



News from the Plains



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Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

October 1999



*New OCTA officers Mary Holden, front, and left to right, Randy Wagner, Dave Welch and Gail Carbiener.
— Photo by Bill Martin*

OCTA Elects New Officers

Dave Welch of Steilacoom, Washington, has been elected to a two-year term as President of the Oregon-California Trails Association.

He will be joined on the list of OCTA officers by Vice President Randy Wagner, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, Treasurer Gail Carbiener of Sunriver, Oregon, and Secretary Mary Holden of Casper, Wyoming.

All four were official elected at the 17th annual OCTA Convention held in August in Chico, California.

Welch has served as OCTA's Vice President for the past two years and succeeds Roger Blair of Pendleton, Oregon.

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OCTA Endowment Fund Changes Approved

By Bill Martin

The Board of Directors of the Oregon-California Trails Association has approved establishing an endowment fund under the care of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

Approximately \$475,000 currently being held in OCTA's existing endowment fund will go into a new fund to be known as the Oregon-California Trails Association Endowment Fund, or OCTA Endowment Fund (OEF).

The assets would be managed by the Community Foundation, which would invest the assets, provide periodic progress reports and provide a stream of income derived from investments.

The Community Fund, which has assets of nearly \$400 million, has returned an average of about 15 per cent on its investments over the past eight years.

The creation of the OCTA Endowment Fund was recommended by OCTA Treasurer Jim Budde, who studied options offered by a number of financial institutions and money management funds.

The Community Fund will charge an annual fee of one percent of the OCTA Endowment for its management services. OCTA's assets can be withdrawn by Board resolution if the organization is not satisfied.

The action was approved by the OCTA Board at its annual meeting in Chico. In other action, the Board:

- Heard a report from Budde that OCTA remains in good financial shape "although we have encountered a few bumps in the road during the current fiscal year." The Board approved a \$168,650 budget for the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

- Was told by Trails Liaison Committee Chairs Bill and Jeanne Watson that a legislative solution to a Solicitor General's order which limits the California National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan to routes and alternates listed in the original legislation is still being studied.

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From the Editor's Desk . . .

History, it has been suggested, is little more than the invention of those of us who like to look at it from a distant perspective. It's subject to interpretation, re-interpretation and re-re-interpretation. That was brought home clearly to those who got a chance to hear historians J.S. Holliday and JoAnn Levy in Chico.

While their presentations were three days apart, the good-natured respect between them, despite differing perspectives, was obvious. OCTA's Ross McClintock, in an introduction, referred to the historians as the "twin towers" of California history. Holliday's perspective is of the Gold Rush era as a "unique masculine society." Levy, in turn, said she was spurred to write her book, *They Saw The Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush*, after she noticed that there was no listing for "women" in the index of Holliday's *The World Rushed In: The California Gold Rush Experience*. She said she didn't mind appearing a few days after Holliday. "I follow along behind him and sort of clean it up," she explained to laughs from the audience.

In fact, the opportunity to listen to the differing Holliday and Levy perspectives on the people who made up the Gold Rush was worth the trip to Chico by itself. Add to it the other outstanding presenters, the opportunity to explore some important emigrant trails, and the chance to renew old acquaintances and you can see why the 600 people who attended were greatly impressed.

The convention committee staged an outstanding gathering,

one that set a lofty standard for future convention organizers. Not to worry. Based on Ross Marshall's report to the convention, the Trails Head chapter will be up to the challenge when we meet in Kansas City next August.

We should all be encouraged by new President Dave Welch's remarks during the Annual Recognition Banquet, when he renewed the organization's commitment to trails preservation, unquestionably our most important mission. And while OCTA as an organization can take a leadership role on national and regional issues, Welch is correct when he says in his first President's Report in this issue that trails preservation requires more than talk. It requires action and support at the chapter level.

As this issue of *News From The Plains* goes to press, there's a hint of fall along many of the trails. The trekking season is just about over and before long our only adventures will be those we pursue through diary readings and books about the overland experience. Maybe that's a good time for each of us to think about why we belong to OCTA.

While the conviviality and shared experiences of convention time solidifies the OCTA membership, it's important to remember why we exist as an organization. For most of us it's simple. We're here because we think the emigrant trails are worth saving. And if that's the case, don't we have an obligation to get involved at the grassroots level? The answer should be obvious.

-- Bill Martin

Submission Guidelines

News From The Plains welcomes timely submissions of news, features and photos related to the work of the organization and its members and the preservation of our trails heritage.

Material is due 30 days prior to publication dates. Material is best sent either on a computer disk (in DOS or text format but make sure you include a hard copy) or via e-mail. Pictures are appreciated but cannot always be returned.

If you have any questions, please call

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Next Deadline Is December 1, 1999

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From The President . . .

David Welch

First, I would like to express my thanks to the Board of Directors for electing me OCTA's ninth president. It is a great honor to be listed among those who have served in this position. With a little stretch, the lineage can even be traced back to the greatest "rut nut" of them all, Ezra Meeker. While I am no match for Ezra, I assure you that I will work hard for the trails in the next two years.

My trail roots are deep: I am a descendant of twelve trail emigrants to Oregon and California between 1847 and 1860. They ranged in age from a fourteen-year-old runaway from Canada to grandparents in their mid-fifties. I suppose the youngest really was my great grandfather, George Washington Welch, who was born on the trail between High Rock Canyon and Surprise Valley. Surely, the most determined was his mother. I have enjoyed researching their history and visiting sites along the trails where they traveled and camped. I work for the trails in their honor.

With that brief introduction out of the way, let's turn to business. You might ask, "What is this guy going to do for OCTA?" The answer is that I will probably do little alone and a great deal if we all work together. At the start we need to note that OCTA has a positive national image and is capable of exerting substantial influence. We have a well-financed organization with broad membership, a new board and officers focused on the future and a membership that wants action, not controversy. Our goals are straightforward: increase trail preservation, increase membership, and continue the evolution of the organization to provide for its continuing success.

With respect to trail preservation, we must do more than talk about it. This requires leadership from the top (board and officers) with action and support at the chapter level. It is essential that each chapter have strong preservation activities based upon local knowledge of the trail and its owners. Personal relationships must be developed to insure landowners are aware

of the resource they hold. Governmental agencies must be encouraged to improve their stewardship of the trail.

Increasing membership is an obligation of all members. At the present time we have about 2,400 memberships with about 4,000 total members. A reasonable goal is growth of ten percent (about 240 memberships) each year. That can be achieved by one in ten of our members finding a new member. At the same time we will work at the national level to expand contacts with other organizations to attract members.

The organizational evolution of OCTA advanced under Roger Blair. The board has been re-structured to add additional expertise in financial matters, information technology, and non-profit organization management. Three board committees have been established to address policy matters in specific areas. All aspects of OCTA's operations will be under continuous scrutiny to insure that we are moving efficiently toward the achievement of our goals. The OCTA board is and will continue to be a working board.

All officer positions have changed in the past two years. The executive team now includes, in addition to myself, Randy Wagner (Vice President), Gail Carbiener (Treasurer), Dick Ackerman (National Trails Preservation Officer), Mary Holden (Secretary) and Kathy Conway (Headquarters Manager). We are fortunate to have this excellent team leading OCTA. I am especially pleased that the transition to our new treasurer has gone smoothly, thanks to Jim Budde. Jim left a great legacy.

Let me close by going back to an earlier point. The success of my presidency is dependent upon the support and participation of all of the membership. Most importantly, your participation at the chapter level is needed. We must move beyond old controversies. As I noted at the convention, emigrant wagons did not have a rear view mirror. They looked to the horizon and the future. So must we.

See you on the trail.

-- Dave Welch

News From Headquarters

By Kathy Conway, Headquarters Manager

What a terrific convention! Chico, Ca, a traditional hot spot in August turned out to be an oasis. We knew Bill Rupp was in charge out there, but even the weather cooperated with him. A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE GOES TO THE CA/NV CHAPTER Convention volunteers for all their hard work in producing such a spectacular week long event.

There are so many to name and thank in their convention roles but due to space limitation here are only a few: Bill and Shann Rupp, George and Beverly Hesse, Ed and Bernie Scoles, Kathy Lewin, Mary Mueller, Dick Davis, Andy Hammond, and Les Kelly.

