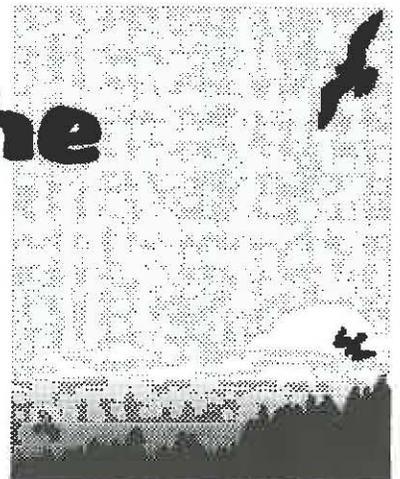


# News from the Plains



Volume XI, No. 2

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

April 1997

## Wagon Train Highlights Mormon Trail Observance

by Bill Martin

On April 5, 1847, Brigham Young led a hand-picked party of 148 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 72 wagons out of Winter Quarters north of present-day Omaha to begin a 1,032 mile trek from the Missouri River to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake.

Over the next 16 weeks, they traversed the Great Plains, joining the Oregon Trail at Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and crossing the Continental Divide at South Pass. At Fort Bridger, they left the Oregon Trail, following the tracks of the ill-fated Donner Party over the Hastings Cut-Off through the Wasatch Mountains.

Brigham Young entered the Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847. Emigrants arrived steadily throughout the summer and fall and about 1,650 people spent that first winter in the valley. Over the next two decades, they were joined by an estimated 70,000 Mormons traveling mainly by wagons and handcarts. An estimated 6,000 people died on the trail between 1847 and 1868.

The Mormon migration, driven by a search for religious freedom and escape from persecution, is one of the great stories of the settling of the American West. This year, trails enthusiasts have an opportunity to share in the sesquicentennial observance of the opening of the Mormon Trail.



Top, Mormon Pioneer encampment near Wyoming-Nebraska border, 1866. Bottom, Pioneer wagon train in Echo Canyon, 1866.

- Photos courtesy LDS Church Archives

Organizers of the various events are expecting record interest in the Mormon Trail and observances are planned in virtually every community the trail touches during the summer months. At the same time, it is hoped the activities will increase awareness of the importance of preserving and maintain trails everywhere.

Along the Mormon Trail, the National Park Service has 83 historic sites. Congress added the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail to the National Trails System in November, 1978.

The Mormon trek actually started in Nauvoo, Illinois, on the banks of the Mississippi River. In the face of increased persecution, Brigham Young announced in September, 1845, that the Mormons would leave Nauvoo and the 265-mile first leg of the journey carried them across Iowa to Winter Quarters between February and September of 1846.

The highlight of the 150th anniversary observances will be a wagon train re-enactment of the journey of the pioneers, starting in mid-April in Iowa and concluding on July 22 in Salt Lake City. Plans call for about 50 wagons and some walkers pulling authentically designed handcarts.

Activities will kick off with a Grand Encampment of families and wagon companies in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Winter Quarters, Nebraska. The "South Company" pulls out of Council

See "Mormon Trail," Page 6

OCTA's 1997 Convention — August 10-17 — Page 7

## From the Editor's Desk . . .

The caricature that accompanies this column is a little more realistic this issue than the Editor might like. My desk was literally overflowing with excellent material for *News From the Plains*. The opposite problem would be worse, of course, but I have to thank OCTA Executive Director Jeanne Miller for allowing me to add another four pages in an effort to fit it all in.



Still, some good stuff didn't make it, including a couple of fun items that came off the Overland Trails listserv on the Internet. If you aren't reading it, you are missing some entertaining and educational discussions, with someone "posting" a comment or question

and others jumping in to offer their knowledge and opinions. For example, in recent months Overland Trails readers have seen a discussion of how late the Oregon Trail was used (up until about 1910, it was suggested).

On another occasion, this inquiry was posted on behalf of a youngster: "I'm doing a school project and need to know what people on the Oregon Trail did to help someone who got bit by a rattlesnake. I hope you can help me because my pretend wife on our trip on the Oregon Trail has been bit." Well, the Internet seems to be making it easier to deal with those dreaded "school projects." Prompt responses indicated the old "cut and suck" method was well used on the trails, along with a mixture made from the wild plant lobelia, also called Indian Tobacco. We hope the young man's wife survived with listserv help.

Undoubtedly the most lively discussion over the past couple of months surrounded a collision between the demands of pop culture and historical accuracy. CBS Television managed to get under the skins of trail buffs and fans of plains history when it attempted to tell the story of two Kansas women taken into captivity by hostile Indians in the late 1860s. What may have been a harrowing experience for the captives became a love story in the hands of Hollywood. Read about in this issue.

We've also given a couple of pages to Bill Pugsley, "The Donner Party Straggler" who completed his walk in the footsteps of the Donner Party last fall. More accurately, we've given some space to his horse, Patches. Bill, who says he has now "seen the elephant," says he couldn't have completed the trek without the help of OCTA members and he has become a big promoter of our organization.

Of course, a major focus of this issue is on this summer's Mormon Trail sesquicentennial, ranging from the cover story to tips on finding more information on the Internet to Lyndia Carter's highly appropriate reading suggestions for youngsters.

There are also reports from OCTA committees (which we plan to make a regular feature) and highly readable reports from our busy chapters, who are anticipating an active summer season on the trails. Last and certainly not least, don't forget to read about the upcoming OCTA convention in Pocatello. Organizers are planning an outstanding program you won't want to miss.

All in all, we think there's a good mix of information, with something of interest to every reader. Enjoy it and we'll talk again in a couple of months.

— Bill Martin

### Submission Guidelines

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

Material is due 30 days prior to publication dates.

Material is best sent either on a computer disk (in DOS or text format)

but make sure you include a hard copy.

Pictures are welcome and appreciated but cannot always be returned.

If you have any questions, please call Editor Bill Martin at (702) 747-2860 or e-mail him at [words@worldnet.att.net](mailto:words@worldnet.att.net).

**Next Deadline Is June 1, 1997**

### NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Editor **Bill Martin**

Contributing Editors

**Jeanne Miller**

**Lyndia Carter**

**Jackie Lewin**

Mail Submissions To:

1908 Tuolumne Drive

Reno NV 89523-1228

(702) 747-2860

e-mail: [words@worldnet.att.net](mailto:words@worldnet.att.net)

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Oregon-California Trails Association

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

(816) 252-2276 Fax (816) 836-0989

e-mail: [octahqt@gvi.net](mailto:octahqt@gvi.net)

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## From The President . . .

The Board of Directors spent two very hard-working days at the OCTA headquarters in Independence, Missouri, for the mid-year meeting. I want to thank all of the directors, officers, committee chairs and chapter presidents who took part in the meeting for their seriousness and dedication to OCTA.

Friday was spent in a brainstorming session with Long Range Planning Chairman Chuck Martin. A variety of ideas, concerns and suggestions were discussed in hope of being of aid to Chuck and his committee in developing future goals for OCTA. Some of the topics discussed were more immediate and I will contact the appropriate committee chairs with the Board's suggestions and questions.

Saturday was the regular Board meeting. The minutes should be available in a few weeks, but I want to share with you several items brought out during the meeting. I also want to thank Marie Greene, president of the Southwest Chapter, for serving as acting secretary during the illness of Helen Sundell.

**Membership:** Executive Director Jeanne Miller reported that OCTA membership has increased to 2,705.

**Merrill Mattes Memorial Fund:** The fund has purchased additional books for the Mattes Library in Independence. John Mark Lambertson, director of the National Frontier Trails Center, has announced that staff will soon be available to work on a new cataloging system for all of the books in the library.

**COED:** The COED database now has 2,264 documents which includes 66,551 names. Kathy Roubal and Chuck Dodd are to be commended for their work in data entry, organization and developing the computer program.

**Trails:** Tom Hunt, National Preservation Officer, warned the board of an increasing pattern of encroachment. Bits of the trail are being destroyed and often his office is not made aware of the threat until it is too late. Tom needs local help in monitoring the

trail and in cultivating and maintaining political contacts and support in each state.

**NPS Management Plans:** Many of you are aware of OCTA's concern over the development of the National Park Service Comprehensive Management Plan for the Oregon, California, Pony Express and Mormon Trails. As a result of meetings in Independence with the NPS representatives, OCTA has been assured that they will provide the manpower and financial resources to produce a quality plan. Tom Hunt will coordinate the OCTA responses to the plan as it progresses. He and the board are hopeful in this situation.

**Gold Rush:** The 1849 California Gold Rush sesquicentennial is approaching. The board is asking that all chapters plan and encourage celebrations as methods of increasing awareness of the importance of our historic trail resources. So, Chapters, please start planning.

**Volunteer Opportunity:** Lastly, but of extreme importance, I want to related a VOLUNTEER NEED. OCTA is currently involved in several challenge cost-share grants with the National Park Service. In addition, two chapters are applying for new grants. While the board continues to feel this is an extremely worthwhile partnership, OCTA began the program without a specific, centralized method of applying, record keeping, reporting and bill submission for the grants. I feel there must be an OCTA member who could donate some time to this very important responsibility. Please contact me with any suggestions. If you have been wanting to help OCTA, but did not know exactly how, please don't pass up this opportunity. Contact me by mail or at (816) 279-5059 for more information.

A special thank you goes to headquarters staff members Jeanne Miller, Kathy Conway and Ardis Everett; Treasurer Jim Budde and Judy Budde; National Frontier Trails Center Director John Mark Lambertson; and Trails Head President Mary Conrad for the excellent hospitality they extended to make the board meeting in Independence an enjoyable one.

— Jackie Lewin

## Report From the Mid-Year Board Meeting

After a welcome by Independence Mayor Pro-tem William Baker, the OCTA Board meeting was called to order by President Jackie Lewin on Saturday, March 22, 1997.

The financial report by treasurer, Jim Budde, showed our revenue was up, mostly due to an excellent return from the Elko convention. Jim said this good return was largely due to the generous help and donations given to the convention by the people and businesses of Elko. A motion was passed to transfer money to the Endowment Fund. OCTA's Endowment Fund now exceeds \$150,000, a comfortable cushion. (See pages 4-5 for current OCTA financial statements.)

There was a lengthy discussion of preservation issues, led by Tom Hunt, OCTA's Preservation Officer. He reported that two ongoing issues, the rock climbing controversy on Twin Sisters at City of Rocks in Idaho and the South Pass viewshed issue in Wyoming, are still not resolved, but he brought the board up-to-date on continuing negotiations.

There was discussion on the need for better communication between chapter preservation people and Tom. The issue concerning a lack of funds in Wyoming to properly protect Independence Rock was discussed. Since there are funds to provide protection during this summer's expected heavy visitation, no other action is needed at this time. However, the long term issue is not resolved.

Four National Park Service people were present and Tom Hunt reported that a meeting with them had resolved the concerns that OCTA had voiced to the NPS concerning the California Trail Comprehensive Management Plan. It is expected that over the next few months OCTA and the NPS will continue to re-work the plan into a more agreeable solution.

The Board also heard a number of committee reports. (See pages 12-13 for additional committee reports.) The reports are available to OCTA members from Headquarters upon request.

