

# News From The Plains



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Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

April 2002

## OCTA Approves Names On Plains CD Production

By Bill Martin

The OCTA Board of Directors has approved production of a compact disk that will include a searchable database of overland emigrant names.

The *Names On The Plains* CD, with over 66,000 names of emigrants who traveled the trans-Mississippi trails between 1841 and 1899, is expected to be available for sale at the 2002 OCTA Convention in Reno.

The *Names On The Plains* (NOP) and *Emigrant Trails Researcher's Tool* (ETRT) programs are parts of OCTA's ongoing Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED) program.

NOP is designed to serve genealogists searching for data on ancestors who may have traveled the Overland Trails. The ETRT program, still under development, is designed to serve trails researchers.

Information in the programs draws from a COED database  
(continued on page 4)



Board member Bob Kabel during a presentation on the COED program at the Mid-Year Board Meeting. Seated, left to right, are National Preservation Officer Dave Welch and Board Members Fran Taplin and Frank Tortorich. — Photo by Bill Martin

## Desert, Sierra Tours Will Highlight Reno Convention

Tours are usually among the highlights of any OCTA Convention and some of the most torturous aspects of the Overland Trail experience will be on full display at OCTA's 2002 Convention in Reno, NV, August 14-17.

From the majesty of the Sierra Nevada to the desolation of the Forty Mile Desert, convention-goers will be able to experience (from the comfort of air-conditioned busses) some of the most exhilarating and discouraging elements of the journey west.

On the Forty-Mile Desert tour, OCTAns will get up-close-and-personal with the fabled trek between the Humboldt River Sink and the Truckee and Carson Rivers.

The tour will follow the Truckee Route from the Truckee River near Fernley to the Humboldt Sink, then back along the

Carson Route to Ragtown, where it reaches the Carson River. Stops along the way will include gravesites, deep sand traces, hot springs and Soda Lake.

The Truckee-Truckee Tour will start at the last crossing of the Truckee River just west of Reno end near Donner Lake, site of the storied Donner Party tragedy.

Along the way, bus riders will travel through the Toiyabe and Tahoe National Forests, explore trail traces in Dog Valley, and have an opportunity to see some of the country traversed by the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy party in the first wagon crossing of the Sierra in 1844.

Both tours will be offered on both Thursday and Friday, August 15-16, during the convention.

Also offered will be a tour out to the Sand Springs Pony  
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## From the Editor's Desk . . . by Bill Martin



The Trail is an emotional experience for most OCTA members. It transcends the real-time feelings of standing in the traces left by the emigrants. Sitting at home, physically removed from the sites of pioneer traverses and travails, our attachment to The Trail seldom weakens. There is a comfort in knowing that, after 150 years, The Trail winds on.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century has come and gone, and there are still places where you can experience much the same environment that the emigrants "enjoyed." It's that emotion and that knowledge -- that connection to the families of the past -- that makes us so protective of The Trail.

Call us altruistic, call us unreasonable and unrealistic. Suggest that we're living in the past (we'll agree with that one, because we consider that a compliment). But the bottom line is that we've lost a lot of The Trail in the last century and a half. And we want what is left of historic wagon paths and footprints kept just the way they are, thank you very much.

But there are stark reminders that preservation is not a passive activity. Loving -- and saving -- The Trail means more than standing in ruts or reading diaries and reminiscences or riding in air-conditioned busses at convention time. Sometimes it means getting involved. Stories in this issue of *News From The Plains* offer examples of just how important that can be.

First, read about the effort to find common ground with private industry and government agencies, a central focus of the national preservation conference OCTA sponsored in Salt Lake City. You'll see that not everyone is on the same page we are when it comes to The Trail.

You can also read about slow progress being made on federal legislation that could add thousands of miles of trails to the National Trails System Act. OCTA's efforts have been

slowed by opposition from other interests, although it now appears that some of that elusive common ground may have been found.

Still, the fact remains that important federal legislation was bottled up for months, mostly because some federal legislators were listening to those whose interests didn't necessarily parallel OCTAs. There are a lot of nuances, of course, and things are never as simple as they should be, especially when Congress is involved. But here your help is needed.

OCTA has something in excess of 4,000 members. We could have a significant impact if each of us wrote to our Senator or Congressman and said how much The Trail means to us, and to our country's heritage. Tell them of our support for S. 213, the bill that will make it possible to add more miles to existing protected trails. We think that would be a pretty loud voice for preservation of The Trail.

And while you're at it -- a message we've preached here before -- it wouldn't be such a bad idea to get to know your local land management representatives, too, whether they work for the Bureau of Land Management or the National Park Service or the U.S. Forest Service or a state agency. They have a difficult juggling act, balancing the interests of diverse and sometimes highly opinionated land users. But we are sure that when you get to know them, you'll find someone who loves The Trail, just as we do. And your support will be necessary when a crucial decision needs to be made.

It's this simple: Just loving The Trail isn't enough. And it has never been more important that our love be translation into a real preservation effort. It can make a difference.

See you in Reno!

— Bill Martin



## News From The Plains

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Masthead Photo Courtesy of Denver Public Library,  
Western History Collection

### Submission Guidelines

*News From The Plains* welcomes news, features and photos related to the work of OCTA and its members and to the preservation of our trails heritage. Material is due 30 days prior to publication dates. Material should be sent either on a computer disk (in Word or text format; please make sure you include a hard copy) or via e-mail. Pictures are appreciated and can be sent via e-mail, on a disk (jpg format) or originals for scanning.

Next Deadline Is June 1, 2002

## From The President . . .

by Randall Wagner



The OCTA Board of Directors took a major step into the organization's future during the Mid-Year meeting in Salt Lake City. The executive committee, working together with the chairs of the three standing board committees, was delegated to develop final plans for the possible hiring of an Association Manager to handle all of OCTA's business activities.

If approved at the Board meeting in August, the Association Manager will be primarily responsible for recruiting new members and servicing the membership; identifying and obtaining grants and gifts; administering the association's budget and other fiscal matters; handling all but the program work for the annual conventions and special meetings; developing a professional public information and public relations initiative for OCTA; and the marketing of the organization and all of its products and activities.

The Association Manager would not need to be a trail expert, although some familiarity with the trails and with the principals of historic preservation would certainly be required. One purpose of this initiative will be to eliminate many of the administrative details that now occupy much of the time of the volunteer officers, board members, chapter presidents and committee chairs, allowing them to concentrate on the vital work of trail preservation and historic research. Many of the administrative functions now delegated to members of the association's leadership would become oversight responsibilities under this plan.

With a Association Manager running most of the business end of OCTA's operation, the volunteer corps would be able to concentrate nearly all of its energy and talent on the job of finding, mapping, protecting and presenting the trails, as well as doing the research needed to discover who traveled them and why. That's the fun stuff. That's the reason we all joined OCTA in the first place.

Most of all, the Association Manager would be responsible for growing OCTA. His or her job will depend on it. The Association Manager would be an additional position in OCTA's professional staff. It would not replace any existing position. In fact, it is safe to assume that the addition of an Association Manager could lead to a general upgrading of all existing staff positions.

A final decision on whether to hire an Association Manager will be made after the executive committee presents its final report and recommendations to the full board at the August meeting in Reno. If approved, OCTA will proceed immediately with advertising the new position and with interviews and selection. If the board rejects the idea, it will all go away for the remainder of my term in office.

A second item discussed at Salt Lake City was most distasteful, but just as necessary for the future of our organization. I mention it here only in the interest of clear communications with our membership. During the six months since Casper, OCTA board members and officers have received numerous complaints from the general membership concerning articles and comments in the privately published newsletter *folio* attacking the character and integrity of several members. (As you may know, this is an extension of a bitter personal feud that has been simmering for many years).

My personal feeling, as far as the membership is concerned, is that it is time for it to all end. Folks within the organization are sick of hearing about it, and even more upset about being brought into the middle of this highly personal battle only by virtue of their membership in OCTA.

Although there have been more than a dozen individuals directly involved in the feud over the years, it is the editor of *folio* who obviously keeps the battle fires burning. Only he has a public platform from which to state his views and he does so with a generous dose of schoolyard name calling and ridicule. The style of these personal attacks has become as offensive and uncomfortable to the general membership as it is to its targets. Good people are declining the opportunity to accept leadership roles with OCTA for fear of becoming *folio* bullseyes. Others are dropping out because they no longer want to be a part of an organization that tolerates such behavior among its members.

The Board was asked to take some appropriate action and several well-meaning resolutions were drafted. In the end, the directors opted, informally, to send a letter to the *folio* editor asking that he either end the feud or, at least, change the name calling, ridicule and personal attacks into a professional debate of the issues.

That letter has been sent, over my signature. It points out that serious damage is being done to OCTA. It calls attention to the fact that the protagonists are all among the organization's longest-serving and most respected members (the editor of *folio* is, in fact, a founding member of OCTA). They should all be concerned with what is best for the organization. The letter suggests that ridicule is never as effective as a well-turned statement of fact and that personal attacks are never as productive as professional criticism.

In effect it says, "Gregory Franzwa, your friends are talking to you. Please listen." I hope he does. — Randall Wagner

## From Headquarters . . .

During the Board of Directors meeting last August, a resolution was passed giving two votes to membership categories of family and above when two adult names were listed. **We will be mailing out the ballots in May.** If you feel you should have received two ballot forms for your household, please notify Headquarters. In the meantime, we will be updating and checking our records to make sure we do have two adult first names.

