



JUNE  
1990

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519 (816) 252-2276

## GRAVES AND SITES REPORT

by Randy Brown

On July 27, 1990 there will be a dedication in memory of Elizabeth Paul at her gravesite located just south of Clear Creek, WY. This is in the Kemmerer Ranger District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

The dedication of a memorial sign will occur on the 128th anniversary of her death and burial. The Thomas Paul family were traveling to Washington Territory from Fremont, Iowa along the Lander Cutoff of the Oregon Trail. Elizabeth Paul died July 27, 1862 while giving birth to a daughter. Her husband and seven surviving children continued on to Washington Territory. The memorial sign has been written, researched, paid for, and erected by OCTA. Descendents of Elizabeth are expected to attend the dedication.

Scheduled to begin at 11 am, the ceremony will include a welcome by Robert L. Riddle, Kemmerer District Ranger; a history of OCTA by Ron Lund, Wyoming Chapter President; outlines of the Lander Trail through parts of Wyoming and Idaho; and a historical perspective. These will be given by various representatives of local historical society members and archeologists. Forest Service Staff will provide musical selections and Randy Brown will unveil the marker at noon. A no-host picnic will follow.

The Graves and Sites Committee is also working on markers for the graves of Rachel Pattison and Mary Homesley, as well as the dedication of the George Winslow marker which will occur at the Omaha convention.

If you wish more information about the Elizabeth Paul dedication or other projects mentioned, contact Randy Brown, 1921 Park Drive, Douglas, WY 82633.

**SHOWN AT RIGHT ARE REDUCED MOCK-UPS OF THE MARKERS TO BE PLACED AT THE GRAVES OF ELIZABETH PAUL AND GEORGE WINSLOW.**

9191

### ELIZABETH PAUL

In April 1862 the Thomas Paul family left Fremont, Iowa, for Washington Territory. Mrs. Elizabeth Mortimore Paul, who was pregnant, had a difficult time on the journey west, and here on July 27, 1862, age 32, she died giving birth to a daughter. The infant, named Elizabeth for her mother, lived for only a week.

The death and burial are well recorded by several contemporary diarists.

Hamilton Scott: "We remained in camp all day. Thomas Paul's wife died about 9 o'clock this morning . . . She has been poorly for some time. We buried her this evening under a large pine tree and put a post and paling fence around her grave."

Jane A. Gould: Monday, July 26, 1862. "Came past a camp of thirty-six wagons who had been camped some time here in the mountains . . . there was a woman died in their train yesterday, she left six children and one of them only two days old, poor little thing it had better died with its mother, they made a good picket fence around the grave."

H. M. Judson: Tuesday, July 29, 1862. "We pass this afternoon a beautiful grave made in an opening in the forest and directly beneath a fine fir tree—Twas made on the 27th inst (only 2 days ago) and was enclosed in a picket yard of hewn timber—a board set into a notch sawed into the tree informed us that the grave contained the remains of Mrs. Elizabeth Paul—aged 32 years—beneath some kind friend had pinned a paper on which were written 3 beautiful & appropriate verses & and which I regret very much I had not time to copy."

These verses apparently were written by James S. McClung, a member of the Paul company. In his diary entry for July 27, he notes the death and burial of Elizabeth Paul and then writes the following lines:

<i>Friends and physicians could not save This mortal lovely body from the grave Nor can the grave confine it here When God commands it to appear</i>	<i>For tho it was her lot to die Hear a song the mountains high Yet when gabriels trump shall sound Among the blessed she will be found</i>	<i>And while she rests beneath this tree May holy angels watch and see That naught disturbs her peaceful clay Until the dawning of the day</i>
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Julius Merrill: August 15, 1864. "Passed a grave enclosed by a picket fence, painted white. A lovelier spot I never saw. There was an opening of perhaps, half an acre, with one large shady pine near the center. Under this lone tree was the grave. The beauty of the place and the care bestowed upon the remains of the woman caused us all to stop to look at it."

Thomas Paul, with his seven surviving children, continued to Washington Territory and settled in Wells Wells County where he died September 29, 1864, at the age of 76. The original pine tree still stands sentinel here over his wife's grave.

Research, Funding, and Signing by the  
**OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION** 1990

In cooperation with the Bridger-Teton National Forest,  
Kemmerer Ranger District, and descendents of Thomas  
and Elizabeth Paul

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This is a part of your American heritage. Honor it, protect it, preserve it for your children.

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### GEORGE WINSLOW

On April 16, 1849, the twenty-five members of the Boston-Newton Joint Stock Association left Boston, Massachusetts, to travel overland to the goldfields of California.

On May 29 at Soldier Creek, near present-day Topeka, Kansas, one of the founders of the association, 25-year-old George Winslow, a machinist from Newton Upper Falls, was suddenly taken violently ill with cholera.

The company remained in camp for three days, and Winslow appeared to be recovering. Late in the afternoon of June 6 the company reached the point where the Oregon-California Trail crosses the present Nebraska-Kansas state line. There, David J. Staples, Winslow's brother-in-law, described a "terrific thunder shower, lightning flashed sometimes dazzling to the eyes. Rain falling in torrents." George Winslow's death probably resulted from exposure to this storm. At 9 A.M. on June 8, "painlessly as though going to sleep, he died."

"He was borne to the grave by eight bearers. The last chapter of Ecclesiastes was read." As a token of their respect each member of the company placed a green sprig on the grave.

A headstone inscribed "GEO. WINSLOW, NEWTON, MS. AE 25" was set at the head of the grave. On a footstone the year "1849." The headstone is now incorporated in the granite monument.

Through the efforts of George W. Hanson of Fairbury, the state of Nebraska, and the sons of George Winslow, the granite monument was erected here and dedicated October 29, 1912.

There is at least one other emigrant grave on this rise of ground between the forks of Whiskey Run Creek. On May 23, 1850, Elias Daggy wrote: "Travel 5 miles the road making several sprangles which now come together—where there are two graves—Geo. Winslow—Newton Mo., [Mass.] age 25—1849 & R. Depew—St. Louis Mo. died June 25th 1849 age 62."

Research, Signing, and Funding by the  
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This is a part of your American heritage. Honor it, protect it, preserve it for your children.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Many thanks to all the OCTA members who contributed in so many different ways to the successful opening of the National Frontier Trails Center and to the set-up and dedication of our OCTA Headquarters. Special Thanks to the Trails Head and Gateway chapters volunteers who greeted visitors while staffing the OCTA book sale table plus those who met and transported we "out of towners". It was nice of the California-Nevada-Hawaii and Trails Head chapters to co-sponsor and host the California Day reception.