See "Mid-Year." Page 6

## FINANCIAL REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 1995-96

### Oregon-California Trails Association

This report summarizes OCTA's fiscal activities during the period October 1, 1995, to September 30, 1996. For the purposes of comparison, refer to the April, 1996, issue of NFP. We have completed another fine year in support of the emigrant trails. Thank you for your continuing dedication and loyalty. -- James E. Budde, Treasurer

#### Balance Sheet

	<u>Sept. 30, 1996</u>	<u>Sept. 30, 1995</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Cash:</b>		
Petty Cash - Checking Account	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,811.37
Operating Account	62,418.38	50,576.93
Fund-raising Account	0.00	306.15
Convention Account	52,435.17	10,664.88
OCTA Store Account	<u>17,219.92</u>	<u>39,527.30</u>
Total Cash	132,073.47	102,886.63
<b>Investments:</b>		
U.S. Treasury Bill	20,000.00	20,000.00
Certificates of Deposit	17,163.19	24,315.77
Mutual Fund-Scudder	36,250.52	22,542.83
Mutual Fd-20th Century Equity	23,898.75	12,964.80
Mutual Fd-20th Century Value	<u>23,754.65</u>	<u>12,397.14</u>
Total Investments	121,067.11	92,220.54
<b>Other Assets:</b>		
Accounts Receivable	8,000.00	0.00
Prepaid Expenses	1,250.00	0.00
Grants Receivable	<u>765.18</u>	<u>15,823.19</u>
Total Other Assets	10,015.18	15,823.19
<b>Inventory-Merchandise:</b>		
True Diary	1,725.75	1,829.25
Reading, Writing, Workbook	2,177.79	6,343.30
Maps	0.00	1,426.60
Hill Brook - "Finding the Right Place"	6,990.06	0.00
All Other Merchandise	<u>18,045.69</u>	<u>20,122.99</u>
Total Inventory-Merchandise	28,939.29	29,722.14
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>		
Furniture & Fixtures	8,246.54	8,246.54
Office Equipment	12,618.60	9,679.13
Less: Accum. Depreciation	<u>(20,865.14)</u>	<u>(17,925.67)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00
Land-California Hill	6,260.00	6,260.00
Mattes Collection-On Loan to NFTC*	<u>45,928.35</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$344,283.40</b>	<b>\$246,912.50</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Payroll Taxes Payable	960.32	594.90
Santa Fe Trail Store Account	933.45	(138.29)
Mattes Memorial Fund	<u>514.55</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,408.32	\$ 456.61
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Retained Revenue Over Expense	\$ 291,660.39	\$ 204,693.18
Current Revenue Over Expenses	<u>50,214.69</u>	<u>41,762.71</u>
Total Net Assets	\$ 341,875.08	\$ 246,455.89
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 344,283.40</b>	<b>\$ 246,912.50</b>

\*On September 28, 1990, Merrill Mattes donated historical items valued at \$45,204.50 to OCTA. On August 17, 1996, his estate donated an additional \$723.85 in historical items to OCTA, for a total of \$45,928.35. The 1990 amount has been added to OCTA's net assets in this past fiscal year; it has not been included in the financial statements until now. The current year's contribution of \$723.85 is included in the current year's donations.

**Oregon-California Trails Association  
Statement of Support, Revenues and Expenses**

	1995-96 BUDGET	ACTUAL	OVER (UNDER)	1994-95 ACTUAL
<b>Support &amp; Revenue:</b>				
<u>Support:</u>				
Dues Income	\$ 80,000	\$85,579	\$5,579	\$80,256
Life memberships	0	2,250	2,250	250
Donations	<u>1,000</u>	<u>12,181</u>	<u>11,181</u>	<u>10,618</u>
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>81,000</b>	<b>100,010</b>	<b>19,010</b>	<b>91,124</b>
<u>Revenues:</u>				
Overland Journal & NFP Revenue	0	3,292	3,292	5,024
COED Fees	0	1,949	1,949	1,494
OCTA merchandise revenue (net)	19,000	26,820	7,820	34,189
Convention revenue (net)	10,000	41,422	31,422	23,955
Investment income	3,000	19,114	16,114	14,039
Miscellaneous income	0	250	250	1,765
Carryover from prior year	<u>25,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(25,000)</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>92,847</b>	<b>35,847</b>	<b>80,466</b>
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenues</b>	<b>\$138,000</b>	<b>\$192,857</b>	<b>\$54,857</b>	<b>\$171,590</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Officers	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,434	\$(3,566)	\$ 6,354
Committees	15,100	12,146	(2,954)	13,253
Headquarters	69,151	70,895	1,744	56,387
Preservation	11,500	6,050	(5,450)	6,489
Publications	49,600	44,928	(4,672)	45,345
Other (Capital Equipment)	1,000	3,189	2,189	1,999
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$155,351</b>	<b>\$142,642</b>	<b>\$(12,709)</b>	<b>\$129,827</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over Expenses</b>	<b>(\$17,351)</b>	<b>\$50,215</b>	<b>\$67,566</b>	<b>\$ 41,763</b>
<b>Net Revenue From Various Activities:</b>		<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	
Convention		\$41,422	\$23,955	
OCTA Store		\$26,820	\$34,189	
Publications		(\$41,458)	(\$40,176)	

**Fund Raising Report:**

As of March 1, OCTA had received a total of \$10,736 during the Fourth Annual Fund Drive. The success of this year's fund drive was made possible by 189 donors. Thanks to those who chose to make a difference. Other donors were listed in the January NFP.

**Drive Results**

Endowment Fund	\$ 5,543
Annual Fund	2,037
Designated Funds:	
Preservation	733
Archaeology	319
Trail Marking	837
Trail Mapping	563
COED	166
Education	218
Special Publications	330
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$10,736</b>

**Thanks to:**

Shann & Bill Rupp  
 Betty & Todd Berens  
 Dr. & Mrs. E. Scott Hendricks  
 Morris Werner  
 Carol Braby  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gene Lambert  
 Rosemary E. McMahan  
 Elaine & Bruce Laughlin  
 Louise Hammer Rossi  
 Robert W. Cermak  
 Elmer & Betty Eberhardt  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Coolidge  
 Lyle & Ruth Taylor  
 Jeanette & John Roberts  
 Robert A. Iverson  
 Polly & Bob Kennison  
 Roy & Hazel Acker  
 Zeke & Nancy Sicotte

Dr. & Mrs. Leon Jones  
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl R. Goslovich  
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 Peter J. Panattoni  
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James & Judy Budde  
 Mark & Ursula Bevan  
 Jim & Kathy Conway  
 Jere L. Krakow  
 Phyllis Pearce  
 John & Norma Haner  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. Lynch  
 Larry Melton  
 Richard Lachmann  
 Fred Hart  
 Bob & Gayle Bruner  
 Jerry & Phyllis Stroh  
 Robert G. Colvin  
 Helen Kennedy Cahill  
 Lynne Turner  
 Pamela Warren  
 Contribution to the Preservation Fund  
 in memory of Chuck Graydon by Mary  
 Mueller. - James E. Budde

# Mormon Trail

*(continued from page 1)*

Bluffs on April 19, with the "North Company" leaving Nebraska two days later.

The two separate wagon trains will join together on May 7 in Kearney, Nebraska and will follow the original route along the Platte River through Nebraska to Fort Laramie and Caspar, Wyoming. The wagons will typically travel between 10 and 20 miles each day.

All along the trail, special observances will be held and plans are for the wagon train to enter the Salt Lake Valley at This Is The Place State Park on July 22, 1997, exactly 150 years after the first Mormon Pioneers entered.



Brigham Young, 1850

In conjunction with the trail observance, a number of other activities are scheduled, including:

**Mormon Pioneer Trail Exhibit**, Museum of Church History and Art, Salt Lake City, all year long.

**Mormon Pioneer Trek Commemorative Exhibit** at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C., June through August.

**Sesquicentennial Spectacular**, in 65,000 seat Cougar Stadium in Provo, Utah, with a cast of 5,000 and featuring the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, July 24-25.

For information about various Mormon Trail observances, call the Utah Pioneer Sesquicentennial Celebration Coordinating Council at (801) 533-3598. The National Park Service office can be reached at (801) 539-4093. Information on the wagon train can be obtained by calling (800) 552-6191.

## Mid-Year Meeting

*(continued from page 3)*

An Executive Committee was appointed by Jackie Lewin to evaluate headquarters' issues, including personnel. The committee will report back its recommendations.

A motion was passed to try an experiment of putting selected past Overland Journal articles on OCTA's Internet web page over the next few months. This experiment will be reported back to the board, to evaluate the possibility of continuation.

(Complete minutes of the Mid-Year Board meeting will be available from headquarters in the near future.)

All those who journeyed to Independence are grateful to Jim and Judy Budde for the buffet dinner at their home on Friday evening, and to the headquarters staff and volunteers for all their work, both before and during the weekend, to make the meeting run smoothly.

— Rose Ann Tompkins

# Wagon Train Schedule

*This schedule for Mormon Trail Wagon Train is subject to change. For information, call 1-800-552-6191*

<b>South Company</b>		May 24-25	Ash Hollow (Lewellen)
April 16-18	Council Bluffs, Iowa	May 26	Oshkosh
April 19-20	Pacific Junction	May 27	Lisco
April 21-22	Plattsmouth, Nebraska	May 28	Broadwater
April 23	Weeping Water	May 29	Bridgeport
April 24	Murdock	May 30	Bayard
April 25-27	Ashland	May 31	Scottsbluff
April 28	Wahoo	June 1	Scottsbluff
April 29	David City	June 2	Mitchell
April 30	Bellwood	June 3	Henry
May 1	Silver Creek	June 4	Torrington, Wyoming
May 2-4	Marquette	June 5-6	Ft Laramie
May 5	Giltner	June 7-8	Guernsey
May 6	Denman	June 9	Glendo
May 7	Kearney	June 10	Douglas
<i>(Join with North Company)</i>		June 11	Ayers Nat. Bridge
		June 12	Glenrock
		June 13-15	Casper
<b>North Company</b>		June 16	Willow Spgs
April 17-20	Winter Quarters, NE	June 17 I	Independence
April 21	Washington	June 18-19	Rock
April 22	Elkhorn River Crossing	June 20	Martin's Cove
April 23	Fremont	June 21-22	Split Rock
April 24	North Bend	June 23	Jeffrey City
April 25	Schuyler	June 24	Sweetwater Station
April 26-27	Columbus	June 25-26	Silver Cr. Res.
April 28	Monroe	June 27-29	Rock Creek
April 29	Genoa	June 30	Pacific Spgs
April 30	Fullerton		Parting of the Ways
May 1	Palmer	July 1-3	Farson
May 2	Chapman	July 4	Simpson's Hollow
May 3-4	Grand Island	July 5-6	Green River
May 5	Wood River	July 7	Crossing
May 6	Gibbon-Shelton	July 8	Granger
May 7	Kearney	July 9-10	Miller Stn.
<i>(join with South Company)</i>		July 11	Fort Bridger
May 8	Elm Creek	July 12-13	Piedmont
May 9	Overton	July 14	Bear River
May 10-11	Lexington		Crossing
May 12	Cozad		Yellow Crk, Utah
May 13-14	Gothenberg	July 15	Castle Rock
May 15	Brady	July 16-17	Henefer
May 16	Maxwell	July 18-20	East Canyon
May 17-18	North Platte		State Park
May 19	Hershey	July 21	Birch Springs
May 20	Sutherland	July 22	This Is The
May 21	North Paxton		Place State
May 22	Keystone		Park
May 23	Lemoine		

# 1997 OCTA Convention - Pocatello, Idaho

## August 10-17

### Fort Hall - "Hub of the West"

Convention organizers are planning an educational and entertaining week-long series of activities during the 1997 OCTA Convention, the week of August 10-17, at Pocatello.

Tours during the convention will include Fort Hall - "Hub of the West" and separate tours of Soda Springs and the Massacre Rocks area of the California Trail. There will also be a hiking tour along the North Portneuf alternate of the Oregon-California Trail.

Organizers promise the Fort Hall tour will be the highlight of the convention, with opportunities to see the crossing of the Portneuf River, numerous Indian burial grounds and the original Old Fort Hall site, plus other historic attractions.

Pre-convention tours will include a three-day, two-night excursion over the Lander Road starting in Farson, Wyoming, on Sunday, August 10, overnighting in Big Piney on Sunday and Star Valley on Monday before ending in Pocatello on Tuesday afternoon. Also scheduled is an all-day trek along the Hudspeth Cutoff from Burley, Idaho, to Pocatello on Tuesday, August 12.

Post convention tour opportunities include the Bidwell-Bartleson Trail and Goodale-Jeffrey Cutoff on Sunday, August 17.

Convention co-chair Mike Bateman is urging those who plan on participating in the tours to register early. If too many people register, a lottery system may need to be used, he warns.

When not touring, convention-goers will have an opportunity

to benefit from several workshops and presentations scheduled during the convention. And certainly no trip to an OCTA convention would be complete without several visits to the Book Room, which will be open Tuesday through Saturday.

Research and papers will be presented on Wednesday, with presenters and topics including:

"Fort Hall: A Western Crossroads" -- Peter Boag

"Geology Along the Oregon-California Trails in Eastern Idaho" -- Scott Hughes

"Those Animals: Richard Grant and the Overland Emigration, 1842-1852" -- Will Bagley

"Trails to Rails and Their Role in the Development of Idaho, Montana and the Pacific Northwest" -- Chilton Phoenix

"Fort Hall: The Indian Point of View" -- Rusty Houtz

"The Hudspeth Cutoff" -- Arthur Hope

"Frederick West Lander and the Lander Cutoff" -- Peter Harstad

Workshops will include an Archeology Field Trip and Workshop on Monday and Tuesday, featuring a trip to an Aboriginal desert site, and a workshop on the Internet on Thursday.

Special Events include a Get Acquainted social on Wednesday evening, an Author's Night on Thursday evening, a Barbecue at Fort Hall on Friday evening, and a special Sunday service at the Fort Hall Replica, which will feature the reenactment of a service held after a 19th Century death.

