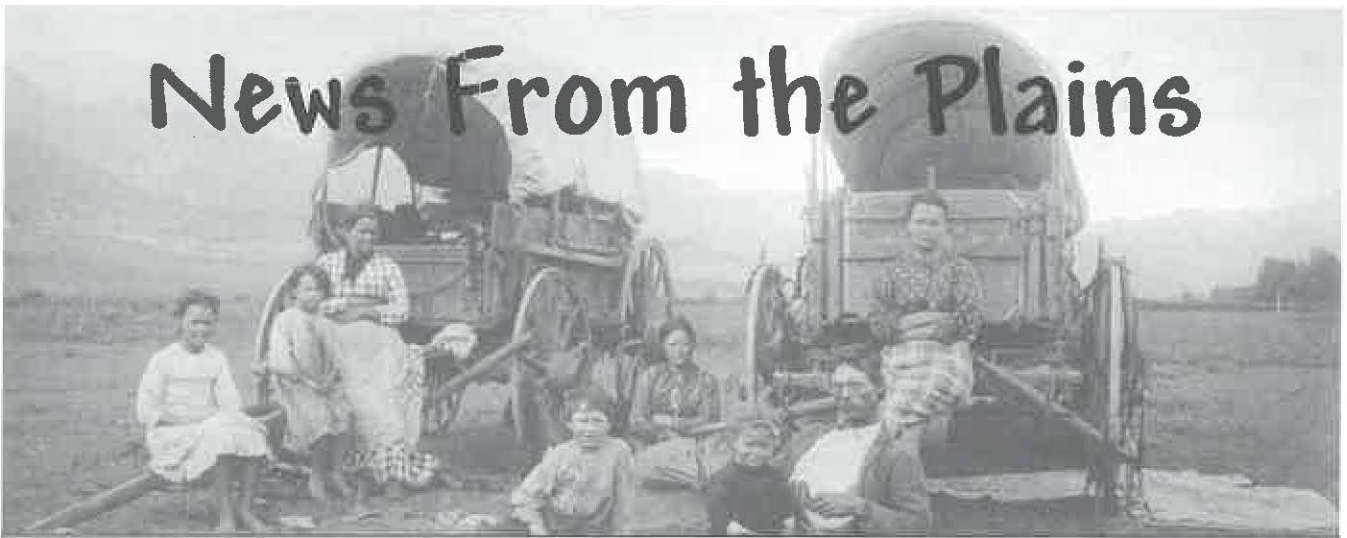


# News From the Plains



Vol. XXI. No. 2

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Spring 2007

## OCTA Board Adopts Strategic Plan

By *Candy Moulton*  
*NFP Editor*

In March the Board of Directors adopted a Strategic Plan that will guide activities for the Oregon-California Trails Association. It calls for four broad goals: to preserve the historic emigrant trails, to be a more effective trails organization through appropriate partnerships, to improve organization and management effectiveness, and to keep OCTA's base membership energized.

The plan notes that OCTA is the "pre-eminent guardian and promoter of the 'inspirational' story of the 19<sup>th</sup> century westward American migration, which is unique in world history." Further

the OCTA mission is defined as one to "protect the Historic Emigrant Trails by promoting research, education, preservation activities and public awareness of the trails; and to work with others to promote these causes."

In order to accomplish the four goals, the organization also has identified objectives, actions, and a leader for each. The leaders include committees, chapters, the Board, and staff members.

This strategic plan is the result of a year's worth of planning and discussion that started in March of 2006 during a work session the Board held in Phoenix, AZ. The entire process was facilitated by Sharon

Brown of the National Park Service's National Trails System-Intermountain Region. Following that joint session, the Long Range Planning Committee of Richard Pingrey, Loren Pospisil, and Marley Shurtleff, with support from Association Manager Travis Boley and Brown, further refined the strategic plan until it evolved into the document approved by the Board in Independence.

The plan will be posted on the Internet at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org). Copies also may be obtained by contacting OCTA Headquarters at 888-811-6282 or by writing OCTA, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519.



Wind tower projects threaten trail resources in Oregon. See Page 16 for details. (Photo by Stafford Hazelett)

## 2007 OCTA Officers

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**NFP Deadline  
Summer Issue  
May 25, 2007**



Legislative Alert

# Please Write To Congress Now In Support Of Our New Trails Studies Authorization Bills

*By Bill and Jeanne Watson  
Legislative Liaison Co Chairs*

Senator Orrin Hatch - (R-Utah) gave OCTA a very nice Valentine present by introducing Senate bill S. 580 on February 14. During the Trails Advocacy Week, Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Oregon 3<sup>rd</sup> District and House Trails Caucus Chairman, on March 6 introduced a similar House of Representatives bill H.R. 1336. Both bills authorize the study of the additional routes and cutoffs recommended in the Comprehensive Management Plan to see if they qualify for inclusion in the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, or Pony Express National Historic Trails.

Please take a few minutes now to write to your two Senators asking each of them to become a co-sponsor of bill S. 580. And, please write and ask your Representative to become a Co-Sponsor of bill H.R. 1336. Do not send e-mails to Senators or Representatives because they fall into a black hole and disappear.

We were greatly helped during the Trails Advocacy Week activities by Carol and Vern Osborne and Travis Boley. The cumulative OCTA team include more than 35 face-to-face sessions and distribution of handouts in House and Senate offices and to Legislative and Appropriations staffs. Similar material was dropped off in another 30 Congressional offices. Our deepest thanks to Vern, Carol, and Travis for their fine efforts.

The Osbornes have agreed to serve with us as co-chairs of the OCTA Legislative Committee.

**SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESS - Please use your own words to make it more effective.**

## **SENATE**

Honorable (first & last name)  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (last name)

## **HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES**

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

If man - Dear Congressman (last name)  
If woman - Dear Representative (last name)

I would like to call your attention to two non-controversial bills S. 580 and H.R. 1336 recently introduced in the Senate and House and urge you to become a co-sponsor.

These bills authorize the study of additional routes and cutoffs for the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails to identify those that meet the National Trails Act criteria for future addition to these Trails. Those routes and cutoffs that meet these criteria will later be submitted to Congress for approval.

The 1999 Comprehensive Management Plan for the California and Pony Express Trails with updates for the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer Trails recommended these additional routes and cutoffs for future study. During the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress both the House and Senate unanimously passed similar bills but there was no time to resolve the slight wording differences. During the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress the Senate unanimously passed similar legislation but the House Resources Committee Chair killed it.

**(If there are one or two proposed study routes that you are especially interested in, please write a few words here to telling about their historical important. Please do not send the entire study list.)**

**(For your Senators)** Please join Senator Orrin Hatch in sponsorship of bill S. 580 J.J. Brown, 224-5251, can assist your staff.

**(For your Congressman)** Please join Congressman Earl Blumenauer in sponsorship of bill H.R. 1336. Katie Drennan, 225-4811, can assist your staff.



## Trail Journal...

Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor, nfpocta@aol.com

To make it clear, as always this column is my opinion. Approval of a new Strategic Plan and updated bylaws set the tone for the future of OCTA at the Mid-Year Board meeting, but the financial report by Treasurer Turner Rivenbark underscores the economic reality facing this organization.

For several years we have been losing membership and there is more than one reason for that fact. Some membership reduction is natural attrition and some may be due to changing finances for members. OCTA is not alone in this situation; other historical and trails groups also face similar declines periodically.

The loss of membership – roughly 25 percent from its all-time high in 1997 – however, is only one area that has impacted OCTA's annual budget. The failure of conventions to generate the revenue projected during the budget process is also an important reason why during the past three years our organization has spent more than it has taken in as revenues. (See related article on page 7 for details.)

