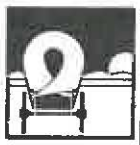


NEWS FROM THE PLAINS



THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

March 1989

Four Directors to be Elected

The Nominating and Leadership Committee (Bill Watson, Earl Schmidt, and Rich Nolf) reports that four members of OCTA's Board of Directors are to be elected at the annual meeting in Boise in August. Suggested candidates and nominations are now being accepted; ballots will be mailed in May.

Continued on page 10.

Nominations for OCTA Awards Requested

To ensure recognition of members who make exceptional contributions to furthering OCTA's objectives, nominations are requested for OCTA's annual awards.

Continued on page 10.

Guidelines for Rancher of the Year Nominations

OCTA is now accepting nominations for its "Rancher of the Year" awards. Nomination guidelines are as follows:

1. There will be one award winner in each of the trail states.
2. Nominations must be made by OCTA members.
3. Nominees need not be OCTA members.

Continued on page 10.

California Trails Bill in Congress

Legislative Committee Update by Jeanne and Bill Watson

We're running again!

On February 22, Congressman Norman Shumway, from California's 14th District, introduced legislation that would designate the California Trail and the Pony Express Trail as National Historic Trails.

Similar legislation had been introduced late last year, but an assistant Secretary of Interior referred an earlier recommendation back to the National Park Service because of unhappiness with wording of the draft legislation. As a result, the following anti-condemnation clause was added:

"Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no lands or interests in lands may be acquired for purposes of the trail designated under this paragraph without the consent of the owner thereof." The last three National Historic Trail bills to be enacted, including the Santa Fe, also contained an anti-condemnation clause, and the legislation Congressman Shumway introduced in February, now designated HR-1109, included the clause.

Congressman Shumway has invited the representatives of all Trails States to join with him in co-sponsoring

Continued on page 7.



Photo by Palma Brandon

Bob and Karen Buck Rennells display a headstone at an unidentified grave on the Sublette.

(See related story on page 5.)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

On this February 14, 1989, I want to wish all OCTA members and their friends a "Happy Valentine's Day." These are times for OCTA members to be optimistic and count our blessings. We are growing, we are healthy, we are meeting a lot of our objectives, and certainly in the last few years the public has experienced an increased awareness of this great migration period we are dedicated to. At least some part of this new awareness is attributable to OCTA. We have a cause, it's a worthy cause, and it is a contagious cause that is growing. You can all thank each other for being a part of this new awareness.

Let me briefly tell you of a couple of experiences I have recently had:

#1. Along with Trudy and Bill Watson, I had the pleasure of attending a Boise Convention Committee meeting. This took place February 3, 1989 in Boise. Larry Jones, Convention Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order and immediately asked for sub-committee reports from everyone present. It included reports on the pre-convention trip, bus tours, the hiking and walking segments, the route checkers, the tour guide instructions etc, etc. Everyone had their act together and the plans are in the finalization stage and it's obvious they're going all out to show us a wonderful convention and a good time during our 1989 outing. Something that was of particular interest to me, they have plans to show us some of the south side alternate route. This is a segment that a lot of trail buffs miss. Committee members in attendance besides Larry Jones were Bert Silcock, Judy Austin, Carrol Foster, Brian Miller, Terry McGraw, Roy Evans, Larry Mink, Clair Ricketts, Virginia Ricketts, Barry Rose and Jane Wyllie. I have already gone out on a limb by stating: "This convention will set an all time OCTA attendance record." It's certainly not because your president is a native of Idaho but because of the work and dedication this convention committee is putting into the ef-

Continued on page 6.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Idaho Chapter

Idaho OCTAns are very busy working on the convention. (Please see a separate article, on page 15, and make your plans to attend.)

Northwest Chapter

by Dick Ackerman, President

The annual membership meeting of the Northwest Chapter was held Saturday, January 28, 1989 on the Campus of the Clackamas Community College in the Environmental Learning Center at Oregon City. Prior to the membership meeting, the Officers and Directors held a business meeting. Luncheon was served on site followed by a panel discussion.

Panelists included Ruth M. Anderson, Oregon Trail Manager from the National Park Service; Elaine G. Fitzsimons, Staff Assistant for the Governor's Oregon Trail Advisory Council; Mary Oman, Archaeologist-Historian, Baker Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management; Jim Tompkins, Director of the Oregon Trail Foundation; Dan Fowler, President of the Oregon Trail Foundation. Each panelist presented their organization's plans for Trail Preservation and Interpretation. This is the first time this group had ever gotten together and it proved to be a very informative session for all in attendance. The Chapter was fortunate to have such a distinguished group of panelists in attendance. One thing certainly came through loud and clear at the conclusion of their presentation. That is a strong spirit of cooperation and assistance to help one another exists. If all organizations along the trail help one another to preserve what remnants there are of the Trail and help interpret the history and heritage these remnants represent, we should all be successful in reaching our common goals. As one panelist said, "Like the pioneers, if we all pull together on the wagon, we will certainly make the task before us much easier."

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. on a high spirit of friendship, fellowship and cooperation.

Nebraska Chapter

Work on the 1990 Convention in Omaha is progressing well. Please see outings calendar for activities.

Trails Head Chapter

by Elaine McNabney, Secretary

Dave Boutros, Director of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection located at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, spoke to chapter members on February 9, on "Early Attempts at Marking the Trails in Greater Kansas City." There have been several attempts over the years, some more successful than others; and we Trail Headers hope to learn from past successes or mistakes.

John Leamon is presenting a trails mapping workshop March 4th and Ross Marshall is presenting a COED workshop in May. Please see the calendar for a listing of other outings.

New chapter officers for 1989 are:

Ross Marshall, President
John Leamon, Vice President
James Budde, Treasurer
Elaine McNabney, Secretary

Arizona Chapter

by Jack Root, President

Seventeen chapter members enjoyed their first outing of the year. We assembled on January 14th near Green Valley, Arizona, and spent the cool sunny day visiting sites along the historic Santa Cruz (now very dry) River. Cocktails at Harry and Mary Reber's and a potluck and program on the Butterfield Trail by Jim Carter and Doyle Reed concluded a long and rewarding day.

Coming events include a Trails Symposium at the Arizona Historical Society in Tuscon on Saturday, June

Continued on page 6.

1989 CHAPTER OUTINGS

Arizona Chapter

- | | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| January 14-15 | Historical overview of Santa Cruz River Valley; Butterfield Stage Route. | |
| March 11-12 | Anza-Borrego Area, California. | |
| June 17 | Arizona Historical Society, Trails Symposium. | Contact Harland Tompkins, 1125 W. Mission Dr., Chandler, AZ 85224, (602) 963-3565. |

California Chapter (\$5 fee for one; \$10 fee for family, to cover insurance and outing preparation costs.)