Also, very shortly we will be producing our **Membership Roster for 2002.** Those members who do not want their names printed or would prefer their e-mail addresses to remain private, should contact Headquarters by mid-May.

(We consider our Roster of names as the property of the Oregon-California Trails Association. It is distributed to our members for communications between the membership in preserving the historic emigrant trails and it is not to be used for unsolicited mailing or sold as a mailing list.)

— Kathy Conway, Headquarters Manager

## OCTA Board Approves Revised Trail Marking Policy

Interim Trail Marker and Trail Marking Policies have been approved by the OCTA Board of Directors.

Developed by OCTA National Preservation Officer David Welch, the policies restate procedures for trail marking so that they will be standardized across OCTA chapters.

The policies provide for three types of trail markers:

- Carsonite marker posts manufactured by Carsonite International and made of flexible composite fiberglass.
- Novalloy pedestals manufactured by Nova Color and previously used by OCTA in its Graves and Sites program.
- Steel Rail markers typically constructed of railroad rail.

OCTA-sponsored marking activities are encouraged to use one of the three types of markers, although collaborative projects with other organizations may involve other types of markers.

## COED (Continued From Page 1)

recorded from over 2,200 documents located in repositories nationwide. The purpose of the database is to point genealogists and researchers towards primary sources that will provide additional information.

For example, a researcher can search for a specific name during a specific time period and be pointed to specific primary documents, including manuscripts, diaries and other publications, in which the name is mentioned.

*Names On The Plains Version 1.0* will run on many IBM-compatible computers.

A draft marketing plan presented at the OCTA Mid-Year Board Meeting recommended that sales be limited to OCTA members through March 1, 2003, to allow time to accumulate information on the performance of the product. An initial retail price has yet to be determined.

"As many people have said, COED is a project that will never be completed," Board member Bob Kabel said in a report on the program he made to the Board.

Chuck Dodd, COED Software Manager, noted that there are other long-term projects for COED, including researching contemporary newspaper accounts of the overland migration and a "repositories project" that would identify documents held by all libraries, historical societies, etc.

In formal actions taken at the Mid-Year Board meeting, the Board approved:

- Production, sale and support of the NOP CD under oversight of the chair of the COED committee.
- Continuing the process of obtaining rights to the NOP CD for OCTA.
- Continuing the development and ultimate distribution or sale of the Researcher's Tool.
- Duplication of all COED records for security purposes.

COED has been in development since the late 1980s. The current COED Committee chair is Kathy Roubal.

Searches of the COED database continue to be available through OCTA Headquarters at a charge of \$10 per name.

The policies and procedures, which include risk management standards, landowner release forms and standards for trail marker documentation, will be finalized at OCTA's Board meeting in Reno in August.

In other action, the Board:

- Was told that the policy approved at the August 2001 Board meeting allowing for two votes for multi-member categories, including Family memberships, will be in effect for the Spring 2002 Board elections.

- Received an update on a new membership database program now in use at OCTA headquarters.

- Learned that the National Trails Center in Casper, WY is officially scheduled for opening August 8-9, 2002, and that an interpretive plan is underway for a planned National Trails Center in Elko, NV.

- Accepted an offer from the Crossroads chapter to host the 2005 OCTA Convention in Salt Lake City. Final action will follow submission of a formal proposal by the Chapter. Future conventions are scheduled in Reno 2002, Manhattan, KS 2003 and Vancouver, WA 2004.

- Approved filing a copyright for the 1991 and 1993 versions of its Western Emigrant Trails maps.

- Reaffirmed OCTA's policy of seeking written agreements with all volunteers whose work has the potential to produce a salable product.

- Accepted a report from Board Committee C chaired by Jim Denney concerning the future of the OCTA website.

- Was told that OCTA's educational video project is on schedule, with a shooting script to be reviewed by Randy Wagner, Dave Welch and Jere Krakow of the National Park Service as soon as possible.

- Received a report from Mapping Committee Chair Frank Tortorich, who outlined plans for extensive utilization of Global Position System units to map the trail on 7 1/2-minute quads.

— Bill Martin

### OCTA Officer Directory

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## Executive Committee Will Study Endowment Funds

The OCTA Board of Directors has established a special three-member committee to develop policy statements for OCTA endowment funds, including potential uses for the funds and specific plans to increase the size of the endowments.

At the same time, the Board committed to a special \$100,000 fundraising drive to replenish the existing unrestricted endowment fund to reflect the future earmarking of funds previously donated by a major benefactor.

The policy committee will include Charles Martin Jr., an OCTA Board member and a member of OCTA's Investment Advisory Committee; OCTA Vice President Richard Pingrey; and Jim Budde, former OCTA Treasurer and also a member of the IAC.

The committee will provide a report with recommendations for the annual Board meeting at the August 2002 Convention in Reno.

The committee was established after discussion of a report from the Investment Advisory Committee.

"The Board should be not only looking at today, but looking at the future," Budde told the Board. "The OCTA endowment fund is not a finished product and never will be a finished product, but we need to establish goals if we want to build this fund."

As of December 31, 2001, OCTA endowments totaled \$639,000. These included \$279,000 in restricted funds, which cannot be used without restructuring of OCTA's management agreement with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation; \$174,000 in unrestricted funds, use of which requires a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors; and \$186,000 in the Charles and Mary Martin fund, currently limited to use for legal expenses. Up to five percent in net income from the endowment funds can be used for OCTA operating expenses each year.

The total market value of the funds decreased slightly during 2001, reflecting depressed market conditions, although the OCTA endowments being managed by the Foundation did better than the benchmark against which the Foundation measures the performance of its portfolio of investments.

The Board of Directors also agreed to the \$100,000 fundraising drive after National Preservation Officer David Welch noted that specific uses of approximately \$130,000 realized from the donation of land to OCTA several years ago has never been formalized.

Welch suggested that \$130,000 currently in the unrestricted endowment should be set aside as a separate fund and proposed the fundraising drive to replace the funds in the unrestricted endowment. Pingrey will head the special fund drive.

-- Bill Martin

## OCTA Reports Improved Financial Operations

A more-profitable-than-expected Casper convention and cost savings in headquarters operations helped OCTA improve its 2000-2001 fiscal operations, the Board of Directors has been told.

OCTA Treasurer Marilyn Bryan told the Board at its Mid-Year meeting in Salt Lake City that while both total revenues and expenses were under budget, the organization was able to post an excess of \$24,991 in revenues over expenses.

"With tight control over cash flow and expenses, OCTA reversed a three-year trend where spending had outstripped income," Bryan said.

She credited Edna Kennell and the Wyoming Chapter for a highly successful 2001 convention that exceeded revenue projections by \$12,000; Headquarters Manager Kathy Conway for implementing cost-effective changes in operations; and member support for the annual fundraising drive.

(A complete Statement of Activities and Statement of Financial Condition can be found on pages six and seven of this issue.)

The approved 2000-2001 budget projected revenues of \$209,700, but total revenues were actually only \$180,231. The difference was mostly due to lower-than-anticipated income from OCTA endowment funds, lack of revenues from Book Publications, which published no books during the fiscal year, and total dues/donations collected being lower than expected in the budget.

The decline in revenues was more than offset by reductions in almost all expense categories, most significantly in officer and committee expenses, headquarters operations, publications and preservation.

OCTA's total assets decreased at the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2001, when compared to the previous year. Much of this decline was attributable to a reduction in the market value of OCTA's endowment portfolio. In addition, the California Hill property, valued at \$6,250, was removed from the books when property ownership transferred to the Nebraska Historical Society.

After accepting the Treasurer's report, the Board approved an accounting change that will allow unrealized capital gains or losses in the value of OCTA endowments to be carried in the retained earnings section of the Statement of Financial Condition, and not included as a revenue item on the Statement of Activities.

-- Bill Martin

Visit OCTA and the  
OCTA Bookstore  
On the World Wide Web:  
[www.OCTA-trails.org](http://www.OCTA-trails.org)

## FINANCIAL REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001

### Oregon-California Trails Association

This report summarizes OCTA's financial position as of September 30, 2001. A comparison is made to the prior year, ending September 30, 2000. The investment performance of OCTA's endowment funds mirrored the dismal performance of the market during much of 2001. Although these investments returned about \$21,000 in interest, dividends and realized gains, at fiscal year end they were also valued as having approximately \$120,000 in unrealized losses. Like your own portfolio, OCTA is expecting the economy to brighten and diminish the effect of these paper losses on our organization. The financial position statement below reflects a change that factors the unrealized portion of these investments in the retained earnings section. Congratulations are in order, however, when you examine how OCTA itself performed in managing its resources. Please see the Statement of Activities where the excess of revenues over expenses was approximately \$24,000.

