



News From the Plains

Fall 2008

Vol. XXII

No. 4

Oregon-California
Trails Association

Yuma Symposium

Focus on the Southern Trails

By John Krizek

Learn about the importance of the Southern routes to California in a special OCTA National Mid-winter Symposium in historic Yuma, AZ, Jan. 16-18, 2009. Held in conjunction with the Mid-Winter OCTA Board meeting, this will be a celebration of the many historic trails that came together at the Yuma Crossing of the Colorado River—from the Spanish era of the 1700s to the Gold Rush and pioneer era of the 1800s.

Along with OCTA National and the Southwest and California-Nevada Chapters of OCTA, participating organizations will include: The Anza Society, Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, Rio Colorado Chapter of the Arizona Historical Society, and the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area with partial sponsorship by the National Park Service. The symposium will include:

- A Friday night welcome reception and presentation hosted by a local historian and the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area.
- A Saturday morning full of talks and presentations by a roster of leading historians, authors and experts.
- A luncheon with a focus on the role of the Southern trails in the National Trail System.
- An afternoon of tours of local historical sites, including the Territorial Prison, Quartermaster Depot, and museums.
- A Saturday evening banquet featuring keynote speaker Paul Hutton, a Distinguished History Professor from the University of New Mexico, renowned educator, author, and documentarian.
- A choice of Sunday all-day guided tours – one east to the site of the Oatman Massacre and other sites along the Southern Emigrant Road along the Gila River; the other by boat up the Colorado River to see old mining camps, Indian petroglyphs, a steamboat landing, and the results of a campaign to restore the lower Colorado River to its natural state.

There also will be a variety of other local and nearby attractions including military sites, casinos, desert landscapes, unique shopping opportunities, and exhibits and literature on Southwest trail history.

Advance registration is now available through OCTA headquarters and at www.octatrails.org. Get on the list for early tour sign-ups. All meetings and the banquet will be held at the Shilo Inn Hotel & Suites in Yuma. Contact the hotel at 928-782-9511 and ask for the OCTA group rate of \$92.95.

The steering committee for this event includes chair John Krizek, Prescott, AZ; Pat Etter, Mesa, AZ; Reba Grandrud, Phoenix; Dave Hollecker, Reno; and Travis Boley.

*Speaker Information
on page 3*



News From the Plains

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Masthead photo by Candy Moulton

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Fall 2008 News From the Plains

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Spanish and Emigrant Eras along Southern Trails to be Explored at Yuma Gathering

**Saturday, Jan. 17
Morning Session I
The Spanish Era**

1. Fr. Kino, the Jesuits, and the Discovery of the Route From Sonora to Yuma

Presenter: **Don Garate**, Chief of Interpretation and Historian at Tumacacori National Historical Park in Southern Arizona. During his 18 years at Tumacacori, Garate has conducted research in primary documentation and written and published various articles about the Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries in Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico. At Tumacacori, one of Kino's early missions, he is involved on a daily basis in the interpretation of Father Kino and his legacy, through talks, guided tours, and living history presentations.

2. Juan Bautista deAnza and His Treks During the 1770s

Presenter: **Joe Myers**, president of the Anza Society, and secretary of the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona. Myers, a volunteer with the National Park Service, has studied available documents, used computer and GPS technology, and personally hiked to document the locations of each of Anza's 27 campsites in Arizona during the explorer's epic march to colonize California.

3. Fr. Garces and the 1781 Yuma Massacre

Presenter: **Mark Santiago**, director of the New Mexico Farm and Research Museum, Las Cruces, NM. Santiago spent 16 years as collections manager and curator for the Arizona Historical Society at its Yuma, Tucson, and

Tempe branches. It was during his tenure at Yuma that he combined his interest in Spanish colonial military history with the history of the Yuma crossing. Among many articles on Spanish era history, he authored *Massacre at the Yuma Crossing: Spanish Relations with the Quechans, 1779-1782* (University of Arizona Press, 1998)—a book about the episode that virtually shut down the Yuma Crossing for decades.

**Morning Session II
The Pioneer Era**

4. On the Roads to Yuma: An Incredible Cast of Characters

Presenter: **Patricia Etter**, retired curator of the American Indian Research Library, Labrolia Center, Arizona State University. In addition to many award-winning articles on southern route migrations over the past 25 years, Etter is author of *To California on the Southern Route* (Arthur H. Clark Company, 1998). Her current publication, *California Odyssey: An Overland Journey on the Southern Trails*, will be published by Arthur H. Clark Company in 2009. She serves on the OCTA Board of Directors and on the editorial committee of the *Western Historical Quarterly*.

5. Alamo Mocho Well and the Mexican War Trails of Kearny & Cooke Through Baja California

Presenter: **Tom Jonas**, an Arizona native and graduate of Arizona State University, whose passion is researching, writing, and mapping the history of explorations in Arizona and the West—especially the trail of General Stephen Watts Kearny

across Arizona during the Mexican War—operates his own printing press repair business in Phoenix. Jonas is renown for his mapping projects, which include contributions to: *Historic Trails of Arizona* (Arizona State Parks, 2003); *Writing the Trail: Five Women's Frontier Narratives* (by Deborah Lawrence, 2006); and *From Texas to San Diego in 1851* (by Andrew Wallace and Richard Hevley, 2007).

6. Yuma Crossing in 1849: Emigrants Confront the American Nile

Presenter: **David Miller**, who holds a PhD in American history from the University of New Mexico, with specializations in the American Southwest and Native American history, recently retired after 38 years as a college professor, department chair, and university dean. He has published several articles and books on overland emigration and the fur trade, and currently is editing the journal of George Sanderson, a physician with the Mormon Battalion in 1846 under the command of Philip St. George Cooke who pioneered the southern wagon route from Santa Fe to San Diego.

News From the Plains

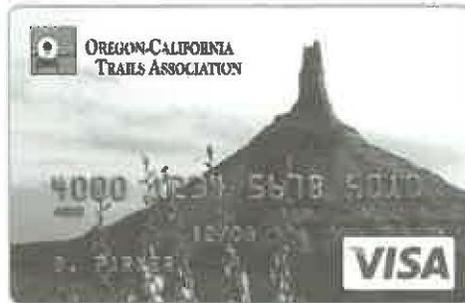
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OCTA Needs Your Continued Support

First things first—I would like to commend the 2009 Nampa Convention co-chairs on a great convention where we had more than 400 people in attendance. This is the first time since 2004 that we have surpassed the 400 attendee mark, and considering the high gas prices this summer, that is really saying something! I'm not the only one who came away impressed. Here is a copy of a letter I received in the mail recently:

Dear Travis,

Enclosed is our check for \$150 to be applied to the general endowment. It is our way of recognizing the great work done by the co-directors of the very well planned and well executed and most enjoyable 2008 convention. Our thanks to Roger (Blair) & Jim (McGill)—and of course to Patti (King-McGill) & Susan (Badger Doyle)—for all their hard work.

I second this letter writer's sentiment—kudos to Jim, Roger, and their better halves! If you missed this year's edition of the annual convention, mark your calendars now and plan to attend our first Mid-Winter Symposium in Yuma, AZ Jan. 16-18, 2009 as well as our 27th Annual Convention in Loveland, CO, next August. Both are shaping up to be similarly incredible experiences.

Speaking of the 2009 Loveland convention, there is some information available now at http://www.octa-colorado.org/2009_convention.htm. A very tentative schedule and some hotel information are available now. The Best Western will serve as the site of the board meeting and the main convention hotel.

We've blocked out all 89 rooms at the Best Western at a price of \$92/night. We also have 25 rooms being held at the Candlewood Suites at \$95/night, and will sign a deal with the Holiday Inn Express by November. We expect another 25 rooms and similar pricing from them. There are other hotels, RV campgrounds, beds & breakfasts, and tent campgrounds available in the immediate vicinity. Be sure to check the convention Web site frequently.

