

Search Committee Will Hire Association Manager

By Bill Martin

The Board of Directors of the Oregon-California Trails Association has authorized a special search committee to screen applicants, interview finalists and make the hiring decision on the organization's first Association Manager.

Although advertising for the position is to begin immediately, the decision to allow the search committee to make the final decision was made because it is not certain that enough progress will be made before the next Board meeting in August.

"Because of the need to advertise the position and the fact that some of the publications we might want to advertise in are quarterly, we can't set a definite time table," said Richard Pingrey, OCTA Vice President, who will chair the committee. "We hope to have it wrapped up by August, but...."

If the full Board of Directors was required to approve the final candidate, a decision might have to be pushed back until the Mid-Year Board meeting in March, 2004.

A motion to authorize the search committee to move ahead was approved unanimously at the Mid-Year meeting held in Independence March 8.

In addition to Pingrey, committee members will include Board members Frank Tortorich, Jim Denney, Edna Kennell, Fran Taplin and Dave Welch; and past President Roger Blair. OCTA President Randy Wagner, Headquarters Manager Kathy Conway and Jere Krakow of the National Park Service will serve as *ex officio* members.

The Board also approved a final job description for the Association Manager, with primary functions to include managing the business of the Association, marketing, membership development, fundraising and assistance with convention planning.

A starting salary of \$45,000-plus, based on qualifications, is proposed, with funding provided for the first two years through an agreement with the National Park Service.

In other action at the Mid-Year meeting, the Board:



OCTA Board member Edna Kennell of Casper WY was presented the "Outstanding Achievement Award" from the Partnership for the National Trails System during the Mid-Year Board Meeting in Independence. The award, presented by Partnership representative and OCTA member Ross Marshall, was for her role in helping to establish the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper. "You never do anything like this alone," Kennell said in accepting the award. The award had been announced at the Long Distance Trails Conference in October, which Kennell had been unable to attend.

— Photo by Bill Martin

- Approved detailed job descriptions for the Headquarters Manager and the Headquarters Assistant.
- Approved a motion offered by Board member Edna Kennell to include total funding received from the National Park Service in annual reports from the Treasurer.
- Authorized appointment of a subcommittee to study possible revision of OCTA bylaws, which have remained essentially unchanged since 1994.
- Approved the sale of scanned surveys from the COED program at a price of \$10 each, plus shipping and handling, up to

(continued on Page 4)

From the Editor's Desk . . . by Bill Martin



Good news and bad news.

The good news is that the value of OCTA's volunteer effort during 2002, as reported to Congress during National Trails Advocacy Week, was a whopping \$1,282,703. According to Trails Liaison Co-Chairs Bill and Jeanne Watson, the collective response on Capitol Hill was one word: "Wow!"

The number is important because Congress considers it an indicator of private sector support when it determines funding for the National Park Service, the BLM and other agencies that work with us on trails preservation.

More specifically, the Challenge Cost Share Program and other federal support that goes directly to OCTA wouldn't be possible without volunteer contributions. For instance, during 2002 OCTA received CCSP financial support for its new mapping manual, for COED, for a workshop on using GIS devices for trail marking and other activities. None of it would have been possible without volunteer contributions.

All counted, for every federal dollar OCTA projects received during 2002, members contributed \$13. That kind of individual member support is very impressive in Washington.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the nearly \$1.3 million is probably hugely understated.

Excluding volunteers who worked on last summer's Reno convention, only about two dozen individuals and only three chapters actually took the time to report their volunteer hours, miles driven and unreimbursed expenses. In fact, the value of OCTA volunteer contributions is much more mind-boggling than \$1.3 million.

On page 20 of this issue is a form you can use to keep track of your OCTA activities and contributions during 2003. Eve-

rything you do that involves OCTA should be counted, from chapter meetings to the national convention to trail marking to trekking. At the end of the year, we will have helped the Watsons get a much louder "wow" when they take part in Trails Advocacy Week 2004. Most important, it will help build the case for more Cost Share projects in the future.

In the January issue, we raised the question of who originated the idea of the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents, knowing we would get an answer from those with deeper OCTA memories than ours. Several people responded to identify Tom Hunt as the primary visionary.

OCTA charter member Don Buck offered details:

"Like a number of things in OCTA's pantheon, such as the mapping program, COED came out of the creative mind of Tom Hunt in the early 1980s. He sensed the need for such a program and put together a group that I led through a pilot project. Out of this pilot project came the existing survey part of the COED program. Because I was still earning a living teaching, and had too many irons in the fire, I got Lynne Sinclair to take over. After a time, she too had to move on, and we searched for someone who could carry through with what was becoming a major project. Fortunately, the right person came through at the right time - Kathy Roubal. She volunteered for COED surveying of documents in 1988 and took over as Chair of COED in 1990. Under Kathy's leadership, COED took off with the important assistance of Shann Rupp and Don Wiggins, eventually attracting Chuck Dodd to work on the software programs associated with COED."

Mystery solved. Thanks to Tom Hunt for an idea that will bear fruit for generations.

-- Bill Martin



News From The Plains

Editor Bill Martin

Contributing Editors: Kathy Conway, Candy Moulton, Randy Wagner

Mail Submissions To:

P.O. Box 811, Georgetown TX 78627
(512) 864-7312 Fax: (512) 864-9522
e-mail: OCTANFP @ aol.com

Copyright © 2003 by the
Oregon-California Trails Association
P.O. Box 1019 Independence, MO 64051-0519
(816) 252-2276 Fax (816) 836-0989
e-mail: octa@indepmo.org

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

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, 2003

From The President . . .

by Randall Wagner



This issue of *News from the Plains* carries an announcement and advertisement for the position of OCTA Association Manager. This brings to a final resolution a discussion that has been ongoing in Board of Directors meeting for more years than anyone can really remember. A majority of the Directors feel that hiring a full-time manager to look after the Association's complex business affairs on a daily basis is the best way to insure that OCTA grows and prospers.

Dick Pingrey, OCTA Vice President and President-elect, will chair a search and recruitment committee made up of Board members Jim Denney, Edna Kennell, Frank Tortorich, Dave Welch and Fran Taplin. Past President Roger Blair will also serve. Ex-officio members are Headquarters Manager Kathy Conway, NPS Long Distance Trails Office Superintendent Jere Krakow and myself as OCTA President. It is my hope that the Association Manager will be on board by the August convention, but the position won't be filled until the right candidate is identified and approved by the committee.

The subject of OCTA's continued contractual relationship with the City of Independence and the National Frontier Trails Center was also the topic of a lengthy discussion at the Mid-Year Board meeting. Jim Budde and Kathy Conway have been meeting with city officials for the past several months and a new contract is in the formative stages. OCTA's Directors heard a detailed report on all the issues, both resolved and still under review, and had the opportunity to meet and visit with several city officials. It looks like OCTA will be able to maintain a presence in the NFTC book store, keep our national headquarters operation in the Center's complex and be a partner in a major expansion program for the National Frontier Trails Center.

As a sidebar to the Headquarters issue, OCTA member James Everett has been requested by the Independence newspaper to produce an OCTA feature story. The article will cover OCTA's purpose, goals, objectives and detail just how and why we came to be. It will also cover our history with the

City of Independence and the NFTC. Finally, it will tell the readers why historic trails are important and worthy of protection and preservation efforts, closing with several OCTA success stories. Jim needs help, ideas and information, especially from some of the longtime OCTA members. Please contact him through Headquarters or by Email: >jeverett3@mindspring.com<. The article will be useful in OCTA's public relations program far beyond its initial publication in Independence.

A third topic taken up at the Mid-Year meeting was an overall discussion of the new OCTA Endowment program and all of the aspects of planned giving, estate planning and charitable contributions that must be a part of building an effective endowment for the organization. Board members received a wealth of information and ideas from several experts who made presentations at the meeting. An attractive planned giving program will soon be presented to the membership.

Steps were also taken to formulate policies and procedures to guide OCTA through the complex subject of allowing the acquisition of trail-sensitive lands through gifts or purchase, or to protect such lands through various kinds of scenic, conservation and preservation easements. National Preservation Officer Dave Welch will lead this effort, although he cautions that it may take years to advance policies that will cover all possible situations.

Edna Kennell will put together a committee for the purpose of revising OCTA's bylaws (it's past time to do that) and review all policies and procedures established by Board of Directors actions over the years. The purpose is to bring our entire operation up to date and to arrange all past policies into a comprehensive document that all can read, understand and follow.

The Mid-Year meeting took a long, hard look at OCTA's future and initiated some actions intended to make that future bright. It was a hard working and productive two-day session.

— Randy Wagner

From Headquarters . . .



"Good morning, Oregon-California Trails Association, this is Suzanne."

That's my voice — Suzanne Vinduska — you generally hear when you call OCTA Headquarters.

Since so many of you have not had the chance to visit us at Headquarters, I thought I would use this small column to tell you what we do every day.

Our primary focus is serving the membership. So, most of my day is spent working on things concerned with membership. I record all the membership renewals in the PastPerfect software, correct records for new addresses, and track down addresses for returned *Overland Journals*. I also answer lots of "when does my membership expire?" questions. I'm impressed that so many OCTAns want to make sure their dues are current! I also send out new member packets, acknowl-

edge gift memberships and record donations.

I handle the majority of the Bookstore orders that we receive online, through the mail and on the telephone. We try very hard to get all of the orders out within a day or two of receiving them. I also keep the Bookstore at the National Frontier Trails Center stocked and record OCTA's sales.

Probably my favorite part of my job is talking with members and others on the phone or in person. We have so many unique people in OCTA! I am just in awe of the expert and varied knowledge that so many of you have about the trails. I think some OCTA member could answer any question that could be asked about the trails! I always enjoy meeting members in person, so that I can put a face to the names that I know.

(Continued on Page 8)

Board Meeting (cont'd from Page 1)

20 pages. Additional pages will be priced at \$1 each.

- Authorized a policy study by Board Committee C on acquisition of real estate and land easements by OCTA, acknowledging the role of chapters in any such activities.

- Instructed the Publications Committee to begin working cooperatively with the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office to develop a new emigrant trails map.

- Was told by Jere Krakow, Superintendent of the NPS Long Distance Trails Office, that new staff members have been added to work on trails-related projects in the Pacific Northwest and in Salt Lake. Chuck Milliken, interpretive planner in Salt Lake, attended the meeting and showed design plans for new signs that will be installed in Kansas prior to the Manhattan convention. Krakow said efforts are continuing for auto tour route signs to be placed in Missouri and Idaho and he continues to work toward approval for signing in California.

- Heard Krakow and OCTA National Preservation Officer Dave Welch stress the need for chapter members to forward concerns about any activities that have the potential to affect trail resources. Welch said ongoing energy development in Wyoming is escalating, but he noted that with early involvement issues can usually be addressed and mitigation measures taken. (See NPO report on page 7.)