*– Marilyn Bryan, OCTA Treasurer*

#### Statement of Financial Position

<b>Assets</b>	<b>Sept. 30, 2001</b>	<b>Sept. 30, 2000</b>
<b>Cash</b>		
Petty Cash	100.00	0.00
Operating Account	46,355.48	14,136.18
Special Publication Fund	0.00	16,957.52
Convention Account	85.03	4,232.37
OCTA Store Account	0.00	1,063.30
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>46,540.51</b>	<b>36,389.37</b>
<b>Investments (Endowment Funds)</b>		
GKC Fndn Inv – Unrestricted	160,545.26	244,928.69
GKC Fndn Inv – Restricted	258,226.88	248,398.95
GKC Fndn Inv – Martin Restricted	171,648.04	202,207.65
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>590,420.18</b>	<b>695,535.29</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable – Merchandise	907.45	4,209.59
NPS Grant Receivable	5,987.30	0.00
Advance – Convention Expense	1,459.06	2,227.21
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>8,353.81</b>	<b>6,436.80</b>
<b>Inventory – Merchandise:</b>		
Inventory	36,998.79	30,997.00
Inventory Adjustment	-89.21	0.00
<b>Total Inventory – Merchandise</b>	<b>36,909.58</b>	<b>30,997.00</b>
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>		
Furniture & Fixtures	8,946.53	8,946.53
Office Equipment	17,786.32	14,030.12
Less: Accum Depreciation	-26,732.85	-22,976.65
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Land – California Hill	0.00	6,260.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>682,224.08</b>	<b>775,618.46</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	2,080.04	721.35
Santa Fe Trail Store Account	-173.00	0.00
Colorado Chapter Funds	488.40	n/a
Payroll Taxes Payable	952.98	915.04
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,348.42</b>	<b>1,636.39</b>
Retained Revenue Over Expense	773,892.86	555,763.81
Unrealized Gain or Loss	-120,008.72	
Current Revenue Over Expenses	24,991.52	218,218.26
	<b>678,875.66</b>	<b>773,982.07</b>

## Statement of Activities

	2000-2001			1999-2000
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget	Actual
<b>Support and Revenues</b>				
Support:				
Annual Dues Income	95,000.00	87,259.46	7,740.54	86,705.00
Life Memberships	1,500.00	3,250.00	-1,750.00	750.00
Donations - Unrestricted	19,000.00	11,765.28	7,234.72	18,170.96
Donations - Restricted		0.00	0.00	194,365.63
Donations - Restricted for Endowment		3,030.00	-3,030.00	3,500.00
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>115,500.00</b>	<b>105,304.74</b>	<b>10,195.26</b>	<b>303,491.59</b>
Revenues:				
Overland Journal & NFP Revenue	5,000.00	2,603.00	2,397.00	5,541.00
Advertising		1,570.00	-1,570.00	0.00
COED Fees	900.00	982.00	-82.00	697.00
OCTA Sales Revenue (Net of Costs)	25,000.00	20,818.75	4,181.25	14,272.57
Book Publications	12,000.00	115.94	11,884.06	2,214.25
Convention Revenue (Net of Expenses)	20,000.00	32,414.79	-12,414.79	28,532.37
Endowment Int & Div Inc, Net of Fees	30,000.00	11,495.78	18,504.22	15,547.42
Endowment Capital Gain (Losses)		3,398.00	-3,398.00	16,185.88
Interest Income - Checking Accts	1,000.00	1,457.76	-457.76	1,645.29
Miscellaneous Income	300.00	71.03	228.97	59.06
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>94,200.00</b>	<b>74,927.05</b>	<b>19,272.95</b>	<b>84,694.84</b>
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenues</b>	<b>209,700.00</b>	<b>180,231.79</b>	<b>29,468.21</b>	<b>388,186.43</b>
Expenses				
Officers	11,800.00	4,430.81	7,369.19	18,441.02
Committees	7,600.00	6,462.23	1,137.77	18,131.68
Headquarters	92,000.00	82,409.66	9,590.34	67,165.88
Preservation	14,000.00	2,959.40	11,040.60	10,189.63
Publications	70,500.00	48,961.80	21,538.20	56,039.96
Other	3,000.00	10,016.20	-7,016.20	0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>198,900.00</b>	<b>155,240.10</b>	<b>43,659.90</b>	<b>169,968.17</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues       Over Expenses</b>	<b>10,800.00</b>	<b>24,991.69</b>	<b>-14,191.69</b>	<b>218,218.26</b>
<b>Net Revenue For Selected Activities:</b>				
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>		
Convention	32,414.79	28,532.37		
OCTA Sales	21,694.53	16,486.82		
Publications	-44,303.19	-49,828.96		

Mark Your  
Calendars

OCTA's 20th Anniversary Convention  
Reno, Nevada • August 14-17, 2002  
[www.wagons-1841/convention2002.htm](http://www.wagons-1841/convention2002.htm)

## OCTA Sponsors National Trails Preservation Conference

By Candy Moulton

SALT LAKE CITY – A first-ever trails preservation summit sponsored by OCTA showed that the trail to common ground is sometimes split like the frayed ends of the routes to Oregon and California established in the 1800s.

The conference was held in Salt Lake City in early March and OCTA National Preservation Officer David Welch announced the conference's theme of "Exploring Common Ground" in an address during the opening session.

By late afternoon, however, OCTA members and trail managers had already hit a bump in the road when they heard representatives from Wyoming's energy and agricultural industries say they would fight to protect their interests.

National Park Service Regional Manager Karen Wade said when she worked on management of the Appalachian National Trail she learned that "trail resources require aggressive viewshed protection and you can never afford to own it all."

OCTA organized the preservation conference in order to allow people with differing ideas of how trails should be managed to meet and discuss common ground, Welch noted. But he recognized that the idea of viewshed -- what you see as you stand in a particular place -- is an issue with energy companies and a concern of ranchers.

Of all the issues currently facing trails, "that's probably the hardest one to find where the common ground is," Welch said.

That became clear during an afternoon discussion that involved Anne McKibbin, senior staff archaeologist of Metcalf Archaeological Consultants; Tom Clayson, senior regulatory and environmental affairs specialist for Anadarko Petroleum Corp.; Curt Parsons, chairman of the Petroleum Association of Wyoming; George Zimmerman, senior land representative of Shell Oil Co.; and Rob Hellyer owner of the Burnt Ranch in central Wyoming.

The catalyst issue is an executive order issued in the waning days of the Clinton Administration that allowed for potential limits on development near trails. In Wyoming, the BLM implemented the order and began evaluating new development projects, from fences for ranchers to oil and gas exploration in an area up to five miles from the Trail corridor.

Under existing laws development had been restricted within one-quarter of a mile from the trails. The most apparent example of that restriction is seen in Southwest Wyoming in the area of the Sublette Cutoff. There, according to archaeologist McKibbin, you can tell where the trail is by noting the corridor where there is no oil and gas development.

"We stand ready to work with people who know more about the trails than we do," Parsons said. But the implementation of that Clinton-era rule "dramatically impacts on what happens, and the way we do our business," he said.

"There are areas where we ought to not be visible (from the trails). If that percentage gets too large we have trouble conducting our business," Parsons said. "If we are going to create a 10-mile wide swath...that excludes us from the landscape, then we have no alternative but to fight."



Conference attendees included, left to right, National Preservation Officer Dave Welch and OCTA members Ross Marshall, George Ivory and Frank Tortorich, a member of the national Board.

— Photo by Candy Moulton

Though industry officials say they don't oppose designation of additional trails, they are concerned about the potential for a wider area where projects might be restricted.

However, OCTA member Ross Marshall of Kansas City said the 5-mile rule is no longer an issue. He said – and BLM officials from Wyoming confirmed – that it has been taken "off the table."

Meanwhile, the BLM managers, Bernie Weynand and Stan McKee of the Rock Springs office, said the 5-mile limit was never intended to be an exclusionary area, but was only viewed as an analysis area.

But Parsons said that wasn't clear. "You tell us that it doesn't mean ten miles of exclusion, but we have seen movement of exclusion." In recent months there have been limits placed on development proposals "on all sections of trails, not just pristine sections," he said. "We don't want to be here to pick a fight, but we have to be here to protect our interests," he added.

OCTA, meanwhile, wants to see "give and take on both sides," Welch said. And OCTA President Randy Wagner of Cheyenne noted that the "people we celebrate" who followed the trails West, "wanted to exploit the land." They wanted to start farms and find gold or other minerals, creating the trails as they made their way to those opportunities.

Other discussions at the Conference included sessions on trail mapping, an update on the Mapping Emigrant Trails Guide, trail marking policy and an update on Challenge Cost Share Projects.

Wyoming OCTA member Terry Del Bene, who is a BLM archaeologist, presented a slide show that can be used for public meetings in an effort to inform people about how to care for the trails. He said the "Trail Etiquette" show can be adapted by OCTA chapters in other states for local use.

Candy Moulton, a freelance writer and author from Encampment, WY, chairs the OCTA Publications Committee.

## Possible Progress Reported On Trails Legislation

By Bill Martin

The effects of September 11 and the nation's search for new energy resources are both having an impact on continuing efforts to pass new trails legislation in Congress.

Legislation that would authorize feasibility studies of new trail routes and segments to be added to the National Trails System Act, which currently includes the California, Oregon, Mormon and Pony Express Trails, has been pending in Congress since last year.

The bill passed the House in 2001, but progress in the Senate was slowed when, following last fall's anthrax scare, action was limited to emergency items only, according to Bill and Jeanne Watson, co-chairs of the OCTA Trails Liaison Committee.

At the same time, the legislation was further threatened by opposition from the energy industry, led by the Petroleum Association of Wyoming (PAW). Industry opposition resulted in reduced support from Western Senators.

