



# News From the Plains

Fall 2007

Vol. XXI

No. 4

Oregon-California  
Trails Association

## OCTA Board Supports South Pass Boundary Planning and Protection

By **Candy Moulton**  
NFP Editor

A defined boundary for South Pass is now under consideration as part of a resource management plan revision underway by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Lander, WY office, in cooperation with the Rock Springs, WY office, which also manages a portion of the South Pass area.

The Oregon-California Trails Association unanimously approved a resolution in August to support this boundary definition and define levels of protection within the boundary. Work has already been undertaken to conduct a review of historical documents that reference South Pass. Some indicate the Pass began as far east as Ice Slough and extended west to Little Sandy.

OCTA National Preservation Officer Dave Welch noted that currently there is no defined boundary for South Pass, but there are ongoing and potential development activities in the region, including the Dickie Springs test gold mining operation and additional proposals for seismic testing. (See related article on Page 13, and petition on page 20.)

*Continued on Page 3*

## Donors, Grants Add \$149,650 to Documentary Fund

*It Doesn't Hurt to Ask*

By **Glenn Harrison**  
OCTA President  
Documentary Committee Chair

About \$300,000 is needed to fund OCTA's documentary project, which will include a film about the hardships on the Oregon and California Trails. The project started with an initial donation from the Malcolm Smith Foundation for \$100,000, so we were well on our way.

Documentary Production Committee Chair Edna Kennell was successful in securing a grant for \$3,000 from the U.S. Department of Education through a

Memorandum of Understanding OCTA has with the Natrona County School District Teaching American History program in Casper, WY, that can be leveraged into additional grant money and significant in-kind support for development of educational materials.

I asked one of my friends for \$100,000 and in a few days had the check in hand. A stock donation valued at \$40,650 has come in as a memorial for a longtime member. We have also received \$6,000 in funding from the Oregon Community Foundation. It doesn't hurt to ask for donations of any size to assist OCTA as we work toward a quality educational documentary or other OCTA goals.



## News From the Plains

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Fall 2007 *News From the Plains*

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# OCTA Board

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In 2006, about 20 OCTA members participated in field studies when they conducted an extensive cultural resource assessment for the area.

Current protection extends a quarter of a mile on each side of the trail. Welch recommended working with the Wyoming Chapter of OCTA to address the South Pass Boundary issue, and he suggested cooperation with landowners in the region as a first step. He expects it will take two to four years for the plan to be completed.

Citing the extensive trail resources in that region National Board member

Edna Kennell recommended that protection for the trail in the South Pass area “should be more than just the quarter mile from the trail.”

“Paul Henderson described South Pass as base of Rocky Ridge to Pacific Springs, and then along the Lander Road to Buckboard Crossing,” OCTA Past President Randy Wagner said.

“It is a big chunk of land. That is an easy section of land to justify as South Pass. That’s about where I would start with a description of South Pass,” Wagner said. “South Pass is that whole region around the south end of the Wind River Mountains. It is a

pristine region. It is worth saving.”

Welch noted that the area under consideration would not be made into a national park or a national monument, but the boundary would provide “some other level of protection.” He said the boundary study will “define an area where protection will be greater than what we have now.”

In other action the board:

- Adopted a new budget that will once again require OCTA to dip into cash reserves in order to meet a deficit of \$14,000 based on current spending projections. Former treasurer Jim Budde told the board, “We’ve got a financial problem. We’ve got to raise the money to meet expenses.”

## Past President Appreciates OCTA Members

Dear OCTA Members,

My term as president has come to an end. I want to express my thanks and gratitude to all the Committees, Committee Chairs, Chapter Presidents, and Board of Directors who have worked very quietly in the background. You are the people who make our fine organization survive, work, and function at various levels. You are our hidden warriors.

I sincerely hope—YOU, the General Membership—appreciate the efforts of those who serve (with or without pay). They all champion the same cause: that of historic trail preservation, appreciation, and enjoyment.

Thank you to all the members who attend meetings, field trips, work on chapter projects, offer financial support, and give words of encouragement to others, when needed, to help them along and lift their spirits.

Thanks, also, to my critics. They have helped me grow in a number ways. I may have lost some of the battles, but I have not lost the lessons. There were days when I felt like I had

climbed into a commercial clothes dryer containing a load of bricks and someone put \$5 in quarters into the slot and turned on the machine.

There is room for everyone to lend a helping hand.

- Every member can help in the membership effort, by bringing back a past member or sponsoring a new person for membership.
- Additional fruits could be harvested if every member would consider paying dues at the next higher level than their present membership.

Thank you all, for allowing me to represent you as President of OCTA, it has been a pleasure and honor to serve you fine people.

Let me close Yogi Berra style: *“Give 100 percent to everything you do, and when that’s not enough, give everything you have left.”*

Thank you,  
Vern Gorzitze  
Salt Lake City

- Heard that Endowment funds are approaching the \$1 million mark. Some of that money is in restricted accounts.
- Heard that there are currently 1,686 members.
- Heard that a procedural guide and editorial checklist for the OCTA website have been prepared. Soon the site will transfer to a new server at a cost of about \$4,000. A Challenge Cost Share Project grant of \$1,800 from the National Park Service will help fund the transfer.
- Approved a trail collections policy that would encourage OCTA members to donate collections to the organization so the materials can then be distributed by OCTA to the various branch libraries and approved a memorandum of understanding with the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center as a new branch library.

Continued on Page 16

## Looking Forward to an Interesting Two Years

### Progress

OCTA is a growing, energetic, and interesting organization. We have recently experienced a growth in membership and an excellent OCTA 25th convention at Gering-Scottsbluff, NE. Now we look forward to conventions in Nampa, ID, in 2008 and Loveland, CO in 2009.

During the 2007 convention, we gave tribute to such trail giants as Ezra Meeker, Howard Driggs, Paul and Helen Henderson, Merrill Mattes, and predecessor organizations the Oregon Trail Memorial Association and the American Trails Pioneer Association. Over the last 25 years, OCTA has had a long list of dedicated leaders beginning with Gregory Franzwa.

OCTA is recognized as the preeminent trails organization. Our publications—*Overland Journal* and *News From the Plains*—are excellently edited and appreciated by our members. With eleven active chapters, progress will be made throughout the country.

During the last two years under the leadership of Vern Gozitze we have taken several steps with sturdy building bricks to significantly increase OCTA's membership, further energize the Nebraska and Colorado-Cherokee Chapters, revise the OCTA Bylaws, adopt OCTA's long range plan, conduct several trail preservation workshops, surpass 3,500 names in COED, and survey the members for what they want. Thanks to over 300 members who took the time to give their advice and suggestions. As always much of the work was done by our many dedicated workers. We are close to seeing the federal trails bill pass.

### Interest

Part of my interest in the Western migration trails stems from having five ancestors who made a total of ten trips over the Oregon Trail. In the spring of 1864, the Williamson, Holman, Carter wagon train left Ray County, MO. My great-great grandparents, John Nelson and Catherine Williamson and nine of their eleven children, ranging in age from 10 to 35, traveled to Oregon. On May 20, 1866, John and Catherine's seventh child, Nancy Evaline Williamson then 22, married John Victor Green. He had previously traveled to Oregon. They were my great grandparents.

In 1872, after having three children, including my grandfather George Nelson Green, that family decided to return to Missouri. After another child was born in Lawrence County, Missouri, the family returned to Oregon in 1876.

At Three Island Crossing in Idaho, John Victor Green helped get the cattle across the Snake River. Wet and cold, he soon developed pneumonia, "died near Boise City" and was "buried by Masons." Help was sought and Nancy's brother met the wagon and got them safely back to their farm. So my grandfather followed the Oregon Trail east then west. My great grandmother made three trips and my great grandfather almost completed his third trip. And my great-great grandparents had both traveled west once. That's five ancestors spanning three generations who made a total of ten trips over the Oregon Trail.