Once again, be sure to look for online registration next spring. Take advantage of this time and money saving convenience. We had 149 people (or about 35 percent of our total registrants) utilize the online system in Nampa, helping OCTA gross over \$25,000 in online registration fees. Let's see if we can push this past the 50 percent mark next year!

More immediately, OCTA's Mid-Winter Yuma Symposium is just around the corner. As I stated above, hold Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend as your opportunity to join us in Yuma, AZ. Not only will you have the opportunity to thaw out in the midst of a warm Arizona winter, you'll also learn a lot about southern emigrant trails to California, the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition, the Mormon Battalion, the Butterfield Route, and of course, the all-important Yuma Crossing of the Colorado River.

Speakers, van tours, and boat tours will be offered as part of the festivities, and the University of New Mexico's Distinguished Professor of History, Dr. Paul Hutton, will serve as the Saturday night keynote speaker. If you've ever caught Dr. Hutton on a History Channel documentary (or about 150 other such documentaries),

you know you're in for an informative, witty, and engaging evening of fun. The Shilo Inn Hotel & Suites of Yuma will serve as symposium headquarters, and the OCTA board of directors has elected to hold its Mid-year Board meeting prior to the symposium. So be sure to go to our homepage at www.octa-trails.org for online registration and look for a special four-page symposium insert in this edition of *NFP*.

As you can see from advertising found elsewhere in this edition of *News From the Plains*, OCTA now offers its own Affinity Visa credit card. I highly—highly—encourage you to apply for one of the five cards we have to offer, each of which can be seen on the homepage. (And I'd be remiss not to thank Scotts Bluff National Monument as well as OCTA members Roger Blair, Bob Kabel, and Randy Wagner for providing the artwork on our new Affinity cards!). Not only do you get a card with no annual fee and 0 percent interest for the first six months, you'll also help OCTA's finances incredibly. This is because OCTA receives \$50 for each applicant who uses the new card within 90 days of receipt. If every member applied for and used their new Affinity card, *OCTA would earn over \$85,000*. But as an added benefit, OCTA also receives 0.3 percent of your total purchases for as long as you continue to use the card.

Non-OCTA members may also apply for this card, so encourage your friends and family to sign up as well. You can apply on United Missouri Bank's secure server (which is linked from our Web site) or print the paper

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What's in a Name?

We are the Oregon-California Trails Association. But does that mean that we are only concerned about trails that lead to Oregon and California? The Mission Statement of our Strategic Plan includes all western migration trails by saying, "Our mission is to protect the Historic Emigrant Trails legacy by promoting research, education, preservation activities and public awareness of the trails, and to work with others to promote these causes." The intent was emigrants going to California and Oregon, but not the states as currently configured. In the early emigrant period, the Old Oregon Country was jointly occupied by Americans and the British. It included the present states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, part of Wyoming, part of Montana, as well as about half of British Columbia. The eastern boundary was the crest of the Rocky Mountains. So when the wagon trains crossed South Pass, they were in Oregon.

With the many California gold strikes, emigrants reached northern, central, and southern California by a variety of routes. But California wasn't bordered by the Utah Territory and Texas for several more years. The current states of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and part of

Texas were claimed by Mexico until more emigrants settled in the West.

The OCTA Store sells the Historic Trails of the Western United States Map which shows nearly all trail routes that brought emigrants west. Articles in the *Overland Journal* focus on a variety of trails. Our trail preservation efforts have likewise been in many different states.

The OCTA Board has attempted to meet at locations throughout the country to be accessible to many members. For example, during the last five years OCTA has had meetings in Manhattan, KS; Independence, MO; Vancouver,

WA; Denver, CO; Salt Lake City, UT; Phoenix, AZ; St. Joseph, MO; Gering-Scotts Bluff, NE; Sacramento, CA; and Nampa, ID. In 2009 the board will meet in Yuma, AZ, and Loveland, CO. That shows some real regional diversity.

The U.S. Congress granted National Trails Status for the Oregon Trail, California Trail, Mormon Pioneer Trail, the Pony Express route as well as the Old Spanish Trail and the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail and several others. OCTA assisted with the formation of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, which has its own Santa Fe Trail Association.

We are supporting bills in Congress to add 66 segments and cutoffs to the primary emigrant trail routes. That language has been combined with several other proposals as part of an omnibus bill — S 2262 America's Historical and Natural Legacy Study Act. It passed the House and is now ready for Senate action. So our efforts and concerns are broad.

We in OCTA look forward to the cooperative relationship with the Anza Society, the Old Spanish Trail Association, and other organizations interested in history and historic trails in the Southwest when we hold our meeting in Yuma next January.

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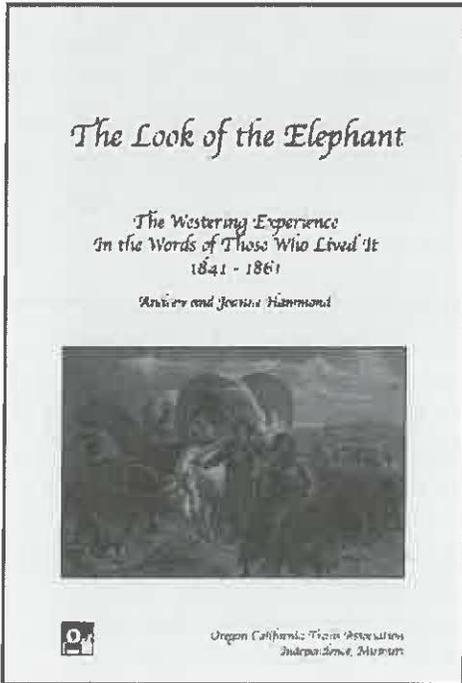
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The Look of the Elephant

The Westering Experience

In the Words of Those Who Lived It, 1841-1861

by Andrew & Joanne Hammond



Traveling the trail with the pioneers...

The words of those who actually left wagon tracks and boot prints in the dust of the emigrant trails are often more important than what modern historians say about the westward emigration.

Based on the popular "The Look of the Elephant" column featured in the *Overland Journal*, Andy and Joanne Hammond's exhaustive collection of diary quotes is a must-have for any student of the overland experience.

Keynoted by maps, overviews of the trails and jumping off places, and thumbnail biographies of the diarists, *The Look of the Elephant* puts the reader at the side of the men and women who surrendered comforts of the known in the middle of the 19th Century for the unknown promises of a future in an untamed wilderness.

Diary excerpts are organized chronologically by principal trail routes and retain the original writer's spelling, punctuation, and manner of speech. You will feel as if you are along for the journey.

No matter what your trail expertise – student, casual observer of the emigrant journeys, or devoted traveler of the trails – you'll want to add this collection to your personal library. And it will make a great gift!

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From the Association Manager...

Continued from Page 5

application from our Web site. You can also request a paper application by e-mailing me at tboley@indepmo.org or calling me toll free at 888-811-6282. My goal is to ensure every OCTA member proudly carries this new Affinity card, so sign up today!

Finally, OCTA has in place a deal to also reap the benefits of referrals. For every non-profit organization I refer to our contact, OCTA will receive \$10 for each successful application. For example, I've already referred to Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) to United Missouri Bank and they have recently launched their own Affinity card. For each successful application, OSTA will receive \$50 and OCTA will receive \$10 (and OSTA has to do all the work!). So, if OSTA has 200 successful applicants, OCTA makes \$2,000 and does nothing more than check the bank account for the automatic deposit. If you know of a not-for-profit organization that could also benefit from having its own Affinity credit card, send me the contact information and I'll help them get it set up.