A vote of thanks to Carl and Lida Sloan, Co-Chair of the Photography Committee, who conducted a professionally judged competition which produced 100 slides of sites along the Oregon and California Trails. The Trails Center made large color prints from 34 of them to create the attractive and crowd drawing OCTA Photo Exhibit.

OCTA's Irene Paden Collection of trail artifacts is beautifully displayed in the exhibit case built by the Trails Center to house this collection. Bill and Carol Paden are so pleased that they plan to return in early summer bringing their grandchildren plus more artifacts.

Many thanks to Mayor Barbara Potts and the City of Independence, to Dan Holt and the National Frontier Trails Center staff, and to Millie Nesbitt and the Rendezvous Committee for all their assistance and cooperation during the opening and dedication of our new Headquarters. And a heart felt thank you to Elaine McNabney and Jeanne Miller for their many long hours devoted to this opening.

Congratulations to Merrill Mattes who received the National Frontier Trail Center's first Award of Distinction - a forty pound miniature of the Pioneer Woman statue. In turn, Merrill honored us by designating OCTA as the recipient of his 1,250 volume collection of trail books. We will place them on permanent loan to the Trail Center where they will reside in the new Merrill J. Mattes Research Library. The Board was delighted to accept Merrill's wonderful offer. The National Archives also agreed to support the Trails Center by designating it as a repository for some of their records.

Hope you are coming to Omaha for the great sessions, workshops, and tours planned for our education and enjoyment. Jeanne and I look forward to being there with you.

Bill Watson

### TO ALL CHAPTERS:

**PLEASE BRING YOUR  
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES  
AND CLIPPINGS TO THE  
OMAHA CONVENTION  
FOR THE BULLETIN  
BOARD.**

**SYLVIA MOONEY,  
PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR**

### ADVANTAGE TO OCTA MEMBERS

OCTA members can tour the new National Frontier Trails Center in Independence, MO without charge by showing their current OCTA membership card to the receptionist in the lobby.

Beginning April 9, fees to tour the Trails Center were set as follows: Adults, \$2 each; Senior Adults (63 and over), \$1.50 each; Youths, ages 10-15, 50 cents each; Children, 9 years old and younger, free.

Also included in the waived fee are members of the Santa Fe Trail Association and the local Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center organization.

Jeanne Miller, Headquarters Manager

### LAST CALL FOR PAPERS AND PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS 1991 CONVENTION

The 1991 Annual Convention of the Oregon-California Trails Association will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, CA from August 14th through the 18th, 1991. Theme for presentations will be The Gold Rush and the Trail. Papers or other, possibly group, presentations on any aspect of the Gold Rush or its transportation network are welcome. Presenters or topic Chairmen are asked to contact John M. Townley, Program Chairman, 1555 N. Sierra, #142, Reno, NV 89503-1723 by August 1, 1990.

### NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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Rose Ann Tompkins, Editor

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By the time you receive this issue of NFP, the Senate hopefully will have passed their bill to designate the California Trail and the Pony Express Trail as National Historic Trails. Then, the House and Senate versions must go to a conference committee to resolve the differences. Possibly, this will occur before our Omaha convention. However, the combined version must then go back for votes in both chambers before it can be sent to the President for signature into law. We still have a chance of getting passage this year. Please keep up the letter writing.



# NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

## IDAHO

At the annual meeting held in Jerome on April 14, the following were elected as new officers and directors: Burt Silcock, President; Janece Thornton, Secretary; John Frank, Director; and Fred Dykes, Director. Burt was unable to attend as he and his wife Ruth were visiting trail sites in Hawaii and celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. All in attendance cheerfully excused his absence and signed a card of congratulations which was sent to them.

Wally Meyer, who initiated the marking of the trails on Idaho Public Lands, was recognized for his lasting contribution to the preservation of the trails. He announced his upcoming retirement from the Bureau of Land Management, and all wished him well. Wally will remain an active member, and has already signed up as a BLM volunteer to insure that the marking and trail preservation programs he began will be continued. OCTA is very fortunate to have dedicated members like Wally.

Joy Cassidy volunteered to be the new editor for the IOCTA newsletter. Anyone with news items can send them to her at 12 N. Latah, Boise, ID 83706.

Following the meeting, the participants visited some Northside Alternate remnants and viewed Shoshone Falls, and then briefly recessed for lunch. After lunch, the group viewed a portion of the North Alternate/Kelton Road and the site of the Malad Stage Station.

The chapter's first outing will be held on the weekend of July 14-15. The California Trail from Granite Pass to Wells, Nevada, will be followed. This will be an overnight tour for most, but some may elect to make it a one day outing. The meeting place for the tour cannot be named until it can be determined if the road from Granite Pass to Birch Creek via the Vipont Mine will be negotiable. Weather permitting, this information should become available by the end of May. For information concerning the tour, contact Larry

## GATEWAY

The chapter will hold a picnic on June 12 at the grounds of the Iowa-Sac-Fox Presbyterian Mission just east of Highland, KS. The site will be open for touring. Many diarists of the St. Joe Road mention the mission. It was established in 1837 when the Indians were moved out of northwest Missouri and into Indian Territory due to the Platte Purchase Treaty. The mission was in operation until 1863. The brick mission building now houses a museum directed by the Kansas State Historical Society.

The COED Committee reported that four diary surveys had been sent in recently and another has been completed since then.

Larry and Kathy Bunse have started keeping a scrapbook for the chapter archives.

Some recent chapter activities are reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

## TRAILS HEAD

A trail trek is planned for June in western Johnson County. Plans include a rededication of the DAR marker at the Lone Elm site and a trek to Misty Wood on Evening Star Road. Misty Wood is just inside the Johnson County Border.

A trail trek is presently scheduled for fall to go from Lawrence to Topeka.

The chapter's annual meeting will be held in late fall. Present plans include a speaker on the Lone Elm site in Johnson County.

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Jones, 6230 San Luis Way, Boise, ID 83709, phone (208) 362-0908.

A second outing along the Hudspeth Cutoff under the guidance of Mike Bateman is tentatively scheduled for September 15.

