



## Long-Term OCTA Plan in the Works

The Oregon-California Trails Association jumped on to the trail toward a long-term strategic plan for the organization during a day-long planning session held in conjunction with the Mid-Year Board meeting in Phoenix.

Guided by facilitator Sharon Brown of the National Park Service, the Board of Directors, OCTA Officers, Chapter Presidents, Committee Chairs and others helped identify five preliminary goals that can guide the organization for the next decade.

The goals include:

1) Ensuring that OCTA is the preeminent guardian and promoter of

the inspirational story of 19<sup>th</sup> Century westward American migration;

2) Preserving the historic emigrant trails and their legacy;

3) Establishing OCTA has a leader among historic trails partnership organizations;

4) Improving organizational and management effectiveness; and

5) Keeping the base of members and volunteers energized.

The planning session also identified a long list of strategies to help achieve the goals, including the identification of ways to increase public awareness of the trails and the importance of preservation,

expanding research capabilities, increasing membership and revenues, better communications both inside and outside of OCTA, and using technology to promote OCTA and preservation.

Using information developed during the work session, a draft strategic plan, including goals and tactics, will be presented to the Board at its meeting in August. It will then be circulated for general comment and discussion among members and stakeholders before being considered for final approval at the 2007 Mid-Year meeting.

## Bylaws, Voting Privileges Dominate Board

By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor

Bylaws revisions for the Oregon-California Trails Association will be reviewed by Board Committee B, chaired by John Mark Lambertson, with recommendations to be made to the full Board for possible action at the August meeting.

During its regular Mid-Year Board meeting held March 17-19, the Board received material from Colorado attorney Nichole Lampe, who conducted a review of bylaws approved by the Board in March of 2005 in order to determine whether they comply with all Colorado laws. OCTA is a registered as a Colorado

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*News From the Plains*

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## Communication is the Key to Cooperation

*"Dare greatly. It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena."*

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

As a partner in a small business, some twenty years ago, I and my partner soon realized if we didn't learn to communicate with people, even difficult people, we would very quickly lose control. We were faced with having to deal with general contractors, vendors, customers and even our carpenters and office staff, some of whom tested our patience to the limit.

For a time we tolerated their behavior and attitudes with the thought in mind that, "it's a way of life" – "it's part of doing business," or the misguided notion "maybe it's

us." We soon learned the truth is that it is impossible to change those people. We can only change ourselves and our reaction to their behavior. We were told by a close friend and successful businessman "people need your permission and cooperation to intimidate, control, and manipulate you to get their way."

Communication comes in four neatly wrapped packages labeled Passive, Aggressive, Passive-Aggressive and Assertive. When we communicate with someone we open one of these packages (very often unconsciously).

Assertive communication, my partner and I learned was the most effective and for sure the most healthy form. When we were assertive we worked hard to create mutually satisfying solutions. I think we communicated our needs more clearly and forthrightly. We cared about the

relationship and made an effort to create a win/win situation.

And so it is with OCTA. Being assertive requires a sincere belief that all individuals (even the newest chapter members) are valuable people who are worthy of being treated respectfully. Being assertive uses negotiation rather than manipulation, openness rather than secrecy, honesty rather than game playing.

Please remember the best way for OCTA to get ahead is to always take the high road. We have the best products, knowledge and service available and all we need to do is let our actions speak for themselves. We need to sell ourselves, not sell ourselves short.

A word to you volunteers who have devoted many hours to our organization without reward or thank you. Let me say THANK YOU. Because it might be overlooked doesn't mean your work is not appreciated.

**WANTED: Ladies!**  
Small items for the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Annual Convention that  
will be held in St.  
Joseph, MO August 7-  
12, 2006.

Calvin and Sandra Smith  
chairpersons for the annual  
Convention Raffle, need your  
assistance through the  
donation of items.  
If you have something to  
donate, contact  
Calvin or Sandra Smith  
2300 S. Valley Drive  
St. Joseph, MO 64503  
mrcs@octaonline.com

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## Membership Contact List Available Online at [octa-trails.org](http://octa-trails.org)

The newest membership contact list is now available on the OCTA website, [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org). Once on the website, click on the sign-in link where you will need your username (octa) and password (trailswest). From there you can access the member's only section.

We have deleted the contact information of members who requested that we do so.

## What's Happening

May 5-7, 2006  
National Trails System  
Historic Trails Workshop  
Kansas City, MO

May 5-7, 2006  
CA/NV Chapter Spring  
Symposium  
San Jose, CA

June 2 & 3, 2006  
Handicap Pioneer Tribute  
Kearney, NE

June 3 & 4, 2006  
CA/NV Chapter  
40 Mile Desert Trail Trek

July 15, 2006  
Colorado-Cherokee Trail  
Chapter Trek  
Cherokee Trail, LaPorte, CO

July 22 - Aug. 21, 2006  
Erta Mecket Reenactment

August 8-12, 2006  
OCTA Annual Convention  
St. Joseph, MO

August, 2007  
OCTA Annual Convention  
Scottsbluff/Gering, NE

August, 2008  
OCTA Annual Convention  
Elko, NV

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**NFP Deadline**  
**Summer Issue**  
**May 25, 2006**



## Awards Nominations Due June 1

By Donna Fisher  
Awards Chair

Nominations are now being accepted for the OCTA Awards to be presented at the August convention in St. Joseph, MO.

Letters of nomination should be sent by the June 1 deadline to OCTA Awards Chair Donna Fisher, 740 W. 47th St., Casper Wyoming, 82601. Nominations should include specific details as to why the nominee deserves recognition.

The categories and the qualifications are as follow:

**Meritorious Achievement Award**--the highest award OCTA can give to recognize long-term and significant contributions to OCTA. Only members can qualify for Meritorious Achievement.

**Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award**--bestowed on OCTA members who contribute significantly to achieving OCTA goals and projects.

## Turner Rivenbark New OCTA Treasurer

Turner Rivenbark of Wallace, NC, has taken over duties as OCTA Treasurer, according to an announcement by President Vern Gorzitze.

Rivenbark has a degree in accounting from the University of North Carolina and spent 40 years as an accountant, 30 years as a partner in the firm of Cherry, Bekaert & Holland. He's been the treasurer, accountant or auditor for numerous not-for-profit organizations and has served as executor of an estate and trustee of a trust. He's been retired for more than two years.

Rivenbark will chair the Interim OCTA Investment Committee. Other members of the committee are Hugh

**Distinguished Service Award**--granted to organizations, businesses, government agencies, individuals or others who contribute or participate in furthering OCTA's programs directly or provide substantial support in a non-affiliated way to trail preservation and education.

**Friend of the Trail Award**--presented to groups, individuals or organizations that have direct ties to lands over which historic trails pass.

**National Certificates of Appreciation**--presented to individuals and organizations that have made a particular effort in achieving a short-term national OCTA goal.

**Young OCTAN Award**--presented to children and youth between the ages of six and twenty-one who have demonstrated particular interest in OCTA and the history and/or preservation of historic emigrant trails.

March, Dave Welch, Chuck Martin and Jim Budde.

These committee members can be contacted at the following addresses:

Turner Rivenbark,  
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Hugh March,  
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Chuck Martin,  
martich@earthham.edu

Dave Welch,  
welchdj@comcast.net

Jim Budde,  
jjbudde@att.net

## WWA Announces 2006 Spur Awards

Western Writers of America recognizes trail-related books and a documentary in the annual Spur Awards to be presented at the annual convention in Cody in June.

Since 1953, Western Writers of America has promoted and honored the best in Western literature with the annual Spur Awards given for works whose inspiration, image and literary excellence best represent the reality and spirit of the American West.

