

News From the Plains

Vol. XIV. No. 2

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Spring 2005

Board Endorses Preservation Projects

By Candy Moulton

OCTA will provide funding for a trail restoration project near the Little Sandy Crossing in Wyoming and for interpretation at Trail Junction Park in Kansas, the national board agreed during its March meeting in Colorado. The organization also will continue negotiations to purchase land at City of Rocks in Idaho in cooperation with several other entities and will join in a cooperative education program with the High Desert Museum in Bend, OR.

There was unanimous support for the Kansas interpretation project, which will cost OCTA \$6,000 to be used as a match for challenge cost share funding from the National Park Service, and also unanimous support for possible allocation of \$25,000 to help purchase 290 acres of private land at City Of Rocks. If details are worked out, the purchase will be a cooperative project with the State of Idaho, National Park Service and The Access Fund. The OCTA Board agreed it also would consider raising the amount of its contribution to the City of Rocks project if necessary to finalize a deal.

Edna Kennell was the only OCTA Board member to vote against \$5,000 in OCTA funding for the Little Sandy Restoration project. In commenting on the proposal by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Rock Springs Office, which has obtained control of 23 acres at the site, Kennell read a letter from OCTA Trail Graves and Markers Chair Randy Brown indicating the site is not pristine. OCTA Past President Randy

Wagner agreed, but noted that there are clear trail ruts leading into and away from the Little Sandy Crossing. The BLM request for \$5,000 to be combined with \$15,000 from the agency for a fence around the property and willow restoration, will be funded from the Loomis Trail Preservation Fund and other sources.

In another unanimous vote, the board agreed to support and encourage the 2006 Centennial Celebration of Ezra Meeker's 1906 Old Oregon Trail Monument Trek. OCTA will provide assistance with member support along the trail and at presentation locales. At this time OCTA has committed no funds to the project, but may consider doing so in the future.

Board members approved new membership categories and procedures. Dues will increase for the first time since 2001 for some categories, effective October 1, and both national and chapter dues will be collected simultaneously with the headquarters office to process all

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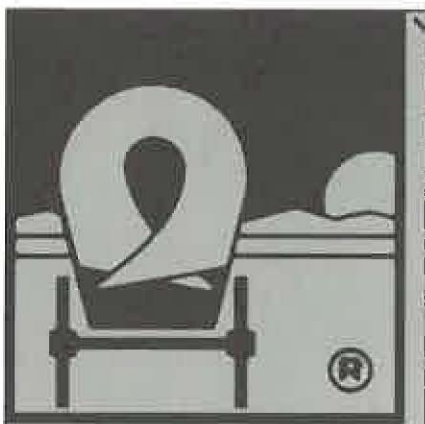
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News From the Plains

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OCTA Board Committee Assignments for 2004-2005

Committee A

*Headquarters Operation
Membership
Publications*

Glenn Harrison, Chair

Dave Welch
Bill Martin
Dave Vixie

Ex Officio Members

OCTA Secretary
OCTA Treasurer

Committee B

*Finance, Governance
Long-Range Planning*

Andy Hammond, Chair

Edna Kennell
Fran Taplin
Bill Wilson

Ex Officio Members

OCTA Treasurer
OCTA Past President

Committee C

*Preservation, Collections
Public Relations
Property Management*

Lethene Parks, Chair

Jack Fletcher
John Mark Lambertson
Frank Tortorich

Ex Officio Members

OCTA Vice President
OCTA Preservation Officer

What's Happening...

April 2, 2005

Trails Head Chapter
Border War Tour

April 9, 2005

Nebraska Chapter
Nebraska City Tour

April 22-24, 2005

CA-NV Chapter Symposium,
Genoa, NV

May 23, 2005

Northwest Chapter
Trail Marking at Echo Meadows

June 4, 2005

National Trails Day

Aug 15-21, 2005

"Trailing the Pioneers"
OCTA Annual Convention
Salt Lake City, UT

August, 2006

OCTA Annual Convention
St. Joseph, MO

NFP Deadline

Summer Issue

May 25, 2005

From the President...

Richard Pingrey
rjpingrey@charter.net

It will soon be time for board of director elections. Each year four of the twelve board members have their three-year term in office expire. This year all four will be eligible to run for a second three-year term if they choose to do so. The goal of the Nominating and Leadership Committee is to field at least two candidates for each position.

There have been some questions raised over campaigning for a position on the board. A special issue of *News From The Plains* carries the candidates' picture, their background and a statement of what they hope to accomplish if elected to the board. I personally feel that having more information about the candidates is desirable. This should include the voting record on issues by candidates running for reelection and their stand on the many problems facing the organization, etc. Candidates should be given sufficient time to campaign on their own based on their beliefs and their position on issues. Many of us vote without very much information about the candidates. Many other members simply don't vote because they do not have sufficient information about the candidates in order to make an intelligent choice. We need to change that situation in my opinion.

I think most of you will be very pleased when you learn about some of the programs that are developing. Dave Welch, our National Trails Preservation Officer, has developed extensive plans that will greatly expand our trail mapping, marking and preservation efforts. He is working with a great team of dedicated and well qualified OCTA

members to move this effort forward as rapidly as possible. In other reports and articles you will learn much more about this effort.

A significant effort is under way to allow members to donate their collections of books and other materials so that we can develop a system of OCTA Chapter Library collections. The goal is to have a number of these collections for use by members and the public. Hopefully they can be all tied together through the Mattes Collection at the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, MO where OCTA Headquarters is located. Through this program we hope to make it possible for members to leave their collections to OCTA knowing they will be cared for and available for many people to use.

Programs are being developed in a number of public schools and home-taught programs using material supplied by OCTA and often with our assistance. There is

great potential here for us to do much more and we ask members to volunteer to help expand our current efforts.

We have many more programs underway. Upcoming is a joint venture three-day program with the High Desert Museum in Bend, OR. There will be a special joint activity with the Ezra Meeker Museum to take the Ezra Meeker covered wagon on a trip from Puget Sound in Washington to St Joseph, MO to coincide with the OCTA convention there in 2006.

Certainly much more needs to be done to energize OCTA, but real progress is being made and I urge all of you to get involved. Many things can be done even if you can not get out much due to physical limitations. We are turning the corner toward higher visibility and increased enthusiasm.

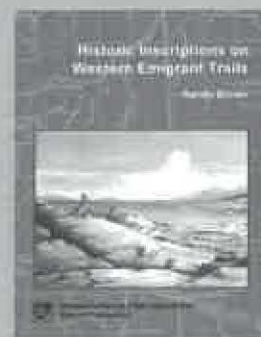
Sincerely,
Richard Pingrey,
OCTA President

Historic Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails

**A new OCTA Book
By Randy Brown**

*"A great contribution to the legacy of the
overland trails"*

464 pages, 8 1/2 x 11" format,
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Headquarters Manager's Report...

Kathy Conway
Kconway@indepmo.org

As of this writing, OCTA looks to Colorado for its upcoming Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting. Great things happened in 1982 in Denver when OCTA's "founders" came together and formed this dynamic organization. Excitement, expectations, goals and an overwhelming feeling of purpose permeated the original group. We should expect no less from our leadership and this meeting. To renew these essential elements for a vital, successful organization, OCTA hired an experienced facilitator for the meeting. The goal is to work together to formulate our strategic plan that should take us through the next several years.

As members, we hope you will be as excited as your staff is at the prospect of a reenergized organization. Spring is on its way and OCTA is waking from its hibernation!

There are initiatives being taken to strengthen our chapters. We must nourish our chapters, for through them so much of our preservation work begins, and ends, whether it is marking, mapping our trails or educating the public about them.

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Trail Journal...

Candy Moulton, NFP Editor
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OCTA's mission is preservation of and education about historic trails. Therefore, when National OCTA takes a stand on preservation issues, ranging from commenting on individual development projects to wide-ranging management plans—as are now being prepared on federal lands in Wyoming—I believe OCTA should be a clear and consistent voice for our stated mission. Anything else will contribute to the loss of trails.

I think OCTA leadership should firmly make it known that trails are—and always will be—our first priority. Balancing all of the interests on public lands is a role for the agencies responsible for managing those lands. Yet, as members of a trails organization, we cannot expect federal land managers (at all levels of their agencies) to protect the resource issue we care about if we don't put some teeth into our own positions.