J.S. Holliday's key-note speech was electrifying! Vignettes and paper presentations rounded out our knowledge of the gold rush history and region. Nine pre-convention tours led by trail experts were

"adventures of a lifetime" to quote just a few who took the tours. I signed up for the Beckwourth Trail Tour and it was everything the registration material said it would be and more. Ginger and Norrine, thanks for making that tour so memorable. OCTA convention goes fellowshiped during the Awards banquet, the Italian dinner Thursday evening and western barbecue on Saturday. We all left for home with "good feelings" to add to our OCTA convention memory scrapbooks.

Also, we at headquarters wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the retiring officers and directors for their dedication and service to OCTA: Roger Blair, Will Bagley, Levida Hileman, Walter Meyer, and Bill Rupp.

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Endowment (continued From Page 1)

The Watsons have asked OCTA chapters to provide a list of routes they would like to have added, including its name, its length, its historic significance and physical evidence about its current condition. The information will be provided to Congress during the 2000 session.

- Heard from Jere Krakow of the National Parks Service Long Distance Trails Office that the final version of the Comprehensive Management Plan will be ready for limited distribution in the near future. Inquiries concerning how to obtain copies can be directed to Krakow's office in Salt Lake City (801-534-0741).

- Approved a Board reorganization plan proposed by incoming President Dave Welch. Three subcommittees of the 12-member Board will be created to consider policies and make recommendations to the full board in specific areas. The reorganization also places responsibility for specific committees under specific elected officers.

- Referred to committee for further study consideration of whether OCTA will hire an Executive Director.

New Officers (continued From Page 1)

Welch has also served as president of the Northwest Chapter and has been actively involved in the Baker City and Pendleton OCTA conventions.

A retired aerospace engineer and a member of the Steilacoom Town Council, his interest in trails comes from the fact that his ancestors traveled to California and Oregon from 1847 to 1860.

Wagner is a journalist, photographer and filmmaker and former director of the Wyoming Travel Commission. He has led a number of Trail Treks for travel writers, editors, photographers and group tour operators.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Frontier Heritage Alliance and serves as a consultant for heritage tourism programs for both the Wyoming Division of Tourism and Nevada's Great Platte River Road Memorial Foundation.

Carbiener is a retired bank executive who has lived in Central Oregon for four years, moving from Central California. His great-grandfather came from England to Salt Lake City in 1849, while his wife, Muriel, counts a great-grandfather who crossed Panama to the California gold fields in 1851.

Holden is a lifelong resident of the Casper area and is retired as Director of the Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Tax Department. She is starting her first full term as Secretary after being appointed to fill an unexpired term. -- Bill Martin

The new OCTA roster goes to press this fall. If you have any address or phone number changes, please advise headquarters as soon as possible.



New OCTA Board Members, left to right, Suzette McCord-Rogers, Don Popejoy, Bob Kabel and Randy Wagner.

— Photo By Bill Martin

New Board Members Elected

Randy Wagner of Cheyenne, Wyoming, Suzette McCord-Rogers of Highland, Kansas, Don Popejoy of Spokane, Washington, and Bob Kabel of State College, Pennsylvania, have been elected to serve two-year terms on the OCTA Board of Directors.

Wagner is a journalist, filmmaker and photographer and former Director of the Wyoming Travel Commission. He is also a director of the Frontier Heritage Alliance, Casper National Historic Trails Center and Tracks Across Wyoming.

McCord-Rogers has been president of the Gateway Chapter since 1993. She is curator of the Native American Heritage Museum, Highland Mission State Historic Site. She is also OCTA's Challenge Cost Share Grant liaison with the National Park Service.

Popejoy is a member of all 11 OCTA chapters and has been actively involved in the Northwest Chapter's trail marking activities. He is also active in the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and is researching a book on Lewis and Clark in the Columbia River.

Bob Kabel is an active member of both the Wyoming and Northwest Chapters, despite living in Pennsylvania, where he is a professor emeritus in chemical engineering at Penn State University. He has traveled the Oregon Trail both by car and airplane.

2000 Convention

The Year 2000 OCTA convention will be held in Kansas City the week of August 7, hosted by the Trails Head chapter. The theme of the convention will be "Beyond The Wide Missouri." Information is available at www.trailshead.org

Future convention sites include Kansas City in 2000, Casper in 2001 and Manhattan, Kansas in 2003. Discussions are underway about a Reno convention in 2002. An invitation is pending for the Northwest Chapter to host the 2004 convention, with a site to be determined.

California Really Is Different, Holliday Tells OCTA

While the California Gold Rush has often been credited with a pivotal role in the opening of the American West, in fact there were many reasons why it was not typical of the emigration movement, according to historian J.S. Holliday.

In an impassioned and well-received keynote address to OCTA's 17th Annual Convention in Chico, Holliday stated flatly that "in my opinion...the Gold Rush was not part of the westward movement."

The author of the critically acclaimed *The World Rushed In: The California Gold Rush Experience* and the newly published *Rush For Riches: Gold Fever and the Making of California* offered an analysis of the differences between the Gold Rush and normal western emigration.

Most significantly, Holliday noted, for more than 200 years, the gradual move west across the continent had been made by pioneer families led by men who brought the trappings of home with them, including wives, children, churches and authority. The Gold Rush, by contrast, was made up overwhelmingly of men who left home behind them.

It was a uniquely masculine society, he said, made up overwhelmingly by transient men who had left everything behind in search of gold.

"There had never been anything like it before," Holliday said. "California began as a different place, under the magnetic appeal of gold. Never had there been such an opportunity."

Up until the 1850s, western emigration had been a slow gradual movement, he noted, but the lure of gold in California "drove people across the continent." Holliday said that key characteristics of the society the Gold Rush created -- the fact that it was affluent, urban, mostly male and a consumer market -- set it apart.

"It was an interruption of the westward movement," he told OCTA, "and not part of the American West."

He compared the settlement of California during the Gold Rush to the opening of Oregon Territory, which he said was more typical of westward emigration.

"Oregon represents what America had always offered in the westward movement," Holliday said. "California offered something completely different."

The appeal of that "something different" is reflected in 1860 census figures, which showed 380,000 people in California and 54,000 in Oregon, Holliday noted.

One of the things it offered that was different, he added, was "the freedom of anonymity...you could do anything you wanted. You had the freedom to live as you always wanted -- with no mother, no wife, no minister, no hometown eyes on you. There was no one to say 'no.'"



Author J.S. Holliday autographed his latest book after his keynote address in Chico.

— Photo by Bev Hesse

He cited one letter home from a Gold Rusher, who wrote "the freedom, the liberality and the excitement here...make a man feel sad at the prospect of returning to the old beaten path at home."

At the same time, while most of those who moved westward settled in sparsely populated areas and engaged in subsistence agriculture, California was different in that it was a urban society with a consumer-driven market.

People settled almost immediately into established towns and cities and there were lots of people to sell to, leading almost immediately to the need to produce surplus crops for sale in what he called "the most affluent society in the history of the world."

— Bill Martin

Levy Offers Another View

Women and minorities played an influential and all too frequently downplayed role in the California Gold Rush, historian and author JoAnn Levy told attendees at the OCTA Convention in Chico.

Levy, author of *They Saw The Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush*, offered a counterpoint to keynote speaker J.S. Holliday, who characterized the trek to California in the 1850s as primarily a male endeavor.

"One of the most common assumptions about Gold Rush California is that it was almost exclusively a male domain and that such women as could be found here were prostitutes," Levy said in a presentation entitled "The Other Forty-Niners."

However, Levy argued, a study of diaries, memoirs, newspapers and census records refutes that misperception, revealing that the migration to California included thousands of "respectable" women.

She offered journal accounts which she said portrayed "vivid images of independent and determined women (which) are strikingly at odds with the stereotypical picture of the long-suffering, sad-eyed pioneer wife peering wearily westward while a creaking covered wagon carries her ever farther from the comforts of home."

A number of women actually worked in the mines -- "Many women contracted gold fever as readily as men," Levy said -- but many found it easier to market their domestic skills in exchange for gold, baking pies, doing laundry, running boarding houses.