After a week of meetings in Washington, D.C., in early March, the Watsons told the OCTA Mid-Year Board gathering that the bill would die unless the Board approved a letter proposed by key Senate supporters.

The letter would need to indicate that OCTA would not seek to expand on the current one-quarter mile limit for protection on either side of emigrant trails and that OCTA would be

willing to work with industry representatives on trails issues.

"If we are not in agreement, two things will happen," Bill Watson told the Board. "First, the bill will die in the Senate. Second, there will be no support for a new bill in the next session of Congress."

The proposed letter "does not represent a large change in what we have been doing," said National Preservation Officer David Welch. "We have been working with government agencies and industry to generate solutions. We would not be backing off from existing laws and regulations, including all existing historic preservation laws."

In formal action taken by the Board, OCTA authorized the Executive Committee to draft a letter to Congress indicating that it would be willing to work with industry representatives and government agencies, within existing rules, in the interests of protecting the trails. The letter was to be signed by OCTA President Randy Wagner, Vice President Richard Pingrey, Welch, the Watsons, and Pinky Ellis, OCTA Wyoming Chapter President.

Bill Watson said he was encouraged that the letter could make it possible for the bill to be passed and signed before Congress adjourned in October.

The bill will allow for feasibility studies to identify proposed routes and cutoffs that qualify under the National Trails Act for addition to our trails.

## Annual OCTA Fund Drive Records Sharp Increase In Support

OCTA's annual fund raising drive had resulted in contributions of \$17,550 through March 13, a 28 percent increase over the previous year.

Designated gifts included:

Annual Fund	7,647.50
Archaeology	655.00
COED	120.00
Education	927.50
Endowment	3,260.00
Graves & Sites	1,225.00
Preservation	910.00
Book Publications	845.00
Trail Mapping	430.00
Trail Marking	1,530.00

Most recent donors (previous donors were listed in the January *News From The Plains*) included:

M.F. Kiber  
James B. Herring  
Fremont & Betty Stewart  
Gil Ward  
Carol Ann Buss

Robert & Dorothy Magoffin  
Alice & Robert Shellenberger  
Andrew & Elizabeth Thompson  
Richard A. & M. Lethene Parks  
William & Mary Alice Wilson

Daniel A. Netzel  
Edith F. Kuhn  
E. Chilton Phoenix  
Emma L. Puckett  
Jo Ann Dale  
Paul Sawyer  
Joann & Leroy Jackson  
Louise Ridge  
R. T. Brasfield  
Bob & Sharon Evanhoe  
Richard & Ffion Wilkes  
Paul Grunland  
Linda Crew  
Vincent J. Petrovski  
Howard Dugger  
Henry K. Woodward  
James & Dell Rose Banks  
Barbara Banc  
Marianne Bull  
Thelma Bowser Tate  
Ronald O. Downs  
Charlie & Harriet Lewis  
William H. Speiden  
Gerald Swaggart  
Chuck & Mary Martin  
Ted & Maureen Rischard  
Todd I. Berens  
Eva Allen  
James T. Owen  
Bob & Polly Kennison

Richard Trevallee  
Jenny Miller  
Jerry & Betsy Kanago  
Dean L. Johnson  
Carol Sue Ivory-Carlina  
Janet W. Palermo  
Jonne Markham  
Mary Mueller  
Richard Lachmann  
Russel Tanner  
Robert A. Iverson  
Dr. and Mrs. Leon Jones  
Gary Zabokrtsky  
Curtis R. Grant  
Clair & Virginia Ricketts  
Zeke & Nancy Sicotte  
Ross Marshall  
Cheryl & Gil Hoffman  
Vern Gorzitze  
George R. Petrie  
D. G. Way  
Dale W. Ritter  
Jean Kelleher  
Arthur & Nancy Costa  
Edna & Jim Kennell  
William & Jan Hill  
Charles & Barbara Tidwell  
Scott & Dorothy Hendricks  
Richard & Rosemary Klein  
Judy Brown

Dr. Bonnie W. Epstein  
Virginia Stanton  
Dr. & Mrs. Tom Gray  
Roger Blair & Susan Doyle  
Bill & Shann Rupp  
D. Jeanne Murray  
John & Alice Newell  
Chuck & Suzanne Hornbuckle  
Herbert & Lois Hunn  
Frank L. Titus  
John H. Rebenack  
Olive Gorham  
Richard J. Laird  
Adi Flory  
Marvin and Donna Chmelka  
Clovis V. McCluskey  
Fran Taplin  
David Shears  
James B. Sloan  
Robert Rothwell  
Vauna Pipal  
Connie Wilson  
Neil McCallum  
Nelson Weller  
Malcolm E. Smith Jr.  
Dr. Gerald & Barbara Asher  
Dr. Carl & Beatrice Putman  
Jacqueline & Walter Williams

# OCTA Reno 2002 • OCTA Reno 2002 • OCTA Reno 2002



Volunteers placing a carsonite marker on the Truckee Route, on the ascent to First Summit, from Verdi. Location will be seen on South Branch hike and bus tour. — Photo by Dick Halford

## Convention (continued from Page 1)

Express and Stage Station, including stops at the Grimes Point petroglyphs and 3,500-year-old Hidden Cave, and South Branch Hike and Tour through Dog Creek Canyon to First Summit overlooking Dog Valley. Both tours will also be offered Thursday and Friday.

When OCTA members aren't touring mountains and deserts, a full schedule of educational and entertaining presentations are scheduled. Highlights include:

- *The Forty-Mile Desert: The Most Difficult Part of the California Trail*, presented by Guy King and utilizing diaries, letters and reminiscences.

- *Crossing the Forty Mile Desert: Sorrowful Recollections of Women Pioneers*, featuring JoAnn Levy and women's accounts of the westward emigration.

- *The First Sierra Crossing: Jedediah Smith and Mount St. Joseph*, a review of an 1827 crossing presented by Jim Hardee.

- *The Southern Trail Complex – OCTA's Next Challenge*, presented by Rose Ann Tompkins of the OCTA Southwest Chapter.

- *The Trail in the Truckee Meadows*, an investigation of long-held beliefs about the location of the emigrant trail through what today is the Reno-Sparks metropolitan area.

Other highlights of the 20<sup>th</sup> annual OCTA Convention will include a keynote address by Elaine Marquis-Brong, Director of the Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System.

In addition, Author's Night will be held in the OCTA Book Room on Friday, August 16; the annual Barbecue will be held at the National Automobile Museum on Saturday, August 17; and the OCTA Awards Banquet will be held on Wednesday, August 14.

Bits and pieces of helpful information to allow you to plan for your trip to OCTA's 20th Anniversary Convention in Reno, August 14-17, courtesy of Convention Chair Chuck Dodd.

### Equal Registration

Many of us who live some distance from Independence receive our convention information and registration forms as much as a month after they are mailed. That seems to be the nature of bulk mailings, but it creates some problems.

Some of the convention activities have limited space. Usually that means that the people who receive their registration material a day or two after it is mailed get first choice for activities while those who receive their material three or four weeks later sometimes find that activities are no longer available. The early bird gets the worm but, in this case, the early birds are the people the Post Office delivers to first.

How do we make registration fair to everyone? By giving everyone an opportunity to register on the same date.

But how do we do that? If we were to send the registration material by first class mail, it would cost an additional \$2,500, and that still wouldn't completely solve the problem. Some people would still get their material days before others.

To make registration for the 2002 convention fair for everyone, we are going to give everyone who registers before May 15 the same registration date. Registration material will be mailed on April 1, so everyone should have plenty of time to get their registration in by May 15, even if it takes the Post Office three or four weeks to deliver the registration forms.

If something that has limited space is overbooked, people will be selected for that activity by lottery. Activities will be made available to people registering after May 15 on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Assigning everyone who registers by May 15 the same registration date will make registration fair for everyone. It is still important to register as early as you can, though. Early registration makes it easier for us to process the registrations, and gives us the information we need to ensure that, whenever possible, we can accommodate everyone.

So register early and please realize that everyone registering by May 15 will have an equal opportunity for events and activities that have limited space.

(continued on next page)

Pre-convention tours include the Fort Hall Road, the Truckee River Trail, Lassen Meadows to Ragtown, the Big Tree Road and the Humboldt River Trail. The post convention tour will cover the Applegate Trail.

Workshops are scheduled on Chapter Building, Convention Planning, Mapping, Archaeology and the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents' Emigrant Trails Researchers Tool.

For details on all convention events, including registration information and information about Circus Circus, the host hotel, consult the Convention brochure or visit the convention website at [www.wagons-1841/convention2002.htm](http://www.wagons-1841/convention2002.htm) or visit the OCTA webpage at [www.OCTA-trails.org](http://www.OCTA-trails.org) and follow the links.

— Bill Martin

# OCTA Reno 2002 • OCTA Reno 2002 • OCTA Reno 2002



*Don Wiggins, left, and Don Buck stand inside Sand Springs Pony Express Station & Stage Stop, which will be seen on the Sands Springs bus tour. In 1860, Sir Richard Burton called the station "a vile hole." — Photo by Alison Portello.*

## If You've Never Been To An OCTA Convention . . .

Want to know what OCTA conventions are all about? Basically, our conventions consist of the following:

**Bus Tours:** Bus tours that take people out to see the trail. Guides on the buses describe what you're seeing, and show you the trail and other sites of interest. Typically, two days are allowed for bus tours, although some bus tours may be offered before and/or after the convention. Almost all of the bus tours allow you to hike short sections of the trail, if you want; usually, one or two hikes of several miles and some degree of difficulty are included. Lunches and beverages are included. Bus tours typically take 7 to 8 hours.