### Background

I have masters degrees' in Education and Math. For 32 years I was a high school math teacher and for 15 years of those years I taught a night course each term at a community college. I have now been retired for 14 years. But I have maintained an interest in history and have accumulated an extensive library of Western trails diaries, books, and articles. For ten years I was the president of the Linn County Historical Society and the LCHS treasurer for another ten years. For the last 19 years I have arranged for all the programs and for the last 14 years I have edited their newsletter.

Because we wanted to help preserve an 1858 water powered grist mill, the Boston Mill Society was formed and I have been its only treasurer for the last 14 years. The mill is now a state historic site and will be operated by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. BMS is now the friends group for the park. We will host the national convention of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills in 2009.

I joined OCTA and the Northwest Chapter in 1986 and have been active since joining. I was a chapter director for two years and for eight years was chapter vice president responsible for outings and activities. Then for four years I was the chapter president. For three years I served as an OCTA board member and was your vice president for the past two years. I have attended 14 OCTA conventions.

Since 1990 I have served on the Linn County Historical Museum

*Continued on Page 5*

## The President's View

Continued From Page 4

Advisory Commission and been the chair since 1999. I have also served on the Linn County Historic Resources Commission since 1993 and been the vice chair for eight years. That's 13 County Commission appointments. Three different State School Superintendents appointed me to two terms on the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission and two terms on the Personnel Management Advisory Council including a term as vice chair responsible for its annual convention program.

Six times four different governors have appointed me to state positions. For 11 1/2 years I served on Oregon's Public Employees Retirement System Board including three years as vice chair and one as chair. Now I am a member of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council. For six years I was the nonvoting member of OHTAC representing the Northwest Chapter. For a 1993 Hackleman family reunion

I researched, wrote and distributed "Abner Hackleman's 1845 Trip To Oregon" based on the diaries and newspaper articles by people in Captain Hackleman's wagon train. I have assisted on a video about the history of Linn County. Three of the photo booklets about the history of Albany include my introductions.

Other experiences include seven years on the Oregon Education Association Board of Directors including six years on OEA's budget committee and experience on its personnel committee. For three years I was on the National Education Association Board of Directors including two years on NEA's budget committee. After retiring I was the president of the Linn-Benton Retired Educators Association ten years and for 12 years served on the state board for NEA-Retired-Oregon.

In my church, I was elected six times and served as an elder for

17 1/2 years. I chaired the budget and finance committee for most of that time and for two years served on the personnel committee.

In my home town of Albany, OR, I served for five years on the school board and budget committee including a year as school board chair. I was on the city budget committee for nine years, the last six as the chair. Twice I was nominated for Albany's Distinguished Service Award.

Fortunately, my wife, Carol, likes history and traveling. We have two daughters and two grandchildren.

At OCTA we have a capable, dedicated staff. I look forward to an interesting, positive two years serving as your president.

Contact me by e-mail at [glennharrison@cmug.org](mailto:glennharrison@cmug.org) if you have suggestions or comments.

## Headquarters Manager's Report

Kathy Conway  
[kconway@indepmo.org](mailto:kconway@indepmo.org)

**If I could have mailed a postcard to all the membership during the 2007 Gering Scottsbluff Convention, it definitely would have started out, "Having a great time... wish you were here."**

If you weren't there, you missed a top-notch event!

Landmarks such as Chimney Rock

and Scotts Bluff loomed above and around us, beckoning us to "come... relive bygone trail days."

Huge thank yous go to Loren Pospisil and Barb Netherland the convention co-chairs, to their support staff (Nebraska and Wyoming Chapter members), and countless local citizens in Gering and Scottsbluff, and to the Gering Convention Center staff.

We also appreciate the many underwriters of this event: convention goers, National Park Service, Scotts Bluff County Tourism, Nebraska Humanities, Nebraska State Historical Society, Morrill County Tourism and

Ameristar Bus Company.



As the holiday seasons approach, be sure and check your mail box for the newest OCTA catalog! New titles and items will be included: *Native American Place Names of the United States*; *A Fate Worse Than Death*; *Devil's Gate: Owning the Land, Owning the Story*; Series Coin # 4 – OCTA's Silver Anniversary, and Oregon Trail Trivia Game to mention just a few. Call us toll free 888-811-6282 and inquire about these and more.

## From the Association Manager...

If you missed OCTA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in Gering last August, you really missed an incredible time! As one member who has attended numerous conventions told me on the last Saturday of our gathering, "this was the best convention ever!" Trail conditions were perfect, the landmarks impressive, the sunsets memorable, and the assembled enthralled.

There are so many people to thank that it'd be impossible to list them all here. But I'll give a short list: Loren Pospisil and Barb Netherland, the co-chairs of the convention, deserve a special salute. If you haven't had a chance to drop them a line thanking them, please do so. They really worked hard to show off Western Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming, and everyone with whom I spoke agrees that they did a marvelous job! Of course, there was an entire committee of chapter members from Nebraska and Wyoming supporting them. I apologize for my space limitations, but you know who you are and you have my thanks.

I'd like also to thank Gregory Franzwa for a memorable and inspirational keynote address. In his closing remarks, the "Old Man" challenged OCTA's membership to get out and recruit new members to our fold. Board member Duane Iles, the newly-minted national membership chairman, has a column elsewhere in these pages delineating plans for a new initiative designed to motivate you to participate in our plans. Please look for the contest information, and be sure to help us out as we attempt to keep building on our successes of the last year.

At the board meeting that preceded the convention, the board voted

to accept the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter's bid to host the 2009 convention in Loveland. Special thanks go to chapter president Camille Bradford who worked with me diligently to help make this happen. Higher praise goes to chapter member Ernie Witucki who volunteered to chair the convention committee! If you have an interest in assisting the chapter on a committee, please drop me to Ernie at [ewitucki@msn.com](mailto:ewitucki@msn.com), or call him at 720-323-8458. And of course, I hope you'll join us at both the 2008 convention in Nampa, Idaho, and the 2009 convention in Loveland, Colorado.

OCTA is also preparing to launch a new means of communicating with its membership in a timelier manner. In this age of e-communication, the association has decided to add a "one-button" e-mail system that can send alerts to members who want to receive them. Time-sensitive materials will be enclosed in these messages, such as tour or speaker announcements from other chapters, legislation or appropriations in Congress that may need a letter-writing campaign to push it over the top, or other announcements that simply cannot wait for our quarterly *News From the Plains* to be published. If the national office does not yet have your e-mail address and you'd like to be included, simply contact me and let me know that you'd like to receive messages. And of course, let me know if you'd prefer not to receive messages. In fact, there will be an "un-enroll" button in each message that will allow you to stop receiving messages at any time you choose. I would expect that you should never receive more than one message every few weeks, so hopefully you'll elect

to learn about exciting opportunities that you may miss were you to wait for this quarterly's arrival in your mailbox.

OCTA recently moved its website [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org) to a new server. Many upgrades have already occurred, and many others are in the works. As the holiday season approaches, be sure to stop by our online store to make purchases for friends and family. You can also buy gift memberships and if you do a lot of online shopping, you'll want to know about our "Fundraising Solutions" program.

On our homepage you will see a gold-colored shopping bag. Next to it is a title that reads "Shop & Donate to OCTA." If you ever shop online at well-known vendors such as Best Buy, Wal-Mart, Barnes & Noble, Staples, or well over one-thousand other online stores, you can enter their website via our portal. Simply click on the gold shopping bag and register OCTA as your non-profit organization. Then, each time you shop at one of these online vendors, they will donate 3 to 15 percent of your total purchase to OCTA (each vendor specifies how much on their introduction page). Contact me if you need assistance setting this up, as I'd be glad to help. Don't miss the opportunity to contribute to OCTA whenever you get the chance! There are so many ways you can help!