The Spur for Documentary Script goes to "Mountain Massacre" written by Paul Hutton of Albuquerque, NM, and Bill Kurtis and Jamie Schenk of Chicago, produced by Kurtis Productions for the History Channel.

The Spur for Biography goes to *Chief Joseph: Guardian of the People* by Candy Moulton of Encampment, WY. (Forge Books)

Finalists in the competition included the following trail-related books:

**Novel of the West:** *A Land of Sheltered Promise* by Jane Kirkpatrick (Waterbrook/Random House)

**Best First Novel:** *A Sudden Country* by Karen Fisher (Random House)

**Juvenile Nonfiction:** *The Mail Must Go Through: The Story of the Pony Express* by Margaret Fan (Morgan Reynolds Publishing)

**Juvenile Fiction:** *A Heart for Any Fate: Westward to Oregon, 1845* by Linda Crew (Oregon Historical Society Press)



## Headquarters

### Manager

Kathy Conway

OCTA has the good fortune of having Turner Ravenhart on board as new national treasurer. He is a retired CPA who has worked in not-for-profit accounts during his career. Turner is still active in accounting, especially during the tax season. We are grateful to have him willing to work with us from a long distance as Turner and wife live in Wallace, ND, which is situated about 40 miles from coast.

Turner has been a member of OCTA since 2002. He loves genealogy and history and his former mercantile years have Turner and his family traveled to the far parts of the United States. He is very interested in learning more about the emigrant trails and looking forward to attending the Joseph MO convention and gene gatherings to enrich his knowledge.

Turner recently visited headquarters to get acquainted with the staff and the operations and we are happy to report Turner is anxious to get started on all his financial projects.

We know we speak for all in OCTA when we say, *Welcome Turner!*

We also wanted the membership to know we will be printing national dues expiration dates and membership numbers on address labels which we send in your *Overland Journal* and *News From the Plains*. Please call our toll free 888-811-6282 should you have questions about your membership status.

## Editorial Applicants Sought

Expressions of interest are being accepted for editorial and production responsibilities for *News From the Plains* and the *Overland Journal*.

Contracts with the current editors expire October 1, 2006. OCTA policy requires that the applications be solicited at the end of each contract period.

Contracts of up to three years in length will be awarded. The contracts include modest fees for professional services.

OCTA will accept applications for the editor's position for either of the publications. A separate contract for graphic design of the *Overland Journal* is also permitted.

"Editors Bob Clark of the *OJ* and Candy Moulton of the *NFP* have done

great jobs and we are encouraging them to reapply," said Publications Committee Chair Bill Martin. "However, OCTA policy is that the application process be reopened at the end of each contract term."

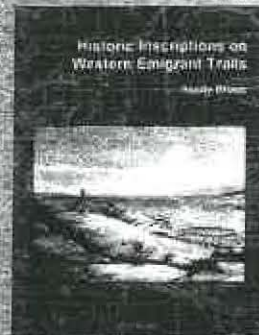
Copies of the job descriptions for the positions are available from OCTA headquarters. A letter of interest, resume and appropriate work samples should be submitted to OCTA at P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051. Applications must be received by July 1.

Applications will be reviewed by the Nominating & Leadership Committee, which will make a recommendation at the August Board meeting.

## Historic Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails

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By Randy Brown



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We value the opinions of our members and would like your help in improving the association. We have contracted with a student group from the University of Missouri-Columbia to develop a survey that will help us learn more about what you want out of your membership. In addition, the Board of Directors is preparing to develop a new strategic plan for the organization and your ideas are needed for this effort as well. Please take a few minutes to let us know how OCTA is doing and what needs to be done to make your membership even more valuable.

An online survey is set up via a link at OCTA's website at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org). Go to the "login" button on the upper right-hand corner of the homepage and enter your username (octa) and password (trailswest). We'd prefer it if you could take the survey online, but will also accept the printed form. If you'd like to complete the survey printed on the next page, please detach it and mail to:

Travis Boley, OCTA, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64050.

Please know that any information you provide will be kept completely confidential.

Once the study is complete, any link between your answers to our questions and your personal data will be deleted. Your participation is completely voluntary. You may decline to answer any question or stop at any time and discontinue participation.

This is your organization and participating in the survey will help make sure it reflects your interests.

Thank you for your time and input.



## COED Appreciates the Work of Many Volunteers

By Shann Rupp

From the perspective of overland documents assignments, the names of several OCTA members loom up as having been especially helpful to COED this past year. In the department of surveying, many thanks go to Ted Hopkins (KS), Betsy Kanago (AK), Dennis Larsen (WA), Debbie and Jon Lawrence (CA), Leta Neiderheiser (OR), Sam Travers (WY) and Herman Zittel (CA.) These volunteers not only have come forward to offer assistance and have taken on and completed assignments, but when they have finished one survey, they have stepped up to the plate to receive further assignments. Their combined efforts have produced 44 surveys.

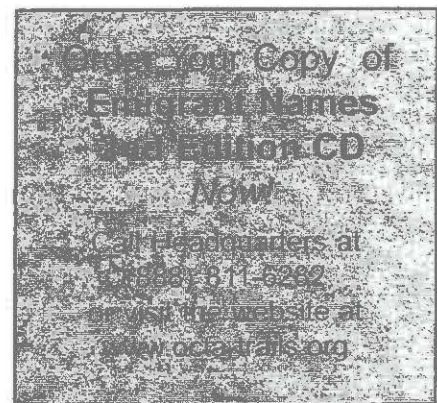
There are two other areas that have been a great help: obtaining documents and locating documents.

Dick Rieck supplied COED with copies of 52 documents that had not yet been surveyed. Don Buck and Milt Otto have also been a great source of survey material. Cherie Evanhoe has volunteered to help research bibliographies to locate unsurveyed documents – an unending task and one that is overwhelming for one person alone to accomplish.

John Mark Lambertson supplied COED with a list of holdings at the National Frontier Trails Museum Library (NFTM). From his list, quite an accounting of possible survey material has been developed. Members interested in helping COED can work on the available materials in Independence in connection with a trip to the 2006 convention in relatively nearby St. Joe. Members interested in helping COED at the NFTM Library next August should contact Shann Rupp by e-mail at: [syr50@sbcglobal.net](mailto:syr50@sbcglobal.net).

An enticement for new volunteers is the result of Marley Shurtleff's creative genius – survey forms that can be filled out electronically. Also, Jim Riehl has now created the capability for the Assignment List to be sent online so there is no longer a need to mail the heavy list via regular mail.

Naturally, there are other volunteers not mentioned herein, but who have contributed to making the wheels go around. Kudos to all of them!





# OCTA Survey 2006

1) How long have you been a member of OCTA?

- 0-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-9 years
- 10+ years
- I choose not to answer

2) How did you hear about OCTA?

- Friend/Relative
- Current member
- Internet
- Newspaper
- Historical event
- Other – please specify:
- I choose not to answer

3) Do you belong to a chapter?

- Yes
- No
- I choose not to answer

4) How many OCTA events/ meetings have you attended in the past two years?

- 1-2 events
- 3-4 events
- 5-6 events
- 7+ events
- I choose not to answer

5) If you attended OCTA events/ meetings in the past two years, please list them:

6) Why did you join OCTA?

7) What improvements do you believe OCTA can make?

8) What would you like to see OCTA do in the next 3-5 years?

9) Have you ever attended an OCTA convention?

- Yes
- No
- I choose not to answer

10) If you have attended an OCTA convention, what speakers or tours were most beneficial?

11) Are you aware of the Ezra Meeker Centennial Event?

- Yes
- No
- I choose not to answer

12) Do you plan to attend one or more of the stops along the Ezra Meeker Centennial Trek?

- Yes
- No
- I choose not to answer

13) Do you plan to attend the 2006 OCTA Convention in St. Joseph, Missouri?

