



## Nevada Trail Segment Preserved

Compiled by Candy Moulton

An urgent message went out to OCTA members in early February, sent by OCTA member Dave Hollecker, who also serves as President of Trails West. "A segment of the Beckwourth Trail on a parcel in north Reno is under consideration by Washoe County, the owner, to be sold as surplus land. This decision will be made on February 10 by the County Board of Commissioners at their regular session which starts at 2 p.m. This parcel, which is between Lemmon and Golden Valley roads on North Hills Blvd., contains a beautiful wagon swale, a segment of the first paved Nevada highway circa 1923 and Trails West marker, B4."

Hollecker said there was a "mixed feeling" about the property's "value as a historic feature" but he added, "I need your e-mails to the Commissioners asking them to permanently withdraw this parcel from public sale." He went on to give specific details about the location of the trail segment and address information for the Washoe County Commissioners.

Two weeks later, Hollecker sent out another e-mail: The commissioners had voted not to sell the property including the segment of the Beckwourth Trail. "Many of those who spoke at the hearing were black leaders in our community," he wrote. "The commission was impressed with the number of

*Continued on Page 7*



Nevada's first paved highway, left, built in 1905, is adjacent to the remaining trail remnant of the 1851 Beckwourth Trail. *Photo Courtesy of Dave Hollecker.*

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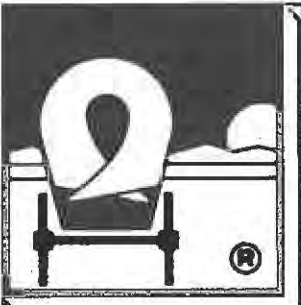
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OCTA Board Committee Assignments for 2003-2004

Table with 3 columns: COMMITTEE C, COMMITTEE B, COMMITTEE A. Lists various roles like Preservation, Collections, Finance, Governance, Headquarters Operation, etc.



News From The Plains

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News From the Plains
is published quarterly
by the
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Trails Association

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WHAT'S HAPPENING...

April 15
"The Challenge of Trail
Preservation: Land Use
Conflicts"
7 p.m., Pony Express Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri

April 16-18
OCTA Board Meeting
Independence, Missouri

May 19-23
Mormon History Association
Conference
Provo, Utah
Info: 888/642-3678

June 5
National Trails Day

June 5-6
NW Chapter Trail Mapping
Workshop
Columbia Gorge Discovery
Center
The Dalles, Oregon

August 11-14
OCTA Convention
Vancouver, Washington

## From the President

Richard Pingrey

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Dear Fellow OCTA Members,

There is a lot happening and I will try to direct your attention to some of the more important items. All of you should have received a letter from me with material for the Board of Directors written by Preservation Officer Dave Welch enclosed. Both my letter and Dave's material were in response to Lesley Wischmann's resignation letter. The point being that we fully agree with Lesley that OCTA needs to take major steps right now to strengthen its preservation efforts. It is easy to say, yes we need to do this or that, but it is another thing to get the job done. OCTA's officers, OCTA's Board of Directors and OCTA's membership must get involved with their actions and not just their words. We need a financial commitment, we need a training commitment and we need a volunteer commitment.

We will take the first major step at the April Board of Directors meeting during a two-day session on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> that precedes the formal Board meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. The meeting will be held in Independence and all OCTA members are invited and encouraged to attend. I won't attempt to summarize the plans to make our preservation work more effective except to say that Dave Welch has developed a sound working plan. Now it is up to the rest of us to support that plan. All kinds of help is needed from the person who volunteers to monitor a particular section of the trail for potential development activities to people who sit at home and process the paper work. It is a great opportunity for many people to lend a hand.

Preservation is just one of many areas where we need to make progress. We need more people to participate in all phases of chapter work. Many chapters do not even have a membership secretary. That is a task where much of the work can be done from your own home. Chapters need to develop a speaker's bureau, a group of volunteers, who can tell the story of the westward overland migration and OCTA's work to preserve the trails and their history to community groups, to students and many others. If you go to a speaking engagement equipped with the OCTA video, a presentation is a snap for even

the most timid public speaker. You simply play the video, hand out some brochures and answer any questions.

As most of you know, I am not a historian and I am certainly not an author, nor do I have any particular expertise to bring to the office of OCTA's president. I serve in the position with a firm desire to see us accomplish our goals, to preserve the trails and their history, to grow our organization and to tell others about the people that traveled over the trails to make the West part of the American Nation. I consider my role to be much like that of a cheerleader working to get the crowd involved. Every member has an opportunity to participate to some degree or another. It can be as small a thing as writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or as large as heading a committee or running for OCTA's Board of Directors. The point being, no one person alone can make OCTA succeed. It takes the effort of a great many pulling together. Think of the effort our ancestors made as they traveled west over the trails and how they worked together day after day to help each other reach their destination. If we believe in what OCTA stands for, can we do less than lend a helping hand and honor those that come west over the trails?

### OCTA Annual Convention

Vancouver, Washington

August 10-14, 2004

Trail Tours  
Special Music Programs  
Awards  
Papers  
Workshops  
Banquets and Barbecues

**Plan now to attend!**

# Association Manager's Report

Travis Boley  
Tboleym@indepmo.org

During the five months that I've been on the job, several OCTA members passed away. OCTA members call headquarters here in Independence, Missouri, wondering if there's a memorial fund to which they can contribute in order to ensure the lasting memory of these fine people. I can tell from the numerous letters, phone calls and e-mails we've received that these folks were well-liked and highly regarded. And although I joined the organization too late to meet these people, I feel like I know them somewhat from the comments that I hear and read. I know I certainly missed out by never having met them.

Though OCTA has long accepted memorials on behalf of deceased loved ones, there has never been an official outlet set up to accept such donations. We here at headquarters are now pleased to announce that a memorial fund is in place. All such donations in the future will go into an endowment fund, meaning the principle will never be touched and the designee's legacy will live on in perpetuity.

In addition, all such memorials will be posted in the quarterly newsletter and on OCTA's website ([www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)). A plaque will also hang in the headquarters' building that will forever memorialize deceased OCTA members. This plaque will be displayed at all OCTA conventions.

I am in the process of adding a new section to the website. This will be the obituary section. If you would like to add an obituary to the site, please forward it to me at [tboleym@indepmo.org](mailto:tboleym@indepmo.org). An additional link at the end of each obituary will allow you to send a memorial to OCTA via a secure link with a credit card. Of course, you can still send a check or money order to headquarters.

It's a difficult task that we face in overcoming the loss of these key individuals. But by memorializing and contributing to OCTA's endowment, you can ensure that the legacy of your loved one continues on well into the future.

## Janet Dee (Jana) Marshall

OCTA Charter member Janet Dee (Jana) Marshall, 66, of Merriam, Kansas, died Jan., 2004, at the Specialty Hospital of Mid-America.

Jana was born December 1, 1937 in Amarillo, Texas. In 1956, she married Richard Charles Kardell and they had three children. In 1964, she moved to Kansas City and entered the real estate business, selling and building homes, while continuing to raise her children. On February 20, 1982, she married William Ross Marshall, who also had three children. She retired from real estate in 1999.

Jana had fought a courageous battle with ovarian cancer since 1989. Many surgeries and treatments took place during the last fourteen years, but she never despaired, always depended on the Lord, and was an inspiration to all her friends and relatives. For the last twelve years, she had coordinated the Christian Cancer Support Group under the sponsorship of the Kansas City Kansas

Baptist Association. Over those years, she touched countless lives as she encouraged and prayed with people who had cancer. Her ministry will be greatly missed.

During her illness, she remained a very active person, in addition to her work and ministry. Among her activities were traveling with her husband, particularly on historic trails—she often did the driving while he narrated for trails treks—and sites all over the nation, playing golf, skiing, racing sailboats and family relationships.