## Convention Highlights

*Subject to Change. Check Final Schedule at Registration*

### Sunday, August 10

Pre-Tour - "The Lander Road", Part 1

### Monday, August 11

Pre-Tour - "The Lander Road", Part 2

Archaeology Field Trip & Workshop

### Tuesday, August 12

Pre-Tour - "The Lander Road", Part 3

Pre-Tour - "Hudspeth Cutoff"

Archaeology Field Trip and Workshop

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Board of Directors Meeting

### Wednesday, August 13

7:30 a.m. - Annual Membership meeting

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Papers and Presentations

11:30 a.m. - Buffet Lunch

1 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Papers and Presentations

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Get Acquainted Social

### Thursday, August 14

Tour A - Fort Hall - Hub of the West

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. -- Workshops

7 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Author's Night

### Friday, August 15

Tour B - Soda Springs

Tour C - Massacre Rocks - California Trail

Tour D - Hiking Tour

4 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Chapter Meetings

6 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Barbecue at the "Fort Hall Replica"

Tour B - Soda Springs

Tour C - Massacre Rocks

7 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Awards Banquet

### Sunday, August 17

7:30 a.m. - Sunday Service at "Fort Hall Replica"

Post Convention Tours

Bidwell-Bartleson Trail

Goodale-Jeffrey Cutoff

## Commentary

by Don Buck & Mary Mueller

In May, you will receive your annual ballot for electing four members to OCTA's national Board of Directors. The Association's bylaws stipulate that each year four of the 12 Board positions will be up for election for three-year terms and Board members can be elected to no more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Also, the bylaws stipulate that only elected members of the Board can vote at Board meetings. Association officers -- president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and preservation -- are elected annually by the Board of Directors to serve one-year terms and have no vote on the Board unless that officer happens also to be a director. All of the other officers participate equally in the deliberation on issues and proposals at Board meetings.

Thus, the nationally elected 12 Board members are our representative voice and by their vote they determine the direction the Association takes.

With this in mind, we would like to offer national members the wisdom of our collective experience from serving on the Board for many years. In particular, we'll describe what we think it takes to make an effective director and what the prospects are for new candidates being elected to the Board this year and next year.

In our view, the most effective Board members are those who evidence certain qualities. They are energetic and have proven successful in managing some kind of office, program, task or committee at either the chapter, convention or national level.

They follow through and get things done. They are team players who have the ability to get the best out of those with whom they work. They will stand up and present their views on what they think is best for OCTA, but at the same time will not become a divisive element within the Board's deliberations.

They do not have to be trail experts, as were former board members like Merrill Mattes, Tom Hunt and Larry Jones. Few will ever measure up to that level of expertise. But they should be reasonably knowledgeable about the emigrant trail, in general, or perhaps some aspect of it.

Lastly, they should be willing to not only attend all Board meetings, but also devote a lot of their free time to shouldering committee responsibilities or tasks that confront OCTA from time to time. They will have to face hours of Board meetings normally twice a day or so before the annual convention begins and often attend a mid-year meeting during the winter months -- typically in March in Independence.

While this job description may sound rather daunting, it really isn't. Effective Board members do it all the time. And there is always the genuine satisfaction you derive from having accomplished something to make OCTA a better and stronger organization.

Well, from our perspective, that's the size of it. We hope this gives you a clearer picture of OCTA's election process and prospects. Naturally, we encourage you to vote, but even more to vote for those candidates -- new or old -- who have proven their effectiveness in managing an office, program or committee at the chapter or national level. That's what counts for OCTA.

*Footnote: If you will make a list of the qualities of a leader in OCTA, you may find a person to recommend for OCTA's Board of Directors. It is not too soon to look ahead to next year and even years ahead. Four directors will be up for election each year. More often, the chapter presidents are searching for talent and they need help to identify capable volunteers.*

*I will volunteer to receive the qualified names and to create a leadership pool of people willing to run for the Board. What's more, your named person is probably an outstanding leader in your chapter. Let's recognize those leaders in News From the Plains.*

- Mary Mueller

## Upcoming Activities

*Selected events sponsored by OCTA chapters. Schedule is subject to change. Contact chapters for details. Contact numbers are included where available for individual activities.*

**April 20** - Southwest Chapter tour of Fort Bowie.

**April 24** - Wyoming Chapter joint dinner with the Natrona County Historical Society

**April 26** - Nebraska Chapter Spring Trek, City Park in Columbus, NB

**May 10** - Wyoming Chapter tour of Sun Ranch.

**May 11** - KANZA Chapter general meeting.

**May 14** - Wyoming Chapter general meeting featuring "Rock Art: From Wyoming to the World."

**May 17** - Northwest Chapter Cowlitz Landing to Olympia auto

tour. Contact Chuck Hornbuckle (360) 352-2113.

**May 17-18** - California-Nevada Chapter tour of Forty Mile Desert. Contact Jim McClain (916) 477-7750.

**May 31** - California-Nevada Chapter Donner Trail day trip. Contact Don Wiggins (702) 345-7376

**June 7** - Northwest Chapter marker maintenance outing and hike for National Trails Day, LaGrande to Hilgard State Park. Contact Greta Brownnton, (541) 963-3095.

*Chapters are encouraged to submit items for the Calendar. Send them to NFP, 1908 Tuolumne Dr., Reno NV 89523.*

Starts June 14**Pony Express Re-Ride**

Every year in June the National Pony Express Association conducts a Re-Ride over the historic Pony Express trail between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California.

During the ten-day event over 500 riders and horses carry the *mochila* filled with commemorative letters. It is the longest event held annually on a historical trail in the nation, even surpassing the famed Iditarod.

This year the 137th Anniversary Re-Run of the Pony Express will depart the Patee House, St. Joseph, Missouri, on June 14, 1997, and terminate in Pony Express Plaza in Old Town Sacramento, California, on June 24.

Relays are approximately five miles each, with rider and horse covering the distance in thirty minutes. At this rate the mail will travel 1,966 miles arriving in just over nine days and then be forwarded by regular mail to destinations all over the United States and the world.

The 1997 Commemorative Letter will honor Colorado. The letter will include a vignette describing the historical landmarks and relay stations along the Pony Express Trail through the state of Colorado.

The letters are sold in advance of the ride for \$5.00, just like the original mail of 1860 and are carried the entire route by horse. These commemorative Pony Express letters are collector's items and a very worthwhile addition to any collection of western historical memorabilia.

For more information on this year's annual re-ride and on obtaining your copy of this year's commemorative letter please check out the Pony Express Home Station at

<http://www.ccnnet.com/~xptom>

— Tom Crews

**Fur Trade Symposium**

The Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale, Wyoming, is hosting the 1997 Fur Trade Symposium September 11-13, 1997.

"The Fur Trade Era: The Influence of the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade on the Development of the American West" will examine the impact of the Fur Trade on the economic, cultural and social development of the Rocky Mountains and the Upper Missouri River.

According to organizers, the primary focus of the symposium will be on the concept of enterprise as an organizing principle in understanding the Mountain Men.

In addition to a presentation of academic papers, plans include a pre-conference visit to historic sites of the Fur Trade Era, a demonstration "Trappers Camp," and a special culinary presentation on the American Bison offered by food historian Sam Arnold. Author Robert Utley will give the keynote address.

For more information, write to Museum of the Mountain Man, Box 909, Pinedale, WY 82941 or call (307) 367-4101.

May Opening**Sun Ranch Update**

The March 12 program of the Wyoming Chapter of OCTA featured a presentation by Russell and Louise Johnson, who are managing the new visitors center at the Sun Ranch. The Johnsons are doing this work as a volunteer mission assignment for the Mormon Church.

The church has recently purchased a portion of the old Sun Ranch along the Sweetwater, including the old ranch headquarters buildings and the land near Devil's Gate and Martin's Cove (a site involved in the Martin Handcart tragedy of October of 1856).

This historic resource location is still partly owned by the BLM (specifically Devil's Gate itself and the actual cove of Martin's Cove), and an effective cooperative relationship is being developed between the church and the Wyoming BLM.

Construction is now underway, with a completion date projected for May 1st of this spring. The original 125+ year old ranch headquarters are being converted to a visitors center headquarters with attention to preserving the external appearance. Trails for pedestrians and handcarts are being constructed which will lead visitors from the center buildings to the vicinity of Martin's Cove. Only small trails for pedestrians will then go to the Cove itself. Handcarts will be available for visitors to use as part of the historic experience.

Parking facilities for 150 cars will occupy the pasture near the old corrals with much larger parking facilities on more elevated pastures nearby, but more out of sight. Expected traffic this summer is enormous by trail standards. Nearby campgrounds have already booked thousands for the summer.

Admission fees will NOT be charged by the church. All are welcome so long as reasonable rules of conduct are followed. The church is up front about its mission here. This is to be a place of spiritual significance, much like Winter Quarters, and the church point of view will be offered along with the history. Literature will be available within the center. The Johnsons seemed very interested in historical accuracy and are well aware that historical research is always ongoing.

The first Wyoming OCTA trek for the 1997 season has been scheduled to tour the trails and facilities of this site on May 10th. Visitors are welcome on all of our Chapter Treks.

— Ron Lund

**Whitman Tragedy**

Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, is sponsoring a two-day symposium November 14-15 on the tragedy at Whitman Mission 150 years ago. "Examining the Collision of Cultures in an Age of Multiculturalism: The Whitman Tragedy, 1847-1997," will include panels and papers. On November 29, 1847, Cayuse Indians attacked a mission established by Marcus Whitman, killing the missionary, his wife and several others. For details, write Nina Lerman, Department of History, Whitman College, Walla Walla WA 99362.

## "Stolen Women":

# OCTA Members Disagree With Hollywood "History"

by Bill Martin

There's an old saying in journalism -- "Never let the facts get in the way of good story" -- that Hollywood movie makers seem to have appropriated, as anyone with a sense of historical accuracy knows all too well.

The latest evidence can be found in *"Stolen Women: Captured Hearts,"* a made-for-television movie aired on CBS in mid-March and which generated responses from OCTA members ranging from bemusement to outright irritation.

Credit Lyn Ryder, an OCTA member who has done a considerable amount of study and research into the trials of pioneer captives, with starting a spirited dialogue with a posting on the Overland Trails listserv on the Internet.

Ryder called it "a rather curious attempt" to tell the story of the 1868-1869 captivity of two Kansas women, Anna Morgan and Sarah White, who actually existed, although certainly not in the exact context depicted in the movie.

"I could not determine from the TV guide description that it was anymore than a Hollywood fluff tale of white maiden falls in love with her captor," Lyn wrote, "but when I heard some of the dialog and picked up on the names Anna Morgan and Miss White, I sat up and took note more carefully.

"Well, it did turn out to be a Hollywood fluff tale with many inaccuracies, too numerous to mention most or to get flustered about...dramatic license, I guess."

"The inconsistencies of this story were so apparent that I nearly turned it off," echoed JoAnn Gemmrig, "but was too astounded at the 'license' (ahem) that I couldn't turn it off because I had to see what other stupid things would be done."

Most of the head-shaking had to do with two primary aspects of the story. First, the "love relationship" between the women and their captors, which generated considerable discussion of whether captives willingly staying with their captors was a widespread practice (consensus: sometimes yes, more often no).

Second, details that could only be called questionable at best and laughable, at worst. These included matters such as shod Indian ponies, washing a horse in a stream with what appeared to a cupful of water, the depiction of General George Armstrong Custer, the Indians' possession of what appeared to be a Conquistador's helmet, and others.

Then there was an incident in which Anna Morgan is shown galloping away on a horse with no provisions on what would have been, accurately, a ride from Kansas to Texas -- "a bit of a stretch for the sensibly minded," says Ryder, apparently with tongue firmly placed in cheek.

Of course, as well, there was what was Gemmrig described as the "story and a half LOG cabin in the middle of the Kansas prairie," a true shock to historical sensibilities.

"My grandmother was a baby in 1884 when her parents moved to Seward County, Kansas," Gemmrig harrumphs. "They lived in a soddy -- as did the neighbors. One winter was so harsh she had to burn their furniture to keep warm. Log cabin, indeed,

especially in 1868."

"History is by far too interesting in its natural state," wonders Gemmrig. "Why does 'Hollywood' (generically speaking) have to interfere? And why do 'we' accept everything produced for 'entertainment' suggest it is fact?"

"I caught the last few minutes of this turkey and figured I hadn't missed much," chimed in Will Bagley. "I can see how the true story would pose some problems for Hollywood, but I still think the real drama would have far outstripped the bodice-ripper interpretation."

Ryder, while maintaining the Morgan/White story was not nearly as historically significant as other similar incidents in western history, offered a compliment with a significant disclaimer.

