



News from the Plains



Volume XIV, No. 2

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

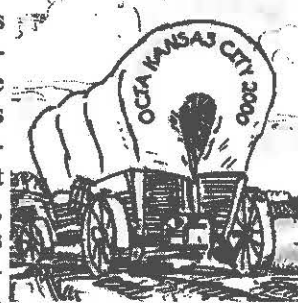
April 2000

Convention 2000: OCTA Crosses The Missouri

By Barbara Magerl

Beyond the Wide Missouri, the theme of Convention 2000 to be held August 7-12 in Kansas City, beckons all OCTA members to come explore where much of America's western trail history began.

Where the Mighty Mo turns north, hundreds of steamboats delivered their human cargo: The military, explorers, and thousands of civilians who followed Destiny's call to go West. Throughout the Greater Kansas City area, from Independence to Kansas City and on to St. Joe and Leavenworth, riverfront towns blossomed.



One of the five tours offered will take you along the Missouri to show the relationship between the river, outfitting posts, and overland routes. Other tours will cover the Independence and Westport routes, the California Road popular after the Gold Strike, and a military route involving dynamic Ft. Leavenworth.

Although the area developed into a vibrant metropolis, it still has swales and ruts, historic sites and forts for us to show off! This is your chance to see up close the territory described in thousands of diaries and journals and to figure out the difference in the Upper and Lower Independence Landings, Town of Kansas, Westport and Westport Landing.

As popular as they are, however, tours will not be the whole show. We have a great variety in papers, workshops, and speakers (see pages 10-12). But we've left time for two favorite OCTA pastimes: Visiting with once-a-year pals and making new friends. The Buddy Program will pair newcomers with seasoned OCTA members for a friendly start.

This convention is also a Homecoming of sorts, since we'll be headquartered and have our Banquet in the hotel where some Charter Members stayed during the first convention in Independence.

(continued on Page 10)

OCTA Board Approves \$5,000 For Wyoming Trail Marking

OCTA has made a \$5,000 grant to the Wyoming Chapter to help with marking of the Overland Stage/Cherokee Trail in southwest Wyoming. The grant was approved at OCTA's Mid-Year Board meeting.

The money will be subsequently transferred to the Rock Springs District of the Bureau of Land Management, which is spearheading the trail-marking project, Wyoming OCTA Chapter President Ron Lund said. (See story on page 11.)

The project calls for installation of 150 four-inch square concrete markers that will be put in place August 26 and 27, Lund said. Volunteers from Wyoming OCTA will assist with the project. The BLM has lined up the remaining funding needed for the \$32,000 project, according to OCTA National Preservation Officer Dick Ackerman.

(Continued on Page 7)

OCTA Mid-Year Board Meeting Hits On Wide Range of Issues

By Candy Moulton

Board members, committee chairs, and interested individuals discussed issues ranging from establishment of an executive director to trail preservation projects during OCTA's mid-year board meeting March 3 and 4 in Tacoma, Washington.

During the March 3 study session the board reviewed the 2000 budget, options for an executive director, and OCTA policies and procedures related to maps, reimbursement, donations and the online bookstore.

During the March 4 board meeting the board discussed trail preservation projects and granted \$5,000 to the Wyoming Chapter. (See story above.)

In other action the board:

-- Discussed holding a trail preservation conference involving chapter presidents and preservation officers, but made no firm plans for such a gathering.

(continued on Page 6)

From the Editor's Desk . . .

This is an important issue of *News From The Plains*, for a number of reasons. On page after page, you will find information that's important to you as a member of OCTA. Our organization is dealing with a wide range of issues, literally from coast-to-coast, both on the trail and off.

To begin with we urge you to note with a great deal of pride the Board of Director's decision to make a \$5,000 grant to the Wyoming Chapter to help with the marking of the Overland Stage/Cherokee Trail. This is important because it may be the first time OCTA has agreed to put money behind a specific project like this one. That should be good news for anyone who wants to see the organization dedicate its dollars as well as its people in trails preservation.

Also in this issue, you will find two important reports on trails activities taking place in the halls of Congress. Trails Liaison Committee co-chairs Bill and Jeanne Watson are helping spearhead OCTA's support for the National Parks Service in developing information on additional routes for historic trails. It is part of a needed update of the Oregon and California Trails Feasibility Studies. And Nevada Senator Richard Bryan is introducing legislation to create a National Conservation Area around the Applegate Trail in northwestern Nevada. Both of these are vital to preserving trails heritage and have been endorsed by the Board of Directors. OCTA members are encouraged to let their federal representatives know of their support.

You will also find a lengthy report on the Mid-Year Board

meeting held in Tacoma in early March. It was an extremely busy meeting, with lots of actions taken and a wagonful of discussions on topics ranging from maps to money. It set an appropriately focused tone for the tasks OCTA must face in the early years of the New Millennium.

There's also an update on the COED program, our annual financial statements, and reports from various OCTA officers on the work the organization is doing.

Finally, of course, there's a lot of news about plans for the Kansas City convention August 7-12. It is our annual opportunity to see new ruts and renew acquaintances with fellow rut nuts, all in a convivial atmosphere conducive to education and entertainment. Don't miss it.

The editor would be remiss if he didn't bring you up to date on his own journey, outlined in the January issue. I have elected to pause for the time being in the middle of Texas and that's where you'll find me for the foreseeable future. I'll get back on my personal trail one day, but for now I like being planted in the shadows of the Alamo (although being in the path of tornadoes is a new experience). Sometimes it's weird waking up in Texas after 30 years in Nevada, but life's an adventure and change is almost always good. Besides, I may be a long way from the traditional overland trails, but I'm already 1,000 miles closer to getting to Kansas City in August.

You can find the new phone and fax numbers and mailing address for *News From The Plains* right below this column.

See you on the banks of the Missouri in August!

-- Bill Martin

Submission Guidelines

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

Material is due 30 days prior to publication dates. Material is best sent either on a computer disk (in DOS or text format but make sure you include a hard copy) or via e-mail.

Pictures are appreciated but cannot always be returned.

If you have any questions, please call

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or e-mail OCTANFP@aol.com

Next Deadline Is June 1, 2000

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OCTA is a 501(c)(3) Not For Profit Organization

From The President . . .

by David Welch

On March 3 and 4, OCTA's Board of Directors held its mid-year board meeting in Tacoma, WA. I am pleased to report that progress was made in a number of areas to include publications, preservation and finances. Most importantly, the Board and officers are working together to advance OCTA's goals. (Additional information appears in articles elsewhere.)

I was especially pleased that the OCTA Board approved a grant of \$5,000 to the Wyoming Chapter for marking the Overland Trail. OCTA's contribution was the final piece of a \$32,000 effort to place cement post markers on this important, sometimes overlooked route. The marking is a cooperative effort involving the chapter, BLM, the National Guard and a fiber optic company that damaged a trail segment. OCTA's grant was facilitated by last year's gift from Pat Loomis.

During the past few months, Bill and Jeanne Watson have been working to define a package to be submitted to Congress to provide additional funding for the National Park Service's Long Distance Trails Office in Salt Lake City. This package requests over \$700,000 in additional funding to implement the

California and Pony Express Trails CMP and to update the feasibility studies to include trails and trail segments not covered by previous plans. Approximately 60 trail additions are proposed. It is hoped that these additions can be implemented without new legislation. Your help will be needed to move this budget authorization through Congress this year.

Late in February, Wendy and I attended the annual symposium and board and chapter meetings of the California-Nevada Chapter in Stockton. It was very beneficial to me to hear first hand their discussion of chapter issues and their plans for future activities. On March 11 we attended the Northwest Chapter in Albany, OR and met with many trail friends. I welcome the opportunity to meet with the membership of other chapters to discuss trail and OCTA-related issues.

Thankfully, spring is here and we can get back out on the trails and away from e-mail. I hope to see you on the trails and at the convention in Kansas City.

-- Dave Welch, President

News From Headquarters

By Kathy Conway, Headquarters Manager

Your Headquarters occupies a two-story brick building on the grounds of the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence, MO. We have been here for the last ten years and this March marked the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the Trails Center. For those OCTA members attending the ribbon-cutting ceremonies in 1990, you will recall that year's late blizzard almost played havoc with the festivities. Despite the weather, area dignitaries, OCTA officials and members, and the entire local community came out like "true pioneers" with great enthusiasm for the opening of our country's first emigrant trails center. In honor of this 10th Anniversary, on March 19, 2000, The Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center hosted a party. Joining the current staff and the "Friends" were former directors Dan Holt and Bill Bullard; former employees; city officials and local OCTA members. A short program and a slide show chronicling the Trails Center's history were presented followed by refreshments. OCTA donned its party "bonnet" and joined John Mark Lambertson, the NFTC's director, and his talented staff in celebrating our shared 10 year "home" and mission of telling the trail story to the public.

Also in March, OCTA's Board of Directors and Officers met in Tacoma, Washington for its Mid-Year Board Meeting held at the Washington State History Museum. For those that haven't had a chance to visit this marvelous museum, don't miss this gem. We were certainly fortunate that our visit coincided with the traveling exhibit of portraits and papers of George Washington. Written documents in George's own handwriting and several dozen oil paintings were on display. A couple of these portraits were "official" sittings of the President.

During the weekend, Dave and Wendy Welch hosted a delicious buffet dinner at their home. Many thanks to the Welch's and to the NW Chapter members who provided "gourmet treats" for our meeting breaks. Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle, Lethene Parks,

Joyce Bolerjack and Nancy Bolon were there throughout the weekend to lend a hand. On Sunday, those who stayed over visited several significant historic sites including Fort Nisqually (1843), Fort Steilacoom, the Nathaniel Orr Homestead and the Ezra Meeker Mansion. Some of us even ventured out on our own to savor glimpses of Mt. Ranier, Puget Sound and the Fort Defiance Park area.

OCTA'S on-line book store is now reaching those Internet shoppers who want to order with their VISA and Mastercard charge card. Shoppers may also use our toll-free number (888-875-6282) for added convenience. Since late February, we are averaging an order a day and feel sure this trend will continue.