True, there are funds in our endowment accounts, close to \$1 million, but a portion of that money is set aside permanently and much of it can be used only for specific purposes, not the general operations of the organization.

*Continued on Page 5*

## The President Sounds Off...

Vern Gorzitze  
vergor@viawest.net

## Each Member is a Salesman

### (OUR PRODUCT - OCTA)

*"It is just human nature that people gravitate toward other people with whom they feel that they have something in common. You need to determine the traits and comfort zones of the customer and try to match your behavior to theirs to create and unspoken bond of trust."*

– Miles Hall

Being able to do what Miles Hall suggests takes practice – constant practice – but when learned and mastered will pay huge dividends, not only in the OCTA business, but also in your personal ability to communicate with others in your daily lives.

We are what we think we are. If we deeply feel OCTA is the best, then the organization can become the best and people will want to be part of it along with us.

As good OCTA salespeople we should try to determine the needs of potential members and look at things through their eyes – walk in their shoes.

We need to be excited and enthusiastic about the product we have and want to sell. Enthusiasm is contagious and consumes everything in its path. Another thing that is contagious is a smile and warm handshake; these make a person feel welcome. Treat people the way you would want to be treated – let them know that you will be ready for them, when they are ready for you, build a trust. Dale Carnegie had this to say about the power of a smile: "Your smile is a messenger of goodwill.

Your smile brightens the lives of all who see it...your smile is like the sun breaking through the clouds."

Don't forget to remember the potential new member's name. Learn his or her name and use it often – it is the single item that is wholly and completely owned by the person with whom you are dealing.

Ask questions, meaningful questions about wants, desires, and expectations, try to find out exactly what people are interested in. Above all, there comes a time when we need to stop talking and listen – I say again LISTEN. If people think you are truly listening, they will open up and the listener will be surprised at the precious and useful bits of information that will be uncovered – pearls of wisdom and knowledge??? I think so.

Chances are that you already have some things in common with a potential new member – The love of history, thirst for knowledge, and perhaps preservation. "Birds of a Feather" will always "Flock Together."

*We have a unique product - let's get out and SELL - SELL - SELL!*

## What's Happening...

April 21 & 22, 2007  
CA/NV Spring Symposium  
Yreka, California

May 18 & 19, 2007  
Lander Road Commemoration  
Pinedale, Wyoming

August 8-12, 2007  
OCTA Convention  
Gering/Scottsbluff, Nebraska



## From the Association Manager...

Travis Boley

Tboley@indepmo.org

There is electricity in the air in Western Nebraska and the communities of Gering and Scottsbluff in anticipation of our arrival later this summer for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention. In March, I had the opportunity to speak at the Gering Business Club and meet with the various managers of the local attractions and businesses; they are genuinely excited at the opportunity to host such a special event.

We've received grants from the local tourism board, and we have sponsorships in place. Won't you come and show your appreciation to these fine communities for not only preserving the story we all hold so dear, but also for promoting it like few others?

Also, keep in mind that while you're having a grand time at the convention, this is also OCTA's primary annual fundraiser. It is no secret that the last two conventions did not generate the revenue necessary to fully fund OCTA's myriad preservation and education efforts. A variety of reasons were at the fore for this shortfall, chief among them low attendance numbers at the conventions. I know that this convention has the added mystique of being the 25th such affair, and it's being held right in the heart of some of the best trail resources to be found anywhere. If you're undecided as to whether you're coming or not, I want to personally ask you to make definite plans to attend. Not only will you have a grand time and see old friends, you'll help pump some needed revenues into OCTA's coffers.

This gala Silver Anniversary Convention will kick off in grand fashion on Sunday, Aug. 5 and

Monday, Aug. 6 with five exciting pre-convention tours. Trail expert Randy Brown will lead two tours for the first fifteen people who sign up. On Sunday, Randy will guide fifteen 4 X 4 vehicles from the Nebraska/Wyoming state line to Fort Laramie, and pick up the tour on Monday from Fort Laramie to Glendo, WY.

Nebraska trail expert Linda Tacy will lead eight high-clearance vehicles in a pre-convention tour in the area around Sutherland, NE, on Sunday, Aug. 5. Those who partake in this tour will see plenty of Oregon and California Trail remnants, as well as sites relative to military forts, the Pony Express, and the Mormon Pioneer Trail. It is limited to the first eight respondents.

Bill Peterson from Minden, NE, will guide fifteen vehicles around the areas of California Hill, near Brule, NE, and Julesburg, CO, on Monday, Aug. 6. In addition to the incredible ruts at California Hill and the wonderful museums in Julesburg, those on the tour will also see the sites of Fort Sedgewick, the previous townsites of Julesburg, the Platte River Crossing, and several Pony Express sites. Again, this trek is limited to the first fifteen people who respond, so do not procrastinate!

The final pre-convention tour is a little out of the norm. Trekkers will have to opportunity to partake in a 24-hour wagon train in the vicinity of Chimney Rock. It will last from noon on Monday, Aug. 6 to noon on Tuesday, Aug. 7. At a secluded campsite, those on the wagon train will enjoy the historic viewshed without any modern intrusions. Three meals prepared on the trail, driving the teams, muzzle loading, and

*Continued on Page 12*

## Trail Journal

*Continued From Page 4*

The OCTA Board and Staff must take additional and firm action to increase revenues. Further, the Board and Staff must address the issue of convention planning to assist chapters and ensure that each convention provides a return to the organization.

These are issues the Board recognizes need attention and some steps have already been taken to address concerns. For example, Board Committees will make recommendations at the Annual Meeting on such issues as funding for the Association Manager and National Preservation Officer positions.

Each member can help, not necessarily with contributions of money (although that is certainly welcome and encouraged), but more importantly by finding one person to join. If we all did that simple act, our membership would double and our cash flow would improve significantly, alleviating the current concerns.

Also we must plan to attend the convention in Gering-Scottsbluff. This is important to support the organization and to recognize the Silver Anniversary of our founding. Nebraska Chapter members and convention organizers are planning a full slate of activities, speakers, and entertainment. Tours before and during the convention will take you to such sites as Ash Hollow, Chimney Rock, along the South Platte River, and into Wyoming to visit Fort Laramie National Historical Site and other trail areas.



## Headquarters' Manager's Report

Kathy Conway  
kconway@indepmo.org

Happy 25th Anniversary, OCTA.

As an organization, we are truly blessed with...

...an important Mission;  
... leaders who care, and  
... energetic volunteers who move the organization ahead by their skills and pioneer spirit.

These elements combined make OCTA the pre-eminent trails preservation group that we are today.

I am personally thankful to be associated with the excellence that has carried us through these first 25 years and I plan on celebrating our achievements today, tomorrow, and throughout the rest of the year.

Won't you join us in Gering Nebraska this August for a memorable Convention that marks the beginning of our next 25 years of trails preservation....

**A New OCTA  
Membership Roster  
is Now Complete**

*Paper copies are  
available for \$5, S&H included.*

Contact Headquarters to  
order by calling  
888-811-6282

## Jere Krakow Retires

*By Jeanne and Bill Watson*

Jere Krakow, OCTA's very special partner and friend, has retired, ending a 27-year National Park Service career. Jere proudly and successfully held administrative responsibility over nine of the 25 Congressionally authorized National Historic and Scenic Trails.

In addition to the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express Trails, he also administered the Santa Fe, Trail of Tears, Old Spanish, Camino Real de Tierra Adente, and Camino Real de Las Tejas National Historic Trails plus the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Project. The two Camino Trails are co-administered with the Bureau of Land Management.