**"Pre-Convention" and "Post-Convention" Tours:** These are guided car caravans, usually arranged so people driving to the convention can see the trail as they approach or leave the convention city. People taking these pre- and post-convention tours provide their own transportation and meals. Typically, these tours take people into places that cannot be reached by buses, so they frequently (but not always) require vehicles with high clearance and 4-wheel drive. These tours are usually more than one day in length, but some are completed in a single day. Some are arranged to allow people to stay in motels along the way; others include camping along the trail.

**Speakers:** The academic world refers to the presentations given by speakers as "papers." Whatever term you use, speakers provide informative and interesting talks (papers) on the trails and trail-related subjects. To the best of the ability of the convention "papers chair," the topics covered by the speakers are balanced between the trail (where the trail is) and the human experience of the people who traveled west on the trail. Typically, papers are given on two days of the convention, although business aspects of the convention infringe on those two days.

**Awards Banquet:** OCTA recognizes those who have contributed to protection and interpretation of the trail and to the organization at the Awards Banquet. The Awards Banquet and the no-host social that typically precedes it are also a major

venue for visiting with the "trail friends" you haven't seen since last year's convention.

**The Book Room:** Used book dealers and publishers offer their wares in a book room well suited to serve the needs of any reader and collector. Book dealers offer books on the trails, the fur trade, and other Western history topics, and frequently have those rare and hard-to-find books you need to fill that gap in your library. An Author's Night is included in the Book Room activities to allow you to talk to your favorite authors, and get them to inscribe their latest titles. The Book Room is usually open before, during, and after events at the convention headquarters, and is closed during bus tours (the book dealers like to go on the tours, too).

**Bar-B-Q:** The convention Bar-B-Q has become a very popular event for socializing. More relaxed than the Awards Banquet, it often is held at a local museum or historical park, or simply in a "nice place."

**The Raffle:** Items donated and often made by OCTA members are raffled. Proceeds benefit OCTA activities.

**Workshops:** Since the convention draws OCTA members from all over the country (and world) the workshops given at conventions are excellent means of distributing information and training OCTA's members on the work of the organization. Workshops are typically run by OCTA committees, but are sometimes run by others.

**OCTA Business:** OCTA's "official" membership meeting happens at the convention. Since OCTA members typically do not vote in numbers legally required to elect board members, one of the essential items of business conducted is to legally certify the results of the election. The newly elected board members take office at the General Membership Meeting, and the board elects officers for the coming year.

**Chapter Meetings:** Many chapters hold meetings at the convention.

## Great Fare!

Our convention facilities chair outdid himself when he negotiated the menus for the Awards Banquet and the Bar-B-Q we'll have in Reno.

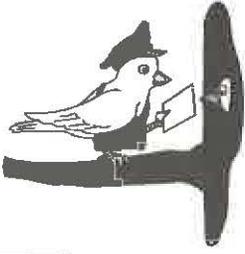
For the Awards Banquet, in the Circus Circus Mandalay Ballroom, we'll have a buffet consisting of pasta primavera salad, fresh green garden salad with choice of two dressings, braised beef tips, baked cod, lemon pepper chicken, fresh garden vegetables, rice pilaf, freshly baked rolls with butter, pastry chef's special dessert presentation, coffee (decaf or regular), and iced tea.

For the Bar-B-Q, at the National Automobile Museum, we'll have potato salad, tossed green salad, BBQ chicken breasts, mesquite BBQ beef tri-tip roast, biscuits, corn bread, BBQ beans, corn on the cob, cookies, brownies, coffee, and iced tea.

For a libation or two, a no-host social will precede the Awards Banquet, and a no-host bar will be available for the Bar-B-Q.

So leave your diets at home. Come to Reno ready to eat.

**More Convention News on Pages 18 & 19**



## News From The Chapters

### Crossroads

At the January chapter meeting, an election was held for officers to lead the chapter during 2002. John Eldredge will serve another year as President, Steve Berlin was elected to serve his second year as Vice President, Angie Larkin was elected as Secretary, replacing Ron Andersen, and our longest serving member in an executive position, Gar Elison, agreed to serve another year as chapter Treasurer. The chapter is in good hands during 2002, which promises to be an active and interesting trail year.

The speaker at the January meeting was William W. Slaughter, author and trail enthusiast, who gave an interesting presentation on Fort Laramie entitled, "An Overview of Fort Laramie and its Significance to the Emigrant Trails and the History of the West."

A bonus for the audience was the input of Kay Threlkeld who served with the National Park Service at Fort Laramie for several years before being assigned to the Long Distance Trails Office.

Several chapter members received the Crossroads Chapter Distinguished Volunteer Award at the January meeting.

They are: Robert & Lyndia Carter, for service as Programs Chairpersons and for their contribution of scholarly, historic articles; Doug and Helen Howard, for service as landowner and title researchers; Roy Tea, for his service in placing iron rail markers on Utah's historic trails; Oscar Olson, for his field trip planning and tour leadership; Gar Elison, for his many years of service as chapter Treasurer and steward of the chapter's funds and finances; and, Al Mulder, for continuous service in marking and preserving historic roads and trails. OCTA and its chapters could not function without the willing and dedicated service of its volunteers.

With the Winter Olympics behind us, we are now looking forward to the field trip planned for May -- the Oregon & California Trail routes from Fort Bridger to Montpelier, Idaho. This route was the alternate trail used by emigrants not taking the Sublette Cutoff or the Salt Lake Cutoff route.

Utah's historic trails lost another booster when Paul Badger passed away at the age of 90. Paul was an active member of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers and the SUP representative on the Utah Historic Trails Consortium. He was responsible for the placement of a number of historical markers throughout Utah to memorialize the westward trek of emigrants and Mormon pioneers.

We also lost a good friend and chapter volunteer when



*Distinguished Volunteer Award recipients, left to right, Doug Howard, Gar Elison, Roy Tea, Oscar Olsen, Lyndia Carter, Robert Carter, Al Mulder.*

Helen Howard passed away from cancer late last year. Helen and Doug did all the land ownership research for the placement of iron rail post trail markers and for future trail and trail site marking efforts.

The mid-year OCTA Board meeting and the Preservation Conference, held March 6 - 9, missed the heavy traffic, tight security, and crowds local chapter members endured during the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

The Salt Lake Winter Olympics were exciting and very successful, but most Crossroads members are happy to see the downtown crowds and venue traffic return to almost normal (no more body scans).

Vern Gorzitze made the facility and lodging arrangements for both meetings at the Shiloh Inn in downtown Salt Lake City. Unlike a few days earlier, there were no downtown Olympic security forces to offer welcome greetings. The meetings were a small and successful prelude to the OCTA Convention to be held in Salt Lake City in the year 2005.

Members from other chapters are invited to join us this spring on the two-day trek over a section of Oregon and California Trails north from Fort Bridger with an overnight stay in Montpelier or Soda Springs, Idaho. The spring issue of Crossroads, the chapter newsletter, will have more field trip information.

-- Al Mulder

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

## OCTA Member Carries Olympic Torch On Horseback

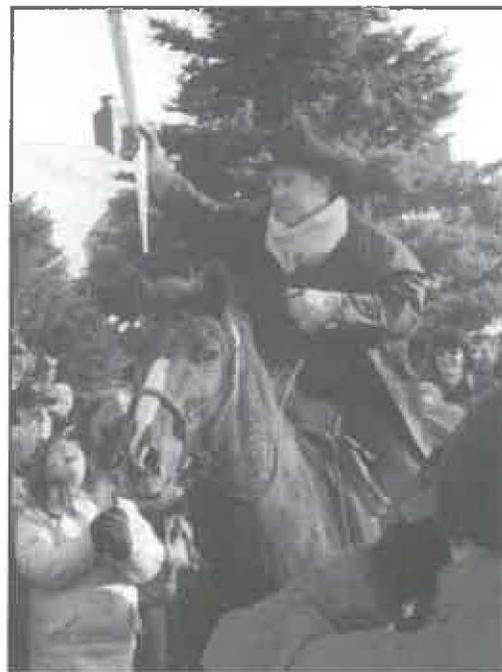
A number of OCTA members participated as volunteers during the 2002 Winter Olympics, but we think it was very exciting and a great honor for Pat Hearty to have been chosen to be one of the many who carried a flame to help light the Caldron at Salt Lake City.

It was Wednesday morning February 6, 2002. Temperatures hovered near or below zero degrees when Pat Hearty (Utah Crossroads and Pony Express Member) received the Olympic Torch from another Pony Express rider, about two miles outside of Camp Floyd Historical Site and brought it in at a gallop.

His arrival was preceded by a Civil War era re-enactor Fife and Drum Corps and Honor Guard. Many people at the Stage Station were dressed in period costumes. After a short ceremony and the delivery of letters to an elementary school class the flame then made its way from Camp Floyd via (Chevrolet and Coca-Cola) convoy to Stockton, UT for its next scheduled stop. There were more people at the site for this event than have ever been there at any one time. My rough count was well over one thousand.