- Heard an update on the planning for the California Trail Center in Elko, NV.

- Was briefed by Trails Liaisons Bill and Jeanne Watson about Trails Advocacy Week activities in Washington, D.C. Coordinated by the Partnership for the National Trails System, OCTA representatives and others held a series of meetings with congressional staff representatives and federal agencies to promote trails awareness and legislation.

- The Watsons also noted that OCTA members volunteered more than 44,300 hours on trails activities during 2002, contributing nearly \$1.3 million in time, mileage and unreimbursed expenses.

- Was informed by Headquarters Manager Kathy Conway that 227 copies of the "Saving The Legacy" video and 158 copies of the "Emigrant Names" compact disk had been sold through March 8. Both are available through the OCTA Bookstore.

- Conway also reported that as of December 31, 2002, OCTA had 2,026 memberships, including 1,142 Individual, 687 Family, 14 Student, 33 Patron, 72 Supporting, 3 Institutional, 1 Corporate and 67 Life memberships.

- Was told by Chapters Chair Ross Marshall that efforts to revive the latent Nebraska Chapter are meeting with success.

- Learned from Publications Chair Candy Moulton that OCTA is on schedule to publish *Historic Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails*, by Randy Brown, this summer in the Special Publications Series and the Amasa Morgan diary in the fall in the Emigrant Trails Historical Studies Series. A second Special Publications Series work in progress is Richard Rieck's extensive compilation of trail deaths, scheduled for publication in 2004.



OCTA representative Jim Budde makes a presentation to the Mid-Year Board meeting on the negotiations with the City of Independence.
— Photo by Bill Martin

Independence Headquarters Discussions Continue

Representatives of OCTA are continuing to meet with the City of Independence to discuss the on-going relationship with National Frontier Trails Center (NFTC), the Board of Directors was told at its Mid-Year Meeting.

OCTA has had its national headquarters at the NFTC under an agreement with the City of Independence signed in 1988. Since that time, the original agreement has served both parties well, but after 15 years both parties felt the need to update the original agreement. The Center also houses OCTA's Merrill J. Mattes Research Library and Irene Paden trail artifacts.

Negotiations have been underway since May, 2002, when the City notified OCTA that because of budgetary shortfalls OCTA would no longer be able to continue selling its trail-related books in the NFTC Gift Shop. OCTA indicated that this provision was part of the original agreement. Subsequently, both sides started working to update the 1988 Agreement. Book sales are continuing pending a resolution.

Every indication is that both OCTA and the City want to work out a mutually beneficial agreement. That was clear in comments made by OCTA representative Jim Budde, as well as by Tourism Director Stephanie Roush and City Councilman Jason White, both of whom told the Board about the importance of the emigrant trails to the city's tourism effort.

"We have been encouraged by our discussions," Budde said during his report to the Board. "In our meeting with the City Manager, he said something we really wanted to hear---'We want you here.' " Additional meetings were to be held in an effort to resolve differences and Budde indicated he hoped to have the remaining issues ironed out by mid-May.

"One of the key reasons why OCTA chose to locate its headquarters in Independence was the city's commitment to provide, at no cost, office space (including utilities) suitable for running the office of a national historic organization," Budde said. In return, OCTA will continue its efforts to promote the NFTC and the City of Independence, help support the City's redevelopment plan for the NFTC, and share revenues from book sales in the Center's gift shop.

New Push For Federal Trails Legislation

OCTA members are being asked to take action in support of newly re-introduced federal legislation that would authorize updated feasibility and suitability studies of routes on the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer and Pony Express National Historic Trails.

The Pioneer National Historic Trails Studies Act is H.R. 1051, sponsored by Congressman Doug Bereuter of Utah, in the House of Representatives, and S.B. 635, sponsored by Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, in the U.S. Senate.

Virtually identical legislation passed the Senate late in 2002, but Congress adjourned before action could be taken in the House of Representatives.

The legislation is of vital importance because it will determine if more than 60 specific trail routes, segments and cut-offs meet the criteria for listing under the National Trails Act. Potentially, several thousand miles of trails could be added to the Act, gaining important preservation status.

For example, it includes studies of the Whitman Mission route on the Oregon Trail, the Bidwell-Bartleson Route on the California Trail, and the 1856-57 handcart route (Iowa City to Council Bluffs) on the Mormon Trail.

OCTA Trails Liaison co-chairs Bill and Jeanne Watson said OCTA members should contact the U.S. Senators from their state and their local member of Congress to urge them to support the legislation. Because of continuing problems with mail delivery in the nation's Capitol, the Watsons recommend that letters of support be sent directly to state and district offices.

Specific routes and segments identified for study in the legislation include:

Oregon National Historic Trail - Whitman Mission route, Upper Columbia River, Cowlitz River route, Meek cutoff, Free Emigrant Road, North Alternate Oregon Trail, Goodale's Cutoff, North Side alternate route, Cutoff to Barlow road, Naches Pass Trail.

Pony Express National Historic Trail - The approximately 20-mile southern alternative route of the Pony Express Trail from Wathena, KS to Troy, KS, and such other routes of the Pony Express Trail that the Secretary considers appropriate.

California National Historic Trail (Missouri Valley Routes) - 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, Upper Bellevue route.

California National Historic Trail (Central Routes) - Cherokee Trail (including splits), Weber Canyon route of Hastings cutoff, Bishop Creek cutoff, McAuley cutoff, Diamond Springs cutoff, Secret Pass, Greenhorn cutoff, Central Overland Trail;

California National Historic Trail (Western Routes) - Bidwell-Bartleson route, Georgetown/Dagget Pass Trail, Big Trees Road, Grizzly Flat cutoff, Nevada City Road, Yreka Trail, Henness Pass route, Johnson cutoff, Luther Pass Trail, Volcano Road, Sacramento-Coloma Wagon Road, Burnett cutoff, Placer County Road to Auburn.

Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail - 1846 Subsequent routes A and B (Lucas and Clarke Counties, Iowa), 1856-57 Handcart route (Iowa City to Council Bluffs), Keokuk route (Iowa), 1847 Alternative Elkhorn and Loup River Crossings in Nebraska, Fort Leavenworth Road, including the Ox Bow route and alternates in Kansas and Missouri, 1850 Golden Pass Road in Utah.



Congressman George Miller, right, of California received a Friend of the Trail Award from OCTA Trails Liaisons Bill and Jeanne Watson during Trails Advocacy Week in Washington, D.C.

— Photo courtesy U.S. House of Representatives

Endowment Drive Update

Full details of OCTA's Special Endowment Drive will be mailed to all OCTA members in early May.

OCTA Vice President Dick Pingrey, who is chairing the endowment drive, held a meeting of the committee to finalize plans during the Mid-Year Board meeting in Independence.

Other members of the committee include Board members Edna Kennell and Dave Welch, and former OCTA Treasurer Jim Budde.

The special endowment drive is part of a comprehensive program for planned giving that contains a wide variety of "giving" options.

This new program will be different from OCTA's annual fund raising drive, which has been held each fall since 1993 and has provided substantial help for a variety of necessary causes over the years.

One feature of this "special" drive will be the solicitation of funds that will be utilized exclusively for placement into OCTA's permanent endowment and help increase OCTA's income stream on a continuing basis in future years.

Another important feature will be the presentation of background information on planned giving and a list of alternative methods through which a member can make a beneficial contribution. Individual booklets on these methods can be requested for more details. The information contained in these booklets is of general nature and any final plans for their use should only be implemented under the guidance of your personal financial advisor or attorney.

The SED Committee has expended considerable effort on this program and we ask that you give this your thoughtful consideration. -- Jim Budde, Member, SED Committee

Shared California and Oregon Trail Routes - St. Joe Road, Council Bluffs Road, Sublette cutoff, Applegate route, Old Fort Kearny Road (Oxbow Trail), Childs cutoff, Raft River to Applegate.

COED Effort Gains Strength In People, Paper

On January 31 and February 1 and 2, Bob and Barbara Kabel hosted a COED working group in Seattle. The meeting was underwritten by the National Park Service as part of its long-standing support for the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED) project.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue work on COED and to begin development of a new COED team.

The current Emigrant Names CD draws upon 2,263 documents, with an additional 500 or so documents various stages of processing that will be added to the next release. Clearing this "pipeline" is the focus of near term activities.

At the close of the meeting, each of the attendees (and their spouses in some cases) volunteered to take on a piece of the future work. Initial assignment included:

Overall, **Shann Rupp** will continue as assignments coordinator. **Rose Ann Tompkins**, **Pat Fletcher** and **Don Buck** will work on the COED manual and route codes and **Gary Shurtleff**, **Dave Welch** and **Sharon and Hal Manhart** will work on the database and programs. **Sharon Manhart** and **Barbara Kabel** are reconciling uncertainties in the "pipeline" surveys. **Charlie and Nola Little** are working on surveys, **Cherie Evanhoe** will review past correspondence and possible leads to new documents while **Wendy Welch** and **Barbara Kabel** will work on cleaning up scanned surveys for prospective sale. **Mark Wheeler** is going to take a long term perspective with an eye towards moving to an "electronic COED" wherein all operations from survey to product would be via the Internet. **Betsy Kanago** will be looking for new document sources and helping with overall coordination. **Bob Kabel** will continue to provide technical support.

In the six weeks after the meeting, some significant progress was made, including:

Rose Ann Tompkins completed scanning the COED manual with an eye to upgrading it. Route identification is a major part of that project. Shann Rupp has gone quite far in coding the Southern Routes. Rose Ann and Don Buck have been re-vamping the maps that are part of the manual. Pat Fletcher is well along on the mapping and coding of routes on the Cherokee Trail as well as on the Cherokee/Overland stage route.

Cherie Evanhoe took home from the meeting a box of correspondence from potential donors of documents. She has begun calling them, receiving quite positive responses.

Barbara Kabel has converted about 160 "pipeline" documents to 3-1/2-inch floppies from 5-1/4-inch floppies and sent them with the corresponding surveys to Sharon and Hal Manhart work on cleaning up scanned surveys for prospective sale. Lethene Parks is already working to answer questions on some 40 surveys conducted by the Oregon Historical Society.

Barbara also located 48 surveys of documents that were included in the database but which had been missing until three boxes arrived at the end of January. She copied the digital data 3-1/2 floppies while Bob Kabel scanned the surveys. We are now missing only three surveys, meaning our scan collection is almost complete.

Barbara and Wendy Welch established procedures for and



Jere Krakow, left, of the National Park Service Long Distance Trails office, talks with Hal and Sharon Manhart during a break at the Seattle COED meeting.
— Photo by Shann Rupp

began editing the survey scans for future sale. It will take some time to edit every page. In the process, however, they will erase all confidential material, note and correct any mechanical mistakes in the original scanning process, and note all documents that may encompass routes for which codes had not been designated. At its mid-year meeting on March 8, 2003, OCTA's Board of Directors unanimously approved the sale of surveys for \$10 each up to 20, with a surcharge of \$1 per page over 20.