Your membership number and expiration date are printed on your mailing label. Please check to make sure your membership does not lapse.

### Ham Radio Operators Spread OCTA Message Worldwide

The Tri-City Amateur Radio Club of Scottsbluff set up and broadcast information about OCTA and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention, broadcasting periodically from August 4 through August 12 and sending details around the world. They made more than 1,200 contacts in all 50 states and 75 foreign nations, including places like:

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Kuwait           | Bosnia-Herzegovina |
| Saudi Arabia     | Kazakhstan         |
| Mauritius Island | Czech Republic     |
| Thailand         | Slovak Republic    |
| Israel           | Oman               |
| Turkey           | Pitcairn Island    |
| Tanzania         | Norfolk Island     |
| Russia           | South Korea        |

### OCTA Convention Survey

This year 333 members responded to a convention survey OCTA circulated. Among the questions were those about why people attend convention (or why not), where they would like to have future conventions, and the timing of conventions.

Results show that most people attend based on location...and those who do not attend also list location (in many cases because it is a site where a previous convention was held). The top sites for those who returned the survey are Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, Northern California, and Colorado.

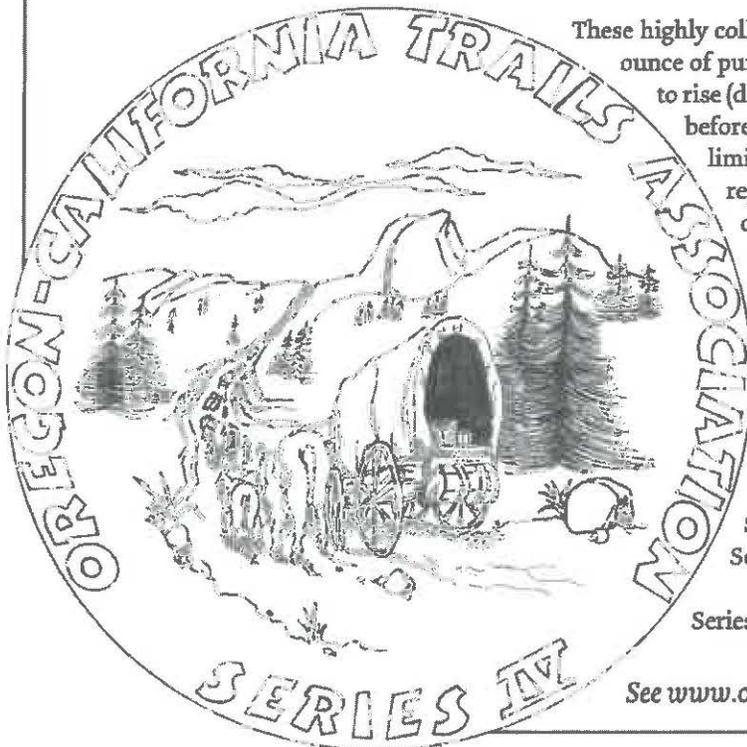
A majority of respondents said they would attend a convention along the Southern Emigrant Trails or the Cherokee and Overland Trails, and that they preferred September and June for the convention. Full survey results can be viewed online at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org).

*News from the Plains* Winter Issue Deadline

**November 25, 2007**

Send materials to [nfpocta@aol.com](mailto:nfpocta@aol.com)

### ANNOUNCING SERIES IV OF OCTA'S HISTORIC COIN SERIES— THE 25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY COIN!



These highly collectible commemorative coins are made of 1 Troy ounce of pure silver, and because the price of silver continues to rise (doubling in the last year alone), be sure to get yours before we are completely sold out. This is an extremely limited edition of only 200 coins and there will be no reprints, so don't miss out! Reserve yours today for only \$39.95 (plus s&h).

Pre-order OCTA's 25th Silver Anniversary coin today by calling us toll free at 888.811.6282 or by emailing us at [contact@octa-trails.org](mailto:contact@octa-trails.org). Coins will arrive from the Mint in early August.

There remains a very limited supply of the earlier three coins. You can own all four coins for only \$99.95 (a \$129.80 value).

- Series I—Lewis & Clark Bi-Centennial (2004)
- Series II—Bent's Fort, Colorado on the Santa Fe and Cherokee Trails (2005)
- Series III—Ezra Meeker Oregon Trail Centennial (2006)

See [www.octa-trails.org/store](http://www.octa-trails.org/store) for more coin information.

## **2007 OCTA Awards** **and the Winners Are...**

### **Meritorious Achievement Award**

Jere Krakow  
Russ Tanner  
Kay Threlkeld

### **Distinguished Service**

Ezra Meeker Historical Society  
Shell Exploration and Production Company  
Ultra Petroleum

### **Elaine McNabney Volunteer of the Year**

Candy Moulton

### **Merrill Mattes Award**

James McGill  
"Irreparable Damage on the Jeffrey/Goodale Cutoff"

### **Friend of the Trail**

Paul Scherbal  
Darold Brunkow

### **Certificates of Appreciation**

Loren Pospisil  
Barb Netherland  
Edna Kennell  
Bill Martin  
Bernie Rhodes  
Vern Gorzitze  
Randy Wagner  
Zeke Sicotte

### **Outstanding Educator**

Great Platte River Road Archway

## **Certificates of Appreciation**



**Loren Pospisil**, above left, shown with Father DeSmet, and Barb Netherland, below, were given Certificates of Appreciation for their work as co-chairs of the OCTA 2007 Convention.



## Certificates of Appreciation

Award Photos  
by Roger Blair



Bernie Rhoades, outgoing national secretary

OCTA Board members received Certificates of Appreciation for their services as members of the National Board, from left, outgoing president Vern Gorzitze, outgoing board member and incoming vice president Bill Martin, outgoing board member Edna Kennell, incoming president Glenn Harrison, and past president Randy Wagner.

**Zeke Sicotte**, not shown, has served as OCTA's challenge cost-share grant coordinator for the past six years and also received a Certificate of Appreciation. He has overseen several hundred thousands of dollars with of grants while maintaining an excellent rapport with the National Park Service and project leaders. He provided accurate reports to the board.



**Get The Latest Offerings From The Oregon-California Trails Association. Order Today While Supplies Last!**



PLU # 1755

The third in OCTA's series of historic trails commemorative coins, this coin is .999 pure silver and celebrates the Centennial of a remarkable achievement. This coin depicts Ezra Meeker, who set out in 1906 to put markers along the Oregon Trail. Each coin is numbered and the minting is limited to only 250 pieces, so be sure to get yours now. **Order PLU #1755, Only \$29.95 each.** See note below for postage and handling.

**Here Comes the Pony: The Story of the Pony Express**  
*By William E. Hill, (OCTA Member), Order PLU #1768, \$7.95, Paperback*  
64 page workbook published in August 2006 in conjunction with the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri. Fun-filled activity book suitable for children of all ages, but especially geared toward 4th graders and up. It contains a teacher's guide at the end of the book.



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**THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

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Call toll free, 1-888-811-6282 or visit the bookstore on the web at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)

# Distinguished Service Award

## Ezra Meeker Historical Society

The Ezra Meeker Historical Society received a Distinguished Service Award for its efforts last year on the celebration of the centennial of Meeker's Old Oregon Trail Monument Expedition. A group of twelve individuals, all OCTA and EMHS members, made the month-long journey with visits to 22 sites. At each site an Ezra Meeker reenactor gave a short talk, Dixon Ford's ox team was demonstrated, and Dennis Larsen gave a presentation on Meeker's journey. Wendy Welch, left, accepted the award on the team's behalf at the OCTA convention and presented it to the group at an event in September at Old Fort Nisqually.



## Merrill Mattes Award

James McGill received the Merrill Mattes Award for Best Article in the *Overland Journal* for "Irreparable Damage on the Jeffrey/Goodale Cut-off." With him to receive the award is his wife Patti McGill.