- Yes
- No
- I choose not to answer

14) Gender:

- Male
- Female
- I choose not to answer

15) Ethnicity:

16) Highest level of education:

- Some high school
- High school degree
- Some college
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's degree or higher
- I choose not to answer
- Other (Please Specify):

17) Current employment status:

- Employed
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Choose not to answer

18) Income Level:

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$69,999
- \$70,000 +
- I choose not to answer

19) Do you have Internet access?

- Yes
- No
- I choose not to answer

20) Other comments or suggestions:

**Return Survey to:**

**OCTA  
Travis Boley  
P.O. Box 1019  
Independence, MO 64050**



# Ezra Meeker Wagon will be at OCTA Annual Convention in St. Joseph

By John Atkinson  
Convention Co-Chair

"Ezra Meeker" will bring his wagon all the way from Puyallup, WA to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual OCTA Convention in St. Joseph, MO, August 8-12, 2006. The St. Joseph event is near the end of the summer trek that will begin on July 22 marking the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ezra Meeker's 1906 cross country tour. At age 76, Ezra drummed up support for commemorating the trail to Oregon that he himself traveled in 1852.

For this year's re-creation, Ray Egan will portray Ezra Meeker at about twenty sites between Washington and Missouri. The St. Joseph Convention's Meeker Program is scheduled for Friday evening, August 11. As one of the convention speakers, Dennis Larsen will tell about the 1906 trip across the nation as Meeker raised funds to mark and promote the trail.

Prior to arrival at St. Joseph the Meeker Wagon entourage will provide a program on Sunday, August 6, at Alcove Springs near Blue Rapids, KS. Programs at Alcove Springs and the OCTA Convention will include Thor and Zeus, oxen of the type used in pioneer days, trained by Dixon Ford.

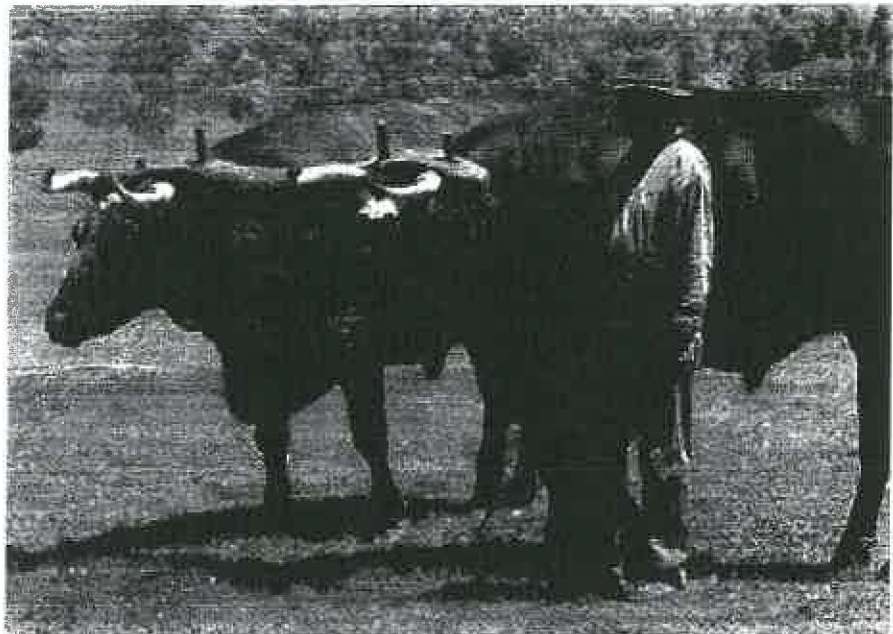
The Dennis Larsen presentation will be one several fine speaker presentations lined up for the 2006 convention. The Keynote speaker following the Wednesday, August 8 general business meeting will be Christopher Corbett, author of *Orphans Preferred: The Twisted Truth and Lasting Legend of the Pony Express*. Following Corbett's presentation, Jackie Lewin and

RIVERS, PLAINS, AND WAGON TRAINS



Marilyn Taylor will present an overview of the St. Joe Road. The interesting variety of talks arranged by Speaker Chair Mary Conrad includes titles or topics such as: "I remain your Affectionate Wife" by John Mark Lambertson, Joseph Robidoux by Shirley Christian, "Mormons Passing through Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century Missouri by River and by

Rail" by Fred Woods, "Archaeological Excavations at the St. Joe Pony Express Station" by Mike Fisher, "St. Joe Emigrant Experiences during the Border Wars" by Joe Houts, "Native American Experiences" by William Green, "Cooking and Fare on the Trail" by Nancy Lewis and Anne Mallinson, "Romance on the Trails" by Roger Blair, and "James Farm Excavations" by Bill Philyaw. We are planning on "Rivers, Plains & Wagon Trains" in St. Joseph, Missouri August 8-12, 2006 -- See you there!



Dixon Ford with his oxen. The nigh ox is Thor, one inch shy of being 6 feet tall, both he and Zeus weigh 3,000 each. They are Red Durham, which was the breed most used in the pioneer era. They are trained to obey in the manner used then, which was by either voice command, silent signals given by any one of seven slight motions of the whip, or the position and direction of movement of the drover. Oxen trained in this manner need no halters, nose rings, ropes, or reins attached.



## Children's activities – On Tap At OCTA

This year's convention will have an expanded slate of activities for children. The Pony Express National Museum has volunteered to coordinate these activities as an expansion of their annual day-camp.

Plans call for learning activities at the museum on Wednesday and Thursday mornings with a visit to the water park, miniature golf, museums, and other activities in the afternoons.

Friday plans are for a field trip along the St. Joe Road as far as the Native American Heritage Museum, the Iowa, Sac and Fox Mission. Saturday will feature a wagon encampment reenactment at the River Front Park.

The children's activities are open to 3rd through 8th graders. The cost for the children's activities will be listed in the registration material you receive in the mail.

### Convention Website

Another first for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will be the opportunity to register on line.

For full convention details, go to [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org), then click on the OCTA 2006 Convention link.

## Rivers, Plains & Wagon Trains Schedule of Events

### Tuesday, Aug. 8

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. – OCTA Board of Directors Meeting, Ramada Inn

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. – Pre-Convention Tours: Fort Leavenworth, Weston, and Atchison

7 - 9 p.m. – Welcome Reception and Author's Night

#### First-Time Attendees' Welcome

A special welcome is planned to help orient and make first-time attendees feel important (as they really are) and at ease.

Esther Kreek – OCTA member and recording artist will be performing on the hammered dulcimer. Esther has played the hammered dulcimer for more than 20 years and performed all over the United States and the British Isles. Dressed in period clothing, Esther presents programs of the Oregon Trail, Santa Fe Trail and the West. Esther has six recordings covering a variety of music: traditional, holiday, contemporary and music of the Westward movement. She has self-published a children's book, *Dulcimer for Elspeth*.