Bob Kabel passed on a copy of the COED database to Dave Welch who will prepare it for Gary Shurtleff.

Multiple locations have been established for the COED information (paper and scanned surveys and FoxPro database). It is located in three or four (depending on where Barbara and Bob Kabel have their computers) distinct locations. Information redundancy and security have been achieved at last.

Bob Kabel continues to work on getting fixes out to people who had problems with the *Emigrant Names* CD and has started compiling a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" for posting on the OCTA website. He has also prepared a problem/errata flyer that is now being inserted with the *Emigrant Names* packages as they are being sent out to purchasers.

Mark Wheeler has incorporated many COED features in the restructured OCTA website. One initiative already underway is the creation of password-controlled threaded discussion groups. Some of us are currently exploring the potential of such discussion groups for the various realms of COED.

Most of the people attending the Seattle meeting have already submitted their disclaimers of ownership to COED material. No one has refused.

There is much to be done but it was clear that we have a willing and capable group ready to go. It is anticipated that the next COED-related product will appear in about a year.

- Bob Kabel & Dave Welch

Trails Preservation

*By Dave Welch
National Preservation Officer*

At least on the calendar, spring arrived at 8:00 pm EST on March 20. That may or may not bring improved weather to your area, but it is a signal to start thinking about trail mapping and marking. Increased development along the trail has brought home to me the importance of these efforts.

In the past year, I have examined over 140 applications for gas wells and access roads in southwestern Wyoming. Due to the careful analyses conducted by the BLM and appropriate mitigation agreed to by the developer, I have not objected on behalf of OCTA to any of the projects. Essential to these analyses are an accurate location of the trail and an understanding of the project's visibility from the trail itself.

For example, I was examining BLM paperwork on an application for a gas well and access road along the Overland Trail in central Wyoming when I noticed that there were two lines on the accompanying map labeled "Pine Creek Variant of the Overland Trail." The two lines crossed each other at a near perpendicular angle. There was obviously a rather severe disagreement as to the trail's location. Of special concern was the fact that the proposed well pad was almost on top of one the trail routes.

I queried the BLM person doing the analysis and found that indeed no one was sure where the trail was located (as shown by the map) and that the trail had been determined to be "non-contributing" and, therefore, not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This determination means that the site is unprotected regardless of location of trail remnants.

The point of this is twofold. If we do not know where the trail is located, we cannot protect it. If research has not been done to determine the trail's importance and integrity, preservation laws will not protect it. This is where OCTA's mapping and marking efforts come into play. The work done by OCTA members in both archives and the field are essential to trail preservation since it is doubtful that anyone else will undertake the effort.

Recently, there has been an increase in chapter trail marking activities. I am aware of work in Idaho, Kansas, Utah, California, Washington and Oregon. I encourage each chapter to initiate new efforts. OCTA's "Mapping Emigrant Trails" guide presents the techniques to be used and resources are available to purchase trail-marking materials such as carsonite posts and interpretive signs. Details are available from myself, Frank Tortorich (mapping chair) and Randy Brown (marking chair and graves and sites chair).

Trail marking activities also help chapters prosper and grow by involving the members in our most essential work. How many miles will we mark this year?

**Visit the OCTA Bookstore
On the World Wide Web:
www.OCTA-trails.org**

OCTA Membership

*By Beth Finger
OCTA Membership Chair*

Increasing and maintaining membership is vitally important to the long term stability and growth of OCTA. Membership provides financial stability and the man- and womanpower to achieve OCTA's goals.

To be effective in recruiting and retaining membership, we need the help of all the Chapters. There are several ways to participate in membership recruitment. To begin with, each Chapter needs to have an active membership chairperson.

Here are some of the things the membership chairperson should do to attract and retain members.

1. Organize a list of speakers to speak to civic organizations and similar groups. Please order the new OCTA video for speakers to show.
2. Encourage Chapter members to recruit new members. Invite a friend.
3. Invite new National members to become members of your Chapter.
4. Have people from your Chapter make sure OCTA brochures are available at museums and trail-related places.
5. Find ways to publicize Chapter activities in the new media. (Newspapers, Radio, TV.)

The job of recruiting and maintaining OCTA members is the responsibility of every OCTA member. I would like to have a membership chair for each Chapter. If you are interested please contact me and I will help get you started.

You can reach me, Beth Finger, at: P.O. Box 3831, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 or by email at >fingrini@aol.com<.

OCTA Goes To St. Joe In '06

Sites for OCTA Conventions are fixed through 2006 after the Board of Directors approved "with cheers and gusto" plans to take the annual meeting of rutnuts back to St. Joseph, MO for the first time since 1988.

Former OCTA National President Jackie Lewin presented a petition from Gateway Chapter President John Atkinson to host the 2006 Convention. The proposal is subject to formal ratification by the Board after the chapter submits final and official plans for the convention.

St. Joseph will join Manhattan KS in 2003, Vancouver WA in 2004 and Salt Lake City UT in 2005 on the list of future conventions.

The Board also heard progress reports from organizers of the previously approved convention sites (see separate stories for details on the Manhattan convention).

Dave Welch said the 2004 Vancouver convention, hosted by the Northwest Chapter, will focus on the Oregon Trail, the Lewis & Clark story, the Fur Trade at Hudson Bay and the Native American presence and culture.

Trail Band Tuning Up

Olive Donaldson has issued the annual call for fiddlers three – as well as harmonica players and guitar beaters of various numbers, plus anyone else who plays an instrument – for the traditional OCTA Band gathering at the 2003 Convention in Manhattan.

“Please tune up and practice your Trail Tunes, i.e. O’Susannah, Sally Goodins, Golden Slippers and the like, for an evening or two of ‘Down Home Music’ for the conventioners,” says Olive.

Musicians are encouraged to watch the main announcement board at the Convention for playing and jamming times.

For more information, e-mail Olive at >fidollie@snowcrest.net< or write to her at 4320 Pueblo Path, Redding CA 96003, or phone (530) 242-1883.

Headquarters (cont'd from Page 3)

We do get some interesting visitors in our office. Probably the most unusual person who visited was a gentleman who was walking the Santa Fe Trail. He had started in Virginia and was going to eventually end up in California. He reminded me of the pictures I have seen of Walt Whitman. He carried a big walking stick, had a long beard and smelled of campfire smoke. He came in and chatted with me, telling me of his journey, and then asked in parting if he could recite one of his poems for me. With my assent, he raised his sonorous voice and recited a wonderfully touching poem about the trails. He bowed ceremoniously at the end and then was on his way. I felt so honored, as if I had been witness to a truly special event.

We also do get a certain number of visitors who are somehow “sure” that OCTA has a list of *everyone* who ever went on the trails. Even though they themselves do not know where their family began their odyssey, or exactly where it ended, they are sure that if I will just look at OCTA’s “list” I will be able to tell them about their ancestors! If only it were that easy!!

One of the most entertaining questions we have had was “Do you have to be a member of OCTA to go on the trails?” I was sorely tempted to say “Yes, just go through the big OCTA gate at the outskirts of Independence.” However, even with visions of thousands of new members in my head, I did say “No.” But...we’re looking for a project to bring in new members...hmmm.

So, this is just a little glimpse of my world at OCTA Headquarters. I look forward to meeting and talking with you, either on the phone or in person.

– Suzanne Vinduska, Headquarters Assistant

Manhattan, Kansas
August 10-16, 2003

Call For Author’s Night

Authors Night at the 2003 OCTA Convention in Manhattan, KS will be held on Thursday evening, August 14, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

For convention-goers, it’s a chance to buy some of your favorite trails-related books and have them personally autographed by the author.

If you are an author and would like to participate, please contact Arleta Martin. You can write her at 528 12th Road, Oketa KS 66518, call (785) 744-3333 (evenings) or e-mail arleta@bluevalley.net.

There will be limited space and if you do not make a reservation there may not be room in the book room for you to sign your books.

Author Maurice Brett Passes

Maurice Brett, an engineer with British Aerospace, author of *Flying the Oregon Trail* and well known to many OCTA members, passed away March 6 at his home in England.

Brett flew the Oregon Trail in 1986 in a vintage plane, an adventure inspired by a 1950s Jimmy Stewart movie about the trail. The movie so impressed him that he determined to see Oregon someday.

He and his wife made several auto tours in the West and in 1981 he drove the trail using Greg Franzwa’s *Oregon Trail Revisited* as a guide.

In 1985, along with friends in a British flying club, he won a highly competitive contest, only to have their prize - flying the trail - all but eliminated because of the crisis in the insurance industry. But Brett was determined and in 1985 he attended the Scottsbluff convention, made contacts, and firmed up his plans.

In 1986, accompanied by two flying comrades and three wives, he arrived in Independence, MO and they received the Key to the City, then were toasted at a dinner by Trails Head Chapter.

It was the first of many such events all the way to Oregon, assisted by OCTA contacts. They were featured in newspapers and on television and arrived at Walla Walla to take part in the 150th Anniversary of the Whitman Mission. The flight was dedicated to the Whitmans.

His adventure was saluted in a 1987 Smithsonian *Air & Space* issue, plus a number of pilot publications in the U. S. and U. K. At home he gave countless programs and slide shows of the Oregon Trail.

The Bretts returned for the St. Joseph convention in 1988. *Flying the Oregon Trail* includes numerous names and photos of OCTA members. Many OCTA friends kept in touch by e-mail and were very saddened to hear of his death.

A creative, witty man, he often signed messages “Happy Landings.” And so that is our wish for him.

– Barbara Magerl

OCTA Annual Fund Drive Off To Good Start

As the Annual Fund Drive continues, contributions can be sent directly to OCTA at P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051. All gifts are tax deductible.