New to the Bookstore: *Distant Horizon*, by Gary Noy, 467 pages (paperback) \$22.00; and *Excavation of the Donner Reed Wagons*, by Bruce R. Hawkins and David B. Madsen, 142 pages (paperback) \$14.95. Both of these books are reviewed in our latest *Overland Journal*, Vol. 17 No. 4. Also available is *Emigrant Trails West: A Guide to Trails West Markers on the California Trail* (From the Raft River to the Humboldt Sink, including the Greenhorn Cutoff) from Trails West, Inc., \$24.95. This version is greatly expanded with 393 diary and journal quotes. Another "must have" trail guide is *Maps of the California Trail* by Gregory Franzwa. (Patrice Press \$34.95, spiral bound, 275 pages.) Also, you may buy Andy and Joanne Hammond's *Following The Beckwourth Trail (A Guide to the 1851 Emigrant Trail and to the Route Markers)*, spiral bound, 5 3/4" by 8 1/2", 65 pages, \$8.95. The Hammonds have generously donated 160 copies, with proceeds to go to Trail Marking.

And lastly and of great importance, keep watching after our trails. You are our first line of defense. If you become aware of any threats to the trails, call your local chapter president or preservation officer or give our office a call.

FINANCIAL REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 1998-1999

Oregon-California Trails Association

This report summarizes OCTA's financial position as of September 30, 1999. A comparison is made to the year ending September 30, 1998. Our investments have now been transferred to the Kansas City Community Foundation where they are professionally managed as the Oregon-California Trails Association Endowment Account. OCTA's assets increased significantly due to successful Chico convention, membership support of the annual fund drive, good bookstore sales, and a major contribution of land, sold and converted to money market funds. For more details including a summary of OCTA's first CPA audit, please refer to the accompanying article.

— Gail Carbiener, Treasurer

Balance Sheet

	<u>September 30, 1999</u>	<u>September 30, 1998</u>
<u>Assets:</u>		
Cash:		
Operating Account	\$ 2,853.02	\$ 33,966.52
Special Publications Fund	15,646.29	0.00
Convention Account	35,256.87	45,677.72
Bookstore Account	<u>9,231.21</u>	<u>16,115.75</u>
Total Cash	62,987.39	95,759.99
Investments: (Endowment Funds)		
US Treasury Bill	0.00	100,000.00
Money Market Fund/TCD	303,208.28	19,258.49
GKC Foundation Funds	153,261.02	0.00
Mutual Funds	<u>0.00</u>	<u>159,982.73</u>
Total Investments	456,469.30	279,241.22
Other Assets:		
Accounts Rec-Merchandise	2,702.06	426.20
Prepaid Expenses	0.00	400.00
NPS Grant Receivable	4,519.08	3,381.40
Advance-Convention expense	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>408.83</u>
Total Other Assets	9,221.14	4,616.43
Inventory - Merchandise:		
Total Inventory - Merchandise	33,809.73	22,644.67
Fixed Assets:		
Furniture & Equipment	8,946.53	8,246.54
Office Equipment	14,030.12	14,030.12
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(22,976.65)</u>	<u>(22,276.66)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00
Land - California Hill	6,260.00	6,260.00
Mattes Collection - Loan to NFTC	<u>45,928.35</u>	<u>45,928.35</u>
Total Assets:.....	<u>\$ 614,675.91</u>	<u>\$ 454,450.66</u>
<u>Liabilities:</u>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 11,692.23	\$ 0.00
Payroll Taxes Payable	1,291.52	1,139.72
Santa Fe Trail Store Account	<u>0.00</u>	<u>404.85</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 12,983.75	\$ 1,544.57
<u>Net Assets:</u>		
Retained Revenue Over Expenses	\$ 452,906.09	\$ 419,580.89
Current Revenue Over Expenses	<u>148,786.07</u>	<u>33,325.20</u>
Total Net Assets	\$ 601,692.16	\$ 452,906.09
Total Liabilities & Net Assets.....	<u>\$ 614,675.91</u>	<u>\$ 454,450.66</u>

Oregon-California Trails Association

Statement of Support, Revenues and Expenses - Fiscal Year 1998-1999

	1998-1999 ANNUAL BUDGET	1998-1999 ACTUAL INCOME/EXPENSE	1998-1999 OVER/(UNDER) BUDGET	1997-1998 ACTUAL INCOME/EXPENSE
SUPPORT AND REVENUES:				
<u>Support:</u>				
Annual Dues Income	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 88,770.00	\$ (7,230.00)	\$ 94,728.75
Life Memberships	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	750.00
Donations	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>142,903.44</u>	<u>137,903.44</u>	<u>22,186.68</u>
Total Support	\$ 101,000.00	\$ 233,173.44	\$ 132,173.44	\$ 117,665.43
<u>Revenues:</u>				
Overland Journal & News from the Plains	0.00	4,079.50	4,079.50	4,717.45
COED Fees	0.00	845.00	845.00	1,435.50
Bookstore Sales Revenue (Net of Costs)	24,000.00	34,842.58	10,842.58	17,322.05
Convention Revenue (Net of Expenses)	10,000.00	22,566.90	12,566.90	19,398.87
Investment Income	5,000.00	30,800.77	25,800.77	10,215.76
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
Carryover from Prior Year	6,000.00	0.00	(6,000.00)	0.00
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Securities	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(2,565.14)</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 93,734.75	\$ 48,734.75	\$ 50,524.49
<u>Total Support and Revenues::</u>	<u>\$ 146,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 326,908.19</u>	<u>\$ 180,908.19</u>	<u>\$ 168,189.92</u>
<u>EXPENSES:</u>				
Officers	\$ 13,600.00	\$ 22,971.17	\$ 9,371.17	\$ 8,398.36
Committees	23,000.00	16,896.60	(6,103.40)	14,295.23
Headquarters	72,500.00	71,484.48	(1,015.52)	59,286.68
Preservation	8,900.00	9885.90	985.90	6,593.45
Publications	51,000.00	56,161.68	5,161.68	46,291.00
Capital Equipment	2,000.00	722.29	(1,277.71)	0.00
<u>Total Expenses::</u>	<u>\$ 171,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 178,122.12</u>	<u>\$ 7,122.12</u>	<u>\$ 134,864.72</u>
<u>Excess of Revenue Over Expenses::</u>	<u>\$ (25,000.00)</u>	<u>\$ 148,786.07</u>	<u>\$ 173,786.07</u>	<u>\$ 33,325.20</u>

OCTA Receives C.P.A. Audit of Financial Records

The OCTA Board of Directors authorized the first full Certified Public Accountant (CPA) audit of our financial records at their board meeting in Chico in August. OCTA has always had a "review" of our books by our CPA, but with the increased assets and the change of Treasurers, it became good business practice to authorize the audit.

The audit was conducted by Ms. Ferrell Hansen, CPA with the firm of Floyd R. Brown, Jr. & Company Certified Public Accountants located in Independence. Ms. Hansen has previously reviewed OCTA's financial records. The Balance Sheet and Statement of Support, Revenues and Expenses, on the prior page and above, were prepared by your Treasurer from the more extensive audited statements. A copy of the audited financial statements, as well as a copy of OCTA's IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, is available to members and the general public.

The "Independent Auditor's Report" includes the following statement: *"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Oregon-California Trails Association as of September 30, 1999 and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."* This statement will be looked upon with favor by other organizations with which OCTA does business.

In planning and performing the audit, the auditor considers internal operational controls. As a result, Ms. Hansen issued a "Management Letter" outlining several matters that are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. These suggestions as seen by an "outside set of eyes" are valuable for our organization to improve. A Board of Directors Committee has been given the challenge to implement these suggestions. The Board formally accepted the audit at its Mid-Year meeting.

-- Gail Carbiener, Treasurer

OCTA Board Meeting (from Page 1)

--Heard a report from Jere Krakow, superintendent of the Long Distance Trails office of the National Park Service, and Jeanne and Bill Watson, Legislative Liaison, concerning a request for congressional authorization and funding for a one-time-only feasibility study update for the California and Oregon National Historic Trails. (See story on page 8.)

--Heard a report from Vice President Randy Wagner and the publications committee concerning printing bids for the *Overland Journal*. Subsequent to the board meeting, a bid from Sigler Printing was approved to be implemented beginning with the fall issue of the OJ. The change will reduce printing costs by about \$6,000 annually.

--Discussed but had no action proposed on the COED program; discussions are ongoing to get that program up and running (see story on page 7).

--Noted that the coordinator for the Challenge Cost Share program has no authority with respect to projects and primarily assists with paperwork. This may be changed in the future to insure that only feasible projects are initiated and that projects are completed.

--Named Board Member Don Popejoy as a National Membership Chair in an effort to begin a national membership initiative. The board also recognized the past work of Mary Mueller in the area of membership recruitment.

--Added \$8,100 to the office budget in order to upgrade computers, hire additional staff and fund auditor costs.

--Decided to split the Internet Communications and Public Relations committee functions. Lesley Wischmann will continue as chair of Internet Communications and a new chair will be appointed for Public Relations. Anyone interested in the position should contact President David Welch.

--Approved administrative changes for the Mattes Collection. The Collections Committee recommended against a new appraisal of the Collection at this time.

--Named Charles Little as Library Research Coordinator so he can continue to obtain documents for OCTA collections.

--Heard committee reports related to reimbursement policy and support for other organizations that have trail-related activities. Both of those items remain under study.

--Discussed but took no action to establish an executive director position.

--Adopted a resolution in support of chapter efforts related to the Northwest Nevada NCA and endorsed continued recreational use, four wheel drive vehicle use and grazing rights in the area (see story on page 9).

-- Approved a motion reaffirming OCTA's support for the National Historic Trails as defined in the National Park Service's 1999 Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails, which also updates the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer Trails and provides for future additions.

The Board also reaffirmed OCTA's copyrights on 1991 and 1993 versions of the Western Emigrant Trails map and terminated efforts by OCTA to prepare a new map. In a separate motion, the board authorized OCTA President David Welch to take action with respect to WET map issues, including appropriate steps to protect OCTA copyrights.

OCTA Treasurer's Report

By Gail Carbiener, OCTA Treasurer

This fiscal year is shaping up to be a real financial challenge for your national organization. President Dave Welch has set as his goals increased preservation activities, expanded membership and improved business operations. In this, my first report, let me point out some of the "money" side projections in these areas.