The Salt Lake City National Park Service staff held a reception and dinner honoring Jere and his wife Jan in December. Many Crossroads Chapter "old timers" including Al Mulder and Roy Tea attended the reception. President Vern Gorzitze and his wife Ilene plus Will and Laura

Bagley attended the dinner. National Pony Express Association President David Sanner from Kansas, Wyoming Chapter President Les Bennington, and Utah Chapter President Pat Hearty each presented Jere with awards. The Park Service staff and their spouses were well represented along with a number of other federal agency friends.

Ken and Arleta Martin created a beautiful oak plaque of the United States with the Four Trails highlighted on it that was presented to Jere at the Awards banquet during OCTA's convention last year.

For 20 years Jere taught at Missouri State University in Springfield and became a tenured professor. Part of that time he worked as a National Park Service seasonal ranger. Jere was selected as National Parks Service historian for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways in 1983. The following year he moved to the Denver Service Center as historian and planning team leader. One of his responsibilities was to organize a diverse group of OCTA and National Pony Express Association leaders plus federal agencies planners to reach consensus decisions about protecting and interpreting these trails. The end result was an exemplary Comprehensive Management Plan for the newly designated California and Pony Express Trails with updates for the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer Trails. This plan set new high standards for future Comprehensive Management Plans.

In 1995 Jere became the first National Parks Superintendent for these Four Trails with headquarters in Salt Lake City. Starting with paper topographic



Jere Krakow.  
*(Photo by Jeanne Watson)*

*Continued on Page 9*



# OCTA Faces Financial Challenges

By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor

New bylaws, a new strategic plan, authorization for research and development of a documentary film, and committee assignments to seek funding opportunities for the association manager and a national preservation office position were approved by the OCTA Board during the Mid-Year meeting March 2-3 in Independence, MO.

The Board also heard a report from Treasurer Turner Rivenbark that shows the organization is facing serious financial challenges. During the period from October 2003 through September 2006, OCTA has had a shortfall in revenue of \$88,000 when measured against budget projections.

The organization has weathered that funding issue only because there have been adequate cash reserves to make up the shortfall, Rivenbark said. Now, however, the Board must determine how to increase revenues and continue programs and services for members.

The single biggest impact over the past three years has been a decline in revenues from the annual convention, in part because projected income has not met actual fund generation. The shortfall in convention revenues against projections from 2005 was \$19,000 while there was a \$34,000 shortfall from the 2006 convention, Rivenbark reported.

Dues revenue also is down due to a decline in membership of approximately 25 percent from all-time highs. The actual amounts show a dues shortfall of \$11,000 for the year that ended Sept. 30, 2005, and \$24,000 for the year that ended Sept.

30, 2006, when measured against budgeted amounts, Rivenbark's figures show. Actual membership numbers were 1,731 for 2005 and 1,670 for October 2006.

"Although having a break even year would be an improvement, we really need to make a significant profit one or two years so we can rebuild our cash reserves," Rivenbark reported to the board.

He stressed that the budgets were balanced when approved. "We stayed within the budget on expenses but since projected revenues did not materialize, headquarters had to utilize cash reserves to meet our obligations," he told the board.

The organization needs to "return to profitability. If dues revenue and convention net were back where we used to be, then we would be all right. If that doesn't happen, then we need to find a new stream of unrestricted revenue," he said.

In response, the board approved a recommendation from Rivenbark to expand the duties of the investment advisory committee to serve in an advisory capacity for all financial matters of OCTA. This committee, Jim Budde, Dave Welch, and Chuck Martin, will serve along with Rivenbark.

Rivenbark also reported on the endowment funds with current amounts as follows:

Charles and Mary Martin Fund: This is a restricted endowment fund. Income can be used for legal purposes for preservation. The fund was endowed at \$195,000 and must be retained at that level. Currently the fund has \$261,000.

Pat Loomis Fund: This is a fund with \$60,000 in permanently endowed principal. At the end of

2006 the fund had \$199,000. The amount above \$60,000 can be spent if approved by the Board.

Restricted Fund: This fund has been created from designated gifts and currently stands at \$478,000.

The endowment funds have done well, which has allowed use of some of the accumulated income to cover some of the funding shortfalls, Rivenbark said.

The board also changed the name of the restricted endowment fund to the Heritage Endowment Fund.

To cover potential funding shortfalls, the Board approved an Investment Advisory Committee recommendation to allow withdrawal of \$10,000 from the Heritage Endowment Fund, in the event that the funds are needed to pay the bills prior to the annual meeting.

Past President and current Board Member Dave Welch stressed the gravity of the funding situation to the Board noting that the budget adopted at August 2006 meeting had a deficit of \$26,000 and included anticipated 2007 convention profit of \$24,000, which may or may not occur. As a result the shortfall could be significantly more than the \$26,000 projected during the last budget process

"We have the potential for some very significant problems," Welch said. "I don't see a turn around in sight. We don't see an increase in membership. We lose some staff funding sources in the next year, so it could be significantly worse in another year."

Other board members noted that the continuing membership decline is an overriding problem for OCTA.

*Continued on Page 8*



## OCTA Board Approves Bylaws

By *Candy Moulton*  
*NFP Editor*

During its Mid-Year Board meeting in March, the OCTA Board approved amended bylaws, which are now in effect. Significant changes include provisions giving officers a vote on OCTA matters and allowing electronic meetings. The full bylaws will be published in a future issue of *News from the Plains*.

In addressing funding concerns (see related article), the board discussed convention planning and operations and recommended close cooperation between OCTA staff and convention planners to ensure maximum profitability. Further discussion of this issue is expected at the Annual Board Meeting in Gering-Scottsbluff, NE, in August.

The 2007 Convention Chair, Loren Pospisil also recommended that OCTA "take a serious look at how conventions are organized." He said there should be discussion on how the national organization can support local planners.

In other action the Board:

- Noted that the new membership roster is

available in a hardcopy format for \$5 and can be obtained from headquarters.

- Heard about advertising opportunities in a special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue of the *Overland Journal*.
- Heard reports from NPS representatives, including the notice that a replacement for Long Distance Trails Office Superintendent Jere Krakow, who retired in December, should be named soon.
- Approved the Documentary Project Committee to develop a film and related educational products using a \$100,000 gift from the Malcolm Smith, Jr., Foundation and other funding sources and partnerships.
- Approved entering a contract with Boston Productions Inc., for research and development of the documentary film and authorized use of up to \$20,000 from the Malcolm Smith, Jr., Foundation funding for this aspect of the project.
- Discussed potential future convention sites and

approved Nampa, Idaho, as the site of the 2008 convention.

- Heard an update on interpretive signing in Gardner, Kan.
- Heard a Preservation Update from NPO Dave Welch (see related article).
- Heard a Nominations Report from Vice President Glenn Harrison and approved a policy that the Nominating Committee be composed of a past president, a chapter president, and a member in good standing.
- Approved Sacramento, Calif., as the site for the 2008 Mid-Year Board meeting with the March date to be determined.
- Heard it will cost about \$1,800 to switch the OCTA website to a new server.
- Heard reports from the Association Manager, Headquarters Manager, and Committee Chairs.
- Heard a Legislative Liaison Committee Report (see related article).

## OCTA Faces Financial Challenges

*Continued from Page 7*

In later action during the meeting, the board discussed funding from the National Park Service for the position of Association Manager, currently held by Travis Boley. There is money approved through September 30, 2007, and the agreement with the NPS continues through 2008, but funding has not yet been earmarked for the Fiscal Year beginning in October.

The board approved a motion to have Board Committee A examine funding for the Association Manager position and make recommendations for the August Board meeting.