For more information, contact OCTA Vice President Richard Pingrey, Annual Fund Drive chair, at (509) 697-4765, e-mail >RJPingrey@msn.com<

Contributors through March 13 included:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dick and Trudy Ackerman | Thomas Fee |
| Alice Box Akins, | Marshall A. Fey |
| Vernon A. Allan | Clifford H. Fiscus |
| Eva Allen | P. H. Gillaspy |
| Ruth G. Allen | Archie Gordon |
| Lynne Alvord | Vern Gorzitze |
| Ralph K. Anderson | John and Mariam Graham |
| Pete and Carol Bachhuber | Curtis R. Grant |
| Larry and Darlene Bafus | Bucky Green |
| John M. Baker, MD. | Paul Grunland |
| Barbara Banc | Chris Hammond |
| Norman J. Barker | Darrel D. Hansen |
| James E. Beach | Jim Hardee |
| Jean Bennett | Glenn Harrison |
| Todd Berens | Mary Hatch-Maillette |
| Roger P. Blair, MD. | Leonard Hay Living Trust |
| Bonnie Ryder | E Scott and Dorothy Hendricks |
| Joyce P. Bolerjack | George and Bev Hesse |
| Victor R. Bolon | Richard A. Higgins |
| Judy Brown | Bill and Jan Hill |
| Marvin and Dorene Burke | Judge Marshall Y. Hockett |
| Timothy A. Burns | Virginia Hoelter |
| Carol Ann Buss | Cheryl Hoffman |
| Mrs. John E. Cahill | John (Jack) Holmes |
| Muriel and Gail Carbiener | Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle |
| Estaline Carpenter | Robert D. Hovey |
| D. Robert and Lyndia Carter | Wendell W. Huffman |
| Thomas C. Chadwick | Thomas Hunt |
| Greg Childs | Nicholas Ifft |
| Marvin J. Chmelka | Robert A. Iverson |
| Don Clark | George Ivory |
| Robert Clark | Carol Sue Ivory-Carlina |
| Mary E. Conrad | Joann & Leroy Jackson |
| Jim and Kathryn Conway | Neal Johns |
| Judge Linda J. Cook | Lois M. Johnson |
| Arthur and Nancy Costa | Dr. Robert H. Jones |
| Hurley P. Couchman | Jones Family Charitable Fd. |
| Robert R. Coward | V. A. and Bettie Julian |
| Doug and Eloise Crary | Bob and Barbara Kabel |
| Linda Crew | Frank and Dorothy Karas |
| Oletta W. Cummings | Caroline Kaszuk |
| Jo Anna Dale | Betty A. Keane |
| Charles O. Davis | Joan Kelleher |
| Richard M. and Virginia Davis | Polly N. Kennison |
| Robert P. DeVecchi | Stanley and Violet Kimball |
| Lois A. Dove | Marsha K. King |
| Susan B. Doyle | Taylor E. Kipp |
| Sandra Sue Drago | Jane Kirkpatrick |
| Harold Drake | Richard and Rosemary Klein |
| Fred Dykes | Edith F. Kuhn |
| Lorraine D. Dyson | Richard J. Laird |
| Elmer and Betty Eberhardt | Baldwin and Ormie Lamson |
| Raymond J. Egan | Jean Leamon |
| Dr. Bonnie W. Epstein | Jackie and Jerry Lewin |
| Susan Erb | Charles and Nola Little |
| Peg Espy | Dr. and Mrs. Ronald R. Lund |
| William E. Eubank | Ed Lynch |
| Bob and Sharon Evanhoe | Carl and Irene MacDonald |
| David N. Fairbanks | Brigham D. Madsen |

The Annual Fund Drive for OCTA trails preservation efforts had raised \$15,020 through the middle of March. Ear-marked donations included:

Annual Fund	\$ 3,145
Archaeology	35
COED	187
Education	1,425
Endowment	6,013
Graves and Sites/Trail Marking	1,268
Preservation	1,046
Special Publications	490
Trail Mapping	1,411
Total	\$15,020

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sharon and Hal Manhart | Zeke and Nancy Sicotte |
| Carol and Hugh March | William B. Smart |
| Ross and Jana Marshall | Malcolm E. Smith, Jr. |
| Bill Martin | David K. Smoot |
| Paul R. Mattes | Stanley Sorensen |
| Neil McCallum | Bill Speiden |
| Vernon A. McDannald | James and Carlene Spomer |
| Michele McGeeney | Virginia Stanton |
| Jennifer Miller | William R. Stebbins |
| Howard and Bonnie Miller | George and Jeanne Steinheimer |
| Linda Starr Mills | Fremont Betty Stewart |
| Gilbert L. Morrill | Alan Stockland |
| Jim and Sarah Mundie | James Stretesky |
| D. Jeanne Murray | Mrs. Frances Sumberg |
| Dick Nelson | William C. Tapley |
| Virginia Nelson | Fran Taplin |
| Nancy A. Nevel | Charley Taylor |
| Bill and Margie Nolan | Gene and Charlotte Thompson |
| Gregory Ott | Janece Thornton |
| James T. Owen | Marilyn Tolen |
| Keith A. Palmquist | Mr. Kim Torgler |
| M. Lethene Parks | Richard L. Trevallee |
| Judson Parsons | Richard and Marcia Troop |
| Dr. Paul & Vicki Peters | Lynne Turner |
| Harry K. Peterson | Lee Underbrink |
| George Petrie | Laura Vaile |
| Cary R. Peyton | Fred and Julie Videon |
| Richard Pingrey | David Vixie |
| William Poisl Jr. | Robert and Patricia Von-Khrum |
| John W. Post | C. M. Wade |
| Emma L. Puckett | Randy and Betty Wagner |
| R. W. Ralston | Gil Ward |
| John H. & Frances S. Rebenack | Kathleen Weigel |
| Clair K. and Virginia Ricketts | George and Shirley Weiland |
| Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rieck | David and Wendy Welch |
| Harlan W. Riggs | Nelson S. Weller |
| Dale W. Ritter | Doug and Peggy Wells |
| Turner Rivenbark | Roy Welton |
| Tom Ronk | Dennis C. Wentland |
| Louise H. Rossi | David A. White |
| Will and Carole Rusho | Daryl E. and Carmen Whiteley |
| William H. Saunders, Jr. | Earl W. and Clarice A. Whitney |
| Paul Sawyer | James P. Whitworth |
| Earl and Patricia Schmidt | Walter and Jackie Williams |
| Bernadine Scoles | William J. and Mary Alice Wilson |
| Gene and Nancy Serr | Gareth Wilson |
| Jim and Margie Sheik | Lesley Wischmann |
| Robert and Alice Shellenberger | Judi and Michael Wollenziehn |
| Gary and Marley Shurtleff | Carl T. Woolsey |
| | Gary M. Zabokrtsky |

Alcove Spring: Saving A Historic Trail Resource

The "Between the Blues" tour during the 2003 Convention in Manhattan will include a stop at Alcove Spring, a popular campsite for emigrants, reached a week or so after crossing the Kansas River. OCTA member Jack Haller, an 80-year-old resident of Blue Rapids, KS, was involved in efforts to preserve the historic location and provided this account for News From The Plains.

By Jack Haller

The Alcove Spring area is in Marshall County, KS about 15 miles south of the Nebraska border, about half way between Blue Rapids and Marysville, and east of the Big Blue River.

There is documentation that several groups passed through the area in 1841-42, including Kit Carson, who was guiding Lieutenant Fremont to California. It was in 1843 that the first Oregon/California Trail emigrants began passing through Alcove Spring.

In 1846, the ill-fated Donner/Reed party had to stop for several days and wait for the Big Blue River to go down. It was during this time that the spring was named by one of the party who carved "ALCOVE SPRING" in a large stone that is still plainly visible.

JF Reed carved his initials – "JF Reed 26 MAY 1846" – which are also still visible. This was three days before his mother in law, Sarah Handley Keys, passed away. She was en route to Wyoming to see her son, but died at Alcove Spring.

A large limestone rock was set for her memory by the local DAR chapter, with a nice bronze plaque and following inscription: "GOD IN HIS LOVE AND CHARITY HAS CALLED IN THIS BEAUTIFUL VALLEY A PIONEER MOTHER."

Mrs. Keys' headstone was missing for many years but turned up shortly after we acquired the property. The exact location of her grave is not known but it is known that a large Cottonwood was cut down and her casket was hewn out of the trunk of the tree.

The Alcove Spring area was under lease many years ago, but the leaseholders did not follow the terms and the owner canceled the lease. In 1992, it was decided to try to reopen the area because 1993 was the 150-year celebration of the beginning of the Oregon-California Trail.

Stella Hammett, who owned the property, was in her 90s and in a care home with failing health. After several interviews and promises, she consented to lease the property again.

The turning point was a decision by the U.S. Postal Service to designate four cities in Kansas for the first day issue of the Oregon-California 150th anniversary stamp -- Kansas City, Lawrence, Topeka and Blue Rapids. After hearing this, Mrs. Hammett agreed to the lease.

She signed the lease on a Monday morning, the first year's check for \$250.00 was given to her by the Blue Rapids Cham-



These falls, shown in a good water year, are just a few feet from the Alcove Spring. The Donner/Reed party named them "Naomie Pike Falls" after a little girl in the party. — Photo courtesy Jack Haller

ber of Commerce on Tuesday, and on the following Friday she had a severe stroke; she passed away three weeks later.

A relative inherited the property and the Alcove Spring Preservation Association in Blue Rapids was able to purchase about 230 acres for \$58,000, which was paid for within two years from grants and personal donations.

Much cleaning up had to be done and community work days were scheduled. Many volunteers helped with clearing the brush that had grown up in the main areas of the property. Wild turkeys, white tailed deer, many species of wild birds, trees and grasses are found on the property.

In 1993, over 5,000 visitors signed the register at Alcove Spring, representing almost every state in the union and some foreign countries. There is a beautiful secluded meadow of about four acres, called Stella's Meadow, where we have had many activities. Many groups are using the property for their various activities.

In August of 1993, we had a dedication ceremony for the area and there were over 200 people there from all over the country. The ceremony was held directly on the trail where thousands of wagons had traveled.

We had some very good speakers, including a 95-year-old man who at one time lived just across the Blue River. He wanted to be on the program and we were delighted to have him because he had some interesting history to share with us.

Half way through his talk, his pants fell down to his shoes and after pulling them up, he continued with his talk without missing a word. After the ceremony, he was thanked for his participation and he said that he hoped that the people did not

(continued, top of page 11)

*"The scenery was so inviting that
it induced us to take a stroll.
We found beautiful spots and
romantic situations."*

— Emigrant diarist James Pritchard

think that his pants problem was a part of the program.

The Alcove Spring property includes some very deep, visible wagon swales. Some are marked with official OCTA trail markers. Many thousands of wagons traveled through the area from 1843 to 1849, when a man by the name of Frank Marshall built a ferry across the Big Blue River at Marysville about seven miles north. (Marshall County was named after him; his wife was named Mary and Marysville was named after her.)

When the river was flooding, the wagons would go across on the ferry at a certain fee and when the river was normal they would cross at the Independence Crossing near Alcove Spring. The Donner-Reed party waited for over a week and then made a ferry of their own out of large Cottonwood logs. Several wagons were lost but most were able to make it across.

Many graves have been found at Alcove Spring by dowsing. Cholera was very bad at that time and many died while waiting for the river to go down. Legend has it that there were several limestone headstones, but a man who lived nearby is said to have been afraid that someone would steal them. He supposedly picked them up and buried them, then died before anyone found out where he put them.

Mrs. Keys' headstone was missing for many years but it was located shortly after we opened the property and is now in the drug store in Blue Rapids owned by Dewayne Iles. We hope to place it in the Alcove Spring museum when it is finished. A county road runs through our property and there are directions to the property on US 77 highway north of Blue Rapids.

We are looking forward to the 2002 National Convention, which will be held at Manhattan, KS, about 50 miles from Alcove Spring. I have conducted many tours through the beautiful area and am looking forward to many visitors next year during the convention.