Membership: Gosh, it is the most important foundation of any organization, and OCTA is no exception. Our membership dues are our single most significant income source and our budget calls for \$96,000 this year. This goal will be a major achievement, as that represents a \$7,000 increase from last year's budget. In numbers of members, we peaked in 1997 and have declined the last two years, although last year was the first year membership "income dollars" declined. At the Mid-Year Board meeting, Don Popejoy, a new OCTA director, was appointed National Membership Chairperson and he promises a vigorous campaign. Is it possible OCTA can obtain 300 new members? If each one of us recruited just one new member..... Boy — that would do it!

Preservation Activities: This is the heart and soul of OCTA, with much of the preservation activities done by members and their local chapters. From other articles in this *NFP*, you can see how active many members are in various locations. Your national organization last year and again this year will spend significant funds for legal fees to protect the City of Rocks as a National Historic Reserve. OCTA spent just over \$17,000 last year and so far this year almost \$4,000. The outcome is yet to be determined, but we are optimistic that with our support the National Park Service will prevail. In Wyoming, the Wyoming Chapter and the Rock Springs BLM have proposed marking the Overland Stage and Cherokee Trails and your national organization is contributing \$5,000 to this worthwhile project. Randy Brown, Graves and Sites Committee Chairperson, has under consideration several new markers: a new grave site marker in Wyoming, an OCTA marker at Independence Rock, a new marker in Oregon City at the End of the Trail Interpretative Center, and the repair of the fence at the Nancy Jane Hill grave. Total cost of these projects will likely be in excess of \$3,000, of which \$2,575 was donated by members during this last annual fund drive.

As other initiatives are finalized and your "money" is spent, you will see detailed articles appear in *News From the Plains*. As your Treasurer, I will report some of the more mundane, but still important income and expense items. It is my objective to keep you, our members, as well informed as possible, certainly about our finances. If you have questions, shoot them my way; I will do my best to respond. Many of you know that I will be serving as Treasurer only this one year, my term ending in August at the Kansas City convention. This is a transition year and a start toward a more professional and businesslike operating organization. We (OCTA) are looking for my replacement and your help will be appreciated.

You can contact Gail Carbinier at 18160 Cottonwood Rd. #751, Sunriver OR 97707. Phone (541) 593-2190.

Email cypmccg@oregontrail.net

Update: COED Program Continues To Make Progress

by Chuck Dodd

It's amazing how much time I have for things I really want to do now that I am retired. COED is moving again, after a long period of stagnation. (Yes, it has been my fault. I have responsibility for the COED computer program and I am responsible for the stagnation.)

For those who don't know, the COED program actually consists of several interrelated parts. The part that gets the most use is certainly the name search program, of primary interest to genealogists. (The name search program provides references to names of people included in overland diaries and journals.) The part that will be of greatest value to trail researchers is the "reports" program that will allow identification of diaries by any number of selection criteria, and will provide some very interesting and illuminating analytical reports.

The name search and reports programs will be the "visible" part of COED for most of us, but there are the necessary antecedents to those elements: the data input program, the assignments program that keeps track of who is doing what surveys, and the administrative program that ties everything together and integrates data from each diary or journal into the main database.

The name search program, which is run out of OCTA headquarters, and is currently called the "Overland Emigrant Name (OEN)" program, currently has 1,936 documents and 54,176 names in its database. A update of that database, which I have just sent to headquarters for their evaluation, has 2,263 documents and 66,551 names. And I've renamed that program to "Names on the Plains" to celebrate the enlargement of the database and because I never did like the "Overland Emigrant Name" name, even though I was the one who thought it up.

The COED Reports program, which is the researcher's program, is in "beta" test at this time. That means I sent a copy of it to some people so they can test it and tell me about all the bugs and how they would like to see it do things differently. I hope to have the beta test complete in a couple of months, and the program revised for a final test cycle before the end of the year.

I am currently revising the Data Entry program and, simultaneously, the closely related portion of the Administrative program that takes data from the data entry disks and adds it to the main database. I hope to have the Data Entry program out for test within a month or so. Then it is the Assignments Program and, finally, the remaining pieces of the Administrative Program.

Retirement is great, although I may have to go back to work so I can get some rest. But COED is moving again.

*Chuck Dodd can be reached at
ChuckDodd@CaliforniaTrail.org*

OCTA Leadership Posts Open; PR Committee Chair Named

OCTA is actively seeking individuals interested in serving in national leadership positions as Treasurer and National Preservation Officer. Treasurer Gail Carbiener, elected in 1999, has indicated his desire to serve only one term and NPO Dick Ackerman has been serving since early 1999.

"The Treasurer will need good basic skills in standard accounting practices," said Randy Wagner, chair of the Nominations and Leadership Committee. "The NPO will need to understand trail issues and be able to coordinate preservation needs and programs with the chapters and regional deputies."

Also, John Krizek of Van Nuys, CA has agreed to head OCTA's Public Relations Committee. He will help implement a public information program using print and electronic media at the national, regional and local levels. Board member Lesley Wischmann will continue to focus on public relations using the Internet and OCTA's website. Public relations committee members are also being sought.

Potential candidates can contact Wagner at Rwagnerfoto@aol.com or by phone at (307) 634-4263.

Cost-Share Grants Available

OCTA members and other individuals who want to participate in the National Park Service Challenge Cost-Share Program (CCSP) are being asked to contact the Long Distance Trails Office in Salt Lake City for more details.

Interested parties should contact Kay Threlkeld at (801) 539-4095 or via e-mail at Kay_Threlkeld@nps.gov.

The CCSP has \$111,600 available in Fiscal Year 2000 for projects in support of the California, Mormon, Pioneer, Oregon and Pony Express National Historic Trails. Project proposals must be for the purpose of protecting, maintaining and/or enhancing the trails.

The CCSP can fund up to 50 percent of the cost of a project, up to \$30,000, providing a non-federal partner matches or betters the contribution.

Wyoming Trails (continued from Page 1)

In a report to the OCTA board in Tacoma, Wash., Ackerman said the Wyoming National Guard will provide equipment and personnel for the project as well.

This is the first time the national OCTA has channeled preservation project funding through a local chapter, Lund said.

"This tends to get more involvement," he noted. "In a way, I would call it an educational program for new people in the organization. They get involved and they feel like they are participating."

Helping to organize the project are Wyoming OCTA Preservation Officer Don Hartley of Rock Springs, and OCTA members/BLM staffers Mike Brown, Terry Del Bene and Stan McKee.

— Candy Moulton

OCTA Board Endorses Update of Trails Management Plan

OCTA has pledged its support to assisting the National Park Service in developing information on proposed additional routes for the National Historic Trails.

The organization is asking Congress to direct the National Park Service to conduct a one-time-only update to the original Oregon and California Trails Feasibility Studies based on the "recommendations for Further Study -- additional routes section" of the final California and Pony Express comprehensive management plan (CMP).

The update would also review a number of CMP designated California Trail routes with significant use for emigrants bound for Oregon Territory.

Included is support for funding for the update of the feasibility study and implementation of the CMP. The total funding package is over \$700,000. Among the items to be funded is \$575,000 for the National Park Service Long Distance Trails office in Salt Lake City. The request includes three separate \$76,000 line items to fund three positions: a BLM cultural resource protection employee, a Forest Service trails interpretation employee, and a Department of Transportation employee to collaborate with the NPS, state agencies, volunteer groups and state and local historical societies.

Other funding includes \$80,000 to update the feasibility study, \$40,000 each for the California and Oregon routes; \$90,000 for trails brochures for California and Pony Express; \$300,000 for auto tour routes including \$150,000 for California; \$90,000 for Pony Express and \$30,000 each for Mormon and Oregon; \$55,000 for the maps/GIS database including \$20,000 for California, \$15,000 for Pony Express and \$10,000 each for Mormon and Oregon; and \$52,000 for implementation of the System-wide Memorandum of Understanding (SMU) with \$13,000 for each of the four trails.

"Our members donated tens of thousands of skilled hours, plus volunteered expenses, helping map and document the routes and alternatives included in this CMP," OCTA Trails Liaison co-chairs Bill and Jeanne Watson said in a report to the OCTA board at its Mid-Year meeting in Tacoma.

No condemnation of private lands or federal leases would be required to add these routes to the Oregon or California National Historic Trails, the Watsons said.

The organization will continue to assist the NPS in developing information on each proposed route to determine if it meets the National Trails System Act criteria.

Among the additional routes recommended for further study in the CMP are 10 related to the Oregon National Historic Trail (NHT) and more than 40 related to the California NHT.

Oregon routes recommended for further study are the Whitman Mission, Upper Columbia River, Cowlitz River, Meek Cutoff, Free Emigrant Road, Naches Pass Trail, cutoff to Barlow Road, North Alternate Oregon Trail, Goodale Cutoff and the North Side Alternate Route.

Among those recommended for additional study on the California NHT are feeder routes such as Blue Mills-Independence Road, Westport Landing Road, Westport-Lawrence Road, Fort Leavenworth-Blue River route, Road to

Amazonia, Union Ferry route, Old Wyoming-Nebraska City Cutoff, Lower Plattsmouth Route, Lower Bellevue Route, Woodbury Cutoff, Blue Ridge Cutoff, Westport Road, Gum Springs-Fort. Leavenworth Route, Atchison-Independence Creek Routes, Fort Leavenworth-Kansas River Route, Nebraska City Cutoff Routes, Minersville-Nebraska City Road, Upper Plattsmouth Route and Upper Bellevue Route.

Central routes include the Cherokee Trail with its splits, Weber Canyon route of the Hastings Cutoff, Bishop Creek Cutoff, McAuley Cutoff, Diamond Springs Cutoff, Secret Pass, Greenhorn Cutoff and the Central Overland Trail.

Western routes include the Bidwell-Bartlestone Route, Georgetown/Dagget Pass Trail, Big Trees Road, Grizzly Flat Cutoff, Nevada City Road, Yreka Trail, Hennes Pass Route, Johnson Cutoff, Luther Pass Trail, Volcano Road, Sacramento-Coloma Wagon Road, Burnett Cutoff and Placer County Road to Auburn.