While you're thinking of other not-for-profits that could benefit from an Affinity credit card program, also think of similar organizations that might be interested in partaking in a membership list exchange. OCTA has exchanged membership lists with other historical organizations in the past and has always benefited from the new members we reap from such an endeavor. Please contact me if you know of any organizations that might have such an interest, or feel free to pass my contact information along to other museums or historical societies.

If you do NOT want to have your name and mailing address included in such an exchange, please notify us at HQ by calling toll free at

888-811-6282 or e-mailing Kathy Conway at kconway@indepmo.org. It is certainly not our intention to share your contact information with others if you do not wish it to be shared, and we already have a list on file for those who wish not to be included. We'll add you to it if you let us know.

Speaking of membership, after nine years (1998 through 2006) of membership losses, OCTA saw some growth last year (2007) and very slight growth this year (2008). We still need your help to stave off a decline in membership. Have you considered a membership as a gift for a friend or family member? If every member of OCTA brought us just one new member, OCTA's membership base would double in size, literally overnight!

Idaho member Jim McGill brought us 40 new members in the last year—wouldn't it be fun to beat his record? For his efforts, Jim received special recognition at this year's convention award banquet, not to mention a bag containing 100 gold dollar coins and his very own engraved gold-pan. Won't you participate in our next "Membership Gold Rush" contest? You can find contest rules on the Web site.

The new long-awaited books by Andrew and Joanne Hammond (*The Look of the Elephant: The Westering Experience In the Words of Those Who Lived It, 1841-1861*) and James W. McGill (*Rediscovered Frontiersman: Tim Goodale*) are now available on pre-order for a 20 percent discount.

The Hammonds' book, which will be out later this autumn, normally retails for \$18.95 paperback and \$34.95 hardbound. The McGill book, slated to come out over the winter, will be available for \$24.95 paperback or \$65 for a hardbound numbered

and signed collector's edition. Take advantage of your 20 percent pre-order discount by contacting HQ now to reserve a copy.

From the Headquarters Manager...

Kathy Conway
kconway@indepmo.org

This past August more than 400 OCTA members and interested individuals showed up in Nampa, ID, to attend our annual convention. We've received and passed on their many convention-related compliments to Co-Chairs Jim McGill and Roger Blair. Thanks to these co-chairs and their many chapter members and local volunteers for a spectacular and fun-filled event.

Long time OCTA employee, Suzanne Vinduska resigned her position in August. Suzanne is now working for the recently relocated Midwest Genealogy Library in Independence. We wish her great success and thank her for 10 years of service to OCTA.

Later this fall you will be receiving OCTA's annual book flyer for your holiday shopping. We know that you'll find a new title that will make a wonderful gift for the season!

We now have OCTA's 2009 Calendars available for immediate sale. The calendar artwork is charming and was created solely by grade school children and retails for \$10. Call headquarters to order.

Keep recruiting members for OCTA and earn \$5 "Gold Rush Bucks" to use toward your purchases at the OCTA store.

Education Contest Winners Announced

By **Bill Hill**
Education Committee Chair

Nancy Schoonover of California and Afton Patrick of Idaho received this year's OCTA Outstanding Education Awards.

Schoonover teaches 4th grade in the El Dorado Adventist School in Placerville, CA. Her program focuses on the California Trail. Students read a fictional account of a family going west. As they read, they discuss and learn about various aspects of the trail. They learn about the preparations needed by using the decision making process; the geography by studying the landmarks and the route; and the daily life and hardships faced along the way by reading and participating in field trips. Students hike along various segments of the Carson Route so they can get a firsthand feeling for the pioneer experience.

Patrick teaches 4th grade in Filer Elementary School in Filer, ID. Her

program centers on the trail to Oregon. She uses visual material, written material, and field experiences. Her students watch trail videos and then discuss different topics about the journey based on their viewing.

They are also required to read a number of stories, both fictional accounts and authentic journals, about the journey west.

Walk Week, a central part of the program, requires students to walk about 50 miles on segments of the north alternate route and Kelton Road. By the time they are done, they have experienced firsthand what the journey was like and how the pioneers felt. There are a number of associated activities such as butter making and cooking included during their walks.

The application forms for the 2009 awards can be found on OCTA's Education section of the Web site, www.octa-trails.org. Chapters will also have copies of the applications.

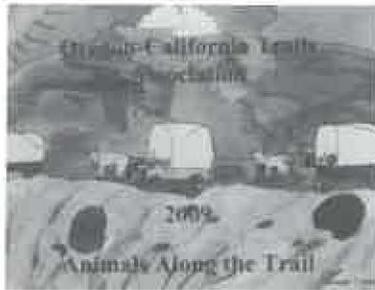


Nancy Schoonover, left, and Afton Patrick received OCTA Outstanding Education Awards.

From Animals to Landmarks Along the Trails

Another project that OCTA sponsors to encourage youth participation and the study of the trails is the Education Committee's calendar project. The 2008 OCTA calendar "Animals along the Trail" was shown at the Nampa convention. The artwork of 14 elementary students was selected and was showcased on the calendar. Copies, with the animals depicted in vivid colors, can be purchased through headquarters. The cost for each calendar is \$10.

The theme for the 2010 calendar is "Landmarks along the Trails." The contest is open to elementary students. While there are a number of well-known landmarks, we are



hoping that students will also choose other landmarks found along the many different trails and alternates used by those pioneers heading west. Thus, it will be a true learning experience for the students and those who purchase the calendars. If you have or know an elementary child, please encourage them or their teacher to make this

part of their course of study on the West. History, geography, and art are integrated in this project. The student prize information and specific guidelines are available through local chapters, headquarters, and on the education section of OCTA's Web site, www.octa-trails.org.

Call Headquarters to purchase your copy of the 2009 OCTA Calendar featuring artwork by school students.

888-811-6282

OCTA Award Winners Distinguished Service

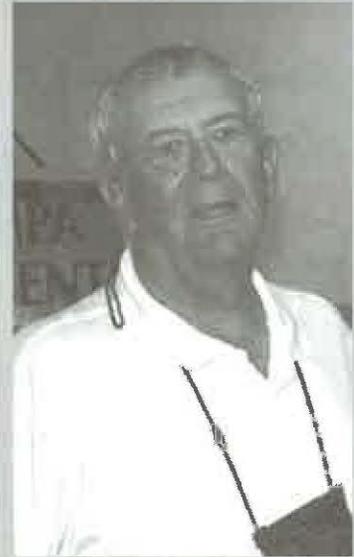


Mark Baltes, left, received his award; Glen Corbeil was not present to accept the Distinguished Service Award.



Eleanor Craig also was recognized.

Meritorious Achievement



Larry Jones Received OCTA's highest award for Meritorious Service



I-OCTA Chapter President Doug Jenson, above, accepted an award from Idaho BLM Deputy State Director Susan Giannettino that was given to I-OCTA for years of volunteer service by chapter members in marking and mapping historic trails in the state.



David Welch received the first ever David Welch Preservation Award from OCTA President Glenn Harrison, above, and a special award from the Rock Springs, WY BLM presented by Colleen Sievers, left.





Patti and Jim McGill received a special award from the Idaho BLM for their work on the trails. BLM Deputy State Director Susan Giannettino made the presentation.

Board Hires New Preservation Officer

By Candy Moulton
NFP Editor

The OCTA Board at its meeting in Nampa, ID, hired Leslie Fryman as National Trails Preservation Officer. David Welch, who has held that position, will undertake the role of Mapping and Marking Chair, and continue to teach trail preservation workshops.

The board approved a new award, the David Welch Preservation Award, and gave it for the first time to Welch. The board also decided the National Trails Preservation Officer, when paid, will be a non-voting board member, and approved an OCTA Internet Committee, to report to the vice-president.

Board members accepted the resignation of Bob Clark as Publications Committee Chair; Bill Martin will fill the position until President Glenn Harrison appoints a replacement. Randy Brown will retain his position as Chair of the Graves & Sites Committee.