I have covered public land management issues in Wyoming for 30 years for various publications and I have watched "special interest groups" and "industry representatives" come and go. The ones that are effective are consistent in their comments on public land plans. They are like bulldogs with a bone with respect to protecting and fighting for the issues they "claim" as their own. OCTA must do the same with trails.

In February I attended one of the four hearings held to gather public comment on the new Bureau of Land Management Rawlins Resource Area Management Plan. This is a proposal that will guide the future management on an 11.2

million acre area of Wyoming lands in Laramie, Albany, Carbon and Sweetwater Counties. These lands contain many miles of historic trails.

A variety of viewpoints were presented. As expected, private industries supported proposals that would give them the greatest potential access to utilize or develop resources while wildlife groups supported proposals to protect that resource. A large number of Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribal members—including many students from Wyoming Indian High School—favored added protection for "culturally significant sites" and asked BLM to grant the Tribes "cooperating agency status."

How much effect their comments will have on the final plan is yet to be seen, but those students had a clear and consistent message: support for cultural sites and recognition of the tribes.

One young man, Kyle White, a high school freshman who is a descendant of the great Shoshone Chief Washakie, spoke most eloquently: "The human wisdom of the Red Desert is waiting for us. There are messages from the past that must be preserved. Much history could be destroyed if we are careless. Modern equipment can destroy artifacts and traces of the past in minutes. Once the record is gone it is lost forever."

Like the pioneers who supported each other on a long, difficult journey, I believe we OCTA members and national leadership must stand shoulder to shoulder with other groups that share our desire to protect historical trails and cultural sites.

From the Association Manager...

Travis Boley
Tboley@indepmo.org

By the time you are reading this, OCTA's long-range planning retreat will already have occurred. But as I write this, I am still a week away from attending the retreat in Colorado, but I can say that we hope to come away from this activity well on our way to plotting a comprehensive management strategy for OCTA that will carry us through the year 2010. There are many great opportunities of which we can take advantage, but it will take a coordinated effort among our chapters, national board of directors and the national headquarters office to take full advantage of them. That is why we invited all of the chapter presidents (or their appointed representatives) to attend this two-day session and help us plot the course of OCTA. We simply cannot chart a meaningful direction without massive input from those who would implement a majority of the plans—the chapters!

I'm brimming with enthusiasm and need to tell you that we're also revamping our membership benefits. One thing that will soon be in place is OCTA's membership in a program called *Time Travelers*, which we are set to join on October 1, 2005.

Time Travelers is run by the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis and involves a conglomeration of nearly 200 museums and historical organizations spread over 42 states that treats members of participating organizations as members of their own organization, to a limited degree. For example, you will be able to visit member museums at discounted (or free) rates, buy items in their stores at discounted rates and be able to take

advantage of many other opportunities offered by the participating institutions. More information can be found at www.mohistory.org/. Again, OCTA is not set to join this program until October 1, but more information will follow as the date nears.

I would also like to invite all OCTA members to attend the 10th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails, set to take place at the Embassy Suites in Las Vegas, NV June 17-22. The theme of this conference is "Connecting with Communities through Tourism, Education and Stewardship." Of particular interest will be the program offered on Friday, June 17, which covers capacity building, membership recruitment and retention, volunteer recruitment and training, and funding.

OCTA President Dick Pingrey, OCTA legislative liaisons Bill and Jeanne Watson, multiple-hat-wearer Ross Marshall (who will officially represent the Santa Fe Trail Association, but is also an extremely active member of OCTA) and I plan to attend.

There will be field trips to Old Spanish Trail sites, Red Rock Canyon, Charleston Peak and Lake Mead. Registration materials will be available in April. Contact Gary

Werner, Executive Director of the Partnership for the National Trails System at (608) 249-7870 or nattrails@aol.com next month to receive more information.

Work is continuing on OCTA's new online store. It will have many new products and will be completely searchable by keywords such as author name, book title or words that might appear in the description.

For example, if you wanted to search for all of OCTA's offerings on the Donner Party, you could simply type the word "Donner" into the search engine bar and hit enter. You'll then retrieve information about every book, CD-ROM, video, DVD and *Overland Journal* in our database that has ever featured any aspect of the Donner Party.

More importantly, however, is that we plan to tie this search engine into Google's search engine, so that a browser who knows nothing of OCTA, but who wants to learn more about some aspect of trail history could conceivably be driven to our online store. We hope that this eventually drives thousands of new customers to OCTA to fulfill their educational needs.

The prototype of the new online store can be found at <https://www.octa-trails.org/store/>.

The Oregon Trail wins Wrangler

OCTA member David Dary's book, *The Oregon Trail*, has been recognized in three separate book award competitions. The book won a Wrangler from the National Cowboy Museum and Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City. The book also was selected as a finalist in the 2005 Spur Awards competition sponsored by Western Writers of America and as a finalist in the Oklahoma Book Awards. This is David's second Wrangler award.

Gateway Chapter...

River Rats Tour

*Photos and article
by Jackie Lewin, Gateway
Communications Chair*

Gateway Chapter ended 2004 with several activities. On October 2 a group of 35 members and friends took a "River Rats Tour" led by Jerry and Jackie Lewin. The tour focused on emigrant Missouri River crossings between St. Joseph and the Missouri-Iowa border. In addition we visited Lewis and Clark campsites.

On October 28 Gateway Chapter, Doniphan County Historical Society and the Native American Heritage Museum jointly sponsored a meeting in Elwood, Kansas. Dr. Patricia Michaelis of the Kansas State Historical Society presented a program on 1850s Kansas settlers to about 40 people.

The last activity of 2004 was the annual membership dinner and election of officers held on November 11. Officers for 2005 were elected: John Atkinson - President; Bill Leppert - Vice President; Bob Hamilton - Past President; Sandy Smith - Secretary; Martha Parker - Treasurer; and Wayne Schutte, Pete Duncan, and Del Sutherland - Board Members.



Gateway Chapter members stopped at the Lewis and Clark interpretive sign at Big Lake State Park. In 1804, Big Lake was the Missouri River channel traveled by the Corps of Discovery.



Gateway board members for 2005 are: (Back row from left) Pete Duncan, Paul Dittmore (Preservation Chair), Wayne Schutte, Del Sutherland, Jackie Lewin (Communications Chair). (Front row from left) Sandy Smith (Secretary), John Atkinson (President), Bill Leppert (Vice-President) and Martha Parker (Treasurer). Not shown: Millie Humphreys (Historian) and Bob Hamilton (Past President).



Calvin and Sandy Smith greeted visitors at the Gateway November 11 dinner.

Trails Exhibit Plans in Process at Shawnee Indian Mission

By Barbara Magerl

Although the Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway, KS, has been closed to tours for nearly two years, behind the scenes work continues. An exhibit script, written by former *Overland Journal* editor Marilyn Holt, covers all five themes to be interpreted. It is nearly completed and has been reviewed by several OCTA members including John Mark Lambertson of the National Frontier Trails Museum.

The script is based on Marilyn's research and Focus Groups input. Several Trails Head members participated in Focus sessions.

Kansas State Historical Society estimates the Historic Trails room cost at \$50,000. This includes interactive components and trunks, which will be available for schools as part of their trails curriculum.

While major wagon trains did not depart from the site, many well know pioneer visitors either visited the Mission or camped on its grounds.

Pioneer Trails Bill Reintroduced in Senate

By Bill and Jeanne Watson
OCTA Legislative Liaisons

During Trails Advocacy Week in March, we Hiked The Hill in Washington, DC, and delivered 53 OCTA packets to Congressional offices with help from Ross Marshall, Pat Hearty - National Pony Express Association representative, and Travis Boley. We learned that Utah Senator Orrin Hatch had reintroduced our Trails Studies Authorization bill as S-54. The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee marked-up

Since this exhibit could be the first awareness of the Oregon and California Trails in our area for so many people, we hope that local OCTA members will show their support. This may be done in two ways—a donation of any amount, with the donor's name recorded in a Donor Book; or by purchasing a \$125 commemorative brick with any message or name you choose. Several bricks can be grouped together for a lengthy message. The bricks will border the walk to the main entrance of the East Building.