### Wednesday, Aug. 9

6:30 - 8 a.m. – Chapter Presidents & Committee Chairs Breakfast, Ramada Inn Ballroom A



St. Joseph, 1850

8 - 9:30 a.m. – Opening Welcome & General Membership Meeting, Ramada Inn Ballroom

9:30 a.m. – Noon Speakers, Ramada Inn Ballroom

Noon - 1:15 p.m. – Buffet Lunch, Ramada Inn Poolside

1:15 - 4:30 p.m. – Bus Tours of St. Joseph Historic Sites and Museums

5 - 6 p.m. – Chapter Meetings, Ramada Inn

6 - 7 p.m. – No Host Social Hour Featuring the OCTA Band, Ramada Inn Poolside

7 - 9 p.m. – Awards Banquet, Ramada Inn Ballroom

### Thursday, Aug. 10

7 a.m. - 5 p.m. – Convention Field Trips to Jesse James Country, Historic Mormon Sites, St. Joe Road

5 - 7 p.m. – Dinner on Your Own

7 - 9 p.m. – Workshops: Wagon Construction; Writing a Personal Journal; Historic Resource Data Base; Demo of COED CD; Costumes and Clothing; Chapter Development and Sponsoring a Successful Convention

### Friday, Aug. 11

8 a.m. - noon – Speakers, Ramada Ballroom

Noon - 1:30 p.m. – Lunch on the Veranda, Ramada Inn

1:30 - 5 p.m. – Speakers, Ramada Inn Ballroom

6 - 7:30 p.m. – “Missouri River” Catfish Dinner, Ramada Inn

7:30 - 9 p.m. – Fresh Cut Grass (Musicians), Ramada Inn Ballroom  
Ray Egan as Ezra Meeker

### Saturday, Aug. 12

7 a.m. - 5 p.m. – Field Trips: St. Joe Road, St. Joe Road - Hiking; Historic Mormon Sites; River Rats in the Missouri River Valley

6 - 8 p.m. – Barbeque, Missouri River Bank at Terrible's Frontier Casino

8 - 9 p.m. – Missouri Town Dancers



## Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter

### Chapter Changes Name During Winter Meeting

#### From the Chapter Newsletter

The Colorado Chapter has adopted a resolution to change the chapter name to "Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter." This change was approved by the National Board and was made to recognize the significance of the Cherokee Trail through Colorado. The chapter also is reorganizing and will elect new officers during the summer. For now Camille Bradford continues

in her role as Acting President and Treasurer.

As a result of the membership questionnaire circulated in the fall, committees have been formed to expand the activities of the chapter.

The committees are:

**Preservation:** Ernie Witucki, Chair; Gail Campbell, Chuck Lowrie, Sharon and Hal Manhart, Carolyn Moree, Bruce Watson. *Contact: ewitucki@msn.com.*

**Event planning:** Winnie Burdan. *Contact: wburdan119@aol.com.*  
**Membership development:** Nancy Houtz, Chair; Sharon and Hal Manhart.

*Contact: njhoutz@comcast.net.*

**Publicity:** Carolyn Moree.

*Contact: cm0ree1@netzero.net*

**Newsletter and website:** Camille Bradford.

*Contact: bradford@usa.net.*

### Cherokee Trail Trek Being Planned

#### By Winnie Burdan

I volunteered to be the event coordinator for the chapter at the first meeting in 2005.

When we met in January, it was decided that since we will be the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter we should concentrate this year on exploring the Cherokee Trail here in Colorado. The objective is going to be identifying and installing signage where possible along the Cherokee and other trails that traveled through Colorado. These trails are becoming very fragile with all of the building going on, and we shouldn't lose track of our western heritage, which is disappearing rapidly. We want to work with the local and state historical societies very closely to preserve these places.

Last year our first trip was very successful as we traveled to the three forts along the South Platte River. The museums are doing wonderful things with interesting plans in the making and if you haven't been to Ft. Lupton or Ft. Vasquez, you need to take time to visit them.

Ernest Witucki has volunteered to lead a trip July 15 from Laporte, CO, along the upper portion of the Cherokee trail into Wyoming. He will be sending out information about it later. The second trip planned for October will be either a two or three-day trip down to Bent's Old Fort near La Junta. The Cherokee Trail joined the Santa Fe Trail northwest of Wichita and then turned northwest at Bent's Fort on up to Wyoming.

It is amazing to realize just how many historical trails and branches came through Colorado. There were the Santa Fe Trail, the Taos/Trappers Trail, Cherokee Trail, Oregon Trail and the Smoky Hill Trail plus the many branches and even the numerous cattle trails that came up from Texas to Montana.

We also tend to forget that Zebulon Pike explored Colorado in 1806. His centennial is being observed in 2006-07, so it would be interesting to follow his trail through the state. We are looking forward to seeing all of you on the trail to somewhere this year and most importantly helping our chapter to grow.

### Smoky Hill Trail Gets Landmark Designation

The City Council of Aurora, CO, voted on February 6, 2006 to erect a landmark for the Smoky Hill Trail to recognize the significance of the route of the trail.

As reported in the *Denver Post*, the proposal for the landmark designation was presented by Gordon Davis, Executive Director of the Aurora History Museum, whose great-grandfather traveled on the trail in the 1800s.

The article also noted the work of Clarence Crowle and the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society in connection with seeking recognition of the trail by the National Trails System. Clarence is also a member of OX TA and our chapter.



## Nebraska Chapter

### Spring Trek to Fort Kearny

From the Chapter Newsletter

The Nebraska Chapter planned a Spring Trek to take place April 1 involving a tour of Fort Kearny Historical Park Museum with a guided tour by Park Superintendent Gene Hunt and a program on Fort Kearny. The day also was expected to include a visit to the Arelway Monument.

Trail sites expected to be visited included the trail section from Central City Dirty Women Ranch to the Susan Hall grave with stops at monuments along way. If time permitted the group also would tour down the 32-Mile Creek to the Little Blue River to visit Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary before returning to Fort Kearny. Helping organize the trip were Bill & Nancy Petersen.

### Utah War to be Noted During Sesquicentennial

The Utah War Sesquicentennial Committee has extended an invitation to OCA members to participate in commemoration efforts for the 1857 Utah War. The committee includes OCA stewards such as Wil Bailey, Dave Butler, John Eldredge, Howard Lankat, Mike Landon, Brigham Malson, Bud Rashio, Gene Sessions, Terry Del Bene, Bob Clark and Peter Delatoste.

For more information contact Richard W. Sadler, 801-581-1128, or visit [www.utahwar.org](http://www.utahwar.org).

## California Library Collection Grows

By Richard M. Davis  
CA-NV Chapter Library  
Committee

The OCTA Western Overland Trails Collection at the California State Library continues to grow with support from OCTA membership. More than 90 new titles have been added recently for a total of 472. Mrs. Eddie Bateson donated her late husband's extensive book collection focused on the American West. A judicious book collector, Eddie Bateson had books about the Pony Express, Snowshoe Thompson, Lewis and Clark and the western migration. He was an active member of OCTA and the gift includes typed notes on the many OCTA trips and events in which he participated.

Tom Hunt brought in a spectacular Western print, donated by Sara Hunt. It is titled "On the Plains" (c. 1897) and was done by noted Western artists Herman Wendelborg Hansen. Measuring 34x21 inches, it was printed via chromolithography by H.S. Crocker & Co. of San Francisco. The print depicts a covered wagon, pioneers on horseback and evidence of an Indian attack. It is an excellent companion to the Library's print,

"Westward the Star of Empire Takes its Way." The Hunt donation is now hanging in the Library's California History Room. A color transparency and digital image have been created.

Don Buck has begun the preparation of copies of overland diaries, journals, recollections and letters from various research libraries, historical societies, private collections, newspapers and quarterlies for placing in the Western Overland Trails Collection. A cover page for each document provides pertinent information that might be of use to researchers. For many of these diaries and journals Richard L. Rieck, professor of geography at Western Illinois University in Macom, has made the transcriptions. The overland documents are cataloged by author and by the trail used to reach California. These materials cannot be reproduced or quoted for publication without permission of the original owner of the item.

Finally, the library's non-profit support group, the California State Library Foundation, has received generous donations of funds to the OCTA Collection. These funds will be used to enhance acquisitions.

## Wyoming Class Wins Education Drawing

By Bill Hill  
Education Committee Chair

Congratulations to Beverly Walker and her 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at Pinedale Elementary School, Pinedale, WY. They are the recipients of our nationwide drawing for a class set of the OCTA activity book of their choice. A class set of *Reading, Writing, & Riding along the Oregon-*

*California Trails* has been sent to them.