## Ultra Petroleum and Shell Exploration

Ultra Petroleum and Shell Exploration and Production Company were recognized for their joint effort in removing the unsightly storage tank and the surrounding cleanup of Pinedale No. 2 well, which was within a few feet of the Lander Road. A pipeline was buried under the road in the area. This cleanup was done at the suggestion of and in cooperation with OCTA. The Lander Road is on the Oregon Trail, which is included in the Historic Trails Act. The section mentioned is located on the trail between Burnt Ranch in Wyoming and Fort Hall in Idaho. This proactive stance taken by Shell and Ultra has enhanced the view from the trail on the Lander Road and demonstrated the oil companies' cooperative compliance with, understanding, respect, and support of trail enthusiasts' interests.



Accepting Distinguished Service Awards are Tab McGinley of Ultra Petroleum, left, and Amiee Davidson of Shell Exploration and Production.

## Elaine McNabney Volunteer Award

Candy Moulton, below right, received the Elaine McNabney Volunteer Award, from Awards Chair Donna Fisher. Moulton has written trail articles for many publications, participated in wagon train reenactments to spread the message of the trails, presented programs in schools, taken part in documentary films about the trail experience, and served as chair of the Publications Committee for five years before taking the position as editor of the *News from the Plains*.



# Meritorious Service Award

**By Donna Fisher**  
**Awards Committee Chair**

This year the awards committee recognizes three individuals for Meritorious Service. The three winners were initially nominated for the Distinguished Service Award. The Distinguished Service award is granted to organizations, businesses, government agencies, individuals, or others who contribute or participate in furthering OCTA's programs directly or provide substantial support in a non-affiliated way to trail preservation and education. We felt that these three people *were affiliated*, and have been for a very long time, and therefore are deserving of the Meritorious Achievement Award.



**Jere Krakow**

At the 2007 national convention, Jere was presented with the Outstanding Superintendent award. The award was not an official OCTA award, and he is deserving of official recognition for all the reasons mentioned at that time. He recently retired from the National Park Service. During his years with NPS he provided significant financial assistance to OCTA and its programs, one of which is the OCTA Association Manager position along with funding for OCTA'S Census of Emigrant

supporter of OCTA and its mission in many, many ways.



**Russ Tanner**

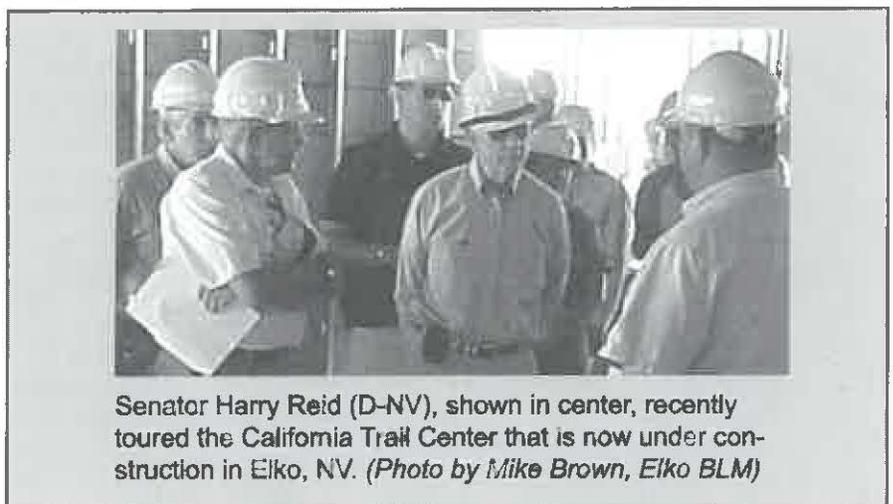
Russ was raised near the Granger/Ham's Fork Overland Trail Stage Station and has absorbed much of both folklore and historical record of that time. This man has outstanding work in discovering and preserving the evidence of historic trails that crisscrossed Wyoming in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Russ is a member of the Wyoming Governor's Task Force of Preservation Planning, and has been an active participant of OCTA MET Activities. He is familiar with both the Overland Stage Trail and the Cherokee Trail. He has volunteered much of his time leading treks for OCTA, and exemplifies the qualities

of a true trail nut. His trail work has not been just a job for Russ Tanner, but a lifelong passion.



**Kay Threlkeld**

Kay Threlkeld, has been instrumental in many OCTA successes. She has coordinated the Challenge Cost Share program providing substantial federal funding for various OCTA projects. Her latest project is GIS trail mapping. Even though a federal employee, she has been a faithful member attending innumerable local and national meetings and outings. She has participated as a member of one wagon train recognizing the California Trail Sesquicentennial, traveling several months with the train from eastern Kansas to Coloma, California.



Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), shown in center, recently toured the California Trail Center that is now under construction in Elko, NV. (Photo by Mike Brown, Elko BLM)

## Friend of the Trail

Two OCTA members were recognized as Friends of the Trail this year for their longstanding work to promote the education and preservation goals of the organization. Neither was present to accept his award.

### Paul Scherbel

Paul Scherbel has been instrumental in interpreting, educating and protecting the trails near his home in Big Piney, WY. He was with Paul Henderson, L. C. Bishop, Dan and Bill Budd, Jules Farlow, and Lyle Hildebrand on a Wyoming state historical trek of the Lander Trail in 1957, marking fifty years of interest in the trails. As a long time OCTA member he was one of the first to notify the

Wyoming Chapter of a proposed building project on the trail in Big Piney. The result was protection of the trail by the builder. Scherbel has surveyed much of the lands on the trail, and is always willing to educate anyone about the trails by leading many treks.

### Darold Brunkow

Darold Brunkow of Westmoreland, KS, has always taken great care to preserve the swales and the grave site located in a pasture on his property. He allowed the KANZA Chapter and others access and erected a stainless steel cross to mark the Roush grave site. Attending the dedication were descendants of Mr. Roush's from Oklahoma and California.

## Website Update

*Check the OCTA website regularly to see the latest news and information, to look for books, maps, and gifts.*

*Also, you can find motel reservation links, other services, and soon we will have a calendar of events.*

Members who have website questions, comments, corrections, updates, or additions should contact

Mariey Shurtieff,  
Web Editor at  
[webeditor@octa-trails.org](mailto:webeditor@octa-trails.org)  
[www.octatrails.org](http://www.octatrails.org)

## Education Awards

By Bill Hill  
Education Award Chair

The Great Platte River Road Archway, Kearney, NE, was the recipient of our Outstanding Educator Award.



The Great Platte River Archway received an OCTA Education Award. Making the presentation to Education Program Director Ronnie O'Brien, left, and Sharon Von Aschwege was Glenn Harrison.

Last year students from 115 elementary and secondary schools from Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa participated in this truly outstanding program.

Not only did the students get to walk through time and experience the history through the Great Platte River Road's interactive displays, but they also got to meet and speak with re-enactors representing national and local historical figures, and participate in a variety of hands-on activities.

Our special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary book presentation project was a tremendous success. In all 950 students in the fourth grade in the 21 school districts of the Education Service Unit 13 in the Nebraska panhandle were given a copy of OCTA's activity book *Reading, Writing, and Riding Along the Oregon-California Trails*. Accepting the books was Penny Businga, administrator ESU No. 13.

Special thanks goes to those individuals and the following chapters who made special donations to the Education committee to make our gift possible: California-Nevada, Northwest, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah Crossroads, Gateway, Idaho, and Trails Head.

## Preservation Officer's Report

David Welch  
welchdj@comcast.net

### South Pass Boundary Study Underway

My report for this issue will summarize preservation activities as I reported them to the national board at the August meeting.