Brigadier General Albert Sidney Johnston established Camp Floyd on July 4, 1858. In command of the Utah Expeditionary Forces, he was sent by President Buchanan to put down a rumored Mormon rebellion. Finding no uprising he passed through Salt Lake City and moved his troops south to this site so as not to agitate the Mormon settlers. It was named after the U.S. Secretary of War John B. Floyd. The name was changed to Fort Crittenden, in February of 1861, to honor the Senator from Kentucky, J.J. Crittenden. The fort was abandoned in July of 1861. Today it is a military cemetery and a state historical site.

-- Vern Gorzitze



OCTA member and Olympic torch bearer  
Pat Hearty.—Photo by Vern Gorzitze

### Trails Head

Trails Head Chapter Officers and members have been busy planning a number of events and activities for the coming months. A Chapter meeting was held in combination with the Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center and Missouri River Outfitters [SFTA] on Jan 27.

Mark Armato portrayed Alexander Majors and each attendee was a potential employee for Majors Freighting Co. and participated in an interview with him. Jim and Judy Budde, Ross Marshall, and Dick Nelson attended the Preservation Conference and mid-year Board Meeting in Salt Lake City.

A Chapter meeting was planned for March 23 and Trails Head will be participating in the Missouri History Conference in April. Chapter members will staff a booth and have brochures, books, and other items available to the educators who will be attending.

A mapping workshop is planned for May 18th at OCTA headquarters in Independence, MO. with Glen Larson from the KANZA Chapter as facilitator.

Other activities planned for the year include:

April 18-20 – Missouri History Conference

June 1 – History Day dedication of Elm Grove Sign

June 15 – Fort Osage trek

September 14 – Trek to Liberty-Weston, MO

-- Dick Nelson

### Wyoming

Wyoming OCTA's premier trek this summer will be the entire Sublette Cutoff, scheduled for July 13-14.

This is a very interesting two-day tour of desolation and beauty. The trek will be headed by Karen Buck Rennells and Randy Brown. Karen is the expert on this stretch of trail, with Randy as her backup.

The sheer logistics of this trek will require careful planning. It starts at 9 a.m. July 13 at the False Parting on the Ways on Highway 28 north of Farson. This means most of us will get up early just to get to where the trek starts!

The first day will be from that point to the Green River near LaBarge. The second day will be from Names Hill to above Cokeville. Four-wheel drive or high clearance vehicles are required.

On this trek, we will go across Little and Big Sandy crossings, by Plumb Rock, the Haystack, Names Hill, Holden Hill, various graves, including Nancy Hill's, and see miles and miles of pristine swales. We will probably see wild horses and plenty of antelope. It is a backcountry experience you will not forget.

For more information, including camping and motel details, contact Lee Underbrink, 1320 Kingsbury Drive, Casper WY 82609. Call 307-235-1067 or e-mail TrailNut@aol.com.

-- From the Wyoming Trails chapter newsletter

## Gateway

Leadership is a continuing challenge for small chapters. Officers sometimes find it difficult to find replacements when they wish to leave service. Ideas for progress diminish when unless new voices are heard.

When Gateway was unable to procure an entire slate of officers for 2002, Gateway examined alternate ways to involve its membership, especially new members. With approval of the membership, Gateway revised its bylaws to add three Board Members-At-Large and the Past President to its Executive Committee.

The result has been improved representation along the St. Joe Road, generation of an aggressive program of activities for 2002 and renewed enthusiasm for its mission.

The Officers for 2002 are John Atkinson, President, and Marilyn Bryan, Vice President. Jackie Lewin serves as Communications Chair. Paul Dittmore has been appointed Preservation Officer. Board Members are Millie Humphreys, Pete Duncan, and Carole McClellan. Bob Hamilton is Past President.

— Marilyn Bryan

## Northwest

The chapter had another successful Annual Meeting on March 16. About 50 people attended and chapter membership grew by one.

Lethene Parks was recognized for her leadership during the last two years. She pushed us to develop a budget, revise our Bylaws and revise our policies and guidelines.

New Chapter Bylaws were adopted. The current membership year is extended from June 30 to December 31 at no additional cost to the members. Life dues are now available. Current members may become life members this year by paying an additional \$190 for individuals; \$285 for a family membership (two votes); and associations, businesses, or corporations may pay \$380.

Lowell Tiller was recognized as the recipient of the Richard and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Service Award. Lowell is a charter member of the NW Chapter, a former Vice President and President of the Chapter, and a former member of the OCTA Board of Directors. He assisted with several OCTA Conventions held in Oregon. Lowell has put in hundreds of hours helping to see that historic signs were restored and that new signs were erected. He received a plaque and his name will be added to the plaque at Baker City.

Several people signed up for outings and activities. If you haven't registered there is still time, but some have limited numbers or a limit on the number of vehicles. Contact a leader to add your name. You are encouraged to take part in the activities of the Chapter. Check the website and future newsletters for additional information. Upcoming activities include:

April 24, 11:00 am - Fairbanks marker dedication - Oregon

David Jackson, editor of the new book, *Direct Your Letters to San Jose, The California Gold Rush Letters and Diary of James and David Lee Campbell, 1849-1852*, gave OCTA Gateway chapter members a glimpse of St. Joseph and the St. Joe Road from the eyes of his ancestors.

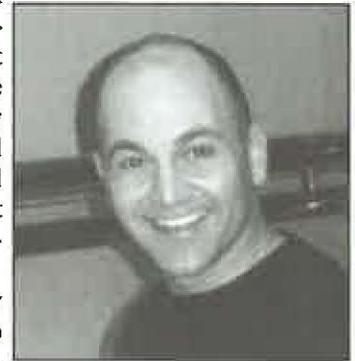
The Campbells wrote home just before their departure on May 8, 1850, "Another word about the people of St. Joseph. They are the greatest liars & scoundrels that I have met with for some time. They go in for the money at all hazards but they have got all out of me that they will get out of me if no bad luck happens me."

David is a 4<sup>th</sup>-great nephew of the Campbell brothers who chose St. Joseph as the jumping off place for their trip from Adams County, Illinois to the gold fields. Jackson is an historic researcher and archivist, offering consulting services through his firm, Orderly Packrat. He is also on staff at the Jackson County, Missouri Historical Society and the National Frontier Trails Center. David has arranged for his family to donate the original Campbell letters to the Trails Center at a later date.

Jackson's presentation gained the attention of local news media. The St. Joseph *News-Press* printed a news article about Jackson and his book on the front page of the paper's Metro Section the weekend prior to Gateway's meeting. Inviting the local members of the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society provided Gateway a significant audience with a lively question and answer session at the program's conclusion. Kansas attendees were encouraged to visualize the Campbells camping along Peter's Creek as they drove home along the St. Joe Road.

Gateway will follow this presentation by sponsoring two bus tours which, together, will guide participants over entire route of the St. Joe Road. Tours are scheduled for June and September.

— Marilyn Bryan



Author David Jackson.

— Photo by Jackie Lewin

Trail Reserve, Boise, ID

May 11 - Cowlitz Trail - Chuck Hornbuckle

May 25-26 - Fur Traders, Missionaries, Soldiers and Settlers in Stevens County - Lethene Parks

May 31, June 1 & 2 - On the Oregon Trail, Pendleton -Keith May

June 8 - Oregon Trail Flyover: Pendleton to The Dalles— Dick Pingrey

October 5 - Free Emigrant Road - Glenn Harrison

Be thinking about nominating someone to receive an OCTA or NW Chapter Award.

— Glenn Harrison

## Idaho

A casting of a sculpture done in 1924 by noted sculptor and art teacher Avard Fairbanks has been placed in a stonework obelisk at Boise's Oregon Trail Reserve park.

Dr. David Fairbanks and his son, Dr. Jeff Fairbanks, donated the bronze medallion and the City of Boise Parks Department contributed the obelisk. The medallions were cast using the original molds created in 1924 for Oregon Trail pioneer Ezra Meeker.

There will be an unveiling ceremony at 11 a.m. on April 24. The sculpture marks the area where pioneers viewed the welcome sight of the Boise River and began their descent into the valley.

The medallion was originally created for placements in Seaside and Baker, Oregon. The Fairbanks design was also selected for the U.S. Postage Commemorative stamp for the Oregon Territorial Centennial in 1948.

— *From Trail Dust, newsletter of the Idaho Chapter*



*Jeff and David Fairbanks*

## John Leamon Passes

John Leamon, one of the most important friends of the trail in the Kansas City area, passed away September 29, 2001 after a lengthy illness.



A charter member of the Oregon-California Trails Association, John Leamon since the 1960's had researched historic trails and helped to identify and map the various Oregon-California-Santa Fe trail routes in the Kansas City area.

John held various offices in the Trails Head Chapter, including lengthy service as Chapter

Preservation Officer, a position he also held in the Gateway Chapter for several years. Additionally, he conducted trail mapping workshops for both chapters over the years.

One of the things he enjoyed most was helping to lead chapter trail treks. In recognition of his work, John was awarded OCTA's Meritorious Achievement award at the 2000 national convention in Kansas City.