Notices for the drawing were sent out to more than 1000 schools and districts last fall, and the drawing was held in January. Coincidentally, Beverly was one of OCTA's earlier Outstanding Educator Award recipients. This fall, the Education Publications Committee will again be sponsoring another drawing.



# 2006 Celebration of Ezra Meeker's 1906 Oregon Trail Monument Expedition

By Dave Welch  
National Preservation Officer

A century ago 75-year-old Ezra Meeker left his front yard in Puyallup, WA with two oxen, a wagon, a driver and a dog, to retrace and mark the Oregon Trail. His purpose was to leave the Oregon Trail as a monument to that generation of pioneers who settled and held the West.

In the summer of 2006 a dozen members of these two organizations will retrace part of Meeker's journey, with one of the Meeker wagons, from Puyallup, WA to Saint Joseph, MO, to coincide with the opening of the National OCTA convention beginning Aug. 8. The official trek will be joined by an ox drover and a yoke of oxen in Oregon.

At each location there will be performances by Ray Egan portraying Ezra Meeker, and the telling of the story of the expedition by Dennis Larsen, in addition to programs organized locally.

Additionally, organizers expect markers will be placed in Chehalis, WA and Claquato, WA in late April and in Soda Springs, ID in July. Despite promises made to Meeker in 1906, these markers were never erected. One hundred years later we will correct this oversight.

We encourage all to join the procession from site to site. Period attire is encouraged. Join in the Celebration! More information is available at [www.meekermansion.org](http://www.meekermansion.org)

## 2006 Schedule

July 22 Puyallup WA  
July 23 Tumwater WA  
July 23 The Dalles OR  
July 24 Pendleton OR

July 25 Durkee OR  
July 26 Flagstaff Hill/Baker City OR  
July 27 Boise ID  
July 28 Three Island Crossing / Glens Ferry ID  
July 29 Pocatello / Fort Hall ID  
July 30 Soda Springs, ID  
July 31 Rock Springs WY  
Aug 1 South Pass WY  
Aug 2 Casper WY  
Aug 4 Scotts Bluff NE  
Aug 5 Kearney/Fort Kearny NE  
Aug 6 Alcove Spring KS  
Aug 7 Arrive St Joseph MO  
**Aug 8-12 OCTA Convention**  
Aug 10 Independence MO  
Aug 16 Fort Bridger, WY  
Aug 19 Walla Walla WA  
Aug 21 Return to Puyallup WA

## Wyoming State Protocol Revised

By Dave Welch  
National Preservation Officer

A new Wyoming State Protocol has been approved by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The protocol specifies how the BLM and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) will interact when an historic property (like the trail) is potentially impacted by some activity.

The new protocol provides a better definition of the process and formally implements some procedures that have been used for the past few years. The major improvement from OCTA's perspective is the inclusion of specific process for evaluating setting. There are changes in the final document from the version circulated in draft form.

## 2006 Partnership for the National Trails System Historic Trails Workshop in May

The Partnership for the National Trails System will hold a workshop on historic trails May 5-7 in Kansas City, MO at the Quatterage Hotel, located in Kansas City's historic Westport neighborhood. Westport Road, located right in front of the hotel, was once the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trail while Lewis and Clark traveled a few miles to the north and Alexander Majors, one of the founders of the Pony Express, lived a few miles south.

Workshop sessions will be held on a diverse variety of topics including federal funding sources and an introduction to tools and strategies for protecting historic trail resources on private and public lands. For more information contact Travis Boley at [tboley@independent.org](mailto:tboley@independent.org)

## Bittner Book Recognized

Roseanne Bittner, author of 57 novels, received second place in historical fiction in the WILFA awards given by the Women Writing the West for her book *Where Heaven Begins*. The book is set in the Yukon during the gold rush and is the story of a bounty hunter who unwittingly finds himself helping a preacher's daughter reach the area. Bittner is a longtime member of OCTA.



## CA-NV Chapter

The CA-NV Chapter has several activities and outings planned this year. For detailed information, please contact the leader.

### May 5-7, 2006 - San Jose Spring Symposium

The Spring Symposium will be held in Santa Clara Valley. The committee has invited speakers to talk about Indians, Missions, the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail, and the historic New Almaden Quicksilver Mine. Highlights will be walking the streets of the old mining town of New Almaden, viewing historic homes, visiting the Mining Museum and exploring Quicksilver Park. Join the Pioneer Sections of lovely Oak Hill Memorial Park with Pat Loomis as your guide. Enjoy the awards dinner in the vineyards of Guglielmo Winery in Morgan Hill. **Contact:** Mary Mueller, (408) 268-7389.

### June 3 to 4, 2006 - 40 Mile Desert Trail Trek

Truckee Route from the Fernley Sand Swales to Humboldt Bar. Dry camping overnight. Sunday proceed on the Carson Route to Reno. High clearance vehicle and CB radio are necessary. **Contact:** Gene Oliver, (775) 972-6892.

### June 9-11 and Sept 8-10 - Trails West Work Party, Nobles Trail

Installing several new markers, moving several existing markers, replanting and re-routing. **Contact:** Bob Black, (541) 736-9641, trailchase@clanet.net

## Preservation Office

As OCTA's National Preservation Officer it is easy to get a little "down" with all of the activities that occur with negative impact on the trail. However, there is a lot of good news that offsets the bad and it is important for you and me to remind ourselves of the positive work that is being done by many. If it weren't for OCTA and its members, much more trail and its history would be lost. Let's look at a few of the current activities.

First, one of our most important preservation projects doesn't involve the physical trail at all: the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED). The identification, acquisition and preservation of the stories of the trail are a foundation for the preservation of the trails themselves. COED's tools for locating and accessing trail-related information are a significant contribution to historical research. This work is now being led by Sallie Riehl, Sharon Manhart and Marley Shurtleff. A new and improved second edition of the Emigrant Names CD has been released and new research tools have been developed. An image of all document surveys is now provided with the Emigrant Names CD.

In January, I attended the national conference of the Society of Historical Archaeology in Sacramento, CA. I was particularly interested in new approaches for locating trail artifacts and graves. While I did not find a panacea, work with various sensors (earth-penetrating radar, magnetometers, etc.) is making progress. The use of dogs to find centuries-old graves is promising, but still needs some scientific backup to verify its validity. Other OCTA members in attendance included Paul

Demers, Leslie Fryman and Russ Tanner. Dr. Demer's University of Nebraska students gave superb presentations on their work at the Beaver Creek trail crossing site on the Nebraska City cutoff. Lee Kreutzer of the NPS Salt Lake City presented an excellent paper on the threats to historic trails and what can be done to protect them.

In Wyoming, OCTA members Don Hartley and Randy Brown are working with energy developers to find satisfactory solutions for the inevitable placement of drill sites, roads and pipelines near the trails. Their constructive work with the BLM and developers is resulting in better placement of the energy infrastructure. We are also encouraging the application of new techniques to minimize visual and physical impacts.

In Oregon, the Northwest Chapter was asked to review a wind energy site plan for potential impacts to the Oregon Trail. The location of the trail through the project area has been consistently mapped across the project area from the original GLO cartography of 1860s to the NPS in 1972. A ground survey confirmed that there is little or no visible evidence of the trail on the surface. However, a review of the Northwest Chapter's 2001 report to the NPS of the June 2000 marking project in the area showed the Oregon Trail trace visible in full grown grain. Based upon this review and other information provided by the Northwest Chapter, the SHPO requested the developer to evaluate the impact on historic and cultural aspects, including viewshed, of the project on the Oregon Trail.