California NHT segments with significant Oregon emigrant use include the St. Joe Road, Council Bluffs Road, Old Ft. Kearny Road (Oxbow Trail), North Side Platte River Trail, Childs Cutoff, Raft River-Lassen Meadows, Sublette Cutoff and Applegate Route.

Among the other projects that would be funded with the additional appropriation are trails brochures and maps for the California NHT and Pony Express NHT, auto tour route marking in 13 states, and trail map development using the GIS database.

-- Candy Moulton

Editorial Positions Reviewed

OCTA is accepting applications for three positions associated with production of *News From the Plains* and the *Overland Journal* as part of a routine review of contract positions.

"We do not have a vacancy in either of the editor positions for the *Overland Journal* or the *NFP*," Publications Committee Chair Candy Moulton said. "Editors Bill Martin and Marilyn Holt are both to be commended for their hard work on behalf of OCTA publications and they are encouraged to reapply for their existing positions."

"However, the OCTA board has approved a proposal to contract with a graphic designer for the *Overland Journal*, and we are asking for applications for that job as well as for editor of both publications," she said.

Such calls for editorial contract applications will be conducted every three years, according to the board-approved plan. Job descriptions were developed last fall by the Publications Committee and are available from OCTA headquarters.

Individuals interested in applying for the positions as *Overland Journal* Graphic Design Supervisor, *Overland Journal* Editor or *NFP* Editor should send a letter of interest, resume and work samples to OCTA at 524 South Osage St., P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519. Clearly mark on the application which contract you are applying for. Applications must be received by July 15, 2000. New contracts will take effect October 2000.

National Conservation Area Proposed For Applegate Trail

Federal legislation to create a National Conservation Area (NCA) along the path of the Applegate Trail in the Black Rock Desert in Northern Nevada was introduced March 21 by U.S. Sen. Richard Bryan, D-NV.

The proposed legislation was endorsed by the OCTA Board of Directors at its Mid-Year meeting in Tacoma.

Bryan released a legislative draft of the proposal in January. Despite some opposition from those concerned about access to the area, a spokesman for Bryan said it was not likely that substantive changes would be made prior to introduction.

"We have held numerous meetings with county commissioners, the environmental community, the ranching community, mining interests, representatives from Burning Man and trails proponents," said spokesman David Lemmon. Most of the opposition has been made on "misinformation," Lemmon said.

OCTA's resolution in support of the bill specifically noted that the organization supports multiple use, "including grazing, access by motorized vehicles and other recreational activities. OCTA will support the continuance of these activities when the management plan is prepared, consistent with reasonable trail preservation."

The bill would provide additional protection to nearly 600,000 acres of federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon areas. According to a poll taken in early March, 81 percent of Nevadans supported the Bryan legislation.

The bill allows the BLM to continue to manage the area for multiple use, including off-road vehicles, livestock grazing and

the legislative draft.

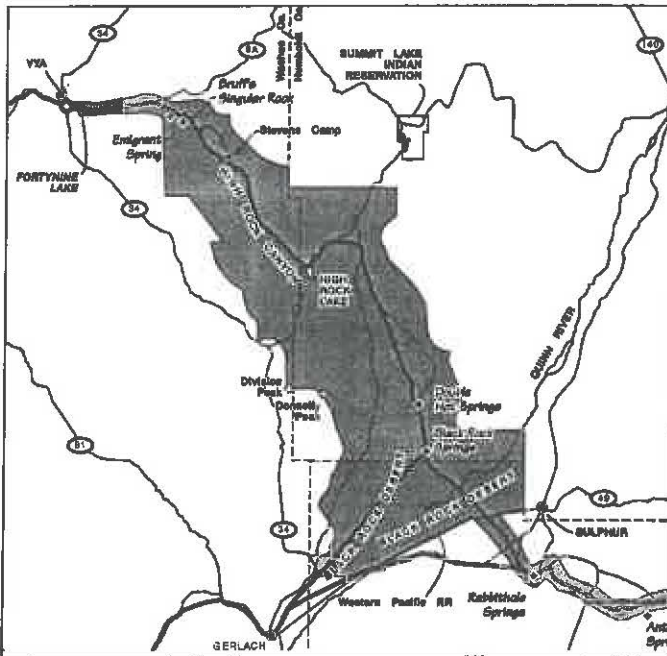
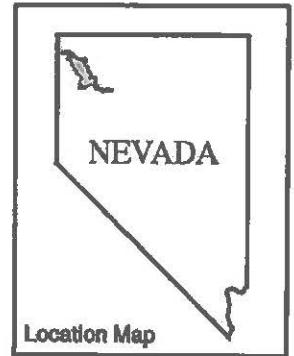
OCTA's Chuck Dodd, who has been following the issue for the organization, noted that similar legislation was first endorsed by OCTA at its Carson City convention in 1986.

"The increased use of the area is producing inadvertent damage to the trail and its environment," Dodd said in a report to OCTA's Board of Directors. "The NCA will focus BLM attention on protection of the trail and other resources in the area. A visitor's center authorized by the legislation will provide better information, so visitors will be able to understand the value of the resources and how they can protect them and will provide much-needed safety information for those traveling in that challenging area."

OCTA members are urged to contact their federal representatives to request support for the legislation, calling attention to the national significance of the trail and the potential economic impact of the bill.

To read a full text of the proposal legislation on the internet, go to www.senate.gov/~bryan/blackrock_draft.html

— Bill Martin



recreational uses. Existing mining activity would continue, but no new mining claims could be filed.

"With visitor numbers to the area growing exponentially, it is clear that we have to come up with a plan to properly protect this area for future generations," Bryan said when he released

You Can Help

OCTA members can contact their local congressional representatives to indicate their support for the NCA legislation. It is also vitally important that Nevada's congressional delegation be contacted to let them know of support for the bill. The Nevada congressional delegation is:

Honorable Richard Bryan
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510
senator@bryan.senate.gov

Honorable Harry Reid
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510
senator_reid@reid.senate.gov

Honorable James A. Gibbons
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515
mail.gibbons@mail.house.gov

Honorable Shelley Berkley
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515
shelley.berkley@mail.house.gov

"Beyond The Wide Missouri"

Kansas City 2000 OCTA Convention August 7-12



OCTA Volunteers working on the 2000 Convention booklet. Front, John Leamon, left, and Chris Combest; standing, left to right, Peggy Smith, Dr. Jim Lee, Lee Kroh. — Photo by Barbara Magerl

Convention Overview (from Page 1)

The traditional raffle and a silent auction will be part of the Banquet, plus daily door prizes. Read that notice and make a donation. We'll have the Book Room, Author's Night, OCTA Band and much more, including water bottles and wonderful tee shirts sold by Trails Head. Buy from your friends!

Bridger fans should note the 1923 historic film with comments by Doug Moore, who has a film program on local television. The film, subject of a court case, will be shown free, thanks to local support.

And, of course, you will want to attend the delicious Kansas City Barbeque at the Arabia Steamboat Museum, which was featured in *Reader's Digest* magazine. It's an American saga in its own right because of the people involved in finding and resurrecting major portions of the vessel and the largest collection of antebellum steamboat artifacts anywhere. Even Merrill Mattes was awed!

Speaking of Merrill, visiting the Merrill Mattes Library at the National Frontier Trails Center, which will host the Opening Reception, should be a proud time for all OCTA members and if you haven't visited our national headquarters, here is your chance. Come see "home base."

Look closely at the Registration Booklet to see some of the unique projects, plus fun things to do before and after the convention. Perhaps you know that old saying, "I'm from Missouri, you gotta show me." Well, we're here in Missouri (and Kansas) and want to show you.

Take a look at the schedule, then get in the mood with "I'm goin' to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come...." Sing it once more with gusto, and fill out that registration form. We're looking forward to your visit!

Schedule Highlights

Daily schedule highlights for the 18th Annual OCTA Convention. Please consult the Registration Booklet for details.

Monday, August 7

Bus Tour A (California Road)
Bus Tour B (River Landings)
1:00 p.m. - Walk with Harry Truman

Tuesday, August 8

Bus Tour A (California Road)
Bus Tour C (Fort Leavenworth)
1:00 p.m. - Field Trip Trail History for the Visually Impaired
8:00 a.m. - Board of Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, August 9

7:00 a.m. - Chapter Presidents' Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - Annual Membership Meeting
10:00 a.m. - Opening speakers, including Keynote address
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Workshops
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Chapter Meetings
5:00 p.m. - Welcome Night at National Frontier Trails Center

Thursday, August 10

Bus Tour B (River Landings)
Bus Tour D (Independence Route)
Bus Tour E (Westport Route)
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Authors' Night
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Petticoat Pioneers Presentation
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Silent movie, "The Covered Wagon"

Friday, August 11

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Speakers
6:00 p.m. - Awards Banquet

Saturday, August 12

Bus Tour C (Fort Leavenworth)
Bus Tour D (Independence Route)
Bus Tour E (Westport Route)
5:00 p.m. - Barbecue Dinner and Arabia Steamboat Museum