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| January 22 | Donner Camp Snowshoe Trek, Truckee, California. | Contact Chuck Dodd, P.O. Box 6598, Tahoe City, CA 95730, (916) 581-3141. |
| April 9 | Johnson Rancho Site Tour (near Wheatland, California). | Contact Jack Steed, 1669 Bowling Green Drive, Sacramento, CA 95815, (916) 922-7038. |
| May 27-28 | General Membership Meeting, Winnemucca, Nevada, followed by Preservation Projects: grave marking and fencing at Gravely Ford (near Beowawe) and Susan Coon grave (on Applegate/Lassen Route, near Rye Patch Reservoir). | Contact Frank Tortorich, P.O. Box 1242, Jackson, CA 95642, (209) 296-4442. |
| June 10 | 40 Mile Desert Trek. | Contact Jim McClain, 11788 Tree Top Circle, Nevada City, CA 95959, (916) 273-7520. |
| June 17 | Carson Big Trees Route Trek. | Contact Earl Schmidt, 201 Homer Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301, (415) 327-2717. |
| June 24-27 | Preservation Project: signing and fencing, High Rock Canyon, Nevada. | Contact Tom Hunt, 950 Old Trace Road, Palo Alto, CA 94305, (415) 941-0815. |
| July 8-9 | Donner Trail; Verdi, Nevada, to Donner Summit, California. | Contact Charlie Harrison, 13503 Peardale Dr., Grass Valley, CA 95945, (916) 273-4245. |
| July 15-16 | West Pass Backpack (Caples Lake to Tragedy Springs, California). | Contact Frank Tortorich, P.O. Box 1242, Jackson, CA 95642, (209) 296-4442. |
| August 19-20 | Mormon-Carson Route (West Pass to Placerville; 4-wheel drive, no frills camping). | Contact Tom Mahach, 6861 Aerie Rd. Pollock Pines, CA 95726, (916) 644-4384. |
| September 9 | Johnson's Cutoff. | Contact Dana Supernowicz, 5441 Rolling Rock Road, Placerville, CA 95667. |
| October 14 | Hennes Pass Road (Marysville to Nevada City, California). | Contact Doyle Reed, 328 12th St., Davis, CA 95616, (916) 753-2759. |

FROM HEADQUARTERS

OCTA Headquarters is an interesting place to work. For example:

I had a long distance call from John M. Pimm, who lives in Bristol, England, asking about back issues of the *Overland Journal*. Mr. Pimm told me that he was a researcher, and Kit Carson and the American West were his special areas. He had been told about OCTA by Marc Simmons, President of the Santa Fe Trail Association. Shortly after the phone call, Mr. Pimm's order for fourteen issues of the *Overland Journal* came, and he asked for information about other issues. I sent him the issues he ordered, a copy of *News From the Plains* and, of course, an invitation to join OCTA.

We recently received a check with this note attached: "This contribution is made to COED in the name of Steven Harrison, from his former co-workers at Harry S Truman National Historic Site, 223 N. Main Street, Independence, MO 64050. Thank you. [Signed] Palma Wilson-Buyell, Chief Ranger, Harry S Truman NHS." OCTA member Steven Harrison is now in Douglasville, Georgia.

Enclosed with the membership renewal from a member in Minnesota was a Matching Gift form from her employer. This member's company matches the charitable contributions of its employees, who may choose their own favorite organization for the donation, dollar-for-dollar. Other OCTA members, too can "double their dollars" for OCTA by simply asking for the Matching Gift form from their company.

As I said, OCTA Headquarters is a very interesting place to work. I wonder what next week will bring.

Jeanne Miller,
OCTA Headquarters Office Manager

1989 CHAPTER OUTINGS (Continued)

Colorado Chapter (Contact John Dailey, 3588 S. Nucula St., Aurora, CO 80013, (303) 690-7814.)

May 6-7 Julesburg, Colorado, to Bridgeport, Nebraska.
(Joint outing with Nebraska Chapter.)

Idaho Chapter (Contact Larry Jones, 6230 San Luis Way, Boise, ID 83709 (208) 362-0908; See details in convention registration packet.)

August 8 Pre-Convention Bus Tour, City of Rocks

August 9-13 OCTA Annual Convention, Boise, Idaho

Nebraska Chapter (Contact Bob Berry, 11505 Pacific St. Omaha, NE 68154 (402) 333-3522.)

May 6-7 Julesburg, Colorado, to Bridgeport, Nebraska.
(Joint outing with Colorado Chapter.)

June From Oak, Nebraska, to Fort Kearny

Northwest Chapter (Contact Lowell Tiller, 12308 N.E. Russell, Portland, OR 97230, (503) 553-2497. \$6.25 fee except for invited guests.)

April 29-30 From Old Ft. Boise to Flagstaff Hill.

June 3-4 Applegate Trail near crest of Cascade Mountains.

July 15-16 Somewhere near Cecil, Oregon.

September 16-17 Barlow Trail.

October 14 Ft. Vancouver

Trails Head Chapter (Contact Elaine McNabney, 5319 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64112, (816) 361-9504.)

April 8 Fort Leavenworth

September Arrow Rock to Ft. Osage, Missouri

June 3 Ft. Osage to Independence, Missouri

Wyoming Chapter (Contact Art Randall, 1000 Beaumont Dr., Casper, WY 82601, (307) 265-1042.)

Spring Guernsey to Ft. Fetterman Trek

Boonie-Bouncing on the Sublette with Bob and Karen

By Palma Brandon and Liz Hurst

At 9 a.m. one day in June, 1988, Bob and Karen Buck Rennells met us at our motel room in Kemmerer, Wyoming. Karen extended an overnight invitation at her ranch so we could have a more extensive and thorough Sublette Trail trip, which turned out to be the highlight of our trip from Sioux Falls, South Dakota to Donner Pass, in California.

We rode the West Sublette from Green River in Karen's Cherokee at altitudes varying between 7,000 and 9,400 feet, with Bob driving and us waiting for Karen's index finger to point the direction either left or right. (He's an excellent driver.) Karen had her left arm in a splint, but her smile never left her face, as she seemed much happier on the range than in the house. They both are unique in their love and knowledge of the trail.

We had lunch at Karen's 1872 log cabin with her son, Chetty, and Sherman Burton, the handyman. It was a world of yester-year. We sat around a large innovated plank table in sur-

roundings 116 years old. The weather-worn logs and chinking made us feel warm inside and made us feel the presence of those long ago years. We wish all OCTA members had the opportunity to experience the values here.

Later, we visited the joining of the Slate Cutoff with the Sublette Trail. We saw sheepherder camps, antelope, unidentified graves, Alfred Corum's and Nancy Hill's graves, and Emigrant Springs while jostling the trail for miles and miles. This country has a beauty all its own plus being loaded with history.

Karen was born in this area and now lives in the homestead ranch house built directly over the Sublette Trail. The ranch borders the Green river where four emigrant crossings exist. Outside, near the ranch house, Karen has displayed several iron relics discovered on the trail.

Breakfast included stacks of bacon, eggs, toast and good coffee. (Eat your heart out!) Then off to the East Sublette, wild horses, Steed Canyon, the 1853 grave of Lucinda B. Wright,

and other unidentified graves. Karen found Fire Rock, indicating Indian campfires of over one hundred years ago.

