Former Director, Former Treasurer
Recipient of OCTA's Meritorious Achievement Award*



Photo by Carl Sloan

Burt Silcock, retired Director of the Bureau of Land Management, OCTA Award Winner



Photo by Carl Sloan

Idaho Representative Larry Craig with David Crowder, Director, Idaho State Historical Society at Awards Banquet



Photo by Carl Sloan

Yvone Ferrell, Director, Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation



Photo by Carl Sloan

Joanne and Dave Crowder look on as Wally Meyers, Boise District, Bureau of Land Management, receives his award.

Idaho Representative Larry E. Craig Keynote Speaker at OCTA's Awards Banquet

Republican of Boise, Idaho, representing Idaho's First District. Born at Council, Idaho, son of Elvin and Dorothy Craig. Attended Midvale public schools; graduated, University of Idaho among the top 10 with B.A., political science and agricultural economics; student body president, University of Idaho, 1968-69; graduate work in economics and the politics of developing nations, George Washington University, 1970. National vice president, Future Farmers of America, 1966-67. State senator, Payette and Washington Counties, three terms; chairman, senate commerce and labor committee. Member: National Foundation for Defense Analysis; Idaho State Republican Executive Committee, 1976-78. President, Young Republican League of Idaho, 1976-77. Chairman, Republican Central Committee, Washington County, 1971-72. Chairman, Policy Committee, Republican Study Committee (current). Farmer-rancher, Midvale area for 10 years. Elected to 97th Congress, 1980; reelected to each succeeding Congress. Interior and Insular Affairs: Mining and Natural Resources; National Parks and Public Lands; Water, Power and Offshore Resources. Public Works and Transportation: Economic Development: Surface Transportation; Water Resources. Standards of Official Conduct.

Boise Was Beautiful! #1

Continued from page 5.

The next event, which followed closely on the heels of the last paper, was the first tour. This tour, after stopping for a picnic lunch of hamburgers and all the fixin's, took us to Murphy for a museum visit. The Owyhee County Historical



Photo by Carl Sloan

Representative Larry Craig, Idaho 1st District

Complex in Murphy is a gem. Owyhee County, a once-thriving mining community that has now fallen on hard times, is a history-minded region. With a population of only five-hundred or so, it supports this rambling complex, the centerpiece of which is a two-room museum packed with mining, farming, and rural lifestyle artifacts. With few restrictions on touching the exhibits, we could employ our tactile as well as our ocular sense to examine their mid-1800's plow and three turn-of-the-century washing machines.

Other exhibits included farm implements, a railroad caboose, and an ore-stamping machine. The latter was especially interesting because of the docent. He was a man of indeterminate age who had been active in mining all of his life—from the gold mines in Central City, Colorado, to those in Owyhee County. Like any good teacher, he was a raconteur whose knowledge about mining was deep seated and firmly based on personal experience.

After our two-hour stay at the historical complex, we proceeded to the privately owned Givens' Hot Springs, where we had dinner. The Givens' property is located near a natural hot springs, which have been tamed and piped into a near-Olympic-size swimming pool. Several of us went for a swim and found it to be very relaxing after a hot day on

the trail. Other treats included exhibits of Indian artifacts and 19th century wagons and stage coaches. The biggest treats of all, however, were the ice cold sodas, delicious BBQ beef dinner, and after-dinner ice cream.

Friday began our tours of the Emigrant Trails through Idaho. We started by being bussed 50-60 miles southeast to Three-Island Crossing. West of this famous crossing, at Glenn's Ferry, the busses crossed to the south side of the Snake and stopped at a point opposite the Three-Island Crossing State Park. Here, we hiked to an overlook where the Snake and the Crossing could be photographed. On many occasions when seeing a site that is famed for its pristine beauty, we are disappointed by the changes wreaked on the site by modern times. There was no such disappointment on this day! In fact, we were assaulted by the beauty of the scene. The *oohs* and *ahhs* of surprise and delight could be heard from every quarter.

Reboarding the busses, we headed back over to the north side of the river and on to the Three-island Crossing State Park for lunch. At the park, we were treated to an unexpected pleasure: a rehearsal for an annual reenactment of emigrant wagons and horses crossing the

More on next page.

Boise Was Beautiful!

#1

Last part.

Continued from page 8.