*Continued on Next Page*



## Volunteers Needed

# Rock Springs BLM to Celebrates the Antiquities Act Centennial

As part of the Antiquities Act Centennial Celebration, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Rock Springs will observe three distinctive events, a study of the National Trails in the South Pass Area, a Cherokee Trail visit by the Kansas School For the Blind, and the Ezra Meeker Commemoration.

The study of the National Historic Trails in the South Pass area is a joint effort between the Lander and Rock Springs BLM offices. "We will observe the celebration with three separate events," said Terry Del Bene, lead archeologist with the Rock Springs BLM. The BLM is in need of skilled volunteers to assist in trail recordation and trail site/feature documentation for this particular project.

The Bureau has partnered with willing landowners, the National Park Service, the Oregon-California Trails Association and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office. The BLM has already started making contact with landowners in the areas who may be involved in the study.

Collectively, these groups and agencies will complete historical document research and the field assessments for the South Pass area. The research being completed is the first comprehensive review of documentation combined with field-checking ever done for the entire South Pass area. "The volunteers accepted for this particular study need to have established skills, such as trail recordation, prior experience with global positioning system (GPS) units; an understanding of digital cameras; and comprehensive writing experience," said Colleen Sievers, co-lead for this project. "We will be conducting a volunteer program bringing together historians, trail

experts, and professional archaeologists from across the country," explained Del Bene. Fieldwork will take place from June 19-30, 2006, in the South Pass area.

Anyone interested in being a part of this unique opportunity should contact the Rock Springs Field Office BLM office in writing by May 1, 2006. The office address is:

Rock Springs BLM

ATTN: Cultural Resources

280 Highway 191 North

Rock Springs, WY 82901.

Please include your name, mailing address, a brief list of qualifications, and dates available to volunteer.

There is limited space available and qualified volunteers will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Qualified volunteers will be mailed a volunteer packet with more specific information.

The Kansas School for the Blind visit to the Cherokee Trail will be held July 12, 2006 and the Ezra Meeker Commemoration is Aug. 1, 2006 at the South Pass Summit near the Ezra Meeker Monument.

For more information, contact Terry Del Bene at 307/352-0301; or Colleen Sievers 307/352-0324.

## Preservation Officer's Report...

*Continued from Previous Page*

In the course of discussions with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) about the wind energy project, aerial photographs taken in 1971 by the Oregon Highway Department, and described by Aubrey Haines in his book *Historical Sites Along the Oregon Trail*, was located. At this time, discussions are being conducted to arrange digital scanning of the photos for a current CCSP project of the Northwest Chapter.

In Idaho, Jim McGill has been researching and locating the Goodale Cutoff North. His work has located many trail remnants and he has made new contact with Goodale descendants. Jim will be publishing his results in the Idaho newsletter and in other articles. Jim's work is a good example of the fact that there is much to be done even when it appears that the research is "complete."

In California, Leslie Fryman is working with Frank and Mary Ann

Tortorich and Bill and Jeanne Watson on the plans for the Kirkwood Ski Resort area through which the Carson Trail passes. I believe the stewardship of the Tortoriches and Watsons in this area goes back to the time when Kit Carson first visited. Their work is a great example for all.

Also, you have probably heard of the renewed activities of our Nebraska and Colorado chapters. Both old and new members are rediscovering the trails in those states and adding to trails history.

These are only a few of the many activities underway. Others include the Vieux Elm signage and Gardner projects in Kansas, various trails activities in the Salt Lake City area, trail marking in Wyoming and the Meeker Centennial celebration. You can obtain more information from the chapter news in this newsletter or from your own chapter newsletter. So there really is good news!



# Volunteers Needed for Education Program

By Laura Vaile  
Education Programs Committee Chair

The Education Programs Committee would like to establish a database of volunteers who are interested in sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm about the trails with students. We would like to have volunteers from all parts of the country who would be willing to speak to groups of students, show educational materials, dress up, guide a tour, show antiques or replica items, and/or participate in pioneer activities at schools, churches or town celebrations. If you would be interested in getting involved with projects such as these, please fill out this form and return it to: Laura Vaile, OCTA Education Programs Committee Chair, 20202 Telegraph Square Ln., Katy, TX 77449.

The OCTA website at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org) will publicize that we have volunteers available to do educational events. Interested parties can contact me to see if there is a volunteer in their area. I will then give them the information necessary to contact you. Your information will not be posted on the website for public viewing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at [lvaile@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lvaile@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at (281) 599-1259. Thank you for your interest and support in educating our youth about the rich history of overland trails!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contacting you:  mail  phone  E-mail

How far would you be willing to travel to volunteer at an event? \_\_\_\_\_

What day(s) and time(s) are you available? \_\_\_\_\_

With what grade(s) would you be willing to work?

K-2  3-5  6-8  9-12  other groups: \_\_\_\_\_

What type of presentations would you be able to do?

speaking  tour guide  dressing up/re-enacting

interactive presentation  photo/video show  demonstrations

other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

What is your area of expertise or primary interest? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of materials could OCTA provide for you that you might need? \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any other ideas for educational programs OCTA could develop, please add them to this or E-mail Laura Vaile at [lvaile@msn.com](mailto:lvaile@msn.com).



## South Alternate Marking Continues

By Jim McGill  
I-OCTA Preservation Officer

Idaho Chapter members continue their trail marking program with members out on the trail in February (for the first time ever) to mark parts of the South Alternate route near Loveridge Bridge.

The ruts west of the same bridge had only three to four remaining old markers, some a bit shot up, but the OCTA members put new decals on those that would hold them. They also added six new markers. On this one-mile stretch of trail the huge grease wood is so large that it is hard to follow the trail, even though the ruts

are quite visible—some sections are invisible from others.

Members also found that there are short sections of ruts still showing on both sides of the road bed that was built up for the new bridge on Highway 51. There is still a section of trail that needs to be marked before the entire South Alternate is identified for visitors.

A field trip is being planned for June 23-25 on the Goodale Cutoff across Idaho and from Brownlee to Baker, OR. Research is continuing into the history of the Goodale family and numerous descendants have been found.

## Anza Program Part of Mid-Year Board Events

Don Garate, Chief of Interpretation at Tumacacori National Historical Park in Tumacacori, AZ, made an appearance as Juan Batista de Anza as part of the activities of the Mid-Year Board meeting in Arizona in March.

For the Saturday evening program, Don Garate “became” Anza to tell the story of the Spanish in 18th century Mexico and their efforts to extend political control.

Lieutenant Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, the commander of the presidio (military outpost) of Tubac, in modern-day Arizona, received permission from the viceroy of New Spain to lead two expeditions to California. The first, in 1774, established an overland route from Sonora to the California coast, where Spain was creating settlements. The

next year, a second expedition under Anza was launched from Tubac on October 23, 1775 to bring 30 families of colonists comprised of soldiers and their families (197 people) to California. This second expedition had the immediate objective of creating a new military outpost at the strategic harbor of San Francisco. It arrived in Monterey, the regional headquarters of the Spanish army in California, on March 10, 1776. A small group led by Anza then reconnoitered the Bay area. The final outcome of the journey was the founding of the Presidio of San Francisco, two missions, and the pueblo of San José. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail commemorates the second of these two expeditions.