Larry Jones

## NORTHWEST

A steering committee for the 1993 OCTA Convention in Baker City was formed and held their first meeting in Baker City on March 9, 1990.

Plans are proceeding to put up sign markers at the Buttercreek Trail Crossing, the Otter Massacre location, the Sarah King Chambers grave and the Levi Scott grave.

Scheduled outings:

June 9/10 - The beginning of the 1845 Meek-Elliott-Macy Route. Trail Masters - Keith Clark and Lowell Tiller.

July 28/29 - The Applegate Trail, Nevada state line to Oregon state line. Trail Masters - Dick and Trudy Ackerman.

Sept. 22/23 - Barlow Trail, Cascade Summit to Oregon City. Trail Master - Edwin Sibley.

Oct. 13 - Where and how to find it in the Library. The Oregon State Historical Society.

More information about these outings is available from the Trail Masters.

Dick Ackerman

## ARIZONA

Only one event remains in the chapter's current year of planned activities; the June 16 Trail's Symposium in Casa Grande, AZ. Eleven presentations are planned to fill the day, with speakers including a number of chapter members such as Aubrey Haines, Betty Lee, Pat Etter, Jack Root, Harland Tompkins, etc.

In July the chapter will hold its planning weekend to set up the schedule of activities for the next year. The chapter feels that it has been a successful year with our membership growing and a number of well planned activities.

Our July outing report is found elsewhere in this newsletter.



## MORE CHAPTER NEWS

### WYOMING

A preliminary agreement has been drafted between the chapter and the BLM, covering the state of Wyoming. This agreement will hopefully protect and investigate the trail.

About 22 trail trekkers met on April 21st to visit Custard's Cemetery, Bessemer Bend, Goose Egg Ranch, Red Buttes Pony Express Station, Oliver Scott trail ruts, Avenue of the Rocks, and three suspected sites of the Robert Stuart cabin.

The May 9th program was a panel discussion between amateurs, archaeologists and historians. They discussed the interplay between these groups and how the amateur fits in.

#### Schedule:

July 14/15 - Overnight trek starting at Bridgeport, Neb. Includes visit to Court House Rock and Jail House Rock and then to Ft. Laramie, WY.

July 28 - Ann Brown of Laramie will guide the group along a portion of the Overland Trail south of Rawlins.

### CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII

#### Schedule:

June 21/24 - Massacre Ranch Archaeological Outing. The purpose is to carry out a preliminary archaeological survey of the emigrant trail from Upper High Rock Canyon to the vicinity of Massacre Ranch under the direction of Hugh Buntin of the Cedarville BLM office. It is a camping outing, you must provide all your own food and facilities. Metal detectors and CB radios are welcome, with vehicles in good condition. Contact Tom Hunt, (415) 941-0815.

July 22/23 - Morman-Carson "family car" trip from Carson City westbound, with camping at Emigrant Meadow as an option. It will train guides for the 1990 pre-convention tour. Contact Tom Mahach, (916) 644-4384.

July 28 - Johnson's Cut-Off road and Pony Express Trail with recent discoveries being visited. This was one of the steepest trails along the trans Sierra route. Contact Dana Supernowicz, (916) 622-5061.

Aug. 4/5 - Sonora Pass backpack trip. An easy backpack trip limited to 12 people, beginning at Leavitt Meadow up to Fremont Lake. Contact David Johnson, (408)274-3718.

Aug. 18 - California Pony Express Trail. Driving and some walking, a trek from Echo to Old Town Sacramento. Contact Joe Nardone, (702) 885-1712.

Sept. 8/9 - Donner Trail (Verdi to Donner Summit). First day is a 4x4 drive or hike to Roller Pass. Second day is Verdi to Bear Valley via good road. Limited to 12 cars. Contact Chuck Graydon & Charlie Harrison, (916) 273-4081.

Sept. 15 - Sonora Pass. Driving from Pinecrest over Sonora Pass to Leavitt Meadow, stopping for short hikes to explore sections of the Sonora and Mono Wagon Road and Portions of the emigrant trail and the Bidwell-Bartleson route. Contact David Johnson, (408) 274-3718.

### ROSE ANN'S TWO TRACK

With this issue of NFP, we are back on schedule. From now on you should be able to count on getting a newsletter every three months. The deadline for the September issue will be August 31. I am setting this deadline later in order for convention material to reach me. I hope to have several accounts from the convention, both solicited and unsolicited. And I would like to have pictures from various convention events.

Please feel free to send material through the summer, especially trail trip reports and pictures of events. You will note that pictures have been sparse. I can use either black & white or color

prints. Please identify the location of the picture, persons in the picture, and the photographer. I can get a head start on the next issue if I receive some material early.

The newsletter is our communication line to the membership, and I'm not hearing much from the chapters. If you don't see anything from your chapter in the CHAPTER NEWS section, it means I didn't hear from anyone in the chapter. I would like to ask the chapter newsletter editors to put me on their mailing list if they have not already done so. The various chapter newsletters are one source of information about what is going on in the chapters. I eventually get copies from Independence, but by then the news can be so outdated that I can't use much of it.

As a result of contact from a member, I am starting a new feature called

"TRAIL BITS". It will be short items from members, a sort of bulletin board. If you are planning a vacation trip on a trail and would like some company or extra information on that trail; if you are researching a person, wagon train, trail, etc. and would like some help; if you have a trail question that some member might be able to answer for you; etc., send me a postcard with your "bit" and we will see if there is enough interest to make this work.

Rose Ann Tompkins, Editor  
1125 W. Mission Drive  
Chandler, AZ 85224  
(602) 963-3565

**FUTURE DEADLINES:**  
**September issue: August 31**  
**December issue: November 15**

# NATIONAL TRAILS PRESERVATION ALERT

## CARSON EMIGRANT TRAIL FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF HOME & FAITH VALLEYS

As you all know, I have pledged to keep my appeals for letter-writing down to the absolute minimum. As you also know, I do not hesitate to ask you to take the time to sit down and write to your congressman and U.S. senators if the issue is crucial to historic trails preservation. I judge this appeal to be absolutely crucial to trails preservation, and I am therefore addressing this appeal to the entire OCTA membership.

Legislation is now before Congress to finish the funding for the purchase of the private inholdings within historic Hope and Faith Valleys in the Sierra Nevada. I addressed this same appeal to you last year, and were successful in achieving a significant amount of funding from that session of Congress. The hope is to achieve the necessary additional funding to complete the purchases in this session.