Snake at this famous site. Unfortunately, the *rehearsal* was only horses and riders crossing. There was too much water in the river to include the wagons. The official reenactment, which included wagons, people, and livestock, occurred the next day—after officials had lowered the river to a safe level.

After lunch, we boarded our respective busses for the hiking and bus tours. There were two hiking tours of 2.7 miles each. I'm unsure of how many people took the hiking tours or as to how the participation split between the Alkali Creek and Pilgrim Station tours. I do know, however, that there were three busloads of people on the Alkali Creek hike. While this tour was advertised to be 2.7 miles, many of us made it out to be at least four.

While the advertised mileage was as the crow flies, the promise that the trail segment contained good ruts was accurate. The ruts were deep in most places, and they were in near-pristine condition.

We all shared an unexpected burst of excitement by being almost ran over by a herd of wild horses. Shortly after starting out from the busses, a herd of perhaps twenty mustangs appeared on the horizon heading perpendicular to our line of march. Jerry Dwyer, from Castro Valley, California, said, "They [the horses] were heading right for me, when this fellow stepped in front of me and began waving his arms." That fellow was Hal Manhart, of Montrose, Colorado. Hal later told me, "Those horses would have run right through us, if I hadn't of gotten the attention of the lead mare and caused her to turn the herd."

While not as exciting, perhaps, as being nearly ran down by horses, the artifacts found along the trail were more interesting. Almost everyone found bottle shards and cans from the last century. Additionally, at least one tour member (Curtis Grant of Modesto, California) found a piece of wagon chain. After showing

it off, he replaced it. One rule that we have on these outings, or at any other time, is to leave artifacts where they lay. On one occasion, when a hiker found an interesting looking artifact and asked what it was, he was jokingly told it was "Leaverite"—*leaverite where it is, son.*

Saturday split into a bus tour and two hiking tours, much the same as the day before. The hiking tours were a four-mile Bennett Creek-Teapot Dome walk and a three-mile tour over a different segment of Alkali Creek. Fewer people (one bus) took the Alkali Creek hike, which was not the same as the Alkali Creek hike of the day before. The hike on Saturday was much easier and more scenic than was Friday's Alkali Creek hike. The terrain was more varied and the morning air cooler than the previous day's bland topography and afternoon heat. Saturday's hike also rewarded us with the expert interpretation provided by guides Burt Silcock and Clair Whitlock, both retired BLM directors. With fewer people, the guides had much more freedom to chat with us individually and to point out landmarks and variants in the trail we were following.

The reported three miles must have been on an airline. In walking miles, the distance was at least four miles. It took about 2-1/2 hours between the time the first person began until the last person reached the bus, which was parked at trail's end. Although no one was racing or felt any pressure to be the first to finish, it is noteworthy that one of the first to reach the bus was California B. Quint, of Redding, California. California (her real name) is a spry septuagenarian whose trim figure and high energy level belie her seventy-five years.

The carrot at the end of the hiking stick was ice water, cold sodas, and lunch. After satisfying our collective thirst, we reboarded the busses and ate our lunches on the move. The remainder of the day was equally as interesting as the hike. With the Trail in view over most of the route, our bus proceeded over bladed road to the Canyon Creek Stage Station. Here, we found ourselves in a fair-

like setting where people in period dress were reenacting a fur-trappers' "Rendezvous."

Following this delightful stop, our bus continued on to Bonneville Point, the emigrants obtained their first view of the Boise River valley. The point provides a splendid panorama of Boise, its river, and the surrounding mountain ranges. It was from this vantage point that the French-Canadian *voyageurs* travelling with Captain B.L.E Bonneville in 1834 first saw the trees in the valley below and cried out "Le Bois, Le Bois"; thereby, giving a name to a city, a river, and a region.

Bonneville Point, which we reached about 3:30 in the afternoon, was the last stop on the tour. With the hotel only twenty minutes away, we reached it in time to have a swim before gathering for cocktails and the Awards Banquet.

The Awards Banquet provided a perfect capstone for the four-day event. MC'ed by our own grey fox, Dr. George Watkins, the awards ceremony was both entertaining and enlightening. Enlightenment was provided by U.S. Rep. Larry Craig, of Idaho's 1st District, who gave us a succinct speech dealing with Trails legislation. He also made awards to the Idaho Historical Society for their work in capturing Idaho's past. The high point of the evening was the Meritorious Achievement Award presented to Jim Bowers, outgoing national treasurer and past board member. Meritorious Achievement is OCTA's most coveted award. The assemblage present showed its agreement with Jim's receiving it by giving him a five-minute standing ovation.