When you are boonie-bouncing with Bob and Karen over sage brush and gullies, looking for unidentified graves and trail ruts, you are thankful for whatever cushion your body has to offer, but you wouldn't miss it for the world. Then, parting hurts as you realize the hospitality, strength and dedication of these two people. We thank you.

From Barbara Magerl:

Palma and Liz have been life-long friends, having attended school together in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Palma, retired after thirty years of work with the federal government as an anesthetist, and Liz, now a widow, have been exploring historic trails together for the past five years. One of their most recent historic explorations adds Santa Fe, New Mexico to their experiences.



*The Slate cut-off returns to the Sublette trail at the bottom of this hill.
(See other related photo on page 1.)*

Photo by Palma Brandon

President's Desk

Continued from page 2.

fort. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you there.

#2. Just after returning home from Boise on February 6, 1989, I had a telephone call from a personal friend who indicated the long sought release of the California Trail-Pony Express Trail Legislation had cleared the Department of Interior's Office and was thought to be on its way to Congress. This left a lot of things unsaid and I was anxiously waiting the next information which came on Wednesday February the 8th. This came from a Government contact in Washington D.C. who informed me that indeed this piece of legislation had cleared the committees in both the National Park Service and the Department of Interior and was forwarded to the President of the Senate, Dan Quayle,++ and the Speaker of the House, James Wright. He also informed me he would put copies of what was sent to them in the mail to me that afternoon. On February 11, I received this information. After all of the many, many months of waiting for this information to clear the Park Service and the Department of Interior, it was certainly gratifying to see the evidence clearly indicating their endorsement and that it had been mailed direct to Congress. It already had the approval of the Office of Management and Budget. These are all significant hurdles and we owe a lot to the efforts of *Bill and Jeannie Watson, co-chairmen of our Legislative Committee*. We will be pushing for the passage of this legislation as early as possible and we will be waiting for Bill and Jeannie's guidelines on how we can all assist in getting this legislation through Congress. However, we should not take anything for granted, not even if "the fat lady sings," we all need to be ready to lend our assistance when it is called for. **THIS IS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF OCTA AND WE MUST SUCCEED!** Thank you.

Your president
Dick Ackerman

Chapter Reports

Continued from page 2.

17th. The symposium will include a variety of presentations concerning Arizona trail connections, and will be given by chapter members and invited speakers. OCTA members who are vacationing in the area at the time are certainly encouraged to attend. Our contact for the event is Harland Tompkins, 1125 W. Mission Dr., Chandler, AZ 85224, (602) 963-3565.

Please see the outings calendar for a list of on-the-trail activities being sponsored by the chapter.

Officers elected for 1989 are:

Jack Root, President
Jim Carter, Vice President
Wilma Haines, Secretary
Sheri Lee, Treasurer

California-Nevada Chapter

by Frank Totorich, President

The chapter is busy planning the 1991 convention in Sacramento. About 80 people attended a planning meeting on January 21, 1989 in Sacramento. Convention Chair David Bibler divided the assembled group into committees of their choice. There is excitement and enthusiasm over all the possibilities for activities and outings.

The chapter is planning a number of outings this year. (Please see the outings calendar.)

Colorado Chapter

by John Dailey, Chairman

On December 3, several Colorado Chapter members attended the dedication of stage station markers near Crook, Colorado. The markers were for the Lillian Springs and Spring Hill stations. This event culminated several years of excellent effort by the Crook Historical Society. The project inception, site verification, preservation method, marker design, marker acquisition, state historical society recognition and marker dedication were all ac-

complished by the local historical society.

This OCTA chapter was delighted to hear of the dedication event in time to be present. The Crook Historical Society dedicated the markers in grand style! State and local dignitaries, the press, nearby historical societies and the OCTA chapter were given a written invitation. A trumpet commenced and completed the event. The occasion was fittingly addressed by author Nell Brown Propst, Crook Historical Society president Marvin Gardner, and Logan County Historical Society president Dave Hamill. Mr. Hamill added personal recollections of this stretch of the South Platte River consisting of a shallow flow of water somewhat hidden by low brush with a lone tree visible for miles around. A lunch was provided by the historical society following the ceremony and the Crook Museum was opened for visitors in the afternoon. A good time was had by all!

The markers are cast bronze containing a stage coach replica and appropriate text anchored in an oblong boulder. The boulders are of native sandstone and were found in a local reservoir. Both markers are referenced with directions by a third marker located beside Colorado state road 55 (I-76 exit 149), between I-76 and Crook. Access to both sites is via public land and dirt roads passible by car.

OCTA members in attendance were: Merrill Mattes, Steve Pahs, Byron Hooper, Marjorie Walker, Mr. & Mrs. Malcom Smith, Pat Brace, Doris Monahan, Dean and Mary Hand, and John and Barbi Dailey.



Diary Received

Ruth Anderson, OCTA's Historian, reports that the OCTA Archives has received a copy of the "Diary of Mrs. Byron J. Pengra," reproduced by the Lane County Historical Society, Eugene, Oregon, second printing, 1966.

This diary was a gift from California B. Quint of the Shasta Historical Society, Redding, California. Ms. Quint is "an enthusiastic member of OCTA" and OCTA certainly appreciates the gift, which is a valuable addition to OCTA's budding library and archive materials. We thank you, Ms. Quint.

Tape of Scottsbluff Convention Given to OCTA

Merrill Mattes has presented OCTA the videotape of the Third Annual Convention held at Scottsbluff, Nebraska, August 14-18, 1985. This was taped by Joe Fairfield of Bridgeport, Nebraska, and was donated by Greg Franzwa to Merrill, who was Program Chairman of that convention.

Office Reports Contributions in Response to Gift Catalog Request

Jeanne Miller, OCTA Headquarters Office Manager, reports donations in response to the request made by the 1988 Gift Catalog totaled \$255 as of the end of February. Contributors are: Andrew Hammond, HST Historic Site, Margret L. West, Bert Silcock, Mary Brotherton, Dr. R. A. Koch, Todd Berens, M. D. Shaffrath, Erwin Thompson, and William Stewart.

The donations went as follows:

\$ 85 Black Rock/High Rock Fund
\$ 50 COED
\$100 General Operating Fund
\$ 10 Headquarters Fund
\$ 10 Historic Preservation

California Trails Bill

Continued from page 1.

HR-1109 and has received very strong support. A list of those who agreed to co-sponsor the bill, as of three days after the bill was introduced, is included below. It appears that we will have action in the Senate soon, but we have nothing firm to announce at this time.

We have asked each member of the Legislative Committee to call their House contacts to urge complete co-sponsorship and support of this bill. Also, Committee members have been asked to contact any private landowners that they know along the trail routes to urge landowner support for this bill.

Now we're asking you to help, by writing your Representative to show your support of the bill, which will help preserve and protect both the California Trail and the Pony Express Trail. Currently, most of Washington is focused on the new Administration and President Bush's first budget, and we need your help to get them focused on this trail legislation.