Those of you who attended our Carson City convention will remember the beauty of Hope Valley and the fact that it is still undeveloped. The reason for this fortuitous circumstance is that the private lands within Hope and Faith Valley have been retained as ranching operations over the years. Those ranchers now want to sell their lands, and they have given the federal government and California first option. To this date, the state and the federal government have committed some \$7 mil-

lion dollars each towards those purchases. Another \$7 million dollars is needed from Congress in this session in order to finish the job.

The main Carson Pass Emigrant Trail and the later Johnson Pass Route both passed through Hope Valley. The Big Trees Route branched off from the main Carson Pass Trail in Hope Valley and passed southwards through Faith Valley. This is prime historic trails country, and this is a unique opportunity to preserve a major alpine valley in essentially its original condition. We will never again have such an opportunity presented to us. There is already a recreational trail which follows the route of the main Carson Pass Trail from Caples Lake over the crest of the Sierra through West Pass and on to Maiden's Grave. There is a proposal to continue this trail westward along Iron Mountain ridge to Sly Park and possibly beyond. With the acquisition of these remaining properties, the prospect opens for the establishment of a magnificent section of emigrant trail which will be able to provide the TOTAL trans-Sierra experience. This is just too good an opportunity to let pass.

I want to emphasize that this is a willing seller, willing buyer situation. This is no condemnation involved. I would also point out that the funds would not come out of general tax reve-

nues but from funds already in the Land and Water Conservation Fund—funds primarily from the sale of surplus federal property and from off-shore oil revenues which are restricted to this purpose. It is merely a question of Congress appropriating these already-existing funds.

Please take the time NOW to sit down and write to your congressman and to your two U.S. senators. Address your letter or cards to:

Hon. (your congressman's name)  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator (your senator's names)  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ask them to actively support the appropriation of \$7 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the purchase of the remaining private inholdings in Hope and Faith Valleys. Tell them that this will help assure the preservation of many miles of historic overland emigrant trails through superb alpine country. This is a matter of NATIONAL concern. These trails are an important part of our common national heritage.

Tom Hunt

## NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS CENTER AND OCTA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS GRAND OPENING

The opening of the National Frontier Trails Center and the OCTA headquarters in Independence, Missouri, the weekend of March 23-25 has become a landmark in Overland Trails history. It marked the start of a week-long "Trails Rendezvous," filled with special events that attracted standing-room only crowds.

The celebration began with an unexpected hardship, one that frequently

faced overland pioneers at the beginning of their trips west: a fierce storm. Although it did not overturn wagons or stampede livestock, the storm swept over the Kansas City area in mid-afternoon March 23, bringing with it nine inches of snow that closed the airport and highways, resulting in complete chaos.

Although traffic snarled along city streets as well as I-70, nearly everyone

managed to attend the festivities. The one notable exception was Lieutenant Governor Mel Carnahan, host for the opening night dinner at the Adams Mark Hotel along with Mayor Barbara Potts. With the airport closed, he attempted to drive, only to be stopped in mid-state by the freak snowstorm. Those who managed to get through enjoyed a multi-course dinner which began with

continued • • • • •



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"rattlesnake terraine in painted desert sauce".

Afterwards, in order to join the official cavalcade to the Center for the opening reception, cars had to be pushed out of the parking lot and into a line behind the snowplow to get through Independence streets. Despite these obstacles, nearly 300 people, including OCTA members from many chapters, were present for the premiere of the Center's new orientation film "West" and the unveiling of the Irene Paden Collection by donors William and Carol Paden from Alameda, California.

The Saturday grand opening of the Trails Center began with two students, Jennifer Zimmerman and Jacob Queener (related to pioneers who traveled the California Trail) cutting the ribbon, along with Mayor Potts, Councilwoman Millie Nesbitt, and Daniel Holt, the new Director of the Trail Center.

The facility is located in a restored mill building on the spot where early settlers set out for journeys along the California, Oregon and Santa Fe Trails west. The three million dollar Frontier Trails Center has been developed through a unique partnership between the State of Missouri and the City of Independence in consultation with the National Parks Service.

A recognition brunch at the Arrowhead Club honored all those whose work had made the Trails Center possible. James Ridenour, Director of the U.S. Dept. of the Interior; and Don Wilson, Archivist of the U.S. greeted the guests. Dr. William Paden presented the Paken Collection and was given a key to the City of Independence. The first Award of Distinction was presented to nationally known trail history scholar, author and charter board member of OCTA, Merrill J. Mattes by Dan Holt, Center director; Bill Watson, OCTA president and Joe Snell, Santa Fe Trails Association president.

In the afternoon Mr. Mattes opened the OCTA headquarters following a ribbon cutting by OCTA founders and presentation of the key to the City of Independence to Mr. Watson by Ms Potts. Then came a reception and

OCTA authors' book autograph party. One special book, published especially for the Trails Center opening, was "Bound for the Promised Land" by Bill Bullard. Other authors included Merrill Mattes, Tom Hunt, Jeanne Watson, and Bill Hill. At the same time the OCTA Trails Photo Exhibit, with colored pictures taken by OCTA members, was dedicated with members of the public present.

That evening the Pioneer Woman Statue was dedicated, followed by a reception hosted by the Junior Service League of Independence. The statue is dedicated to women who have made significant contribution to the history of the westward trails. Artist Juan Lombardo-Rivera of Mexico portrays a determined woman carrying her baby in one arm and a bucket in the other arm, while the wind appear to be blowing her skirt. The statue faces west and is located in the landscaped courtyard between the Center and the OCTA headquarters.

The Sunday celebration opened with a "Missouri Showcase Brunch" at the Center, hosted by the Kansas City and Missouri Restaurant Associations. OCTA held its mid year board members in an upstairs room of the new headquarters. Meanwhile visitors enjoyed the Trail Center exhibit area, including numerous maps, artifacts and graphics; text panels quoting overland emigrants; and a replica of Register Rock, where children could sign their names in a special book. An unusual exhibit technique featured different galleries for each of the western trails with signs directing visitors to the each of the major routes. Meanwhile, despite the remaining snow drifts, a living history program continued outside, depicting life of covered wagon pioneers.