OCTA continues to budget at a greater rate than revenues cover,

according to a report to the board. Expenses for the first nine months of the fiscal year exceeded revenues by \$33,000 as compared with \$18,000 in over-budget spending during the same period in 2007, Treasurer Turner Rivenbark reported. While expenses remain at about the same amounts as 2007, revenues are down by approximately \$20,000 for the same time period. In past years the board has not actually spent more than revenues covered.

Even so, board member Dave Vixie expressed reservations about continuing to approve deficit budgets and Welch said OCTA remains "too optimistic" on projected revenues and carries "membership revenue numbers that are difficult to achieve." Board Member John Mark Lambertson also raised concern about the negative budgeting, but noted it is done in other organizations to which he belongs and at the end of the year accounts balance because expenses don't meet or exceed actual budgeted amounts. Both Vixie and Welch voted against the organizational budget,

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Elaine McNabney Volunteer Award



Jerry Eichhorst



Mary Ann Tortorich

Friend of the Trail Award Recipients 2008



Pat Nettleton



Jeff Ross



Lyle Lambert



Kim and Allen Thompson



Nicholas Pate

Not Shown:

Richard and Arlene Schmitz

Gary Naughton

Nick Ili

Gary Franklin

Mary Oman

Richard Hill

Dean Shaw

Board Hires

Continued from Page 11

but it was approved by a majority on the board.

The board agreed to set aside the funds donated for preservation that are not expended during the year and invest them in the Loomis Preservation Fund at the end of the fiscal year rather than having them flow into general fund coffers.

This year the organization received \$193,000 in National Park Service funding as a result of an increase to the NPS budget. As Long Distance Trails Superintendent Aaron Mahr told the board, this budget allocation is "just absolutely tremendous." In obligating that money to the association, Mahr's office looks "very closely to your strategic plan." That plan provides the NPS with "the justification in place" for funding "because we can see clear goals and clear objectives," he said.

Among the funded items for OCTA are \$20,000 to provide training for groups along the trail; \$88,000 for manager fees; \$25,500 for In Pursuit of A Dream film project for additional filming; \$21,000 for expansion of teaching curriculum, and distribution of books and maps; and \$12,000 for support of the annual convention.

Mahr told the board it should add new goals to the strategic plan. The NPS focus during upcoming years will be to "identify the trail and brand it so people recognize the trail and know where it is." He said development of sign standards is a priority for the agency.

For specific projects NPS also will provide Challenge Cost Share funds to purchase trail markers (\$40,000) and develop an educational Web site (\$30,000).

During the convention NPS began discussion about a long range

Continued on Page 13



A celebration of the many historic trails that came together at the Yuma Crossing of the Colorado River in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

See the back panel of this insert or register online at www.octa-trails.org. All meetings and events will be at the Shilo Inn Hotel, 1550 S. Castle Dome Ave., Yuma, AZ 85365, unless otherwise specified. For the special OCTA symposium room rate of \$92 (plus tax) call the hotel at (928) 782-9511.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, January 16:

3:00 – 6:00 PM – Registration desk open

6:00 – 9:00 PM – Welcome reception hosted by the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area at Old St. Paul’s Church (1550 S 14th Ave., Yuma, AZ 85364) in the Historic District of Old Yuma. Built in 1909 in the style of an English chapel, the Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Saturday, January 17:

8:00 AM – Welcoming remarks and introductions.

Speakers:

- 8:30 AM – Don Garate Fr. Kino, the Jesuits, and the Discovery of the Route From Sonora to Yuma
- 9:00 AM – Joe Myers Juan Bautista deAnza and His Treks During the 1770s
- 9:30 AM – Mark Santiago Fr. Garces and the 1781 Yuma Massacre
- 10:00 AM Break
- 10:30 AM – Patricia Etter On the Roads to Yuma: An Incredible Cast of Characters
- 11:00 AM – Tom Jonas Alamo Mocho Well and the Mexican War Trails of Kearny & Cooke
Through Baja California
- 11:30 AM – David Miller Emigrants Confront the American Nile
- 12:15 - 1:15 PM Luncheon, featuring Stan Bond and Aaron Mahr of the National Park
Service National Historic Trails Offices
- 1:30 PM – Tina Clark Yuma historian’s slide show on historic Yuma
- 2:00 – 5:00 PM Tour of local Yuma sites (see information attached)
- 6:00 – 9:30 PM Banquet, featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Paul Hutton



Dr. Paul Hutton is the Distinguished Professor of History at the University of New Mexico. Formerly the Executive Director of the Western History Association and President of the Western Writers of America, Dr. Hutton has published widely in both scholarly and popular magazines. He has written, appeared in, or narrated over 150 documentaries and published numerous award-winning books on all facets of Western history. Dr. Hutton also served as a content advisor and will narrate OCTA’s forthcoming film *In Pursuit of a Dream*. He earned his BA, MA, and PhD at the University of Indiana.

Sunday, January 18:

Optional tours – See page 3 of this insert.

NOTE: At this point there is no plan for Sunday night. You’re “on your own.”
Enjoy historic Yuma and surroundings!

Saturday, January 17, 2009

Morning Session I (8:30 AM – 10:00 AM) – **The Spanish Era**

1. Fr. Kino, the Jesuits, and the Discovery of the Route From Sonora to Yuma

Presenter: **Don Garate**, *Chief of Interpretation and Historian at Tumacacori National Historical Park in Southern Arizona*. During his 18 years at Tumacacori, Garate has conducted research in primary documentation and written and published various articles about the Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries in Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico. At Tumacacori, one of Kino's early missions, Garate is involved on a daily basis in the interpretation of Father Kino and his legacy, through talks, guided tours, and living history presentations.

2. Juan Bautista deAnza and His Treks During the 1770s

Presenter: **Joe Myers**, *President of the Anza Society and Secretary of the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona*. Myers, with a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry, retired to Tucson and became swept up in Spanish era history. As a volunteer with the National Park Service he has studied available documents, used computer and GPS technology, and personally hiked to document the locations of each of Anza's 27 campsites in Arizona during his epic march to colonize California.

3. Fr. Garces and the 1781 Yuma Massacre

Presenter: **Mark Santiago**, *Director of the New Mexico Farm and Research Museum, Las Cruces, NM*. Santiago spent 16 years as collections manager and curator for the Arizona Historical Society at its Yuma, Tucson, and Tempe branches. It was during his tenure at Yuma that he combined his interest in Spanish colonial military history with the history of the Yuma Crossing. Among many articles on Spanish era history, he authored *Massacre at the Yuma Crossing: Spanish Relations with the Quechans, 1779-1782* (University of Arizona Press, 1998), a renowned book about the episode that virtually shut down the Yuma Crossing for decades.

Morning Session II (10:30 AM – Noon) – **The Pioneer Era**

4. On the Roads to Yuma: An Incredible Cast of Characters

Presenter: **Patricia Etter**, *Retired Curator of the American Indian Research Library, Labrolia Center, Arizona State University*. In addition to many award-winning articles on southern route migrations over the past 25 years, Etter is author of *To California on the Southern Route* (Arthur H. Clark Company, 1998). Her current publication, *California Odyssey: An Overland Journey on the Southern Trails*, will be published in 2009 by Arthur Clark Company (now an imprint of the University of Oklahoma Press). She serves on the Board of Directors of the Oregon-California Trails Association.

5. Alamo Mocho Well and the Mexican War Trails of Kearny & Cooke Through Baja California

Presenter: **Tom Jonas**, *Arizona native and graduate of Arizona State University*. Jonas' passion is researching, writing, and mapping the history of explorations in Arizona and the West—especially the trail of General Kearny across Arizona during the Mexican War. He operates his own printing press repair business in Phoenix. Jonas is renowned for his mapping projects, which includes contributions to *Historic Trails of Arizona* (Arizona State Parks); *Writing the Trail: Five Women's Frontier Narratives* (by Deborah Lawrence); and *From Texas to San Diego in 1851* (by Andrew Wallace and Richard Hevley).