She is survived by husband William Ross Marshall; two daughters, Karon Sue McGovern and Kana Lynn Steinmeyer; a son, Kenneth Allen Kardell, her sister, brother, nine grandchildren and one step-grandchild.

Contributions in her name may be made to the Memorial Fund at Nall Avenue Baptist Church in Merriam, Kansas, or to the American Cancer Society.

# Headquarters Manager's Report

Kathy Conway

KConway@indepmo.org

As we prepare for the Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting here in Independence April 16-18, we invite all our members, especially those who have concerns about emigrant trails preservation, to attend. The first two days of meetings will be held at the Olive Branch Inn, 200 N. Delaware, and the official board meeting will be held on Sunday, April 18, in the National Frontier Trail Museum's auditorium. (For more information see the agenda on page 11 of this newsletter.)

OCTA has always accepted memorial funds when donations are made in memory of a deceased member. However, we now have gone a step further in honoring our dear friends and members. (See Travis Boley's article about the specifics). Since the first of this year we have received donations in memory of both Bob Wier and Harold Soeters.

Richard Edwards, Education/Special Events Coordinator for the National Frontier Trails Museum, recently sent OCTA a nice "thank you" note for our donation of several children's books to be used in their Traveling Teacher Resource Trunk. This donation included all three of our workbooks, *Reading, Writing and Riding Along the Oregon-California Trails*, *Finding the Right Place* and

*Following Lewis and Clark's Track*. Richard writes "the addition of these publications greatly enhances the opportunities teachers have when teaching students about westward expansion generally, and life on the trails specifically." Truly, our pleasure, Richard!

On Sunday, March 14, the National Frontier Trails Museum planned to celebrate fur trapper and early explorer Jim Bridger's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday (Bridger's birthday was March 17). The celebration included the unveiling of a statue in his honor. The statue depicts Bridger as a young man out on the frontier and is the work of sculptor Tom Beard who generously donated his time and talent for this project. Funds for the casting of the statue were raised by gifted students of the Jim Bridger 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center in Independence who are sponsored by OCTA member Judi Wollenziehn. In 2002, Judi won OCTA's Outstanding Educator Award. The Bridger statue will reside on the NFTM grounds on the west side of the building.

Lastly, don't forget to order OCTA's latest video, *Across the Kansas Prairie: Riding On a Modern-Day Wagon Train*. We now have it in stock and it is only \$15 (P&H \$4).

# Trail Journal

Candy Moulton

NFP Editor

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As I told Bill Martin, former editor of *News From the Plains*, who continues to serve as chair of the OCTA publications committee and therefore who reads proof for each issue of the newsletter, the difficult part about putting this quarterly newsletter together is reading about all of the trail activities and knowing you cannot take part.

For example, the Idaho chapter has an active trail marking program underway and you can read about some recent activities completed as late in the season as November and December of 2003. Then there are the trail programs planned by the Gateway

and Trails Head Chapters this spring, plus tours conducted by the Crossroads Chapter members. You can read all about those activities and a lot more inside this issue.

My sincere thanks to those of you who have submitted articles for this publication, please continue to do so and, as we say in the newspaper business, I'll continue to run "All the news that fits."

Summer Issue *News From the Plains*

Deadline: May 20, 2004

## From the Mailbag

### Wyoming OCTA Chapter Responds to Trail Concerns

Editor:

Wyoming OCTA appreciates the time Lesley Wischmann put into administering the OCTA website and as a member of the National OCTA Board of Directors. Her resignation is a loss to OCTA.

There are, however, two sides to every story. Wyoming OCTA would like to air ours.

Martin's Cove. At Congresswoman Barbara Cubin's (R-WYO) Congressional inquiry meeting in Casper, Wyoming, National OCTA did submit a letter opposing the sale of Martin's Cove to the LDS Church. Wyoming OCTA did not take a position because, honestly, some members were not opposed to the sale. Instead of a purchase, the LDS church negotiated a 25-year lease from the Bureau of Land Management. A good thing to come from that lease is that the public, including OCTA, now has access to the site where previously there was no access. In the past, people, if they had any inkling of the tragedy which transpired, would point in the general direction and say, "I heard some people froze to death over in that draw." Now Martin's Cove seems to be in caring, responsible hands and is not being abused.

In 2003 there were 80,000 visitors to the Martin's Cove area, most of whom did not go over Rocky Ridge or climb Independence Rock.

Rocky Ridge: The damage done by the huge numbers of LDS handcarts, which went over Rocky Ridge is very obvious. However, the Bureau of Land Management, which controls this area, has now regulated travel over the ridge to prevent further damage. Vehicles must go around the rocky portion.

Independence Rock: Independence Rock is a Wyoming Highway Department of Transportation rest stop as well as an historical site supervised by the Wyoming Parks and Cultural Resources Department. Many groups, including the Boy Scouts, Masons and LDS tours (all of whom have historical connections with Independence Rock), stop here. Large groups need to ask permission of the Independence Rock Park Superintendent for special activities. Visitors are encouraged to walk the path around the base or climb up the granite monolith if they have the desire, time, and health to do so. Independence Rock is a showcase for viewing the Oregon-California Trail, reading the

history and getting a feel of pioneer times, which is what OCTA promotes. OCTA has no jurisdiction or responsibility at this historical site.

Oil & Gas Companies: Wyoming is a large state with remnants of several major emigrant trails still visible. With enormous reserves of energy, Wyoming is ripe for exploration and development. Anadarko Petroleum, Colorado Interstate Gas Company and Shell Oil have been very cooperative in attempting to preserve trail evidence and still pursue their energy development objectives. These companies have legitimate federal government oil and gas leases in which they must invest money and need to determine the possibilities of oil and/or gas production.

Currently there is a quarter-mile wide portion of land on either side of the emigrant trails which has restricted use. No development is allowed and the energy companies honor this commitment. Presently Wyoming is in a gas boom with many wells being drilled. As long as there is a demand by each of us as businesses and individuals, this activity will continue. It is important to keep open lines of communications to protect the trails.

Dave Welch, OCTA Preservation Officer, has been active in Wyoming trail protection. Wyoming OCTA members have also been doing their job. After the [August] 2003 meeting in Rawlins with Anadarko, Devon Oil & Gas, BLM and OCTA, Anadarko paid for a mapping of the Overland Trail across southern Wyoming so exploration damage could be avoided. Wyoming OCTA members Bill and Gail Robinson, Fern and Fred Linton and Tom McKutcheon accompanied consultants to inform them of specific sites and the importance of preserving them. Don Hartley, Preservation Officer for Western Wyoming, is also aware of ongoing activities. Anadarko's contributions are especially valuable because other funds are not available to finance trail mapping.

SHPO (Wyoming's State Historic Preservation Office) has hired a person to map the eastern sections of the Overland and Cherokee Trails. When Colorado Interstate Gas Company put in a gas pipeline in the eastern portion of the state, they made a substantial

*Continued on next page*

# Nevada Trail Segment *Continued from front page*

e-mails 'from around the country' as one commissioner remarked perhaps two dozen or more e-mails were sent by OCTA and Trails West members (90 percent of all TW members are OCTA members)."

Hollecker added, "I still have some things to do that [were] asked for by the Washoe County Commission to finalize the 'non-sale' and will get that done in the next few weeks. The saving of this Beckwourth parcel was a TEAM effort; it wouldn't have happened without the involvement of those who responded to the request of e-mailing the commissioners to save the swale."

Interest in the land parcel caught the attention of the Reno *Gazette-Journal*, which ran several articles about the proposed surplus land sale, and the eventual action to preserve the land by removing 3.3 acres from the surplus property list. In making their unanimous decision, the commissioners agreed they wanted to protect the wagon swale and potentially build a small museum nearby in the future. In 2002 the land had been valued at \$370,000.