When donating, please make checks payable to KSHS and mail to the Shawnee Indian Mission, 3403 W. 53 St., Fairway, KS 66205. Mark "Historic Trails" on the check and envelope.

Mission Administrator Alice Stein has just retired and Alisha Cole took over that position in January. Anyone with questions about the project can contact Barbara Magerl at (913)722-1604.

that bill and released it. Senate passage should occur in a few weeks.

There was much favorable comment on OCTA members' 2004 contributions to our trails of 57,926 hours plus financial contributions for a total value under Congressional guidelines of \$1,519,665.

During Congressional office visits we thanked Senate and House members for their support for our Trails and for the Fiscal Year 2005

Continued on next page

Trails Head Chapter...

Border War Tour Planned

From the Chapter Newsletter

Trails Head chapter planned to hold a bus tour on April 2 as part of the 150th anniversary of Kansas Territory and the resulting Border War. The tour included sites in Miami, Linn and Franklin counties including the John Brown Museum, and the location of the Pottawatomie Creek and Marais des Cygnes massacres. The tour also had a stop at the grave of Jotham Meeker and planned to visit the Mine Creek Civil War Battlefield Park. Craig Crease and Ross Marshall were expected to serve as tour guides.

Chapter members agreed in November to support the expansion of the interpretation at the Trail Junction Park southwest of Gardner, Kansas. This project is chaired by John Atkinson and is a cooperative effort of OCTA, the Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas State Historical Society and the National Park Service.

The chapter is also supporting an initiative organized by Judy Budde to supply copies of *Reading, Riding, and Writing on the Oregon Trail*, to area schools.

KANZA Chapter...

New Officers Elected

From the KANZA newsletter

Don Cooper is the new president of KANZA chapter. He will serve with Glenn Larson, vice-president; Barbara Pretzer, secretary; Marian E. Bradley, treasurer; and Ken Martin, Molly Ledeborer, Pat Keegan, and Ted Hopkins, board members.

The chapter had a program in early January by Rodney Biesenthal concerning a plan to memorialize the Louis Vieux Elm park and surrounding area. The elm tree itself has been declared dead, but there are efforts underway to preserve the historic site.

Continuing a long-standing tradition in the chapter, members gathered on New Years Day for a Rut Nut outing. They explored a portion of the Oketo Cutoff under the guidance of Ken and Arleta Martin, then gathered at the Martin home for lunch, hot drinks, dessert, conversation, and conviviality.

In February the chapter had a program "From the Skin Out" presented by Yvonne Larson that dealt with mid-1800s ladies dress habits. Assisting with the program were Barb Bretzer and Molly Ledeborer.

Education on the Move

*By Judy Budde
Trails Head Chapter*

Most schools can not afford to buy the supplemental aids that OCTA has to offer in educating students about the historic trails, but because OCTA is dedicated to the education and preservation of the trails, an idea was born for the local chapters of OCTA to buy the workbooks from OCTA headquarters and donate them to one or two classrooms in their local area schools.

Trails Head Chapter in Kansas City has donated fifty-two books (26 each) to two different fourth grade classrooms in the inner city, and is aiding the two teachers and hoping to come up with a nominee for "Educator of the Year" award.

KANZA Chapter in Kansas has donated 60 workbooks and has ordered 40 more for future distribution. They also are going into the classrooms, working with educators in their area by providing information about historic trails, giving tours to students and faculty members, have presented a slide presentation on the trails and are currently making a trail video.

Connection has been made with the California Chapter, the Idaho Chapter, and the Northwest Chapter of OCTA and we are hoping to build on this idea of going into the schools and presenting emigrant trail history to the next generation of prospective OCTA members.

Pioneer Trails Bill *Continued from previous page*

supplemental appropriations that provided an additional \$35,000 to the NPS for the Oregon Trail, a five percent increase in the operating budget for the Long Distance Trails System office in Salt Lake City, and about \$100,000 in additional Challenge Cost Share Program money for our Four Trails. We were told to enjoy these funds because the outlook for Fiscal Year 2006 is bleak.

We informed our Senate and House contacts that OCTA has fully complied with Wyoming Senator Craig Thomas's request that we cooperate with the Petroleum Association of Wyoming. Since he made his request, OCTA has reviewed over 600 energy companies permit applications for activities near our Trails and we have not delayed a single application. Any delays were the

result of action by the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Both trails study bill proponents and opponents were amazed at the amount of effort that OCTA has put into these activities.

Also, we reminded Congress that before the California and Pony Express Trails were authorized, we were required to testify that these trails could be completed without the condemnation of any private lands or public land leases and without the addition of any new public lands. And, we assured them that the same agreement would be applied to each of the proposed study routes in bill S-54 that qualify for addition to our Trails.

Many thanks to each of you who have helped on the Trails Studies authorization bill. For now, we wait for the Senate to complete its work.

Passings...

Jim Carman, who wrote the Big Tree article with Frank Tortorich in *Overland Journal*, Fall 2004 issue, died Dec. 9, 2004, at age 73 from viral pneumonia resulting from chemotherapy treatments. He did see the article and was very proud of it. Jim was a long time OCTA member attending several conventions and for many years he was very active on numerous Trail outings and clearing projects on the Carson River Route. Jim was a key player on the searching, locating and mapping of many segments of the Big Tree Road, one of several leaders of the Big Tree pre-convention tour for the 2002 Reno convention and the co-leader on the three-day Big Tree tour outing for the CA/NV chapter outing in July of 2004. He and Carol generously offered their Kirkwood home for potluck dinners held during many chapter outings. Jim leaves his wife Carol of 46 years, three children, and four grandchildren.

CA-NV chapter past president **Dr. William "Bill" Webster** died of a heart attack in November. Bill, a retired college professor at California State University at Bakersfield and a 10-year member of OCTA, served two terms on the CA-NV Chapter Board and was president of that chapter from 1999 to 2001. When OCTA celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Reno National Convention, he presided as chapter president and host. Bill and Beverly, his wife of 43 years, traveled thousands of miles following the trails, photographing and writing about them.

Condolences are extended to California-Nevada Chapter *Trail Talk* editor Virginia Hammerness, whose husband **Philip Hamerness** died in early December. Philip was a veteran of the Korean War. He taught Physical Education in the San Jose Unified School district until he retired. He was an avid golfer and a member of the Almaden Country Club. He and Virginia were married 43 years and have two children and three grandsons.

Trail historian **George Watkins** died January 5 in Dillon, MT. He always lived life to the fullest. He was a charter member of OCTA and a member of Trails West.

Headquarters Manager's Report

Continued from Page 4

We look to our members to encourage and support our plans and they have been consistent in that support. As of this writing 170 members have donated close to \$15,000 in response to our 2004-05 Annual Fund Drive.

We have new products now available from the OCTA Store, including Randy Brown's book, *Historic Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails*, published by OCTA, and Candy Moulton's *Chief Joseph: Guardian of the People*, launch title for the American Heroes series published by Forge Books. The new OCTA map should be available by late-summer.

To order these or any other OCTA products, call headquarters at (888) 811-6282.

Nebraska Chapter...

Nebraska City Tour April 9

By Carole Schwinck Meyer

Nebraska Chapter members will have a tour in the Nebraska City area April 9 that is open to anyone interested. The arrangements are made by Russ Genung. The tour will begin at 9 a.m. at the new Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center located on Highway 2 in Nebraska City near the Missouri River. There is a \$5 charge for admission to the Center. The next stop will be the Old Freighters Museum. The building housing that museum was built in 1858 and became the company headquarters for Russell, Majors, and Waddell who freighted supplies to the military. The Museum charges \$3 admission.

After lunch the tour will visit the site of old Fort Kearny, the old Wyoming townsite and cemetery, and a marker commemorating the 1862 arrival of a steamwagon on its way to Denver. There are few ruts to be found around Nebraska City due to heavy farming in the area, but if time permits a caravan may be made west along the Nebraska City cutoff route to the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, located south of Denton. This shortcut located on the ridges was a popular year-round highway for emigrants and freighters. The trail ruts preserved here are said to date back to 1860-1866.