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JoAnn Levy (continued from Page 5)

Also overlooked, Levy noted, is the impact of tens of thousands of Chinese who were attracted to California.

"Their contributions to the state's culture and economy deserve recognition and appreciation," she said. "They came for the gold, like all the adventurers, but they stayed to build an agricultural wonderland, construct levees, hurl a railroad over a mountain.

"And the several thousand women who, though choice, chance or circumstance, found themselves in California during the 'great adventure,' have been equally ignored," Levy added, "in favor of that red-shirted miner in the slouch hat, a pick on his shoulder. After the gold fever subsided, many of those overlooked women remained to help settle the land.

"Although they are today a neglected part of Gold Rush history, the 'other' 49ers...were here when history was being made," Levy concluded, "And they helped make it."

-- Bill Martin



JoAnn Levy during her presentation to the OCTA Convention.

-- Photo by Bill Martin

Headquarters News (continued from Page 3)

Back at headquarters we have added several interesting books/items to our "store" and these may be ordered by phone, (816-252-2276), fax, (816-836-0989); or e-mail, us at octahqts@gvi.net. Members, remember to take your 10 percent discount.

Two-sided jigsaw puzzle from Hill House - *Westward Bound* with William Henry Jackson (100 pieces - ages 5 and up - 11 1/2" x 16 1/4") Fits Assembled in the box! - \$8.95

Cherokee Trail Diaries, by Patricia K.A. Fletcher, Dr. Jack Earl Fletcher and Lee Whiteley - documents pioneering two wagon trails from Arkansas, Cherokee Nation, and Missouri to the main California trail near Fort Bridger, Wyoming. Continuing to California the Cherokee/white companies travel the Hastings Cutoff, the first documented wagon companies after the 1846 Reed/Donner party. Softcover \$29.95, Hardcover \$39.95.

Rush for Riches, J.S. Holliday, Oakland Museum of California and University of California Press, Softcover \$29.95, Hardcover \$55.00. AUTOGRAPHED COPIES LIMITED, BUT STILL AVAILABLE!

Later this fall our OCTA 2000 Catalog will be arriving in your mail! Don't make out your Christmas list before seeing it.

OCTA Presents Awards To Outstanding Educators

Teachers from California, Nevada and Arizona have won Outstanding Educator Awards from the Oregon-California Trails Association.

The awards were presented to Ed Gwartney of Madera, California, James Stanley Cazier of Carson City, Nevada, and Roger Nichols of Tucson, Arizona, during OCTA's annual Recognition Banquet in Chico on August 11.

Gwartney, a fourth grade teacher at James Monroe Elementary School, created the Monroe Children's Museum and Discovery Center to help introduce students to the Oregon and California Trails and the Gold Rush era. The Center includes a Gold Rush community of the 1850s, complete with a hard rock mine, placer mining display, a theater, Pony Express station, miner's court, miner's store, cemetery, jail and more. Students dressed in costume serve as docents for the exhibit, which previously won the California School Board Association's Golden Bell Award.

Cazier is a seventh grade social studies teacher at Carson Middle School. He developed a curriculum for students which focused on the Nevada Humboldt River Basin and the western route of the California Trail through the area. Students were exposed to what life was like on the trail and the trials and tribulations of emigrants. Coursework included journal reading and students were asked to write their own journal entries of a fabricated journey on the trail.

Nichols is a professor in the History Department at the University of Arizona and has taught lecture courses in Western American, Frontier America and Indians in American History. In all three courses, he includes travel experiences of western emigrants and their relationship to the settlement of the West. In one course, the students' major paper assignment calls for them to read a travel diary or journal and analyze the trail experiences of an individual or family.

The annual awards recognize excellence in teaching about the westward overland emigration. William E. Hill of Centereach, N.Y., is chairman of the OCTA Education Committee which oversees the awards. For information about the awards, write to Hill at 91 Wood Road, Centereach, NY 11720 or e-mail him at hillhousew@aol.com.

-- Bill Martin

Lost & Found

Two pairs of prescription eyeglasses were found at the Chico convention and never claimed. One pair has clear plastic frames, the other pair has metal frames and were in a black vinyl cases. If they are yours, contact Shann Rupp at shabi@sonnet.com

OCTA-Sponsored Wagon Train Completes Journey

By Candy Moulton

The California National Historical Trail Wagon Train delivered the mail and ended its 2,100-mile journey to recognize the sesquicentennial of the 1849 California Gold Rush Sept. 27 on the banks of the America River in Coloma, where gold was discovered in 1848. Along the way train participants visited with hundreds of people about the trail, and distributed trail literature.

Wagon Master Ben Kern of Evansville, Wyo., led a train of five wagons into Coloma and camped along the American River, where on Jan. 24, 1848, John Marshall discovered gold. That discovery prompted thousands of people to travel overland in 1849 as they made their way to the gold fields.

Although the wagon train had intended to conclude the trip in Sacramento, permits could not be obtained from the California Highway Patrol in order to travel on to the California State Capital until after the wagon train had already disbanded.

"We were told by a Patrol officer on Sunday that he would be in Coloma Monday morning to escort us in to Sacramento. On Monday we hitched our mules to our wagons in anticipation of his arrival. When he didn't arrive at the designated time, I called and was told we did not have an escort," Kern said.

Subsequently the wagon train participants decided since every step of the crossing had been made with the mules pulling the wagons across the route, to end the trip in Coloma.

"We wanted to make a trip as authentically as possible and did not want to truck our wagons and teams over any of the trail route," Kern said. "When we got to the American River there at Coloma we had accomplished all that we needed to do.

"I felt like we had a good trip. We had a good outfit. We had good wagons, good mules. I think we were a good looking outfit," he said.

Through efforts of OCTA member Kay Threlkeld, who traveled with the wagon train, permission was eventually obtained to continue to Sacramento. However, by the time that happened several of the wagon train travelers had already departed for their homes, and the wagons themselves were loaded onto trucks and trailers in anticipation of hauling them



The California National Historic Trail Wagon Train leaving Twin Spring Campground near the Hudspeth Cutoff in Idaho.

— Photo by Fred Dykes

back to Idaho and Wyoming.

The California National Historical Trail Wagon Train — which received sponsorship support from OCTA — left St. Joseph, Mo., on April 26 traveling across Kansas, Wyoming, Idaho, and Nevada, before continuing on in to California.

Three wagons made the entire crossing including one owned by Kern, one owned by Chuck and Mary Quillin of New Sharon, Iowa., and a third one owned by the National Park Service and co-sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Other participants making the trip were from Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska.

Along the way the wagon train participated in the ground breaking for the National Historical Trails Center in Casper, Wyo., which is being built to interpret the Oregon, California, Mormon, Pony Express, Bridger and Bozeman Trails. The train was also involved in a film project for that center and it participated in the dedication of the Oregon-California Trail Interpretive Center in Montpelier, Idaho.

The route also included crossings of both the Sublette Cutoff in Wyoming and the Hudspeth Cutoff in Idaho. Other wagons joined the trip en route so when the train reached Coloma it had five wagons.

Bypass/Donner Trail Update

The issue of a proposed California 267 highway bypass and its impact on a section of the historic Donner Trail, reported in the July issue, continued to languish as *News From The Plains* went to press.

OCTA's Don Wiggins, who located the section of trail just east of Truckee, said the California Department of Transportation had rewritten its report on the project at the request of the California State Historic Preservation Office.

The new report was to indicate that the highway project would "disturb" the trail segment, but the most significant

question of mitigation had yet to be answered.

"They are going to mitigate, but we don't know how much," said Tom Hunt, Trails Preservation Officer for the CA-NV Chapter.

At press time, neither Hunt or Wiggins had been advised of a decision in the issue.

Research efforts by Wiggins have resulted in evidence that the trail crossed in the path of the planned bypass.

— Bill Martin



Scenes From Chico



Joe Ellingson, left, and Bill Rupp with the "Welcome OCTA" sign outside the Elks Lodge in Chico.