### New Members

Lynn Wadell  
Arrington County  
107 W. Elmwood Ave.  
Suite 110  
Centerville, OH 45012

Bill Armstrong  
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bill@billarmstrong.com

Chandler Hillier  
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Kyta, C.A. 92084

Bob Burchar  
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Lloyd Evans  
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Wathena, KS 66090  
785-989-3273  
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Rhonda O'Brien  
Great Plains River Road  
Archway Monument  
66011-1481  
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402-237-1000  
robrien@archway.org

Bo Herman  
1485 North St  
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bherman@onestop.net

Jim Hottinger  
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Fairview, OR 97024-0878  
503-618-1464



## New Members

Richard Thiele  
415 3rd Avenue  
York, NJ 08464  
417-366-5897

Jim and Kathy Jennings  
472 W 71st Terrace  
Prairie Village, KS 66206

Kevin & Kelly  
168 Normalton Court  
San Carlos, CA 94040

John M. Levar  
3714 Silverwood St  
Billings, MT 59102

Judie Moorhouse  
17027 Vista Drive  
Gerrystown, NY 69541  
408-476-4193

Clifford T. Mowrey  
655 Main 300 West #106  
Cedar City, UT 84703

Barb Netherland  
230847 Highland Rd  
Southall, NE 68761  
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bnether@prairieweb.com

George Petershamer  
423 Franciscan Trail  
Redding, CA 96003  
530-227-2685  
george.petershamer@rednet.ca.gov

William Robins  
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Chappaqua, NY 10514  
914-238-8786

Martha Jean and Lyle Rockey Jr.  
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mrockey@troyksd.org

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St. Joseph, MO 64502  
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## Gateway Chapter

### Chapter Handles Marker Maintenance

By Paul Dittimore  
Chapter Preservation Officer

Gateway chapter members have repaired, replaced and even removed markers in an effort to make them more visible or better protected.

The marker trek started at the south side of the Courthouse Square in Troy, KS, before heading out for Brown County, Kansas. Participants included Wayne Schutte, Del Sutherland, Bill Leppert, Bob Hamilton, Sandy Smith, Calvin Smith, John Atkinson, Pete Duncan and Gateway Chapter Preservation Officer Paul Dittimore who served as the group leader.

During the course of the day these members checked on all the Carsonite trail makers on the St. Joe Road in Brown County Kansas. The first stop was at the Oneida cemetery. John Atkinson brought out some cleaner and sealer that he put to work on the marker. John did the same on all the markers. The marker was out of plumb and needed to be reset, as did several other markers. In addition, some markers were moved to be more visible from the roadway. Calvin Smith brought and used a machete to trim the tall grass and brush from around the markers.

Three of the markers were on rural country roads. At one location, the landowner approached the group participants to inquire what they were doing. After hearing an explanation, he had no objection as long as the marker was not an obstruction to his farming operation. The marker at the Prairie Spring campground site could not be found but driving north we found the marker stuck in a fence. We

moved the marker back to its original site.

Hiawatha, KS, has seven markers in its vicinity. The group had a bit of trouble finding the one at Sixth and Cheyenne as the marker was on a dead end street. It was located next to a utility pole and some brush had grown up around it. There was a young man nearby mowing his grass. He had just recently moved to Hiawatha and had noticed the marker but had no idea what it was. After it was explained what the marker represented, he was very interested and went to his garage and got pruning shears to cut the brush. He said he would watch over the marker. One marker was missing at the intersection at 12<sup>th</sup> and Oregon, which was replaced.

We went to the west side of Brown County to a roadside park at the junction of 75 and 36 Highways to eat sack lunches and then headed east to Antelope Road, which was a dead end and dirt. What a sight the Gateway members must have been – three strange vehicles heading up a dead end road. We had just arrived at the marker when the landowner showed up. After a pleasant visit, the farmer left to get on with his bean planting, and we headed east to the marker on 240<sup>th</sup> Road.

The last stop was Fairview, KS, which had three markers. The one located in the yard of the Kopp farmhouse was missing, along with the house and yard – all removed because of highway construction. We removed the marker just south of the intersection of 75 and 36 to prevent it from being destroyed as the highway construction continued. It will be replaced later.



# Let's Go for the Gold Medal

Please help OCTA reach its \$20,000 fund raising goal by making your donation today.

As of this writing, 170 members have donated \$13,400 in response to our November letter.

The following are individuals who have contributed since the last printing of member names in the January issue of *News From the Plains*:

- Carol Bachhuber
- Norman J. Barker
- William G. Bate
- Eisal Brantley
- Carol Ann Buss
- Lyndia and Dr. Robert Carter
- Robert and Sheila Clark
- Marjorie and William Coffill
- Arnold L. Cole
- Chris Combest
- Mary E. Conrad
- Robert R. Coward
- Howard Cramer
- Doug and Eloise Crary
- Richard and Virginia Davis
- Lee Drickamer
- Raymond and Maura Egan
- Joe Ellingson
- Eugene Fairbanks
- Jack and Pat Fletcher
- Eleanor Fry
- Ralph Gamboa
- Vern and Ilene Gorzitze
- Paul Grunland
- Koichiro Harada
- Jim Hardee
- William and Jan Hill
- Mabel Johnson
- Dean and Eileen Johnson
- Leon Jones
- Betsy Kanago
- Polly N. Kennison
- June and William Knight
- Jere L. Krakow
- Kalista S. Lehrer
- Jackie and Jerry Lewin

- Sarah Lund
- Ross and Pat Marshall
- Chuck and Mary Ellen
- Bill and Diane Martin
- Don McCarter
- Suzette McCord Rogers and Lee Rogers
- Jennifer Miller
- Howard and Bonnie Miller
- Chuck Milliken
- Steve Moore
- Joe Neiderheiser
- Dick and Ruby Nelson
- Bill and Margie Nolan
- William J. Ostrander and Janice L. Johnson
- James T. Owen
- M. Lethene Parks
- Mr. and Mrs. Judson Parsons
- Henry and Glenna Pittock
- Jim Sheik
- Zeke and Nancy Sicotte
- Fran Taplin
- Shirley Trevallee
- Steve Wang
- David and Wendy Welch
- Mary Ellen West

**New Members**

KEN NICHOL  
 2010 S. 10th St. Rapid City, SD 57701  
 605-225-8152  
 kensleigh@frontier.net

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 781-246-8519

JEANNE TUNGER  
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 817-737-7821  
 jtunger1@netcom.us.net

## Handcart Trek to Air on PBS

By Candy Moulton  
NEP Editor

The plight of the Mormon Handcart pioneers who were stranded in central Wyoming in 1856 is the subject of a forthcoming documentary that will air on PBS in late October. Lee Green, a documentary filmmaker from Bonairville, UT, had about 50 memorabilia out in the snow along the Sweetwater River in mid-July to make time for his one-hour documentary "Sweetwater Rescue: The Willie and Martin Handcart Story."

Pivotal scenes to the dramatic story, where the James Cary Willie and Edward Martin Handcart companies became stranded in October of 1856 included crawling through frozen Sweetwater river and the rescue of surviving members of the two handcart companies. Green said from Salt Lake City, "The filming took place on the Handcart Ranch (formerly the Fort Union Ranch), which is now owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The site is where the pioneers loaded handcarts."

The Great Platte River Archway Monument in Fort Collins, NE, will host a two-day celebration to recognize the sequent centennial of the Mormon Handcart Trek 2 and 3 including historical talks and speakers for the formation on this event. [www.handcartrek.org](http://www.handcartrek.org) or call 1-800-444-6666.



# Board Meeting

Continued from Page 1

nonprofit organization. Committee B will review the Lampe report and report back to the Board prior to the Aug. 8 meeting in St. Joseph, MO, where the Board could act on any proposed changes.

In discussing the Lampe report, Board Member Dave Welch told the Board he wanted to see "a full list of what the changes were that are made in this document so we know exactly where the changes are." He also asked that Committee B use Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter Acting President Camille Bradford, who is an attorney in Colorado, as an advisor to the committee.

Welch further said Committee B should be encouraged to take the bylaws back to Lampe, "if it is found that there is a substantial change." Committee B will now review the Lampe report and return its own recommendations to the full board for possible action in August. President Vern Gorzitze subsequently said Bradford will assist Committee B to "make sure that we are in line with Colorado law."