South Pass Boundary Studies. Just prior to the board meeting I learned that the revision of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Lander, WY Field Office will be started soon and will address the South Pass Boundary issue. As you may or may not be aware, the historic site has no boundary which complicates preservation of the site. Energy and mining activities are creeping closer each year. OCTA has notified the BLM of our desire to be involved from the start in any new effort to define a boundary. In preparation independent OCTA studies will be undertaken to define what we feel is appropriate for the area.

Pinedale Anticline PA and SEIS. Revision of the Programmatic Agreement (PA) covering activities along the Lander Road and a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for that area may be started in the fall. OCTA has already expressed its desire that the terms on the previous PA not be significantly changed and if changes are introduced, further mitigation is required.

City of Rocks. Last January meetings were held by the NPS to determine the need for a revision of the management plan for the City of Rocks National Historic Preserve. It has now been learned that this project has a low priority with the NPS. It may be years before it is undertaken. Since we do not want the current plan that has climbing restrictions on the Twin Sisters, changed this is to our

benefit. Modification of the current climbing plan will proceed, but it addresses only technical issues and does not change climbing areas.

Oregon Wind Energy Projects. Over the past six months we have established greatly improved working relationships with the various state agencies in Oregon involved in energy projects. We are much more involved in the decision process and have the opportunity for early input.

In the beginning it was clear that the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office had lost its corporate knowledge of the Oregon Trail. Through the efforts of Stafford Hazelett and Glenn Harrison, this shortfall is being addressed. Stafford has transferred extensive data on the trail's location and status and is working with the SHPO to insure they have the best possible information. The SHPO has committed to conducting a state-wide assessment of the trail in the next year.

Bear Canyon Project (Ham's Fork Plateau). An oil/gas well development project was proposed on the Ham's Fork plateau just north of Kemmerer, WY. The project area is traversed by the Sublette Cutoff and is west of the Nancy Hill and Alfred Korum graves. The project involved drilling multiple wells in two areas. We expressed our strong opposition to this project since it would introduce new development in a relatively pristine area.

Studies conducted under the direction of the BLM documented the presence of pristine trail in the vicinity of the most intrusive well pad. The proposal for drilling in this area has been withdrawn. Work on

the other will proceed, but it is well away from the main trail and hidden by the terrain. Increased traffic in the area remains a concern.

Atlantic Rim Programmatic Agreement (PA). This PA is nearing completion. The key aspect of the agreement from OCTA's perspective is the inclusion of transportation corridors that will cross contributing trail sections at seven points. These crossings can not be avoided and will be designed to minimize impacts. Mitigation for the adverse effect will be defined by a working group during the first year of the project. (This PA has now been signed.)

As I noted at the March meeting, inclusion of OCTA in these negotiations is a milestone in our work with the BLM Rawlins Field Office. It has taken about four years to build our credibility and become an active participant in their review and permitting processes. The research of Jack and Pat Fletcher has been instrumental in this achievement.

Preservation Training. Training was presented in Lawrence, KS in May for the Trails Head, Gateway, and Kanza chapters by Jim McGill, Leslie Fryman, and I. The classroom sessions went well but the field work was washed out by rain with intermittent tornadoes. Preservation training activities are funded by a challenge cost-share grant from the NPS. Training in Colorado next June has been discussed but no firm plans are in place. Next March, training may be held in Phoenix under the sponsorship of Arizona Parks. I will be contacting members of the

*Continued on Page 14*

## Preservation Officer

*Continued from Page 13*

Southwest chapter to encourage their participation.

**Meeker Centennial Project.** The positive aspects of this program continue. The Ezra Meeker Historical Society received the David Douglas Award from the Washington State Historical Society for the activity. Also, a new "Meeker Marker" was placed at the Meeker Mansion in Puyallup, WA. The Naches Trail (another route used by Meeker) received recognition from the City of Bonneylake through the placement of five markers along the trail in the city. The Naches is one of the trails in the supplemental trails list before Congress. Wendy and I represented OCTA at these events.

**Other Activities.** In addition to the recent article in the *Overland Journal*, I have written an article on OCTA and trail preservation for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's professional journal, *The Forum*, that will appear in the fall. I also presented a paper on trail preservation at the Trails Conference in Duluth, MN, in September.

Finally, a reminder that OCTA is still seeking a national preservation officer to assume that position in August 2008. I expect to continue to be involved in preservation activities, but I will relinquish the lead position at that time. Please contact me or headquarters for additional information.

# Aaron Mahr takes over as NPS Trails Program Manager

Aaron Mahr, a 14-year veteran of the National Park Service, has been named program manager for the Intermountain Region's National Trails System Program, according to Intermountain Regional Director Mike Snyder. Mahr has already assumed his new responsibilities and attended the OCTA Convention in Gering, NE.

"Through his years of experience and work with a number of partners and organizations, Aaron knows that maintaining a viable trails program means cultivating partnerships to become advocates for trail resources," Snyder said.

For the past seven years, Mahr served as Historian in the National Trails System-Santa Fe office where he led efforts to nominate over 30 properties along several of the trails to the National Register of Historic Places. He has been involved in several planning efforts for the trails, including finalizing the Old Spanish Trail Feasibility Study. Other projects have included the planning for the Old Spanish Trail Comprehensive Management Plan and the update to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Feasibility Study.

In his new role, Mahr will manage the National Trails System program of the Intermountain Region, with offices in Salt Lake City and Santa Fe. The program provides oversight for nine National Historic Trails (Oregon, California, Santa Fe, Trail of Tears, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, El Camino Real de los Tejas, Old Spanish, Pony Express, Mormon

Pioneer), the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, and the Old Santa Fe Trail Building.

"It's a tremendous honor to have the opportunity to play a leadership role in the National Trails System. Administration of our national historic trails is at the forefront of the National Park Service's emphasis on partnership development, and I'm proud to be part of the team that leads that effort," Mahr said. "I look forward to working closely with a great staff and the wide array of constituents that support and visit the trails."

Mahr began his career with the National Park Service in 1990 as a graduate assistant at the Spanish Colonial Research Center, where he transcribed and researched colonial-era Spanish-language documents. His first park experience came at Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site where he was the park's first Historian and Chief of Resource Management. He helped establish the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom in the Intermountain Region.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish and a Masters in Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico. Before beginning his NPS career, he became a Ph.D. candidate in history while serving as an instructor at the University of New Mexico, and a visiting professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez. Aaron and his wife Eva, who teaches Spanish at the Santa Fe Community College, live in Albuquerque.

Visit the OCTA Store

[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)

## Legislation Still Moving, Support Needed

**By Bill and Jeanne Watson  
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs**

Senate bill S-580, authorizing the study of additional routes for our four trails, is sponsored by Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, and co-sponsored by Senators Bob Bennett of Utah and Pat Roberts of Kansas, but we need more Senate co-sponsors to get this bill passed. If your Senators are not on this list, please write now and ask them to co-sponsor this legislation.

The bill was cleared without amendment by the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee and is awaiting full Senate approval. Many bills, including S-580, require supplemental funding if passed and one Senator has placed a hold on all these bills.

House bill HR-1336 authorizing the study of additional routes/cutoffs for our four trails, is sponsored by Representative Earl Blumenauer of the Oregon 3<sup>rd</sup> District, and cosponsored by Representatives Greg Walden, Oregon 2<sup>nd</sup> District, and Jerry Moran, Kansas 1<sup>st</sup> District. On July 25, Rep. Blumenauer, chair of the House Trails Caucus, sent a "Dear Colleague" letter to all House members asking them to become co-sponsors of this bill. We urgently need House co-sponsors. If your Representative is not a sponsor or co-sponsor please write now and urge him or her to become one.