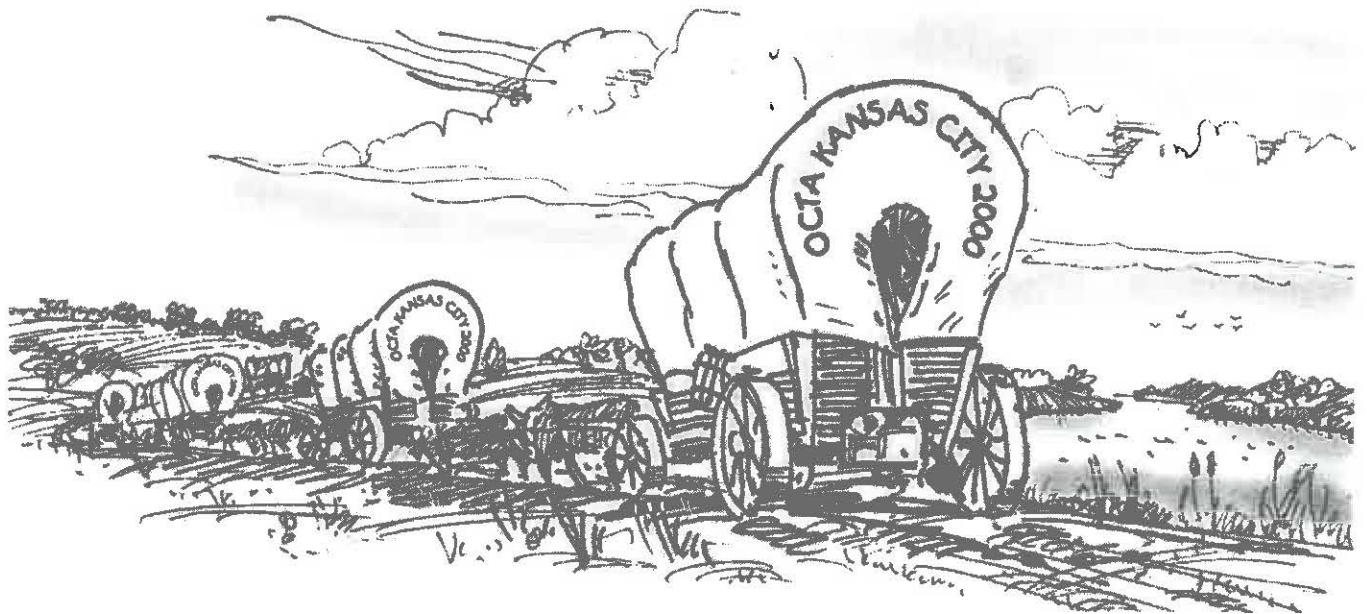
OCTA Band/Chorus Forming

It is time to tune up your vocal chords and shake off your instruments for the OCTA 2000 Convention.

Yes, you read that correctly, the OCTA Chorus will have a chance to perform as well as the band. The chorus is a collection of any OCTA members who wish to sing some of the songs of the trail, along with the OCTA Band.

Any member of OCTA attending the convention may participate. If you enjoy singing or playing tunes like "Sweet Betsy From Pike" or "O Susanna" watch the message board in the registration area for times and places of performances.

For more information, contact Olive Donaldson (530) 221-3061 or e-mail fidollie@cs.com.



Speakers, Tours Will Focus On Region's History

An entertaining variety of speakers and tours have been scheduled for the Kansas City Convention, with a focus on the unique trails lore and culture of the area. For complete details, please consult the Registration Booklet.

Speakers

Wednesday, August 9

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: *The Nature of the Trace: The Development and Evolution of the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails in Kansas City* – Craig Crease, Trails Historian, of Shawnee, KS.

What Do I Do Now? A Mountain Man's Dilemma - Mark Kelly, archaeologist/attorney, Lenexa, KS

Friday, August 11

Burials and Grave-Marking Along the Overland Trails – Loren Horton, retired Director of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

Hopes and Fears, Excitement and Tears: Jumping Off on the Oregon/California Trails – John Mark Lambertson, Director of the National Frontier Trails Center Independence, MO.

Where Ends the Eastern Road: The Missouri River Frontier As Obstacle and Opportunity – Robert Manley, retired professor of history and retired museum administrator, Seward, NE.

The Missouri River: The Highway of Exploration, Commerce and Competition – Harmon Mothershead, retired professor of history, Maryville, MO.

Three Frontiers: Europeans and Native Americans in the Century Before the Trails – Alan Perry, Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, Central Plains Region; Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Missouri - Kansas City, Kansas City, MO.

Wagons, Whiskey and Walkers: Transportation Arteries of the Oregon, California and Santa Fe Trails – Arnold Schofield, Senior Research Historian at the Fort Scott National

Historic Site, Ft. Scott, KS.

John August Sutter In Missouri – Rodney Staab, historian, Kansas City, KS.

Native American Relationships With Overlanders Along the Oregon, California and Mormon Trails – Michael Tate, professor of history and former Director of Native American Studies at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Omaha, NE.

Tours

All tours are by bus and run 9-10 hours. All tours depart from and return to the headquarters Adam's Mark Hotel. Each tour is offered twice during the week.

TOUR A: THE CALIFORNIA ROAD

This route was used by early travelers on the trail, including John Fremont, and was popular for emigrant traffic after 1849 and later. The tour follows the route from Westport to Lawrence.

TOUR B: RIVER LANDINGS

This tour will trace principal Missouri River Landings and the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery campsites of 1804.

TOUR C: FORT LEAVENWORTH

This tour will follow a route of the Oregon-California Trail up to and beyond Fort Leavenworth, the oldest continuously used fort west of the Mississippi.

TOUR D: INDEPENDENCE ROUTE

One of the two principal routes of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails, the tour follows the route from the Missouri River through Independence and into Kansas.

TOUR E: WESTPORT ROUTE

The Westport Route is one of the two primary routes of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails. The tour follows two alternates to the Independence route west of Gardner, KS.

For complete tour details, consult the Registration Booklet.

Tidbits From The Kansas Trail

CONVENTION WEBSITE. For updated information about the Kansas City convention, you can visit www.trailshead.org.
CHARGE YOUR REGISTRATION: For the first time, you have the ability to charge your convention registration to your VISA or Mastercard. Consult the Registration Packet for details.

TRAVEL TIPS. Potential stops for a health break while driving: From the West, Eisenhower Library and Museum on I-70; outstanding Kansas State Historical Museum two minutes off I-70 at Topeka. From the East, the "Arch"/Jefferson Expansion Museum in St. Louis; the Katy Trail (Mo-Ks-Texas RR), a Rails to Trails project at Rocheport, on Missouri River at I-70. From the South, there's Branson.

CHECK OUT. www.gointokansascity.com for info on attractions in metro area, plus link to Kansas State Historical Society/sites, from Civil War battlefield (yes!) to Pony Express. Also check www.Missouritourism.org and www.Kansas-travel.com

TOPS IN TOWN: Multi-million dollar renovation saved the second largest railroad station in the U. S.— newly opened Union Station. For baseball fans: Bob Costas calls the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City one of the most significant baseball sites in the country. Near the Plaza is The Toy & Miniature Museum, saluted as one of the nation's Ten Tiny Treasures by the Today Show. NOT miniatures from a craft shop but expensive items that have even been exhibited in Japan. Also in Plaza area, the Nelson-Atkins Art Gallery, justifiably ranked in top fifteen in the nation. Premier Oriental collection, Impressionists, Italian, etc.

PETTICOAT PIONEERS. Thursday, 7 p.m., Nancy Lewis and Anne Mallinson share the contributions of women who helped shape the American West. Material from diaries, business records and letters portray the story of the trails through the eyes of "the fairer sex."

SILENT MOVIE: Thursday, 8:00 p.m. "The Covered Wagon," a 1923 silent film based on the life of Jim Bridger.

BARBEQUE AT THE ARABIA STEAMBOAT MUSEUM: Saturday, 5 p.m. Step back in time to 1856 and discover 200 tons of Treasure from the Largest Antebellum Steamship ever unearthed.

RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION. At the convention, there will be daily drawings for prizes as well as the traditional raffle and a silent auction. Organizers need lots of donations. Boutique and art items, trail-themed pieces, books, etc. If you solicit a gift from a business, we will list the donor's name in printed materials. To discuss or donate items, contact Eva Allen, Raffle Chair, 1006 E. 76th Street, Kansas City, MO 64133. Phone:(816) 444-9321. E-mail: emallen@earthlink.net
HEADQUARTERS HOTEL. The headquarters hotel for the OCTA Convention is the Adam's Mark Hotel, 9103 E. 39th Street Kansas City, MO 64133. PHONE: (816) 737-0200 or (800) 444-2326. FAX: (816) 737-4712. All meetings will be held at the hotel and all tours will originate from the Adam's Mark. A special convention rate of \$76 per night (single or



Hospitality Committee members, left to right, Judy Budde, Donna Bullard and Eva Allen plan tee-shirt and tote bag sales for the Kansas City Convention. — Photo by Barbara Magerl

Hands-On Workshops Scheduled

As always, hands-on and practical workshops are an important part of the annual convention. For more details, consult the Convention booklet.

"Storyliving: 'Jump Off At St. Joe'" – Staff of St. Joe Museum. A participatory workshop in teaching history where you live.

"Doing Historical Research in the Greater Kansas City Area" – John Mark Lambertson, National Frontier Trails Center. An overview of resources available in the local area.

"Website Development," Lesley Wischmann, OCTA Public Relations Chair. How to establish a website that will accomplish your goals.

"Writing For OCTA Publications," Susan Badger Doyle, Editor, *Emigrant Trails Historic Studies Series*; Marilyn Holt, Editor, *Overland Journal*; Bill Martin, Editor, *News From The Plains*. Everything you need to know about seeing your words in print.

"Mapping Emigrant Trails," Kanza Rutnuts. Organization, landowner relations, use of computers and other technology.

"Conventions Workshop," Jim Budde, Trails Head Chapter. Designed for those sponsoring a convention or interested in doing so.

"Archeology Workshop," Mary J. Adair, Town of Kansas, or Mary Conrad, Oxford School. A look at the processes involved in research design, data collection and preservation.

double occupancy) plus tax has been established for Convention 2000.

BOOKROOM: The OCTA Bookroom will be open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 12 noon – 9 p.m. on Thursday and 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday. The traditional Authors' Night Reception will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday.

WALK WITH HARRY TRUMAN: Attendees will have an opportunity to take a walk with Harry Truman (Niel Johnson in costume) on Monday, August 7. The walk will include a visit to President Truman's home.

From The NPO: Preservation Safeguards Trails Integrity

By Dick Ackerman

National Preservation Officer

Some of the things that threaten the integrity of the migration trails from the east to the west:

1. The City of Rocks National Preserve in southern Idaho. This is a case where the Access Fund (Rock Climbers Association) has filed suit in Federal Court against the National Park's ban on rock climbing on Twin Sisters Monument. OCTA petitioned the Federal Court to intervene and this has been accepted. There has been a Summary Judgment hearing in Pocatello, which our attorney and Dave Welch attended. *(At press time, no decision had been made. See reports in previous issues of NFP, including January 2000.)*

2. A farmer in Western Nebraska, who bought a ranch where the trail ruts are prevalent near the base of Chimney Rock, has now put the ranch up for sale and we might have a new problem. He bought the ranch to give his son a job producing alfalfa, but the son has left home.