6. Yuma Crossing in 1849: Emigrants Confront the American Nile

Presenter: **David Miller**, *holds a PhD degree in American history from the University of New Mexico, with specializations in the American Southwest and Native American history*. Miller recently retired after 38 years as a college professor, department chair, and university dean. He has published several articles and books on overland emigration and the fur trade, and currently is editing the journal of George Sanderson. Sanderson was a physician with the Mormon Battalion in 1846 under the command of Philip St. George Cooke. It was Cooke who pioneered the southern wagon route from Santa Fe to San Diego, along which thousands of California-bound 49ers later trudged en route to California.

OPTIONAL TOURS

HISTORIC YUMA TOUR, Saturday January 17, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Highlights of historic Yuma are the Territorial Prison and the Quartermaster Depot. A special "Heritage Tour" package will include admission to all local sites including a museum and art center.

With bus or van transportation included from the hotel: \$25 per person
Without transportation provided, admission package only: \$10 per person

SOUTHERN EMIGRANT TRAIL TOUR, Sunday January 18, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

The Gila River was a lifeline across the desert, flowing westward from the Chichahua Mountains to its confluence with the Colorado River, near today's Yuma. It was followed by travelers of the 1700s as well as the pioneers of the 1800s. In 1850-51, a group of Mormons (including the Oatman family) were traveling west over the Southern Emigrant Trail. By the time they reached the Pima Villages south of today's Phoenix, personality conflicts had caused the initial train to split into smaller groups. The Oatman family decided to continue to the Colorado River on its own. On February 18, 1851, the family was attacked by Native Americans at what is now called Oatman Flat. Roys Oatman, his wife, and five children were killed. Thirteen-year-old Olive Oatman and eight-year-old Mary Ann were taken captive. Fourteen-year-old Lorenzo Oatman was left for dead.

Olive and Mary Ann were eventually traded to the Mohaves, who lived along the Colorado River north of modern-day Yuma. Mary Ann died in captivity. Five years after the attack, word was received in Yuma that the Mohaves were holding a white captive, and Olive was rescued. She was reunited with her brother Lorenzo, and the two spent several years touring the country telling the story of the massacre and Olive's ordeal in captivity.

This tour will head east, paralleling the Gila River to that stretch of the Southern Emigrant Trail crossing Oatman Flat. In addition to the massacre and grave sites and the nearby site of a later stage station, we'll walk a portion of the trail to see an 1849 inscription. Homeward bound, depending on the time available, the tour will take a side trip either to the Sears Point segment of the trail along the Gila, or to the Mohawk stage station site. The tour will depart at 8 AM and return at approximately 5 PM.

Cost (Includes Lunch): \$55 per person

HISTORIC COLORADO RIVER TOUR, Sunday January 18 (Tour A: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM; Tour B: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

The Colorado River was both a major highway and a formidable barrier in the history of the Southwest. This tour will journey by bus upstream from Yuma to Fisher's Landing at Martinez Lake, and there board the River Queen for a custom, three-hour riverboat tour. Included will be Picacho State Park, a mining town site, remnants of a '49er cabin, Indian petroglyphs, and Norton's Landing, where steamboats from California unloaded cargo destined for inland settlements. Lunch at the Mears Point Landing in the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge will be followed by a special presentation on the dramatic results of the campaign to restore the lower Colorado River to its natural state. There should be ample opportunities for bird and wildlife watching along the way.

In order to accommodate our expected crowd, one section of this tour will depart at 8 AM and return to the hotel at 3 PM; another section will depart at 10 AM and return at 5 PM. Please indicate your preference on the attached form.

Cost (Includes Lunch): \$90 per person

Registration Form
Please print or type

Roads to Yuma Symposium
Yuma, Arizona, January 16-18, 2009

Names as they will appear on the name tags: OCTA Member? Other organization? Name of other org.:

#1 _____ Yes ___ No ___ Yes ___ No ___ _____

#2 _____ Yes ___ No ___ Yes ___ No ___ _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

OCTA MEMBER REGISTRATION (Don't pay the registration fee if you've already pre-registered):

	Fee		Number =	Amount
Individual	\$35.00	x	_____ =	\$ _____
Family (including minor children)	\$50.00	x	_____ =	\$ _____
Late Registration (after December 15)	\$15.00	x	_____ =	\$ _____

OPTIONAL TOURS:

HISTORIC YUMA TOUR, Saturday, January 17, 2 – 5 PM

Territorial Prison, Quartermaster Depot, Sanguinetti Museum, etc.

“Heritage Tour” – admission fee only (drive on your own) \$10.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____

“Heritage Tour” – admission fee plus shuttle bus or van service \$25.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____

SOUTHERN EMIGRANT TRAIL TOUR, Sunday, January 18

By van to the 1851 Oatman Massacre site along the Gila River,

8 AM – 5 PM (lunch included) \$55.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____

HISTORIC COLORADO RIVER TOUR, Sunday, January 18

By bus to Lake Martinez, then by boat for the river tour, with a special briefing on

Colorado River restoration (lunch included)

8AM – 3 PM, or 10 AM – 5 PM (circle preference) \$90.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____

Total for TOURS \$ _____

MEALS & SPECIAL EVENTS:

Welcoming Reception at Old St. Paul's Church, Friday, January 16, 6 – 8 PM

Wine & hors d'oeuvres; NO CHARGE, BUT WE NEED A COUNT. Free x _____ = \$ _____ N/C

Lunch Buffet, Saturday, January 17, 12:15–1:15 PM

Includes six kinds of sandwiches (vegetarian included), Baby Spinach Salad, Pasta Salad, Beverage, and Dessert

\$17.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Banquet: Saturday, Jan. 17, 6:00–9:30 PM (includes beverage & dessert) \$28.00

Mark menu choice: Spinach Lasagna with a Caesar Salad _____, or Chicken Dijon with Wild Rice Pilaf & Fresh Vegetables with a Caesar Salad _____

Continental Breakfast: No charge for those staying at the Shilo.

TOTAL for MEALS: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____

Payment Instructions: Make a copy of this page and mail with a check for the total amount to: OCTA, 524 S. Osage St., Independence, MO 64050. To pay by VISA or MasterCard, please provide the necessary information and signature on this form.

CreditCard# _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Cancellation Policy: Prior to December 15, 2008, the total amount will be refunded for cancellations. From December 16 to January 2, 2009, only the cost of meals plus 50% of bus tour fees will be refunded. After January 2, no refund will be made, except those granted by the Board of Directors after the symposium for cases of extreme hardship that were applied for in writing.

Special Needs: If you have special needs, please attach a letter outlining your requirements to your registration form. Address the letter to Glenn Harrison, President of OCTA, 524 S. Osage St., Independence, MO 64050.

Preservation of the Trails and Settings in Wyoming

As I look to the future, I cannot be optimistic about the prospects for the historic trails in Wyoming. We have struggled for the past twenty years to protect key segments of the trails from oil and gas development with some success. We are better about mitigating adverse impacts, but the bottom line is always the same: loss of trail and setting. Fortunately, the oil and gas activities are limited to certain areas and as a result some other areas remain relatively pristine.

In the future I see impacts over a much wider area. The threat is wind turbines (and possibly solar energy) and their associated infrastructure such as transmission lines. Many areas along the trails have been identified as having high potential for wind energy including the Sweetwater Valley, Dempsey Ridge and the Bear River Divide. Wind energy poses a special dilemma since it does provide "clean" energy and does address the greenhouse gas issue which many relate to global warming. Challenging wind turbines is not a popular position these days.