Beckwourth is possibly the most famous black frontiersman of the early West. Born as a slave in Virginia in 1798, the son of Sir Jennings Beckwith, Beckwourth was freed by his father in 1824 and he

came west to work as a fur trader, army scout, mountain man, explorer, and rancher. He had an early trading post near Pueblo, Colorado, and another at Taos, New Mexico, and was adopted into the Crow tribe. He arrived in California in 1844 and built and opened the Beckwourth Trail in 1851 after discovering the low pass in 1850. He started the War Horse Ranch and trading post in Sierra Valley in 1852.

Hollecker told the *Gazette-Journal* the first wagon trains crossed the Beckwourth Trail to California in 1851, leaving the green grass and the clear water of the Truckee Meadows, by traveling north over on a rocky road, now U.S. 395, to the base of Peavine Peak, where they found another water hole.

From there, Hollecker said, the emigrants crossed Cold Springs Valley and traveled along Long Valley to Beckwourth Pass and onward to Quincy and Oroville. Hollecker said around 100,000 of 350,000 emigrants who headed west from 1843 to 1855 crossed the Sierra on the trail blazed by Jim Beckwourth.

The Beckwourth Trail runs along a section of the first paved highway in Nevada built in 1905. Called the "Three Flags Highway," it once stretched from Canada to Mexico, Hollecker said.

## Wyoming OCTA Responds

*Continued from previous page*

contribution which went to SHPO's website. Randy Brown, one of OCTA's leading trail authorities, had hoped some of this money would go to OCTA for trail preservation, but instead it was directed to SHPO. Other mitigation funds for trail preservation have been requested from Shell Oil because of depredation along the Lander Road. This cooperation comes as a

result of efforts of Dick Ackerman, former OCTA Preservation Officer.

Wyoming OCTA is the primary defender of all the trails in Wyoming, protecting, educating and supporting wise use. It is important that all who love these trails pull together to maintain the present condition.

Wyoming OCTA

### Additional 2003-2004 Fund Raising Campaign Contributors

Bate, William and Sharyn  
Brown, Judy  
Carbiener, Gail and Muriel  
Carter, D. Robert and Lyndia  
Clark, Robert and Sheila  
Conrad, Mary E.  
Coolidge, Robert C.  
Corder, Robert L.  
Fletcher, Jack E. and Pat

Hoffman, Cheryl and Gilbert  
Iverson, Robert A.  
Jones, Leon  
Kennell, Edna and Jim  
Kennison, Polly N.  
Learnon, Jean  
Lund, Sarah  
Marshall, Ross  
Martin, Bill and Dianne

McGeeney, Michele  
Miller, Howard and Bonnie  
Neiderheiser, Joe  
Owen, James T.  
Parks, M. Lethene  
Peters, Paul and Vicki  
Shellenberger, Robert and Alice  
Sicotte, Zeke and Nancy  
Smoot, David

Snyder, Arthur and Margaret  
Speiden, Bill  
Wagner, Randall A.  
Welch, David and Wendy  
Werner, Gary  
Wood, Alexa  
Zahorkfsky, Gary M.

## OCTA Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2002-2003

By Doug Brown  
OCTA Treasurer

Over the past year, OCTA's operations brought in more revenue than what was expended. The year ended with a surplus of \$33,600 even after factoring in net losses of \$4,518 in the OCTA Endowment Fund. The majority of our programs did not spend what was budgeted, which was the main reason for the surplus. Though our revenues did not meet budgeted amounts, we were slightly better than last year and the related conservative spending in most programs gave us our results.

OCTA does have an enviable position in relation to other non-profit organizations in that it does have established endowment funds and some reserves for the

short term. In the past year, we did not need to use the interest from the endowments or dip into the reserves for operations. Continued support through the annual campaign, contributions to the endowment funds, and support of the annual conventions are essential to our progress.

As noted above, we had net realized losses in the OCTA Endowment Fund but this is misleading. This past year yielded favorable returns for the endowments as we have unrealized gains in the endowments in excess of \$115,000. This still does not bring us back to prior levels, but it does help reestablish the endowment funds at more viable levels. The major uncertainties of the stock market still make it appropriate for professional managers to handle our endowment portfolio.

### Statement of Financial Position

	September 30, 2003	September 30, 2002
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash:		
Operating Account	71718.83	86654.50
Convention Account	499.24	680.48
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>72218.07</b>	<b>87334.98</b>
Investments (Endowment Funds):		
GKC Fndn Inv - Unrestricted	14941.63	13056.86
GKC Fndn Inv - Restricted	328654.52	239067.14
GKC Fndn Inv - Martin - Restricted	183633.30	151950.65
GKC Fndn Inv - Loomis	156098.58	128982.69
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>683328.03</b>	<b>533057.34</b>
Other Assets		
Accounts Receivable - Merchandise	3017.22	2548.12
NPS Grant Receivable	4108.33	0.00
Advance - Convention Expense	215.69	500.00
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>7341.24</b>	<b>3048.12</b>
Inventory - Merchandise:		
Total Inventory - Merchandise	34236.64	32121.07
Fixed Assets:		
Furniture & Fixtures	8946.53	8946.53
Office Equipment	20322.32	20322.32
Less: Accum Depreciation	-28325.33	-27665.10
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>943.52</b>	<b>1603.75</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>798067.50</b>	<b>657165.26</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	322.76	7910.93
Santa Fe Trail Store Account	139.00	222.60
Colorado Chapter Funds	488.40	488.40
Payroll Taxes Payable	789.78	855.35
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1739.94</b>	<b>9477.28</b>
Retained Revenue Over Expense	647687.98	678964.87
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	115039.54	-53188.24
Current Revenue Over Expenses	33600.04	21911.35
Total	796327.56	647687.98
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>798067.50</b>	<b>657165.26</b>



*News From the Plains*  
**Oregon - California Trails Association**  
**Statement of Activities**

	2002 - 2003			2001-2002
	Annual Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget	Actual
<b>Support and Revenues</b>				
Support:				
Annual Dues Income	87000.00	85339.00	1661.00	86059.00
Life Memberships	2000.00	2000.00	0.00	1750.00
Donations - Unrestricted	25784.00	9125.37	16658.63	16249.65
Donations - Restricted Endowment	28000.00	28309.00	-309.00	13418.00
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>142784.00</b>	<b>124773.37</b>	<b>18010.63</b>	<b>117476.65</b>
Revenues:				
Library Subscriptions	2800.00	2725.00	75.00	2740.00
Advertising (OJ & NFP)	1200.00	1790.00	-590.00	1090.00
COED Fees	850.00	836.00	14.00	1066.00
OCTA Sales Revenue (Net of Costs)	18860.00	27500.95	-8640.95	19166.78
Book Publications	4000.00	392.37	3607.63	364.39
Convention Revenue (Net of Expenses)	20000.00	33495.48	-13495.48	37433.96
Endowment Int & Div Inc, Net of Fees	14800.00	8211.80	6588.20	12847.54
Endowment Capital Gain (Losses)	0.00	-12729.60	12729.60	-28779.14
Interest Income - Checking Accts	1200.00	1160.93	39.07	1113.53
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	50.00	-50.00	22.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>63710.00</b>	<b>63432.93</b>	<b>277.07</b>	<b>147065.06</b>
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenues</b>	<b>206494.00</b>	<b>188206.30</b>	<b>18287.70</b>	<b>164541.71</b>
Expenses				
Officers	3958.00	2544.86	1413.14	4456.95
Committees	16454.00	15746.20	707.80	8436.36
Headquarters	77020.00	79142.82	-2122.82	73538.14
Preservation	9700.00	6150.14	3549.86	7466.15
Publications	64236.00	48548.48	13087.52	45835.02
Endowment Contribution	31800.00	0.00	31800.00	0.00
Other	3940.00	2473.76	1466.24	2897.74
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>207108.00</b>	<b>154606.26</b>	<b>49901.74</b>	<b>42630.36</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over Expenses</b>	<b>-614.00</b>	<b>33600.04</b>	<b>-31614.04</b>	<b>21911.35</b>

**Net Revenues for Selected Activities**

	FY 03	FY 02	FY 01	FY 00
Convention	\$ 33,495.00	\$ 37,433.00	\$ 32,415.00	\$28,532.00
OCTA Store Sales	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 19,166.00	\$ 21,695.00	\$16,486.00

	Revenues from Operations		
	FY 2003	FY 2002	FY 2001
Total Revenues	\$192,723.80	\$180,473.31	\$165,338.01
Total Expenditures	\$154,606.26	\$142,630.36	\$155,240.10
Operating Income	\$ 38,117.85	\$ 37,842.95	\$ 10,097.91
	FY 2003	FY 2002	FY 2001
Endowment Interest Income	\$ 8,211.80	\$ 12,847.54	\$ 11,495.78
Endowment Capital Gain (Loss)	(\$12,729.90)	(\$28,779.14)	(\$116,610.89)

## Volunteer Activities Help Fund Trails Preservation

The hours OCTA volunteers spend on trails preservation can pay dividends far beyond the individual effort involved.