Tom Hunt makes a point during a trails tour. — Photo by Doug Clary



Kathy Buob and Norene Kimmey wore their colors. — Photo by Doug Clary

Chico Convention Videotapes Available

The Audio-Visual Department at Cal State-Chico video-taped the presentations of papers and vignettes at the Chico Convention. A two-volume video set is being offered for \$40, including tax, shipping and handling.

Presentations include Mary Ann & Frank Tortorich, "Getting Ready To Go;" J.S. Holliday, "At Trail's End: California's Promises and Realities, 1840s-1880s;" Richard Silva, "Emigrant Trail Through Photography;" Mike Gillis, "John Bidwell, California Pioneer;" Frank Tortorich, "The Gold Rush Trail;" Don Weston, "The Making of a Wagon Wheel;" JoAnn Levy, "The Other Forty-Niners;" Jim McClain, "Hydraulic Mining;" Jacqueline Williams, "Water Was Not Everywhere;" Greg MacGregor, "The Emigrant Trail – Then and Now;" Larry Shiflet, "Cowboy Poetry;" and Curtis Grant, "The California Gold Rush and the Future of the Republic."

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(CSUC recording of presentations on August 11 and August 14, 1999)

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Cost Share Project Update

A January 31 cutoff date has been set for new projects under the Challenge Cost Share Project administered by the National Parks Service, according to Suzette McCord-Rogers, OCTA chair of the CCSP program. In a report to the Board of Directors at its annual meeting, McCord-Rogers said no new projects have been approved since 1997.

"I would like to stress that the National Park Service is interested in finished products," McCord-Rogers said. "Before applying for a new project, I would advise that it be reviewed to see if it is a practical project, can it really be achieved, and that the project director and the chapter are committed to producing an end product."

For information about the Challenge Cost Share program, contact McCord-Rogers at (785) 442-3304.

The project status report presented to the Board:

1994 Projects

94-1 Nevada Trail segment mapping (Dave Johnson) *Complete*

94-2 Aerial Locations of California Trail segments (Don Buck) *Closed*

94-3 Trail Alternatives Mapping and Marking (Al Mulder) *Complete*

94-4 Yreka Trail Mapping (Arnold & Silva) *Complete*

94-5 Donner Spring (Al Mulder) *Complete*

94-6 Trail Marking (Bill Watson & Randy Brown)
Nebraska *Completed*

Gateway *Completed by 9-30-99*

Wyoming I *Completed*

Idaho *Waiting for Report*

Kanza *Will complete by 2000*

Wyoming II *Will complete by 9-30-99*

(Some chapters have agreed to continue until all carsonite markers have been placed and recorded.)

94-7 Trail Mapping and Physical Inventory (Bill Wilson) *Closed (This project is three-quarters finished and maps submitted to the NPS and OCTA. Final maps will be submitted by September 30.)*

94-8 Emigrant Diary Archival Research (Susan Badger Doyle) *Complete*

94-9 Reconnaissance of Emigrant Camps (Bill Wilson) *Closed*

94-10 Mapping the Oregon Trail in Idaho *Closed (The Idaho Chapter hopes to finish this project over the next two years and is requesting permission from the NPS to borrow a computer and GPS unit for at least two additional years.)*

94-11 Trail Marking (Dave Welch) *Complete*

94-12 Fort Bridger Archeological Project *Complete*

1996 Projects

96-13 California Trail Marking (Bill Watson & Randy Brown) *Ongoing (Logos are being distributed and are being placed with markers. The project will be completed as markers are placed and reported.)*

96-14 Fort Hall Preservation (Mike Bateman) *Extended by NSP. (Recommendation is that it be closed)*

Preservation Officer's Report

A lawsuit seeking to open portions of the City of Rocks National Preserve in southern Idaho to rock climbing was still lingering in federal court as *News From The Plains* went to press.

OCTA has filed a "friend of the court" brief in the case in which the Access Fund (Rock Climbers Association) has sued the National Park Service over its ban on climbing on Twin Sisters Monument.

According to National Preservation Officer Dick Ackerman, both the fund and the federal Solicitor General had requested delays in the case and the delays were approved by the court.

At the Board of Directors meeting in Chico, Ackerman also reported on several other matters involving the Trails Preservation office:

- A farmer in Western Nebraska who appeared to be threatening to plow under several trail remnants on his property near Chimney Rock now says he has no plans whatsoever to disturb any of the trail. The farmer told Ackerman that as long as he owns the property the trail remnants will be protected and preserved.

- Colorado Interstate Gas Company is proceeding with its new Medicine Bow Lateral Pipeline. The pipeline will come very close to trail remnants south of Douglas, Wyoming and close to a grave in the same area. These things have been called to their attention and they feel confident they can avoid doing any damage, Ackerman said.

- A large natural gas development planned for along the Lander Road south and west of Pinedale is still moving ahead as projected. As many as 700 producing new gas wells are expected in the next few years.

- The Texaco Company has filed for a revision of its permit which is located southwest of Farson and is referred to as the Stagecoach Draw Unit. Along with increasing the number of wells in this area, Texaco also lists the miles of pipeline to be installed and roadways to maintain this activity. This is something we need to stay on top of until we learn more about how they plan on going ahead with this activity, according to Ackerman

- A proposal to build a spur railroad track near Skull Valley, Utah will probably cross the Hastings Cutoff.

- The threat to the Barlow Road Trail on the western slopes of the Cascades seems to have evaporated. The parties that petitioned the Court to establish a rock quarry along the Trail have withdrawn their petition possibly because so many individuals filed to present testimony.

1997 Projects

97-8 Applegate Trail Mapping (Richard Silva) *Ongoing*

97-2 Oregon Trail Mapping (Dave Welch) *Ongoing*

97-10 California Trail Mapping (Dave Johnson) *Ongoing*

OCTA Presents Annual Recognition Awards

A **Meritorious Achievement Award** presented to Bill and Shann Rupp highlighted the Annual Recognition Banquet at the 1999 OCTA Convention in Chico.

"No two people, working as a team, have contributed more to OCTA over the years than these two have," said Tom Hunt in nominating the Jamestown, CA husband and wife team. "And it has all be done at *their* initiative. They have *wanted* to contribute to the cause of historic trails preservation, so they have just stepped forward and done so. OCTA...needs to recognize and encourage this type of self-motivated participation."

The Meritorious Achievement Award is the highest honor bestowed by OCTA. Bill Rupp has been a member of the national Board of Directors and President of the CA-NV Chapter. Shann has served as COED coordinator. Both were instrumental in organizing the Chico Convention.

Other awards presented at the banquet included:

Distinguished Service Awards

Carrie Smith, District Archaeologist for the Truckee Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service, for her efforts in helping locate, mark and map the Truckee River Branch of the California Trail. Nominated by Don Wiggins.

Gerry Gates, an archaeologist with the Forest Service in the Modoc National Forest, for his efforts in setting up the Passport In Time (PIT) Program. Nominated by Richard and Orsola Silva.

Surprise Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management for a variety of preservation activities in the Applegate Trail/High Rock Canyon area. Nominated by Chuck Dodd.

Distinguished OCTA Volunteer of the Year

Presented to Mary Mueller. She was nominated by Pat Loomis, who described her as "the ultimate volunteer." The nomination cited her work in leading tours, helping organize three national conventions, serving on the national board, working on grave marking and other efforts. "Mary Mueller could be classed as a model for volunteerism," Loomis said. "She believes in OCTA's goals and has never met a trail she didn't love."

National Certificates of Appreciation

Larry Ludwig, National Park Service Head Ranger at the Fort Bowie National Historic Site in southeastern Arizona. He was nominated by Richard and Marie Greene and Judy and Tracy DeVault for his assistance in Apache Pass Trail mapping.

Kassidy and Gena Falkenburg, ages 10 and 8, respectively, for their assistance to Randy Brown, who nominated them, in trail marking in eastern Wyoming. The sisters not only participated in several outings marking trails, but were credited with helping locate and identify a previously unknown pioneer gravesite.

The U.S. Postal Service and Chico Postmaster Clinton R. Powell for issue a California Gold Rush Commemorative Stamp and providing special cancellation services for the Chico Convention.

Friend of the Trail

Marion and Scott Bradley on the Independence Branch of the Oregon-California Trail and the William Tompson Family on the Lassen Trail of the California Trail.