With gas development we can seek to limit adverse effects to the trails by locating facilities away from the trails and using terrain to hide the wellheads and condensate tanks. Neither is very large. This does not work for wind turbines. By their nature they are big, dynamic and need to be on ridges. Also, they must be serviced by highly visible transmission lines. The lines from one wind farm can extend across the state and beyond. It is nearly impossible to have the "emigrant experience" while standing in the midst of wind turbines and power lines, even if they are in

the distance.

It is imperative that we speak against the introduction of wind turbines and their infrastructure in areas with high quality trails and settings. This includes the Sweetwater Valley, South Pass and almost all of the Sublette and Lander Cutoffs. This voice must come from the citizens of Wyoming, although I will continue to speak out also. The governor, legislature, state historic preservation office and federal land managers should be contacted. It should be clear that we are not against the turbines per se, but they need to be placed in areas with low impact to natural and cultural resources.

I recently had the pleasure of interacting with students who are helping with OCTA's "In Pursuit of a Dream" video. They had visited the area of Prospect Hill, southwest of

Casper. They learned that the ridges along the trail in this area are soon to sprout wind turbines (they said next year). They asked what could be done to stop this project and I reluctantly replied, "not much." Their disappointment was palpable. It is far too late in the process to impact this project. In any case, if it is on private land, there is little that can be done. But we can act on projects that are only in the starting block.

By and large it is up to the people of Wyoming to see that wind energy is developed in a thoughtful and responsible manner. The way things are going now, it looks like many areas will take on the appearance of the ridges west of Laramie and near Fort Bridger. Is that what you want? The scenic and cultural assets of Wyoming are at risk. Please speak out.

Board Hires

Continued from Page 12

interpretive plan for the emigrant trails it manages. Approximately 25 people attended that session, which was held concurrent with other workshops.

Outgoing National Trails Preservation Officer Dave Welch told the board mitigation for energy projects tends to be tied to the area affected by a project. In one location in southern Wyoming there were issues over seven crossing points on the trail in an area where the trail had high integrity. Mitigation included signs and a video. "We traded seven trail crossings for three highway signs," Welch said adding, "It's a pretty bad deal, but it is all we could get." Additional trail could be affected

by work in the Pinedale area and along the Lander Road, both also in Wyoming. One permit calls for 4,032 wells to be placed over the next 30 years and Welch said it is difficult to determine how to mitigate for such long-term projects.

Welch said Wyoming is "becoming one of our best cases for preservation and local involvement," but he noted significant projects are being evaluated now that could create future impacts. Among them are wind projects, power transmission lines across Wyoming and Idaho, and a proposed pipeline from Montana south across Wyoming to western Colorado.

Upcoming Events

National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference

Tulsa, OK
Oct. 21-25, 2008

Partnership for the National Trails System Workshop

(Expanding Constituencies & Connecting With Youth)
Little Rock, AR
Nov. 13-14, 2008

American Trails 19th National Trails Symposium

Little Rock, AR
November 15-18, 2008

OCTA Mid-Year Board Meeting

Yuma, AZ
Jan. 15-16, 2009

OCTA Yuma Trails Symposium

Yuma, AZ
Jan. 16-18, 2009

Partnership for the National Trails System "Hike the Hill" Advocacy Week

Washington, D.C.
Feb. 9-13, 2009

Partnership for the National Trails System Bi-Annual Conference

Missoula, MT
July 10-15, 2009

OCTA Convention

Loveland, CO
Aug. 18-22, 2009

Loveland 2009: Raffle and Auction

The Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter is seeking donations for the raffle and auction at the convention in Loveland, Colorado, Aug. 18-22, 2009.

As in the past, items suitable for the raffle and auction include books, art work, historical memorabilia, photographs, gift items, gift baskets, note cards, handcrafted gifts, and a wide variety of other items.

Donations may either be mailed ahead or brought to the convention.

If you would like to donate items or have any questions at this time, please contact Camille Bradford: bradford@usa.net; 303-460-0371. Mail: 11515 Quivas Way, Denver, CO 80234.

40th Anniversary Celebration Continues

By Ross Marshall
President

Partnership for the National Trails System

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), of which OCTA is a member, continues to promote the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the passage of the National Trails System Act by the U.S. Congress in 1968. There are now twenty-six trails in the system, including both the Oregon and California National Historic Trails.

In addition, recreational trails across the country as recognized by American Trails, plus the Rails-to-Trails hiking/biking trails are also joining in the commemoration.

Various events and celebrations, both locally and nationally, have already been held across the country with more being planned. A formal commemoration was scheduled in Washington D.C., on Oct. 2, the actual anniversary date, which was expected to include not only trails people, but also members of Congress and federal agencies

In anticipation of the 50th anniversary, PNTS has launched the Decade for the National Trails and is in the process of distributing suggested goals and objectives that each of the national trails and their

support organizations, like OCTA, will be encouraged to use in preparing action plans for the coming years.

The Decade initiative will be highlighted by the National Trails Symposium in Little Rock, AR, Nov. 15-18.

The National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation presented its Partnership Award to PNTS on Aug. 15 in St. Louis, MO, for this initiative to preserve our nation's heritage.

Nominated by the Conservation Fund, PNTS also received an award during the Kodak American Greenways Award Ceremony at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 15.

These awards illustrate the value placed on these commemorations by leading groups across the country that support trails and their preservation.

Congress also places high value on the National Trails System as indicated by the recent sizeable appropriations increases for federal agencies like the National Park Service that provides partnering funding to OCTA and our chapters for projects along our trails.

We appreciate the efforts of Bill and Jeanne Watson, OCTA's representatives to PNTS, who help us advocate to Congress for trails recognition and funding.

Trails Program Recognized

Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett and Under Secretary of Agriculture Mark Rey in August accepted historic preservation awards on behalf of their departments, honoring the heritage tourism and history education achievements of the National Historic Trails program.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation presented the departments its Chairman's Award for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation to recognize the exemplary accomplishments of The National Historic Trails program, which is part of the National Trails System. The departments of the Interior and Agriculture jointly administer the congressionally designated National Historic Trails and National Scenic Trails programs.

"There is no better strategy than National Historic Trails for spurring heritage tourism, public history education, and creating unique local links to our shared national story," said John L. Nau, III, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. "It is absolutely appropriate that we recognize their importance here in Missouri, a state that is directly connected to one-third of our 18 historic trails, as we celebrate 40 years since Congress created the system."

"This award recognizes the outstanding vision, excellent management, and hard work of a number of dedicated Interior and Agriculture employees," Deputy Secretary Scarlett said. "I want to commend and thank them not only for the high quality of their work but also for their commitment and dedication to the historic preservation goals of the National Historic Trails program." Interior agencies that play

the largest part in administering the trails are the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service. For the Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service is the principal responsible agency.

The National Trails System is a network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails created by the National Trails System Act of 1968 and this year is celebrating 40 years of service to the nation. These trails provide for outdoor recreation needs, promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and preservation of open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources, and encourage public access and citizen involvement. To date, there are 18 National Historic Trails. These trails are created by congressional declaration. The presentation took place at a public meeting at Union Station, MO, during the summer business meeting of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Missouri Governor Matt Blunt, who is the presidentially appointed representative for the nation's governors to the Advisory Council attended and participated in the session.

OCTA Legislative Liaison Committee Co-Chair Bill Watson and President Glenn Harrison said, "All OCTA members of the Partnership for the National Trails System should take pride in our volunteer efforts that contributed to this Historic Preservation Federal Achievement award. We salute our federal trails partners who received this award on the 40th Anniversary of the National Trails System and look forward to many more years of close cooperation with all of our trails partners."