So, please write your Representative to urge support for HR-1109. Please be sure that you use the name of your current Representative and that you spell it correctly and be sure to mention the bill by its number as well as by its description. Your letter can be sent to your Representative's local office or to:

Representative [insert name]
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

We'll keep you informed of the action in the Senate.

See next page for more information on the California Trails proposed for National Historic Trails status.

In the House of Representatives, it is California Trail and Pony Express Trail Bill HR-1109:

Sponsor:

Congressman Norman Shumway
California, 14th District
Stockton

Initial Co-Sponsors:

Congressman Charles Pashayan, Jr.
California, 17th District
Fresno

Congressman Jim Lightfoot
Iowa, 5th District
Shenandoah

Congressman Doug Bereuter
Nebraska, 1st District

Congressman Jim Hansen
Utah, 1st District
Farmington

Congressman Alan Wheat
Missouri, 5th District
Kansas City

Congresswoman Jan Meyers
Kansas, 3rd District
Overland Park

Congressman Tom Coleman
Missouri, 6th District
St. Louis

Congressman Jim Bilbray
Nevada, 1st District
Las Vegas

Congressman Bob Lagomarsino
California, 19th District
Ventura

Congressman Elton Gallegly
California, 21st District
Simi Valley

Congressman Wally Herger
California, 2nd District
Chico

Write Your Congressman



Excerpts from the Eligibility/Feasibility Study for the California and Pony Express Trails, National Park Service

The California Trail, including those portions that were pioneered and developed before the 1849 California gold rush, has substantial national significance. The Trail was the route of the greatest mass migration in American history, and today the remnants of the trail are reminders of the sacrifices, struggles, and triumphs of early American travelers and settlers.

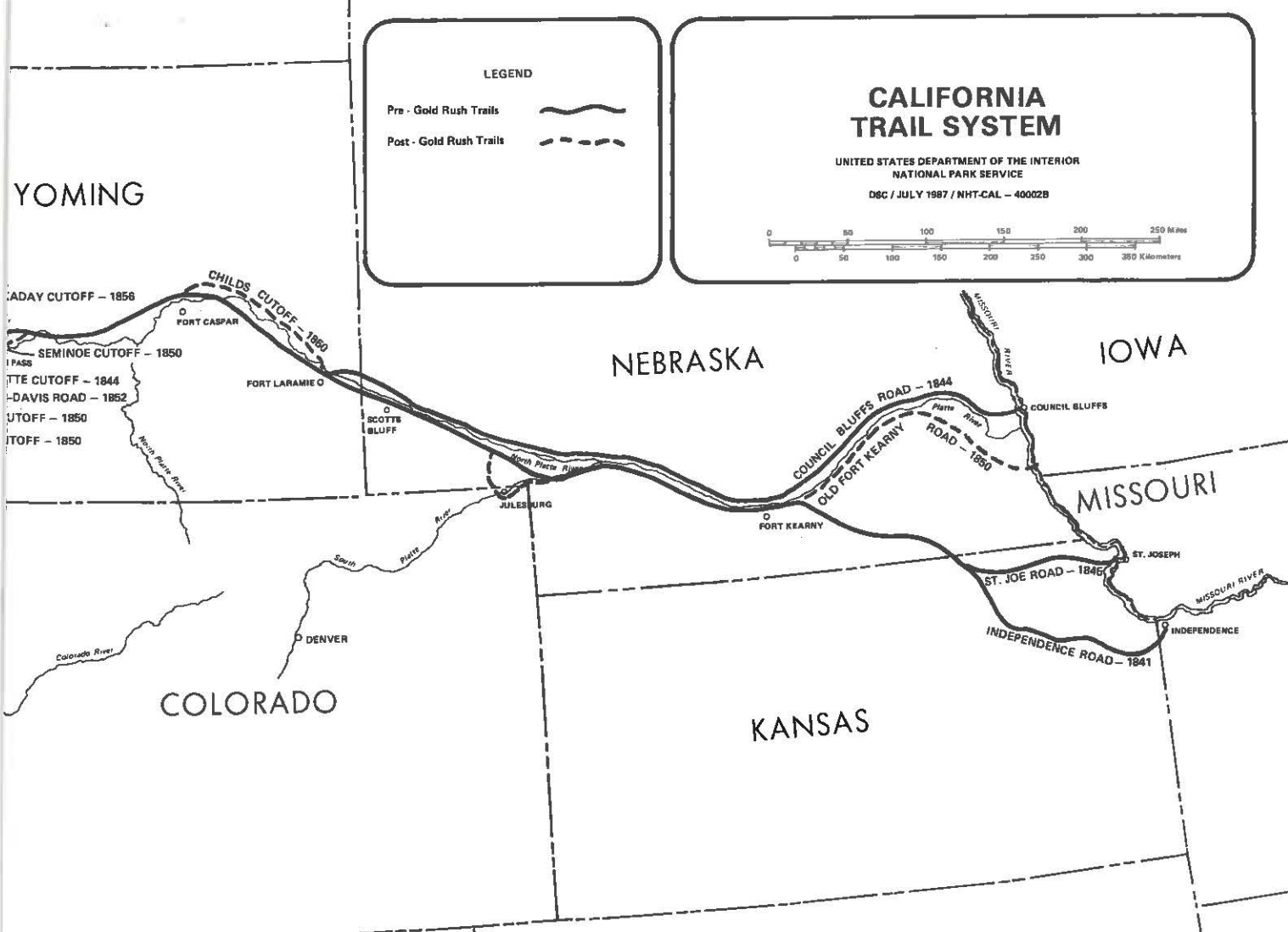
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In both written and meeting responses, the public has clearly and overwhelmingly expressed a desire to have . . . the complete California Trail system authorized as National Historic trails. Management concerns, such as the degree of public/private involvement, trail marking, interpretation, or visitor center

development, were clearly secondary in the public's mind to the basic desire to seek authorization of the trails. . . .

The responsibility for managing trail resources would be shared in specified ways between the federal, state, and local governments and the private sector. Federal involvement would continue to be focused on the management and protection of trail resources on federal lands, but various cooperative programs would provide for the protection and use of historic resources on nonfederal lands. . . .

Authorization of the entire California Trail system would result in a new national historic trail of approximately 5,665 total miles. Of this, approximately 1,100 miles of trail still exist on the ground as trail ruts, traces, and other obvious remnants. About 2,171 miles of this system cross public lands, where most of the



physical evidence that exists today is contained. Some 1,873 miles of the system proposed are already designated as part of the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails. An estimated 320 historic sites along the trail system would eventually be available for public use and interpretation . . . One hundred of these sites are already associated with the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails. . . .

The record of public interest in both the California and Pony Express trails on the part of special interest groups is long, vocal, and widespread. Associations such as the Oregon-California Trails Association . . . and numerous state and private historical societies have long been on record as active trail users, enthusiastic of trail history, and educators of public opinion. . . . The most visible expressions of public interest in the California Trail have come

from the 1400-member Oregon California Trails Association, which has been an active user-group as well as a proponent of trail protection for several years. . . .