-- Bill Martin

Meritorious Achievement Award winners Shann and Bill Rupp with Awards Chair Ross Marshall.
-- Photo by Bev Hesse



Kassidy, left, and Gena, right, Falkenburg with Awards Committee Member Rose Ann Tompkins.
-- Photo by Bev Hesse



OCTA's Don Buck, far left, with the William Tompson family, recipients of a Friends of the Trail Award.

-- Photo By Bill Martin



OCTA Volunteer of the Year winner Mary Mueller with Awards Chair Ross Marshall.

- Photo by Bill Martin



U.S. Forest Service Archaeologist Carrie Smith with OCTA's Don Wiggins.
— Photo by Bill Martin



Hugh Bunten of the Bureau of Land Management accepts Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the Surprise Field Office from OCTA's Chuck Dodd.

— Photo by Bill Martin



Friends of the Trail Award Winners Scott and Marion Bradley with Ross Marshall

— Photo by Bill Martin



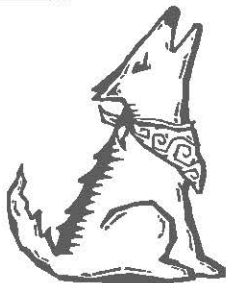
Editor Marilyn Holt, right, presented the Merrill Mattes Award for the best Overland Journal article to Margaret F. Walker for "A Woman's Work Is Never Done: Or, The Dirt on Men and Their Laundry," which appeared in the Summer, 1998, issue.

— Photo by Bill Martin



Education Award Winners Michele Pecina (accepting on behalf of Ed Gwartney), Jim Cazier and Roger Nichols, with OCTA Education Committee Chair William Hill.
(See story on Page 6)

— Photo by Bill Martin



NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

Crossroads

The Field Trip Schedule read "Rain or Shine, Saturday, May 15th." There was a cloud cover at 7:30 a.m., when the first participants arrived in the parking lot at Exit 281, American Fork. There had been rain just an hour before and the tell-tale signs were still visible on the blacktop.

As the final minutes before departure ticked by, a sizeable crowd of 38 souls in 15 vehicles had assembled. **George Ivory**, who had printed the Trail Guide Book, and his lady **Jenille** were ready and eager to get started. **Randy and Connie Wilson** helped count noses, collect money and get the caravan in line, and we were off.

As is usually the case, the Wagon Master was **Roy Tea**, who had prepared the tour booklet. He was asked to not get too far ahead as some of the group always has trouble keeping up with him.

The first leg of our trip snaked along almost every back street of American Fork, Pleasant Grove and Provo. We managed to stay next to or on top of the Trail almost all the way. I was certain that we were going to have people and cars strung out and lost, and it would take days to round them all up. **Lyndia and Robert Carter** were our guides for this part of the trip. Lyndia did the talking on the CB radio and Robert was able to control Roy's lead foot. We ALL arrived at our first scheduled stop and after a short walk along the raging Provo River, were treated to a view of the future excavation spot of Old Fort Utah. Enjoying the walk along the river and the narration along the way were **Marie Irvine** and **Naomi Cottam**. We had a donut and juice and were on the Trail again.

We passed through Springville, Spanish Fork, Payson, Santaquin and Mona, with a stop at Burnston Ponds. The public park in Nephi afforded us some shade, as the sun was now high in the sky, and it was time for lunch. George brought some of his, *now world famous*, salsa which **Mathew and Jared Ivory** were a little hesitant to share with us. They had to be educated, "SALSA OR WALK" and they quickly gave in.

Heading south again we stopped for a few minutes to view and walk along a section of the trail and also to repair a broken Dominguez-Escalante trail marker near Chicken Creek Reser-



Utah Crossroads chapter members in front of a marker honoring the 1776 Escalante Expedition.
— Photo by Vern Gorzitze

voir. **Mike Tea** mixed a batch of cement -- ooops, sorry Roy -- concrete and several sets of skilled hands soon had the base in better shape than new. At least better shape than we had found it. The trip thus far had been right on the '49er route or within a stone's throw of it. We were able to plot our position and follow the trail on one of the 20 maps in our guide book.

"Soda Sue" **Charlene Olorenshaw**, who ventured down from Soda Springs and **John Kuzara** from Buffalo, Wyoming, were ready with a lot of questions which they posed over the CB network we had. They thought they would be able to stump Roy, he had done his homework and would have none of it. A small supplement to the guide book gave information about place names in Utah and the text appearing on DUP monuments along the way. This saved us some time, not having to stop and read them all. On this afternoon, before we reached our last point of interest, Cove Fort, we had traveled the Trail on frontage roads, always within sight of the Freeway, but never touching a tire to it. Now after a few miles on the Freeway, we headed to dinner and our lodgings for the night in Beaver. George asked a few of us to share with him the final resting place of his grandfather, Mathew Ivory (whose initials

(continued on next page)



Calif. - Nevada officers for the coming year: Ross McClintock, President Bill Webster, Carol March, Bill Rupp, Tom Fee, Dick Halford and Charlie Little.
— Photo by Doug Crary

Northwest

Vice-President Glenn Harrison welcomed 30 members and guests to the Convention Chapter meeting in the beautiful tree-lined city of Chico, California.

Glenn's first agenda item was to congratulate several Chapter members on their recent election to National office position.

Moving along, Glenn noted the spring 2000 National Board meeting will be held in Tacoma, Washington the first weekend of March. Volunteers are needed for functions associated with the meeting including tour leaders and chauffeurs for the visiting dignitaries. March will also include the annual Chapter meeting with date, location and agenda yet to be determined.

Richard Silva, NW and CA-NV member, offered a proposal to solicit a cost-share grant to conduct an archeological study on the Oregon to California Trail. Richard suggested the study be organized within each of the seven southern Oregon counties.

Committee reports were presented by Vic Bolon, Mapping, and Chuck Hornbuckle, Preservation. Vic noted the NPS cost-share project is nearing completion with the final section, Boardman Bombing Range to Cecil, to be marked in September. With the completion of field work the data will be placed on maps and, along with GPS readings, be submitted to the NPS.

Chuck Hornbuckle noted the main Oregon Trail is now under the watchful eye of Trail Monitors. Chuck Eccleston and Vern Arnold have been joined by Jack Holmes and Jack Ingram as Monitors for Applegate's Southern Route between the California border and Medford. Monitors are needed from Medford north. Although little physical evidence remains, Monitors are needed for the Meek Cut-off and Elliot's Free Emigrant Road.

Glenn, wearing the hat of Outings Chair, thanked all those who led tours during 1999 and reminded members of the upcoming Mulan Military Road outing September 25th and 26th. Y2K outings are being scheduled with commitments for repeat tours of Whitman's Blue Mountain Crossing, Applegate's Southern Route, Meek's Cut-off and Mullen's Military Road-Part 2.

Guest Ross Marshall, OCTA's Chapters chair, addressed Chapter members with the challenge to actively participate in OCTA pleasures by seeking Chapter and National offices, leading tours, and providing news articles for local media. He closed by emphasizing the need to recognize landowners and others who aid OCTA's preservation efforts.

The meeting concluded and members returned to the convention festivities.

— Chuck Hornbuckle

Crossroads

(continued)

Ivory (whose initials are etched into the walls of Cache Cave). A tribute was given, and we all turned in for the night, all except Jerry Dunton who tried to find a battery for his camera. Not a battery in town; they could, however, order one that would be there in ten days.

Sunday morning found ice on the water bucket, a real surprise to those who did not bring a coat, who thought they were going to southern Utah. Iralyn Blosser and her family left us at this point and headed home. Some of the participants in our Sunday leg of the trail were Maurine and LaVell Henderson (Sandy), Guarth and Anna Lou Hansen (Logan). We made our way south again to Paragona, where we picked up the Spanish Trail and through Parowan to Parowan Gap to view the petroglyphs. (No one knew they were there, not even Roy). While there, we were joined by Crossroads member Walt Hayward and Ron Archibald, both of Kanarrville. Jan and Eldon Fletcher offered their interpretation of the strange inscriptions as did Boyd and Ouida Blanthorn, all who had been very quiet until then. (It is interesting what prompts us to speak up). I have it on good authority that "this was a massive observatory" much larger than Stonehenge. After Johnson Fort near Enoch we had an "ice cream" stop in Cedar City, where Jerry Dunton discovered the wonderful and highly technical G.P.S. set up Kevin Landis had in his vehicle. I am sure it will not be long until Jerry is fully outfitted with something similar.