"That (the story) was done as a film at all is a credit to the producers of the film, as it were...kind of choking as I say that, if you know what I mean," she wrote.

"However, I wholeheartedly and totally agree that history (the real history that we can reliably verify) is so fascinating that to detract from it by coming up with these 'stupid' Hollywood entertainment plots is so sad."

For its part, CBS doesn't want to get into a debate over the issue, although the film apparently did suggest it was "Based On A True Story."

"We never claimed it was based on reality or any kind of true story," said CBS spokesperson Joanna Massey.

If you watched the movie and want to know what really happened to Anna Morgan and Sarah White, both are included in Dan Thrapp's "Encyclopedia of Frontier Biography," (University of Nebraska Press, 1988), as referenced by Ryder.

In real life, the release of both women was negotiated by General Custer in March 1869. Anna, 23 when captured, went back to her husband and gave birth to a half-Indian baby (who died within three years). Eventually her husband left her and later she went insane. She died in 1902 at the Home for the Feeble Minded in Topeka, Kansas. Sarah, 28 when captured, became a school teacher for a time, then married and became the parent of six daughters and one son. She seldom discussed her capture or treatment before she died in 1939.

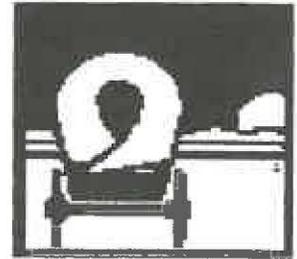


*Captive and Captor - Hollywood Version. Janine Turner (as Anna Turner) and Michael Greyeyes in "Stolen Women"*  
- Photo courtesy CBS



# WAGON WHEELS ON THE INTERNET

Visit the Oregon-California Trails Association website  
<http://bobcat.etsu.edu/octa/>



## HOT LINKS ON THE INTERNET TRAIL

As trail buffs observe the sesquicentennial of the Mormon Trail, there are plenty of resources on the Internet for more information. Here are some suggestions, nearly all of which provide links to other sites:

<http://www.wy.blm.gov>

Information on activities in Wyoming posted by the Bureau of Land Management

<http://omahafreenet.org/ofn/trails>

For details and schedule of Wagon Train activities.

<http://www.nps.gov/mopi/>

From the National Park Service Long distance Trails Office

<http://www.ce.ex.state.ut.us/history/sesqui/>

From the Utah Pioneer Sesquicentennial Celebration Coordinating Council

<http://www.indirect.com/www/crocket/today.html>

"150 Years Ago In Church History," which offers a day-by-day account of the 1847 pioneer trek.

<http://www.lds.org>

The home page of the Mormon Church. At press time, a sesquicentennial link was planned but not ready.

Other trails-related sites suggested from various sources:

<http://kuhttp.cc.ukans.edu/carrie/kanscoll>

Suggested by Bob Mackey: "Trail buffs will be drawn particularly to "The Prairie Traveller, A Hand-Book for Overland Expeditions" by Randolph B. Marcy, 1859. But there is much more here and more is being added all the time."

<http://www.ukans.edu/kansas/seneca/oregon/stjo/stjo.html>

From Marcia Philbrick: "Several articles regarding the Oregon Trail from the 1845 and 1846 issues of the St. Joseph Gazette have been posted on the Heritage Server."

<http://www.ukans.edu/kansas/seneca/oregon/mainpage.html>

Also from Marcia Philbrick: "Oregon Trail-The Trail West" has been updated. Not only does this link to sites with information about the trail it links to sites covering the trail in Kansas, sites along the trail, Oregon genealogy, Oregon history and archives:

<http://www.moore-information.com/overland/>

From Scotty Rawson: "A wonderful site for some trail buffs ... created by Liz Larson....This site is still under construction but centers around the Virginia Dale Station of the Overland. This site is well worth a visit."

Here are several submitted by Dorothy Leland:

<http://www.gsn.org/~jmeckel/oregon.html>

Oregon Trail Information Center. Designed to assist K-12 students and teachers to locate and share information about the Oregon Trail

<http://www.uvol.com/pioneer/homepage.html>

The Mormon Pioneer Story. Information about Utah's Old Deseret Living History Museum

<http://history.cc.ukans.edu/heritage/research/sft-index.html>

An interactive Santa Fe Trail Page

Finally, a new research list service has been started by Randall Haight. It's called WESTERN-TRAILS and it is to be used to research family history and post information on the trails, wagon trains and the like. To subscribe, send an e-mail to: [maiser@rmgate.pop.indiana.edu](mailto:maiser@rmgate.pop.indiana.edu) with the message SUB WESTERN-TRAILS. Any questions, write to [hoyt\\_haight@northwest.com](mailto:hoyt_haight@northwest.com)

*Got a tip on a hot Web site for trail buffs? Send it to us at [words@worldnet.att.net](mailto:words@worldnet.att.net). We'll include in the next issue of News From The Plains.*

— Bill Martin

## OCTA Website Updated

We have all of our terrific photos loaded onto the OCTA website, so drop by and check them out! In my humble opinion, they look GREAT!!! Thanks to John Grebenkemper, Ron Lund, and my husband, Larry Jansen, for lending their pix for this project.

Some of my \*personal\* favorite areas are the graves, nearly all of which now include a photo of the gravesite itself. And check out the new emigrant story on Nicholas and Mary Bird Sprenger provided by Margo Ames. It has \*great\* pictures of Nicholas and Mary on it!! Enjoy the new pix!!

Visit the Oregon-California Trails Association website at:

<http://bobcat.etsu.edu/octa/>

— Lesley Wischmann

# My Name is Patches . . . A Pony on the Trail

*Even today, people don't venture on to the trails without company. This is the story of the wild mustang Patches, as told to Bill Pugsley, the man known as the "Donner Party Straggler of 1996."*

I was born a wild, free horse in the state of Wyoming, back in the early 1960s and I spent the first four years of my life as a mustang, learning to survive on almost anything that was available to the wild horses in my herd.

After my capture and during the ensuing thirty years or so, I spent time in the vicinity of Fort Bridger, Wyoming, where it is rumored that I taught a good portion of the local population the basics of riding a horse.

As the years passed and I grew older, I got passed around from one family to another until I was rescued from the glue factory by a kindly horse-shoer and his family. They put me in a large pasture to put on some weight and do some serious recuperating. Then, in the summer of 1996, a fellow came through the Fort Bridger area on a walk to retrace the trail left by the Donner Party and I was given to him as a pack horse. My job was to carry part of the mountain of stuff he had. The best part was that he also carried a pack full of goodies for me.

We spent one week in the Fort Bridger area getting used to each other and re-packing some of the gear. We also had our pictures taken, which made me think we must be of some importance, what with all of the fuss over us. I think I like being a celebrity. The food is good and I've got the man making me a special mash of grain that he soaks so it's easier for me to digest. He sure was easy to train.

We must make some sight coming down the trail, what with me being of the age that I should be in full retirement. The man looks like something out of the original emigrant pictures, with the full beard and all. Then there's our other team member, the dog, Samantha. She's a pinto color like me. She just runs out in front of us, then runs back. She has too much energy for us.

We left Fort Bridger on a bright, sunny Monday morning, following the trail towards Bridger Butte. We made camp the first night at one of the original camps near Bigelow Springs. We are currently about two days ahead of the Donner timetable, and the man says that we don't have to push too hard. He's letting me set the pace.

It took us one week of traveling over some rough country, which was really pretty because the sides of the trail were all covered with alfalfa that they let me graze on as we made our way west towards Utah.

We travel from 6 a.m. until about noon, then take a break during the hottest part of the day. We are back at it about 4 p.m. to make a few more miles before it gets dark. We are making about 16 miles a day, not too bad a pace.

The dog keeps the birds and rabbits chased off so they don't get a chance to startle us and cause a wreck. The man just walks

and talks to us about what we are attempting to do. I know it's something special because of all the people who stop to take pictures of the three of us and talk to him.

The second day in Echo Canyon we camp in an alfalfa field. I think I've gone to Heaven with all the great food available to me. The three of us have decided that since we are all in good shape, we aren't going to sit at camp for days while waiting for the timetable to catch up to us at this point. We'll stay on the trail and stop to rest as we need to. Doing it this way, we can set our own pace and stop if one of us needs to rest for an extended period without falling behind and then having to push hard to keep up with what they did 150 years ago.

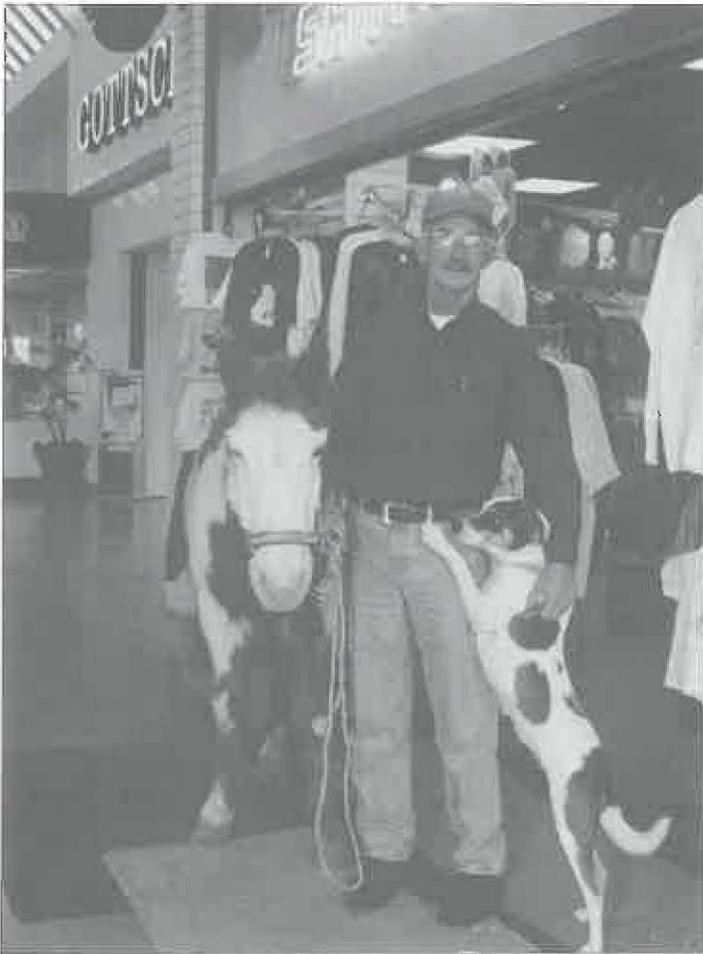
We camped at one of the Donner Party campsites at Little Emigration Canyon and met the people who will help pave the rest of the way through Utah and Nevada, supplying maps, food, directions and moral support beyond belief.

I've put on some weight since meeting the man, about 100 pounds, and some of my muscles have become firmer than they were in the past few months. I guess all this walking is doing me some good and the diet of alfalfa and grain isn't doing any harm, either. I'm carrying a load about 130 pounds and the man is carrying about 120 pounds at times in food and water for me.

We had to go up a hill this morning that proved to a little more than we had thought and was a little rough on the man and myself. We were about halfway to the top when the two of us flipped over our backs and slid about 20 yards downhill on the loose stones. After getting stopped (with me on my back in the most undignified position!) I just stayed that way and gave the man my best "Well, dummy, look at us now!" look. Neither of us were hurt, other than our pride, so the man pulled the saddle off me and took me to the top of the hill. He went back down for the packs and the saddle and brought them to the top of the hill where he checked us over for any unseen injuries. On finding only minor scrapes, he reloaded me and put on his pack and we descended into Little Emigration Canyon and turned west toward Big Mountain Pass.

We arrived at the summit of Big Mountain and got our first far-off view of the Great Salt Lake Valley, just as they saw it in 1846. The mileage that we have made in a day and half took the Donner/Reed party 13 days to do. Not bad for an old horse and a man and a dog on foot.

About 5 p.m. we took another break along the trail and met some more of the fine people from Utah who would give support and help along the trail. They also would bring me treats. We arrived at the campsite about 7 p.m. and made camp for the night. We had an unexpected visitor in camp about 3 a.m. A young bull moose came visiting and was making all kinds of noise and just making a big nuisance of himself. But the man ran him off, then made the decision that it might be best to hit the road before the moose and his mother came back



*Patches and Samantha with Bill Pugsley, "The Donner Party Stragglers."*

to see what had spooked her baby.

We passed through the southern end of East Canyon and up and over Little Mountain. What a hard climb that was! The man keeps some treats in his pocket for me and it took a few bribes to get me up that hill. Once we got to the top, we had a good view of Emigration Canyon, the last one before the Great Salt Lake Valley itself. We camped at the foot of Donner Hill so I could get in some good grazing time. The man and his dog are going to climb it with some people from the Oregon-California Trail Association in the morning while I stay behind and get in some more eating time, my favorite pastime.