In a related action, Welch has indicated he will leave his position as National Preservation Officer in 2008. He recommends OCTA replace him with someone who has knowledge

of Trail Preservation activities and pertinent state and federal laws. He believes it might be necessary to hire part-time professional staff to deal with preservation issues at the governmental level. The Board assigned Committee C to study this issue and make recommendations at the August Board meeting.



## Jere Krakow *Continued from Page 6*

maps marked in the field by OCTA volunteers and others, and working with the University of Utah, Jere's staff created the Four Trails Geographic Information System Database. This initial information was supplemented with early electronic mapping data developed by OCTA volunteers and others. Today, OCTA's Mapping, Marking and Monitoring program, using uniform and sophisticated hand held GPS units, is providing even more precise mapping information for this Database.

At the same time Jere helped create an interagency team that developed standards so that the various agencies databases can exchange trail mapping data. As a first step this Four Trails GIS Database sent mapping data to the Interagency Fire Control Center

in Idaho that identified the location of each trail's significant sites and segments. Today as federal funds become available, this Four Trails GIS Database is being replicated and modified for use by other National Historic Trails.

Jere's Salt Lake City team has developed three printed and internet accessible auto tour route guides on the Mormon Trail in Iowa plus the Four Trails in Missouri/ Kansas and in Nebraska/Colorado. The Wyoming Guide is currently under development.

Beginning in 2002 Jere's responsibilities were expanded to include the National Trails System Office in Santa Fe, N.M., that administered the Santa Fe Trail and Trail of Tears plus the Santa Fe Trail

building. Over the years, as Congress authorized additional National Historic Trails in the Intermountain Region, they were assigned to that office.

### Lander Road Celebration May 18 & 19 in Wyoming

The 150th anniversary of the Lander Road, will be recognized in Pinedale, Wyo., with a rig tour, Wyoming Chapter meeting, and presentation at the Museum of the Mountain Man on Friday, May 18.

A tour of the Lander Road, to be led by Irv Sutton, will take place on Saturday, May 19. For information contact Edna Kennell at 307-265-8030.



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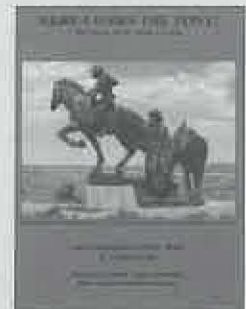


PLU # 1755

The third in OCTA's series of historic trails commemorative coins, this coin is .999 pure silver and celebrates the Centennial of a remarkable achievement. This coin depicts Ezra Meeker, who set out in 1906 to put markers along the Oregon Trail. Each coin is numbered and the minting is limited to only 250 pieces, so be sure to get yours now. **Order PLU #1755, Only \$29.95 each.**  
**See note below for postage and handling.**

**Here Comes the Pony: The Story of the Pony Express**  
*By William E. Hill, (OCTA Member), Order PLU #1768, \$7.95, Paperback*  
64 page workbook published in August 2006 in conjunction with the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri. Fun-filled activity book suitable for children of all ages, but especially geared toward 4th graders and up. It contains a teacher's guide at the end of the book.

**Add \$4.00 for S&H for single item or \$5.00 total shipping charges for multiple purchases.**



### THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051

**Call toll free, 1-888-811-6282 or visit the bookstore on the web at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)**



Trail Preservation Officer

Dave Welch  
Welchdj@comcast.net

## Concerns About Wyoming Development, Oregon Wind Farms

It is time to catch up on some new and old activities that impact the trails. First, there does not seem to be any definitive news on the Dickie Springs gold-mining test project in Wyoming.

Fremont mining was authorized to dig test pits south of the trail near Dickie Springs in the area between Burnt Ranch and South Pass. The pits were dug, samples taken, and the sites restored. According to the BLM, the restorations met the requirements of the permit and did not affect the trail viewshed. As you may recall, the real threat is large scale placer mining if the tests prove the presence of gold in commercially viable quantities. OCTA is on record as opposing the project.

In Oregon there are extensive wind energy projects proposed and being developed along the trail in the area east of the Cascades. These projects are mostly on private land. However,

this does not mean that the projects are immune to Section 106 scrutiny since federal permits are involved and portions are on federal land. Through the work of OCTA member Stafford Hazelett we have determined that Oregon authorities have been less than zealous in their protection of the historic trails. Short-sighted priority for "alternate energy sources" may have a significant future impact on the state's historic resources. It is surprising to find that what some would consider a "progressive" state has a relatively backward view of historic preservation.

Recently I received a "scoping notice" for an oil drilling project on the Hamms Fork Plateau in western Wyoming, just north of Kemmerer. This is the area above the Hamms Fork River containing the Nancy Hill and Alfred Korum graves, Emigrant Springs, and extensive Class 1 and Class 2 trail segments

of the Sublette Cutoff. The proposed activities will not directly affect the aforementioned graves, but they will change the setting and bring much higher levels of traffic to the area. I am concerned that one proposed drilling area might be very close to some wonderful, pristine swales. We will check this out later this spring. While this project is in the earliest planning stages, OCTA is on record as opposing the development on the site closest to the trail.

On the positive side, we have received word that the BLM has acquired new concrete posts for trail marking in Wyoming. Gary Long is now the BLM lead for the project in the State Office. He is putting together plans for installing them using augers and backhoes to ease the task. Stan McKee is the OCTA lead for this project. Volunteers will be sought.

## NPO Report to OCTA Board: Strengthen Wyoming Agreement

By *Candy Moulton*  
*NFP Editor*

National Preservation Officer Dave Welch outlined significant concerns about the [Pinedale Anticline Programmatic Agreement](#) that outlines management practices for the area southwest of Pinedale, Wyo., that includes the Lander Road.

This region between Rock Springs and Pinedale is the site of thousands of wells being drilled or planned for the area. A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) may negate some earlier safeguards placed on trail resources

as part of a 2004 agreement between oil companies and OCTA. The SEIS calls for additional disturbances within the quarter mile boundary, 11 crossings of eligible historical trails, (Lander Road, Sublette Cutoff, and the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express Trails), and 179 new and expanded pads and access roads to serve 4,399 additional wells. The new well pads would be expanded from five acres to 15 acres in size.

Welch recommended that the Board take a strong stand against the proposed SEIS. Specifically he suggested that:

1. The SEIS not negate the 2004 Programmatic Agreement and that any changes to that document must be negotiated and would then be subjected to additional mitigation measures.

2. It is OCTA's preference that the SEIS be withdrawn from consideration and rewritten. If an alternative must be selected, then OCTA favors Alternative A, the "no action" alternative. He said all other alternatives in the SEIS area unacceptable due to their negative impact on cultural resources.

*Continued on Page 12*



## Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter

### Chapter Begins Preservation Activities

*By Camille Bradford  
and Bruce Watson*

The Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter met on February 10 at the Ranch Country Club in Westminster. There was a large turnout for the meeting, including a number of members of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society.

After the business meeting, John Murphy gave a presentation on the activities of the Preservation Committee, Susan Knapp, President of Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society, spoke on areas of mutual interest of the two organizations, and Dorman Lehman gave a presentation on the Leavenworth & Pike's Peak Express.

Dorman's interest in the Leavenworth & Pike's Peak Express goes back more than 30 years. He was living in Arizona at the time and began his research to determine the exact route. He later moved to Kansas, which provided him with more opportunity to travel over the route and conduct on-site research. He gave a presentation at the 2003 OCTA convention in Manhattan, Kan., that focused on the first 150 miles of the route, which coincided with the Ft. Leavenworth – Ft. Riley Military Road. Dorman is the former director of two historical museums: the Old Mill Museum in Lindsborg, Kan., and the Itasca County Historical Society in Grand Rapids, Minn. He moved from Lindsborg to Greeley, Colo., last year and is now affiliated with the Greeley City Museum.