We are trying to establish an Alcove Spring museum in Blue Rapids in a very old building that was purchased recently. We have received a nice grant from the National Park Service, which is very interested in our project. Several members of the Park Service have visited our beautiful area and have been very impressed.

We are continuing to establish nature trails and markers and we have a kiosk near the entrance to the area that will explain the trails and the entire area. We are trying to make improvements without spoiling the pristine beauty of the area. A Boy Scout has built a bridge for us to help him earn his Eagle Scout badge.

Our mission statement is as follows: "THE MISSION IS TO PRESERVE AND INTERPRET ALCOVE SPRING SO THAT VISITORS WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THIS SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AND HISTORIC SITE."

The Alcove Spring area is considered one of the most important historical points in the state.

Jack Haller is one of the three main promoters of the Alcove Spring project, along with Duayne Iles and Don Musil, OCTA members and Blue Rapids businessmen.

Emigrant Trails EIS Available

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Resource Management Plan for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area in northwestern Nevada is now available for review and public comment.

The approximately 1,200,000-acre study area includes the historic Applegate-Lassen and Nobles trails corridors and the 315,000-acre Black Rock Desert Wilderness.

The public comment period ends on June 12, 2003. Because of mailing costs to the taxpayers, BLM strongly encourages those interested in reviewing the DEIS/RMP to do so at local repositories, on-line or on compact disk.

The documents can be reviewed include the University of Nevada Library in Reno; the Humboldt County Library in Winnemucca; BLM Nevada offices in Carson City, Reno and Winnemucca; BLM California offices in Surprise and Eagle Lake; public libraries in Winnemucca, Gerlach, Reno, Dayton and Fernley, NV; and public libraries in Cedarville, Alturas and Sacramento, CA. In addition, the document can be accessed on-line at >>www.blackrockhighrock.org< and compact disks and hard copies can be ordered at the web site.

Scheduled public meetings to review the plan include — Nevada: Winnemucca, Monday, April 21, at the Winnemucca Convention Center; Gerlach, Tuesday, April 22, at the Gerlach Community Center; Reno, Friday, April 25, at the BLM State Office. California: Cedarville, Wednesday, April 23, at the BLM Office; Sacramento, Thursday, April 24, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. All meetings will begin at 4 p.m.

For further information, contact Dave Cooper, NCA Manager, or Ester Hutchison, NCA Planning Lead, at the Winnemucca Field Office at (775) 623-1500.

— Bureau of Land Management

Wagons on the Cherokee

Work is just about complete on putting together a wagon train that will follow the South Branch of the Cherokee Trail in June traveling from the Green River at Buckboard Crossing to Encampment, Wyoming.

Organized by Kern's Wagon Train Club, under the leadership of Ben Kern and Rod Henderson, the wagon train will begin at Buckboard Crossing on June 3 and conclude on June 21 at Encampment.

Kern earlier led wagon trains on the Oregon Trail, the Mormon Trail, the California Trail, the Bozeman Trail and an earlier segment of the Cherokee Trail.

The wagon train will be marking some areas of the trail, according to OCTA Member Terry Del Bene, and there are plans to hold a memorial service at Cherokee Trail graves near Shell Creek. Other OCTA members taking part include Dr. Jack and Pat Fletcher, who will provide historical information; Candy Moulton, who will provide historical programs; and Quackgrass Sally, who will be conducting Pony Express activities. There are even plans for a wedding to take place at the Twin Groves Campsite!

— Candy Moulton

OCTA Convention Takes a Bite of "The Little Apple"

A lineup of educational and entertaining speakers has been set for the 21st OCTA National Convention scheduled for August 10-16 in Manhattan, KS.

With a theme of "Trails, Tallgrass & Trials," the convention will feature tours of trail segments never before seen on OCTA visits, according to Convention Chair Vern Osborne, plus an all-day visit to historic Fort Riley, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2003.

In addition to the tours, one of the highlights of an OCTA convention is always the opportunity to hear from experts on trail history from a regional perspective. The KANZA Chapter promises no one will be disappointed.

The keynote address on Wednesday, August 13 will be author Don



Convention Chair Vern Osborne makes a presentation at the Mid-Year Board meeting.

Coldsmith, a Kansas native and past president of the Western Writers of America. Coldsmith will focus on the link between Indian trails and Pioneer trails.

Other speakers and topics include:

Wednesday

Dr. Barbara Burgess, "Stories of the Independence Road."

Charlene Peddicord, "The Oregon Trail Through Pottawatomie County, Kansas."

Dr. Ramon Powers, "Asiatic Cholera on the Overland Trails."

Mary Conrad, "The Westward Movement Portrayed In Murals."

Friday

Dr. Chris Jeffries, "The Great Cattle Drives and the Western Roads."

David Jackson, "Direct Your Letters to San Jose: The California Gold Rush Letters and Diary of James and David Lee Campbell, 1849-1852."

Patricia Fletcher, "The Cherokee Trail through Kansas, 1849-1862"

John Call, "Asa Cyrus Call: Profile of A Pioneer."

Tee Loftin, "How Fremont Killed the Great Central Desert Myth" (and more).

Lloyd Gundy, "Pioneers and Patriots: A History of OTMA/APTA"

Will Bagley, "Near All the Stealing and Killing Is Done by the Whites: Murder and Mayhem on the Overland Trail."



Kansas & Trails Anniversaries

OCTA's 2003 Convention coincides with a number of memorable anniversaries:

It's the 240th anniversary of the French and Indian War and the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

It marks 200 years since President Jefferson proposed and Congress approved exploration of the Missouri River to its source.

It is also the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase in April 1803 (from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico) for \$15 million, including present-day Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and part of Wyoming.

It's the 160th anniversary of the beginning of the Oregon Trail in 1843 and of the Fremont Expedition from 1843-1844.

It's 150 years since the establishment of Fort Riley on May 19, 1853 and 140 years since Lawrence, KS was burned by Quantrill's Raiders, in August of 1863.

There are also two milestone anniversaries for the National Trails System in 2003:

The National Trails System Act was approved 35 years ago, in 1968.

The Oregon National Historic Trail, the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail were established 25 years ago, in 1978.

Saturday (Fort Riley)

Dorman Lehman, "The Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley Military Road."

Lee Whitely, "The Smoky Hill Trail: The Shortest Route to the Goldfields of Western Kansas Territory."

Scott Price, "Evolution of a Frontier Fort."

For details on the speakers and other aspects of the convention program, visit the official Manhattan convention website at >www.KANZA-OCTA.org< or watch your mail for the official convention brochure.

OCTA Website News

Wagon Wheels On The Internet: OCTA's New Website

By Mark Wheeler, Internet Committee Co-Chair

"OCTA Website News" will be a regular feature in *News From The Plains* over the next several issues. This is where we will report on new website developments, cover key features, share member feedback and provide insight into future website additions and modifications.

In general, we will use this space to help maximize membership benefits from using the OCTA website (www.OCTA-Trails.org).

Current News

The revised OCTA website is a mixture of both static and changing content. One of the most visible examples of changing content is "News" reporting.

To view OCTA-related news, a user has two options. First, by selecting the "What's New" option from the left-hand menu they will see a list of all news items. The second option is to view news that is subject-specific. Most major website sections (e.g. COED, Preservation) now report news, unique to this topic, on their section's main page (e.g. www.OCTA-Trails.org/Preservation).

To keep the page design clean and the volume of content to a minimum, only the news article's "Title" will be initially displayed. To view the full content for any article, simply "Click" on the title of interest.

COED Website Information Transferred

OCTA COED (Census of Overland Emigrant Documents) web information was previously found on a separate website. All COED information is currently included under the "COED" section of our comprehensive website. Now www.OCTA-Trails.org is your one source for COED information.

Rotating "Trail Facts"

Don't let the new website "Home Page" fool you into thinking that there's nothing new to see each time you visit OCTA online. One of the new features is a "Trail Fact" along the top of the screen. Each time you view the home page, or "refresh" your web browser, this fact will change to provide a different insight into trails life.

"Member's Corner" Entrance Login

One of the new website features is a "Members Only" section. Over time there will be more information, available only to OCTA members, located here.

To ensure that only OCTA members get the full benefits from this area there must be a "User Name" and "Password" to unlock this entrance. Since this "login" concept is new to the OCTA website, we wanted the transition to be gradual to allow sufficient time to notify and educate members about this upcoming requirement.

Currently, the "User Name" (octa) and "Password" (member) are supplied for you. We anticipate distributing a new User Name and Password with the July issue of *News From the Plains*, along with an announcement that members will need to start supplying this information in the near future. Don't worry, if you forget this information,

there will be an email link to request that the User Name and Password be sent to you again.

Old Website Format Link

Although the new website has been launched, there is still some content that has not yet been moved to the new website format. To ensure that you can view all website content, while we are still in a transition phase, there is a left-hand menu link to "Old Website Format" on every web page.

Questions & Suggestions

We encourage OCTA members to send us suggestions and questions about any issues related to the website. To facilitate this communication, there is a "Webmaster" feedback link located in the lower left-hand corner of each web page.

Membership Roster

The ability to perform an online search of the OCTA Membership Roster is arguably the most beneficial, yet misunderstood, of all new website features. We anticipated that we would receive some questions, and even possible concerns.

Here are a few key points about the searchable Membership Roster that we thought would help inform members and provide assistance when using this feature:

No "All Member" Search – The searchable Membership Roster was designed to easily allow one member to locate another member. This is especially helpful if member information (e.g. phone number, email address) changed since the last printing of the hard-copy Membership Roster. *Note: We intentionally left out the ability to search and view the entire membership to discourage inappropriate use.*

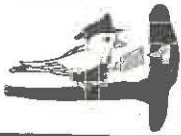
Member's Only Access – You must be an OCTA member to gain access to this feature via the "Member's only" section. It IS NOT publicly accessible.

Coming Soon: Personalized OCTA Email Addresses

The Internet Committee is currently looking into offering OCTA members the option of a personalized OCTA email address. The address format would be [OCTA Member's Name]@OCTA-Trails.org.

Don't want to give up your current email address? You won't have to. Your OCTA email address can be set up to forward all incoming email to your primary email account. Stay tuned, there's more to come on this in the next issue.

Mark Wheeler is co-chair of the OCTA Internet Committee with Lesley Wischmann, the one-woman gang who convinced OCTA to enter the Internet-age several years ago. The new website represents the efforts of both Mark and Lesley. Mark owns KnowledgeWorks, an Internet Consulting company based in Des Moines, IA. His company provides web site design, database and other Internet-related technology services. Mark lives in Des Moines with his wife and two children. He can be reached through the OCTA website at www.OCTA-trails.org or mark@wheelerconsults.com. Contact Lesley Wischmann at lesleywisch@earthlink.net



News From The Chapters

Crossroads

The January meeting of Utah Crossroads was well attended as chapter elections and an interesting program were presented. Mel Bashore, LDS Church historian, spoke on "The 1868 Drownings at Green River and Other Findings About Death on the Mormon Trail." Mel was introduced by Lyndia Carter who has worked with him on several Mormon Pioneer Trail projects.