Senate bill S-169, to Extend Willing Seller Authorization to six additional trails, was approved as amended by the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee on July 25. This bill would affect the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The amendments as we understand them meet the concerns

recorded by Senator Craig Thomas, R-Wyoming, shortly before he died. As we understand it:

- \* Private land can be acquired from a Willing Seller with the consent of the owner of an interest in that land. e.g. a Mineral Rights Holder.
- \* The land acquired from a Willing Seller is limited to 1/4 mile on either side of that trail segment.

### 2008 Fiscal Year - Interior Budget

The House Interior Appropriations 2008 Fiscal Year budget approved in late July is very generous to our trails and to the National Trails System. The Senate hopefully will soon approve its 2008 Interior Appropriations bill, which is also favorable to our trails. Next, the House and Senate bills go to Joint Conference Committee where the differences are resolved. Then the House and Senate each have to pass the Joint Report bill before sending it to the President for approval or veto.

We are delighted to have Vern and Carol Osborne from KANZA Chapter as Co-Chairs of the Trails Liaison Committee. They were very effective in Washington during and after Trails Advocacy Week. In early September they were the OCTA voting representatives to the Partnership for the National Trails System conference in Duluth, MN. Dave Welch spoke at this conference about OCTA's Preservation Training program while Travis Boley spoke about OCTA fund raising activities.

The 40th Anniversary of National Trails System and the 30th Anniversary of the Oregon National Historic Trail will both be recognized in 2008.

## Nebraska Chapter

### 2007 Fall Trail Trek and Meeting Focuses on Mormon Trail

The Nebraska Chapter of OCTA planned held a Fall Trek in late September. The activity included a pre-trek trip following the Mormon Trail in Iowa. The trek began at the Western Historic Trails Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa and included a tour of Mormon Trail sites in and around Council Bluffs.

The group crossed into Nebraska for a visit to the Mormon Trail Visitor Center in Florence, a tour of Mormon Trail sites in and around Omaha, and a dinner in Elkhorn.

## Wyoming Chapter

### Tour Takes in Gas Field, Lander Trail

**By Lee Underbrink**

Wyoming OCTA members toured the Pinedale Anticline gas well drilling area in May. Guides were Graig Ritschel of Shell Oil Co. and Cally McKee of Ultra Resources.

The Lander Trail goes right through this gas field and we were shown how the companies are protecting this trail. Various sites are already selected for the erection of signs and pull outs explaining not only the gas field, but also the importance of the Lander Trail.

Roads, drilling, and disturbance is not allowed within one quarter of a mile on both sides of the trail. It appears that this is being honored by the two companies. Wyo-OCTA has members on two consulting groups working with Ultra, Shell, and the BLM on this interpretation and protection of the trail.

## OCTA Board

Continued from Page 3

- Heard legislative, trail preservation, and documentary project reports. (See related articles).
- Had a report on planning for the 2008 Convention in Nampa, Idaho, and approved Colorado as the site for the 2009 convention.
- Heard from Aaron Mahr, new superintendent of the NPS long distance trail office, that the relationship between OCTA and NPS is strong. "That commitment is rock solid," he said. NPS will continue to give technical assistance in areas of interpretation and for preservation projects, and will continue the cooperative agreement that allows for financial assistance for programming and the association manager position.
- Elected new officers: Glenn Harrison, president; Bill Martin, vice president; Turner Rivenbark, treasurer; Joyce Everett, secretary; Dave Welch, national preservation officer; and Vern Gorzitze, past president.
- Appointed Brent Reber of Utah to fill a one-year unexpired term on the board of directors created when Welch resigned because he now has a vote as NPO.

## CA/NV Chapter

### Signs Installation Part of Cleanup Effort

By Mary Ann Tortorich

Five or six years ago, Frank Tortorich, charter OCTA and charter CA/NV Chapter member, gathered like minded OCTA/chapter members to do trail clearing, cleaning, and marking of the Carson River Route from Carson Pass west. They seem to gather whenever a project comes to Frank's attention.

Traditionally, on the first day of the two-day outing, the volunteers divide into chain saw, lopper, handsaw, clearer, and marking crews.

The marking crew's job is placing the approved small markers reading "California Historic Trail" with the ox yoke logo on trees "in line of sight." One morning's plan is a day of lighter work of just fun—hiking part of the trail, or leisurely searching for trail remnants not clearly visible.

The crew members often share their trail knowledge so everyone learns from each other.

Volunteer Linda Lacey takes the lead with her trusty whisk broom and trowel; she is incredibly good at finding rust rocks. Following her lead, others quickly learned what to look for: swales, "old" trail markers, and rust rocks.

The "old" trail markers are the ones installed by the Silver Lake Campers Association, a group based out of Stockton Camp. They marked the trail in the 1940s and '50s.

This year on the the second day volunteers dug post holes, hand-mixed cement in a wheelbarrow, and installed bases for the first two



Proud crew posing by "First Summit" interpretive sign at the top of the Devil's Ladder with Red Lake in the background. (Photo by Mary Ann Tortorich)

interpretive signs in the Carson Pass area.

In 2005 at the chapter symposium in Genoa, NV, Frank asked for and the chapter board granted \$8,000 for six interpretive signs for the Carson River Route of the California Trail.

Chuck Milliken of the National Park Service offered to commission a graphic artist to do the drawings and Frank worked on the text. This spring Frank received the panels and bases.

The panels were on display at this year's chapter symposium in Yreka. For the past two years Frank has been working for placement approval with the Eldorado and Humboldt Toiyabe National Forests.

With permission finally granted and with panels and bases delivered, the crew was able to begin the process of installing the panels with two more installations scheduled for Hope Valley this fall. A dedication will be planned when all the panels are installed.

## Crossroads Chapter

### Chapter Explores 1859 Simpson Route

By Al Mulder

The chapter was well represented at the recent Gering/Scottsbluff OCTA Convention. It was good to see so many longtime friends from the other chapters and to renew friendships and meet new members. It was evident the cities of Gering and Scottsbluff and the Nebraska Chapter went all out to make everyone feel welcome. Who can forget the impressive deep swales in Mitchell Pass and the poignant gravesite of Rebecca Winters? The special events were entertaining but I have definitely eaten my last "buffalo burger!" Seeing Betty Scheinost again brought back great memories of the Grand Island, NE, and Pocatello, ID,

conventions. The Robinsons of Green River were kind enough to give this old-timer a bench seat while climbing Windlass Hill in Ash Hollow. Whew! Chapter members Richard and Ffion Wilkes from East Sussex, England, enjoyed seeing the many friends they have made since joining OCTA and Utah Crossroads several years ago. For some Crossroads members, it was their first convention, but after Scottsbluff, it won't be their last.

A chapter meeting and barbeque dinner at Benson's Mill in September was the last meeting of the year until January 2008. The last chapter activity was the late September bus tour of the Simpson route from

Yellow Creek to Camp Floyd. This military road was opened up by Captain James H. Simpson in 1859 and continued on from Camp Floyd to Genoa, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Simpson set out for Genoa with 12 supply wagons, 23 soldiers, two guides, and the artist Henry von Beckh. The expedition arrived in Genoa six weeks after leaving Camp Floyd. Tour guide for the field trip was historian Marie Irvine who gave the chapter an excellent talk last year on Simpson's survey of the proposed shortcut to the far west which became favored over the Humboldt River route.

## Join the Membership Gold Rush!!!

By Duane Iles  
OCTA Membership Chair

It is time to really work to increase the OCTA membership roster. I urge you to do your part and have even provided for some incentives.

**Gold Dust Award** – Get a \$5 credit at the OCTA store for each new paid membership or non-renewing member brought back.