The convention officially ended with the conclusion of Sunday morning's general meeting and presentation of the new Board of Directors.

Thanks Roy.

Raffle Brings Exciting Prizes to the Lucky Ones at the Convention

When the annual OCTA convention convened in Boise, the membership was singing—back to dust and ruts. When they were leaving the convention they were heard sighing—enough of dust and ruts. And Idaho has much they didn't see. Maybe next time.

Up at the raffle table a different type of evaluation was taking place. It was becoming more and more noticeable that a goodly portion of the membership had artistic skills worthy of public notice. There were the traditional Jackson prints, handsomely framed by Jack Holmes, which gave a tie to the artists of the past.

The main feature of the raffle, though, was a modern 15 by 30 inch oil painting of antelope in their mountain setting on the headwaters of the Lost River, reminding us many of the animals we now see in the hilly and forested regions of our country once roamed the grasslands crossed by the overland wagons of earlier years. The painting, by Donovan Yingst, could hold up its head in any gallery in the country, let alone those in Boise, but he donated it to OCTA.

Joy Cassidy's love for the trail came forth in the numerous watercolor paintings she did for OCTA on a difficult topic—trail ruts. The area represented ranged from the City of Rocks back to near her home in Boise. Her paintings and clay sculpture of the trail plus the cement paperweight of a wagon met the theme of wide open country as only one who has enthusiasm for their topic could bring.

Most of the artwork came in from Idaho residents, but not all. There was a quail etching from Earl Schmidt in California showing us California artists are thinking ahead to their own raffle in two years time. Tom Hunt from California donated the mosaic with its rich colors.

The pictures were admired, but the stitchery got the oos and ahs. The raffle had three beautiful samples of skill with the needle. Trudy Ackerman and Helen Holmes, both from Oregon (Salem and Medford), were joined by Peggy Christobol from Filer, Idaho with their contribution. If the reactions of the ticket buyers was any indication, these three ladies have a most appreciative audience who are hoping they will go at it again.

Clair Ricketts from Jerome picked up the historically western flavor combined with a modern craft with his arrowhead jewelry—flintknapping in obsidian at its very best.

Fortunately for the raffle, Larry Jones has a talented father-in-law. Ray Wever from Nampa, Idaho picked the OCTA logo and made a bolo tie slide from Idaho rock for the raffle. It was among the items drooled over.

There was even a knife along the craft items. Gill Willey, from Boise used stainless steel to surround with hand-oiled walnut. The many knowing men in the membership tested its sharpness by cutting away the hairs on the back of their hand. Who knows why or even how this because so famous a method of testing, but it was.

Donors and Donations to the Convention Raffle

DONOR	DONATION
Donovan Yingst Boise, Idaho	Oil Painting
Jack Holmes Redford, Oregon	Framed Jackson Prints
Joy Casidy Boise, Idaho	Watercolors
Earl Schmidt Murphy, California	Etching
Trudy Ackerman Salem, Oregon	Stitchery
Helen Holmes Medford, Oregon	Stitchery
Peggy Christobol Filer, Idaho	Stitchery
Tom Hunt Palo Alto, California	Mosaic
Clair Ricketts Jerome, Idaho	Arrowhead Jewelry
Ray Weber Nampa, Idaho	Bolo Tie Slide
JoAnne and Oliver Ingram Twin Falls, Idaho	Flashlights
G. A. Wyllie Boise, Idaho	Knife
Lloyd Thompson Boise, Idaho	Reading Stand
Bonaventura Books Ann and Ted Johnston P.O. Box 2709 Evergreen Colorado 80438	<i>The Emigrant's Guide to California</i> by Joseph E. Ware
Arthur H. Clark Co. P.O. Box 14707 Spokane Washington 99214	<i>A Southwestern Vocabulary</i> by Cornelius C. Smith
William E. Hill 91 Wood Road Centereach New York 11720	<i>The Oregon Trail, Yesterday and Today</i> by William E. Hill

And thank you to the Ingrams for the flashlights. Fortunately, the lights didn't burn out and create a need for their use the night of the banquet.