Monday, March 26, became Oregon Trail Day with Boy Scouts raising the state's flag, followed by a slide program on the Oregon Trail. The program also included talks on "Westport and the Western Trails," "Trailblazer Jim Bridger," "A History of the Rice-Tremonti Home on the Oregon Trail," and "Cave Springs and the Trails." That evening at the Truman Library Merrill

Mattes' talk was followed by a state play "Oregon or Bust" which included exchange teachers from Oregon City.

California Trail Day, with the Bear Flag flying above the Center, on March 27 featured programs on "The California Trail," "Woman's Travails and Triumphs on the Trail." In the evening at Truman High School Tom Hunt served as master of ceremonies for the program that included a musical revue, "California Ho" with Dallas McKennon and featured dramatic readings from trail diaries by the students. A reception was hosted by the California-Nevada-Hawaii and Trails Head chapters of OCTA.

"Letters Sent from the Santa Fe Trail" was the first program presented March 28 and in the afternoon the featured speaker for Santa Fe Trail Day was Dr. Marc Simmons whose topic was "Trailblazer Kit Carson: Hero or Villian." That evening at Chrisman High School, actress VanAnn Moore presented a one-person performance about the experiences of "Susan Magoffin," a Santa Fe Trail pioneer. The reception following was hosted by the Independence Young Matrons.

With so many trail buffs and historians in attendance and so many members of the Independence community involved in all the activities, the "Trail Rendezvous Days" were a huge success and well attended by the public despite the unusual weather.

To quote Joe Snell, "It was my pleasure, as president of SFTA, to attend nearly all the events surrounding the opening and dedication of the National Frontier Trails Center. I have been involved in the planning and execution of a few similar events and have attended dozens of others but never have I seen one so lavish and so well supported by local and state governments and by individuals and corporations. I don't mean just the fine food and entertainment; I mean the dedication with which the community has backed and promoted the Center."

A GREAT TIME was had by all!  
*The Editor thanks Jeanne Watson and Sylvia D. Mooney for their reports on this event. This article is a "blend" of their accounts.*

# OREGON TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER TO BE BUILT IN BAKER CITY, OREGON

OCTA is planning its 1993 Convention for Baker City, Oregon. That is the year that Oregon will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Oregon Trail. The Oregon Trail Preservation Trust in Baker City plans to open an Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill on May 25, 1992.

Much work has already been accomplished in the planning of this new 23,000 square foot center, with construction scheduled to begin about a year from now.

Joyce Badgley Smith, Executive Director of the Oregon Trail Preservation Trust, says the project is moving right along its timeline and Baker City and all those connected with the project are looking forward to hosting the OCTA convention in 1993.

The Trust is offering commemorative bricks for sale to individuals and organizations interested in preserving America's pioneer heritage. These commemorative bricks will be engraved with purchasers' names and will be built into the actual facility at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill.

If you or your chapter wish to be a part of this project through the commemorative brick sale, contact:

Joyce Badgley Smith  
P.O. Box 854  
Baker City, Oregon, 97814  
Phone (503) 523-6391, Ext. 289.

SEE YOU  
IN  
BAKER CITY  
IN  
1993



**ORDER NOW!**



Two thousand miles - one step at a time!

**LIMITED  
EDITION**

**ORDER NOW!**

ONE BRICK PER FORM

- \* Regular @ \$50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - \* Family @ \$100 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - \* Multiple Names @ \$100 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - \* Business @ \$100 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Any of the above can be a GOLD BRICK  
for a total cost of \$1,000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- AMOUNT DUE = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**4 TYPES OF  
INSCRIPTION**

- Regular (\$50)  
(One name, one line)
- Family (\$100)  
(Up to three lines)
- Multiple Names (\$100)  
(Up to three lines)
- Business (\$100)  
(Corporate or Company name)

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS  
ARE  
TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

To The Full Extent of Law;  
IRS Code 501 (c) (3).

- Mark box if you or a member of your family are descended from an Oregon Trail Pioneer,
- Check attached: Make checks payable to OREGON TRAIL MEMORIAL, P.O. BOX 854, BAKER, OREGON 97814
- Please bill my Credit Card:

**VISA    MASTER-CARD**  
(Circle One)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly below the name -- one letter or punctuation mark per square. Allow one square for a space between words. 19 characters per line maximum. You may order only one brick per form.

Line # 1:																								
Line # 2:																								
Line # 3:																								

Purchaser's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# WHEN DO YOU RECEIVE YOUR NFP AND OJ?

by Don Buck and  
Elaine McNabney

We've all asked at some time, when will my News From the Plains or Overland Journal arrive? Or, why do they take so long to reach me? As you will soon see, the answers involve quite a saga. Let's begin with the NFP and continue on with the OJ.

Our new NFP editor, Rose Ann Tompkins, has put the association's newsletter on a routine, quarterly schedule with deadlines for submission of articles. From that date, it takes Rose Ann about two weeks on her Macintosh to turn out a camera ready copy which is forwarded to OCTA's efficient office manager, Jeanne Miller, at headquarters in Independence. As long as there is no need for any changes to the copy, Jeanne immediately sends it to the printer for a one week turn around to headquarters. Then Jeanne and her intrepid volunteer crew apply computer-generated address labels, bundle and tie the issues according to ZIP code or state, bag them, and deliver the bags to the Independence branch post office as third class mail, where they are sent to the Kansas City Distribution Center for processing.

We GUARANTEE you that both the NFP and the OJ leave OCTA headquarters the SAME day they arrive from the printer! The labeling, sorting, counting, bundling, string tying, and bagging is down to a science; and when the A-team is able to help, it takes about three hours and eleven blisters! Our thanks go to Jeanne's volunteer support staff who do that speedy job. They include Polly Fowler, Gale Fulglum, Ona Gieschen, John Leamon, Elaine McNabney, Darlene and Frances Peniston, and Peggy Smith.

So far, if all has gone according to schedule, your NFP has taken about three and a half weeks from the editor's deadline to the Kansas City Distribution Center. After that, depending upon circumstances, your NFP will vary considerably on how soon it reaches you. The same circumstances apply to your OJ as well. And this often is the frustrating part of both publications' journey to your mail box.

According to postal procedures, the newly printed and labeled NFPs and OJs will have been sorted into string-tied bundles of ten or more in the following way: all those having the same five digit ZIP, then those having the same first three digit ZIP, next those in the same state, and finally those for the remaining "mixed states" having less than ten addresses for any one state. This may sound confusing, but let's see how it works.