To date the relationships between private landowners along the trail and individual users and groups have been generally positive. Most landowners are both aware and proud of the piece of American history which they own, but they may well draw a distinction between physically protecting trail resources on their own and providing public access so that others may visit the resources. In some cases a positive attitude towards public usage could change if some thoughtless visitor cut a fence or left a gate open. . . .

See California Trails Bill story on page 1.

Elections

(Continued from page 1.)

Under OCTA's bylaws, all current members of OCTA are eligible to be nominated and/or to submit one or more suggestions for nomination. Also, any current OCTA member may submit one or more written and signed nominations as long as each contains written and signed endorsements from three additional members.

Whether the suggested or endorsed nominee is new, a previous nominee or an incumbent, the bylaws require that the following material be submitted to the Chairman of the Nominating and Leadership Committee before the nomination can be considered:

A brief description of the person's trail qualifications and experience.

A brief description of the person's OCTA activities.

A statement of the nominee's OCTA objectives for the coming year.

A statement of willingness to serve, if elected, signed by the nominee.

Deadlines for receiving suggestions and nominations is April 3. Nominations should be mailed to Bill Watson, 3 Drum Hill Drive, Summit, NJ 07901.

OCTA GETS MAPS; CASPER AND ROCK SPRINGS DISTRICTS OF BLM GETS THANKS

Art Randall, President of OCTA's Wyoming Chapter reports that the Casper and Rock Springs Districts of the Bureau of Land Management has donated 116 topographic maps to the chapter for use in the trail mapping project that is well underway in Wyoming. This donation was brought forth with the help of John Kennedy of the Casper BLM office. Thanks to you, John, and to the Casper and Rock Springs districts of the BLM.

Mattes Receives Wrangler Award

On March 18, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center bestowed one of its famed Wrangler awards for 1988 upon OCTA Director Merrill J. Mattes for his *Platte River Road Narratives*. This comprehensive "descriptive bibliography of travel over the great central route westward, 1812-1866," published by the University of Illinois Press, is a landmark reference work made possible because of its sponsorship by the Nebraska State Historical Society, and subsequent research funding by the Society Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The award to both author and publisher is a bronze figure of a mounted cowboy, designed by famed cowboy artist Charlie Russell, with inscribed plaque. In 1970, Merrill Mattes and the Nebraska State His-

torical Society received the Wrangler award for Merrill's *Great Platte River Road*, originally published in 1969, and now in its third edition by the University of Nebraska Press.

At its December meeting, the Denver Posse of Westerners presented to Merrill its Fred A. Rosenstock Lifetime Achievement Award "for his life long contributions of study, research and preservation of the Rocky Mountain West." However, OCTA got the jump on all of them with its presentation of its first Lifetime Achievement Award to Merrill at its Oregon City convention in 1984.

Merrill, an OCTA cofounder, has informed Dick Ackerman that he plans to "retire from his retirement" after OCTA's Omaha convention in 1990.

Awards

(Continued from page 1.)

The Meritorious Achievement Award, which is OCTA's highest accolade, is given for outstanding achievements of lasting significance in the service of the organization and trail preservation.

National Certificates of Appreciation are given to those who have contributed significantly to the achievement of an OCTA goal.

Nominations for the Meritorious Achievement Award and National Certificates of Appreciation should be sent to George Watkins III, 1531 Lydon Court, Clarkston, WA 99403.

The Media Award is given for outstanding coverage of the Oregon or California Trails, or of OCTA activities by a newspaper or a radio or television station. Nominations for the Media Award should be sent to Barbara Magerl, OCTA Public Relations Chair, 6801 W. 72 Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66204, by July 1.

Nominations for Rancher of the Year Awards are described separately.

Other OCTA awards are the Past President Award, certificates to outgoing officers and directors, and Resolutions of Thanks for convention planners.

Rancher of the Year

(Continued from page 1.)

4. Nominees must be contacted for permission to be nominated and to obtain the necessary information before submitting the nomination to the committee.

5. Nominations must be submitted by June 1, 1989.

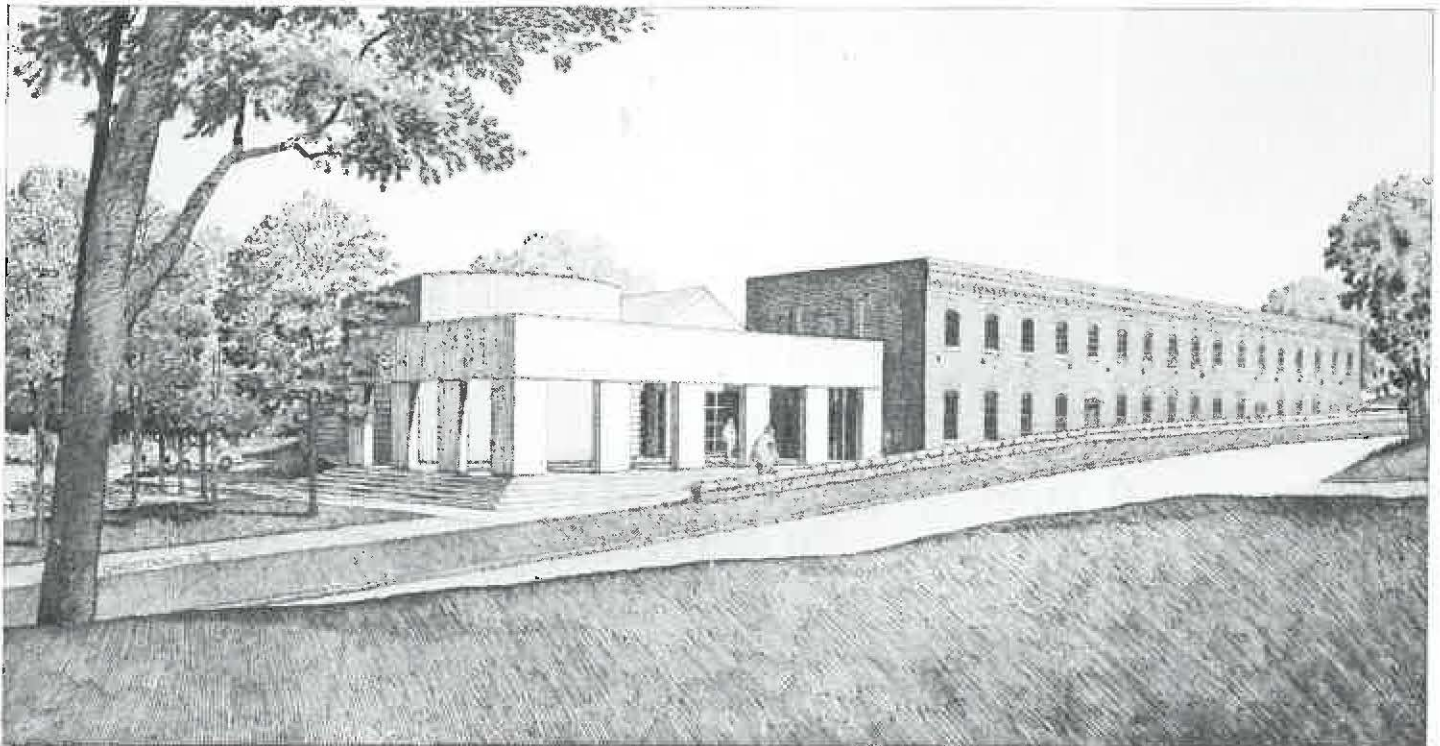
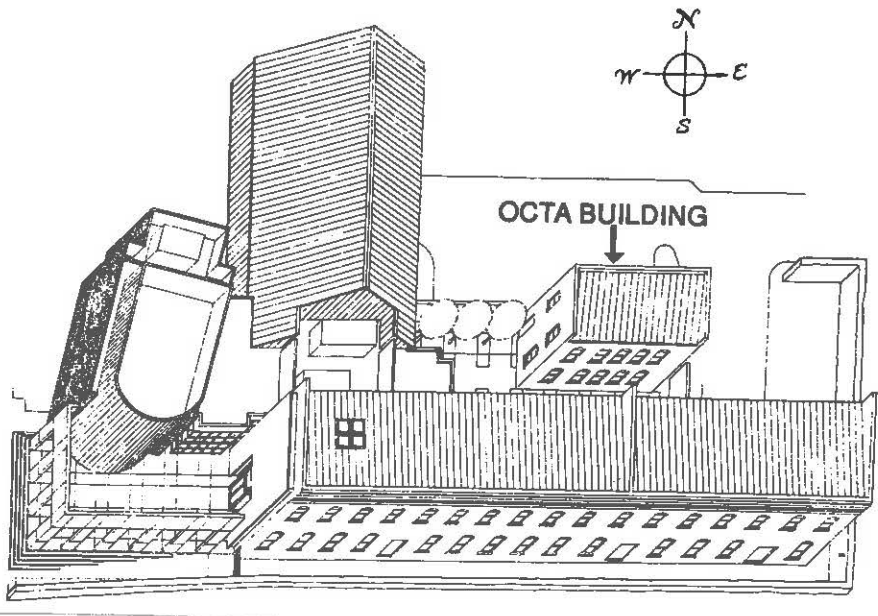
For nomination forms, contact Karen Buck, Chair, Rancher of the Year Committee, Box 147, La Barge WY 83123.