For those arriving early enough on Friday, a tour of Arbor Lodge (\$3 admission) or a trip to Brownville may be of interest.

Wyoming Chapter...

1856 Martin Gravesites May Be Located

By Lee Underbrink

For many years we have wondered about where the Martin Handcart Company camped near Casper in their terrible winter ordeal in 1856.

Most reports indicate the first night after their river crossing was in the area of Mills. Then the company moved on some five to seven miles to where they really got caught in the storm and where the dying began in earnest. Where was this spot? Now we have a clue.

Kevin Anderson of Casper College Archives ran across an article in *The Stamford Record* of 1933, that became the clue we needed to fix the location.

A search by Stacy Scott, Tom Rea and Lee Underbrink ensued immediately. We think without a doubt that we are close to finding the campsite used by the handcarters.

As the article states, the site is about one half mile from the Goose Egg ranch house. That puts the campsite and burial along the north side of the North Platte River where it is running northeast for about one half of a mile.

Along this stretch of the river there is a sandy bank for about a quarter of one mile. We have not yet searched this area to find the depression holding the graves, as noted in the article.

Stan McKee to Lead OCTA Trail Marking Project in Wyoming

By Dave Welch
National Preservation Officer

Stan McKee, retired BLM Rock Springs Field Office Manager and former National OCTA Board Member, has agreed to serve as project manager for a national OCTA trail marking project that will be undertaken in Wyoming with assistance solicited from all OCTA members. The goal of this project is to place over 600 markers along all of the historic trails in Wyoming in cooperation with the BLM, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), landowners and leaseholders.

The Wyoming BLM has expressed a desire to enhance marking of the emigrant trails in Wyoming. In the past OCTA proposed marking with carsonite markers since they are both economical and easy to transport and install. However, the Wyoming State BLM Office has taken the position that carsonite posts may

only be used on a temporary basis with concrete posts being the preferred approach. They cite survivability and the intrusiveness of the carsonite posts as the reason for their decision.

This project identifies the need for over 600 markers. It does not include the lands managed by the BLM out of its office in Rawlins that includes extensive unmarked segments of the Cherokee and Overland Trails.

A field survey to determine the status of current markers and the need for new markers will possibly be conducted during this summer.

A multi-year plan will be established for installing markers including how many and where plus and the budget needed for the task.

Finally, it is necessary to identify volunteers for the installation effort. BLM employees Terry DelBene (Rock Springs), Pam Huter (Rawlins) and Jude Carino (Casper) have volunteered to coordinate finding volunteer groups (Scouts, etc.) in their respective areas. All members are encouraged to participate. Contact one of the coordinators or OCTA headquarters if you want to volunteer.

This is clearly a large project and should be approached as a national OCTA project. Wyoming chapter leaders have declined to take the lead in this project. The national preservation officer will assist and provide whatever support is needed and companies working in the area will be contacted.



A concrete marker on the Overland Trail west of Fort LaCledre, Sweetwater County, Wyoming. (Photo by Candy Moulton)

Trailing the Pioneers

Salt Lake City Convention Planning in Final Stages

*By the Crossroads Chapter
Convention Committee*

For some it will be a home coming, for others just a stop on a long road to cover and yet others will take part in it for the first time. To all of you we say welcome! It is never too early to plan on attending the annual OCTA Convention. Mark the calendar right now: August 15 – 21, 2005, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Trailing the Pioneers is the theme of the 2005 Convention, and we intend to do just that. Our tours will cover segments of the trail seldom visited by OCTA members. Even though the tours seem to be the highlight of most conventions, the committee promises no one will be disappointed with other aspects of our gathering. A line-up of educational and entertaining speakers has been arranged, starting with Keynote Speaker Dr. Fred Gowans giving us some insight on the "Battle For The Green River," an event of great significance in the westward movement. Joining Dr. Gowans will be a host of talented presenters who will cover subjects that include "Fishing," "Fortyniners," "Death," "Detours," "Terror on the Trail," "Geology" and "Missing People."

Several day-long educational sessions will be available for those interested in "Family History" and "Quilting." The "Family History" session will be tailored to those interested in research techniques, available resources, where to look,



computer access to records, and many other aspects of family history from basics to the very sophisticated. The quilting group will visit the Deseret Hospital Quilt Museum at This Is The Place Heritage Park (home of the Utah Quilt Guild) and Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum to view, close up, items that are seldom seen by the public.

There will be a good selection of tours from which to choose, such as the "Hensley Salt Lake Cutoff," "Golden Pass Road & Bryant Russell Route" and the all time favorite "Hastings Cutoff to Donner Spring." Tours will be on Thursday and repeated on Saturday. A two-day pre-convention caravan will explore the Mormon Pioneer Corridor from Fort Bridger to the Salt Lake Valley. Another tour will retrace the routes of several early pioneer groups from Soda Springs to Salt Lake City.

Of great interest to convention goers will be the Town Meeting

scheduled for Tuesday night. Its purpose is to provide an open forum for the membership to ask questions and comment upon OCTA's trail work. The meeting will be conducted by OCTA's National Trail Preservation Officer, Dave Welch. It is expected that representatives of our partnership organizations (National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and others) will form a panel to respond to audience questions.

The convention planning committee has managed, somehow, to squeeze in all of the old standby convention events including the book room, authors' night, OCTA's games of chance: the raffle and silent auction, and the two ever popular activities, the awards banquet and BBQ/fun night.

On Thursday night those who wish can attend a rehearsal of the world famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir from 8-9:30 p.m. (come and go as you like). These rehearsals are held in the recently completed LDS Conference Center. This building features a 21,000-seat auditorium and 900-seat theater.

For continuing updates and last minute news, visit the Crossroads Chapter Convention website at www.utahcrossroads.org/OCTA2005/.

You are urged to consult the convention registration guidebook for a more in depth details.

*Get Around To It
AUGUST 15-21, 2005*

Proposed Highway Projects Threaten Goodale Cutoff

By James W. McGill
*Idaho-OCTA Chapter Trails
Preservation Officer
National OCTA Trails Mapping
Chairman*

A proposal by Idaho authorities to establish a north-south highway across the state threatens a portion of the Goodale Cutoff. The proposal calls for the highway heading north of Emmett, straight over the top of the Goodale Cutoff Variant ruts that we are only presently working on mapping and verifying.

The proposed route would destroy more than 20 miles of an Oregon Trail alternate route, many miles of which we have recently driven and discovered. Protection of this route is only now in the planning stages! Much of the endangered areas of trail, from Haw Creek to Crane Creek Reservoir, are across BLM land.

It appears that we need to become proactive now, and to enlist all the help we can get to force such a highway away from that route, which goes through those valleys and along those streams. A highway following the ridges nearby would be an alternative that would protect that historic trail.

In January, I presented Goodale Cutoff North research to the Gem County Historical Society, which has recently gotten involved in this research and protection project. These endangered ruts are in the northern half of Gem County. Many members of that society want to help in discovering all the existing trail ruts by their on-the-ground research and marking of that trail.

After 1862 this became an historic route contributing to the mining in the Boise Basin and settlement of the Middle and Upper Weiser River Valleys. This was the only route used extensively for both of those accomplishments and on portions of that trail are miles of spectacular historic ruts, not covered by the present gravel roads.

In March of 1863, W. P. Horton documented that trail route (including from the Weiser River on northwest across the Snake River, Brownlee Ferry all the way to Walla Walla) and laid out the segments with a report on the mileages between the stream and river crossings. Soon many wagon trains would follow the miners' pack trains and freight wagons, making it the major route from the Boise trail route and the Boise Basin. He named the Goodale Crossing of the Payette River, where others accessed that route for many years. All the pioneers that settled from Midvale up through Council used that trail.

In 1876, *Boise Statesman* Editor Milton Kelly, wrote several articles about the importance of that Fourmile and Crane Creek trail route variant, naming Tim Goodale for his influence on the whole history. At that time he mentioned a plan that might have turned that into a north-south highway route up through Idaho, but it was never completed. The construction of Highway 95 somewhat to the west of this variant, however, covered most of the original route of Tim Goodale's trail for many miles through Middle Valley. We will

never find much evidence of that part of the Goodale Cutoff now to map and mark, from upper Mann Creek on northwest to the Salubria/Cambridge area.