Baker City, Oregon, for example, has at least ten OCTA members with the 97814 ZIP code so that bundle leaves Kansas City with the string intact, heading for Baker City in another canvas bag of Baker City mail. The string won't be cut until the bundle reaches the 97814 post office branch where the individual items are handled by letter carriers. Obviously this is the quickest form of delivery.

The newsletters and journals bundled according to the first three ZIP code digits require more handling which results in slower delivery. For example, Elaine McNabney's ZIP code is 64112; and her NFP and OJ goes into the same bundle as 64101, 64102, etc, clear up to 64131. The bundle is sent to the 641 distribution center, the string is cut and each item is sorted into the proper five-digit bag and hauled to that branch for handling by individual carriers. Thus each item is handled twice, instead of once, costing more delay.

Publications bundled ten or more to a particular state receive yet another layer of handling and delay. The New Mexico package is sent, string intact, to Albuquerque. There the string is cut and individual items are sorted by three and then five digit ZIP codes, each item being handled several times as it moves through the chain.

Our deepest sympathy goes to our members who live in states with fewer than ten OCTA members. They get the full postal treatment! Our member from Alaska, our member from Rhode Island, our members from North Carolina, etc. are all bundled in one pack marked with a MS sticker, standing for

MIXED STATES. That string is cut in the Kansas City Distribution Center and the long journey begins. Using North Carolina as an example, your NFP or OJ is put into a North Carolina bag, shipped to Raleigh where it is sorted out for the correct city. From that city it is sent to the proper three-digit area. There it surfaces with other mail and is sorted by the same five-digit ZIP. Even when it arrives the same day as the more expensive bulk mailings, it has to wait its turn.

Unfortunately, those four levels of routing, each one of which requires increased handling, are not the only limiting factors in the odyssey of your newsletter or journal. The postal people have quite a bit of discretion on how quickly they have to move bulk mail. Naturally, first and second class mail have a higher priority. Even weight makes a difference. Your NFP is lighter than your OJ and probably will get delivered sooner. To expedite delivery, you might want to check with your own mail carrier. It's possible you could save a day or so on receiving your NFP or OJ if your carrier knows you are concerned.

A spot check with OCTA members indicated that most receive their NFP within one to two weeks. It took Don Buck's March issue ten days to reach him in Sunnyvale, CA. Tom Hunt, who lives just a few miles from Don in Palo Alto, got his in thirteen days. Larry Jones in Boise received his in one week. Kathy Roubal, in the Chicago area, got hers in twelve days, although on occasion it has taken much longer. (Editor's note: some NFP's have taken more than three weeks.)

As mentioned earlier, the same mailing procedures apply to the OJ as to the NFP. You may wonder, then, why not speed things up by sending them first or second class mail. First class mail is too costly. Your NFP costs 8.4¢ as third class mail while first class would be 45¢. Your OJ costs about 12¢ third class bulk and \$1.25 first class. When mailing over 1,800 copies each time,

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you can see what a savings we make. Second class mail, though designed for magazines and newspapers, requires a rather complex postal deadline process, one which would be very difficult for OCTA to meet. Mailing second class would still be more expensive and would create more problems than the savings in time would warrant. Also, you can't beat our rock bottom "Nonprofit Org." bulk permit rate. It's the least expensive way to go and saves OCTA a lot of money, even though it takes longer to reach you.

Though both OCTA publications are mailed the same way, the OJ is not yet on a routine, quarterly schedule as is the NFP. Many of you know the journal ended up several issues behind schedule after the original editor abruptly terminated his publishing relationship with OCTA in June of 1987. At that point OCTA was in a bind, and Chuck Dodd volunteered to produce two issues while we searched for a permanent editor. Fortunately, by the spring of 1988, we convinced OCTA member Lois Daniel, a writer and editor by profession, to produce the OJ.

Only now, however, is Lois about caught up. It took her time to master the intricacies of a new publication, convert to the desk-top publishing method, develop a support staff for editorial assistance, and build up a reservoir of articles and contributors for a quality journal. About the time you are reading this news item, your last OJ issue for 1989 will have arrived (vol. 7, #4). Lois tells us that the first issue for 1990 (vol. 8, #1) will be ready by June and the second issue (#2) will be out around convention time. That means issues #3 and #4 will follow in the latter part of 1990. Thus by 1991 Lois will have the OJ back on a routine quarterly schedule.

Where can you help in this process? First, please try to keep headquarters up to date with address changes. The postal service has a variety of options with incorrect bulk-mailed items: returning the whole thing, costing OCTA \$1.00 in return postage; tearing off the cover and returning that to us for 30¢ return postage; or sending a photocopy

## GATEWAY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MAKES NEW CONTACTS

*Larry Bunse, Research Committee Chairman for the Gateway Chapter, wrote this article for the chapter newsletter.*

The Gateway Research Committee has been working with Ron Koehler, editor of the "Hiawatha Daily World" newspaper, on a project designed to elicit information on the St. Joe Road from the northeast Kansas Public. Ron wrote an article about the trail and published it as a front page feature in the April 13 edition of his newspaper. Accompanying the article was a detailed Brown County map, showing the route of the St. Joe Road, according to present day information.

Ron began his article with a brief history of the trail through northeast Kansas, mentioning both the Brown County Historical Society and OCTA as two groups interested in locating any trail remains. Next, the article provided a likely description of the

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of the cover for the same 30¢ return postage. Each return does give us your new address, but it is an expensive way to get it. We never know if you receive the item so we always send another just in case. It has to be sent first class postage.

Also, help the NFP editor by adhering to the published deadlines. Better still, don't wait until the deadline to send items, as she can begin her key-stroking of articles at any time; thus saving time after the deadline when doing the layout.

We hope you are as pleased as we are with how well our newsletter and journal have worked out. We know you'd like to receive them sooner but given the realities of editing a publication, printing it, and then leaving it to the vagaries of the postal service, we think our editors and support staff have done all they can to get OCTA's publications to you ASAP.

present day appearance of trail remnants, namely swales. Readers having any information about the trail were asked to contact the Brown County Historical Society, who would then forward such information to our chapter. The article ended with excerpts from several emigrant diaries, describing their experiences as they traveled through the county in the mid-1800's.