National Frontier Trails Center in Independence Moves Forward

Bill Bullard, consultant for the National Frontier Trails Center Project in Independence, Missouri, indicates the Center can still be opened in March 1990 despite some construction delays. The drawings provided below and to the right show how the project is taking shape.

When the Center opens, OCTA's Headquarters will move into the Center from its present location in the City of Independence's city building.

The Center is being developed by refurbishment of the historic Waggoner-Gates Mill at Pacific Avenue and Osage Street in Independence. The two-story headquarters building that will serve as OCTA's Headquarters is what was formerly the administrative building in the Mill complex. The building will be provided to OCTA free of charge by the City of Independence.



HASTINGS CUTOFF RENDEZVOUS CALLED

Doyle Reed has announced a Rendezvous to travel the Hastings Cutoff during the middle of September. The trip will start at Fort Bridger, in Wyoming, and will end at Elko, in Nevada. Details have not been finalized but there will have to be some limits on the number of cars involved and part of the trip will require four-wheel drive. Participants will be selected on a first-come basis. There will be a fee of \$15 per person, of which \$10 will go to OCTA's preservation fund and \$5 will cover the costs of organizing and conducting the trip. Plans should be finalized in time for the June issue of *News From the Plains*.

Photography Committee Reports

The OCTA photography committee is developing a photographic inventory of all the trails. We need copies of professional-quality 35mm color slides of Oregon-California landmarks, wildlife and living history demonstrations. Slides in the inventory will be made available for research work by scholars and for OCTA-sponsored slide shows. Photographs from the inventory may also be considered for other purposes, such as OCTA publicity or museum exhibits. However, if OCTA wishes to use your donated slides copies for these other purposes, we will request your permission in writing.

Previously-published work is acceptable. Slides should be captioned with such information as where and when the slide was taken.

If you wish to participate in this program, please send a maximum of 20 professional-quality slides, copies only, to the OCTA Photography Committee, Carl and Lida Sloan, 1435 33rd Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144.

BLM Acquires National Historic Trail Land

News Release from the BLM

The Bureau of Land Management Kemmerer Resource Area recently completed a land exchange, trading 402 acres of public land outside of Rock Springs for 1,667 acres of private land 15 miles north of Kemmerer with long-time Kemmerer residents and ranchers Frank and Bill Mau.

As part of the "Mau" exchange, the BLM has acquired over two miles of the Dempsey-Hockaday Trail, which is part of the Oregon National Historic Trail.

The Dempsey-Hockaday Trail is a 17-mile-long shortcut off the Sublette Cutoff. Discovered by John Hockaday in the early 1850's, the route between Rocky Gap and Emigrant Springs (Dempsey) was built in the mid-1850s and used during the latter period of the Emigrant Migration. The route took several miles off the Sublette Cutoff.

The recently acquired two-mile stretch is in the Pomeroy Basin and includes some pristine segments of

the Dempsey-Hockaday Trail. The setting of the trail is virtually unspoiled and retains much of its 19th-Century character.

In addition to historical and cultural values, the tract of land has excellent wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and watershed resources. The land exchange borders other public lands and has allowed the BLM Kemmerer Resource Area to "block up" these adjoining federal lands, thereby improving public access to other parts of the Pomeroy Basin.

The completed Mau Exchange represents the culmination of a three-year effort involving the Mau's, the Bureau of Land Management, the Oregon-California Trails Association, the Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The BLM Kemmerer Resource Area is currently developing a management plan for the newly acquired lands. Public input for managing these lands will be solicited before final plans are made.

Bob and Karen Rennells Receive Forest Service Certificate of Appreciation

*From the Kemmerer (Wyoming)
Gazette, February 16, 1989*

The Kemmerer District Ranger Robert L. Riddle announced that the Forest Service has awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Bob and Karen Rennells of LaBarge for their suggestion that the proposed campground in the LaBarge Creek drainage be named the Lander Trail Campground. Mr. and Mrs. Rennells are directors of the Oregon-California Trails Association and have extensive knowledge of western emigrant trails.

Riddle said that the proposed campground will be adjacent to the Lander Trail and will allow the Forest Service a unique opportunity to make the public more aware of the history of the trail.

The Lander Trail was surveyed in 1857 by Frederick W. Lander and was constructed from 1858 to 1860. Records indicate that 13,000 emigrants, accompanied by large herds of cattle, passed over the trail during the first year. With the coming of the first transcontinental railroad in the early 1860s, emigrant travel over this route rapidly declined. At the close of the Indian Wars in 1877, cattle herds from Oregon moved eastward over the Lander Trail to meet the railroad to stock Wyoming ranges.

Much of the trail, graves, tree carvings, and rock work can still be found. The portion of trail from LaBarge Guard Station to Smiths Fork has been called "the best preserved emigrant road in the United States."