We entered the Salt Lake Valley near the "This is the Place" park and monument and proceeded on public streets through the city. The trail has been paved over, of course, but the route is documented so we were able to follow it on the streets of Salt Lake City. About half way through we had a picnic lunch with fresh alfalfa picked especially for yours truly. I must be special to get all this attention!

So far we have been able to keep to the original trail for about 80 percent of the time, rather exciting the man. We have had some hot days with the temperature above 100 degrees in the afternoon, but the food and water are still in real abundance

and the man is carrying a sack of grain and alfalfa for me. I think he has more weight than I do. He gets a little on edge at times, but I guess he's under a lot of stress from all the planning of our stops and securing the food for me and the water drops for the three of us.

In the last three days we have made it to the foot of the pass named for Lansford Hastings. Not much in the food department around here, although the trip up to Hastings Pass wasn't too bad. At the top we got our first real view of the Salt Flats. The daytime temperature is about 100, but it cools off at night and that is when the man plans to do the walking, so it's not so hard on the three of us.

The man did have the support people go ahead of us and spot my feed and there are five gallon jugs of water every five miles. So all we have to do is walk. The man is carrying all his food and the dog's in his pack to help lighten my load.

The Salt Flats are very desolate and there is nothing growing on them. There are a few pools of water that are really clear, but the man won't let me get too close to them. We want to get off the salt as soon as possible. This part of the trip where you can see the oxen tracks and wagon ruts that were left so many years ago.

We made 22 miles and got off the Salt Flats today. The man says we did real good and are going to take a couple of days to rest in Wendover, Nevada. I got extra rations and grain. We only stayed long enough to get the itch for the trail again. It's hard to believe that we have just walked all the way from Fort Bridger, Wyoming, or about 200 miles for me. The man and the dog have almost 300 miles behind them.

The first day west of Wendover we passed into the Pilot Valley. This is the area that one of the journals said was "the most desolate place on earth." After walking through it, I think that we would have to agree because the plants were all stunted and there is very little water.

After walking through places like Pilot Valley, Silver Zone Pass, Mad Woman Camp, the Ruby Valley, the Overland Pass and South Fork Canyon, we made it back to the California Trail and the end of the "Hastings Cutoff." Or, as some say, the "Hastings Long-Cut." This where the man decided to retire me because of my age. And I'll admit I was getting really tired, what with all the walking. This type of stuff is for the younger group, anyway.

*POSTSCRIPT: Patches was well cared for in Carlin, Nevada, until he was reunited with Samantha and me in Reno in November, after we finished our long walk on October 31, 1996. It was 150 years to the day that the Donner Party got caught and stranded in 1846. Patches was a great companion and a real joy to be with. He never failed to amaze me with his attitude and was willing to do anything that was asked of him.*

*Patches passed on early the morning of January 6, 1997. He just laid down on the evening of January 5 and never woke up. He was a great friend and will be missed by all who knew him. But he will never be forgotten. He is part of the trail.*

*— Bill Pugsley*

# FROM OCTA COMMITTEES

## Graves & Sites

The Graves & Sites Committee has installed a marker at the site of the 1864 massacre of six members of a wagon train carrying freight to Denver. The marker is located on the south side of a county road six miles south of Hastings, Nebraska, and several yards east of U.S. Highway 281.

The attack on the Simonton and Smith train marked the beginning of the Indian War of 1864 in Nebraska Territory.

The text of the marker was researched and written by Ron Becher of Lincoln. Ron is preparing for publication a major work on the 1864 Indian attacks in the Platte Valley of Nebraska and is considered the leading authority on the subject.

Some graves and sites that will be marked this year include the graves of Lucinda Birchfield Wright, William Howard Bedford and Ephraim Brown. The Wright and Bedford graves will be fenced as well. Another site to be marked is Heber Spring near Glendo, Wyoming, a key site for the Mormon Trail as well the Oregon and California Trails. A long time goal of the committee has been to make the Lone Elm campground in Kansas. It may get done this year.

Chapter presidents and marking committee chairmen are urged to prepare trail marking reports since the Park Service is now requiring them as a prerequisite for future funding. Under this "cost share" program OCTA will receive 300 markers this spring from the National Park Service. They will be used in Kansas and Wyoming. —Randy Brown

## Membership

At the Board of Director's meeting last August in Elko, I was asked to help in a couple of areas dealing with memberships:

- Serve on a committee with Jim Budde and Jeanne Miller to look at the various membership categories and the overall costs of maintaining memberships.

- Serve on a committee with Ross Marshall to define more appropriate and current responsibilities of the membership chairman.

In a follow-up call, OCTA President Jackie Lewin requested that I serve as chairman of the Membership Committee during this transitional period and I agreed.

We have updated and revised the new membership brochure and it should be available from headquarters shortly.

In addition, we have developed a list of tasks and responsibilities for the membership chairman, including the necessity to interact with members of the board and other committee chairs.



Randy Brown, left, and Russ Genung, President of the OCTA Nebraska Chapter, place a marker at the site of an 1864 massacre. —Photo by Ron Becher.

I consider it a priority for the chairman, the membership committee, and each individual OCTA member to be a proactive resource committee to generate "strategies" and "new" ideas for increasing membership.

Would you please send me at least one strategy or one idea for increasing our membership. It will only take a little time and it could reap great satisfaction on your part to keep OCTA growing. Send your ideas to me at 1112 Silver Oak Court, San Jose CA 95120. —Mary Mueller

## Public Relations

The Committee has spent a lot of time each week keeping up with the Overland Trails mailing list and requests which come in via the website. These include requests for teachers' packets, bookstore catalogs, information on COED, etc.

We also just put up a lot of new photographs on the website and that has brought a lot of comments from people. I have also been trying to find the best sources of information for the planned Mormon Trail Sesquicentennial re-enactment so that I can make that available through the website.

I have started making phone calls to the sites along the trail so that I can compile the annual calendar of events along the trail.

I also met with Larry Dove, the webmaster for the Wyoming BLM website, so that he and I could discuss how best to coordinate our trails coverage.

—Lesley Wischmann

## Friends of the Trail

The deadline for the annual Friends of the Trail awards which will be presented at the Pocatello convention is May 15.

The award is given to individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to preserving Oregon-California trails and making sure they continue to be accessible.

Nomination forms can be obtained by writing Karen Rennells, Box 308, LaBarge, WY 83123.

— Karen Rennells

## Trails Liaison

The National Park Service's draft Comprehensive Management & Use Plan for the California, Oregon, Mormon Pioneer & Pony Express National Historic Trails will soon be ready for discussion at public meetings. We are working the NPS planning team on procedures to alert Congressional delegations about the dates and locations of these meetings.

During the Elko board meeting last August, the National Park Service asked OCTA to reconsider its withdrawal from the Partnership for National Trails. A task group including Jackie Lewin, Jim Budde and Ross Marshall was formed to review this request. Most of us have serious concerns about allowing the Partnership, managed by the American Hiking Society, to speak for OCTA on trail-related matters and what, if anything, OCTA would gain.

There are several levels of Partnership membership, costing from \$100 to \$1,000 per year. OCTA has been asked to be \$1,000 annual members. OCTA Treasurer Jim Budde is also Partnership treasurer. He reports that many of the national trails groups did not pay dues to the Partnership in 1996 and almost none have paid 1997 dues.

Our recommendation is that OCTA postpone action on rejoining the Partnership until the August 1997 Pocatello board meeting. This will allow us to see what happens to the Partnership during the April National Historic and National Scenic Trails conference to be held in Florida.

— Bill & Jeanne Watson

## Archaeology

The Archaeology Committee is planning a workshop at this year's convention in Pocatello. Mike Bateman is working with the local university to provide an outstanding program.

Planning is still underway, but the two-day workshop will include some classroom instruction, some field work and a tour to various historical sites, including the archaeology work at Fort Hall.

— Frank Tortorich

## Publications

The OCTA Publications Committee has recently completed an Assessment Report based on a survey of OCTA members. While only 19 OCTA members returned a completed assessment to me, I am making an assumption that the returned comments are representative of the membership.

As a whole, both publications are well received; and the vast majority of members wish for them to remain separate publications.

Members want the newsletter to a) primarily be a communication publication; b) provide information about convention events, both before and after it occurs; c) provide knowledge about what the committees and the chapters are doing; d) contain information that is current and useful.

Members want the Journal to a) be a scholarly publication, without being overly academic; b) have well-done writing and editing, reducing errors; c) have a good mix of articles, both in subject matter and length; d) contain information that is archival and adds to the body of trail knowledge.

Several problem areas mentioned have already been identified and corrected, or are being addressed. The editors of both publications are relatively new in their present jobs, they are still in the process of developing their own styles. As the organization grows and new areas take on importance, the publications need to work to remain current to developments within OCTA.

Many of the suggestions made will give the editors ideas for the future. Some suggestions would involve major changes in the way our publications are handled. It is hard to calculate what the cost would be to implement such changes.

— Rose Ann Tompkins

## Collections

Working with the National Frontier Trails Center staff, arrangements were made to loan three artifacts from the Paden Collection to the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum in Washington, D.C., for its exhibit "Westward Ho! Women and Families On The Overland Trails." The exhibit opened in early October and continues through April 28. All official museum procedures concerning loans to other institutions were followed. Both OCTA and NFTC were acknowledged in the exhibit labels, main display panel and catalog. Additional gifts to the Merrill J. Mattes Library at NFTC were acknowledged and a thank you letter sent to Mrs. Clare Mattes. The books were picked up at her home following the OCTA convention in Elko by NFTC Director John Mark Lambertson. It has been suggested that when the time is appropriate, these new additions to the Mattes Library be acknowledged publicly with a special event (perhaps at an OCTA function) at the NFTC to call attention to Mr. Mattes' donation of his collections to the library.

— Jeanne Watson



## NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

### *Four Chapter Meeting*

Meeting the neighbors is an important part of becoming established in a community, plus being a pleasant social celebration whether this is when joining a wagon train, homesteading, moving to the suburbs or to Senior quarters

So the KANZA Chapter hosted a four-state meeting on March 9 at Marysville, Kansas. The neighbors invited were the Nebraska Chapter, Gateway Chapter, and Trails Head Chapter of OCTA. Over 100 people attended, including all four chapter presidents – Suzette McCord-Rogers of Gateway, Mary Conrad of Trails Head, Russ Genung of Nebraska and Vern Osborne of KANZA. Also present were OCTA President Jackie Lewin and OCTA Chapter Committee Chairman Ross Marshall.

KANZA was also celebrating completion of one year of existence. Attendees arriving at the Armory found a teepee at the door, and inside there were three immigrant wagons ready to “move out” and Marysville’s newest stagecoach.

Cindy Martin brought some of her paintings including some

from her “silo” period. The KANZA mapping committee had a display, and information was brought about the Fort-to-Fort Trail (Ft. Kearney to Ft. Riley). The tables had a variety of decorations, done by Nancy Nolte and Yvonne Larson, with a variety of vintage memorabilia. Placemats and potpourri finished the decorations.

There were raffle products to invest in, mostly crafted by talented KANZA members, with the proceeds to fund purchase of the computer supplies for mapping immigrant Trails. Plenty of vintage costumes graced the gathering including some of the Ladies of Fashion from Hollenberg Pony Express Station.

Doc Lyhane and his crew prepared a delicious meal of smothered steak, baked potato, corn, rolls, beverage plus relishes and desserts prepared by the ladies. After lunch short presentations were made about the St. Marys Indian Mission, immigrant insurance, and the Ft. Kearney-to-Ft. Riley Trail. Much visiting was squeezed in amongst all else. A good day was had by all – even the weather cooperated.

Much thanks to Ken and Arletta Martin who organized and made our load light.

– James E. Bradley

### *Southwest*

Our January, 1997 activity was a Saturday spent looking at possible sites for marking along the trail that ran south of the Gila River in south-central Arizona. Thirteen members and guests met on a beautiful, sunny day (the only kind we have in Arizona) at a freeway exit west of Gila Bend. Richard Greene had made arrangements for Boma Johnson to be our guide. Boma is from the Yuma office of the BLM and has taken us to trail sites before; he has extensive historical knowledge of the lands around Yuma.

We visited two sites during the day, the Oatman Massacre site and Sears Point. The Oatman Massacre site is on an isolated bluff overlooking the Gila River Valley. A simple white metal cross marks the site. We spent time investigating the area, including the DAR marker near the base of the bluff and the impressive swale up the bluff itself. The trail building here is evident in the dark volcanic rock. Where the rocks could not be moved aside, the wagons grooved and smoothed over the bedrock. Rust marks are extensive.