The Preservation Committee continues its mapping research on



Dorman Lehman.  
(Photo by Jane Whiteley)

the Cherokee Trail. It has divided the Colorado portion (Bent's Fort to Wyoming) into three distinct sections, each corresponding to participating members' geographical location. Each section is currently being worked by two members, who are obtaining GLO surveyors' notes and transcribing their measurements onto 7.5 minute topo maps.

- Bent's Fort to Point of Rocks (northern edge of El Paso County): John Murphy and Bill Burr
- Point of Rocks to Cherry Creek Reservoir: Roger Hanson and Bruce Watson
- North Metro to Wyoming: Tim Kelly and Carolyn Moree

These measurements only indicate where historic trails crossed surveyed township and section lines. Since most of this land is privately owned, the Committee must research property ownership and obtain permission from landowners to enter their land.

Once this work has been completed, members will attempt to "connect the dots" across these sections. This must be done by physical observation, and using GPS technology to accurately plot and classify trail traces to OCTA's stringent standards.

Camille Bradford, Chapter President, and Roger Hanson, a member of the Preservation Committee, spoke at the meeting of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society on Feb. 24, held at the historic Melvin School House in Aurora. Camille spoke about the history of OCTA, the present scope of its activities and the COED project. Roger gave a presentation on the recent activities of the Preservation Committee in mapping the Cherokee Trail.

Susan Knapp of the Historical Society expressed an interest in collaborating with our chapter on future activities.



Roger Hanson made a presentation at the Cherry Creek Historical Society meeting. (Photo by Phil Bradford)

## Preservation Officer Report

*Continued from Page 10*

3. The quarter-mile buffer zone for National Historic Trails must be respected as per the terms of the 2004 PA.

The Board approved Welch's recommendations unanimously. Board Member Edna Kennell said effort should be made to contact the production company, ShellUltra, which in the past has been cooperative in supporting OCTA's efforts to protect trail resources. Welch also noted that the company has previously "been cooperative" in addressing OCTA concerns about the trails.

Additional Preservation issues that are being monitored include:

- Marley Shurtleff will assume management of

the Challenge Cost Share program from Zeke Sicotte. At the National Park Service Lee Kreutzer is assuming responsibilities previously held by Kay Threlkeld.

- COED programs will be moved to the Internet as a subscription service, which will make it a revenue generation program for OCTA.
- The Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative, to repair some of the damage that has been done to historic resources including the trails over the last few years because of energy development, is now being developed. Much of its focus is on the environment

and wildlife.

- Wind Energy projects in Wyoming at Ryan Hill and at various sites in Oregon have the potential to affect the viewshed. These issues are being monitored by OCTA representatives in both states.
- A new pipeline project in the Casper, Wyo., area, could affect the trail and will be monitored.
- The need for a replacement for Welch, who said he will not seek reelection to his position in 2008.

## From the Association Manager...

*Continued from Page 5*

sleeping under the stars are certain to be highlights of this excursion. It is limited to the first 30 people who sign up, and it will also be offered as a post-convention tour from Sunday, Aug. 12 until Monday, Aug. 13.

The convention committee has also planned exciting and fun visits for Tuesday, Aug. 7. An afternoon bus tour of sites and museums in the Gering and Scottsbluff area will be offered, and an evening at Scotts Bluff National Monument is planned for Tuesday night. This National Park Service site will have a program on its William Henry Jackson art collection, and dinner will be part of the package.

The convention officially gets underway on Wednesday, Aug. 8. We'll kick off with our general membership meeting at the modern Gering Convention Center. The city of Gering is planning a parade for later that morning, although details are not yet finalized.

The afternoon kicks off with a very special Keynote Address, presented by one of OCTA's founders, Gregory Franzwa, who will deliver a message celebrating 25 years of OCTA history. Who better to deliver such a message than the man who has long shepherded and championed preservation of overland emigrant trails?

The afternoon of Wednesday, Aug. 8 and the entire day of Friday, Aug. 10 will be filled with multiple sessions of entertaining speakers offering a variety of topics, while Thursday, Aug. 9 and Saturday, Aug. 11 will be filled with three bus tours. Tours will run west to Fort Laramie and Guernsey, east to Chimney Rock and Ash Hollow, and through the areas of Scottsbluff and Morrill Counties.

Space for all tours is limited, so don't hesitate to get your registration mailed off quickly.

For additional 25th Anniversary OCTA Convention details visit [www.scottsbluff.com/OCTA](http://www.scottsbluff.com/OCTA).



## Young Artists Needed For OCTA Calendar

By Bill Hill  
Education Committee Chair

The award/publications education committee is still looking for original artwork by elementary school students to make a 2008 calendar with a theme of "Chimney Rock Throughout the Year." If you know any elementary children who would like to have their artwork considered for our special 2008 calendar, there is only a short time left to submit their work. The submission must be postmarked by April 16.

One drawing will be selected for each month of the year. Each student whose artwork is selected will receive a copy of the finished calendar and a \$25 (minimum) gift certificate. A

calendar will also be presented to the teacher/school or parent. It is hoped that additional copies will be available for sale at minimal cost.

If you're an elementary school teacher or know one, here is a project that combines history, geography, and art. Students can look up Chimney Rock on the Web if needed.

The artwork must be original, not a photograph or computer generated, and relate to a specific month. The submitted work should be on an 8 1/2" x 11" paper and be in color. On the back of the entry or attached should be the child's name, age, grade, school, and contact information including the address and phone number of parent(s) or teacher/school, and the specific month submitted. The work

should be sent to OCTA-Calendar, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519.

The deadline to nominate an educator for the 2007 OCTA Awards was March 31.

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**Online at  
[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)**

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888-811-6282**

## Follow the Walker River Trail over Sonora Pass as you never have before!

OCTA member David Johnson's new book, *Sonora Pass Pioneers*, takes the reader over trails in the Sierra Nevada wilderness used by Bidwell, Fremont, Grizzly Adams, Ebbetts, and emigrant settlers like Trahern, Duckwall, Kerrick and Stubblefield.

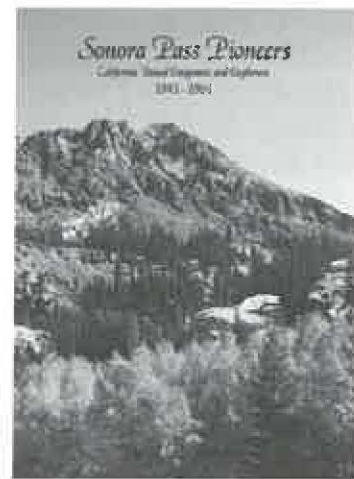
Over the past 20 years the author explored and mapped the rugged Walker River Trail over Sonora Pass and researched the lives of the pioneers who took this road less traveled. Mr. Johnson's thumbnail biographical sketches, 16 pages of color photographs of the trail, and pictures of many Sonora Pass pioneers help acquaint the reader with these brave souls.

"This book is the ultimate in research on the Sonora crossings, focusing on the Walker River trail . . . a great read!"

Dick Davis

"I feel confident that this book will be the unchallenged resource for future historians of the Emigrant Pass, and a model for other works of a similar nature."