As of April 25, three individuals had contacted the historical society. One lady, calling from California, told of a swale in the Anderson-Lost Creek Cemetery eight miles northeast of Hiawatha. She said that as a child, she was told that this was part of the Oregon Trail. She also remembered several wooden crosses, which have disappeared, that were supposedly emigrant graves. Although this location appears to be a bit far north of where we would suspect the trail to be found from information taken from the original survey maps, it definitely deserves an investigation.

Another man called to report that he had a "map" of the trail (probably Pony Express) from Granada to Log Chain. He also said that the remains of a stage coach barn are located 1 1/2 miles east of Granada. This would be very close to the Pony Express Trail.

Another lady reported that she knows the location of the Walnut Creek Crossing several miles southwest of Hiawatha. She said that the emigrants had placed rocks on the bottom of the creek, and that the approach to the crossing from the east is still visible.

The response to the newspaper article whets the appetite, to say the least, for a field trip or two later this spring or summer. Hopefully, we will hear from more people. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a big THANKS from all Gateway members to Ron Koehler for writing and publishing the article, and to the Brown County Historical Society, specifically Melissa Wist, for assistance in collecting the information.

*(This article appeared in the KANSAS CITY STAR on April 12, 1990.)*

## **PARK SERVICE DROPS CAVE SPRING FROM TRAIL PLAN**

Evidence lacking that pioneers traveling to Santa Fe camped on that site, agency says.

by Kelly Garbus, staff writer

The Cave Spring Interpretive Center, which gained prominence for its historical ties to the Santa Fe Trail, soon will lose that distinction.

The site at 8701 E. Gregory Blvd. has been omitted from a federal management plan for the trail, to be published next month, because the National Park Service cannot verify that pioneers used it as a campground.

The center, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, attracted between 10,000 and 12,000 visitors last year.

"I found there was no documentation to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that it was where wagons camped," said Jere Krakow, a NPS historian in Denver. "And on the basis of that, I concluded we could not have it as one of the sites associated with the trail."

Krakow said his information shows the trail ran east of the site. He said the plan could be changed if research turned up new information but probably not before publication.

Silvia Mooney, a former director who helped found Cave Spring in 1977, said she was "absolutely stunned" by the park service's decision.

Mooney said she knew of at least three types of documentation attesting to Cave Spring. One is in the published diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, who traveled the trail in 1846. Magoffin refers to spending the night at Jesse Barnes' place about 10 miles from Independence. Barnes owned the property that now is Cave Spring.

Krakow's findings, however, are supported by local historian Pauline Fowler, an expert on the trail who served on an advisory committee that provided information on the plan. Fowler said she could not find any diary references to camping at the site.

"So far as I know the Rice Farm (in Raytown) has been the major reference in all of the letters and articles I have read," Fowler said.

Cave Spring's new director, Marilyn Appleby, said she would continue to stress the historical significance of the site and would investigate the discrepancies.

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*(the following are excerpts of an unprinted letter which Silvia Mooney wrote to the Kansas City Star in reply to their article)*

Dear Editor,

I am the founder of Cave Spring - it was my brain child, borne out of the celebration of our Nation's Bicentennial in 1976. As a volunteer, my commitment to the preservation of history is dedicated and on going.

The Cave Spring preservation effort achieved National Register status in 1978, nominated by the State of Missouri and written by a State staff person, James Denny. Orville Henderson, who was with the Historic Preservation arm of the MO Dept. of Natural Resources, helped us with our nomination application and guided us through the process. The documentation was sought out locally by Roberta Bonnewitz, Whitson J. Kirk, and myself.

Establishing Cave Spring was a major challenge to me and I dedicated 13 years to it. Countless volunteers donated time, effort, talents, money, sweat, equity and energy. Major donations of funds were made by the U.S. Dept. of Interior and land was donated by the William M. Klein family to secure the 36 acre park site. Donations by other significant funders reads like a who's who of leading area corporations, many of the most significant charitable foundations have supported Cave Spring; and Raytown, Kansas City, and Jackson County have generously contributed.

The NPS federal management plan, originally included Cave Spring. It appears that our first hand diary account by Susan Shelby Magoffin has come into question. Susan, who traveled the trail in 1846 wrote in her diary: "And after dinner between the hours of 3 and 4 we left the little village of I- (Independence) for the residence of Mr. Barnes, a gentleman some ten miles this side of that place. Here we procured a night's lodging preparatory to a final departure."

Jesse Barnes purchased the site now called Cave Spring in 1844, two years before Susan stopped overnight. The Road to Santa Fe went through Barnes' property from north to south with his

land laying on both of the trail (including where Cave Spring is located).

The site name "Cave Spring" seems to be the problem. "Barnes' Farm" would take care of the discrepancy. Cave Spring was engraved on a pink granite marker placed at the site by the DAR and the State of Missouri in 1909 when the DAR marked the Santa Fe Trail. That is why we used that name.

The article in the Star indicates that Jere Krakow, NSP historian, said his information shows the trail ran EAST of the site (Cave Spring). Actually, the Road to Santa Fe defined the eastern border of Cave Spring, as Blue Ridge does to this very day!

I have contacted the MO State Land Survey Dept. in Rolla, MO and have documented the EXACT location of the Road to Santa Fe in this area by an 1843 survey by William A. Miller. Mr. Bob Myers, State Land Surveyor, stated that "This survey was the original government survey by the federal government and the plats were the basis of the conveyance of government property to private ownership." If this survey is wrong - it calls into question all of the property ownership in the area.

There is more documentation, oral histories from local residents who had stayed in Barnes' house and even replaced the roof on the structure in the early 1900's. They place its location across (east) of Cave Spring in Gregory Heights. Books were written about the trail through Jackson County. A history of Jackson County by W.A. Hickman (1920), mentions Cave Spring and its "magnificent spring that burst out from the ledge of rock..." on the farm of Jesse Barnes. Dean Earle Wood tells of the spring, saying because of it, traders camped thereabouts.

I have no doubt the campground existed at Cave Spring. I asked Leatha Donovan in an interview over 10 years ago, how do you know Cave Spring was used as a campground? She told me that everyone knew it was, it was common knowledge! Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Donovan had lived at Cave Spring prior to 1900 when they were newlyweds.

*continued* • • • •



# AMOS, A REAL TRAIL HOUND

by Chuck Graydon

Two of OCTA's well known charter members have suggested that I write the story of one of our most unusual members. So, with their support, I dare to submit this for publication.