After our tailgate lunch, we traveled downstream to Sears Point, sometimes called Arizona's Independence Rock. The area is again on the south side of the Gila River Valley and has

numerous Indian petroglyphs. In addition there are historic inscriptions of early travelers along the trail, including emigrants. Boma led us about a mile along the wagon road, which climbed out of the sandy river bed. The road was quite evident as it had a pavement-like quality in places. The rocks in this area are covered with desert varnish, giving them a black appearance. Most are small and pressed into the desert floor, leaving a surprisingly smooth look to the road.

Our discussion about placing a marker was carried on at both sites. The BLM has difficulty monitoring these sites, and the Sears Point site is especially vulnerable because of the extensive petroglyphs. The agency would prefer to mark the Oatman site first, and would rather have one inclusive marker rather than separate ones. This corridor was used by a number of groups over its history: Indians, Spanish, emigrants, military (including the Mormon Battalion) and stage lines (including Butterfield). It is felt that a more inclusive marker would be better, perhaps a four-sided one, with OCTA providing text concerning the emigrant trail and the Oatman affair for one side. The chapter plans to continue work towards this marker.

On Sunday, April 20, the chapter will visit Fort Bowie National Monument for a tour arranged with one of the rangers. The group will meet at 10 a.m. at the Fort Bowie parking lot for the one-mile hike to the fort, viewing trail

*continued next page*

## MORE NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS



*Oatman Massacre site on the Gila River in Arizona. Southwest Chapter member Pat Etter, right, looks at trail evidence leading to the top of a bluff near the river. The cross which marks the site is visible between the vehicles.*

— Photo by Rose Ann Tompkins

remnants along the way. We will also have a guided tour of the fort itself.

Following the weekend, the chapter mapping group will spend the week working with the Fort Bowie ranger in mapping the trails in that area. He has invited us to do this and will show us where the various traces are. With this help and our usual historic maps and diaries, we will attempt to sort out the maze and map them accordingly.

— Rose Ann Tompkins

## Gateway

The Gateway chapter of OCTA is planning a great 1997. We have changed our by-laws to permit a more active membership devoted to trail marking, research and education.

The new year will start with a field trip to Independence, Missouri. Members and prospective members will be invited to tour the National Frontier Trails Center, the OCTA Trails Center offices and the Merrill J. Mattes Research Library.

This summer the Gateway Chapter and the Pony Express National Memorial have gotten together to sponsor an American Mirror Speakers Bureau program. Steve Wiegenstein will present a program entitled "Music of the West." He will sing and play a 12-string guitar to demonstrate and explain how music expressed the ideas of the pioneers of the migration era.

Early fall will be celebrated with a pioneer dinner at the Native American Heritage Museum in Highland, Kansas. We will be able to eat lunch on the edge of a swale situated on the site of the old Highland Mission. The great part of this outing, besides the swale, is that the cooks must bring a pioneer type covered dish to share with the group. The business and membership meeting will also be held on this day.

Trail marking will be done at various times during the year and a review of our trail marking treks will end the 1997 season. We have had many volunteers, including Boy Scouts, help us mark the trail in the past. In 1997, we plan to have even more groups join us.

The Gateway chapter has also had the privilege of accepting invitations from the new Kanza chapter to work on various activities. We are planning to help with one of their wagon trains sometime this year.

— Mary Knab

## Trails Head

Officers elected at the annual meeting were Mary Conrad as president, Jim Lee as vice president, John Leamon as secretary and Judy Budde as treasurer. Tom McCutcheon had resigned as secretary in the early fall when he moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming. At the end of the year, Trails Head had 67 dues-paying members.

During 1996, Niel Johnson and Harold Smith began an oral history project to record personal memories of the early years of Trails Head Chapter. By mid-February of 1997, they had recorded eight interviews, two of which were phone interviews.

In two treks in previous years, Trails Head had traveled the route of the Military Road in Wyandotte County and from southern Johnson County to Fort Scott. On October 5th, a third trek of the Military Road covered the route through Johnson County, Kansas.

Barbara Magerl is chairing a book review committee, which also includes Bill Bullard, Jim Lee and Harold Smith. The book reviews are all scheduled for Saturdays at 2 p.m. The first book review was held at the Trails West Library of the Kansas City, Missouri Public Library System on January 18. Niel Johnson, a retired archivist from Truman Library, reviewed Stephen Ambrose's **Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West**. On February 15, the second book review was held on the Kansas side at the Antioch Library of the Johnson County Public Library System. Bob Richmond, a retired executive of the Kansas State Historical Society, reviewed Julie Ray Jeffrey's **Converting the West**. In the second half of the talk, Richmond compared and contrasted the Indian missions of the Kansas Territory and those in the northwest. Scheduled in late March was a review of **Covered Wagon Women: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trails**, to be reviewed by Ann Reinert, a reference librarian.

— Mary Conrad

## STILL MORE NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

### California-Nevada

An OCTA trails research library and archive at the west end of the California trail is being studied and was outlined at the California-Nevada chapter's annual mid-winter meeting in Nevada City in January.

Trail expert Don Buck, noting the fine library at Independence, Missouri, which houses the Merrill Mattes and George Watkins collections, reported he has been working with national board member Norman Wilson and national treasurer James Budde to locate a similar facility in Sacramento, California.

Buck said Budde has suggested that looking ahead several decades, he envisions "having several emigrant trail repositories in the trail states and satellite trail libraries spinning off a central library in any one location which would be a way of keeping duplicate materials in circulation."

John Krizek, public relations professional from Van Nuys, Calif., launched the chapter's new Speakers Bureau at the Nevada City gathering, presenting a scripted and cued slide show adapted from Jim Rose's original presentation regarding the historic 1844 Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party's journey over the Sierra.

George Hesse, a California-Nevada chapter member, has announced his candidacy for OCTA's Board of Directors. Hesse, of San Jose, served four years as vice president and chaired the book room for the 1991 convention in Sacramento. He has agreed to chair that post for the 1999 convention in Chico.

It will be a busy spring for the chapter, according to a schedule announced by President Bill Rupp. Beginning with the first of the 1999 convention planning sessions April 5, there will be a , the Johnson Ranch tour by Jack Steed on May 4, a May 17-18 trek over the 40-Mile Desert with Jim McClain and a one-day trip over the Donner Trail May 31 with Don Wiggins.

— Patricia Loomis

### Wyoming

Remember that old motion picture: "The Russians are Coming, The Russians are Coming!?" Wyoming keeps hearing that "The Mormons are Coming..." and they likely will.

This is the sesquicentennial year of the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail. What an adventure it was to move almost an entire culture and religion from the midwest to the Land of Zion hard on the shores of Great Salt Lake. The settling of Utah territory by Brigham Young and his followers is one of the most unique stories in U.S. history that I've read. Look at Utah now and you see a modern, growing state and a church that is expanding throughout the world.

In Wyoming, visitors can gain access to the Martin's Cove area where imperiled handcart survivors waited out the winter and certain rescue and transport to Salt Lake City. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) have entered

into an agreement to purchase the historic Sun Ranch near Devil's Gate. They are already converting ranch buildings into a first-class visitors center. Interpretive specialists will be available this summer for tours. Working in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, the church and "feds" are planning foot trails and other access into Martin's Cove.

Wyoming has the best-preserved primitive ruts and swales remaining of the Mormon Trail. Access is available across public lands to such places as Rocky Ridge and South Pass, along with dozens of other important sites. New interpretive waysides will be opened this year in Wyoming, Utah and some other states.

Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer estimates that 1,000,000 people could visit Wyoming this year as a result of the sesquicentennial. Let's hope that those who do come will remember the sacrifices pioneer travellers made to reach their new homes. We need every visitor's help in not damaging trail and associated resources.

— Tim Monroe

### Northwest

About 65 Northwest OCTA members gathered for the annual membership meeting at the United Methodist Church in Oregon City on February 22. Wendell Baskins and Glenn Harrison's preparation resulted in an excellent meeting highlighted by Dick Ackerman's talk on the Applegate Trail. Dick's talk gave thoughtful insights into the history of the trail and the personalities involved in its development and use. Several descendants of Applegate Trail emigrants were in the audience.

In the chapter business meeting, the financial health of the chapter was noted by Treasurer Joyce Bolerjack. Membership was fairly steady after an extended renewal campaign.

Additional outings for this summer are still being planned. A second excursion in central Oregon will probably be added. Also, planning for the 1998 convention in Pendleton continues. A survey trip later this spring will pin down tour and hiking routes. Negotiations are underway to gain access to the trail as it descends from the Blue Mountains to the Umatilla River. This area has not been accessible in the past due to complex ownership of the property.

At last the sun has returned to the Northwest and we can begin thinking about getting out on the Trail. One of our best hikes will be repeated on June 7, National Trails Day, when a segment from LaGrande to Hilgard in the Blue Mountains will be traversed and signage repaired. Contact me if you are interested in participating.

— Dave Welch

## STILL MORE NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

### KANZA

One of the commitments of an OCTA Chapter is mapping and measuring visible trail remnants in its area. That means some volunteer members must take their free time to accomplish this. Another aspect of this project involves the landowners in that area.

KANZA Chapter is progressing into its mapping and measuring project with enthusiasm and has so far been out in sun, heat, humidity, rain, and mud -- as well as some nice weather -- to work on mapping and measuring. It is a matter of much pleasure to find the landowners as interested and pleased with the project as the members. At one location, the Trail went through a home's front yard! In other areas, it is out in pasture land where plows and terraces have not masked it.

When stopping to explain the project and request permission to follow the trail through someone's land, how pleasant it has been to find the owners offering to go along and point out what

they are familiar with. This saves everyone some time searching for visible traces. When planning for the following Sunday's outing, one fellow who was asked said, "Don't worry about having access, you have it any time and go on with your project." This makes the work of the members faster and the enthusiasm buoys the spirit to know how many folks care and want this record to be made. One owner was away on a trip but said, "Wait, and I'll walk it with you." Knowing that each landowner is the most familiar with their place, it is helpful to learn as we go the stories each can contribute from their store of knowledge and is sure to be appreciated and helpful.

The task had seemed daunting, since it meant walking approximately from St. Marys to Nebraska, but the participants seem to return from each day's work feeling energized by what they have seen and found, the friendliness along the route, and the continuing contact with people who have for years quietly lived with this knowledge stored to preserve what is here. Hats off to the great group of heroes who participate in the work of protecting and preserving a treasure right here at our feet.

—Marian Scott Bradley

### Crossroads

Utah Crossroads Chapter is gearing up for a big spring and summer of activities associated with the Mormon Trail Sesquicentennial Celebration. A tremendous number of activities are planned and Crossroads members are involved in much of the planning and preparations for the events.

At the January membership meeting, Will Bagley got Crossroads off a great start with his lecture on the Mormon trail experiences of Thomas Bullock, the official journal keeper of the vanguard company of Mormons journeying to a new home in the western wilderness. Bagley's presentation was sponsored by the Utah Humanities Council.

Thirty-year-old Thomas Bullock was chosen to come west with Brigham Young's initial company because of his writing ability, not his frontiering skills. Bullock's claim to fame was that he was an extraordinary record-keeper. His journal offers

an excellent portrayal of the events of the journey. In addition, the journal reflects the man who wrote it. Bagley shared his finding from researching and editing this journal. He captivated his audience with events of the journey and insights into the writer who saw things much differently than some of the other men in that group who also kept journals or wrote reminiscences.

Bagley disclosed the naturalist in Bullock, who paid close attention to nature and the animals life and landscape along the trail. Bullock's devotion to Brigham Young is evident in the journal, as is the daily life of the pioneer company. After reaching the Salt Lake Valley in July, Bullock only had a brief stay before returning to the Missouri River with Brigham Young. Bullock continued to work as a clerk for Young until 1856. He died in Summit County, Utah, in 1885. Because of the records he left, Thomas Bullock contributed enormously to our understanding of the Mormon Trail and the Mormons' experience in the West.

—Lyndia Carter

### Nebraska

The Nebraska Chapter is planning a Spring Trek on April 26. Members will meet at the City Park in Columbus on South Highway 81 at 9 a.m. Box lunches, water, walking shoes, etc., are recommended.

A business meeting will be held during lunch at which other 1997 treks and projects will be discussed.

Longtime Oregon-California Trails Association member Clyde Wallace has died at the age of 91. He lived his entire life on his family farm in Lexington.

A farmer, he still found time to research many incidents along the Oregon Trail, including the Plum Creek Massacre. He was recognized throughout Nebraska as a very knowledgeable historian. Wallace led tours along the trail and shared his knowledge with many groups of school children.