**Gold Strike Award** – Be eligible for a drawing after five recruits.

- First prize – One free registration for the 2008 convention
- Second prize – One free tour and meal at the 2008 convention
- Third prize – One free tour at the 2008 convention

**Bonanza Award** – Award to the top recruiters with at least five recruits.

- First prize - \$100
- Second prize - \$50
- Third prize - \$25

### Contest Rules

1. Non-renewals must have been gone for more than twelve months.
2. New memberships must be paid.
3. Name of recruiter on membership blank or provide documentation.
4. To be eligible for the Bonanza Award, must have at least five recruits.
5. Questions of rules or

eligibility will be resolved by a committee made up of the OCTA president, vice president, membership chairman, Association Manager, and Headquarters Manager.

6. Contest officially begins September 1, 2007.
7. Drawing for the Gold Strike Award will be at the March Board of Directors meeting.
8. Gold Dust and Bonanza Awards will officially end at the 2008 convention general business meeting.
9. Awards will be presented at the awards banquet.
10. Memberships of multiple years will be rewarded with equivalent numbers of Gold Dust certificates.

## Gateway Chapter

### Chapter Tours Alcove Spring, Rock Creek Station, and Nemaha County, Kansas

By Bill Leppert

Alcove Spring and Rock Creek Station were the destinations of Gateway's May 19 field trip. Twenty-eight members and guests took part with Bill Leppert and Del Sutherland as guides. Duane Iles, KANZA Chapter member, met the group at Alcove Spring and led the walking tour of the site. The group was treated to seeing a now-rare sight of water flowing over the waterfall. Duane pointed out the inscription left by J.F. Reed of the Donner/Reed 1846 Party, the Independence Crossing of the Big Blue River, and the remains of swales descending the hill to the crossing.

The next stop was Rock Creek Station. Wayne Brandt, superintendent of the Nebraska State Historical Park, led the tour. Swales of the Oregon and California Trail are clearly evident. Rock Creek was a stage and Pony Express Station. In 1861, it was the site of the shoot-out between David McCanles and Wild Bill Hickock.

The tour is one of two to be offered by Gateway in 2007 and was a tremendous success.

The Gateway Preservation Committee chose Nemaha County, KS, as a focus for their annual trail marking day held on June 9. Carsonite markers already placed along the St. Joe Road were checked and new ones were installed. Members participating that day were Paul Dittmore, Chapter Preservation Chair, Pete Duncan, and Bill Leppert.

Preparation began on May 30 when Paul Dittmore went to Seneca,

Nemaha County Courthouse to view the original survey maps of the county. He transferred the trail information to modern-day maps. Paul said the "map shows clearly why the trail wandered so much. It meandered to miss crossing streams



Pete Duncan and Bill Leppert were greeted along the trail by a big black dog.

or ravines by following the ridges between the head waters flowing north and south. Across the county, they crossed three streams." He also reviewed the narrative and quotes from the diaries and letters in Lewin and Taylor's *St. Joe Road*.

Following, is a portion of Paul's narrative of the modern-day tour of the St. Joe Road on June 9 by the trail marking committee:

*We left at 9:30 a.m. traveling west on US 36 Highway. We turned north on US 75 at the junction of 36 and 75 and went along the east side of Sabetha, turning west on 192<sup>nd</sup> Road to W Road. Installed Carsonite marker on the NW corner of the intersection. The ground is very flat here, the wagons could have traveled several abreast with no trouble. Went*

*west on 192<sup>nd</sup> 1 ½ miles to 216th Road, then west ¾ miles and placed marker on the north side beside a fence post. Went on west on 216th Road ¼ miles west to Q Road. One mile west on 216th Road we turned north into Bern to Main and Matthews Streets and viewed marker placed in 2003. It is beside a city sign in a little area bordered with rock and surrounded by flowers. We turned south out of Bern, back to 216th Road then west 2 ¾ miles to L4 Road. The ground in this area has become rather hilly as it is the ridges along the side of the Nemaha River valley. One-fourth mile west of L4 Road on 216th Road, we stopped on a high point looking down into the Nemaha River valley.... On south on 63 for one and one-half miles we turned west on 192 Road for two and seven-eighths miles where the trail made a sharp loop because of a deep ravine on the north. We placed a marker on the south side of the road near a fence post. At this point, we had our only encounter with a warm-blooded living thing. A large black dog from a house across the road came running to greet us. A friendly greeting it was. A few pats on the head and he was happy and trotted back across the road.*

Paul's narrative gives you an idea of the terrain. Gateway members had to travel the trail on county roads which are surveyed in one-mile squares. This meant they had to make many more turns than the mid-1800s travelers. The group thoroughly enjoyed their day of remembering and retracing the route of the early emigrants.

## Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter

### Ernie Witucki to Chair 2009 OCTA convention in Loveland, Colorado

Ernie Witucki will be the Chair of the 2009 OCTA convention in Loveland, Colorado. Loveland was selected as the convention site by the OCTA board at its recent meeting in Gering, NE, during the 2007 convention. Ernie brings a wealth of experience to this position. He is the former Manager of the Loveland Chamber of Commerce and has held executive positions in community development for municipalities, and for major resort developers. Ernie now lives in Lakewood. He is a graduate of the University of Utah, with a degree in history.

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to work on the 2009 convention committees. Ernie will be contacting you. More workers are needed! If you have not already done so and are willing to work on any of the committees, please contact Ernie by e-mail at [ewitucki@msn.com](mailto:ewitucki@msn.com) or phone at 720-323-8458.

Roger Hanson has created a Yahoo group for members who are participating in the planning of the 2009 convention. This enables members to exchange messages with all others who have registered

for the group, without each member having to maintain a separate mailing list. Those who have registered will automatically receive all messages sent by other members in the group. An archive of messages is maintained. Please contact Roger if you would like to register for this group at [rhanson@pcisys.net](mailto:rhanson@pcisys.net).

At the chapter meeting in mid-October, Johanna Harden was expected to make a presentation about the resources in the Douglas County History Research Center that would be of interest to OCTA members, and show a 30-minute video about the Cherokee Trail.

A two-day Preservation Training workshop will be held in Colorado in June of 2008, led by David Welch, Leslie Fryman, and Jim McGill. The workshop will begin with a classroom session at the Douglas County Library in Castle Rock followed by a field session on the Cherokee Trail. The workshop will be held on either the first or second weekend in June with the exact date to be announced early in 2008. Any OCTA member is invited to participate in the training session.

## KANZA Chapter

Kay Threlkeld of the National Park Service and Mark Engler, Superintendent of National Homestead Monument keynote speakers at the The Old West Trails Center Dedication in Odell, NE, Sept. 30.

The program also included a barbecue with music by Toasted

Ponies, a Bluegrass band, a presentation on Gage County Heritage Preservation Presentation and a program by Kent Wilson titled "Ben Holladay & the Oketo Cut Off." Additional music, old wagons, games, farm equipment, a dance recital, buggy rides, and weaving were also to be part of the program.

## Iowa Annals Focuses on Mormon Handcarts

The Mormon Handcart Trek of 1856-57 is the subject of a special commemorative issue of the *Annals of Iowa*. The issue features articles by five historians of the Mormon experience.

Essays include "The Place of Mormon Handcart Companies in America's Westward Migration Story," by William G. Hartley, which provides an overview of the experience, setting it in the context of the overall overland trail migration from the 1840s to the late 1860s.

In "Leadership, Planning, and Management of the 1856 Mormon Handcart Emigration," Don H. Smith discusses the leadership, planning, and management of the 1856 handcart migration.

Other essays are "Iowa City Bound: Mormon Migration by Rail and Sail," by Fred E. Woods; "Handcarts Across Iowa: The Trial Runs," by Lyndia Carter; and "Faint Footsteps of 1856-1857 Retraced;" and "The Location of the Iowa Mormon Handcart Route," by Steven F. Faux.

This special issue of the *Annals of Iowa* is available from the State Historical Society of Iowa for \$14 per copy (including postage and handling). Or you can begin a one-year subscription to the journal for just \$24.95.