Carlo M. De Ferrari  
Tuolumne County Historian  
Sonora, California



Hardback, index, dust jacket, 208 pgs, 8 1/2" x 11"

To order, send \$38 per copy, check or money order, payable to TCHS (includes shipping, handling & sales tax) to:

Publications Sales Agent  
Tuolumne County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 695  
Sonora, CA 95370-0695



## Idaho Chapter

### New Marking of Old Trails Continues in Idaho

By James W. McGill

Work is continuing on identifying and marking trail segments in Idaho, which have not been marked before. Marking on Goodale's Cutoff from North Fork Willow Creek to Jackass Gulch Road was finished north of the Ada County, Idaho, line on Dec. 6, 2006.

At the southern bottom of this whole section the trail comes from the east on private land after crossing Willow Creek, and then northerly on BLM land up a long canyon to the pass on top. We added another six markers from the south to the pass. These are great swales that stay up on the eastern side of the deep wash in the bottom, but in the foliage the trail does fade a bit at times, .

We had put only four markers on all two miles of that part of the trail last year after the north end ruts were discovered. That trail section lies west of where the Gem County Land Fill now is being used. Since the discovery equipment use in the areas has obliterated part of the trail next to the landfill on private land. The BLM land on the section north of the landfill has good swales. One damaged marker on the north end at a fence was replaced where the trail turns westerly through present mining land.

The west end of Jackass Road meets the top of the old Freezeout Hill winding highway. The trail on the mining land turns west near that road, and then at Freezeout Hill the Goodale ridge trail down to the Payette Valley still exists just north

of the old highway. We were able to go on the ridge and with permission of the landowner placed one marker



This is the first Freezoute Ridge Trail to the Payette Valley. Note the new OCTA marker at the point of the ridge. (Photo by James McGill)

on private land in the middle of the ridge ruts.

On January 29, 2007, marking continued north of Emmett, on the 1873 Variant of Goodale's Cutoff near Crane Creek Reservoir. The variant on to Cambridge is identified in the March 1863, W. P. Horton road report, and in the Emily Towel Diary, of her "Crane Creek" wagon route.

The southern section of two new-found portions has a worn ramp (a good trail identifier) that comes up from the lower land next to the old stream bed, all of which is now under water in the Crane Creek Reservoir. The newly-marked trail shows good

wear across a hard and gravelly surface on BLM land for almost a mile, and then heads back under the water level just north of the BLM area. This trail remnant, except for the up-ramp on the southern end, is all two-track Class 2 trail (MET standard). The up-ramp is Class 1.

On almost a direct line a half-mile north from the point that the first section of trail enters the water again, a second section of the trail climbs an even steeper shoreline up from the reservoir's high-water level. The old trail between the two present remnants has all been under water at high levels and there is no sign of the ruts remaining there.

The north section rises up and around a steep embankment for about 150 yards, and starts over the top of an extremely hard and gravelly area, making an "S" turn before following a power line route in a northerly direction. The unknowing

person may think that the trail is just a power line road there, but it is identified on the 1870 BLM GLO map so it seems apparent that the power company once started using part the trail for its access.

Markers were placed along the north section as well. These trail sections have been added to the quad maps of the continuing trail from south and on north and now indicate the accurate route.

The Goodale book, in support of this trail and its history, is nearing its completion.



## Call for 2008 Idaho Convention Papers

The planning committee for the August 2008 OCTA Convention at Nampa, Idaho, is issuing a Call for Papers for a limited number of presentations on western overland trails.

The theme for the convention will be: *Trails: Tragedies and Triumphs*. Suggested topics include emigrant diaries, the Snake River Plains geography and ecology as it relates to emigrant travel, prominent trail sites in Idaho and Eastern Oregon, Native American encounters along the Snake River routes, women on the trail, wagon camp life, early Idaho and Eastern Oregon settlers and settlements along the trail routes, other historic Idaho and Eastern

Oregon trails, and other topics appropriate to the theme. A typical presentation will be 40 minutes in length. Presenters will be invited to submit their papers to the OCTA magazine *Overland Journal* for publication after the convention.

Speakers are invited to submit a one-page abstract of their topic and biography to the Speakers and Papers Chair, 5204 Waterwheel Drive, Boise, ID 83703-3130. Abstracts should be submitted as soon as possible. Selection of speakers and papers will be in late November 2007.

### *Thor (1995-2007)*



*By Dave and Wendy Welch*

On January 26, 2007, the great ox Thor died. Dixon Ford, his keeper but not his master, had Thor put down to end his pain and suffering from crippling arthritis. It might seem strange to have the obituary for an ox in the *NFP*, but Thor was special. We traveled with Thor and Zeus while celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ezra Meeker's first Oregon Trail Monument Expedition. As we traveled with them for twenty some-odd days we learned a little about why pioneers had such respect for their oxen. They are big and smelly and drool most of the time. They leave

piles where ere they go. But they are also strong, tolerant, obedient (most of the time), and intelligent. Most of all they will teach you about "doing what needs to be done."

As Dixon Ford noted in his e-mail announcing Thor's passing, "The most unfortunate part of Thor's passing are the thousands of people who would have come into contact with him had he lived a few years longer. The most fortunate are those of us who had the opportunity to know, love, and show him to thousands of people who otherwise would never have had the chance to interact with such a magnificent animal, in both appearance and disposition."

For us, Thor and Zeus are symbolic of the hundreds of thousands of oxen who traveled the trails. Some died on the trail while others were instrumental in building their family's new homes when they reached their destination. Rest in peace, Thor. And thanks for a great journey.

### Gateway Chapter

#### Ross Marshall Gives Santa Fe Trail Program

The Gateway Chapter held its annual membership meeting at the historic Robidoux Row Museum in St. Joseph, Mo. Robidoux Row was an apartment built by fur trader and town founder, Joseph Robidoux. The apartments served as a temporary residence for overland emigrants as well as the new settlers of northwest Missouri.

About 35 members attended the December meeting and heard a program about the Santa Fe Trail presented by Charter OCTA member Ross Marshall.

During elections, the following officers were selected: President Bill Leppert; Vice President Wayne Schutte; Past President Dr. John Atkinson; Secretary Sandy Smith; Treasurer Marilyn Bryan; and Board Members Del Sutherland and Pete Duncan. Appointed officers are Historian Dr. Betty Sawin; Preservation Officer Paul Dittmore; and Newsletter Editor Jackie Lewin.



Ross Marshall presented a slide program of significant sites along the Oregon Trail. Ross is a member of OCTA and SFTA. (Photo by Jackie Lewin)



## Northwest Chapter

### Wind Turbine Projects Threaten Viewshed

By Roger Blair

The Columbia River Gorge is world-renowned for its windsurfing and other wind sports. These same winds are ideal for producing electricity via wind turbines. Oregon is seeing a huge increase in the number of windmill farm proposals. They provide additional energy production, are relatively low impact on the land, and provide substantial income for landowners where the farms are situated. However, they can impart substantial impact on the viewshed and the Oregon Trail courses over the same ridgelines in the Gorge that make windmill tower placement enticing. There are literally hundreds of proposed tower sitings proposed for the foreseeable future in Oregon.

Until recently the Northwest Chapter's request to be involved

in planning at the earliest stage of windmill farm placement has been ignored. Consequently, a small group of chapter members, including National Preservation Officer Dave Welch, met to develop a policy to guide chapter involvement in windmill farm developments. A smaller group then met with Gov. Ted Kulongoski's staff

to outline our concerns about the potential impact of windmills on historic trails and especially express our frustrations about not being notified early in the proposal stages. As a result of this meeting, the chapter is now receiving timely meeting and proposal notifications.