Lunch time found us at the Jefferson Hunt Monument, midway between Newcastle and Enterprise, where one 49er party struck off through Death Valley. On the road again we headed to the Mountain Meadow Massacre site. At the monument and overlook, Ruth, Howard, Kay and Rick Randle, listened very intently as Jerry Dunton gave us some of the history and background on the area. It must have been good, because all the other tourists stopped and listened as well.

At this time, the sun, still being high in the sky and leaving us some daylight, found us breaking up to head home. Good weather, good food, great friends and no problems . . . what more could one ask for? A good time was had by all.

— Vern Gorzitze

MORE NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

Following the spring annual meeting, members of the Idaho/Montana Chapter toured the Gooddale Cutoff route between Boise and Emmett, Idaho. The tour was led by OCTA Director Wally Meyer, who had found and marked the route while employed with the Bureau of Land Management. Sadly, all of the markers have been damaged or destroyed by vandals or cattle.

The Chapter joined with the Northwest Chapter in a very interesting and well-attended three day tour beginning at the Ward Memorial near Caldwell, Idaho, and ending at Baker City, Oregon.

Because the California National Historic Trail wagon train was planning to take Hudspeth's Cutoff across southern Idaho, it seemed appropriate to install markers at significant locations along the trail. The only existing markers were several where the Cutoff left the Oregon Trail and others at the south crossing of the Blue Spring Hills. Markers were placed beginning at the Lava Hot Springs Cemetery and continuing west to the eastern boundary of the Sawtooth National Forest. They were placed only on public land and mostly on visible traces of the trail. One very significant trace marked is that leading west from Twin Springs, which probably still looks much the same as when the pioneers crossed there. Rumor has it that this wagon train is the last one to be permitted to cross the Kress ranch. If true, those heading west from Twin Springs will have to take a 13-mile detour to return to the Cutoff route.

Extensive trail marking was also done along the Snake River downstream from American Falls. The major effort dealt with a 0.8 mile stretch of excellent swales on Massacre Rocks State Park property. These swales are accessed from a rest area near milepost 32 on the westbound lanes of I-86. A trail kiosk is provided at the rest area, and a paved pathway and pedestrian tunnels under the Interstate lead to a display area and the swales. The marking was a joint effort of the state park and OCTA, with park manager Max Newlin assigning employee Kim Tripp to work on the marking. Fourteen markers were placed because the broken and wooded area prevented long sight lines between markers.

Another significant area marked is on BLM land about two miles upstream from the Massacre Rocks swales. This area is accessed by the Eagle Rock road. Locally, it is known as Duck Point, with Eagle Rock being another mile downstream. BLM archaeologist Dick Hill provided a vehicle and markers for this area, and OCTA provided decals and a pounder. These swales had not previously been marked or identified.

Two other areas also marked are the swale across Ferry Hollow which is 1 1/2 miles downstream from American Falls, and the swale leading up from Cold Water Camp to the bench land between the Snake and Raft River. This swale is pointed out at a kiosk located at the rest area on the eastbound lanes of I-86 at milepost 18.

None of the 40 markers placed could have been installed without the use of a custom-built pounder made by OCTA member Don McNeil of Soda Springs, Idaho. So this debt to Don is gratefully acknowledged. However, the pounder con-

Idaho



Massacre Rocks State Park employee Kim Tripp with OCTA markers on ruts accessible from the rest area on I-86. — Photo Courtesy Fred Dykes



OCTA member Fred Dykes at first marker placed on BLM land near Eagle Rock on the Snake River downstream from American Falls. — Photo courtesy Fred Dykes

sists, among other things, of 3 feet of 1 1/4 inch diameter solid steel rod, and weighs 32 pounds. Also, it was built to fit Carsonite markers with a central rib on the backside. Markers without the rib are slightly wider, and would become jammed in the pounder unless the top edges of the marker were trimmed. So no one who participated in the marking effort is eager to continue with the same equipment. Will someone outside of Idaho please make Don an offer he can't refuse for his pounder?

— Fred Dykes

Trails Head

Among Trails Head members attending the Chico convention were chapter secretary Eva Allen, Jim and Judy Budde, Kathy and Jim Conway, Larry Melton, and Ross and Jana Marshall, plus some loyal chapter members who live in distant states.

Back at home now the chapter goes into high gear for Convention 2000. Monthly meetings are bringing it all together for a convention YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS! At Chico we gave out surveys to explore if local non-trail tours to museums, cemeteries, and Truman sites might be offered before the official OCTA events. If you took a survey but did not return it to the Trails Head table, please mail to Barbara Magerl, 6801 W. 72 Terr., Overland Park, KS 66204.

Several years ago the chapter worked with Evelyn Bartlow and the Mid-Continent Council of Girl Scouts on a "Walk a Swale" project. Trail Head members, under direction of former Girl Scout Elaine McNabney, led the girls through the deep swale in Minor Park in Kansas City, teaching them about trail history. Evelyn, a Trails Head member, won the 1999 Best Book Award from the Missouri Writers' Guild for her book, *Emily on the Santa Fe Trail*. It was inspired by the "Walk a Swale" project.

On June 30 we had a P.R. and exhibit booth at Pioneer Day at Kansas City's City Market. Many people learned about OCTA for the first time.

Trails Head members and the chapter supported Cave Spring Association's drive for funds to purchase a small piece of land with a swale on it in the Raytown area of Kansas City. The drive was successful and a note of thanks is extended to all who contributed.

The chapter will co-sponsor with Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center a meeting at the center on September 16. Speaker Kevin Phillips, tour guide at the Arabia Steamboat Museum, will present "Riverboat Travel Heading West by Water." On October 16, preparing for Convention 2000 tours, the chapter will have a trek along the Independence Route.

-- Judy Budde

New Officers Directory

President: Dave Welch, 102 Chonook Lane, Stellacoom WA 98388-1442. Phone 253 584-0332.
E-mail djwelch@compuserve.com

Vice President: Randy Wagner, 1007 Monroe Avenue, Cheyenne WY 82001-6617. Phone 307 634-4263.
E-mail rwagner@wyoming.com

Treasurer: Gail Carbiener, 18160 Cottonwood Rd. #751, Sunriver OR 97707. Phone 541 593-2190.
E-mail carbg@cmc.net

Secretary: Mary Holden, 3580 E. 8th Street, Casper, WY 82609-2708. Phone 307 234-5049. E-mail: mrhldn@coffey.com

National Preservation Officer: Dick Ackerman, 3027 Twin Oak Pl NW, Salem OR 97304-1229. Phone: 503 581-0328.

Scenes From Chico



"Hawks and Eagles" entertained the Convention crowd with a "hoe down." — Photo by Doug Clary



The ceremonial "passing of the fork" between outgoing president Roger Blair, left, and new president Dave Welch.

Photo by Bev Hesse



Conventioners enjoyed an outdoor display of emigrant trail prints.

— Photo by Bill Martin

The Paper Trail: A History of OCTA Publications

Longtime OCTA member and Editor of OCTA's *Emigrant Trails Historical Studies Series*, Susan Badger Doyle has been involved in OCTA publications since the organization was created. She wrote the following in response to a number of questions and recent discussions.

By Susan Badger Doyle

OCTA's publications are essential to the organization's primary stated purpose of historic trail preservation. Among other things, OCTA's publications program provides communication, information, documentation, and heightened public awareness of historic trail issues. OCTA's publications—the *Overland Journal*, *News From the Plains*, and Special Publications—fall under OCTA's Publications Committee.

Candy Moulton is chair of the Publications Committee. The committee is comprised of the editors Susan Badger Doyle (Special Publications general editor), Marilyn Holt (*Overland Journal* editor), and Bill Martin (*News From the Plains* editor), and additional members Mike Brown, Bob Clark, and Harold James, all of whom have experience and expertise in editing and publishing. The committee oversees and provides guidance for OCTA's publications, establishes and monitors the quality of the publications, and confers on technical aspects. The chair of the committee serves as the liaison between the board and the editors of publications.