The skillfully written word added to the arts and crafts. The books that made up the auction a stock of the book sellers were plentiful. The OCTA membership is indeed blessed with talent in many forms. Let's hope this talent continues to be shared by old and new members in the future. Many thanks to all contributors. More than \$990 came into OCTA's coffers because of your generosity.

Donors and Donations to the Convention Raffle



Photo by William Dillinger

*Tammy Taplin,
"Miss Potato, 1989"*

DONOR	DONATION
Patrice Press 1701 South Eighth St. St. Louis Missouri 63104	<i>Images of the Santa Fe Trail and Maps of the Santa Fe Trail</i> by Gregory Franzwa <i>Pony Express from St. Joseph to Fort Laramie</i> by Merrill J. Mattes and Paul Henderson
Pioneer Trails Book Company P.O. Box 314 Medford Oregon 97501	<i>Oregon Trail: Story of Lost Trail to Oregon</i> by Ezra Meeker, Number 218 of a special edition of 250, printed by Webb Research Group, Medford, Oregon for OCTA/Boise.
Pony Press Thomas W. Moore 502 Boise St. Montpelier Idaho	<i>Wanishing Western Ghost Towns</i> by Thomas W. Moore with "Lamentations from Jeremiah"
Edgar W. Stanton III 11476 Larkin Rd. Live Oak California 95953	<i>The Trek of James MacDonald: New Concord, Ohio to California, 1850</i> by Edgar W. Stanton III
University of Idaho Press Moscow Idaho 83843	<i>Bound for Idaho</i>

Personnel Changes

Board members re-elected: Bob Berry, Chuck Martin, Jr., Bill Hill.

New members elected to the board: Susan Doyle, Frank Tortorich.

Board Member Resigned: George Watkins.

Officers Resigned: Dick Ackerman (President), Jim Bowers (Treasurer since OCTA's origin)

New Officers: Bill Watson (President), Ross Marshal (Vice President), Jim Budde (Treasurer)

Boise Was Beautiful #2 (Inside Story)

Continued from page 3.

lunch at Three Island Crossing State Park. Here, the tours got an opportunity to view a crossing of the river by a number of horsemen, a treat that added greatly to the day's activities.

After lunch, the tours went their separate ways. The bus tour had to deviate from the planned route because of a road washout from recent rains (if nothing else, the tours managed to end a month-long Idaho drought), but all survived. The hiking tours had good weather, and all seemed to enjoy the trek over segments of the trail.

On Saturday morning, August 12, three separate tours once again departed from the motel. The bus tour had a somewhat belated lunch due to a mixup on the part of the scheduled caterer but, thanks to the quick action by the Bruneau Dunes State Park manager, all were fed and ready to roll without too much of a delay. Thanks are also due to the manager and staff of the Albertson's store in Mountain Home for quickly making 160 lunches on very short notice.

One hiking tour trekked three miles across the route of the North Alternate Oregon Trail, and the

other hiking tour followed a different stretch of the same route for a distance of 4.2 miles. All three groups followed the trail back to Boise along the Foothill road, which closely approximates the route of the trail. Everyone stopped at the Canyon Creek Stage Station and were greeted at the discharge of rifles from a local black power group that had set up a camp at the site. The last stop of the day was at the Bureau of Land Management's Bonneville Point interpretive site.

After washing off the dust of the day, the participants gathered that evening in the ballroom of the Red Lion Inn for the annual awards banquet. Idaho Congressman Larry Craig attended the dinner and addressed the group. A very successful raffle followed the dinner with a number of people winning some great prizes.

Following the annual business meeting on Sunday, August 13, participants began departing for their homes. All of the cosponsors—the Idaho Chapter of OCTA, Idaho State Historical Society, Idaho Bureau of Land Management, and the Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation—are to be congratulated for putting on a great convention and a special thank you goes out to the generous donors for the raffle. Everyone is looking forward to next year's convention in Omaha, August 8-12.