Last fall, as a result of the loss of Elko, Nev., as a site for the 2008 convention,

the Northwest and Idaho Chapters voted to co-sponsor the 2008 convention. It will be held in Nampa, Ida., Aug. 3-9, 2008. Please note that this date is a week earlier than usual, but there were certain constraints in securing the Nampa Civic Center. Jim McGill of the Idaho Chapter and Roger Blair of the Northwest Chapter will co-chair the convention. Despite the shorter than usual planning time frame, this should still be a very good convention.

The Northwest Chapter is planning a slate of meetings and outings for the upcoming summer season, including a weekend "seminar" to be held in Pendleton in June. We invite everyone to watch our schedule on the chapter website and attend any meetings possible.



A test wind turbine is located in clear view of the Oregon Trail in the Four Mile Canyon Area. (Photos by Stafford Hazelett)



Wind turbines are expected to be placed in the Biglow Canyon area.



## Southwest Chapter

### Finding the Southern Trail In Mexico

By Tracy DeVault

Before the Mexican-American War, the entire length of the Southern Emigrant Trail was in Mexico. The war and subsequent treaties resulted in much of the Southwest being annexed to the United States. This included most of the route of the Southern Trail. However, there are still two relatively short stretches that are in Mexico. One of these starts just west of the Colorado River and runs for about 60 miles on the Mexican side of the border between Algodones and Mexicali. For several years SWOCTA members have talked about exploring this section of the trail.

Difficulties, both real and perceived, have prevented us from attempting to map the trail in Mexico. That all changed in January when the perfect opportunity arose. Although it was short notice, we learned that the Yuma branch of the Arizona Historical Society was sponsoring an outing to visit stage station sites along this stretch of the route. We would be traveling with a large group of Americans and guided by Oscar Ramirez Sanchez, a Mexican historian who has located these sites through his research of the trail.

Neal and Marian Johns contacted the Yuma Historical Society and made the arrangements for our group to accompany them on this outing. Ken and Pat White found out where to get Mexican automobile insurance and tipped the rest of us off to the rapidly diminishing supply of rooms in Yuma. The DeVaults picked up Rose Ann Tompkins and we all met

in the historical society parking lot on Saturday morning, Jan, 27, 2007.

By the time we arrived, a large crowd had gathered and was making



The SWOCTA group at the Alamo Mocho station site. Left to right: Phil Brigandi, Rose Ann Tompkins, Ken and Pat White, Marian and Neal Johns, Judy and Tracy DeVault.

carpool arrangements. We had an extra seat and were joined by Phil Brigandi. Phil had led our group on a reconnaissance of the trail through Southern California several years ago. He is the Orange County archivist and a local historian with a special interest in the Southern Emigrant Trail. We had a great time catching up on his latest stories.

Even with carpooling, there were still 21 vehicles that were going to travel in caravan for this outing – quite a lot of cars to keep together. The SWOCTA group was worried that we might lose track of some of the cars before we all got back to the United States. Several of the cars

had FRS radios, which helped, but we still had difficulty remaining in the convoy

The group left the Historical Society and drove west on the interstate a short way before turning south and crossing the border at Algodones. This is just east of Pilot Knob and is also the route followed by the Southern Trail. We collected our guide on the far side of Algodones. He showed us a large map of the area and explained how he had located the station sites that we were

going to visit.

We visited the sites of Cooke's Well Station, Seven Wells Station, and Alamo Mocho Station. We also drove by Gardner's Well Station but could not get to the site because irrigation had flooded the access road. The trail from Pilot's Knob to Mexicali dipped south to circumvent the large sand dunes area that runs along the Southern California border with Mexico. Today all of the flat land has been cultivated. At Cooke's Well and Seven Wells the station sites are in the middle of plowed fields and nothing remains of the stations today.

*Continued on Next Page*



## Nebraska Chapter

# Gregory Franzwa to Keynote 2007 Convention

The keynote address of the 2007 OCTA Convention in Gering-Scottsbluff, Neb., Aug. 8-12, will be given by OCTA Founder Gregory Franzwa. Presentations on the American Pioneer Trails Association, the Mormon Trail in Nebraska, and the 1854 Grattan Fight are among the other topics to be presented at the Convention.

Convention Chair and Nebraska Chapter President Loren Pospisil said the convention also will provide an opportunity for attendees to take a 24-hour wagon train trek with the Oregon Trail Wagon Train in the Chimney Rock area either before or after the convention and to take part in a barbecue there during the regular convention activities.

A program on William Henry Jackson's artwork will be presented during a program at Scotts Bluff National Monument, there will be a musical program, and the awards will be presented at a luncheon.

Pospisil reported that longtime OCTA member Joe Fairfield died in January. "He was one of our go-to guys," Pospisil said. Fairfield had been a member of the OCTA Band. "He was just a treasure, a real treasure. He's going to be hard to replace." Among other work, Fairfield had researched the trail for 20 years accumulating a significant amount of material and photographs.

Ash Hollow, right, and California Hill, below, are two of the Nebraska trail sites you will be able to visit on tours at the 2007 Convention. (Photos by Candy Moulton)



## Finding the Southern Trail

At Alamo Mocho, the site is on the bank of a canal and there are numerous bits and pieces of metal and glass in the area. Our guide said they had done some archeological work at the site, but I was never able to learn whether they had found artifacts that dated to early trail days.

The next stop was supposed to be a station site in what is now downtown Mexicali. However, our

caravan could not hold together through the streets of Mexicali.

Some of the group opted to bypass the station site and cross back into the United States at the east Mexicali/Calexico crossing.

Our SWOCTA group decided to backtrack over our route and cross into the United States at Algodones. Here we hoped to avoid the long delay that was

predicted for the Mexicali crossing. We had no trouble finding our way back to Algodones, but the delay here was just as long. It took us exactly two hours of waiting in line to cross back into the United States. We were prepared for increased scrutiny at the border, but it went very smoothly.

This was an enlightening trip and we are satisfied now that there is probably

no trail to actually map south of the border. We can indicate the general corridor, similar to what we have to do in towns or heavily impacted areas we have encountered. But it was also satisfying to finally see this area with the sand dunes the emigrants had tried to avoid and to be reminded of their difficulties of finding water near the end of their long journey.

*Continued From Previous Page*



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*Continued on Next Page*

## YOU CAN CONGRATULATE OCTA ON 25 YEARS OF SERVICE!

WE ARE PLANNING a special extended Summer issue of *Overland Journal* to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Oregon-California Trails Association. Show your appreciation by adding your name to the "Congratulations" list or buy a space in which to compose a message.

### ADVERTISING RATES

Add your name to the list: \$25

"Congrats" message, in which you can compose a maximum 90-word message (3.5" x 2").

*Suggestion:* make this an ad in memory of family members who actually came west on the overland trails: \$50

Quarter-page (3.625" x 4.875"): \$85

Half-page (horizontal or vertical): \$150

Full page (7.25" x 10"): \$250

Outside back cover (7.25" x 10"): \$400

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE,  
please contact OCTA headquarters: [contact@octa-trails.org](mailto:contact@octa-trails.org) · 888.811.6282  
THE DEADLINE FOR AD RESERVATIONS IS APRIL 21; ADS ARE DUE MAY 21.**



CA/NV Chapter

**Spring Symposium in Yreka, California – April 21 & 22, 2007**

*From the Chapter Newsletter*

**“Gold is Where You Find It”** and the California-Nevada Chapter invites all OCTA members to Northern California to learn more about those who sought the precious metal.

Gold was discovered in 1851 in the area that was to become Yreka (Wy-e-kah is the Shasta Indian name for Mount Shasta.) and the Yreka Trail followed shortly after in 1852,

leaving the Applegate Trail at Lower Klamath Lake.