He was one of the founders of the Dawson County Historical Society and a member of the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Lincoln Highway Association.

—Russ Genung

## June 1 Deadline for 1997 OCTA Awards Nominations

The deadline is **June 1** for nominations for the **1997 OCTA Awards**, which will be presented at the Pocatello convention. Letters of nomination, providing details on why the nominee deserves the award, should be sent to **George Ivory, Awards Chairman, 970 East Woodoak Lane, Salt Lake City UT 84117**. Awards including the **Meritorious Achievement Award**, OCTA's highest honor for individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions over long period of time; the **National Certificate of Appreciation**, for individuals or organizations who help with specific short term projects; and the **Volunteer of the Year Award**, given to an individual OCTA member.

## OCTA Awards of the Past

In response to several requests, following is a list of OCTA awards made at annual conventions from 1983 through 1996. This list, partly obtained from rough notes, may contain a few errors. If so, please contact OCTA Headquarters.

### 1983-Independence, Missouri

*Meritorious Achievement*

Dr. E.G. Frenchy Chuinard

### 1984-Oregon City, Oregon

*Meritorious Achievement*

Merrill J. Mattes

Thomas H. Hunt

*Institutional Meritorious Achievement*

Nebraska Game and Parks

### 1985-Scottsbluff, Nebraska

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

Aubrey Haines

Troy Gray

*Institutional Meritorious Achievement*

Wyoming Recreation Commission

*Rancher of the Year*

Stella Hammett (Kansas)

Ivor Dilke (Nebraska)

Rudy and Ruth Chesnovar (Wyoming)

Homer and Kay Abell (Oregon)

### 1986-Carson City, Nevada

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

Clyde Arbuckle

Helen Helfrich

Merle Wells

Robert and Marguerite Griffin

*Institutional Meritorious Achievement*

Oregon City, Oregon

*Rancher of the Year*

Dwight Ewing (Nebraska)

Marvis Applequist (Wyoming)

### 1987-Casper, Wyoming

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

Gregory M. Franzwa

*Institutional Meritorious Achievement*

Idaho Bureau of Land Management

*Rancher of the Year*

Bernard Sun (Wyoming)

Robert Ward (Idaho)

Mr. & Mrs. David C. Bagley (Utah)

George Dein (Nebraska)

### 1988-St. Joseph, Missouri

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

John Latschar

*Media (Meritorious Achievement)*

Independence, MO Examiner

*Rancher of the Year*

Donald F. Willsey (Kansas)

Krebs Ranches (Oregon)

Chester & Bill Frederick (Wyoming)

### 1989-Boise, Idaho

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

James F. Bowers

*Institutional Meritorious Achievement*

Idaho State Dept. of Parks and Recreation

*Rancher of the Year*

Paul & Ruby Tschirky (California)

Herb & Mary Allen (Idaho)

Neal & Leona Ambrose (Idaho)

Bill & Edna Barber (Wyoming)

Jim & Betty Sudbeck (Kansas)

### 1990-Omaha, Nebraska

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

Charles W. Martin, Sr.

*Institutional Meritorious Achievement*

City of Independence, MO

*Volunteer of the Year*

Elaine McNabney

*Friend of the Trail*

Don & Jean Rowlett (Oregon)

Louis E. Schumacher (Missouri)

### 1991-Sacramento, California

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

Don Buck

Jack & Richard Steed

Chuck Graydon-Trails West

*Distinguished Volunteer of the Year*

Kathy Roubal

*Certificate of Achievement*

Pat Reuy

*Friend of the Trail*

Ray Bedke (Idaho)

### 1992-Rock Springs, Wyoming

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

Barbara Magerl

Reg Duffin

Wyoming Bureau of Land Management

*Distinguished Volunteer of the Year*

Bill and Shann Rupp

*National Certificate of Appreciation*

Doris Dart

*Friend of the Trail*

James Gould (California)

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Osler & family (Nebraska)

Freed-Robinson Partners (Utah)

John & Leonard Hay & families (Wyoming)

Leonard Hay & family (Wyoming)

### 1993-Baker City, Oregon

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

Richard W. Ackerman

*Distinguished Volunteer of the Year*

Chuck Dodd

*National Certificate of Appreciation*

Ross Marshall

Sally True

Casper Star-Tribune

*Friend of the Trail*

Lyle & Carol Woodbury (Idaho)

Steven & Susan Cory (Oregon)

Peter & Jeanne Maher (Wyoming)

Wayne & Mae Koch (Nebraska)

### 1994-Salt Lake City, Utah

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

James E. Budde

Betty Lee

Rose Ann Thompkins

*Distinguished Volunteer of the Year*

Vernon Gorzitze

*National Certificate of Appreciation*

Tom Bell

Peter DeLafosse

*Friend of the Trail*

Les Broadie (Idaho)

Mr. & Mrs. David Gage (Kansas)

Mr. & Mrs. John Gage (Kansas)

Joseph Ray Broadbent, Jr. (Wyoming)

Joseph Siddoway Broadbent (Wyoming)

### 1995-Grand Island, Nebraska

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

Randy Brown

Robert L. Berry

*National Certificate of Appreciation*

Congressman Douglas Bereuter (Nebraska)

Lois Daniel

*Friend of the Trail*

Steve Percy (Idaho)

Joe & Dianne Jeffrey (Nebraska)

Pete and Faye Gaines (New Mexico)

Edwin Boddy & family (Nebraska)

### 1996-Elko Nevada

*Meritorious Achievement Award*

Andy and Joanne Hammond

Susan Badger Doyle

Burlington Northern Railroad

*National Certificate of Appreciation*

Will Bagley

Placer Dome US, Inc.

*Friend of the Trail*

Maggie Creek Ranches (Nevada)

Vernon Bomgardner (Wyoming)

# Roster Update:

The December 1996 membership Roster listing closed in October 1996. Listed below are the names and addresses of new OCTA members from October through December 31, 1996. Please tip this in your latest roster.