Clyde Arbuckle

by John W. Pollock

One who finds himself at Clyde Arbuckle's book-filled home on a tree-lined street in the Willow Glenn district of San Jose, California must be prepared to be a good listener. Clyde is not a man of few words.

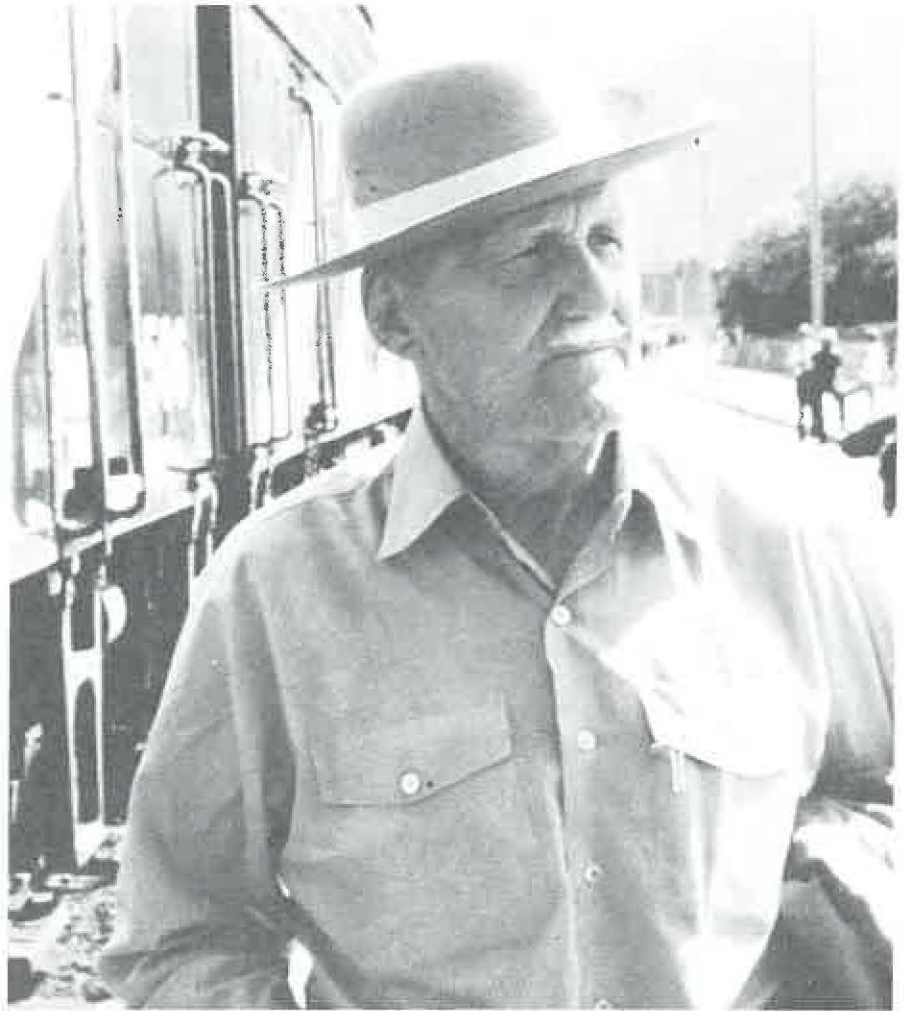
The discourse will concern history—the story of the overland trails, the West, California, Santa Clara County, and San Jose. Clyde's encyclopedic knowledge of San Jose resulted in the 1986 publication of what will stand for many years as the definitive work on that city. Clyde Arbuckle's *History of San Jose* is a bountifully-illustrated, massive, five-pound work of over 500 pages.

Born in Santa Clara, California, April 11, 1903, Clyde is a descendant of grandparents who were members of one of the earliest (1846) pioneer parties to come west via the overland route. His education was received in local schools and what is now San Jose State University.

He was interested in history from his first years. One of his first jobs, in 1918, was with the American Railway Express, when it was still using its Wells, Fargo and Company waybills and stationery. In this employment, he learned the location of every home and business in the area, gaining entree to many of the older residences still owned by descendants of the first settlers.

In 1945, just before the City of San Jose created its Historic Landmarks Commission, Clyde was appointed City Historian. For almost 40 years he has taught Western, California and local history in adult education programs. Since 1949 he has led hundreds of field trips ("Vagabond" and "Argonaut Tours") to places of historical interest within California and throughout the west. He has placed special emphasis on the emigrant trails. Mention the Donner party and Clyde will immediately give a complete account of the ill-fated group, including names, places, dates and the exact route.

Burial grounds are a consuming interest for Clyde. Fortunately, San Jose's vast Oak Hill Memorial Park, with its first *recorded* American in-



terments dating from 1849, is only a short drive from his home. The graves of many pioneers are found here, and often Clyde has given an al fresco history lesson among the lichen-splotted markers with their fading inscriptions.

Clyde, married to the former Helen Fisher, who is also a historian and author, has two children, both graduates of the University of California at Berkeley. The recipient of an honorary degree and a plethora of other encomiums, he is past president of the Conference of California Historical Societies, and is sought after as a speaker who delivers interesting and informative lectures. Over the years he has authored several books and numerous newspaper and historical journal articles.

"Indefatigable" describes his dedication to research, writing, lecturing, traveling and the pursuit of a full life. Tall, ramrod straight, impec-

cably groomed, with a broad-brimmed "campaign" hat as his cachet, he is a commanding figure.

A charter member of the Oregon-California Trails Association, Clyde has often quoted the almost bromidic "California got the cream of the nation's manhood. The weaklings died on the way and the cowards never started." By his own terms, Clyde is a quintessential *Californio*.

LEARN MORE about the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Join an active group of historians, young and old, and follow the exciting Lewis & Clark Trail in study and travel. Annual dues still only \$15.00 and includes a Quarterly Magazine. LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC. P.O. BOX 3434, GREAT FALLS, MT 59403.

OCTA's Trail Marking Program

by Randy Brown

OCTA's Trail Marking Program was initiated by OCTA Director Bob Berry in the fall of 1987. I became involved when I was contacted by Bob to check on local sources of wooden posts for the program. The wooden post proposal was abandoned when Larry Jones, OCTA Director from Idaho, told Bob about Carsonite markers that were being used in that state to mark the trail.

After much negotiation with the Carsonite Company, and with adequate financial backing from OCTA through various means and sources, including donations received at the St. Joe convention, 100 posts were ordered to specification. Each has the OCTA logo with the words "Oregon-Calif. Trails" on one side and the National Part Service Oregon Trail sticker on the other. The lettering is done in black; the posts themselves are white.

The first 100 markers were installed as a pilot program and the beginning of a more extensive OCTA trail marking program that will continue in later years.

Tom Hunt, OCTA Preservation Officer, asked that Bob Berry and I contact the Wyoming BLM about the possibility of the BLM using similar markers, to establish some marking consistency, especially since the Idaho BLM was using Carsonite markers. This part of the pilot program is still under way.