A P-47 fighter-bomber pilot in World War II, John had worked for 36 years as a propulsion engineer for TWA. He had many friends in the trails community in Kansas City and will be greatly missed. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his wife Jean who still resides in their Kansas City home.

— *Ross Marshall*

**The website  
of the CA-NV Chapter has moved.  
The new address is  
[www.canvocta.org](http://www.canvocta.org)**

## George White Remembered

Historian George Willson White of Gilroy, CA died February 18 at the age of 92. Born and raised in Gilroy, he was a third-generation farmer and active member of the South Santa Clara County Community.

He loved his family, hunting, fishing, and traveling. OCTANs will remember him on trips in the 1980s, including East Mojave, the Bradshaw and Anza trail trips, as well as his work on the fence-building project at the entrance to High Rock Canyon in an effort to protect raptors in their breeding season.

George was the founder of Gilroy Foods, a member of the city council in the 1950s, school board member, and city historian when he wrote the history of Gilroy for that city's centennial year of 1970.

He was a pilot and member of the Flying Farmers of California. He leaves his wife, Evelyn, with whom he traveled OCTAs trails, four daughters, their children, numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

His grandfather, John, came to California from England in 1873 and served 36 years as constable in Gilroy Township. George was related to area pioneers, including the Willson family and Thomas Rhoads whose sons, Dan and John, were in the first relief party to reach the ill-fated Donners in the snowy Sierra the winter of 1846-47.

Memorial donations may be made to the Gilroy Historical Society, P.O. Box 1621, Gilroy, CA 95021.

— *Pat Loomis*



## KANZA

The KANZA Chapter has issued a call for papers and speakers to be presented at the OCTA National Convention scheduled for August 2003 in Manhattan, Kansas.

The convention theme is "Trails, Tall Grass and Trials." The convention will emphasize the miles of trail remnants, the role of the tall grass prairie, and the trials of the emigrants on the journey.

Suggested topics include emigrant diaries, geography and ecology of Eastern Kansas, historical personages, prominent trail sites in Kansas, Native American relations, women's daily activities, wagon camp culture and life, early Kansas settlers and other historic Kansas trails, or other topics appropriate to the theme.

A typical presentation will be forty minutes in length. Presenters will be invited to submit their papers to the OCTA magazine *Overland Journal* for publication after the convention.

Speakers and Authors are invited to submit a one-page abstract of their topic and biography to the Glenn Larson, Speakers and Papers Chair, P.O. Box 104, Waterville KS 66548.

Abstracts should be submitted by September 1, 2002. Selection of speakers and papers will be November 1, 2002. Contact the Speakers and Papers Chair for further information.

-- Glenn Larson

## 20th Anniversary Photo Album Still Needs Pictures

Contributions for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary photo album that will be for sale at the convention in Reno are still being accepted.

The focus is photos of people and activities from the first convention in Independence in 1983 through the Casper 2001 convention.

Interesting pictures continue to be received, however, more are needed. Especially sought are photos to represent:

- 1983 Independence, MO
- 1984 Oregon City, OR
- 1989 Boise, ID
- 1990 Omaha, NE
- 1993 Baker City, OR,
- 1994 Salt Lake City, UT

Review your albums. Contribute to the OCTA's 20th Year Photo Album. Send photos to Norine Kimmy, 1437 Piedmont Rd., San Jose, CA 95132-2431. Please include the convention year, a description, and names of those in photo.

Copies of photos are preferred. Call Norine at (408) 926-6952 or email <nkimmy@batnet.com> if you have questions.

## Nominations Sought For OCTA 2002 Awards

Nominations are now being solicited for OCTA service awards and Friend of the Trail awards to be presented at the annual convention in Reno.

The awards program recognizes the efforts of individuals and groups that have contributed to strengthening OCTA, promoting its goals, and preserving historic trail resources.

Please nominate one or more deserving candidates for their efforts. You can review a representative list of previous award winners in various award categories in the January issue of *News from the Plains*.

The **Meritorious Achievement Award**, which is OCTA's highest award. It is given to honor OCTA members who have made substantial efforts in support of OCTA and its goals. It recognizes accomplishments over several years, often in leadership and/or multiple capacities, with efforts rising well above most other members' achievements. Only OCTA members qualify for the Meritorious Achievement Award.

The **Distinguished Volunteer Award** is bestowed upon OCTA members who contribute significantly to more focused goals and projects. Recipients efforts can be either substantial work on a short-term project, or for less visible work over a longer timeframe. Only OCTA members qualify.

The **Distinguished Service Award** is presented to recognize contributions by non-OCTA members or groups, for specific trail preservation and education efforts. It honors the work of organizations, businesses, government agencies, individuals, or others who contribute or participate in furthering OCTA's programs directly or provide substantial support in a non-affiliated way to trail preservation and education. Recipients may (or may not) be OCTA members, but the recognized endeavors generally would be considered performed outside the auspices or purview of OCTA.

The **Friend of the Trail** awards are granted to groups, individuals, or organizations that have direct ties to lands over which historic trails pass. Neither property ownership nor residence on the property are requirements, but rather emphasis is placed on preservation of trail remnants, educating the public about their historic resources, and allowing responsible public access.

**Outstanding Educator Awards** are open to individuals and /or groups of educators or institutions that contribute significantly to students' education about trail history. These awards are solicited and evaluated by the Education Committee. Submit nominations for this category directly to Bill Hill, chair of the Education Committee.

Letters of nomination for all other awards should be sent to Roger Blair, chair of the awards committee. Please use the following address (not the address shown in the most recent OCTA directory): Roger Blair, 524 NW 3rd Street, Pendleton, OR 97801, telephone 541-966-8854. Submission deadline is June 1. Please include specific details as to why the candidate deserves recognition, so the committee can adequately and appropriately assess qualifications.

-- Roger Blair

## OCTA Education Awards

Winners of past OCTA Educator of the Year Awards were inadvertently omitted from the list of OCTA award winners that appeared in the January, 2001, issue of *News From The Plains*. Here they are:

### 2001 Casper WY

- Elementary - Janet Wragge, Oregon Trail Elementary School, Casper WY  
 Middle School - Erik Gearhart, Lakeside Middle School, Seattle, WA  
 Institution- Arabia Steamboat Museum, Venture Quest, Angela Williams, Kansas City, MO

### 2000-Kansas City, MO

- Elementary - Sister Rosalie Anderson, SNJM, St. Luke School, Woodburn, OR  
 High School - Eleanore Craig, Kansas State School for the Blind, Kansas City, KS  
 Institution - Shawnee Indian Mission, Pat Wright, Fairway, KS

### 1999 -Chico, CA

- Elementary - Ed Gwartney, James Monroe Elementary School, Madera, CA  
 Middle School - James S. Cazier, Carson Middle School, Carson City, NV  
 Post-Secondary - Roger L. Nichols, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

### 1998 - Pendleton, OR

- Middle School - Brian Buntain and Anne Kelleher, Tumwater Middle School, Tumwater, WA  
 High School - Bradley Kohl, Roosevelt High School, Casper, WY.

### 1997 - Pocatello, ID

- Elementary - Judy Gunnnett, Barrett Elementary School, Ramone, CA  
 Middle School - David R. Vixie, Paradise Adventist School, Paradise, CA  
 High School - Richard Forcella, Sidney Senior HS, Sidney, MT  
 Post-Sec. - Frank Tورتorich, Adult Ed./Elderhostel, Placerville, CA

### 1996 - Elko, NV

- Elementary - Janel E. Anderson, Eastern Fremont Elementary School, Florence, CO  
 Middle School - Janet E. Camagna, Monroe Middle School, San Jose, CA  
 Post-secondary - Bruce Berst, Adult Ed, Casper, WY

### 1995 - Grand Island, NE

- Elementary - Lois Herbel, Geil Elementary School, Gering NE & Jan C. Hill, Ann M. MacArthur Primary School, Locust Valley, NY  
 Secondary - Dale Clark, Ed. Director Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, Grand Island, NE  
 Post Secondary - Keith May, Antoch University/The Heritage Institution, Seattle, WA

## Cherokee Trail Wagon Train

Wagons will roll again on the Cherokee Trail this summer when Wagon Master Ben Kern and Trail Boss Willard Forman begin a crossing of the South Branch of the trail from Fort Bridger, Wyoming to Bent's Old Fort, Colorado.

From the seat of an emigrant wagon or the back of a horse or mule, Kern (an OCTA member) has traveled more of the historical wagon trails than has any other modern man. During the past 40 years Ben traveled the Oregon Trail, plus sev-



Wagons ford the Big Horn River at Spotted Rabbit Crossing.  
 — Photo by Candy Moulton

eral branches of it in Oregon and Idaho, plus the California, Mormon, Pony Express and Bozeman trails.

The 2002 Cherokee Trail Wagon Train will leave Fort Bridger on June 17 for a five-day, 100-mile trek to a point somewhere east of Green River and south of Rock Springs, Wyoming. The trek will resume at that point in 2003, traveling about 100 miles per year until reaching Bent's Old Fort.

The wagon train will follow the actual wagon route of the South Branch of the Cherokee Trail whenever possible. Horseback riders, wagon riders and walkers will accompany the train. The only motorized vehicles allowed will be support vehicles for the train. Participants will be asked to dress much like the emigrants of the past. All meals will be provided as well as tents, cooks, guides, wranglers, camp movers, chuck wagon camp and a shower trailer.