Annual reports of volunteer hours, miles and expenses help OCTA obtain Congressional dollars to support the federal agencies that manage and administer our trails. They also are important in determining Challenge Cost Share Project dollars and Land & Water Conservation Grants that support chapter and national trail preservation projects.

During 2003, OCTA members contributed 75,635 volunteer hours plus volunteered expenses, including mileage, for a total contribution valued at \$1,526,014.

Under Congressional rules, the total federal funding granted to OCTA through Challenge Cost Share projects, cooperative agreements and other agency funding was \$135,866.

Dividing OCTA's contribution by the federal funding received shows that OCTA contributed \$11.23 for each Federal dollar received.

To help track contributions for 2004, OCTA Trails Liaisons Bill and Jeanne Watson have created a simple work sheet. Keep it handy and record your activities this year.

**HOURS:** Record activity hours, including planning, travel and activity time for attending conventions, symposiums, trail treks, trail marking, chapter meetings, etc. Record actual hours spent on these activities.

**MILEAGE:** Record vehicle miles driven planning and participating in trail activities.

**EXPENSES:** Record un-reimbursed planning, travel, and activity expenses, including lodging, air fare, materials and supplies, etc. Congress also gives us credit for trail-related food and meal expenses.

At the end of the year, send your completed report to:

Bill & Jeanne Watson  
18 Warford Terrace  
Orinda, CA 94563

### Trails Volunteer Time & Expense Report -- Year 2004

<u>Date</u>	<u>Trail Activity</u>	<u>Volunteer Hours</u>	<u>Related Expenses</u>	<u>Miles</u>
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## OCTA's April Board Meeting Agenda Independence, Missouri

(Subject to Change)

### **Friday, April 16, 2004 Olive Branch Inn**

8:00 to 8:10 a. m.	Overview of the three days and President's report – Dick Pingrey
8:10 to 9:05 a. m.	Association Manager's report and question period – Travis Boley
9:05 to 10:00 a. m.	Headquarters Manager's report and issues – Kathy Conway
10:00 to 10:15 a. m.	Break
10:15 to 12:00 a. m.	Trail preservation issues (1 <sup>st</sup> session) – Dave Welch
12:00 to 1:00 p. m.	Lunch (A lunch will be served at the Olive Branch Inn)
1:00 to 3:00 p. m.	Trail preservation issues (2 <sup>nd</sup> session) – Dave Welch
3:00 to 3:15 p. m.	Break
3:15 to 4:15 p. m.	Publications report and discussion – Bill Martin & publications staff
4:15 to 4:30 p. m.	(End of open session) and Break
4:30 to 5:15 p. m.	Assoc. Mgr. Selection Committee (6 months performance review) (Committee members and Board members only in closed session)

### **Saturday, April 17, 2004 Olive Branch Inn**

8:00 to 8:45 a. m.	The Cherokee Trail research and status – Jack and Pat Fletcher
8:45 to 10:00 a. m.	Membership issues – Joyce Bolerjack, Travis Boley, Dick Pingrey
10:00 to 10:15 a. m.	Break
10:15 to 11:30 a. m.	Bylaws changes, review and discussion. – Committee B
11:30 to 12:00 noon	Policy Manual issues and update – Andy Hammond
12:00 to 1:00 p. m.	Lunch (Again lunch will be available at the Olive Garden Inn)
1:00 to 2:00 p. m.	Financial issues. Travis Boley, Doug Brown, Dick Pingrey, others.
2:00 to 2:30 p. m.	National Park Service cooperative agreements – Jere Krakow and others
2:30 to 3:00 p.m.	A long term collections policy – Jeanne Watson, Dick Pingrey
3:00 to 3:15 p.m.	Break
3:15 to 4:00 p. m.	New chapters & chapter development – Ross Marshall, Travis Boley
4:00 to 4:30 p. m.	Revenue enhancement efforts & programs. Travis Boley, Dick Pingrey
4:30 to 4:45 p. m.	A comparison of money budgeted and money spent. – Dave Welch
4:45 to 5:15 p. m.	(Discussion topic to be assigned at a later date)

### **Sunday, April 18, 2004 National Frontier Trails Center Auditorium Formal Board Meeting**

8:00	A.	Open the formal OCTA Board of Directors meeting.
	B.	Approval of the minutes of the proceeding meeting (Secretary).
	C.	Approval of the agenda
	D.	Reports of the Officers and Committees and action on recommendations. Officers: 1. President, 2. Vice President (Nominating) 3. Secretary 4. Treasurer, 5. Preservation Officer. Committees: 1. Board Committee A, 2. Board Committee B, 3. Board Committee C, 4. COED 5. Trails Liaison, 6. Collections, 7. Membership, 8. Publications, 9. Awards 10. Chapters, 11. (others depending upon what other committees are represented and have reports).
10:00 to 10:15 a. m.		Break
		Continuation of Committee Reports (If required)
	E.	Unfinished (Old) Business 1. Reaffirm committee and other appointments – Dick Pingrey 2. Review of the City of Independence-OCTA headquarter agreement – Jim Budde 3. Additional unfinished business (if any)
12:00 to 1:00		Lunch
	F.	New Business 1. Consideration of the new National Park Service – OCTA agreement – Dave Welch, Jere Krakow and Dick Pingrey 2. Additional unfinished business (if any)
	G.	Adjournment (We hope to finish no later than 2 p.m.)

## Pony Express Delivers the Mail

# Following the Cherokee Trail in Wyoming

Story and Photos by Quackgrass Sally

**T**here was heavy dew glistening in the tall grasses in Baggs, Wyoming, drenching the boots of the pony riders and their anxious horses' shod feet as they saddled them in the early morning sun. The mochila and mail bag of wagon train letters was locked, checked and re-checked, making sure all was in order for the event about to take place. A small crowd of onlookers and wagon train folk were on hand as the officially sworn in Pony Express Riders swung up atop their saddles... "ready to ride!"

These two XP riders were part of Ben Kern's Cherokee Trail Wagon Train, which had started June 6, 2003, in Flaming Gorge, re-creating the wagon trains which had traveled the Trail over 100 years before. Mike Owen, 13, of Casper, Wyoming and Quackgrass Sally, of Bridger, Montana, had rubber-stamped the hundreds of letters collected the first nine days along the Trail with a special "stamping," stating that all the mail was "wagon train mail, carried via Pony Express, along the historic Cherokee Trail." Quackgrass Sally is the Director of the Bunkhouse Outlaws Pony Express, a non-profit living history re-enactment organization, dedicated to the heritage and spirit of the 1860's Central Overland Pony Express and its riders. She and her "Outlaw Gang" have relayed via horseback and hand-canceled, over 132,000 pieces of U.S. Mail during the last 14 years. She is an OCTA member and an active life-time member of the National Pony Express Association, as well a member of Pony Express organizations in all eight states the Pony Express Trail crosses.