3. The Colorado Interstate Gas Company is proceeding with construction of the Medicine Bow Lateral pipeline. The engineers worked closely with us in laying out the route and now we will have to wait and see if we get the same kind of cooperation from the construction contractors.

4. The cattle ranch that was going to be subdivided along the Sweetwater seems to be on hold but I understand that is still the ultimate plan.

5. A large natural gas development planned for along the Lander Road southwest of Pinedale is still moving ahead. They plan on having as many as 700 producing new gas wells in the next few years.

6. The Texaco Company has filed a revision of its permit located southwest of Farson and is referred as the Stagecoach Draw Unit. The company has greatly increased the number of wells planned in this area and lists many miles of pipeline to be installed and roadways to be constructed and maintained. This is somewhat a moving target that we need to keep on top of.

7. There is a proposal to install a water pipeline down the East Canyon east of Salt Lake City. This is a threat to remnants of the Mormon Trail and the Pony Express Trail. We are fortunate the chapter is watching this situation closely and are trying to establish contact with the project leaders.

8. There is a proposal to build a spur railroad track near Skull Valley, UT which will probably cross the Hastings Cutoff. At this time we are not sure of what other exposure there may be to the trails in this area.

9. There is a for-profit prison planned in central Utah west of Great Salt Lake, right across the Hastings Cutoff Trail. The latest word I have on this is that the project has been put on hold for the State of Utah to reevaluate the need.

10. The Iron Horse Community Development is an upscale housing golf course development approximately half way between Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska. It is also right across the Ox Bow Trail. We will undoubtedly lose trail remnants in this area, although we are in contact with the developer and perhaps we will be able to sign some of the locations for future

trail nuts to be able to identify where the trail was located. This is an ongoing project and we have two members of the Nebraska Chapter close to the trail to help look after the trail and work with the developer.

11. A powerline being planned by Sierra Pacific Power Company for northern Nevada intercepts the California Trail a couple of times. A tower is planned quite near the Gravelly Ford Location.

12. The threat to the Barlow Road Trail on the western slopes of the Cascades that we thought had evaporated came back again. The land owner employed a team of attorneys who are specialists at pushing projects like this through and there were several more public meetings. I wrote a letter in opposition to the project and have had several calls thanking OCTA for its stand in this regard. I hear via the grapevine that the land owner has taken another look at it and thinks it might be time to back off and see if he can make a trade with the government for land elsewhere. Land swaps like this can sometimes take a lot of time.

13. The Oregon Highway department is planning to construct new garages and shops at its facilities at Government Camp. The Barlow Trail runs right along the western property line that they are developing. After reviewing their plans and talking with their project leader, it appears there should be no disruption of the trail in this area. However, it is something we should keep watch over.

(The above is excerpted from Dick Ackerman's report to OCTA's Mid-Year Board meeting. You can contact the NPO at (503) 581-0328 or by writing him at 3027 Twin Oak Place NW, Salem OR 97304.)

Awards Deadline Is June 1

The deadline for submitting nominations for OCTA National Awards program is June 1.

Awards will be presented at the annual convention in several categories, including Friend of the Trail, Meritorious Achievement, Distinguished Service, Distinguished Volunteer of the Year, Media and National Certificate of Appreciation.

"The purposes for our OCTA Awards are sound and they have become an important part of our trail preservation effort," said Awards Chair Ross Marshall.

Nomination forms are available from local chapter or from Marshall. He can be contacted at (913) 262-6445. Other members of the Awards Committee include Don Buck, Rose Ann Tompkins and David Welch.

Visit the Convention webpage
at www.trailshead.org

Mattes Library Acquires Diaries

The Merrill J. Mattes Research Library at the National Frontier Trails Center was pleased to receive in December a collection of 34 trail diaries, letters and recollections.

These manuscript copies, donated by Greg Franzwa, included fifteen diaries which were new to the library's collection.

The library, believed to be the largest public research library in the nation focused on the overland trails, has over 2,300 trail diaries, letters and recollections.

Named for OCTA co-founder Merrill J. Mattes, the library was begun in 1991 with a gift of Mattes' own personal collection of books. It has since more than doubled in size and now contains over 3,000 books and 1,000 maps, as well as manuscript and photograph collections.

The following is the list of the newly donated diaries:

Akin, James Jr. - 1852	Harbert, J.W. - 1859
Angell, Susan P. - 1852	Kauffman, Christian - 1852
Bagley, Clarence B. - 1852	Kellogg, Jane Davies - 1852
Bailey, May Stuart - 1852	Kerns, John T. - 1852
Baker, William B. - 1852	Leach, A.J. - 1852
Branstetter, Peter L. - 1850	Mahan, Garland Jefferson -
Conyers, E.W. - 1852	1864-66
Cook, Joel S. - 1850	Markle, John A. - 1849
Cornell, William - 1852	Matthews, Amanda M. - 1852
David, James - 1852	Moreland, J.C. - 1852
Davis, Alvah Isaiah - 1852	Peck, Washington - 1850
Davis, Sarah - 1850	Sharp, Cornelia A. - 1852
Dodson, John F. - 1852	Stevens, Charles - 1852
Dudley, Sarah Frances - 1852	Stuart, Granville - 1852
Farrar, John C. - 1852-3	Thomas, Dr. William - 1849
Fish, Mary C. - 1860	Vanbuskirk, Andrew - 1852
Gould, Albert L. - 1860	Willaims, Joseph - 1851
Gould, Jane A. Holbrook - 1862	-- John Mark Lambertson

BLM Will Mark Wyoming Trails

The BLM Rock Springs Field Office is looking for volunteers to help install markers on the Overland Stage and Cherokee Trails in southwest Wyoming. A marker installation weekend is planned for August 26th and 27th, in conjunction with National Public Lands Day. (OCTA has made a \$5,000 donation to help with the project (See page 1).

People and pickups are needed to help mark three or four long segments of the trails south and east of Rock Springs, according to BLM Project Coordinator Mike Brown.

In the past 20 years, most of BLM's historic trails marking efforts in southwest Wyoming have been aimed at the Oregon, Mormon, California, and Pony Express trails, Brown said. "Those trails are in pretty decent shape now, so it's time we focus our attention on the lesser known, but historically significant, Overland Stage and Cherokee Trails."

BLM cultural resource specialist Terry Del Bene commented, "More development is taking place across southern Wyoming and it's important that people know the trails are there. Education is the single biggest factor in protecting trail resources. There are several stage station sites and at least 100 miles of trail on public lands in Sweetwater County and

Membership Chair Sets Goals

By Don Popejoy

Mary Mueller has been the Membership Chair of OCTA for years and has done an outstanding job in relentlessly pursuing new memberships and new ways of dealing with the age old problems of how to keep the membership growing and how to bring in "new blood." Now, due to other commitments and directions, she has stepped down and, thanks to Mary's recommendation to President Dave Welch, I have taken over the responsibilities of the Membership Chair. I've worked with Mary over the last six months and have realized that building membership takes a deep commitment and will not be a quickly solved problem. I have outlined several projects and strategies that I hope will help OCTA increase in size and strength over the next several years; but to do this we all have to work on this together. I would like to form a Membership Committee from members across the trail, maybe one member from each chapter. I would also like to work with the Chapters Chair in developing ideas and ways to carry them out. Also, I think that the chapter presidents can act as a liaison between the membership committee and their respective chapters. Dave Welch has volunteered to be an advisor to the Membership Committee. When I asked Mary Mueller if she would also act as an advisor, of course she said she would! I also believe that the Public Relations Committee can be a big help to us.

We all love OCTA or we wouldn't be members. We all love the trail whether it's hiking it, marking it or talking about it. Just think, if each and every one of us would recruit a new member this year we could increase in size 100 percent and our working budget would give us the money to do virtually anything we wanted in regard to trail preservation, trail marking and trail education! But of course 100 percent is a difficult, but not impossible, goal to reach. So let's go for 10 percent, or 20 percent, or 50 percent.

There is lots of work to do and as the Membership Chair I am asking for your help. If you would like to be on the Membership Committee, please let me know. If you don't think that's your "cup of tea" then send me your ideas on how to increase our membership.

You can reach Don Popejoy at (509) 328-9368 or via e-mail at dpoptalcl@aol.com

southwest Wyoming."

According to the BLM, the Overland Trail is primarily the route used by Ben Holladay and his Overland Stagecoach and Mail Company between 1862 and 1868. The Overland Trail rejoins the Oregon Trail near the community of Granger.

The Cherokee Trail was first used by a group of emigrants from the Cherokee Nation in what is now Oklahoma who traveled the route in 1849 and 1850, the BLM said.

For more information about the project or to volunteer, contact Mike Brown at the BLM Rock Springs Field Office, (307) 352-0212. -- Bureau of Land Management



NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

Southwest

The Southwest Chapter has placed an OCTA trail marker on the Apache Pass Trail, a Southern Trail Alternate. Located in Southeast Arizona, Apache Pass is within the boundary of Ft. Bowie National Historic Site. This marker represents the first OCTA marker on the Southern Trails Complex as well as the first marker placed by the chapter.

About 20 chapter members and guests, representing four states and one foreign country, gathered at the Ft. Bowie parking lot on Saturday, February 26 to begin the half mile hike to the marker location. An eight page souvenir program was passed out to participants. It contained diary quotes from those who traveled through the pass, a map of the area showing the trail as mapped by the mapping committee, several photos, and a rendition of the marker text.

The marker was placed between two parallel swales coming out of a canyon and into the flats where emigrants camped. NPS ranger Larry Ludwig was asked to officially uncover the marker followed by Richard Greene and Tracy DeVault pouring symbolic water over the marker; the water coming from the Rio Grande, the Gila River, and the Apache Pass spring. Larry Ludwig was presented with the Certificate of Appreciation award he had received at the national convention in Chico last year.



Southwest OCTA members Richard Greene, Tracy DeVault and Larry Ludwig at the Apache Pass marker dedication.