Attendance at the 1989 Convention, by State

Arizona.....	13
California	120
Colorado	24
Florida.....	6
Hawaii	2
Idaho	80
Illinois.....	9
Indiana	5
Iowa.....	1
Kansas.....	7
Kentucky.....	2
Maryland.....	1
Michigan	2
Minnesota	4
Missouri	25
Montana.....	2
Nebraska	15
Nevada.....	14
New Jersey.....	2
New Mexico.....	3
New York	5
Ohio.....	2
Oregon.....	34
South Dakota	2
Tennessee	2
Texas.....	4
Utah.....	2
Washington.....	32
Wisconsin	3
Wyoming.....	9



Photo by Carl Sloan

Three Island Crossing of the Snake River

President's Corner

Continued from page 2.

Our thanks to Larry Jones and his team, including wife Pat, for all of their hard work that produced the great Boise convention. To each individual and group who received those new Appreciation Awards, we again salute you. And for all the volunteers and organizations who worked on the Boise convention, thanks to each and every one of you for making it our biggest and best.

Best wishes and many thanks to Jim Bowers, retiring after 6 years dedicated service as our founding Treasurer. OCTA's presentation to Jim of our highest accolade -- the Meritorious Achievement Award -- says far more than mere words about how much we appreciate all that Jim and his wife Margaret have done.

We will miss founder Bob Rennels at our Board meetings, we appreciate his varied activities on behalf of OCTA, and salute him for his successful efforts on behalf of Flagstaff Hill.

Also, we will miss George Watkins, who retired as a Director, as Awards Chair and as Master of Ceremonies of the Awards Banquet.

Welcome to newly elected Board members Susan Badger-Doyle and Frank Tortorich and to re-elected members Bob Berry, Bill Hill, and Chuck Martin, Jr. Also, welcome to our new officers: Ross Marshal, Vice President, and Jim Budde, Treasurer.

Several long-time committee chairs have retired. Out special thanks for all your dedicated work on behalf of OCTA to Mary Mueller (Membership), Barbara Magerl (Public Relations), and Reg Duffin (Graves & Sites).

Please welcome new chairs: Bill Rupp (Fundraising), Mary Ann Tortorich (Membership), Sylvia Mooney (Public Relations), Larry Jones (Awards), Chuck Martin, Jr. (Long Range Planning and Future Sites), and Randy Brown (Graves & Sites and Trail Marking), plus Roseanne Tompkins (new editor for *News From the Plains*).

*By Bill Watson,
President*



Photo by Roy Stewart

Archaeological curiosity near Malad Gorge.



Photo by Roy Stewart

*Old friends greet each other near the Perrine Bride, in Twin Falls, Idaho.
L-R: Hal Manhart, Sharon Manhart, Steve Larmore, Susan Doyle*

Farewell

Continued from page 4.

everywhere else in our country there are reflections of this new interest in the pioneer movement. Needless to say, OCTA can take some small part of the credit for this new interest and new awareness. Therefore every OCTA member can take pride for their part in helping to promote this better understanding. Not only are OCTA chapters maturing and playing their part in trail preservation efforts in their localities but states, counties and federal agencies are now coming up with their plans for trail preservation and marking.

Oregon's Oregon Trail Advisory Council's report to the Governor is evidence of this type of activity. Kansas has moved ahead with its trail marking program. Nebraska is researching ways to extend its trail activities. All across Wyoming, there is renewed activity and awareness. Let's not leave out all of the wonderful activities and work going on in Idaho credited to many different organizations including state and federal agencies. Nevada and California are also taking gigantic steps towards greater awareness and trail preservation. To those of us who have been traveling the trail for years and in particular the last couple of years, there is certainly a marked difference with this awareness.

The National Flying Farmers Association recently held its annual convention in Portland, Oregon with a number of the pilots flying over and observing the route the pioneers took while traveling the Oregon Trail. That was such a successful event, the Northwest Chapter of the Association planned to fly back over the route to the Idaho border. Lots of cafes, restaurants and service stations along the routes now have guide maps or pamphlets showing points of interest close to their locality. All of these things are comparatively new and all point up this new awareness. It is here and it is growing and OCTA is growing with this new awareness. This last year the organization increased its mem-

bership by over 12%, to approximately 1750 memberships.

OCTA has much to be proud of. Our chapters are maturing and are playing a greater role in preservation efforts, trail marking, and public awareness. So it our national organization growing and maturing. This is only our seventh anniversary, but I would rate us more like fourteen and stretching for adulthood with many worthy programs and dreams. OCTA has already established itself as the premier trail preservation organization and there is no doubt in my mind that OCTA will mature into the type of organization we all want it to become.