Atop their horses, Pacos and Quigley, the two Express riders rode into the Baggs post office, delivering the mail on time to the postmaster, who would hand-cancel each piece with the Cherokee Trail postal cancellation. This was the third special postal cancellation along the Cherokee Trail. In 2002, the Pony Express riders had a relay delivery of Wagon Train Mail to the postmasters in Fort Bridger and

Green River, Wyoming, during the first leg of the wagon-trek along the Cherokee.

After making their mail run in Baggs in June 2003, the members of Kern's Wagon Train traversed from the rolling prairie lands into



Mike Owen and Quackgrass Sally carry the Pony Express Mail on the Cherokee Trail.

the pine topped hills, headed to their destination, Encampment, Wyoming. They had encountered several wild horse herds along the way, including a couple of young stallions who enjoyed keeping the wagon folk awake all night running in and out of camp. Wind and thunder storms whipped tents and wagon canvases during some nights but it never dampened the pioneer spirit alive in this wagon train

## Pony Express Delivers



Larry "Tom Horn, Range Detective" Gomez rode with Ben Kern's Wagon Train across the Cherokee Trail in 2003, and is expected to be on the trail this June as well.

"family." When they arrived in Encampment on a hot summer afternoon, the cheers from folks along the streets felt fantastic. A wagon camp was set up in town where people could meet the wagon train members and get letters ready for the next afternoon's Pony Express delivery.

With clean clothes and smilin' trail tanned faces, the Cherokee Trail Wagon Train headed down Encampment's main street as part of the annual Woodchoppers Jamboree Parade on June 21, 2003. The Pony Express riders had mail stuffed into their mochila, ready for delivery at the end of the parade. The final postal cancellation of this "leg" of the wagon train's trek along the Cherokee would commemorate the "spirit" of all those who had traveled the Trail. Quackgrass Sally galloped to the Encampment post office, delivering the mail via Pony Express and feeling grateful to be part of the "living history" taking place along the tracks of this most pristine of historic trails.

Be lookin' out for the Pony Express riders this summer, as they and the wagon train continue their travels along the Cherokee Trail when Kern's Wagon Train travels the trail from Encampment, Wyoming, to Greeley, Colorado. If you want to send a letter on this year's wagon train get it to Quackgrass Sally, XP Ranch Station, Rt. 1 Box 1152, Bridger, MT 59014 before June 1. Don't forget to send YOUR mail, it's a once in a lifetime adventure and we're always "ready to ride!"

### OCTA's Newest Video Entitled - *Across The Kansas Prairie: Riding On A Modern-Day Wagon Train*



Join wagon train leaders Ken and Arleta Martin (OCTA Members) and 85 people, one-hundred miles, the old-fashioned way. Wagon train enthusiasts trace the footsteps of the pioneers as they ride across prairie and pastureland still graced with remnants of the emigrant trail. This entertaining and educational video follows a modern-day wagon train along the rolling hills of Northeast Kansas. Take a step back in time and see what our pioneer ancestors experienced. 25 Minutes Long, #1670, \$15.00.

Produced by OCTA, with funding by the National Park Service  
Executive Producer Jeri Krakow, written and directed by Larry Fritz

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web page: <http://OCTA-trails.org>

*Jumping August Nights in Vancouver:*

# Roll On, Columbia!

**By Dave Welch**  
**2004 Convention Chair**

The Vancouver convention will include no less than four nights of music and entertainment.

On the eve of the convention opening (Tuesday night, Aug. 10), three re-enactors will tell stories of Columbia River and Oregon Trail history. Susan Butruille will present the story of Abigail Scott Duniway, a trail emigrant who defied Victorian convention and started her own newspaper as a tool to win rights for women in the Northwest. This is followed by Tom Laidlaw as William Cannon, one of the most remarkable characters of the fur trade and early Oregon history. The evening will conclude with Carl Allen's musical presentation of Woodie Guthrie.



Phil and Vivian Williams, famous throughout the Northwest for their program "Fiddling Down the Oregon Trail," will present two programs. The first will be in a workshop context on Thursday afternoon where they will demonstrate various instruments and techniques while entertaining you with the trail music. You (and the OCTA Band) are encouraged to bring your instruments to play and learn.

The Williams' second program will be presented at the Saturday Night BBQ at the Pearson Air Museum on the Fort Vancouver National Historic Reserve. The BBQ will be catered by one of Vancouver's finest restaurants, Beaches, accompanied by the Williams' program of pioneer music. After dinner, a short program will be presented by the National Park Service and members of the Northwest chapter. We can expect a warm evening, growing cooler as the sun sets behind Fort Vancouver and the hills along the Columbia River.

Our fourth program is, as you might expect, Marv Ross and the Trail Band. Marv and his group made their first appearance with us in 1993 at the Baker City convention. They played a return engagement at Pendleton (1998) and we are pleased to have them on the program for 2004. They will present a program on Thursday night of the best of the Oregon Trail tunes and new material from the time of Lewis and Clark. As those who have seen the band know, they will take you from reflection and tears to toe-tapping, foot-stomping exuberance.

There is something for all in these wide-ranging programs. We hope you are making your plans to attend. The registration packet will be mailed in late April.

## Convention Overview

Pre-convention tours	August 8-10
Workshops	August 10 & 12
Official Convention Opening	August 11
Awards Banquet	August 11
Papers	August 11 & 12
Tours	August 13 & 14
BBQ at Fort Vancouver	August 14
Post-convention Tours	August 15

## Trails Advocacy Week

# Members Urged to Support Historic Trails Act

By Bill and Jeanne Watson  
OCTA Trails Liaisons

The help of every OCTA member is needed now for HR 1051 – **The Pioneer National Historic Trails Studies Act**. This bill awaits approval by the House Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Congressman Richard Pombo of California. Only after it receives committee approval can HR 1051 be voted upon by the full House membership.

This OCTA support needs to be a bi-partisan effort. Please write your Congressional representative immediately and ask him or her to support and co-sponsor this bill. It will authorize the study of additional routes for inclusion in the Oregon, California, Pony Express, and Mormon Pioneer Trails.

HR 1051 needs to be passed before Congress adjourns August 31, or it dies.

Note: Please do not send e-mails. They are only counted and placed in a pile. Please send a fax or a letter to your representative at their district headquarters or at their Washington office addressed as follows:

The Honorable (First & Last Name)  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 10515  
with the salutation,  
“Dear Congressman \_\_\_\_\_” or “Dear  
Congresswoman \_\_\_\_\_.”

If possible, please send a fax, as many Congress people no longer accept snail mail due to security concerns.

Background information: On February 26, during Trails Advocacy Week in Washington, DC, we learned that Congressman Doug Bereuter (NE-1) again asked Chairman Pombo for favorable action on HR 1051. Although similar legislation

was approved by the House during the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress it was not passed by the Senate until this 108<sup>th</sup> Congress.

This House bill matches the Senate bill wording.

FYI: Congressman Bereuter sponsored the 1992 legislation authorizing the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails. After 13 terms in Congress, he will retire August 31, 2004. His strong support on behalf of our trails will be greatly missed.

We were in Washington, D.C., along with Dick Pingrey, Ross Marshall and Travis Boley for Trails Advocacy Week. During the week the OCTA representatives presented two oak Nebraska Trails plaques created by Ken Martin to Congressman Doug Bereuter and his Legislative Aide, Alan Feyerherm, in appreciation of their support for OCTA and the National Pony Express Association.

The OCTA team distributed 50 OCTA packets during Advocacy Week to House, Senate and Administration members. The folders plus Oregon, California, and Pony Express Trails guides and a specially created 8 1/2 x 17 inch Nebraska Four Trails GIS map were provided by National Park Service Long Distance Trails Superintendent Jere Krakow and his staff. The GIS map of Nebraska illustrates to Congress the achievements from a significant supplemental Park Service appropriation four years ago.