Info at Your Fingertips

www.paper-trail.org

By Sharon Manhart

Attention OCTA members! You have a wonderful new benefit: access to Paper Trail, the magnificent Web site of all emigrant names from trail diaries. You can cruise through the lists of names in every diary survey as well as finding information about each original diary.

The access is not difficult. Here are the directions:

1. First go online and type www.paper-trail.org in the search bar; not case sensitive

2. You can also sign into Paper Trail by accessing the OCTA website, www.OCTA-trails.org, then use the links on the home page to access Paper Trail

3. When the site comes up, click on the upper right hand link called LOG IN; then you will see the following headings:

USER NAME: **member** (enter in lower case)

PASSWORD: **wagons** (enter in lower case also)

4. Click on SEARCH and enter your name (all family member names as well) to see if all member names are listed. Follow the instructions on the Web site to find information about the names

There is help available, with an e-mail address for you to utilize for further advice and questions on Paper Trail. Please respect the fact that Paper Trail is not an open Web site to anyone who is not an OCTA member. Non-members, both individuals and institutions, pay a subscription fee for use, and that information is shown on the Web site.

Preserving Your Trails Research Collections

(This is Your Legacy!)

By OCTA Library Committee

Some OCTA members doing research about the emigrant experience have developed sizeable collections of trails research material. If your collection is or was important to *you*, then you'll want your efforts to be appreciated. For your work to live on, your collections should be available for future researchers. But—in cases of sudden illness, death or long term dementia, all too often the spouse does not know what to do with the material, or the children or grandchildren are not interested. This

leads to the material being disposed of, dispersed eeny-meeny-miney-mo, sold for ten cents on the dollar, or perhaps the collection is broken up to sell for highest dollar.

As OCTA members grow older they need to remain aware that what they have accumulated needs to be saved and made available to those who follow. Even genealogy research that relates to the emigrant experience (sometimes rare diaries and letters) should be included here.

Choosing when to donate your collection should be decided while you're still of sound mind. While

OCTA encourages you to consider donating to one of the OCTA-affiliated trails' libraries (Independence, MO; Sacramento, CA; or Laramie, WY), you may very well wish to donate closer to home.

The members of OCTA do not presume to tell you where to place your collection. But OCTA would like to have a record of where you deposited it.

Whatever you decide, you may use the accompanying generic donation form (below) to specify where your trail research materials should go.

A Generic Donation Form For Use in Donating OCTA Members' Research Collections

I, _____, being of sound mind, declare that after my death
(name)

I wish to have my trails research materials, as further described below, donated to:

(name of institution) _____
(address) _____
(city & state) _____
(telephone) _____

These materials include: (# of books) _____; (# of documents) _____;
(# of maps) _____; (# of research notes) _____;
(# of CDs & DVDs) _____; (# of other materials) _____

I ask that my spouse, my children, or my grandchildren, or the executor of my will, ensure that this request is executed as above stated, within 16 months after my decease.

(Signed) _____ (date) _____

- Copies of this form given to (check each, as accomplished):
1. my spouse
 2. my children
 3. my grandchildren
 4. my executor
 5. OCTA Headquarters

Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter

Preservation Reports for State Trails Areas

**By Camille Bradford
Chapter President**

Chapter mapping efforts are divided into geographical portions which correspond to committee members' home locations. Below are the current activities, from north to south:

Jerry and Ginny Blanz: Wyoming border south to the metro area—There is Build-a-Dam proposal underway which would flood approximately three miles of U.S. 287, starting about a mile north of Ted's Place (junction with Hwy 14 on its way up Poudre Canyon) and extending north from there. This would require relocating U.S. 287. The sponsors of this are a consortium of towns (not including Fort Collins or Greeley) and it is an attempt to obtain the water from the Cache la Poudre.

The dam would not be across the river but north of Ted's Place, flooding both the highway and the valley to the west, including a stretch of the Cherokee Trail. Water from the river would be pumped into a "forebay" and then into the reservoir—known as Glade Reservoir, which is projected to be larger than Horsetooth Reservoir, west of Fort Collins.

The Environmental Impact Statement was released recently and a number of public meetings are scheduled. Feelings are running pretty hot and the project may never happen, but that valley needs mapping before any potential permanent changes.

The section line intercepts have been plotted from the General Land Office (GLO) surveyor notes but field verification is not yet completed. The valley in question is one of

the few non-farmed locations of the Cherokee Trail so is likely to have definite traces of the Cherokee traffic as well as the Russell stage line, which followed it until Ben Holladay bought the stage line and relocated it several miles to the east.

Roger Hanson and Bruce Watson: Cherry Creek Reservoir south to Point of Rocks—We visited the excellent Cherokee Trail swales east of Blackfoot Cave in an attempt to utilize GPS technology in our mapping efforts. We hope to persuade the national OCTA organization to adopt a standardized GPS methodology for future mapping efforts.

Bill Burr: El Paso County—I currently have section line crossings platted on USGS 7.5 minute maps across El Paso County based upon John Murphy's copies of the GLO Survey maps and the notes that John made from the surveyor's notes on microfiche in the Canon City BLM office. I have visited many accessible sites, many of which have visible signs of the trail. I am quite amazed at how much can be located. I have two willing folks who wish to help with mapping, Jeannie Mitchell and my neighbor, Mark Johannes, a surveyor by profession, who both participated in the Preservation Training Workshop.

John Murphy: Pueblo County—Of ten townships where trail should have gone, GLO surveyors noted trail

in only five. One plat showed the Trapper's Trail moving northward from the settlement called El Pueblo on the west side of the Fountain qui bouille (Fountain Creek) for five miles. One depicted a cutoff trail leaving the Arkansas and moving up Chico Creek some seven to eight miles east of Pueblo and another indicated a continuance (with two blank townships in between) that joined the Trapper's Trail at Independence Camp on the Fountain.

The two remaining townships with trail notes reveal a cutoff trail leaving the Arkansas River at the Pueblo Airport some seven to eight miles east of town, veering northwesterly to the north of Baculite Mesa and connecting with the Trappers' Trail about 11 miles north of town.

Thus far, I have searched in two townships, found no trace in one, and a possible two-mile stretch of trail north of the airport. Further research of aerial photos and of personal documents needs to be done to verify this segment as a legitimate cutoff of the Cherokee Trail.

Of six landowners involved, five have readily granted access. One, a developer who owns much of the search area, has become cautious about letting outsiders onto his property. All in all, other relevant contacts along the way—county surveyor, county GIS staff, and BLM officials—have been friendly and helpful.

Shop at the OCTA Store

www.octa-trails.org

CA-NV Chapter

Chapter Members Receive Awards; Trail Work Continues

By Bob Evanhoe

Congratulations to the Idaho and Northwest Chapters for a very enjoyable convention. Jim and Patti McGill and Roger Blair seemed to be everywhere at the same time; it could have been a "Tragedy," but it was a "Triumph." Our own Mary Ann Tortorich, who wasn't everywhere at the same time, but who was always there in the registration and information room, once again proved to be an integral part of yet another OCTA Convention.

Mary Ann received OCTA's Elaine McNabney Volunteer Award for having served at conventions these many years and writing a comprehensive convention handbook. She also initiated the chapter's OCTA e-news program and helped expand it nationally.

Another award recipient from our chapter area was Nancy Schoonover who teaches fourth grade at El Dorado Adventist School in Placerville. She received an Educator of the Year Award for her program of study of the California Trail and its impact on the history of California.

The Educational Committee's new calendar was on sale at the convention. As mentioned in the previous issue of *NFP*, this calendar is the creation of elementary school students. The theme is "Animals Along the Trail." Seven of these young artists were from Newman and Patterson, CA, and one was from Spring Creek, NV.