I would like to thank OCTA's Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to serve as their president for their loyal and dedicated support the last two years. Above all, I would like to thank the entire membership for their dedication and support—OCTA's true strength lies in the dedication of our ever-growing membership.

*Thank you,
Dick Ackerman*

Board of Director's Meeting Highlights

At the annual Board of Director's meeting in Boise, the Board invited Rock Springs, Wyoming to hold the 1992 OCTA Convention and to invite Grand Island, Nebraska to be the back-up site for that convention and voted to hold the 1993 OCTA Convention in Baker, Oregon and to designate Pendleton, Oregon as the back-up site. The Board also moved that OCTA invite the Santa Fe Trail Association to hold a joint convention in 1995, with Independence, Missouri as a suggested location.

In addition, the Board established a Convention Committee, with Larry Jones (Boise Convention Chair) as committee chair and established a Fund Raising Committee, with Bill Rupp as chair. It also donated \$100 to the Natinal Frontier Trails Center fund drive for the Pioneer Woman statue, to be placed at the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence and established a "Volunteer of the Year" award to be granted (as appropriate) starting in 1990.



Photo by Roy Stewart

The mining exhibit at Owyhee County Museum, in Murphy, Idaho. The docent (wearing jeans) is a long-time miner whose experience dates back to the 1930s in Central City, Colorado.

Convention Survey: OCTA Strives to Please!

Board Member Chuck Martin, Jr. and Secretary Susan Badger Doyle drew up a survey asking those who attended the Convention in Boise for their views about OCTA Conventions. 121 of the nearly 450 who attended the convention responded, with the following results:

What about the length of the convention?

Too Long: 21
Too Short: 1
About Right: 95

What about the cost of the convention?

Remarkably Inexpensive: 9
A Good Bargain: 84
Excessively Expensive: 24

Would they favor reducing the cost of conventions by reducing their length?

Yes: 18
No: 85

What convention activities did they feel were most important?

Ranking:	1	2	3
<i>Presentations at the convention center:</i>	29	62	23
<i>Trail site visits and tours:</i>	85	25	7
<i>Visiting and socializing with friends:</i>	18	24	74

This provides OCTA with a wealth of information, from those who attended the convention, but what about those who did not attend? OCTA took the next obvious step and sent a questionnaire to all of its members, to give those who did not attend the convention an opportunity to voice their opinions. Questions on that questionnaire covered the following possibilities:

- That the convention site was too far away.
- That the time of the convention was inconvenient.
- That the length of the convention was too long.
- That the convention program was not appealing.
- That the cost was too great.
- That the benefits would not be worth the cost.
- That conventions are just not attractive.

This survey effort is to find out what members want, so OCTA can construct its conventions in the most appropriate manner. Thanks to all those who responded. The results from the general survey will be reported later.

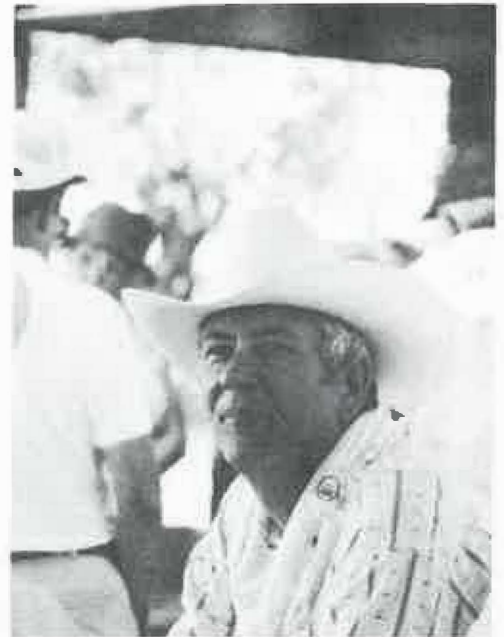


Photo by Carl Sloan

Thanks Larry



A delightful trail companion, California B. Quint, 75, of Redding, California. Photograph taken on Saturday's hike along the trail at Alkali Creek on the Northern Alternate.

Photo by Roy Stewart

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1019 / Independence MO 64051-0519

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Indep. MO
Permit No. 244

Address Correction Requested