The pressing need to discover and mark what is left of both of these routes is emphasized by the fact that there are also long range plans to turn U. S. 95 into a wide freeway. We have found the evidence of some ruts along that route near the present highway. The old land plats of the Goodale Train trail route, which have been compared to the present satellite photos, appear to indicate that the old road sections still in evidence are parts of that trail. We must get to all of these areas soon and verify all the "Goodale North" that remains.

I would hope that all with any clout, interest, and/or concern and appreciation for our historic trails would get involved, and write or correspond with all who might help prevent this unnecessary destruction upon the trail. Some field trips will be planned in the spring by I-OCTA and the Gem Society to take people along that route, and to find, map and document the remaining parts of that endangered trail beyond Little Willow Flat.

News From the Plains

**Summer Issue
Deadline**

May 25, 2005

Shann Rupp – The Heart of COED

*By Marley Shurtleff
COED Committee Co-Chair*

Ask most OCTA members to name a benefit our organization provides to historians, trail buffs, and genealogists, and the usual answer is "COED, the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents." We know that COED was established for the purpose of locating the emigrant documents and surveying them. We have probably purchased the Emigrant Names disk that incorporates the results of years of surveys, and have looked for specific names in the index of surveys currently completed. We may even have considered doing some surveying ...someday.

However, for one person, COED involvement is much more. For Shann Rupp of Jamestown, CA, it has been a true commitment.

Shann began volunteering with the COED project several years ago, and soon made herself indispensable. She has worked tirelessly on many aspects of COED, including completing an astounding 937 surveys herself. Her time spent on the surveying process itself adds up to several thousand hours of work, without even including travel time.

Just consider the magnitude of the task she undertook! COED is a database of the information gathered in the surveys of emigrant documents. A great deal of background work has to be completed before the information in the emigrant documents gets into the COED database and is listed on the index. Surveys contain five major elements: names of the emigrants and members of their parties (including births, deaths, and

marriages), document titles and their location, routes traveled and locations mentioned by the emigrants, and Indian encounters. Surveys record information beginning at one of the "jumping off" locations and continuing to one of the "arrival" locations. All of that survey information has to be checked against other source materials for accuracy, and coded correctly for inclusion in the database.

Surveys are not all Shann has done. Her continued involvement with COED during the years that little else was being completed has kept COED alive and moving forward, and was a key piece in OCTA's being able to develop the Emigrant Names disk. She keeps records of the other volunteers compiling surveys. She notes when surveys are completed, and also records diaries not included in the database because they do not meet COED parameters. She currently is compiling lists of diaries not yet surveyed for other volunteers to work from. Recently she has stepped up to new levels of computer usage, tracking surveys and surveyors in a Microsoft Access "Assignments" program.

Over the past two years, with Shann's involvement, the reorganized COED committee has begun defining standard methods of handling the numerous administrative responsibilities, increasing research to locate the less easily accessible emigrant documents, developing an expanded surveyor's manual, and marketing *Emigrant Names*. Current committee members/surveyors all gladly defer to Shann, both for her extensive trails knowledge and for

her skill in notating document information in the surveys. One member notes that, "I admire her for her intelligent, thoughtful actions combined with a gentle tolerance for us kids who are just getting into the COED groove." We all hope she stays with the committee for a long, long time!

Fundraising Committee Organizes

Because of the continuing need for new funding sources for OCTA projects, the Board of Directors is re-activating the standing Fundraising Committee. Board member Bill Martin is the temporary chair of the committee.

The work of the committee will be to identify potential sources of funding for existing OCTA projects and for endowment funds. This may include outright gifts or bequests and securing financial underwriters or sponsors for specific projects.

"Our first goal is to find four-to-six members for the committee from within OCTA's membership," said Martin. "There are no special skills or talents needed, except for a willingness to help OCTA achieve its mission of trails preservation."

Anyone interested in helping is asked to contact Bill Martin by e-mail at lexiconomist@cox.net, by phone at (512) 869-6230, or by mail at 706 Country Club Road, Georgetown TX 78628.

You can also contact OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley at headquarters.

California - Nevada Chapter...

Genoa Symposium
April 22 - 24, 2005

By Kathy Lewin

The 15th annual California-Nevada Chapter Winter Symposium will be held at the community center in Genoa, Nevada, April 22 - 24, 2005. The session begins with a board meeting April 22.

On Saturday, April 23, the program includes an address by Frank Tortorich titled, "Snowshoe Thompson - When California was in Utah Who Took the Mail?" A panel discussion involving Martin Griffith, Jeff Kintop and Don Buck will address the location of the first Mormon Station in Carson Valley.

There will be time for tours to Mormon Station and the Genoa Courthouse Museum, and to visit with local historian, Billy Jean Rightmire.

The afternoon program will include Chautauqua players performing vignettes of local historical figures, a second panel discussion, "Where was the First Settlement in Nevada?" with Martin Griffin, Stanley Paher and Leslie Fryman, and a general membership meeting. Awards will be presented during a dinner program.

To conclude the weekend on the morning of April 24, OCTA members will have a private tour of the Markleeville Museum with director Dick Edwards, his assistant, Ellen Martin, and local historian, Nancy Thornburg.

Northwest Chapter...

Chapter holds Annual Meeting, Plans for Trail Marking, Trail Day Tour

By Glenn Harrison

Author Jane Kirkpatrick discussing Marie Dorian and Dennis Larsen presenting "Ezra Meeker in Oregon" were on the program for the 2005 Northwest Chapter Annual Meeting in mid-March.

The Chapter is planning a two-day outing to Olympia, WA, in April, including a visit to the Washington State Capital Museum and programs by Cowlitz Tribal member Mike Iyall, who will discuss "Native Americans Before and After the HBC (Hudson's Bay Company) and Settlers Arrived."

Northwest OCTA

member Dick Carter will tell about his ancestors on the Oregon Trail. There will be a program on "George Bush and Family: Impact on Washington" with an auto tour to the Union Cemetery in Tumwater, where George Bush of the Simmons-Bush Wagon Train is buried, and also to the Grand Mound Cemetery, where there are burials of Indians and several pioneers including some who had followed the Free Emigrant Road to Oregon.

A May 23 outing is planned to Echo Meadows where first and fifth graders and their parents will join OCTA members in period costume to mark a half-mile section of the

Oregon Trail. This project was instigated by BLM Archaeologist Mary Oman.

Chuck Hornbuckle will conduct a workshop for active and potential Trail Monitors on National Trails Day, June 4, in Salem, OR. Also that day the NW chapter will have a



Oregon Trail Ruts near Birch Creek, OR. (Photo Courtesy of Glenn Harrison)

guided tour of Salem's Mission Mill Museum, including both the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill and the Methodist Mission. That tour will be followed by a car caravan to Albany, for dinner and a talk by Glenn Harrison about early pioneers in the Willamette Valley. On June 5 the car caravan will continue to Brownsville, visit the Linn County Historical Museum, tour the Shedd Museum and visit sections of the Applegate/Southern Road Trail route near Corvallis before visiting Polk County Historical Museum. The day will conclude with a dinner in Baker City where Marian Brown will portray a "Grandmother on The Oregon Trail."

California students retrace southern gold rush trail by wagon train

From a report in the Austin, Texas American-Statesman

Early this year a group of California sixth-graders traveled to Texas where they took a 650-mile horse-drawn wagon trip from El Paso to Austin following the path of the 1850s southern gold rush trail. The 14 students from Madera, CA, with their teacher Bill Coate were joined by more than 100 Texas school children and dozens of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employees when they departed from El Paso on Jan. 4 for their three-week journey.

The students and their teacher decided to follow the Texas gold rush trail after Coate found a complete, unpublished journal kept by William P. Huff, a Texas prospector. The students edited the journal, which described in detail the Texas landscape and life on the trail, and later published it.

"I've used the diary from time to time to teach research skills, and in time over the years we've been able to verify the diary and prepare it for publication," Coate told the *Austin American-Statesman* when his students completed their trip. "The

last part of the verification process included in my mind the need at some point to actually get on the trail."