At the first of September, 1988, I received 80 of the OCTA Carsonite markers; the remaining 20 of the order of 100 were sent to the Nebraska Chapter, care of Bob Berry. Post drivers, one purchased by Tom Hunt, the other by myself, were also provided for Bob and me.

The first OCTA Trail Marker was placed in Wyoming on September 4, 1988, on the ranch of Willis Hedgecock, near Henry, Nebraska. It was placed near the grave of Henry Hill, the first of many emigrant graves to be found in Wyoming. Jacques Downs, of Douglas, who has helped with many of the Graves and Sites Committee projects, had the

honor of driving this first OCTA Trail Marker into the ground.

By late November, another 50 markers were placed. In accordance with our original intention, these markers were used to mark only those places where visible trail swales and ruts existed, and then only on private property (most of the trail in eastern Wyoming is found on private property). One exception was made: two markers were placed on the property of the Wyoming National Guard, technically state land, with permission from the base commander.

From the Wyoming state line to beyond Fort Laramie, the OCTA Trail Markers were placed on the Oregon-California Trail that followed the south side of the North Platte River. Only a few miles west of the fort, at a site marked by OCTA Site Marker 22, the so-called Plateau Route deviates from the River Route. Three Trail Markers were placed on the Plateau Route; other markers will be added both east and west of the existing markers in 1989. Two markers were damaged when being driven into the ground and will be replaced in 1989.

During a Wyoming Chapter trek in October, 1988, several OCTA members had an opportunity to view the markers that were in place at that time. Most of these members expressed their approval of the markers. White is the perfect color, in my opinion, as the markers fairly glow when the sun is shining on them, and are visible from a great distance, perhaps as much as a mile. However one must be looking at the wide side of the marker to see it; from the narrow side, it is almost invisible, even from short distances. For this reason, some of the markers erected last fall were put up facing the direction from which they would most likely be approached. However, most were placed with the wide side facing the swale or ruts they were marking, which put their narrow edges pointing in a direction parallel with the trail. This has its advantage as, in these cases, the markers are more easily spotted from the public

roads or ranch roads by which the trail explorer will be traveling.

Several markers were inspected this year at the height of the cold wave. As yet, sub-zero temperatures have not done any damage.

The stipulation, for the pilot project, that the markers be placed only on private property turned out to be no hinderance. The extent of the cooperation received from landowners cannot be overstated. No one refused me permission to place the markers and every land owner deserves OCTA's official thanks. We can each individually repay the courtesy provided by the property owners by obtaining permission before we explore the trails on private property.

Santa Fe Trail Symposium Announced

Marc Simmons sent us an announcement indicating that the Santa Fe Trail Association is sponsoring a Santa Fe Trail Symposium in Santa Fe and Las Vegas, New Mexico, September 28 through October 1, 1989. The theme of the symposium will be "Trails that Tie Us Together."

Focusing on the Hispanic side of the Santa Fe Trail and its interconnection with the old Camino Real (Chihuahua Trail) south to Mexico, this Symposium will feature a lively and informative program of speakers, panels, special exhibits, receptions, and trail tours. Events includes keynote speech by former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and a fandango at Rancho de las Golondrinas (150 acre living Hispanic museum).

To receive registration information and a program, send your name to: Dr. Adrian Bustamante, SFTA Symposium, P.O. Box 4187 (Santa Fe Community College), Santa Fe, NM 87501. (All SFTA members will automatically receive the information and program.) For a free SFTA membership brochure, write: Ruth Olson, Secretary, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR3, Larned, Kansas 67550.

Bloody Point Excavation Answers Question but Yields No Graves

For many years historians have been trying to pinpoint the site of the 1852 Bloody Point Massacre on the Applegate Route near Tule Lake, in Northern California. Paul and Ruby Tschirky, who own property along Tule Lake were protecting some rock cairns on that property because there was some speculation that they might mark the graves of the massacre.

Late last year things came together to answer the question, "Do the cairns really mark graves?" Dick Ackerman made the necessary arrangements with the Tschirkys; Rodney Sprague, member of OCTA's Archaeology Committee, agreed to donate his time and expertise; and the Northwest and the California Chapters donated the necessary funds to conduct a test excavation of the site. Neither native nor pioneer remains were found, so the site doesn't contain graves and the massacre site remains a mystery with one possibility eliminated.

Nonetheless, the excavation, as Archaeology Committee Chairs Hal and Sharon Manhart indicate, marks an important milestone for OCTA: Using proper methods of research, OCTA made a site survey and excavation at the request of private landowners. The site was a sensitive one, and the entire project was carried off with that sensitivity uppermost in the minds of all persons involved. OCTA has thus set a standard for its future archaeological work. OCTA owes many thanks to all involved and, in particular, to Paul and Ruby Tschirky, for caring enough to protect a site that held such exciting possibilities.

They're Busy in Boise

If you don't find a lot from the folks in Boise in this issue of *News From the Plains* it's because they are all, in Larry Jones's words "very busy working toward making the convention a success for all." In case you've forgotten, the convention runs from August 8th through 13th, with a pre-convention bus tour to City of Rocks on the 8th. Larry, the Convention Chairman as well as an OCTA Director, reports that he has been receiving inquiries about the convention from all over the country. That means we had better respond quickly when we get our registration package, if we don't want to run the risk of letting the early birds get all the choice accommodations. Larry indicates that we can look forward to receiving a pre-convention pamphlet before long.

Larry also asked us to remind those planning to attend to bring along a supply of their state pins. He anticipates a lively exchange of such pins, and plans to award prizes to the most resourceful collectors.

The Idaho Chapter, sponsors of the convention, is also soliciting contributions to the raffle that will be held during the Awards Banquet. If you have something to offer to this entertaining fundraiser, please contact the raffle chairperson, Jan Wylie, 306 Parkway Drive, Boise, Idaho 83706.

The registration cutoff for the convention will be July 12, so be ready to respond quickly when you get your registration material, so we'll be sure to see you on the trail in Boise.

Chester Buck Remembered

Bob Berry, OCTA Director from Nebraska, submitted the following poem written by a friend of Chester Buck's shortly after Chester's death last year.

Chester was always meant to be
Something that never changes and is part of history
Part of the land and part of the river,
But mostly part of the West
That's the part of Chester that I loved best

I loved the way the door slammed on his cabin
It would squeak and groan and then close slappin'
And I loved the way his coffee smelled
Mingled with old leather, ropes and all
Just laying there, waiting for his breakfast call

Yeah, Chester's place was dusty
And there wasn't much that wasn't rusty
And flies buzzed around and stuck to tape on the wall
But it was Chester's place and I loved being there
And I knew I was always welcome, more than anywhere

I loved walkin' out the door just about dawn
And feelin' the chill from the frost covered lawn
Feelin' good and watchin' the stars
Listening to the river as it talked to me
Feelin' crisp and clean, but mostly being free

At Chester's I was always free
Just Billy Joe, Chester and me
Nothing could go wrong when I was there
It was the part of life I loved best
Being at Chester's and part of the West

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