Brent Reber was elected President, Marie Irvine was elected Vice President, and Angie Larkin and Gar Elison were re-elected for another term as Secretary and Treasurer. It is a great slate of enthusiastic and dedicated officers -- 2003 promises to be an active and entertaining year for the chapter.

The Long Distance Trails Office staff, headquartered in Salt Lake City, was recently increased with the assignment of Chuck Milliken and Lee Kreutzer. They bring a wealth of experience in archaeology and wayside exhibit planning to the LDTO and will help share the workload of the many hats worn by Kay Threlkeld. In late February, we enjoyed a one-day outing on a section of the Hastings Cutoff in Utah which helped familiarize Chuck and Lee with Utah's historic trails.

Another chapter meeting is being planned for April and will be followed by a yet undetermined spring field trip in May. The wayside exhibit panels "Twenty Wells" and "Emigrant Graves" installed by Utah Crossroads at the Donner-Reed Memorial Museum in Grantsville have been removed due to damage by weather. Plans are being made to replace them with metal engraved panels.

Another historic trail viewscapes was threatened on the Mormon Pioneer and California Historic Trails near Echo, with a proposal for a sand and gravel pit operation near Witches Rocks. At a recent public hearing, members of the Utah Historic Trails Consortium made comments opposing the project. As a result of the comments, the County Commission voted against issuing a conditional use permit to the construction company. It was near this unique rock formation that the Utah Military Expedition of 1857 had a U.S. Army camp. Brigham Young's "sick camp" on the Weber River was located west of Witches Rocks and the rock formation was mentioned in emigrant and military diaries.

— Al Mulder



Evidence of an OCTA trail survey team near Echo, Utah.

— Photo by Al Mulder

Trails Head

Recently news was received that the City of Olathe, KS Parks Department has purchased a portion of the Elm Grove Campground, which is on the Westport Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trail.

An OCTA interpretive marker was dedicated by Trails Head Chapter of OCTA last June for this site. It had a similar name to Lone Elm Campground and both are on Cedar Creek about 2 1/4 miles apart.

More of the campground area is planned to be acquired in the near future and will be an excellent opportunity to interpret more of the Westport Route just as has been done with the City of Olathe on the Lone Elm Campground.

This process will take some time to develop, but the intention of the City of Olathe is clear. They want to preserve this historic site and spend money to interpret it for the visiting public.

Upcoming Trails Head activities include:

Saturday, May 10—Bus tour, Liberty to Leavenworth Road. Begins at Liberty Landing with a tour of the historic town of Liberty. Includes a visit to the home site of mountain man John Dougherty, the site of the village of Barry on the original Missouri border, Platte City and Weston.

Thursday, July 10—At the Westport Library, Ross Marshall will give a presentation about members of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. Plus, will review plans and preparations for many Lewis & Clark Bicentennial events in the Trails Head area.

— Dick Nelson

Visit OCTA's
All-New Website:
www.OCTA-trails.org

Gateway

The Gateway Chapter is gearing up another exciting year of activities.

The first public program for the year was scheduled for March 6, with special guest Dr. Chuck Martin, OCTA Board Member and a Charter Member of OCTA.

Dr. Martin's slide and narrative talk was titled with an 1859 trail traveler's advice "never come by the land route for God's sake." The program promised to maintain the high quality of public programs St. Joseph has come to expect of the Gateway Chapter of OCTA.

Highlights of 2002 included two well-attended tours on the St. Joe Road. In June, 45 members and friends loaded onto a 47-passenger motor coach to visit cemeteries, trail remnants, the Native American History Museum, and historic Troy, KS. They also heard the stories associated with these locations on the Eastern portion of the St. Joe Road. Jackie Lewin, author of *The St. Joe Road* published by the St. Joseph Museum (1992), was our expert tour guide.

Jackie also led a September tour of the middle portion of the St. Joe Road. On that outing, Gateway Chapter installed a trail marker in downtown Bern, KS. Long-time Gateway member and Bern resident, Jim Shiek, made the arrangements with the city of Bern.

The next tour of the St. Joe Road will be in June of 2003. This tour of the Western part of the St. Joe Road will be a warm-up for a Pre-convention tour in connection with the 2003 OCTA Convention hosted by KANZA Chapter. Jackie Lewin will again be the leader.

For the past few years, Gateway Chapter has annually identified Goals and Objectives to help direct its energies.

Goals for 2003 include:

Continuing to identify and mark the St. Joe Road; preserving remnants and memory of the St. Joe Road through education of members, property owners and the general public; monitoring the status of the trail to maintain the character of the road; originating and participating in events that celebrate the trail; and publicizing and promoting the St. Joe Road as well the entire Oregon-California Trail in various forms of media and activities.

-- John Atkinson

Idaho

The tentative schedule for Chapter activities during 2003 include:

April 26—Spring member meeting and field trip to Canyon Creek; hiking and trail marking.

May 17-18—Hiking and marking portions of the South Alternative with the Owyhee County Historical Society.

June 14-15—Meek Trail, Malheur River, Oregon, with the Northwest Chapter.

July 19-20 or 26-27—Small group trail marking and hiking in Idaho.

September 13-14 – Utter disaster field trip.

For details, contact Chapter President James McGill at (208) 467-4853 or (208) 250-6045, e-mail >jwmcgill@pobox.com<

— From the Idaho Chapter Newsletter

Northwest

Northwest OCTA continues to be active. NWOCTA members who submitted their volunteer time on OCTA projects gave a total of 3,400 hours. When valued at \$14 per hour, that's a contribution of \$47,600.

Planning continues on the 2004 OCTA National Convention that will be held in Vancouver. Over 70 members responded to a first call for volunteers. A first for OCTA will be a "teachers' institute" being organized by Keith May that will permit teachers to attend and receive credit.

Planned events for 2003 include:

Northeast Washington: Fur Traders, Missionaries, Soldier and Settlers, May 3-4, Lethene Parks, leader.

Oregon Trail Flyover: Snake River to Pendleton, May 31-June 1, Dick Pingrey, leader.

National Trails Day: Marking the Blues, June 7, Chuck Hornbuckle, leader

Meek-Elliott Trail: Vale to Wagontire, June 14-15, Don Clark (Idaho Chapter), leader.

The River Route: The Dalles to Fort Vancouver, June 28, Roger Blair and Susan Badger Doyle, leaders.

French Prairie: Champoeg, St. Paul, Mission Bottom, July 12, Jim Tompkins, leader.

— Glenn Harris and the NW Chapter Newsletter

OCTA Gets "Play" On New York Radio

OCTA received some great exposure in New York State thanks to Charter member Bill Hill, who participated in the "Teacher As Historian" radio program broadcast by WNYE-FM in New York City. Aired in mid-February, the program is part of a series involving the state's teachers, authors and historians.

Hill, chair of the OCTA Education Committee, spoke about the Oregon Trail and his book, *The Oregon Trail Yes-*

terday and Today, available from the OCTA Bookstore.

His presentation included the types and use of primary source materials; Hollywood impressions vs the realities of the trail; the emigrant's use of guides and guidebooks; dangers on the trail; encounters with Indians; and the state of the Oregon Trail today. Bill also discussed some of the goals and accomplishments of OCTA, and encouraged membership for anyone interested.

Wyoming

OCTA cooperation with energy industry representatives in Wyoming, where several ongoing and anticipated projects have the potential to impact trails, was discussed at length during the OCTA Mid-Year Board meeting.

National Board member Edna Kennell of Casper distributed the Wyoming Chapter's March newsletter, which included letters from Sen. Craig Thomas and the Petroleum Association of Wyoming (PAW) supportive of the chapter's outreach efforts.

Kennell said the Wyoming chapter is trying to work with the Wyoming petroleum industry through cooperation, education and information. She noted that the cooperation with the energy industry is "a little unorthodox and a break from what we have done in the past," but believes it is being effective. She said chapter leaders believed "that we are responding to PAW concerns."

OCTA Preservation Officer Dave Welch said he would "welcome" information about specific cases where OCTA has not previously cooperated on development issues. Welch stressed that during the past year he and other trail representatives reviewed around 140 Wyoming projects, most of them energy related. He said OCTA had not opposed any of them. He said early participation in the process has made it possible to mitigate impacts to the trails.

An important reason why OCTA has not protested development projects – some of them as close as a half mile from the trail – is because of the site studies being done by BLM that provide adequate information about location and particularly visual impacts, Welch said.

"If I didn't have site study, I would protest some of these proposals," Welch noted. With the studies, however, he said he has the necessary information to know potential impacts.

But Welch stressed that information published in the February Wyoming Chapter newsletter by Chapter President Pinky Ellis incorrectly provided references to a 10-mile exclusion zone along the trails, which concerned PAW because of the potential impact on oil and gas drilling. There is no such zone, and there is no proposal to develop such a zone, Welch said.

In a letter published in the March newsletter, Welch noted that "OCTA supports examination of impacts in the viewshed to the horizon, which may be within 10 miles or beyond. These analyses are required by NHPA" (the National Historic Preservation Act).

At the Mid-Year meeting, Welch told the Board that any thought of a 10-mile exclusionary zone is "a dead issue; it's not going to happen."

OCTA Board member Stan McKee, who recently retired from his position with the Bureau of Land Management in the Rock Springs District in Wyoming, concurred with Welch.

"There never was, there never will be a 10-mile exclusionary (zone)," he also said. McKee reminded the board that the PAW is a central, focused group that represents energy interests as its primary goal. And he told the Board not to align itself too closely to the industry.

In his March letter, Welch said Ellis was "correct in noting that the cooperation between OCTA and the petroleum industry has been instrumental in moving current legislation forward. It is important that we continue to work together."

He added: "I am confident that we can continue to meet the needs of both the people of Wyoming and the desire to preserve the trails by working together to find reasonable solutions."

In a response in the newsletter, Ellis defended his reference to the 10-mile exclusion, which he said came out of a meeting he attended involving the BLM and PAW. "I was there," he said, "and heard what was said by the BLM."

Ellis added: "Wyoming OCTA firmly believes in protection of the trail. Although our meetings with PAW might be thought to be unorthodox by some, we found that it created a new understanding and expectation of cooperation between the two groups. National OCTA and Wyoming OCTA are both gaining respect with their attempts to convince others that the trails must be protected in a reasonable and common sense way. We are both dedicated at heading the right direction to accomplish this goal."

Meanwhile, in a letter to Ellis, the Petroleum Association said it was committed to working and consulting with OCTA to better its understanding of the historical significance of national trails.

"We believe that by continuing to educate each other on our respective interests, we will achieve a balance between environmental protection and economic growth," PAW President Bruce Hinchey and Vice President Dru Bower said in a jointly signed letter.