To order, call Deb Pederson at 319-335-3916, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### A PETITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF SOUTH PASS, WYOMING

Whereas South Pass is symbolic of the mid-nineteenth century journey of up to 500,000 emigrants of whom perhaps 20,000 perished, and said emigration was instrumental in the establishment of the United States as a continental nation, and

Whereas South Pass, a National Historic Landmark that historically extends from Independence Rock to the Little Sandy in central Wyoming, currently has no formal boundary, and

Whereas the level of protection for historic and cultural resources in the area is not well-defined, and Whereas the Bureau of Land Management's Lander Field Office will undertake a revision to their Resource Management Plan (RMP) that will address these issues,

I hereby express my support for establishment of boundaries for the historic area that will include the approach from Independence Rock to South Pass, the area at South Pass from the Oregon Buttes to the Wind River Range, and the trails west to the Little Sandy. Private property rights must be respected and the traditional ranching economy of the region should be encouraged, but maximum protection should be provided to the area from Rocky Ridge to the Little Sandy along the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer and Pony Express Trails and to Buckskin Crossing on the Lander Road, while other levels of protection may be appropriate in different areas.

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Signatures Collected By: Name \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Wendy Welch, 4374 Vashon Dr NE, Lacey, WA 98516; [wwwelch@comcast.net](mailto:wwwelch@comcast.net)

Oregon-California Trails Association

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26th Year off to Great Start

## Silver Anniversary Fund Drive a Resounding Success

The OCTA Membership has always been and will continue to be our greatest asset!

Donations are still coming in response to our July appeal letter to bolster our revenues as we begin our next quarter century of preservation work. By press time 143 individuals and families have made cash donations totaling almost \$10,000. In addition, several members registered (for the first time) to come to our Gering/Scottsbluff Convention.

The following list represents the names of members who contributed to our appeal:

Allen, Eva  
Alvord, Lynne  
Anderson, Byron  
Anderson, Ron  
Asselmeier, Francis  
Asselmeier Claudia  
Bachhuber, Carol  
Balmer, Jean  
Barker, Norman J.  
Berkenbush, Jo Ann  
Bjorge, Gary J.  
Bolerjack, Joyce P.  
Boom, Janet F.  
Bradford, Camille & Phil  
Brennan, Joseph  
Brown, Nancy  
Brown, Judy & Dennis  
Brown, Frank & Laura  
Burke, Marvin & Dorene  
Cahill, Helen  
Campbell, Dick  
Campbell, Marilyn  
Campbell, Gail  
Chamberlain, R. H.

Clover, Haworth  
Cole, Arnold L.  
Conrad, Mary E.  
Cramer, Howard  
Crary, Mr. & Mrs. Doug  
Crowle, Clarice  
Dale, Jo Anna  
Darnell, Wayne  
Dove, Lois A.  
Downs, Ronald O.  
Dyson, Lorraine  
Eastman, Mary Lou  
Evanhoe, Sharon  
Fiscus, Clifford H.  
Fry, Eleanor  
Garred, Willard  
Gash, Roger & Karen  
Geaudreau, Anne  
Gibbs, Robert  
Gorzitze, Vern  
Graham, Mariam G.  
Graves, John P.  
Gray, Tom  
Grunland, Paul  
Hayes, Noel V.  
Heil, Theodore  
Hesse, George & Bev  
Hoelter, Jim & Denny  
Hoopes, Chad  
Houser, Kathee  
Huebner, Walter L.  
Hughston, Betty  
Hunn, Herbert & Lois  
Hunter, Lu Ann  
Imboden, Bill  
Isakson, Dick  
Iworsley, Art & Kathy  
Jacobson, Carl & Sue  
Jefferies, Col. Chris L.  
Johnson, Dean L.  
Jones, Drs. Robert & Hedy  
Kanago, Betsy  
Kelleher, Joan  
Kennison, Polly  
Kidder, Marianne  
Kirstein, Carol Berg

Knight, William & June  
Kokinda, Ingrid  
Koroghlanian, Carol  
Kreek, Helen  
Leamon, Jean  
LeRoy, David  
Kauhl, Nancy  
Lingner, Robert  
Loomis, Patricia  
Lozier, Brenda  
Lynch, Ed  
Magerl, Barbara  
March, Hugh  
Marshall, Ross & Pat  
Masse, Paul C. "Skip"  
McDannald, Vernon A.  
McGeeney, Michael  
Meyer, Walter H.  
Miller, Dan  
Milliken, Chuck  
Monroe, Mrs. Bobbie J.  
Moree, Carolyn  
Morris, Lee  
Munkres, Robert L.  
Nash, Lee  
Nattkemper, Josephine  
Nelson, Virginia  
Newberry, Dave & Donna  
Nolan, Bill & Margie  
Owen, James T.  
Palmquist, Keith A.  
Parks, M. Lethene  
Parsons, Judson  
Pingrey, Richard  
Pipal, Vauna  
Pollock, Joyce  
Pritchard, Eula & Jim  
Ragen, Brooks  
Ratzlaff, Neal S.  
Rawlings, Mary  
Redding, Janet F.  
Ritter, Dale W.  
Rivenbark, Turner  
Roberts, Jeanette  
Rossi, Louise Hammer  
Russell, Tom & Carolyn

Saunders, William H.  
Schmidt, Patricia  
Schoch, Raymond E.  
Scoles, Bernadine  
Seibert, Donald  
Serr, Gene  
Shapiro, Lisa  
Shellenberger, Robert  
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Smith, Ariane  
Smith, Harold  
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Stovall, Jay & Leo  
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Wilson, Kirke  
Wiseman, Roderick J.  
Woollard, D. Wayne  
Woolsey, Carl  
Yates, David A.  
Zinn, Charles & Lorraine

**Donations continue to be accepted at any time and can be sent to:**

**OCTA Headquarters  
P.O. Box1019  
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64051-0519**

# Visit the National Frontier Trails Museum to explore the Westward Expansion.



The National Frontier Trails Museum is the only museum, library and archives in the nation exclusively devoted to the history of the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails. It recreates the story of those daring pioneers using quotes from journals and diaries, original illustrations and artifacts they left behind. The exhibits include the explorations of Lewis and Clark, the vital role of fur trappers and traders, the unique story of Mormons looking for religious freedom, and the transcontinental railroad which brought the overland wagon trails to an end. During the trails period, thousands of wagons rolled down the hill from the Independence Courthouse Square and passed over the property where the museum now sits. Evidence of the migration can still be seen today in the form of swales, or grassed over wagon ruts, left in the field directly across the street from the museum. For more information on the Trails Museum and upcoming special events, please call 816-325-7575, or visit our website at [www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org](http://www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org).

Shop our museum store for this and many other book and gift items!

*The Traces: Tale of Narcissa Whitman and a Faithful Horse of the Oregon Trail*  
Written and illustrated by Cheryl Harness  
©2011, Hardcover \$14.95

*Narcissa married Thomas Whitman, an early settler who wanted to be, and thus became, a trail. She spent her honeymoon riding side-saddle some 2,000 miles across the vast, often perilous trail to Oregon Country—something no other white woman had ever done.*

*Cheryl Harness combines her lively narrative style and detailed art work with quotes from the diaries and accounts of Narcissa and other eyewitnesses to help you discover how such a noble adventure became one of the great tragedies in the story of America. This book is featured in the Fall 2007 National Geographic magazine.*

## The National Frontier Trails Museum

318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO 64050  
816-325-7575

Mon.-Sat. 9:00 am - 4:30 pm    Adults \$5.00, Seniors (62 & older) \$4.50  
Sunday 12:30 - 4:30 pm    Youth (6 - 17) \$3.00, Age 5 & under - Free



Oregon-California Trails Association  
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### What's Happening...

**March 8-9, 2008**  
Mid-Year Board Meeting  
Sacramento, California

**August 5-9, 2008**  
26th Annual Convention  
Nampa, Idaho