Each publication fulfills distinct OCTA objectives. The *Overland Journal* is a quarterly journal with articles based on documented research and primary source materials and offers in-depth, informative articles on the history, routes, and experience of the western overland trails

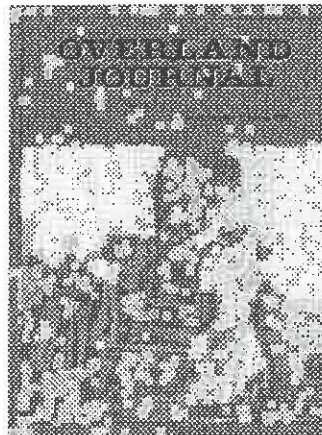
and is intended for the general reader and as a resource for scholars. As such, the *Overland Journal* is well respected for its historical trail perspective by numerous museums and libraries. An editorial advisory board assists the editor, serving as readers and reviewers of submitted manuscripts. Also, a book review editor, Harold Smith, contributes to each issue of the *Overland Journal*.

In contrast to journalistic, superficial magazines with broad appeal, the *Overland Journal* is a special-interest periodical aimed at a specific interest group, combines primary sources and authoritative studies, and has a tight focus. As former editor Chuck Dodd has stated, the *Overland Journal* is "a scholarly journal of lasting value" that provides "a permanent record of trail history."

The *News From the Plains* is an entirely different kind of publication. It is the quarterly newsletter for the organization. Its relaxed, informal style provides news of the activities of OCTA members, board, officers, chapters, and committees and is the board's primary means of communication with the

members.

Special Publications is a book publishing program within the Publications Committee. In August 1992 the Special Publications Fund was approved. The fund is proprietary and discretionary. It funds the two publishing programs in Special Publications: the *Emigrant Trails Historical Studies Series* and a new series, *Special Publication Series*.

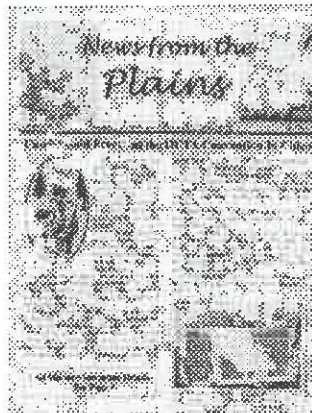


The *Emigrant Trails Historical Studies Series* is a numbered monograph series of book-length edited primary documents. The series is based on the premise that publication of primary source material is an important means of documenting historic trail routes and preserving the overland trail experience. The general editor is assisted by an editorial advisory board. The first volume in the series was published in 1995,

and since then two more have been published. The Special Publication series will not be a numbered series and will include historical studies and other works that are not edited primary sources. This allows greater flexibility and a wider range of published books.

The *Overland Journal* and the *News From the Plains* have both evolved through a difficult process of changes and upheavals. Publication of the *Overland Journal* began in July 1983. Greg Franzwa was the editor. "News From the Plains" was a feature column in the back of each issue that was a report on items of interest to OCTA members, and regular separate newsletter editions were issued as well. The name

Overland Journal was suggested by Aubrey Haines, Bozeman, Montana (now Tucson, Arizona), a retired National Park Service ranger, historian, and engineer. "News From the Plains" was suggested by John Latschar, Ph.D., National Park Service historian, Denver (now Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania).



With the second issue, Franzwa began reporting on

OCTA conventions as the focus of an annual convention issue. The *Overland Journal* under Franzwa's editorship included feature articles, reports, editorials, coverage of conventions and board meetings, book reviews, "News From the Plains," and "The Old Man's Corner." It was a folksy, all-purpose periodical with abundant photographs, well suited to the fledgling organization. (continued on Page 17)

Publications (continued from Page 16)

Franzwa's last issue of the *Overland Journal* was Spring 1987, without the "News From the Plains" column. Then he published *News From the Plains* as a separate publication in May 1987, with Betty Burnett as editor. Franzwa abruptly resigned as editor of the *Overland Journal* after the Spring 1987 issue, and Chuck Dodd took over as temporary editor in September. Although Dodd produced only two issues, Summer 1987 and Fall 1987, during this time he transformed it into the *Overland Journal* it is today by making several important changes. He changed the cover design, set the number of pages, established the editorial advisory board, discontinued requiring ads from convention exhibitors, and removed "The Old Man's Corner."

Lois Daniel was contracted to be the permanent *Overland Journal* editor in spring 1988. Her first issue was vol. 6, no. 1, published later that year. Daniel maintained the basic format established by Chuck Dodd but changed the cover design. She continued as editor through the Fall 1995 issue. Marilyn Holt, the current editor, replaced Daniel in 1995. Her first issue was the Winter 1995-1996 issue. Holt again changed the cover design, made improvements in paper, design, and content, and brought the *Overland Journal* to the high quality journal it is today.

Since 1987 the News From the Plains has also evolved. Following its inception as a newsletter publication, the *News From the Plains* was published during the next two years under temporary editors (Barbara Magerl and Chuck Dodd) until fall 1989, when Rose Ann Tompkins volunteered to be the first permanent editor. Tompkins's first issue was published in December 1989. Tompkins was the editor for five years and produced twenty issues. She succeeded in making the *News From the Plains* an admirable communication vehicle for OCTA. Will Bagley succeeded Tompkins as editor in December 1994. Bagley produced eight issues from January 1995 to October 1996. Bill Martin, the current editor, took over in fall 1996. His first issue was January 1997. Martin now produces the newsletter under contract. Each of these editors has made changes and contributed a unique and distinctive look to the newsletter.

Throughout the early, growing years, OCTA's publications functioned without the benefit of formal organization until spring 1988 when the Publications Committee was formed. Chuck Dodd was the chair, and the members were Judy Austin, JoAnn Levy, and Harold Smith. Don Buck became chair of the committee in 1990 and was responsible for its development over the next several years. In August 1995 Peter DeLafosse succeeded Buck and served until March 1996. Rose Ann Tompkins was the chair from March 1996 until she resigned in January 1998. Candy Moulton, the current chair, was appointed in August 1998. Each of these committee chairs has faced daunting problems as OCTA has grown and changed. As OCTA moves forward, the publications programs are poised to keep pace and, above all, to remain a vital part of OCTA's efforts at maintaining public awareness, understanding, and preservation of historic western trails.

Scenes From Chico



Frank and Mary Ann Tortorich got the convention started with their "Getting Ready To Go" vignette.
— Photo by Bill Martin



Enthusiastic OCTAns enjoy lunch in the Elks Lodge pavilion.

— Photo by Bill Martin



The typically crowded convention Book Room.

— Photo by Bill Martin

Letters ... Letters ... Letters ... Letters... Letters ...

Dear Editor:

Many thanks to the CA/NV Chapter for planning youth activities during the OCTA Convention in Chico. On Wednesday during Papers and Vignettes, our sons, ages 6 and 9, enjoyed Bill Rupp's opening statements and Frank and Mary Ann Tortorich's delightful skit "Getting Ready To Go" before joining their teacher, the excellent California Teacher of the Year award recipient, Karen March, for a day filled with fun and educational activities.

Ms. March was prepared for the day worth thoughtful projects like making and packing a covered wagon, beading, listening to diaries and stories, panning for gold, and throwing buffalo chips (or a reasonable facsimile). We were able to listen to the day's speakers, browse the book rooms, and converse with other OCTA members knowing our kids were having a great time, too.

I hope a similar program will be available in Kansas for we know are children would give it a definite "thumbs up". The future of trail preservation and trail marking lies in the hands of our children and grandchildren. Thank you again for including them.

Ed and Kathy Otto, Sacramento CA

Yuji Aisaka is one of OCTA'S handful of international members. He attended the Chico convention and offered this report, which is printed with some editing for space.