Huff who moved to Texas from Georgia in 1824, was one of the original settlers on Stephen F. Austin's first land grant. Those settlers became known as the Old Three Hundred. After living through the Texas Revolution, Huff became a newspaper editor in Richmond. In 1849, he migrated from Houston to Fresno, CA, but he failed to find gold and returned in Texas in 1853. During his travels he kept two leather-bound journals that are among the most detailed accounts of the southern trail.

The students wore 1850s era clothing as they made their trip, spending time reading journal entries. At night they camped at state parks and prepared meals including bison and bear meat. The trail ride was largely organized by employees of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department who helped by obtaining ranchers' permission to camp and setting up camp each day. Also accompanying the group were members of the Texas Buffalo Soldier State Regiment.

Cherokee Trail Wagon Train Hits Trail in June

Ben Kern's Cherokee Trail Wagon Train will travel from Greeley, CO to Bent's Fort near LaJunta, CO, June 13 to July 4, completing a four-year journey to follow the 1850 Cherokee route from Fort Bridger to Bent's Fort.

Kern's small group of trail travelers includes OCTA members Carl Jones of Lincoln, NE,

Quackgrass Sally of Bridger, MT, Candy Moulton of Encampment, WY, Pat and Jack Fletcher of Sequim, WA, and other dedicated compatriots including Larry Gomez, Mike Owen, Nebraska Bob, and Rod and Doris Henderson.

For information about this year's trip, contact Kern in Evansville, WY at (307) 234-9437.

Southwest Chapter...

Visit to the Applegate

By Deborah Lawrence

Southwest OCTA Trail Turtles played hooky from the southern trail this past fall in order to visit the Applegate Trail. Don Buck and Dave Hollecker guided the Turtles over the trail from Lassen Meadows to Goose Lake. Fourteen people attended. Making extensive use of the recently published *Applegate Trail Guide*, the Turtles visited locations such as Black Rock Desert, Double Hot Springs, the Lassen/Clapper murder site, and Mud Meadows.



Crossing the Black Rock Desert, showing the Quinn River crossing which is dry at this time of year. Note the Black Rock in the distance. (Photo by Marian Johns)

The Turtles helped Don get GPS readings on an alternate trail to the very difficult route through Fly Canyon. This winter, the Turtles will return to their primary duty, mapping the Southwest Emigrant Trail. They will retrace the trail from Hunter's Draw to Soldiers Farewell.

Fundraising...

The following individuals contributed to the OCTA Fundraising Drive from December 28 to February 23.

Bagnie, Edward
Banks, James A.
Beach, James E.
Birch, Thomas W.
Blair, Roger P.
Bolezack, Joyce
Boone, Charles W.
Bull, Marianne
Bondscho, William B.
Carter, D. Robert
Conrad, Mary E.
Contrado, Paul A.
Coward, Robert R.
Davis, Richard M.
Drickamer, Lee
Eberhardt, Elmer
Fletcher, Jack E.
Gibbs, Robert
Grumland, Paul
Hamby, Sharon
Hansen, Alfred C. "Bud"
Hesse, George
Imboden, Bill
Iverson, Robert A.
Ivory-Carlisle, Carol
Jones, Leon
Kendig, Garth
Kennell, Edna
Kennon, Polly N.
Lamson, Ormie
Lewin, Jackie
Littlefield, A. S.
Lund, Sarah
Marshall, Ross
McDonald, Vernon A.
Merrill, Irving R.
Miller, Jennifer
Miller, Howard
Mills, Brenda
Nakae, Mizuko
Nattkemper, Josephine
Osborn, Ford
Owen, James T.
Palmer, Theodore W.
Parks, M. Leihene
Pickett, Joe
Pintrey, Richard
Puckett, Mrs. E. W.
Rahston, R. W.
Reihl, James
Schafer, William M.D.
Sheik, Jim
Shortell, Marley
Sicone, Zeke
Thomson, Peter
Vallé, Laura
Videon, Fred
White, Evelyn
Whitton, Donna
Zabokrtsky, Gary M.

Board Endorses

memberships. The membership categories are as follows, with current dues in parenthesis: Emigrant/Individual, \$45 (\$40); Pioneers/Family \$60 (\$45); Trail Patron \$125 (\$75); Merrill Mattes \$250; Institutional \$300 (\$300); Corporate \$1,250 (\$1,250); Ezra Meeker Life Membership \$1,000 (\$1,000); Elementary or High School Student \$5; College Student \$20 (\$15); and Educator \$45, which includes classroom materials.

Opposing the change were directors Andy Hammond, Fran Taplin and Edna Kennell.

In other action the board:

- Approved development of a second historical coin, this one to commemorate the Cherokee and Santa Fe Trails. It will be available this summer.

- Heard that a new trails map developed by the Publications Committee is nearing completion and will be available at the convention in Salt Lake City.

- Approved policy manual and by-laws changes.

- Approved the following committee appointments: Archaeology, Terry Del Bene and Russ Tanner, co-chairs; Audit, Gail Carbiener, chair; Vern Osborn and Andy Hammond; Fundraising, Bill Martin, chair; OCTA Library subcommittee: Bill Wilson, chair; Preservation, comprised of the chairs of the committees under the

Continued from Page 1

preservation officer including Jim McGill (mapping), Randy Brown (graves and sites), Gail Carbiener, (marking), Sally Reihl (COED), and Leslie Fryman (monitoring).

- Heard reports about the conventions in Salt Lake City (2005) and St. Joseph, MO (2006), plus discussions for a 2007 convention in Nebraska or Idaho.

- Reauthorized up to \$12,000 from the Loomis Fund to partner with the National Park Service to conduct community workshops under proposed Senate Bill S-54, if needed

- Adopted a policy on branch library collections.

- Approved a by-laws amendment establishing procedures for emergency action between regular board meetings. In such cases at least seven votes will be necessary for approval of any action and the votes will be recorded as part of the regular minutes of the next regular board meeting. Fran Taplin voted against this measure.

- Authorized further study on election issues, but took no action to change procedures for the upcoming election. Edna Kennell voted against this motion.

- Asked Board Committee B to study issues raised by an OCTA member concerned about procedural activities of the board. The committee will report back to the board in August.

ACLU Suit seeks to block LDS control of Martin's Cove

The American Civil Liberties Union on March 9 filed suit asking a federal court in Cheyenne, WY to block the Bureau of Land Management from leasing Martin's Cove, to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The lawsuit asks the court to declare that the

Church's control of the property violates religious liberty and free speech rights under the First Amendment, and seeks an order barring the 2003 lease as well as any reversion to an earlier cooperative agreement allowing the Church to control the park.

Preservation Training Program Now Underway

Last fall we began the process of defining and implementing a training program for preservation activities. As I have learned more about what is needed to preserve the trails, it became clear that we do not provide our volunteers with the tools needed to help with this work. This shortfall is being addressed by the training program under a challenge cost-share grant from the National Park Service.

Two activities kicked off the program. First, the preservation survey was distributed to members in order to identify those who want to help and the areas, both geographical and topical, in which they want to work. The second was a planning session in Salt Lake City to begin developing the course curriculum.

Due to a technical glitch, one part of the survey was lacking the information respondents needed to identify work areas. However, the survey was still a great success in meeting its primary goal of identifying members who want to help. There were 214 respondents, of whom 161 volunteered to help with mapping, marking and monitoring the trail. The difference (53) indicated that "the spirit was willing, but the body was not." Our special thanks to them for indicating support for our on-going programs.

The 161 "active" respondents volunteered 1,744 hours of volunteer labor per month. That is a very significant resource. Now our challenge is to organize and utilize this resource.

Responses were received from members in twenty states with many in the East indicating they want to help in the West if activities can be organized and promoted in advance.

Our next step is to implement the training program that will be focused on the three Ms of trail preservation: mapping, marking and monitoring. A three day course is being developed by Jim McGill (mapping), Gail Carbiener (marking) and Leslie Fryman (monitoring). The first session will be held in Boise, April 14-16. Other sessions are planned in each chapter area in the next three years. We may be offering the course in Wyoming in September of 2005.

All members are welcomed to attend the course with one qualifying condition: it is expected that you will actively participate in the mapping, marking and monitoring activities after the course, and, if possible,

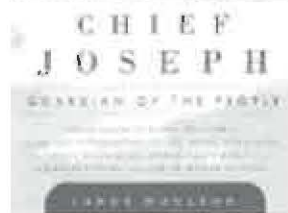
take on a leadership role. The course will provide the detailed information and tools needed to perform this work.