Later, chapter members gathered in the parking lot near the visitors center for a business meeting. New officers elected are:

- President - Charles Townley, Las Cruces, NM
- Vice-President - Tracy DeVault, Prescott, AZ
- Secretary - Marie Greene, Angel Fire, NM
- Treasurer - Harland Tompkins, Chandler, AZ

Future events announced included the spring mapping week from April 5 to 12 and a long planning/social weekend over the July 8 weekend.

The day concluded with dinner in Wilcox, AZ and a slide presentation on mapping progress to date.

December Mapping Week

December 5 to 10, 1999 was the ninth mapping week held by the chapter. The objective was an overview along the Southern Trail from Chino, CA to Mobile, AZ; no actual mapping was planned. With an expert guide during the California portion of the week, the group covered places to be mapped at a later time. A large portion of this part of the trail is over the difficult terrain of desert, and through the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The Arizona portion of the week included sites in Yuma and along the Gila River.

-- Rose Ann Tompkins



EMIGRANT TRAIL AT APACHE PASS



In 1849, Gold rush emigrants hurried to California using routes through the Southwest. One wagon route came through here at Apache Pass. Leaving Cooke's wagon road at Ben Moore Mountain (now known as Soldier's Farewell Hill) in New Mexico, the Primont Association from New York pioneered this shortcut to Tucson, paving the way for others who followed.

On October 24, they camped on the flats before entering Siphon Canyon. One member of the wagon train, Robert Eccleston, penned the following description in his diary: "The road was tolerable good till we reached the pass, which was indeed a romantic one. We followed the bed of a dry arroyo [Siphon Canyon] where there was scarcely room for the wagon wheels, let alone room for the driver. This road was overshadowed by handsome trees, among which I noticed the pecan, the ash, oak, willow, &c. After leaving this part of the road we came on to a more open country..."

On the 28th they continued over Apache Pass. Eccleston wrote: "The first two miles of the road was very bad, and like the other parts of the pass. After we left the mountains our road was still rolling, and many times we were obliged to lock our wheels."

Apache Pass became the main emigrant road through this area with traffic moving in both directions. Fort Bowie was later established to secure Apache Spring and protect travelers.

Some emigrants returned from California to homestead in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Ruth Shackelford and her family came through Apache Pass on their journey from California to Texas. She wrote on May 17, 1868: "Clear and warm. We were up before daybreak, got breakfast and started thru the Apache Pass, over wild roads, up hill and down. We had to tie the wagon wheels with ropes, and then in some places the men had to stand on the wheels to keep them from turning over. Every man who could leave the wagon had to take his turn and go on guard through the pass.... We got through by eleven o'clock and were camped at the foot of the pass between the mountains, near a station where there is a company of soldiers. The Indians are very bad." Her last statement reflects the increased conflicts between travelers and Indians in Apache Pass.

Sponsoring and Funding by:

THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

1999

This is a part of your American heritage. Honor it, protect it, preserve it for your children.

Text of the Apache Pass market placed by the Southwest Chapter

MORE NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

Northwest

The year 2000 brings in a new slate of officers and board members for the NW chapter. Pending the membership's acceptance at the general meeting on March 11, 2000, at Albany, OR, the election results should show:

Lethene Parks - President
 Glenn Harrison - Vice President
 Joyce Bolerjack - Treasurer
 Marley Shurtleff - Secretary

Board members will be Jack Holmes, Susan B. Doyle and Carol Buss. Other officers include Jim Tompkins, Publication Administrator; Don Popejoy, Update Editor (chapter newsletter); Tom Laidlaw, Webmaster; Chuck Hornbuckle, Preservation Officer; and Vic Bolon, Trail Marking .

Chapter Outings: General Membership Meeting - March 11 in Albany, Oregon; Applegate-Southern Route - April 22 led by Dick Ackerman; National Trails Day Hike - June 3 "TableRock" led by Jim Renner; Whitman Blue Mountain Route driving tour - June 10-11 led by Chuck Hornbuckle; Meek Cutoff Route - TBA (July) - led by Lowell Tiller; OCTA Annual Convention - August 2000 Kansas City; Mullan Military Road 2 - Mid-September led by Don Popejoy & Lethene Parks; Trail Marking - TBA (usually three outings) led by Vic Bolon.

These are the chapter's planned outings, more will be added and some dates may change. Contact the chapter website for more information: www.rutnut.com/nwocta/home.html

Seven members of the NW chapter have their own websites on line. To view these go to the Membership Websites link on the front page of the chapter's website.

-- Don Popejoy

Rocky Gap Dedication Planned

The Bureau of Land Management field office in Kemmerer WY, in partnership with Lincoln County Historical Society will dedicate the Rocky Gap National Historic Trails Interpretive Site on Saturday, June 24, 2000 at 2 p.m. The site is located about 15 miles north of Kemmerer, Wyoming on Lincoln County Road 306.

Rocky Gap is considered significant because it was an important campsite for emigrants traveling the Sublette Cutoff on their way to California or Oregon.

In addition to the Rocky Gap dedication, the Wheat Creek Meadows Wetlands Project, less than a mile away, will be dedicated on Friday, June 23, at 10 a.m.

Wheat Creek Meadows is a 1666-acre parcel of land acquired by BLM in 1989 and includes well-preserved segments of the Sublette and Dempsey-Hockaday Cutoffs of the Oregon-California Trails.

For more information about the dedications, call the BLM Kemmerer Field Office (307) 828-4515.

-- Bureau of Land Management

Diary Found In Dump



Mona Burk and Rick Smith

The scene is a typical, dismal dump.

An alert man sees a small, gaily-colored tin box on a ledge. He lifts the English-made box off the ledge, opens it, and to his amazement he sees of a pair of leather baby shoes and a leather-bound diary. There is no clue about the shoes, but the pencil-written 1866 diary by Lizzie C. Charlton is intact.

Rick Smith and Mona Burk do not have a computer and don't know what to do with the little treasure.

A couple of years went by and Rick and Mona bought a computer and began browsing "diaries." This led them to the OCTA website and to Lesley Wischmann, who forwarded the information to me. In turn, I contacted Rick and Mona and explained the COED program.

I asked if Bill and I might meet them and see the diary and possibly copy it. An appointment was made for us to travel to Seaside, CA - only five hours away from us. When we arrived, we were overjoyed that Rick told us to keep the box and its contents! Upon completion of surveying and transcribing, the diary will be presented to the OCTA Library for safe keeping.

- Shann Rupp

Chico Videos Still Available

A few video tapes of the Chico Convention speakers are still available. To obtain the two-volume set @ \$40.00, including tax and shipping, contact Bill Rupp, Box 753, Jamestown, CA 95327; phone 209-984-3401; FAX - 209-984-1925; E-mail - shabi@sonnet.com

Visit the OCTA website at:
<http://www.OCTA-trails.org>

Annual OCTA Fund Drive Registers 20 Percent Increase

OCTA's Annual Fund Drive has been a success! In the last *News From The Plains*, I said it was wonderful having all our members get behind the wagon and push. Boy, you did it! You put our wagon over the top with energy to spare. To all you contributors, a big "Thank You", and you're welcome around my campfire anytime! Total contributions were \$18,645.25, a 20 percent increase, \$3,206.25 increase over last year! We had 237 members make a difference, 61 more than last year, a 34 percent increase! Here is an updated list of contributors whose contributions were received after the deadline for the last *News From the Plains*. These members believe in what OCTA is doing and support our efforts by their membership dues and cash contributions. Please give those you see a sincere thank you.

— Gail Carbiener, OCTA Treasurer

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Darrel & Joyce Hansen | William & Joyce Tapley | Katherine I. Kirkland | John H. Tiernan |
| Gregory Franzwa | Robert & Polly Kennison | Georgette Goslovich | James E. Bradley |
| Louise Hammer Rossi | Paul & Peg Keckley | David Clark | Don Armstrong |
| Phyllis Pearce | Semon Sandven, MD | Richard Lachmann | Jackie & Jerry Lewin |
| Jerry & Betsy Kanago | Emma Puckett | Robert Coolidge | Chuck Hornbuckle |
| Willard Garred | Leon & Judith Jones | Zeke & Nancy Sicotte | Tom Fee |
| Lee Underbrink | John A. Kuzara | Todd & Betty Berens | Peter Thomson |
| Tom & Karen Ronk | Marley & Gary Shurtleff | Curtis & Nancy Grant | Marilyn Holt |
| Dana Stern | Joanna Vanderwilt | Pauline Goslovich | Walter Meyer |
| Richard Ralston | Marsha K. King | Dave & Wendy Welch | Donald Shannon |
| Dick Nelson | Robert & Margaret Carey | Hugh & Carol March | Richard Hallford |
| John & Helen Holmes | Charley & Ethlyn Taylor | Fran Taplin | Randy Brown |
| Dick & Lethene Parks | Robert W. Taylor | Jean Hunsaker | James Renner |
| Lois A. Dove | Jim & Jeanne Murray | M. F. Kiber | Donna Whitton |
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| Richard & Jo Anna Dale | Janet W. Palermo | Ed & Dollie Lynch | Kim L. Naden |
| Brad & Jennifer Bennett | Edna Kennell | Rose Ann Tompkins | William Lehmbek |
| Bill & Jan Hill | Charles W. Martin Jr. | Robert A. Iverson | Richard Herman |
| Will Bagley | Fred M. Greguras | Bill Saunders, Jr. | |

The breakdown of designations:	
Annual Operating Fund	\$8,500.00
Endowment Fund	3,500.00
Preservation	2,100.00
Graves and Sites	1,765.25
COED	205.00
Special Publications	975.00
Archaeology	490.00
Trail Mapping	810.00
Education	300.00
Total	\$18,645.25

- Suzette McCord-Rogers
- Larry & Darlene Bafus
- Tom & Cathy Thompson
- Beltane Ranch Bed and Breakfast

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- | | |
|--|--|
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Dr. Ron Lund
11265 Goose Egg Rd.
Casper WY 82604-9190
(307) 472-0304 |

Platte River Trails Workshop July 10-15, 2000

- Spend a week on the **Pioneer Trails**, the **Platte River**, the **High Plains** and in the **Snowy Range**, visiting sites such as the **Susan Hail grave**, **Ash Hollow**, **California Hill**, **Register Cliff** and **Medicine Bow Peak**.