The handout includes OCTA's 2003 Report to Congress of 75,635 volunteer hours plus unreimbursed expenses valued at \$1,526,014 and NPS authorized funding to OCTA of \$135,866. So, OCTA contributed \$11.23. for each federal dollar authorized.

An Advocacy Week summary will be in the Trails Liaison Committee report to the OCTA Spring Board meeting in April.

### Check Out These Deals

*Rush to Riches* (Hardcover) Regular \$55  
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edition and numbered set) Regular \$25  
Price Reduced to \$14

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# Preservation Report

David Welch  
Preservation Officer  
welchd@comcast.net

By now I hope you have read and digested Dick Pingrey's letter and the attached memo to the board suggesting a re-commitment to trail preservation as our number one priority. The responses I have received have been unanimously positive and often included an offer of help. So where do we go from here?

The next step will occur at the April board meeting where a number of actions and projects will be presented for the board's consideration. The proposed items include training programs and work in the field that will require extensive chapter involvement with many opportunities for volunteers. The difference from previous calls for help is that training programs will be provided if the board concurs.

Coincidentally, there has been a recent successful trail preservation activity that provides a model for future work. Near Reno, a parcel containing the last remnants of the Beckwourth Trail in Nevada was about to be sold as surplus by Washoe County. Development and loss of the trail remnants was a near certainty. As preservation officer, I was contacted by Tom Fee and asked what laws protected the ruts and swales. I responded that since the land was non-federal, there was probably no legal protection unless the county or state had adopted protective laws tied to the federal legislation. Frankly, I was pessimistic but I should not have been. Dave Hollecker (OCTA member and president of Trails West), Tom Fee and others weren't going to let it go.

In the end they were successful in getting the parcel withdrawn from sale. How was it done? I think there were four key factors:

1. A demonstrable passion for trails by those involved.
2. Strong local involvement (Hollecker and Fee). Local government officials respond to their constituents. In this case the local interest was backed up by a national

response showing interest beyond Washoe County and Nevada.

3. The response was based upon understanding the laws involved. In this case the protection afforded by the laws was weak, but recognition of this fact allowed the effort to focus on areas where we could succeed. The chapter preservation officer (Leslie Fryman) provided specific guidance. Her intercession with the State Historic Preservation Officer may pay other benefits in the long-run.
4. Thorough preparation. Dave Hollecker had the facts available when he was challenged as to whether this was or was not the Beckwourth Trail. This was absolutely essential for success.

Unfortunately, successful actions such as this are not common. How much trail is lost under similar circumstances when no one is even aware that an action is proposed? We urgently need volunteers who will work in their own area to monitor trail and trail impacts. We must have good local contacts so that we can know far in advance that an action is proposed that would cause the loss of trail.

Before closing, I would like to reassure those who may think we are trying to do too much or be too aggressive. None of the proposals being considered should be construed as leading OCTA to a confrontational approach for trail protection. Nor can we be emotional without a firm basis in facts and law. We can improve our preservation activities by building constructive relationships with federal, state and local governments, and private property and interest holders.



## News From The Chapters

### Gateway

The Overland Trails Lecture Series is the name given to several of Gateway Chapter's programs in a grant application written by OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley to the Missouri Humanities Council. The grant request is for assistance in bringing three programs on trail history to St. Joseph's audiences. Travis was generous with his time in writing the proposal narrative and deserves a hearty "thank you" for his efforts. Regardless of the funding outcome, the lectures will continue as planned.

The first lecture was slated for March 4, titled "Pre Civil War Border Wars," to be presented by Susan Church, board member of the Kansas City Civil War Roundtable. She is the director of the 1859 Jail and Marshal's Home Museum in

Independence. The second involves OCTA National Preservation Officer Dave Welch, who will present "The Challenge of Trail Preservation: Land Use Conflicts," April 15 at 7 p.m. at the Pony Express National Museum in St. Joseph.

A Gateway Chapter outing May 15 will involve a car caravan to inspect and replace carsonite trail markers in Doniphan and Brown Counties in Kansas, with Paul Dittmore, chapter preservation officer, leading the activity.

Chapter members are also planning a bus trip to the Frontier Trails Center, Bingham-Wagoner Home and Independence, Missouri, trail sites on June 5 as a National Trails Day celebration. The tour will be led by Ross Marshall.

### Trails Head

Arnold Cole is the new president of the Trails Head Chapter with Pat Traffas as vice president, Jim Lee as secretary, and Jim Budde as treasurer. The chapter held a program "Thomas Jefferson, the Louisiana Purchase and the preparations for the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-06" in February, presented by Ross Marshall.

The chapter will hold a bus tour May 8 to Lawrence and Lecompton for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of Kansas Territory and the beginning of "Bleeding Kansas." This tour will be led by Craig Crease and Ross Marshall. A

September 11 bus tour is being planned to various Indian sites and remote mission sites.

Other recent activities include a program by Mary Conrad concerning an archaeological dig at the site of Multnomah, the 1856 mansion of frontiersman John Dougherty, and a program and demonstration about shoemaking during trail days presented by Phil Barbour.

The chapter notes the early January death of Jana Marshall, a charter member of OCTA and the wife of Ross Marshall.

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## Wyoming

Changes in 200 years on the Lewis & Clark Trail was the topic of the February program for the Wyoming Chapter of OCTA, presented by Dr. John Allen.

Current Chapter President Pinky Ellis was injured in a home accident that left him with a cracked shoulder blade and displaced ribs.

Randy Brown has continued to maintain the many trail markers in the eastern portion of the state. He has spent time flying much of the trail with the BLM to educate those officials on the private lands in this area of Wyoming.

Usage of the trail over Rocky Ridge now has some limitations that will decrease damage. Independence Rock visitation has ballooned but we cannot see any serious damage. Modern day handcart travelers are limited to sections of the trail that are not virgin.

Wyoming OCTA was active in settlement of mitigation funds for drilling on the Lander Road by Shell Oil and Ultra. OCTA members also aided Anadarko Petroleum geologists surveying sections of the Cherokee Trail. Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office also has surveyed some of the eastern portions of the Cherokee Trail in the state in cooperation with BLM, Anadarko, Devon Energy, and Wyoming OCTA.

### **In Memory of Ronald Lund, M.D.**

In December the Wyoming Chapter lost a longtime contributor to the trails with the death of Dr. Ron Lund, who served as president of Wyoming OCTA from 1990-91 and again from 2000-02. Dr. Lund died in Casper on Dec. 30. He was 74. Born in North Dakota, lived with his family in Seattle, received his medical degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine, served in the United States Navy Medical Corps, was a Naval Flight Surgeon, and worked in radiation therapy before a stint in nuclear medicine at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

He practiced radiology in Casper from 1964-86. On Dec. 22, 1951, he married Sarah (Sally) Bengston in Seattle. He was active in many organizations including OCTA. He was involved in many other historical activities as a speaker, guide, and advisor including the Fort Caspar Museum Association. He served on the National Historic Trails Interpretative Center Foundation Board, and was instrumental in efforts that kept Devil's Gate from becoming a gravel pit when he worked to have it designated as "Rare and Uncommon."

Memorials may be sent to the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center Foundation, P.O. Box 399, Casper, WY 82602, or a charity of the donor's choice.

## Northwest

**By Glenn Harrison**

Three NW Chapter members, Chuck Hornbuckle, Vic Bolon, and Jenny Miller, investigated an area on the Oregon Trail where there was concern over some logging that had occurred. While an attempt had been made to protect the trail by using flagging, some carsonite markers were missing and debris remained on the trail. When a letter was sent on behalf of Northwest OCTA, the company sent a cooperative response. Chapter members will replace the missing markers if the old ones aren't found. Other potential threats to the trails are being watched.

Saturday, March 13 the chapter's annual meeting was to be held at the Museum of the Oregon Territory in Oregon City. James Henderson planned to show some of his photographs taken in Nebraska and Wyoming and Muriel Carbiener was to display "Clothing for the Oregon Trail."