Permanent farming communities soon built up in the Scott, Shasta, and Butte Valleys, and many descendants of the original settlers still occupy the land.

Wagon roads followed trails and were, in turn, succeeded by graded roads, paved highways, and today’s I-5 freeway.

At the CA/NV Chapter Spring

Symposium, to be held in Yreka April 21 and 22, you will learn the specifics of the history and geology of this land and its peoples.

Tours will take you to historic sites and trail locations many of them showing few changes in more than 150 years.

The chapter notes the passing of J. S. Holliday, whose book on the California Gold Rush is a standard guide for scholars and trail buffs.

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*Continued from Previous Page*

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# Echoes of Times Past Wagon Train to Roll Again

By *Candy Moulton*  
NFP Editor

Ken and Arleta Martin will host a wagon train in September. They will travel through Pottawatomie, Marshall and into Washington Counties in Kansas. The route will be across pastures, down country roads, and they will ford a couple of creeks.

The wagon train will gather and organize Sept. 23 north of Belvue, KS, and will conclude near the Hollenberg Pony Express Station near Hanover, KS.

Participants are required to register for the ride. They must furnish all feed for their animals and provide their own sleeping facilities. Hot meals will be served at breakfast and dinner with a cold lunch also

provided. The registration fee is \$35 and meals are \$17 daily; all meals must be purchased from the wagon train.

For registration forms and further information contact Echoes of Times Past Wagon Train, 528 12<sup>th</sup> Road, Oketo, KS 66518; e-mail [arleta@bluevalley.net](mailto:arleta@bluevalley.net).

## Annual Fund Drive 2006-07

### OCTA's Silver Anniversary – Let's Help

As of this writing, 86 members have donated \$10,642 in response to our November fund raising letter.

Won't you add your name to a growing list of contributors by making your donation today? You can contribute by sending a check, or using your credit card on-line at our website, [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org). We are almost halfway to reaching the \$22,000 goal.

The following are individuals who have contributed to the 2006-07 campaign:

Eva Allen  
Bryon Anderson  
Ron and Dee Anderson  
Norma Barker  
James Beach  
Todd Berens  
Thomas and Dee Birch  
Joyce Bolerjack  
Janet Boom  
Eisal Brantley  
Carol Ann Buss  
Gail and Muriel Carbiener  
Robert and Sheila Clark  
Robert R. Coward  
Howard Cramer  
Doug and Eloise Crary  
Jo Anna Dale  
Richard and Virginia Davis  
Elmer and Betty Eberhardt

Joe and Jean Ellingson  
Clifford Fiscus  
Vern and Ilene Gorzitza  
Mariam Graham  
Curtis and Nancy Grant  
Darrel Hansen  
Koichiro Harada  
Glenn and Carol Harrison  
Richard and Phyllis Herman  
Robert and Gina Hovey  
Robert Iverson  
Art and Kathy Iworsley  
LeRoy and Joann Jackson  
Jim Johnson  
Robert and Hedy Jones  
Leon and Judith Jones  
James King  
Richard Klein  
John and Terry Latschar  
Eric Lauha  
Hugh and Carol March  
Ross and Pat Marshall  
Bill and Diane Martin  
Chuck and Mary Ellen Martin  
Micheal and Michele McGeeney  
Jennifer Miller  
Phil Miller  
Howard Miller  
Jack E. Moore  
Dick and Ruby Nelson  
David and Donna Newberry  
William Nolan  
James T. Owen

Keith Palmquist  
Lethene Parks  
Richard Pingrey  
Mary Rawlings  
Jim Rhine  
Dale Ritter  
Turner and Barbara Rivenbark  
Jeanette Roberts  
William Robinson  
Tom and Karen Ronk  
Paul Sawyer  
Bernadine Scoles  
Zeke and Nancy Scotte  
Robert Skoid  
Minoru Soga  
Nita Spangler  
James and Carlene Spomer  
Virginia Stanton  
Robert Stock  
James Tompkins  
Fred and Julie Videon  
Sandra Waggoner  
Kathryn and Steve Wang  
Dave and Wendy Welch  
Nelson Weiler  
Joseph and Ellen Whitehome  
James Whitworth  
Kirke Wilson  
Gareth and Deanne Wilson  
John and Susan Winner  
George and Gail Wood  
Dick Young  
Gary Zabokrisky



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>				
CURRENT ASSETS:				
Cash and cash equivalents	5,621	100,000		
Receivables	9,946			
Inventory	46,843			
Prepaid expenses	8,865			
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total current assets	71,275	100,000		
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	1,387			
OTHER ASSETS				
Investments	360,761	179,095	361,223	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	433,423	279,095	361,223	1,073,741
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	36,289			36,289
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted:				
Operating	34,986			
Board designated	360,761			
Property and equipment	1,387			
Restricted		279,095	361,223	
Total net assets	397,134	279,095	361,223	1,037,452
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	433,423	279,095	361,223	1,073,741
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u>
Revenues and support:			
Membership dues	75,933		3,700
Grants	80,423		
Convention revenue	62,849		
Contributions	19,473	100,000	4,973
Book and merchandise sales	48,198		
Investment income	30,903	29,637	
Other Income	11,489		
	<u>329,268</u>	<u>129,637</u>	<u>8,673</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>8,084</u>	<u>(8,084)</u>	
	<u>337,352</u>	<u>121,553</u>	<u>8,673</u>
Expenses:			
Programs	251,835		
Management and general	77,333		
Fundraising	21,434		
	<u>350,602</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	<u>(13,250)</u>	<u>121,553</u>	<u>8,673</u>

If there are questions about this financial report or other financial matters, please contact Turner Rivenbark, Treasurer. (trivenbark@earthlink.net)



# Visit the National Frontier Trails Museum to explore the Westward Expansion.



*The Fragile Tale of Narcissa Whitman and a Faithful History of the Oregon Trail.* Written and illustrated by Cheryl Harness (ISBN Number 31595)

Narcissa married Marcus Whitman, a pioneer missionary with a dream to take the first wagon train west. She spent her honeymoon along a hazardous route, a 2,000-mile journey the west, often perishing to Oregon Country, something no other white woman had ever done.

Cheryl Harness combines her lively writing style and detailed artwork with quotes from the letters and accounts of Narcissa and other eyewitnesses to help you discover how such a noble adventure became one of the great tragedies in the story of America.

*The National Frontier Trails Museum is the only museum, library and archives in the nation exclusively devoted to the history of the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails. It recreates the story of those daring pioneers using quotes from journals and diaries, original illustrations and artifacts they left behind. The exhibits include the explorations of Lewis and Clark, the vital role of fur trappers and trappers, the unique story of Mormons looking for religious freedom, and the transcontinental railroad which brought the overland wagon trails to an end. During the trails period, thousands of wagons rolled down the hill from the Independence Courthouse Square and passed over the property where the museum now sits. Evidence of the migration can still be seen today in the form of swales, or grassed over wagon ruts, left in the field directly across the street from the museum. For more information on the Trails Museum and upcoming special events, please call 816-325-7575, or visit our website at [www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org](http://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**

Mon-Sat 9:00 am - 4:30 pm  
 Sunday 12:30 - 4:30 pm

Adults \$5.00, Seniors (62 & older) \$4.50  
 Youth (6 - 17) \$3.00, Age 5 & under Free



**OREGON-CALIFORNIA  
 TRAILS ASSOCIATION**  
 P.O. Box 1019  
 Independence, MO 64051-0519

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**25th Annual  
 OCTA  
 Convention**  
**August 8-12, 2007**  
**Gering-Scottsbluff,  
 Nebraska**