- Study **history**, **geography**, **literature** and **natural history** of the region.

- Three hours of **graduate** credit from Hastings College optional.

Deadline: June 5, 2000

Contact:

Dr. Will Locke, director
wlocke@hastings.edu (402) 461-7311

HASTINGS COLLEGE
800 N. Turner, Hastings, NE 68901

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

Editor:

Both the informal Friday session and the regular Saturday Mid-Year meeting of the OCTA Board meeting were energetic, yet congenial, and were very constructive.

President Dave Welch was leading his first Board meeting and he had done exhaustive homework to prepare for these meetings. Under his capable leadership, several difficult issues were on the agenda and were discussed and action taken, without some of the rancor that we have experienced in recent years. Nearly everyone there was heard expressing their pleasure at this new OCTA Board 'climate'.

Both the board members and our new leadership of Dave Weich and Randy Wagner deserve recognition for leading OCTA in a new direction where our energies are not expended on each other, but on the issues that are critical to OCTA as the nation's leading historic trails preservation organization. I, for one, am delighted at this new progressive attitude. We have a lot of issues that we need to continue to address and OCTA should feel very good about the current Board and Officers.

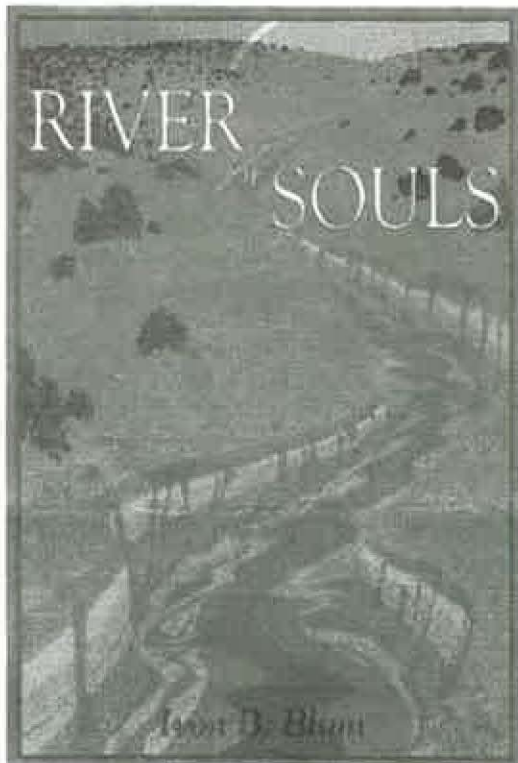
Ross Marshall, Merriam, KS

Editor:

Your article on roads (*January, NFP*) is amusing. Currently Clinton has started up another heated argument of a road definition. Twenty years ago the Forest Service adopted the description of road as an engineered cut and fill construction. Beyond that it was a vehicle way or Jeep trail as commonly expressed. The term "regularly maintained" was added and used by the BLM definition, even if it was just pick and shovel. Today, a trail is less than 50 inches wide, and over 50 inches wide may be called a road. The environmentalists argue that all roadless areas regardless of size can be considered suitable for wilderness if they meet the new requirements in the Clinton road initiative. To me, a road is an established route suitable for either wagon or motorized vehicle. A vehicle way or trail implies that the path is primitive and not necessarily maintained. A road, if not maintained for conventional vehicles, can soon deteriorate into a trail. It's all a matter of semantics. A road can be a trail or vice versa, whatever you care to use or how difficult it is to utilize.

Ed Dunkley, Orangevale, CA

ERRATA: An article in the January NFP ("*Volunteers Sought for Wyoming Trails Project*") resulted in a couple of letters urging a correction of facts. The article, reprinted from the *Casper Star-Tribune*, stated that "The Overland Trail enters Wyoming south of Saratoga in Carbon County and winds its way west, eventually leaving the state along the Oregon Trail in Lincoln County." Several readers pointed out that this is in error. Wyoming chapter member Amy Lawrence noted, "Not only does the Overland Trail enter Wyoming in Albany County near the U.S. 287 corridor, but both the Oregon and Overland Trails exited the state from Uinta County after leaving Fort Bridger." – *The Editor*



A NOVEL OF THE AMERICAN MYTH

A ripping saga of 1840's New Mexico in the Taos War, California gold and betrayal before the Rush and a river of souls racing down the Sante Fe Trail against time and death.

Ivon B. Blum is a longtime OCTA member. His book covers many of the Sante Fe Trail and Cimmaron Cut-off Landmarks of the time and some of the Old Spanish Trail and its offshoot to Southern California.

READ IT ... JUST FOR FUN!

To Purchase See:

www.riverofsouls.com

The Reading Trail



By Lyndia
Carter

Children can enjoy and benefit from variety in their reading. Parents, grandparents and teachers who supply them with several different kinds of reading can keep interest high and capitalize on the wondrous curiosity of childhood. The following books are a potpourri of fiction, nonfiction, and "hands on" activity. Each creates a splendid opportunity for children to connect to the past and learn about pioneer life on and off the trails.

Kids learn by doing. I have noticed that my grandchildren love to make things – "do crafts," as they put it. They like to learn by jumping in with both hands, so to speak. *Pioneer Crafts*, written by Barbara Greenwood and illustrated by Heather Collins (Toronto: Kids Can Press, Ltd., 1997, \$4.95) is a book that makes making pioneer things easy and fun. When kids are finished following the simple, step-by-step instructions, they have a useful product to show for their time and efforts. Greenwood places each craft in an historical setting, so children are exposed to historical knowledge, in addition to learning a skill and making a pioneer article. The basics of carving and needlework skills and safety are taught. The illustrations are an essential part of the learning process; Collins' artwork certainly enhances the text and instructions. Among the things kids can do are soap carving, toy making, basketweaving, candle molding, moccasin making, doing silhouette portraits, making splatter-paint stationery with leaves, and punching tin to make lanterns for candles. Because pioneer women and girls spent much of their time making textile products, many of the activities reflect that aspect of pioneer life. Today's young people can experience quilting, weaving, rug-braiding, fabric dyeing, and sewing a rag doll and doll clothes. The activities seem best suited for eight to twelve-year-olds, but junior high students would also likely find satisfaction in doing these crafts. Turn them into family activities and let everyone have a good time. What a great way for grandparents and youngsters to spend some time together. Be sure not to get offended when they ask you if this is what you did when you were growing up in pioneer days.

I must admit I was a little skeptical when I opened *How Would You Survive in the American West?* and found that the author, designer, illustrator, and consultant were all from Great Britain. What could these non-Americans really know about a phenomenon so totally American as the great move west by covered wagon. The text soon convinced me they know a great deal. Created and designed by David Salariya, written by Jaqueline Morley, and illustrated by David Antram (New York, London, etc.: Franklin Watts, a Division of Grolier Publishing, 1995 & 1997, \$7.95 for the paperback), it is jam-packed with information. The text, captions, and illustrations cram the less than 50 pages with things your kids can learn about the trail and the westward experience. (Of course, like just nearly every book out there for kids about the trail, the emigrants seated in the wagons are driving the oxen – whoops! – but if you can forgive that, you will like this book immensely.) The book is designed as a teaching tool, so it includes timelines, glossary, self-test questions, fact sheets, index and map. As for the text itself, I am amazed at how much information the designer was able to get on

each page. The illustrations help make each concept clear. This book looks frankly at the dangers of trail travel, the conflicts that sometimes flared up, the sickness, and the tedium, but places the hardships in context with the adventure, the cooperation among emigrants, and the rewards waiting at the end of the journey. It also depicts the American Indians in a fair and balanced way. It seems no aspect of trail life is neglected. Because the book is so busy, it would be good for an adult to sit with younger readers (8-10 years) and aid them in focusing their attention and thoughts. Older readers (11-13) will probably enjoy the hundreds of tiny pictures and captions that surround the main text and larger illustrations. You do not want to rush quickly through this book. Slow down, linger over the pictures and absorb all there is to learn from this little treasure. This book will go far, in fact, all the way to the Pacific, in working with you to teach children about life on the trail. Here! Here!

Nothing teaches a child quite as well as a good story. OCTA member Jane Kurtz tells a delightful story in her book, *I'm Sorry, Almira Ann* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1999, hardcover \$15.95). Illustrations are by Susan Havice. Eight-year-old Sarah and her best friend Almira Ann, total opposites, but inseparably close, share the great trail adventure when they head for Oregon with their families. But their friendship is put to the test when Sarah causes Almira Ann to fall from the wagon and become seriously injured. Children, who deeply value friendship, will find themselves drawn into the plot and Sarah's mind. Within these pages is a story, a situation and personalities to which nearly every child can relate, particularly girls. Kurtz, who loves the trail, has chosen the trail setting to serve as the vehicle to carry her story, a story which is essentially timeless. It is clearly evident that Kurtz has read many trail diaries, journals, and reminiscences and has incorporated details from them into her story, which gives it authenticity. As rich as her setting is, Kurtz's multi-dimensional characters give life to her story. They are anything but flat, simple, stock characters. Her people are refreshingly real, warmly human; they have flaws and they have redeeming qualities. There are no outstanding heroes, no arch villains; just people trying to get by the best they can, people who are just like us. The main character, Sarah, for instance, is independent, impetuous, sometimes envious, and always acts on her emotions of the moment, which often leads to trouble. She is also brave, daring, caring, and wants to do right, though she doesn't always succeed. Almira Ann, on the other hand, is sweet, lady-like, obedient, cautious, and devoted to Sarah, whose courage she greatly admires. But the accident throws up a barrier of mistrust and guilt between them. Sarah must figure out how to make amends. Then there's grandmother, who is grumpy, strict, and who Sarah is sure just doesn't understand, yet it is she who understands Sarah best of all (let's hear it for grandma!). I can see myself as a child in Sarah; and as I look at my granddaughters I see Sarah. Yes, with her "hasty spirit," her volatile emotions, and her good, good heart, Sarah is ageless. Our children, our grandchildren, and our students will enjoy having her as a companion on the trail. Cuddle up with your girls and have a read-aloud session. It's good for the heart. I loudly applaud this book.

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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