– Candy Moulton and the Wyoming Chapter Newsletter



Mark Your Calendars! OCTA National Convention

August 10-16 Manhattan, Kansas.

For details, visit the convention website

www.KANZA-OCTA.org

New From The OCTA Store

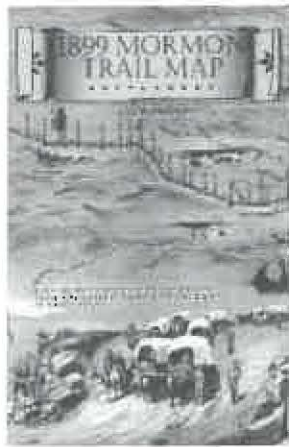
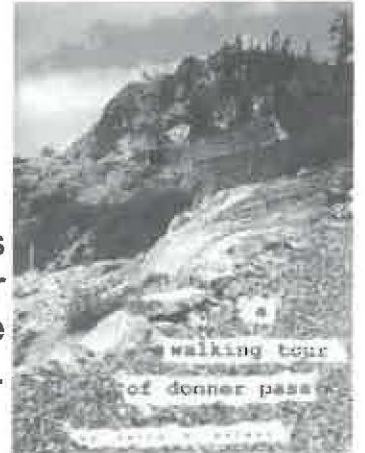
The Walking Tour of Donner Pass

By David Palmer (OCTA Member)

Paperback 44 pp

\$10.00, plus \$4 P&H

The only guide to this area since George Stewart's *Donner Pass*. Now you can hike the area not only for its incredible beauty but you will learn the historical background.



1899 Mormon Trail Map and Supplement

Flat (suitable for framing) (39" by 13")

\$24.95 plus \$4 P&H

A guide to the daily route of the Mormon Pioneers from Nauvoo to the Great Salt Lake. Includes a 32-page supplemental booklet with a day-by-day reference, largely taken from the diary of Orson Pratt.

(Colorful panoramic scenes border the lower portion of the map.)

OCTA "Essential Pack" with Bottle

Holder (bottle not included)

\$13.25 plus \$3 P&H

Three zippered compartments.

Adjustable poly-web waist strap with plastic buckle. Black with OCTA white logo.



To order, visit the Bookstore online at www.OCTA-trails.org or call, toll free, 888-811-6282

OCTA Officers:

President Randy Wagner, 1007 Monroe Avenue, Cheyenne WY 82001
(307) 634-4263/rwagnerfoto@aol.com

Vice President Dick Pingrey
P.O. Box 130, Selah WA 98942
(509) 697-4765/rjpingrey@charter.net

Treasurer Douglas Brown
218 N. Pleasant, Independence MO 64050
(816) 833-4090/dbrown194@comcast.net

Secretary Lethene Parks
3214 Clark Lane Rd., Hunters WA 99137
(509) 722-6161/lethene@theofficenet.com

National Preservation Officer Dave Welch
102 Chinook Lane, Steilacoom WA 98388
(253) 584-0332/welchdj@attbi.com

OCTA FINANCIAL REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002

Over the past year, OCTA's operations brought in more revenues than what was expended. The year ended with a surplus of \$21,911, even after factoring in net losses in the Endowment Fund of \$15,932. The majority of our programs did not spend what was budgeted, which is our main reason for the surplus.

OCTA does have an enviable position in having some established Endowment Funds and adequate reserves for the short term. Happily, we did not need to utilize either interest income from the Endowments or reserves for the past year. Continued support through the Annual Campaign, contributions to the Endowment Funds and support of the Annual Convention is essential to our progress.

As we all know, the uncertainties of the market have left most investors disappointed with the results. OCTA is no exception. Our loss in position over the past two years, which were bleak at best, was still slightly better than the average loss in the market. Not having a crystal ball to predict the future, it is still deemed appropriate to let the professional managers handle OCTA's endowment portfolio. We all hope for a better market outlook in the future.
— Doug Brown, OCTA Treasurer

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	September 30, 2002	September 30, 2001
Cash		
Petty Cash		100.00
Operating Account	86,654.50	46,355.48
Convention Account	680.48	85.03
OCTA Store Account	0.00	0.00
Total Cash	87,334.98	46,540.41
Investments (Endowment Funds)		
GKC Foundation – Unrestricted	13,056.86	160,545.26
GKC Foundation – Restricted	239,067.14	258,226.88
GKC Foundation – Martin – Restricted	151,950.65	171,648.04
GKC Foundation – Loomis	128,982.69	n/a
Total Investments	533,057.34	590,420.18
Other Assets		
Accounts Receivable – Merchandise	2,548.12	907.45
NPS Grant Receivable		5,987.30
Advance – Convention Expense	500.00	1,459.06
Total Other Assets	3,048.12	8,353.81
Inventory – Merchandise		
Total Inventory – Merchandise	32,121.07	36,998.79
Fixed Assets		
Furniture & Fixtures	8,946.53	8,946.53
Office Equipment	20,322.32	17,786.32
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-27,665.10	-26,732.85
Total Fixed Assets	1,603.75	0.00
Total Assets	657,165.26	682,313.29
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	7,910.93	2,080.04
Santa Fe Trail Store Account	222.60	-173.00
Colorado Chapter Funds	488.40	488.40
Payroll Taxes Payable	855.35	952.98
Total Liabilities	9,477.28	3,348.42
Retained Revenue Over Expense	678,964.87	773,982.07
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	-53,188.24	
Current Revenue Over Expenses	21,911.35	-95,017.20
	647,687.98	678,964.87
Total Liabilities & Equity	657,165.26	682,313.29

Statement of Activities

Support and Revenues	2001-2002			2000-2001
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Actual
Support				
Annual Dues Income	82,000.00	86,059.00	-4,059.00	87,259.46
Life Memberships	2,000.00	1,750.00	250.00	3,250.00
Donations – Unrestricted		16,249.65	-16,249.65	11,765.28
Donations – Restricted	3,000	13,418.00	-10,418.00	0.00
Donations – Restricted/Endowment	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	3,030.00
Total Support	97,000.00	117,476.65	-20,476.65	105,304.74
Revenues				
Overland Journal & NFP	2,000.00	2,740.00	-740.00	2,603.00
Advertising	2,000.00	1,090.00	910.00	1,570.00
COED Fees	500.00	1,066.00	-566.00	982.00
OCTA Sales (Net)	13,400.00	19,166.78	-5,766.78	20,818.75
Book Publications	12,000.00	364.39	11,635.61	115.94
Convention Revenue (Net)	20,000.00	37,433.96	-17,533.96	32,414.79
Endowment Interest/Dividend Income		12,847.54	-12,847.54	11,495.78
Endowment Capital Gain (Loss)		-28,779.14	28,779.14	-116,610.89
Interest Income (Checking Accounts)	1,000.00	1,113.53	-113.53	1,457.76
Miscellaneous Income	100.00	22.00	78.00	71.03
Total Revenue	51,000.00	47,065.06	3,934.94	-45,081.84
Total Support & Revenues	148,000.00	164,541.71	-16,541.71	60,222.90
Expenses				
Officers	8,200.00	4,456.95	3,743.05	4,430.81
Committees	11,430.00	8,436.36	2,993.64	6,462.23
Headquarters	76,000.00	73,538.14	2,461.86	82,409.66
Preservation	14,000.00	7,466.15	6,533.85	2,959.40
Publications	68,400.00	45,835.02	22,564.98	48,961.80
Endowment Contribution	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
Other	3,100.00	2,897.74	202.26	10,016.20
Total Expenses	186,130.00	142,630.36	43,499.64	115,240.10
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	-38,130.00	21,911.35	-60,041.35	-95,017.20

Net Revenues for Selected Activities

	FY02	FY01	FY00
Convention	\$37,433	\$32,415	\$28,532
OCTA Store Sales	\$19,166	\$21,695	\$16,486

Revenues From Operations

	FY 2002	FY2001
Total Revenues	\$180,473.31	\$165,338.01
Total Expenditures	\$142,630.36	\$155,240.10
Operating Income	\$ 37,842.95	\$ 10,097.91
Endowment Interest Income	\$ 12,847.54	\$ 11,495.78
Endowment Capital Gain (Loss)	(\$28,779.14)	(\$116,610.89)

OCTA Charter Members Recognized

OCTA was created by a group of volunteers who appreciated the history and the heritage of the Overland Trails and who felt the trails should be preserved for future generations. Based on headquarters' records, the following individuals and couples have continued to maintain their memberships since OCTA was organized in 1983. (A list identified as Charter Members in the 2003 Membership Roster should have been identified as Life Members.)

Dick and Trudy Ackerman
 Orel M. Adams
 Gilbert L. Adrian
 Vernon A. Allan
 Fred Amesbury
 Ames and Ruth Anderson
 Keith and Jo Arnold
 Isaac and Debra Barner
 Mike and Renee Bateman
 James E. Beach
 Todd and Betty Berens
 Jo Ann Berkenbush
 David L. and Evah Bigler
 Roger P. Blair, MD
 Joyce P. Bolerjack
 Karen Buck
 Don and Vilma Buck
 James E. and Judy Budde
 Jude A. Carino
 Estaline Carpenter
 Robert Clark
 Haworth and Carol Clover
 Harold Curran
 Richard M. and Virginia S. Davis
 Olive Donaldson
 Ann B. Doolen
 Ronald O. Downs
 Reg and Dorothy Duffin
 Lorraine Dyson
 Elmer and Betty Eberhardt
 David and Kathy Elliff
 Bob and Roberta Emerson
 Joseph W. and Lois Fairfield
 Marshall A. Fey
 James B. Frank
 Gregory M. Franzwa
 Robert Fuit
 Cathy Galbraith
 Donald S. Galbreath
 Dwight J. Garrison
 Michael D. Gibson
 Ona Gieschen
 Orson P. Goodrich
 Archie Gordon
 Billie Gray
 Dorothy Graydon

Andrew W. and Joanne Hammond
 Chris Hammond
 John and Norma Haner
 John P. and Stephanie Harman
 Patrick A. and Linda Hearty
 Helen Henderson
 William E. and Jan Hill
 Gary Hofmeister
 Jim Holcomb
 Wayne E. Huffstutter
 Thomas Hunt
 Joann and LeRoy Jackson
 Maude C. Jenks
 James A. and Margaret Jenks
 Milton A. Jones
 Larry and Patricia Jones
 Katharine B. Kelley
 Polly N. and Bob Kennison
 Stanley and Violet Kimball
 Dr. and Mrs. Duane Kline, Jr.
 Richard and Mary Koch
 Robert and Rosemary LaRue
 John Latschar
 Jean Leamon
 James Lee
 Dorman Lehman
 A. S. Littlefield
 Patricia Loomis
 Robert F. Lute II
 Michael Luther
 Milton T. Madden
 Howard and Barbara Magerl
 Dr. Hal and Sharon Manhart
 Ross and Jana Marshall
 Gene and Mary Martin
 Chuck and Mary Ellen Martin
 Kendall and Elaine McNabney
 James T. and Elaine Miller
 Sylvia D. Mooney
 Steve and Anna Moore
 Mary Mueller
 Mary Olch
 Loretta A. Olds
 Oregon Trail Museum Assoc.
 Milton and June Otto
 Stephen and Mary Jo Pahs