Leslie Fryman, Chapter Preservation Officer, is now OCTA's National Preservation Officer also. She will assume the role previously held

by Dave Welch. Acknowledging the increased work that Dave has experienced in recent years, the job has been expanded to a part time paid position.

Over 50 chapter members attended our board meeting at the convention and attempted to squeeze a full agenda into the hour and a half allotted. Highlights were:

Preservation—There will be additional geothermal development at Brady Hot Springs east of Fernley, but the trail will be avoided by the new well sites. Volunteers are still needed to mark the trail through the area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is planning restoration of portions of the Truckee River in the vicinity of the trail; Leslie Fryman, Don Buck and Dave Hollecker are working closely with the Corps to identify areas that may contain trail traces. At Fernley Sand Swales, new and heftier signs will replace those damaged by wind and bullets.

Yuma Symposium—Dave Hollecker is representing the chapter for this gathering. In answer to a question, it is not a CA-NV symposium; ours will be held next spring at a site to be determined.

Convention 2010—A straw vote indicated the membership would support chapter sponsorship of the national convention in 2010. Bob Evanhoe and Travis Boley reported on preliminary investigations at Redding. An initial straw vote accepted Redding, but further discussion led to a second vote for Elko even though the BLM Interpretive Center will still be without full interior displays. A committee of Joyce Everett, Leslie Fryman and Evanhoe were appointed to further investigate the sites.

Jack Clough, 86, passed away August 1 in Columbus, OH. He lived in Placerville for many years and provided many illustrations for OCTA publications.

Charlie Little, 76, passed away August 6 in Boise, ID, while the convention was in progress in Nampa. He is survived by wife, Nola, 4909 Alta Mesa Drive, Redding, CA 96002-4124. Charlie and Nola hosted the symposium in Redding several years ago. Charlie was a renowned finder of emigrant diaries for COED, managing to find his way into the most secure of archives throughout the country.

Booksellers Wanted For 2009 Convention

Display and sales tables are available for booksellers at next year's OCTA convention in Loveland, CO, Aug. 18-22. The OCTA convention is a great venue for advertising and selling your trail-related books, art, and other merchandise. Attendance of over 400 enthusiasts is expected.

Tables for display of books and other merchandise must be reserved in advance. For more information, contact OCTA headquarters, or Robert Clark, 3334 W. Main St #506, Norman, OK, 73072; e-mail: (bob@clarkrarebooks.com).

Crossroads Chapter

Barbecue Held at Benson Mill

By Al Mulder

This year's final chapter meeting was held Saturday, Sept. 13, at the historic Benson Mill in Tooele County. The annual barbecue dinner and program was well attended. A tour of the old mill preceded the dinner and program—a presentation by Jesse Peterson, author of the recent book, *A Route for the Overland Stage: James H. Simpson's 1859 Trail Across the Great Basin*. Jesse has spent ten years researching and exploring the routes taken by Captain Simpson from Camp Floyd, UT, to Genoa, NV, and his expedition's return to Camp Floyd.

At this writing, a final field trip is being planned for late September or early October, which will be the final chapter activity for the year. The Nominations Committee will be searching for candidates to lead the chapter in 2009. Election of officers will be held at the January chapter meeting. A key position that needs to be filled by appointment is that of Chapter Preservation Officer. A number of chapter members attended the OCTA Convention in Nampa, ID, in August and enjoyed the activities and the excellent field trips on Oregon Trail routes in western Idaho. Congratulations to the Idaho and Northwest Chapters and their hard working volunteers for the very successful and entertaining convention.

Several historic interpretive panel and sign projects are in the proposal/planning stages for the chapter. Some projects will require a cooperative design, funding, and construction effort with local government, federal and state agencies, and other history organizations. Interpretive signs are

proposed for the Grassy Mountain Rest Stop, Bidwell Pass (replacement), and the Salt Lake City "City Creek" projects.

State water concerns are again threatening the free-flowing Bear River in northern Utah. The issue of building dams and creating reservoirs on the Bear River to provide water for northern community development and expansion has been raised several times over the past 15 years. Utah Crossroads supported local farmers, ranchers, and the small northern communities who opposed the several dam proposals made by the state. Utah Crossroads opposed the Honeyville dam proposal several years ago because of the negative

impact the project would have on the Salt Lake Cutoff Trail and the several historic river crossings.

A new book on Tamsen Donner written by OCTA member Gabrielle Burton will be published by University of Nebraska Press in February. The author was interested in the location of the "twenty wells" in northern Tooele Valley where the Donner Party camped August 26, 1846. The "old-timers" in Grantsville who knew the location of some of the wells are long gone. If anyone has pictures of any of these "wells" taken before 1990, please contact me by e-mail at: lazy-m@msn.com.

It has been a long, hot summer on the trail.

Utah Students Win With Calendar Art



By Vern Gorzitze

This past school year, a Utah Crossroads member and elementary school volunteer urged several Salt Lake City educators to enter a contest as part of their America's Westward Movement Social Studies Unit. Fourth graders at Upland Terrace elementary participated in the national art contest sponsored by OCTA. Students were asked to create drawings of animals they might have seen traveling along the western

trails. The winner's drawings appear on the 2009 OCTA Calendar.

Six students from Upland Terrace Elementary, Jenna Carter, Holly Daugirda, Emma Heyn, Jeremy Ludwig, Tressa Marre, and Abigail Olds were selected as winners. Their trail renderings are featured in the calendar and have each received a prize of \$50. Students were in classes taught by Lauri Hansen, Ann Jensen, and Nancy Nielsen.

Calendars are on sale at the OCTA National Headquarters Bookstore.

The contest was under the direction of Bill Hill, educator and author, who coordinates this activity each year. Bill, a New York resident, authors educational trail history student workbooks. Teachers or anyone interested in purchasing his workbooks can find them on www.OCTA-Trails.org. Books are listed under "Learning Center."

Mid-Year Appeal Closes

General Fund \$ 4,246
 Education 25
 Endowment 1,280
 Preservation 2,475
 Total: \$8,026

Thanks to those contributing to this appeal:

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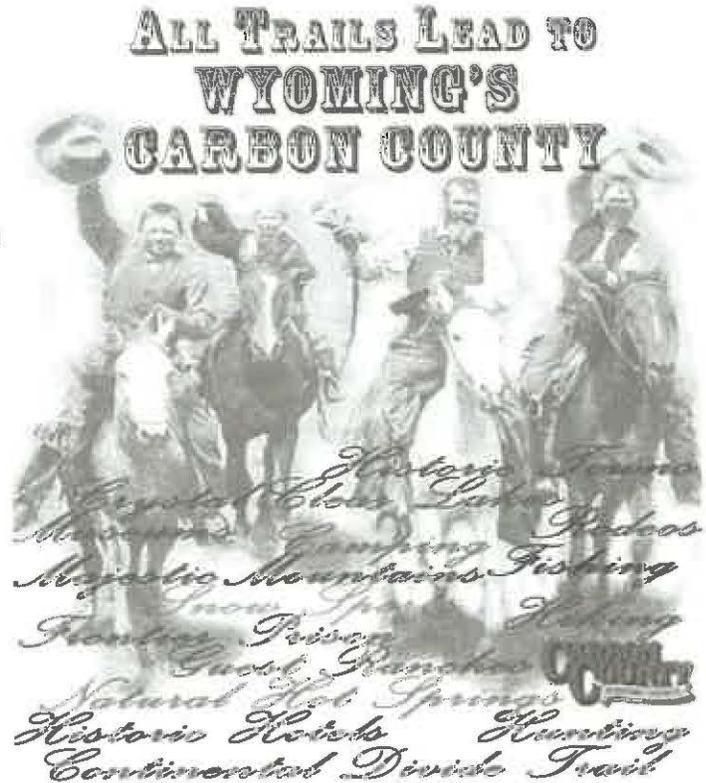
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