Vic Bolon has arranged for a Trail Mapping workshop, including practical experience, for Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6 at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles, Oregon.

Dave Welch and the convention planners are working hard to offer an excellent OCTA convention experience. Tour guides are preparing for their treks. I hope you will attend in August and take part.

# Crossroads

By Al Mulder

The new trail year began with an election and an outstanding program on January 8, 2004. The following chapter officers were re-elected to serve another year: Brent Reber, President; Marie Irvine, Vice President; Angie Larkin, Secretary; Gar Elison, Treasurer. This will be the twelfth year that Gar has served as chapter treasurer. His dedicated service and careful management of the chapter's finances are greatly appreciated by those of us who have served with him. Thanks, Gar. Vice President Marie Irvine conducted the meeting and asked for new ideas for chapter field trips and activities. Lyndia Carter, Program Chairperson, introduced the speakers for evening, Bre Cornell and her husband, Jerry. Using a slide presentation, Bre and Jerry gave a fascinating lecture on 19<sup>th</sup> century medical practices, doctors, trail sickness and remedies, and early surgical procedures. Frontier health care, compared to today's medical practices, was primitive and the Cornell team had a remarkable display of medicines and surgical instruments to demonstrate some of the procedures and techniques used by 19<sup>th</sup> century doctors, midwives and other practitioners of health care.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Ron Lund of the Wyoming Chapter. He will be remembered for his many years of service to the promotion and preservation of historic emigrant trails in Wyoming. The ranks of senior trail historians and those who have served OCTA long and well are thinning.

The Hastings Cutoff through northern Tooele Valley is becoming a busy thoroughfare as the bedroom communities of Stansbury Park, Tooele and Grantsville become more developed and expanded. Adobe Rock, which once stood as lonely sentinel and landmark for the emigrants and explorers of 1846 through 1850 is now passed by hundreds of vehicles daily speeding by within a few feet of the huge rock on busy highway 36, formerly U.S. Highway 40-50. The clear spring just west of the rock, the trees and abundant grass made the

oasis an excellent camping site for travelers on the Hastings Cutoff. In 1849, Captain Howard Stansbury, who was conducting a survey and mapping the territory, built a small adobe house near the rock and spring. The house was used by herders of the expedition's livestock and since

*Continued on next page*



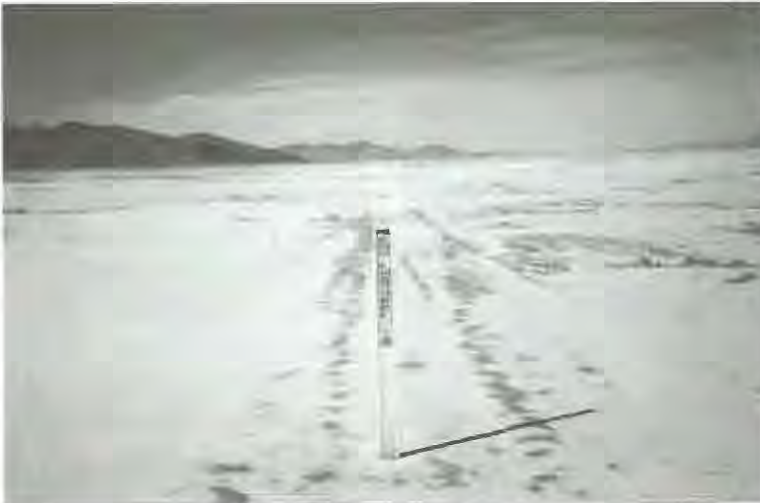
Adobe Rock Spring, above left, is shown as "brackish" on the 1856 GLO Survey Map. The plentiful water and abundant grass made it a popular camping area for emigrants. Adobe Rock, above, was a landmark on the Hastings Cutoff. Adobe Rock Creek, left, with a view looking east toward the Oquirrh Mountains, this property is owned by Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation. *Photos by Al Mulder*

## Crossroads

*Continued from previous page*

then the unique landmark has been known as Adobe Rock. The old emigrant route through northwest Grantsville will soon be bordered by the development and construction of a Wal-Mart Distribution Center. The facility is being built not far from the Hastings

Cutoff and the old 1913 Lincoln Highway at the northwest city boundary of Grantsville. Soon the roar of 16-wheelers and their diesel engines will replace the creaking of wagon wheels of 158 years ago.



A fall outing by Crossroads Chapter members included a visit to traces of the Hastings Cutoff, upper left, between Hastings Pass and Grassy Mountain. Above, Chapter President Brent Reber stops on the dike road to view the Salt Desert where the trail crossed. The dike was part of the Great Salt Lake pumping project which flooded the area and destroyed several miles of wagon tracks. (Photos by Oscar Olson). An OCTA carsonite marker, left, on the Salt Desert trail. The faint tracks lead to Donner-Reed Pass and the Silver Island Mountains. The view is to the northwest. (Photo by Al Mulder)

## Idaho

### Trail Marking and Re-marking Highlight November and December

Several days of visiting and re-marking the Trail ruts on at least four trail and historic road routes filled several days in the last two months of 2003. The weather has permitted this activity. Small groups of Idaho OCTA members easily found good days and short distances to check again on portions of the main Oregon Trail, the North Alternate, the Kelton Road in Elmore County, and some remaining portions of the South Alternate in Owyhee County.

About 2.5 miles of trail north and west of Canyon Creek had been a spring hiking trip, marked after the Idaho OCTA spring meeting in Mountain Home. The stone building of Canyon Creek Stage Station is at the junction of the Creek and the Trail, all about 6 to 7 miles northwest of Mountain Home, and north of Highway 20 toward Fairfield.

*Continued on next page*

## Idaho

*Continued from previous page*

On October 10, Wally Meyer, Bill Wilson, and J.W. McGill checked and remarked the portion of the Oregon Trail west of the Rattlesnake Station monument and the private farm, for about three miles. About one mile of Oregon Trail ruts on the western end, south of Canyon Creek, was also marked. The Kelton Road was followed northwest to Canyon Creek. About 2.5 miles of trail north and west of Canyon Creek, had been a spring hiking trip, marked after the Idaho OCTA spring meeting in Mountain Home. The BLM supplied the markers and Kelton Road decals!

Additional marking will be done in the Spring of 2004 including some high class ruts that are undrivable, and which will require a 2.5-mile hike for members who can go along.

The remaining ruts of the Kelton Road on the Northwest side of Canyon Creek, were marked by the same workers on December 2. These are not only some great ruts, and a much better road than the trail that parallels them on the west, but this area also offers a fine view where the road was built up out of the northern side of Canyon Creek.

Chapter members also checked and remarked other ruts including the area along the Foot Hill-Mayfield road. This route was followed through Ditto Creek, past the Goodale Cutoff connectors, and on to



Kelton Ruts from Canyon Creek. Wally Meyer, right, and Jim McGill, left. (Photos by Bill Wilson)

Browns Creek Road. Much of this area is private land.

On the south side of Highway 20, and southeast of the Rattlesnake Station site portions of both the Oregon Trail and the North Alternate were marked. Though Wally had marked these sections many years ago, few evidences, except a couple of broken or short post stumps, were still in existence. Additional marking by J. W. and Patti McGill included the South



Deep Ruts, North Alternate -- NW at Teapot Dome.

Alternate across Owyhee County, a portion of the route north of Highway 78, (east of the 78 and 51 Mountain Home intersection and Flatiron Butte), ruts on the north side of C. J. Strike Reservoir, ruts just west of Glens Ferry, ruts near Hammett, Idaho, and 1.5 miles of pristine ruts to the east of Robinson Road.

In early January, members met with BLM Archaeologists and Field Office workers in Twin Falls to coordinate upcoming fieldwork, develop partnerships, and explore new opportunities to cooperate on trail preservation and interpretation projects.