In a related action, that would also require a bylaws change, the Board considered a motion made by Frank Tortorich that would provide voting privileges to the president, vice president and preservation officer if they are not already members of the Board of Directors.

After considerable discussion, Tortorich withdrew his motion and the Board agreed to have Committee B also review this issue and make recommendations at the August meeting.

Currently officers are elected by the Board and not the membership. In some cases they are also elected members of the Board of Directors. Board Member Bill Martin said that

while he supported the idea in concept, he had concerns because, "We have a Board that is elected by the membership; the officers are elected by the Board." Officers serve because of the Board and as a result "some people may suggest it is diluting the votes of the membership" by expanding the size of the Board from 12 members to 15 members.

*In other action the board approved the following motions:*

- Headquarters need not print nor issue membership cards.
- The reimbursement cap for expenses for Board members to attend the Mid-Year Board meeting will be increased from \$300 to \$500 to be effective with the March 2007 meeting. Board members are not reimbursed for attending the annual convention.
- Approved having headquarters print a membership roster every other year starting no later than FY 2006-2007, but will have the Publications Committee explore options for the roster to make it available in the least expensive format possible.
- Approved the treasurer's report as presented (which is published elsewhere in this edition of NFP).
- Authorized the formation of an OCTA Executive Committee composed of the president, vice president and a board representative. This committee may consult with the Headquarters Manager, Association Manager, Treasurer, and other individuals as needed.
- Appointed Lethene Parks as the Board Representative on the OCTA Executive Committee.

- Elected Turner Rivenbark as OCTA Treasurer.
- Approved renaming the Colorado Chapter the Colorado-Cherokee Trail of OCTA.
- Agreed that the chapter based in Idaho will be referred to as the Idaho Chapter in all official correspondence, reports, and references.
- Set the date for the next Mid-Year Board meeting, March 2-4, 2007 in Independence, MO.

*The Board also heard the following:*

- An update on the upcoming election from Vice President Glenn Harrison.
- An update on awards nominations from Awards Committee Chair Donna Fisher, who urged further nominations prior to the June 1 deadline.
- A report on grant opportunities from Association Manager Travis Boley, who said he is available to assist Chapters with grant writing.
- A report from Roger Blair and Reba Grandrud on a Southwest Chapter meeting held in conjunction with the Mid-Year Board meeting. They urged the board to consider holding a convention or symposium in Arizona to revitalize the chapter.

Board members and President Vern Gorzitze extended thanks to chapter presidents who attended the meeting and discussed the continuing need for a recording secretary or parliamentarian for the board meetings.



# Trails Legislation Still Moving with OCTA's Continued Support

By Bill and Jeanne Watson,  
Trails Liaison Committee Co-Chairs

Bill S-54 was passed by the Senate last year and still awaits favorable action by the House Resources Committee. For the first time in three years, that committee recently scheduled a hearing on a trail bill and it is one in response to the bill by Representative Zack Wamp of Tennessee to authorize the study of additional routes for the Trail of Tears. Our House and Senate supporters are working on a variety of approaches that may yet achieve House passage of S-54 this year before adjourning in early September.

Many thanks to each of you who wrote to your Representative and asked him/her to contact House Resources Committee Chair Richard Pombo and National Parks Subcommittee Chair Steve Pearce urging them to give prompt and favorable consideration to S-54, the Four National Historic Trails Additional Studies Authorization bill. If you have not written to your Representative, it is not too late to do so. Tell your Representative about your favorite route in S-54 and why it is important that it be studied. Address your letter to:

The Honorable (first & last name)  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

We were in Washington, DC, February 10-16 for Trails Advocacy Week and were very well received

after reporting your 2005 Volunteer Contributions estimated at 59,000 hours with a Congressionally estimated value of \$1 million plus an additional \$602,000 in donated expenses and contributions to OCTA. Many thanks to each of you who sent us your "2005 Volunteer Hours and Expenses" reports. Please start accumulating your 2006 contributions now--we will need them at year end. All will be used to help estimate OCTA's 2006 contributions to our trails.

Our Congressional contacts were amazed at the many accomplishments of OCTA with our federal and private partners such as: the COED 70,000 Emigrant Names CD set, the Four Historic Trails GIS database, and the Trail Mapping, Marking & Monitoring program plus chapter activities, cooperative efforts with Wyoming energy companies, the new OCTA trails map, help with the City of Rocks land purchase in Idaho, new Park Service online and printed Auto Tour Route Guides and BLM protection of Sandy River portion of the Barlow Road. "OCTA is the Outstanding Trail organization because you achieve so much," we were told.

OCTA is receiving nearly \$200,000 in Challenge Cost Share Program matching grants, the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office in Salt Lake City received over \$50,000 in additional annual funding and the BLM received \$1.6 million in Land & Water Conservation Funds to acquire an additional 500 acres along the Barlow Road near Portland, Oregon.

## Trails Volunteer Time & Expense Report -- Year 2006

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



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>				
CURRENT ASSETS:				
Cash	30,270	8,270		
Investments		149,272		
Receivables	12,260			
Inventory	52,350			
Prepaid expenses	487			
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total current assets	95,367	157,542	-	
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT	2,493			
OTHER ASSETS				
Investments	339,432		347,250	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	437,292	157,542	347,250	942,084
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Accts payable and accrued expenses	21,608	-	-	21,608
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted:				
Operating	73,759			
Board designated	339,432			
Property and equipment	2,493			
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Restricted		157,542	347,250	
Total net assets	415,684	157,542	347,250	920,476
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	437,292	157,542	347,250	942,084
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u>
Revenues and support:			
Membership dues	79,127		
Grants	109,380		
Convention revenue	55,517		
Contributions-convention	15,598		
Contributions-other	17,182	9,440	8,494
Publications and advertising	52,705		
Investment Income	45,711	45,386	
Other Income	340		
	<u>375,560</u>	<u>54,826</u>	<u>8,494</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>25,000</u>	<u>(25,000)</u>	
	<u>400,560</u>	<u>29,826</u>	<u>8,494</u>
Expenses:			
Programs	302,274		
Management and general	67,123		
Fundraising	26,542		
	<u>395,939</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Increase in net assets	<u>4,621</u>	<u>29,826</u>	<u>8,494</u>

The financial information presented on this and the accompanying page is in a different format from previous years. The change was made in order to present financial information in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The information presented this year is in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles except that it does not include financial statement disclosures (notes to financial statements), the value of services donated by volunteers and the value of historical items given to OCTA

*Turner Rivenbark*  
Treasurer



# The National Frontier Trails Museum Celebrating the American West!



*"Granddaddy's Bell and the Wagon Train" by Joan Barton and Illustrated by Carol Barton. It is a fun and colorful story of a wagon train. Each traveler's story is told in a different color illustration. The story is full of excitement and danger. The journey is like no other. Learn how the wagon train was formed. The decision to go west was a hard one. Good things behind the scenes.*

The National Frontier Trails Museum presents the story of the exploration, acquisition, and settlement of the American West. An award-winning film prepares visitors for the interpretive exhibits which guide them along the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails. Quotations from trail diaries are extensively used, allowing pioneer travelers to tell their experiences in their own words. The museum has an authentic original wagon, tents and utensils, activities for kids, wagon train swales, and museum store. For more information on the Trails Museum and upcoming special events, please call 816-325-7575 or check our website at [www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org](http://www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org).



Visit 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](http://www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org)

Mon-Sat 9:00 am - 4:30 pm      Adults \$4.00, Sen  
Sunday 12:30 - 4:30 pm      Youth (6 - 17) \$2.50, Age 5 & under Free



**OREGON-CALIFORNIA  
TRAILS ASSOCIATION**  
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Independence, MO 64051-0519

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