**Alexander, Al**  
1668 Glenville Dr  
San Jose CA 95124-3807

**Alexander, Richard W**  
PO Box 420371  
San Francisco CA 94142  
415-776-3756

**Baldwin, Laura Leigh**  
1131 Olympic Way W #  
205  
Seattle WA 98119  
206-282-7079

**Baldwin, Robert**  
1354 Herrick Rd  
Port Angeles WA 98363  
360-457-5937

**Bane, Barbara**  
3042 Dohr  
Berkeley CA 94702

**Barlow, Muriel and Jon**  
495 Main St  
Portland CT 06480  
860-342-2382

**Batcheller, John**  
644 St Mary St  
Pleasanton CA 94566

**Bateman, Joni & Steve**  
1414 E Fremont  
Pocatello ID 83201

**Bealey, Rosalind**  
3809 Dey Ave  
Cheyenne WY 82001  
307-634-4955

**Beckett, Beryl A**  
7185 Lincoln Way E  
Apple Creek OH 44606

**Bennett, Joan**  
4504 W 78th St  
Shawnee Mission KS  
66208  
913-642-3769

**Bennett, Peter S**  
1525 W Windsor St  
Tucson AZ 85705-3017  
520-888-8553

**Bergsund, Joan**  
16383 Parkridge Ave  
Sonora CA 95370-8756  
209-532-1848

**Bieber, Fred A**  
3417 NE 125th St  
Vancouver WA 98686  
360-576-4955

**Bowman, Don**  
10702 Hopewell Rd  
Williamsport MD 21795  
301-223-9135

**Bradley, John F**  
4817 94th St  
Meriden KS 66512-9667  
913-484-2268

**Bristol, Harriet M**  
7625 Edinborough Way  
Apt 2311  
Edina Mn 55435-5271

**Brossard, Ben E**  
6118 97th Ave Ct W  
Tacoma WA 98467-1054  
206-565-6176

**Brown, Robert and Della**  
RR1 Box 119  
Hershey NE 69143  
308-368-5432

**Brundidge, Juanita Mae**  
31342 E Camas Swale Rd  
Creswell OR 97426  
541-895-4384

**Burchfield, Delia M**  
Rt 2 Box 438  
Bayard NE 69334  
308-783-1649

**Cain, Clare E**  
729 W 44th St  
Kansas City MO 64111  
816-931-0424

**Chismire, Kevin J**  
5146 Illahee Ln NE  
Olympia WA 98516-6004  
360-456-4220

**Christenson, W**  
6124 E Burnside  
Portland OR 97215-1270  
508-236-1403

**Clark, Don**  
PO Box 20791  
941 Goldridge Dr  
Graeagle CA 96103  
916-836-2586

**Coppock, Henry A**  
2229 Chelmsford Ln  
St Cloud MN 56301  
320-252-5870

**Cottle, Richard C**  
390 Ashland St  
Ashland OR 97520

**Davis, Brack**  
PO Box 916  
Ketchum ID 83340  
208-622-7448

**Davis, Nancy**  
PO Box 76  
Crystal City MO 63019-0076  
314-586-5959

**Deitch, Gordon**  
RR#1 Box 15  
Norborne MO 64668  
816-484-3374

**DeWine, Thomas P**  
3603 Park Ln S  
Birmingham AL 35213  
205-871-0006

**Didrickson, Luther**  
2115 Ridge Ave  
Evanston IL 60201

**Elkins, Christy**  
38449 Summers  
Livonia MI 48154-4924

**Ellingson, Joe and Jean**  
420 W Lassen Ave  
Chico CA 95973  
916-343-6572

**Ellis, Charles W**  
2100 Circle Dr # 233  
Scottsbluff NE 69361-1778  
308-630-8233

**Fisher, V**  
Arrow Rock MO 65320

**Fite, Ron**  
PO Box 30750  
San Bernardino CA 92404  
909-883-9039

**Fraser, R James**  
PO Box 35  
Manchester WA 98353  
360-871-0218

**Garff, Garry H**  
3863 W Mapleleaf Way  
W Jordan UT 84088  
801-280-0525

**Geer, Harold and Norma**  
953 Exeter Rd PO Box 88  
Lebanon CT 06249  
860-642-7022

**Gilman, Mrs Ralph**  
7117 NE 134th Ave  
Vancouver WA 98682-4974

**Gittins, H Leigh and Virginia**  
740 University Drive  
Pocatello ID 83201  
208-233-5600

**Gleason, Lavaile**  
PO Box 524  
Holdrege NE 68949-0524  
308-995-6689

**Glessner Family**  
904 16th E  
Seattle WA 98112  
206-325-6921

**Glover, Jeffrey A**  
508 Maryhurst St  
Bakersfield CA 93312  
805-589-2228

**Goffinet, Dr and Mrs D**  
801 Allardice Way  
Stanford CA 94305

**Grede, David W**  
7124 Kingston Pl  
Dublin CA 94568  
510-551-8755

**Guptill, Maurice**  
4968 E S Regency Cir  
Tucson AZ 85711  
520-745-2793

**Hackfort, Barbara J**  
23115 230th  
Carroll IA 51401  
712-792-3055

**Hanks, Max**  
308 N Park  
Shelley ID 83274  
208-357-3267

**Hasekamp, Hetty**  
3001 Diamond A Dr  
Roswell NM 88201  
505-622-7368

**Hastings, Roy**  
4635 Grandview Terr  
La Mesa CA 91941  
619-469-6555

**Hathaway, Alan D**  
2503 Gaines St  
Davenport IA 52804-1912  
319-323-8649

**Hay, Leonard**  
Box 186  
Rock Springs WY 82902

**Henry, Mr and Mrs Dick**  
2020 Quail Springs Ln  
Auburn CA 95603  
916-885-0273

**Hilden, Molly**  
8707 Estate Ln SW  
Olympia WA 98512

**Hinchliff, Joanne**  
PO Box 685  
San Jacinto CA 92581-0685  
909-925-7068

**Hively, William H and Ruth**  
6360 Starkes Grade Rd  
Pollock Pines CA 95728  
916-644-1772

**Hjelmeland, S J**  
18005 7th Ave SW  
Seattle WA 98166-3011  
206-244-1526

**House, Marvin E**  
868 Airport Rd  
Bonne Terre MO 63628  
573-358-2061

**Huninghake, Rachel**  
2681 Wildcat Rd  
Frankfort KS 66427  
913-382-6391

**Husted, Lalania**  
2052 Lone Oak Ave  
Napa CA 94558  
707-255-6995

**Johnson, Charles J**  
1855 Winterwood Ct  
Redding CA 96602  
916-223-3061

**Jones, Peter A**  
2001 Lockey St  
Helena MT 59601

**Justin, Dolores**  
PO Box 665  
Pittsfield MA 01202

**Kaye, E Donald**  
1021 Stagecoach Rd  
Santa Fe NM 87501-1147

**Kestner, Brian G**  
PO Box 664  
Millbrae CA 94030-0664  
415-697-2096

**Kimball, Gary**  
PO Box 788  
Park City UT 84060  
801-649-9115

**Kincaid, Bob**  
1432 Friar Ln  
Columbus OH 43221  
614-457-3843

**Kinner, G Pedro**  
Box 2834  
Lake Tahoe NV 89449-2834  
702-588-1379

**Kirk, Wayne L**  
1351 Tanager Way  
Boise ID 83709  
208-327-0915

- Kirstein, Edward and Carol**  
26526 Princeton Ave  
Kent WA 98032  
206-854-3963
- Koch, Michelene**  
25411 Valley Rd  
Tremont IL 61568-8738  
309-925-3673
- Kortum-Durney Family**  
180 Ely Rd  
Petaluma CA 94954  
707-762-6219
- Larson, Dorelyn**  
6601 Elmhurst Dr  
Tujunga CA 91042-3326  
818-353-2322
- Lassiter, Chuck**  
Box 8  
Papaikou HI 96781  
808-964-5454
- Lehman, William**  
1096 E Holton Rd  
Holville CA 92250  
619-356-1213
- Lindley, William**  
500 W Franklin St # 8  
Boise ID 83702  
208-344-7310
- Machen, Judith**  
1100 First St  
Los Alamos NM 87544  
505-662-3476
- Maisel, Janet**  
3708 Cassen Blvd  
Randallstown MD 21133  
410-922-7321
- Marozik, Rev John R**  
524 Woodside Way  
Susanville CA 96130  
910-257-2223
- Mattson, Janelle**  
1945 Clearview Ct  
Fallon NV 89406  
702-423-2503
- McCullough, Allen and Jean**  
1312 Bourgogne Ave  
Bowling Green OH 43402
- McDowell, Timothy E**  
7305 NW Tomahawk Ln  
Platte Woods MO 64151  
816-741-1673
- Meier, Fred R**  
972 E Square Lake Rd  
Bloomfield Hills MI 48304  
810-645-0178
- Melton, Roger**  
888 Waddington  
Bloomfield Hills MI 48301  
860-258-8890
- Miller, Mrs. Don**  
14255 SW 125  
Tigard OR 97224  
503-620-7261
- Minde, Eric**  
1471 Beechwood Blvd  
Pittsburgh PA15217  
412-421-8817
- Moellendorf, Suzanne**  
21030 143rd Ave SE  
Kent WA 98042-3150
- Morgan, Michael**  
201 W. Tyler Ave.  
Litchfield IL 62056
- Nadeau, Jack**  
389 E Truman Ave  
Salt Lake City UT 84115  
801-487-4987
- Nicandri, David**  
1911 Pacific Ave  
Tacoma WA 98402  
206-272-3500
- Niebruegge, H J**  
PO Box 13  
New Franklin MO 65274  
816-848-2397
- Norman, Norma**  
4230 SE Ogden  
Portland OR 97206  
503-771-7632
- Ostrander, William J**  
1235 W K St  
Benicia CA 94510
- Owen, Katherine C**  
58 Goldfinch Grove  
Hackettstown NJ 07840  
908-813-3056
- Peters, Mr and Mrs James**  
49 Leighton Rd  
Wellesley MA 02181  
617-237-3848
- Peterson, Dan**  
9727 45th Ave NE  
Seattle WA 98115-2605  
206-524-0526
- Phillips, Shirley**  
PO Box 340 307 S Franklin  
Waterville WA 98858  
509-745-8354
- Popejoy, Don**  
PO Box 9021  
Spokane WA 99209  
509-328-9368
- Price, William E**  
4312 N Rillito Creek Pl  
Tucson AZ 85719  
520-325-7042
- Raverta, E Louis**  
2495 Wilbraham Rd  
Springfield MA 01129-1833  
413-782-7463
- Redhage, James H**  
Rt 2 Box 118  
Bowling Green MO 63334  
573-754-5595
- Ritten, Louis N**  
511 N Kensington  
La Grange Park IL 60526  
708-354-7778
- Robinson, John W**  
1345 Carneio Ln  
Fullerton CA 92831  
714-528-8609
- Rogers, Lloyd**  
931 Champagne  
Callstoga CA 94515-9769  
707-942-5956
- Ross, Dorothy**  
200 Coach Ridge Trail  
Matthews NE 28105  
704-847-2456
- Rupp, W Clark and Susan**  
2813 Bluecurl Ct  
Antioch CA 94509  
510-778-7288
- Sauer, Stephen**  
4225 SE Hillyard Rd  
Gresham OR 97080
- Schell, Donald J**  
877 Rhode Island  
San Francisco CA 94107
- Severson, J P**  
2209 Fillmore  
Ames IA 50010  
515-232-4813
- Seymour, Lisa A**  
1515 Idaho St  
Elko NV 89801-4021  
702-738-3418
- Shawver, David and Mary**  
18320 SE 346th  
Auburn WA 98092-2679  
206-351-0106
- Short, James**  
2721 Kelly Ln  
Salt Lake City UT 84117
- Shreckengost, Walter**  
189-3rd St  
David City NE 68632-1901  
402-367-3632
- Slone, Darrell**  
6134 Buckthorn Ct NW  
Olympia WA 98502-3435  
360-866-2509
- Smith, Carolyn**  
311 Terrill Ave  
Grand Haven MI 49417  
616-842-6634
- Smith, Lucinda**  
555 Eagle Cir # D  
Aurora CO 80011  
303-343-1429
- Snowden, Esther J**  
4118 147th St Ct NW  
Gig Harbor WA 98332  
206-857-8507
- Snure, Rand**  
204 Hermit St  
Juneau AK 99801
- Snyder, Sid**  
Box 531  
Long Beach WA 98631  
360-842-2519
- Spray, Roxy**  
6111 NE 139th St  
Vancouver WA 98686  
360-921-4639
- Springer, Edward E**  
153 Raft Island  
Gig Harbor Wa 98335  
206-265-3662
- Steele, Edward E**  
7421 Gannon Ave  
St Louis MO 63130  
314-725-5053
- Strom, Warren J**  
2700 Golf Club Dr # 104  
Palm Springs CA 92264  
619-521-9782
- Stubblefield, Bob and Lenore**  
7300 Willow Rd  
Shelton NE 68876  
308-647-6554
- Taylor, Rosemary H**  
828 E 4th St Apt 304  
Port Angeles WA 98362  
360-457-0062
- Thompson, Andrew J**  
1236 Sweetwater Dr  
Cincinnati OH 45215-2042  
513-821-3063
- Towers, John and Virginia**  
100 Anchor Dr Box 413  
Key Largo FL 33037
- Tyler, Jolly**  
The Hayrack Ranch  
Wyoia MT 59089  
406-343-2602
- Vanderwilt, Joanna K**  
1910 19th Dr NE  
Auburn WA 98002
- Voght, Martha L**  
Rt 1 126 Sage Dr  
Bishop CA 93414-7001  
619-873-6693
- Wade, C M**  
1224 Apache Dr  
Socorro NM 87801  
505-835-3452
- Washington, Lawrence T**  
3607 Tupelo Pl  
Alexandria VA 22304  
703-370-1939
- Whitesitt, Bob**  
111 W Argonne  
Kirkwood MO 63122-4201  
314-822-8212
- Wild, Dick**  
3227 Alice Ave  
Arcata CA 95521  
707-822-6246
- Wilke, Julia and Harvey**  
2975 Terr Dr Apt 309A  
Las Cruces NM 88011-5093  
505-522-0263
- Williams, Carl**  
1710 Arch St  
Berkeley CA 94709
- Worley, John**  
2103 E 6425 South  
Salt Lake City UT 84121  
801-277-0659
- Wright, Tom**  
2275 NW 15th St  
Redmond OR 97756
- Zander, Trevelyn and Dorothy**  
532 Blackberry Path  
Arnold MO63010-1806  
314-296-4157

**Errata**

December, 1996, OCTA  
Membership Roster  
Corrections

**Arends, Billy Joe and  
Jacque** phone # 206-564-  
1304  
**Shull, Jr., Charles M. (Mrs.)**  
1188 Bowman Rd., Acme, WA  
98220  
**Lund, Dr. Ronald and  
Sarah,** 11265 Goose Egg Rd.,  
Casper, WY 82604-9190

(Page 13 and page 39) add  
asterisk to denote Charter  
Member for Huffstutter,  
Wayne E., Portland OR

# The Reading Trail



by Lyndia Carter

The way west was a system of variant trails, converging and diverging along the Platte and Sweetwater Rivers, then branching off to Oregon, California and Utah. Part of this great trail system was the Mormon Trail. One hundred-fifty years ago a mass migration began to Utah.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, sometimes called Mormons or LDS, sought a place to live where they could practice their religious beliefs as a united people. Brigham Young led the first Mormon wagon train across the plains and mountains to Utah from the Missouri River in 1847. They reached the Salt Lake Valley in July of that year. A steady stream of wagon companies followed them over the Mormon Trail for the next twenty-two years.

This month the books for young readers (and oldsters like me) focus on the Mormon emigration experience in honor of their sesquicentennial celebration this summer.

**I Walked to Zion: True Stories of Young Pioneers on the Mormon Trail** by Susan Arrington Madsen (Deseret Books, Salt Lake City, 1994) is an interesting compilation of excerpts from many reminiscences and a few journals of people who walked the Mormon Trail as children and teenagers from 1847 to 1869. Using the emigrants' words gives power and emotion to this book. The experiences come across as vital and real. The stories make fascinating reading and demonstrate a wide variety of individual perceptions and experiences regarding trail travel. Some of the accounts are light-hearted and humorous; others deeply poignant. All draw the reader into the lives of these real people. Although the book is focused primarily for a Mormon readership, everyone who is interested in the westward movement can find much within these personal narratives that crosses cultural and religious lines. This book enriches trail knowledge and makes history live in the present. Madsen has chosen a broad assortment of ages and personalities, demonstrating the diversity of trail life for young people during the twenty-two years that Mormon wagons and handcarts rolled west to "Zion."

Some Mormon families who could not afford wagon travel pulled and pushed handcarts to Utah. Only a small percentage of Mormons used handcarts and only for a few years, but this unique form of travel makes for a very interesting story. **Show Me Your Rocky Mountains** by Thelma Hatch Wyss (Deseret Book Company, 1982) is a fictionalized story of one of the handcart companies, the Martin Company, as experienced by a twelve-year-old boy. William Taylor (who was indeed one of the real handcart emigrants) traveled with his younger brother and widowed mother from England to Utah in 1856. This

fictionalized account of his journey shows how the trip for many Mormons began with an ocean voyage from England. Then the railroad took his family to Iowa City. There they waited for their handcarts before walking across Iowa to the Missouri River. Already they have been on the way for three months, and they haven't even left the frontier yet! At last they start on the Mormon Trail at Florence, Nebraska. Long weeks of pushing and pulling along the Platte River are heightened for William and his friends by a contest to be the first to see the Rocky Mountains. Hardships turn into disaster for the Martin Company and William in Wyoming. Although not always completely accurate, the story is wonderful reading for young people. William's journey is an adventure all young readers can experience as they travel the pages of this book.

Now that we have looked at both non-fiction and fiction books, an activity book is in order. Summer fun can be made better by a little pleasurable learning, (oh no! you gasp; but yes, it's true!). These activity books are especially good when confined to a car while traveling. And if you are trail traveling, these books can be great fun. **Finding the Right Place: The Story of the Mormon Trail** by William E. Hill (Oregon-California Trails Association, Independence, MO., 1996) is an activity book being used in Utah schools. But it can be utilized by kids and their families just as effectively, particularly if you are planning a Mormon Trail Sesquicentennial vacation. It is a good resource to pack and take along with you. Some of the activities test your knowledge and thinking ability but others entertain you. There is something for all mental types.

Another activity book gives kids some great summer "quick and easy" fun projects no matter which trail is your favorite. In fact this activity book covers explorers, mountain men, trail travelers, gold-rushers, settlers, and cowboys—something for everyone. **Westward Ho! An Activity Guide to the Wild West** by Laurie Carlson (Chicago Review Press, 1996) contains tons of hands-on fun stuff to keep summer from getting boring. (Teachers can use it too to spice up life in the classroom.) There are all sorts of things you can make and do, even cook and eat! While your hands are busy having fun, your mind just might learn something too! Maybe you could even form a history club and do the activities with your friends to add to the fun. (Hey, grandparents, you just might want to do some with the grandkids!)

*Have a great time on the reading trail!*

*--Mrs. C.*

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