Officers for the upcoming year are James McGill, president; Douglas Jenson, vice president; William Wilson, treasurer; Afton Patrick, secretary; and Walter Meyer, trail preservation officer. Board members are Peggy Cristobal, Fred Dykes, Don McCarter, Clair Ricketts and Gil Wyllie.

## California/Nevada

### OCTA'S Western Overland Trails Collection

By Patricia Loomis

The OCTA Western Overland Trails Collection is a must-see exhibit at the California State Library in Sacramento.

More than 100 trail enthusiasts attended the dedication and opening January 22 of the exhibit "Westward Ho! Documenting the Overland Trail." Among the guests were Fran Taplin, member of OCTA's National Board; Leslie Fryman, chapter preservation officer; chapter board members Jim Allison, Bob Iverson, Curtis Grant, Virginia Hammerness and Kathy Lewin.

Rare books, maps and manuscripts documenting the overland trails were displayed in glass cases at the Mead B. Kibbey Gallery.

A Lewis and Clark exhibit marked the beginning of the display that included diaries, letters, old maps and documents, along with a bullet mold, powderhorn and other trail relics.

Among the exhibits were reminders of the Donner-Reed Party tragedy and the only surviving copy of the Pony Express edition of the *St. Joseph Gazette* that was carried on the first Pony Express ride in 1860. Also on display was an ambrotype from around 1860 of Rock Creek Station, Nebraska, a stage and Pony Express station made famous by Wild Bill Hickok.

Tom Hunt, one of OCTA's first presidents, thanked the State Library Foundation for providing a safe and elegant place for OCTA's western trail history.

J. S. Holliday, authority on the Gold Rush, was the speaker. He said that of all the images that have shaped national and world awareness of California, those of the Gold Rush years have been the most persistent and influential.

Don Buck noted "The collection is an important step forward in creating a trails' research repository in the Far West."

### There is Reason to Celebrate!

By Virginia Hammerness

On February 4, Dave Hollecker notified trail enthusiasts that the last known segment of the Beckwourth Trail in Nevada might be put on the auction block as excess county property. Included in the 3.3 acre parcel is a portion of the first paved Nevada highway circa 1923, the Three Flags Highway which stretched from Canada to Mexico.

Many trail nuts and history buffs e-mailed or telephoned the Washoe County Commissioners to voice their concerns over the possible destruction of such an historically important site. Their actions, obviously, did not go unheeded!

Three cheers for the Washoe County Commissioners who, by unanimous vote on February 10, removed the parcel from the surplus property list!

Hopefully one day a small museum will be built to interpret the site and tell the story of Jim Beckwourth, born in 1798 to Sir Jennings Beckwith and a Virginia slave. He was a fur trader, an Army scout, a mountain man, a Crow Indian chief, and a rancher who died in 1866, among the Crows in Montana.

Ah, what great things can be accomplished when like-minded individuals pull together, putting aside differences and egos!



Gary Kurutz, Curator at California State Library, in the stacks of the OCTA Library. Photo by Kathy Lewin.

*News From the Plains*  
**New OCTA Members**

Name	Address	City	State	Zip	E-mail
Akizuki, Gary and Carrie Parks	13009 NE 93rd St	Vancouver	WA	98682	
Anthony, Richard	1326 E 2200 N	North Logan	UT	84341	richarddavidanthony@yahoo.com
Barr, Jim	1014 Road 16	York	NE	68467-8065	jkbar753@hotmail.com
Bennett, Richard	25235 Avenue 12 1/2	Madera	CA	93637	
Brady, Phil	5243 Theresa Way	Livermore	CA	94450	john.brady3@comcast.net
Bronson, Carol	733 32nd Ave NE	Great Falls	MT	59404	cbronson@lewisandclark.org
Bunch, Jerry and Judie	2305 S Pacific Highway	Talent	OR	97540	judiesunshinemaker@charter.net
Burkland, Charles	1828 Longview Drive	Eugene	OR	97403	
Chatfield, Dan	149 Huntleigh Forest Drive	Kirkwood	MO	63122-1201	darchatfield830@hotmail.com
Collins, Harry	2024 Audubon St	New Orleans	LA	70118-5518	
D'Agostino, Victor	10980 Palms Blvd Unit 1	Los Angeles	CA	90034	
Edwards, Marcia	19789 E Telegraph Rd	Santa Paula	CA	93060	edwards@rain.org
Endicott, Jim and Renae Goldie	9405 N Lake Drive SW	Lakewood	WA	98498	clrkrmjim@hotmail.com
Erickson, Wendy	E4101 Walnut Rd	Eau Claire	WI	54701	djewse@chater.net
Fieber, Mary	8 Lindenwood Lane	St Joseph	MO	64505-1835	
Flint, Wendel	8510 Twin Cities Road	Galt	CA	95632	
Gamble, Maureen	5001 W 96 St	Overland Park	KS	66207	
Hebard, Don	205 Caldo Ave	Campbell	CA	95008	dhebaro1@juno.com
Hutton, Chauncey	970 Broomley Rd	Charlottesville	VA	22901	chutter@protax.com
Knolls, Michael	393 Dowling Blvd	San Leandro	CA	945771931	mjknolls@bl.gov
Krebs, Dorothy	108 Willow Fork	Boardman	OR	97818	
Kreek, Helen	500 Mohawk Drive #103	Boulder	CO	80303-3745	
LaChance, Deborah	1700 Nottingham Drive	Casper	WY	82609	deborah_lachance@ncsd.k12.wy.us
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Lowman, Robert	122 Chauncey Court	Marshall	MI	49068	lowman605@aol.com
Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farmstead	PO Box 768	Olathe	KS	66051-0768	
McClure, Larry	17760 SW Cheyenne Way	Tualatin	OR	97062	mccclurel@nwrel.org
Merrill, Richard	1879 S 600 E	Salt Lake City	UT	84105	jednslc2001@yahoo.com
Peden, JoAnne	180 Leo Drive	Sparks	NV	89436	
Reagan, Sheldon	5308 Gharrett	Missoula	MT	59803	
Robertson, Elizabeth	164 Dickinson Drive	Wheaton	IL	60187	
Rockwell, Craig	2921 Scenic Hills Drive	Clarkston	WA	99403-1694	cpwmlark@aol.com
Rossbach, Charles and Claire	3441 Meadowbrook Blvd	Cleveland Heights	OH	44118	mckr3441@earthlink.net
Skold, Robert and Mary	2191 Tall Oaks Lane	York	PA	17403-5903	
Smith, Rachel	40326 15th St West	Palmdale	CA	93551	
Straumford, Dr Jon and Patricia	20389 Mission-Ridge Ct	Bend	OR	97702	
Sutliff, Curt	12738 Summit Ridge Drive	Nevada City	CA	95959	
Washam, Loyle and Dorothy	3717 Sycamore Drive	Boise	ID	83703-4141	
Williams, Philip and Vivian	424 35th Ave	Seattle	WA	98122	voyrec@aol.com
Wood, George	2235 NW 153rd Ave	Beaverton	OR	97006	
Wright, W Denis	4 Fat Friar's Retreat	Savannah	GA	31411	leadbubba@aol.com
Zeutschel, Nancy	1110 4th St West	Billings	MT	59101	

## OCTA Awards

**Jackie Lewin**  
Awards Chair

### Awards Nominations Requested

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

The award categories include Meritorious Achievement Award, Distinguished Volunteer Award, Distinguished Service Award, Friend of the Trail Award, National Certificates of Appreciation, and Young OCTAN Award.

Complete details about the awards were

published in the January, 2004, issue of *News From the Plains*.

Deadline to submit nominations is June 1. Letters of nomination should be sent to Jackie Lewin, 4715 Amazonia Road, St. Joseph, Missouri 64505; e-mail: [jlewin@magiccablepc.com](mailto:jlewin@magiccablepc.com). Nominations should include specific details as to why the nominee deserves recognition.

# Relive one of the most captivating sagas in American history – the westward expansion.



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**318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO 64050**  
**816-325-7575**

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