Those who responded to the survey and indicated they would like to attend training will be contacted directly when the course is held in your area, or in a state in which you volunteered to work. If you want to be added to the preservation volunteer database, please contact me (welchdj@comcast.net) or (253)584-0332 or contact headquarters. Here is a chance to add your name to the list of volunteers if you were unable to return (or decipher) the survey.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will see items on our other preservation activities. Thanks to all who are helping out at the chapter level. Many of our preservation challenges are local and are best addressed by knowledgeable, local volunteers.

"From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever."

—Chief Joseph, Leader of the Nez Perce people



Chief Joseph

Guardian of the People
By Candy Moulton

"Moulton writes with exquisite passion about one of America's greatest freedom fighters....

Chief Joseph: Guardian of the People, will stand for generations as a testament to one man's heroic struggle to find a sanctuary for his people."

The story of Chief Joseph—one of the most respected Native American leaders in U.S. History—comes to life in this moving, solidly researched biography.

—W. Michael Gear and
Kathleen O'Neal Gear,
Authors of
People of the Raven

Now Available at the OCTA Bookstore

Preservation Report...



OCTA member Bill Robinson talks with BLM archaeologist Colleen Seivers on the Overland Trail during a review of initial materials outlined in the Anadarko study of the trail. (Photo by Candy Moulton)

- Overland Trail Study: An Anadarko-sponsored study of the Overland Trail in southern Wyoming is complete in draft form. It has not yet been released to the public. The BLM is currently separating management decisions from the trail study.
- BLM Rawlins RMP: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Rawlins BLM District Resource Management Plan was released earlier this year with a series of public meetings held in Wyoming. The comment period on the DEIS ended March 18. OCTA took a position in support of an alternative that supports protection of cultural resources.
- Cherokee Trail Mapping Issues: It is generally acknowledged that the information used by the BLM does not accurately reflect the locations of the

Cherokee Trail on the Rawlins District, although it is mapped and marked in most areas of the Rock Springs BLM District. The trail must be mapped using 7.5 minute quads if the information is to be used to site wells, pipelines and roads. At present the BLM relies upon the GLO survey maps which are notoriously inaccurate. By law the BLM must inventory cultural resources before allowing development. This has been done on an inconsistent basis and with little consideration of the overall route of the Cherokee Trail. The best information available is that developed by Jack and Pat Fletcher and their co-workers. We have offered this information to the BLM as a starting point.

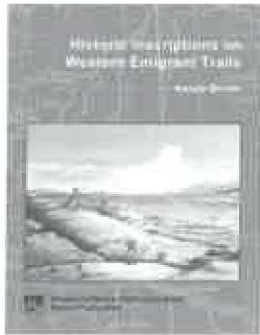
- Wyoming Section 106 Consultation Processes: OCTA is now fully involved in consultations between the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office and the Rawlins, Kemmerer, Pinedale, Lander and Rock Springs offices of the BLM. A draft directive from the BLM State Director is being developed and there is also an effort underway to develop a memorandum of understanding between the Wyoming SHPO and OCTA.
- New Kansas Markers: The KANZA Chapter is working

to provide a marker at the Louis Vieux Elm site and will mark the graves of David Attebury in Marshall County and Henry Roushi in Pottawatomie County.

- Preservation Committee: Last summer there was a discussion about combining the mapping and marking committees since their work is closely linked. In the future this may be desirable, but for now it is on hold. Randy Brown is the chair of the marking committee and Jim McGill chairs the mapping committee. A "Preservation Committee" has been formed under the preservation officer that includes the mapping and marking committee chairs and chapter preservation officers. This will hopefully provide a wider degree of participation in preservation issues.
- Preservation "Town Meeting": There will be an open meeting during the Annual Convention, on Tuesday night, August 16, to allow members to ask questions about our preservation activities. This is in response to a long-standing request by the membership for more dialog on our work. Jere Krakow (NPS), Jack Troyer (USFS) and Don Simpson (BLM Wyoming) and Claudia Nissley (Wyoming SHPO) have been invited.

The Story Behind *Historic Inscriptions of Western Emigrant Trails*

By Susan Badger Doyle
Special Publications Editor



In December 2004, OCTA published the long-awaited *Historic Inscriptions of Western Emigrant Trails*, by

Randy Brown. Praise for the book was immediate and strong, typified by this statement by former OCTA Publications Chair Don Buck: "This will be one of the most important trail publications that OCTA has produced. An impressive trail research and preservation document." Publishing this important work was a mammoth undertaking that took six years, and the story behind the project is as extraordinary as the final product. The author is well known to many in OCTA. Randy Brown has long served as chair of OCTA's Graves and Sites Committee and is an acknowledged trail expert. Through his dedication and hard work he has made major contributions to trail research, marking, and preservation.

Randy grew up in Michigan and graduated from the University of Michigan. He served in Vietnam with the U.S. Marines First Marine Division, and afterward obtained a teaching certificate. He moved to Douglas, WY, in 1977. He is retiring at the end of this school year after teaching in rural Wyoming schools for the past twenty-eight years. Randy's fascination with the names inscribed on rocks along the trail began when

he first saw Independence Rock and Register Cliff in the late 1960s, but it wasn't until he moved to Wyoming that he had the time and opportunity to begin seriously transcribing them. He started at the bluffs at Green River on a 1981 outing with Troy and Billie Gray, two of OCTA's founders. Since then he has recorded inscriptions at numerous sites and taken at least a thousand photographs. The turning point came with the arrival of the first computer at his school and he started entering the names in a data base.

Randy began working on historic inscriptions at a critical time. Inscriptions are wearing away fairly rapidly, and many have disappeared in the years since he began this project. Except for the sites on the Southern Trail, which were compiled by Rose Ann Tompkins, Randy transcribed or checked all the existing inscriptions at nearly every other site in the book. Over the years, he visited these sites many times. He reports that, unlike for marking the trail, getting landowners' permission was never a problem. Most of the main inscription sites are on public property, and access to the privately owned sites was cheerfully granted in all cases.

For Randy, the best and most exciting part of the project was the field work—especially those times he found previously unrecorded inscriptions and, better yet, unreported inscription sites. Like most people, he assumed that the early lists from the 1920s and '30s for the known inscription sites were fairly complete. But after making dozens of trips to Independence Rock, in virtually every month of the year, he found over a hundred

previously unreported inscriptions and corrected many previously garbled or incomplete transcriptions. He made many trips to the site just to recheck a few questionable entries and sometimes even found new ones in different light conditions. Similarly, at Register Cliff he transcribed over 200 inscriptions that aren't on any of the old lists.

The first obstacle to publishing this book was that Randy's first manuscript was simply an alphabetical list of thousands of names. Each name was followed by the code for the site it was at, and other comments. Rose Ann Tompkins accomplished the tedious, time-consuming task of transforming this database into its present arrangement by site. She also made the maps, scanned the photos, and produced the layout for publication. At first Randy wasn't in favor of reorganizing his database by site, but in the end, the alphabetical list reappeared in the index. During the editing process, three useful appendixes were developed, including Dick Rieck's informative article on inscriptions, rocks, and physical conditions. Finally Bob Evanhoe proofread and then it was time to print.

In spite of seeing his project finally published, Randy has a few regrets. He would have preferred additional appendixes and more photos. These omissions detract little from the value of this book, but rather point to the potential for a revised edition in a few years. A digital, searchable database edition also may be a possibility. Whatever the future holds, Randy's book is an outstanding achievement and immensely valuable contribution to trail literature.

OCTA Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Over the past year, OCTA's operation again brought in more revenue than expenditures in the amount of \$17,250. Included in this figure are endowment earnings of \$17,520. Thus the excess is due solely to utilizing earnings from the endowments. Most areas of income were significantly lower than budgeted but this was offset by conservative spending in most expense categories. Even though some areas such as the Annual Convention exceeded projections, significant downward trends need monitoring in the areas of membership and annual donations that both were under budget.