Janet K. Pease
 Mr. and Mrs. Carl Pfaff
 Duane and Joyce Plyter
 Gordon L. Pouliot
 Mrs. E. W. Puckett
 Doyle Reed
 Aileen Barker Richard
 Clair and Virginia Ricketts
 Betty Scheinost
 Paul N. Scherbel
 Earl and Patricia Schmidt
 Raymond E. Schoch
 Randolph W. Seed
 Harold H. Seyferth
 Robert H. Shikes
 Marc Simmons
 Art Siverling
 Ron and Marcia Smith
 Malcolm E. Smith
 John E. Stadler
 Jay and Leo Stovall
 Mort and Fran Sumberg
 Irv and Mable Sutton
 Sweetwater Co Historical Museum
 Fran Taplin
 Marsha E. Tate
 Mike and Sandi Taylor
 Ed Tobin
 Frank and Mary Ann Tortorich
 April Hess Townley
 Lee Underbrink
 Ann M. Van Hoff
 Ron Volk
 Pennie Lynn Von Achen
 Theodore F. Votoe
 Harold and Marge Waitman
 George and June Watkins
 Bill and Jeanne Watson
 Edgar and Caroline Weber
 Sandra K. Wiechert
 Arlan D. Zimmerman
 Wilbur Zink
 Charles and Lorraine Zimm
 Herman and Betty Zittel

Order Today

Saving a Legacy: The Oregon-California Trail

Order your copy of OCTA's new educational video.

The story of the trails in an original 20-minute video. To be enjoyed and shared with friends, neighbors, schools, historical and civic organizations.

Produced by OCTA with funding by the National Park Service.

Executive Producer John Krizek
Written and directed by Larry Fritz



\$12 each, plus \$3.95 shipping

Supplies Limited

Emigrant Names: The CD

A searchable database of more than 66,000 names of individuals who took part in the Overland Emigration.

Produced by OCTA's Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED) project.



\$29.95, plus \$3.85 shipping.

To order, visit the OCTA Bookstore on the web at www.octa-trails.org
Or call, toll free, 1-888-811-6282. Major credit cards accepted.

Editor Applications

OCTA is accepting applications for three positions involving publication of *News From the Plains* and the *Overland Journal*.

Overland Journal Graphic Design Supervisor, *Overland Journal* Editor and *News From the Plains* Editor

are contract positions that include modest fees for services.

To apply send a letter of interest, resume and work samples to:
OCTA, P.O. Box 1019,
Independence MO 64051.

A full job description for each of the positions is available from OCTA headquarters.

The deadline for applications is May 1, 2003.

Contracts will be awarded at the Board of Directors meeting in August.

Association Manager

The Oregon-California Trails Association, a 4,000 member historic/preservation association, is seeking a professional Association Manager.

Applicants must demonstrate skills in fundraising, grant writing, membership development, marketing, business administration, promotion and public relations.

Salary \$45,000-plus, based on qualifications.
Position is based in Independence, MO.

Applications due July 1, 2003.

For a full job description and other details, contact the

Oregon-California Trails Association,
P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051
(816) 252-2276.
E-mail OCTA@indepmo.org

2003 OCTA Membership Roster Additions/Corrections

Adams, Randy
2610 Main St
Torrington WY 82240
307/532-3853

Arno, Carolyn
14688 SE Berkshire Ave
Clackamas OR 97015
503/558-9381
carolynarno@earthlink.net

Bell, John
413 Houston Ave.
PO Box 169
Strawn TX 76475-0169
jbell@txol.net

Boyes, Joseph
9822 Coral Cove Cir
Huntington Beach CA
92646-7503

Cayton, Mr. and Mrs. Paul
805 S Water
Maysville MO 64469
816/449-2931

Chiles, John
220 Hillside Ave
Piedmont CA 94611
jchiles@jefco.com

Clion, Susanne
415-A Jeremiah Dr
Simi Valley CA 93065
805/584-1468
clionzermatt@aol.com

Collins, Cheryl
2309 Claflin Rd
Manhattan KS 66502

Colvin, Pirky
295 N. Broadway St #131
Orcutt CA 93455
805/934-0881
pirkybob@msn.com

Conley, Mr. and Mrs. Russell
PO Box 1236
Casper WY 82602
307/234-3211

Dary, David
1113 Robin Hood Lane
Norman OK 73072
405/366-0071
ddary@cox.net

Dellen, Marie
3320 Claflin Rd
Manhattan KS 66503

Eck, Gary and Genice
3045 Elk Run Dr
Park City UT 84098
435/655-8402
gae@xmission.com

Farnsworth, Craig
3710 So 4400 W
West Valley City UT 84120
801/969-9207
craig@colort.com

German, Brent and Annette
2651 N 231st W
Andale KS 67001
316/444-2164
brentgerman@sbcglobal.net

German, Gene and Patsy
1133 Bull Run
Richardson TX 75080
ggerman@utdallas.edu

Godwin, Allen
506 Central St NE
Olympia WA 98506-4455
360/754-6508

Gubler, Kendall
387 W Rosewood Circle
Cedar City UT 84720
435/586-6807
kgubler@netutah.com

Hammer, Erin
375 Mt Arter Loop
Lander WY 82520
307/332-9441

Hanson, Robin
5035 Louisiana Ave
St Louis MO 63111
hansonra@slu.edu

Hartin, Arlene
2301 E St
Eureka CA 95501-4126
707/443-8841

Henry, Bill and Laurie
408 N 2nd
Westmoreland KS 66549

Holsclaw, Patricia
1274 Crestwood Drive
Morgantown WV 26505
304/599-4206
gpholsclaw@yahoo.com

Huffman, Barbara and Michael
32432 S Skyline Drive
Cookson OK 74427
918/457-3330
barbarahuffman@earthlink.net

Johnson, David
3935 Morehead Ave
Chico CA 95928
530/345-7829

Johnson, Jim
11 Sanderling Court
Durham NC 27713
dremel395@aol.com

Johnson, Richard
1327 Whisler St NE
Lacey WA 98516-5651
360/456-0567

Johnson, William
University of Kansas
200 W Washington
Tonganoxie KS 66086
913/845-3877
wej@ku.edu

Kelsay, Ray
2025 SW Nancy Drive
Gresham OR 97080-8326
rkelsay@attbi.com

Kreutzer, Lee
PO Box 58573
Salt Lake City UT 84158
801/532-4187

Lande, Robert and Jeri
1211 Ballard St
Silver Springs MD 20910

Lawson, Scott
500 Jackson St
Quincy CA 95971
530/283-6106
suzscot@psln.com

Lloyd, Dee
292 Country Club Circle
Spring Creek NV 89815
775/753-0237

Marakis, Shirley and Ted
4475 Sonia Rose Court
Salt Lake City UT 84124
801/272-2125
theo1@sisna.net

Mason, Ronald and Naomi
12914 303rd Drive SE
Sultan WA 98294
360/793-6574

McCarthy, Jim
5716 Maplewood Drive
Ogden UT 84405
najimac@aol.com

Miller, Tony
316 Lawrence Ave
Lawrence KS 66049
785/331-4592
tonymil@exmsft.com

Morgenthaler, Eric
6244 Rosewood
Mission KS 66205
913/362-8655
emorgentha@aol.com

Murray-Abreo, A Ruth
PO Box 314
Murphys CA 95247-0314
murabreo@goldrush.com

National Frontier Trails Center
John Mark Lambertson,
Director
318 West Pacific
Independence MO 64050

Neckameyer, Lee
3307 W Chandler Blvd
Burbank CA 91505
323/868-1184

Parker, Spencer
1145 Newmark Way
Folsom CA 95630
916/983-1321
parkerspencer@yahoo.com

Pipal, Ruth
3649 S 4th Ave #108
Yuma AZ 85365
928/726-1975

Rayburn, Mark
PO Box 1293
Westwood CA 96137
530/256-3149

Roberts, Trevor
PO Box 1979
San Mateo CA 94401

Rodgers, Tom and Shelley
1293 Walden Rd
Walnut Creek CA 94597
925/934-6538
tomrogers@value.net

Salazar, Mary
5692 Glen Drive
Foresthill CA 95631
530/367-2747
gmni@foothill.net

Seed, James
4317 88th Ave SW
Olympia WA 98512-9332
360/754-6379
jimni479@attbi.com

Smith, Bill
US Forest Service
11 Premier Court
Chico CA 95928
chicobil@cwnet.com

Steele, Charles and Kathy
2016 Co Rd 269
Bertram TX 78605
512/355-2764

Storm, Sharon
835 Skylark Dr
Chico CA 95926
530/342-0035
mstorm@csuchico.edu

Taylor, Sarah
9179 NW Mills Rd
Portland OR 97231

Turrentine, Don and Gayle
7146 Summit Lane
Shawnee KS 66216-3723
913/248-1454
dg7146@aol.com

Warner, Nick
275 Hawthorne Ave #216
Palo Alto CA 94301
nwarner@simercury.com

Whipple, Dale
601 W 25th Drive
Burley ID 83318

Wittman, Sonja
2459 S Camano Drive
Camano Island WA 98282
360/387-1900

Zowney, Tom and Susan
7155 NE Juniper Ridge Rd
Redmond OR 97756-9767
541/923-1345
zowney@coinet.com

ERRATA

Corrections/changes for the 2003
OCTA Membership Directory:

New or corrected e-mail:

Dick Pingrey
rjpingrey@charter.net

Dr. John Crowley and
Dr. Linda L. Clements
clements@775.net

Gerald A. Carbiener
GACarbiener@aol.com

Frank and Mary Ann Tortorich
wagonwheel@volcano.net

Peter H. DeLafosse
delafoss@xmission.com

Ross and Jana Marshall
rossmarshall@mindspring.com

Francis Cuppage
pgcuppage@aol.com

Corrine Rickner
rickncd@megavision.com

Name Corrections:

Ginger Wordsworth, should be
Ginger Wadsworth (page 32)

Peter De LaFosse, last name
should be De Lafosse (page 8)

Address Corrections:

Dr. Sally True
1118 Kaili St. Honolulu HI
96819-3431 (page 30)

Shirley S. Poage
PO Box 595 Tokeland WA
98590-0595 (page 24)

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indep. MO
Permit No. 244

Inside the News

- OCTA Board Meeting Report**
- COED Program Update**
- OCTA Bites the "Little Apple"**
- Website Gets New Look**
- 2001-02 Financial Report**
- Saving Alcove Spring**