When I read "TRAPPERS TRAIL" by Lee Whitley (O.J. vol. 16, No.4), I felt like tracing the trail by bus. I secretly and publicly prepared for the Chico Convention when I knew of Lassen Trail tour. I read Bruff's book presented by Tom Hunt eight years ago. I was deeply moved with real dramas played in mountains. Thanks to Don Buck, we had a detailed Lassen Trail booklet cited from many documents. I admired his knowledge. Our caravan stopped at every important place and had good explanations from him, spreading maps.

I made an instant speech at Bruff's camp. "Tom Hunt gave me the Bruff's book. I have long wanted to visit this site. My dream has come true. THIS IS THE PLACE FOR ME. Please continue your travel for gold mines. I'll guard your properties alone."

Our Breckwourth tour bus happened to stop at Rich Bar which was founded in 1850. It suggests me an important thing I'm trying to locate. The only Japanese named John Mung mined in 1850. According to his memory, it took him five days from Sacramento. He was a fisher-boy, who got shipwrecked and was saved by an American whaler, captained by Whitfield, who took him to his home town, Fairhaven, MA. He was educated there and stayed for 10 years before he returned home in 1851.

Later I told Ed Dunkley and Tom Maneely about John Mung. They instantly advised me to look for "History of Butte County." Thanks to them I could find an valuable document.

I can't forget Dean and Ellen Johnson kindness, too. Thanks to them, I could attend the Henness Pass Road post-convention tour. From the first, they had offered me a seat on the Yreka Trail tour. I got many kindnesses during the convention and tours.

Special thanks to Hank Fincken who drove our rental 4 WD, enduring my bad pronunciation and Mary Mueller who adjusted my tours and lent me her camping gear.

This is my sixth visiting to the U.S.A. I like America and the people very much. I must secretly and publically prepare for the 7th visiting.

Yuji Aisaka, Kyoto, Japan

JIM BOWERS, OCTA'S FIRST TREASURER DIES

It is with sadness that I must announce the death, on September 9, 1999 (9-9-99), of Jim Bowers, one of the founding members of OCTA and it's first treasurer. Jim was born on November 24, 1923, on the trail in Grand Island, Nebraska. As a young man, he moved to Kearney, Nebraska. During World War II, he was a radio operator in the Signal Corps, serving in China, India, and Burma theater. After the war, he moved to Gering, Nebraska, where he taught history for several years. Later, he became Superintendent of Schools in Fort Laramie, Wyoming. While there, Jim met Merrill Mattes who fostered Jim's life long interest in the trails. In 1954, Jim moved to Denver where he again taught history prior to joining the administrative staff. In 1982, Merrill Mattes, who had retired to Denver, called Jim and asked him if he would be interested in helping found an organization dedicated to preserving the trails. That organization became OCTA. For the next seven years, Jim served as treasurer. In addition to his active involvement with OCTA, Jim was also a member of the Denver posse of Westerners, the Colorado Corral of Westerners, the Council of America's Military Past, and the Friends of Historic Old Fort Logan. But OCTA remained his first love and he was always ready to do whatever he could to promote the organization.

Jim is survived by his wife, Margaret, a son and a daughter, several grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He was laid to rest, with honors, at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver on September 15, 1999. If you would like to make a memorial contribution in his memory, the family has requested contributions to First Presbyterian Church of Lakewood, 8210 W. 10th Ave. Lakewood, CO 80215.

By Lesley Wischmann

The Reading Trail



by Lyndia Carter

While the sesquicentennial of the California Gold Rush continues, here are three more golden nuggets which can be found by traveling down the reading trail. Each of these books is a small but rich treasure of the past for children with whom we want to share trail history in a story or pictures,

Rachel's Journal: The Story of a Pioneer Girl, by Marissa Moss (Silver Whistle, Harcourt Brace & Company, San Diego, New York, London, 1998; \$15) is an absolutely marvelous book. Written as the journal of 10-year-old Rachel, who is traveling west to California 1850 with her parents and teenaged brothers to establish a farm instead of seeking their fortune in the gold fields, this fictional work captures the excitement and wonder of a child experiencing the adventure of a lifetime. Formatted like a journal, the pages contain the entries of this young girl who confides her joys, worries, and a myriad of other emotions in her diary. Besides her personal writings, Rachel fills the pages of her diary with charming and colorful pictures of people she meets, things that happen, animals, plants, and all kinds of other stuff, with tidbits of information, much like children doodle on their own personal things. These illustrations enrich the beautiful feelings and impressions of childhood this book conveys.

Moss's characters are believable and this book rings with authenticity. To appear like a real child's handwriting in a journal, the print style is rather like printing with a cursive flair, so some younger children may have a harder time reading the text by themselves. Yet the penmanship does add to the book's charm. Rachel's opinions of the people she travels with, her sharing of episodes that occur, her child-like responses to events, and her view of the world, make this a joy to share with kids. The pages of this pleasurable piece of children's literature are filled with humor, a magical ingredient to keep children's interest. *Rachel's Journal* will touch your heart and the hearts of children who will relate to young Rachel in ever-so-many ways. Because of the range in ages of Moss's characters, children of many ages can enjoy this book, but it would probably be especially interesting for kids ages 8 through 12. You should be able to find this book in hardcover at many bookstores or your local library.

Emily and the Santa Fe Trail (Rock Creek Press, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, 1998; \$10) is another book to savor. Written by OCTA member Evelyn A. Bartlow of Kansas City, this fictional story contains much factual information, which makes it a very enjoyable teaching and learning tool. Emily's father is a freighter on the Santa Fe Trail. Twelve-year-old Emily longs to go with her father and brother and at last convinces him to let her go along as his cook in 1846. That just also happens to be the year that Susan Shelby Magoffin is also traveling on the Santa Fe Trail with her husband and, of course, Emily and Mrs. Magoffin become acquainted. (And what a perfect opportunity for you to read Magoffin's *Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico* for yourself as you read Emily's story

with the kids.

The story is a rather straight-forward chronicle of life on the trail, the exciting and the mundane, from a girl's point of view. There are a couple of sub-plots that will keep young readers reading and entertained. Not all the men on the freighting expedition can accept a girl as part of the crew, especially "Hawk" Hammond. His tricks and the eventual reconciliation of Hawk and Emily add a spark of intrigue to the story. Emily's perceptions of trail life, her relationship with her father, brother and Susan Magoffin, and how the summer on the trail helps her mature, makes this an enjoyable book for girls. Because of the setting, boys will also find this book very readable. Linda Newton's ink drawings nicely illustrate the text. Ms. Bartlow provides an excellent informational author's note about the Santa Fe Trail and lists a useful bibliography. The book is short enough (55 pages) to easily hold the interest of young readers of middle-school age (10 through 13). Evelyn Bartlow was honored by the Missouri Writers' Guild with their 1999 Best Book Award in the state of Missouri for this book. *Emily and the Santa Fe Trail* is available through the John Wornall House Museum, 146 W. 61st. Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64113 (telephone 816-444-1858).

Many of the people who took the westward trails to find new homes in the American West were deeply religious and carried God in their hearts with them. Their personal faith helped them face the hardships of the trail. No matter what their religious denomination, they shared a common reliance on God. Although *When Pioneer Wagons Rumbled West* by Christine Graham (Shadow Mountain, Salt Lake City, 1991; \$14.95) is about the Mormon pioneers, the author mentions no specific religion or group, and this book can apply to a wide spectrum of people. Graham's simple text demonstrates the belief in God that so many emigrants of various faiths possessed and the effect it had on their journey. For many, God was their unseen companion. This is an excellent picture book for young children (ages three through eight) who live in homes where God is a significant part of life.

But even if you are not inclined toward religion this book is wonderful for young children because of the pictures. Although the text has a religious focus, the illustrations convey the historical message as well. This book is so beautifully illustrated that it tells the pioneer story for youngsters with or without any text. These enchanting watercolor pictures, give children an accurate idea of what traveling west was like. Sherry Meidell has masterfully illustrated this book and I am completely charmed by these colorful, detailed, appealing illustrations. Good picture books about the westward migration are hard to find for the little ones in your lives. Here is a treasure! The book is available from Deseret Books, Salt Lake City, Utah. Have someone in Utah pick one up for you since it may be hard to find elsewhere.

See you on The Reading Trail.

— Lyndia Carter

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