As stated in prior years, OCTA does have an enviable position by having endowment funds and reserves. We have not needed to significantly use those reserves because of the conservative spending nature of our expense areas. Downward trends in donations and membership dues can cause some concern by not providing needed funds for projected programs.

On a more positive note, the endowment funds have significantly increased and recovered from pre-stock market caused losses. The unrealized Gains within the Funds have increased over 55% and the net market value of the funds has increased 14% over the past year.

As a further note, we have not included the revenue from the Grant from the National Park Service for our new association manager nor have we reflected the matching expense. Due to the reimbursement nature of this Grant, neither the expense nor revenue are reflected. *Doug Brown - OCTA Treasurer*

Statement of Financial Position

	September 30, 2004	September 30, 2003
Assets		
Cash:		
Operating Account	57284.20	71718.83
Petty Cash	29.95	0.00
Convention Account	1274.86	499.24
Total Cash	58589.01	72218.07
Investments (Endowment Funds):		
GKC Fndn Inv - Unrestricted	16221.34	14941.63
GKC Fndn Inv - Restricted	367155.94	328654.52
GKC Fndn Inv - Martin - Restricted	206172.56	183633.30
GKC Fndn Inv - Loomis	175258.27	156098.58
GKC Fndn - Transfer Pending	15421.00	0.00
Total Investments	780229.11	683328.03
Other Assets		
Accounts Receivable - Merchandise	5064.78	3017.22
NPS Grant Receivable	15771.78	4108.33
Advance - Convention Expense	55.00	215.69
Total Other Assets	20891.56	7341.24
Inventory - Merchandise:		
Total Inventory - Merchandise	35598.30	34236.64
Fixed Assets:		
Furniture & Fixtures	8946.53	8946.53
Office Equipment	22887.29	20322.32
Less: Accum Depreciation	-30318.99	-28325.33
Total Fixed Assets	1514.83	943.52
Total Assets	896822.81	798067.50
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	1291.50	322.76
Owed to Restricted Funds	15421.00	
Santa Fe Trail Store Account	101.64	139.00
Colorado Chapter Funds	488.40	488.40
Payroll Taxes Payable	1984.17	789.78
Total Liabilities	19286.71	1739.94
Retained Revenue Over Expense	681270.07	647687.98
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	179015.72	115039.54
Current Revenue Over Expenses	17250.31	33600.04
Total	877536.10	796327.56
Total Liabilities & Equity	896822.81	798067.50

OCTA Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Statement of Activities

		2003 - 2004		2002-2003
	Annual Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget	Actual
Support and Revenues:				
Support:				
Annual Dues Income	89000.00	79400.00	9600.00	85339.00
Life Memberships	2000.00	4000.00	-2000.00	2000.00
Donations - Unrestricted	0.00	9474.00	-9474.00	9125.37
Donations - Restricted Endowment	30000.00	11421.00	18579.00	28309.00
Total Support	121000.00	104295.00	16705.00	124773.37
Revenues:				
Library Subscriptions	2500.00	2650.00	-150.00	2725.00
Advertising (OJ & NFP)	1400.00	1770.00	-370.00	1790.00
COED Fees	850.00	359.00	491.00	836.00
OCTA Sales Revenue (Net of Costs)	20750.00	24724.11	-3974.11	27500.95
Book Publications	0.00	0.00	0.00	392.37
Convention Revenue (Net of Expenses)	30000.00	38425.01	-8425.01	33495.48
Endowment Int & Div Inc, Net of Fees	0.00	7541.68	-7541.68	8211.80
Endowment Capital Gain (Losses)	0.00	9980.17	-9980.17	-12729.60
Interest Income - Bank Accts	1200.00	662.87	537.13	1160.93
Outreach Development	21700.00	0.00	21700.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	154.00	-154.00	50.00
Total Revenue	78400.00	86266.84	-7866.84	63432.93
Total Support & Revenues	199400.00	190561.84	8838.16	188206.30
Expenses:				
Officers	7875.00	10059.63	2184.63	2544.86
Committees	12650.00	13610.42	-960.42	15746.20
Headquarters	94900.00	83445.14	11454.86	79142.82
Preservation	10210.00	4073.57	6136.43	6150.14
Publications	55690.00	56917.18	-1227.18	48548.48
Endowment Contribution	12000.00	0.00	12000.00	0.00
Other	6000.00	5205.59	794.41	2473.76
Total Expenses	199325.00	173311.53	26013.47	154606.26
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	75.00	17250.31	-17175.31	33600.04

Net Revenues for Selected Activities

	FY 04	FY 03	FY 02	FY 01	FY 00
Convention	\$38,425	\$33,495	\$37,433	\$32,415	\$28,532
OCTA Store Sales	\$24,724	\$27,500	\$19,166	\$21,695	\$16,486

Revenues from Operations

	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2002	FY 2001
Total Revenues	\$173,040	\$192,724	\$180,473	\$165,338
Total Expenditures	\$173,312	\$154,606	\$142,630	\$155,240
Operating Income	(\$272)	\$38,118	\$37,843	\$10,098
Endowment Revenues	\$7,543	\$8,212	\$12,848	\$11,496
Endowment Capital Gain (Loss)	\$9,980	(\$12,730)	(\$28,779)	(\$116,611)

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 2004, OCTA members contributed 57,926 volunteer hours plus volunteered expenses, including mileage, for a total contribution valued at \$1,519,665.

Under Congressional rules, the total federal funding granted to OCTA through Challenge Cost Share projects, cooperative agreements and other agency funding was \$50,100.

To help track contributions for 2005, 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 2005

<u>Date</u>	<u>Trail Activity</u>	<u>Volunteer Hours</u>	<u>Related Expenses</u>	<u>Miles</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

The Partnership for the National Trails System

10th CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAILS

June 18 - 22, 2005

Las Vegas, Nevada

hosted by Old Spanish Trail Association

"Connecting with Communities through Education, Tourism, and Stewardship"

Connecting with the Tourism Community: Involvement by state tourism people; emulating scenic byways-marketing; how to promote use of our trails. NPS will soon have a tourism coordinator.

Connecting with the Education Community: A focus on youth; school curricula guides; management of public relations; raising communities' awareness of trails

Connecting with Community Trail & Greenway Stewardship:
How to participate in local and regional trails and greenways

planning; How to use local land use planning to preserve our trails' integrity and resources.

Capacity Building within our member organizations:

Managing volunteer programs (CDTA Volunteer Program); tracking volunteer hours/\$ for Congress, CCSP, local partnering initiatives.

How to seek private funding: Organizational development.

Sponsored by: Partnership for the National Trails System, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, USDA-Forest Service and Federal Highway Administration

For more information contact NATTRAILS@aol.com

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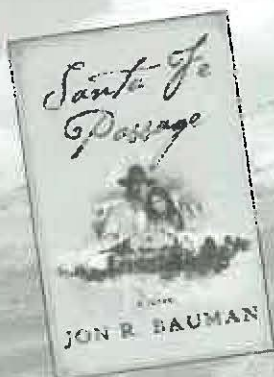
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The National Frontier Trails Museum is Celebrating the Santa Fe Trail!



"*Santa Fe Passage*" by Jon R. Bauman is a historical novel, set on the Santa Fe Trail in the early 1800's. Independence was the most important town on the Santa Fe Trail. It was the trail's outfitting and jumping off point. Mixing a fascinating and exciting cast of characters with the adventure and uncertainty of the times, this novel is a remarkable story, full of rich detail and vivid imagery of life in Independence and all along the Santa Fe Trail to New Mexico.
\$25.95 hardback

The Santa Fe Trail was one of the most dynamic trade routes in the nineteenth century. From 1822 to 1880, the trail was traveled by traders, army troops and pioneers until it was outmoded by the railroad. The Trails Museum will be hosting special Santa Fe themed presentations, gallery tours and activities through June 2005. For more information for this or our other special events, please call 816-325-7575, or check our website at www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org.

Shop our museum store for this and many other book and gift items.

The National Frontier Trails Museum
318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO 64050
816-325-7575 frontiertrailsmuseum.org

Mon-Sat. 9:00 am- 4:30 pm

Sunday 12:30- 4:30 pm

Adults \$4.00, Seniors (62 & older) \$3.50

Youth (6 - 17) \$2.50, Age 5 & under Free



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