As one activity to encourage education about the Cherokee Trail, the wagon train is sponsoring a youth writing contest for fourth grade students in schools near the area where this year's train will travel. The contest is organized by Candy Moulton of Encampment, WY, and is co-sponsored by *The Fence Post* in Windsor, CO, High Plains Press in Glendo, WY, and Mountain Press Publishing Co., in Missoula, MT.

Moulton is the author of *Roadside History of Wyoming* and with Ben Kern authored *Wagon Wheels: A Contemporary Journey on the Oregon Trail*. Helping judge the contest is Lori Van Pelt of Saratoga, WY, author of *Dreamers and Schemers: Tales from Carbon County Wyoming's Past*.

Moulton will also coordinate other educational and information programs on the trail. In addition, Western singer and poet Red Steagall will travel with the train and provide nightly entertainment. For more information contact Forman at 303/670-9758 or toll free 877/856-2815 or by e-mail at Adam6150@aol.com; Ben Kern at 307/234-9437 or visit [www.summittrails.com](http://www.summittrails.com).  
 — Candy Moulton

# More To Look Forward To At The Reno 2002 Convention

## What Can You Do at the Convention in Reno?

- Bus Tours
  - ✓ Forty Mile Desert Bus Tour
  - ✓ Sand Springs Station Bus Tour
  - ✓ Truckee-Truckee Bus Tour
  - ✓ South Branch Hike and Bus Tour
  - ✓ Layers of Transportation History Bus Tour
  - ✓ Virginia City & Carson City Bus Tour
- Pre- and Post-Convention Tours
  - ✓ Fort Hall Pre-Convention Tour
  - ✓ "Humbug" (Humboldt) River Pre-Convention Tour
  - ✓ Truckee River Trail Pre-Convention Tour
  - ✓ The "East Side" Trail from Lassen Meadows to Ragtown Pre-Convention Tour
  - ✓ Big Tree Road Pre-Convention Tour
  - ✓ The Applegate Trail Post-Convention Tour
- Book Room
- Author's Night
- Speakers
  - ✓ Elaine Marquis-Brong, Director of the Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System: Keynote Address
  - ✓ Rose Ann Tompkins: "The Southern Trail Complex – OCTA's Next Challenge?"
  - ✓ LeRoy Johnson: "Death Valley 49er Trails and How Artifacts Confound Historians"
  - ✓ Jim Byrkit: "Arizona's Chaves Trail"
  - ✓ Jim Hardee: "The First Sierra Crossing: Jedediah Smith and Mount St. Joseph"
  - ✓ Frank Tortorich: "The Big Tree Road"
  - ✓ Guy King: "The Forty Mile Desert: The Most Difficult Part of the California Trail"
  - ✓ Blaine Lamb, Terry Cook, and Dave Bigler: Two Papers On the Southern Trail: "The Soldiers' Perspective on the Gila Trail across Arizona and New Mexico in 1846" (Terry Cook), "Travelers on the California Leg of the Southern Route from 1849 to 1852" (Blaine Lamb), Introduction and Closing Comments (Dave Bigler)
  - ✓ JoAnn Levy: "Crossing the Forty Mile Desert: Sorrowful Recollections of Women Pioneers"
  - ✓ A Special Pair of Presentations: "The Trail in the Truckee Meadows – The Earlier Interpretation" and "The Trail in the Truckee Meadows – The Recent Interpretation"
- Awards Celebration & Banquet
- Workshops
  - ✓ Chapter Building
  - ✓ Convention Planning
  - ✓ Mapping (two topics)
  - ✓ Archaeology
  - ✓ COED Emigrant Trails Researcher's Tool Demonstration
- Bar-B-Q at the National Automobile Museum (among the cars of the Harrah Automobile Collection)
- Convention Extras:
  - ✓ Special Rate Offer by Southwest Airlines
  - ✓ Special Drawing to Upgrade Your Room at Circus Circus
- Lots of "Nevada-style" entertainment

## Why The Convention Hotel?

There are several reasons to stay at the convention hotel, which is the Circus Circus for the convention in Reno.

First, that is where the action is. The convention facilities are in the hotel, so staying there puts you right on the spot. And staying there makes getting to the convention activities a snap.

Second, that is where most of the people attending the convention will spend most of their time. Staying at the Circus Circus makes it easy to get together with all the friends you haven't seen since the last convention, and to get to know the new friends you'll be making at this convention.

Third, it's a great place. Dining and entertainment beyond all needs are available in one location. 6,000 slots, 250 table games, 22 restaurants are all within an easy walk that doesn't even take you outside. And you are getting a special room rate that makes it real bargain.

Fourth, it helps OCTA. Because you are staying there, Circus Circus is giving OCTA the use of the convention facilities for free. If you weren't staying at Circus Circus, OCTA would have to pay more than \$1,000 a day for the facilities we will be using.

Any way you look at it, staying at Circus Circus is the best way to enjoy the convention.

### GOING TO THE RENO CONVENTION?

IF SO, YOU CAN FOLLOW THE EMIGRANT TRAIL ACROSS NEVADA USING TRAILS WEST'S DRIVING GUIDE TO ITS DISTINCTIVE "T" STEEL-TRAIL MARKERS.

### EMIGRANT TRAILS WEST

A GUIDE TO THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL  
FROM THE RAFT RIVER TO THE HUMBOLDT SINK  
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THIS EASY-TO-FOLLOW GUIDEBOOK DETAILS 860 MILES OF TRAILS FOLLOWED BY THE EMIGRANTS. IT INCLUDES 31 UNIQUE MAPS, 97 ORIGINAL PHOTOS, 393 QUOTATIONS FROM 142 EMIGRANT DIARIES AND JOURNALS, AND 68 ORIGINAL HISTORICAL COMMENTARIES.

AVAILABLE FROM THE OCTA BOOKSTORE OR DIRECTLY FROM TRAILS WEST INC., 4025 BLACK TAIL DRIVE, SACRAMENTO, CA 95823. FOR FURTHER DETAILS, WRITE

OR VISIT THE TRAILS WEST'S WEB SITE AT:

[www.emigranttrailswest.org](http://www.emigranttrailswest.org)



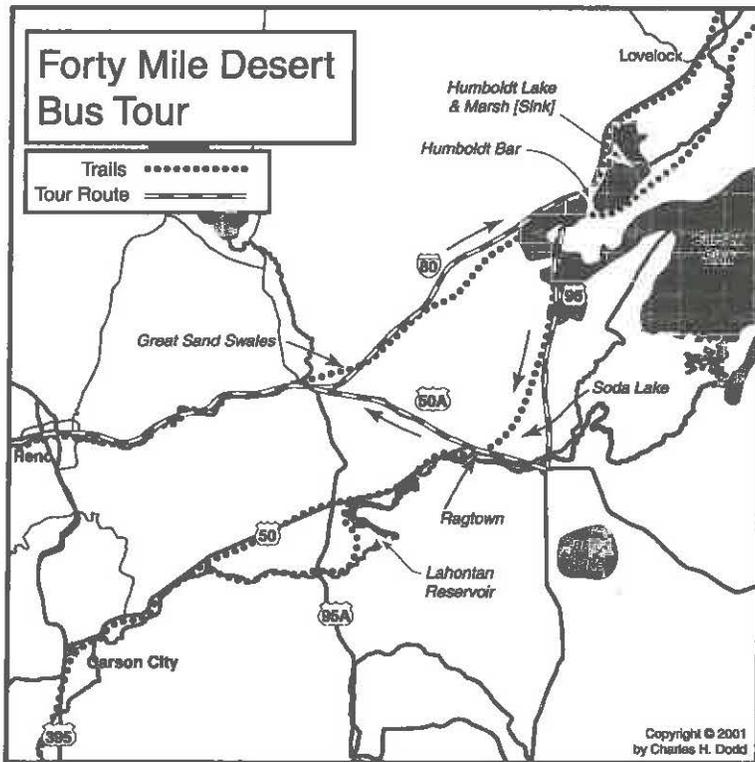
## All Trails Lead To Reno



Above, U.S. Forest Service archaeologist provides interpretation at a Basque sheepherder's camp that will be visited on the Truckee-Truckee bus tour (Photo by Dick Hallford)

Left, Dave Hollecker stands in ruts left by James Simpson in 1859, scheduled as part of the Sand Springs Station Tour at the Reno convention (Photo by Alison Portello)

Below left, a map of the legendary Forty Mile Desert that will be toured in Reno (Map by Chuck Dodd)



## Special Southwest Airfares

If you're flying to the 2002 Convention in Reno, you need to know that Southwest Airlines is offering a 10 percent discount on most of its already low fares for OCTA members.

When you or your travel agent are ready to make your travel arrangements, call Southwest's Group and Meetings Reservations line at 1-800-433-5368. Reference ID Code R5755.

## OCTA = Affordable

OCTA COED Committee Chair Kathy Roubal belongs to the African Violet Society of America. At the Society's convention in Washington, DC, they offer a "Teachers' Breakfast" of scrambled eggs and ham for \$26.50 and an "Installation Banquet" for \$57. The OCTA Awards Banquet will set you back just \$24. The Violet Society offers a room rate of \$135, about double what OCTA will pay in Reno. And instead of violets, OCTA offers sagebrush and pine. Sounds like a pretty good deal to us.

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