A few months ago I submitted a membership application and dues to OCTA for a member of my household named Amos. In due course, he received his membership card and his first copies of the OJ. He is also a member of the California-Nevada-Hawaii Chapter. Aside from the fact that he is my dog, he is eminently qualified for membership because of his long experience in tracking the Truckee Route over the Sierra Nevada.

I now realize I may have offended some OCTA members and probably set a poor precedent since it might encourage others to enroll their horses, dogs or even pet canaries. In hopes that he and I will not be banished from the membership for what might be called a subterfuge, I herewith tell the full story of Amos.

The same year that OCTA became more than a gleam in Greg Franzwa's eyes, I first met Amos. Walking along the swale of an old woods road near our home on Banner Mountain outside Nevada City, I picked up a small, black puppy whose eyes were still closed—one of two survivors of a litter that had been abandoned. After being fed on a baby bottle for six weeks, he began to grow and grow into a big, happy, gangling black dog built in the configuration of Marmaduke of comic strip fame.



I have been searching for evidence remaining of a trail across the Sierra for three years when Amos, then a clumsy puppy of six months, replaced my old dog, Oley, in our wanderings over some of the roughest trail country in the Western United States. Since then he has added a new dimension to trail hunting with his antics and enthusiasm for the job.

Amos knows the old trail like a book, from Verdi, Nevada to Steep Hollow Crossing. He has left his signature, with meanings known only to dogs, in the swales and on the wagon tire rusted granite along the Little Truckee, up Coldstream Canyon over the summit and down the South Yuba. He has camped with me at George Donner's last resting place and where, long ago, hundreds of emigrant campfires lit the night sky. Amos has been up and down Donner Pass, Coldstream Pass

and Roller Pass a dozen times, often plunging enthusiastically through some deep snow while I labored up with benefit of skis.

Recently, he and I drove to Bear Valley below Emigrant Gap. The minute the car door opened Amos was racing joyfully down the snow covered, open meadows of the valley in ever widening circles—a reminder of how happy the emigrants must have felt when they had conquered the mighty Sierra at last! What man or woman could have a better trail companion?

*(Charles K. Graydon is the author of "Trail of the First Wagons over the Sierra Nevada".)*

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I would like to point to swales and trail ruts to confirm my convictions, but a private owner built a golf course in the 1920's era, called it Cave Spring Club and built summer cabins. Thomas Ridge built two lakes on the site in 1911. So much for ruts of long ago!

I will be glad to present the evidence I have to interested parties and will endeavor to restore it to the National Park Service Plan. I welcome assistance from those who are concerned.

And I think a name change to "Barnes' Place" is in order.

Sylvia D. Mooney

SEE YOU  
IN OMAHA  
August 8-12, 1990



# GATEWAY CHAPTER OUTING TO KANSAS SITES by Jackie Lewin

The Gateway Chapter held a field trip on April 21 to trail sites in Marshall County, KS. Twenty four people took part. The first stop was at Alcove Spring, south of Marysville, an area near a camping spot on the Independence Road by the crossing of the Big Blue. Perhaps its most famous visitors were John C. Fremont in 1842 and the members of the Donner Party in 1846. James Reed, of that party, left his name carved in the limestone which is in the creek bed. A note to those of you who visited this site during the drought year 1988 St. Joe Convention, there was a little water coming over the ledge and the spring was strongly running in 1990. Unfortunately, the winter weather has been wearing on the James Reed carving and part of the Reed is crumbling away.

The next stop was at the Pony Express Barn in Marysville where the group toured the museum exhibits. Later in the afternoon, the group visited the private Pony Express memorabilia collection of Ken Martin, president of the National Pony Express Association. Duane Durst, Curator of the Hollenburg Pony Express Station, also gave a short talk about the significance of his site to both the trail and the Pony Express.

Other emigrant trail sites visited were the Shibley Ferry site on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Bell, descendants of the Shibleys. The ferry, was an aid to emigrants in crossing the Big Blue. Mrs. Bell, a history enthusiast visited with the group and shared photos of the first Shibleys to the area. Last, the participants visited the junc-

tion site of the Independence and St. Joe Roads and heard diary entries of emigrant experiences at the junction.

Gateway Chapter Certificates of appreciation were presented to the following:

---Ray Ellenbecker for his long standing interest in history and his willingness to share his knowledge with others. He was a great help in preparing for the St. Joe Convention.

---Mrs. Woodrow Bell for her desire to preserve and restore the Shibley homesite and for her enthusiasm she demonstrates to visitors.

---Ken and Arleta Martin for their many hours of time spent and their determination in making the California and Pony Express Trail part of the National Historic Trails System. In addition, they have played a role in educating people about the significance of the pony Express.

---Duane Durst for his aid in making the stop at Hollenburg Station a memorable one for the 1988 Convention participants and for the members of our most recent field trip.

*Gateway members and friends gather around the monument at the junction of the St. Joe Road and the Independence Road of the Oregon-California Trail just west of Marysville, KS*

*photo by Jackie Lewin*



## TRAIL BITS

Desire contact with another OCTA couple planning trail trek during the summer or fall of 1990. Hiking and all terrain bicycling (where permissible) embraced. Lodging via camper. Open for discussion.

Nick and Janie Edwards  
P.O. Box 128  
Grand Junction,  
Tennessee 38039  
(901) 764-2927

Seeking information concerning use of the Beale Road from Albuquerque to Fort Mohave. Maps, journals, newspaper articles, book references, genealogy notes, etc. Especially interested in people who used the route for any purpose in the 1800's.

Rose Ann Tompkins  
1125 W. Mission Dr.  
Chandler, Arizona 85224  
(602) 963-3565



# ARIZONA CHAPTER VISITS BEALE ROAD SITES

by Rose Ann Tompkins

The chapter held its spring field trip on April 7 and 8 in the Kingman, Arizona area, with eighteen persons participating in part or all of the weekend.

We met late Saturday morning in a Kingman park at a stone monument commemorating the Beale Road, emigrant wagon travel, and military activity in the area. After a windy lunch and a group picture, we joined Loren Wilson, local volunteer at the Mohave County Museum of History and Arts, and our guide for the afternoon.

Our first stop was a site in northeast Kingman where the trace of the old Beale Road can still be seen as it came into the area from the northeast. The area at that place has not been cultivated or otherwise disturbed, even though it is now inside the town. We then roughly followed the road as it went through town, stopping at various locations.

One stop was actually off the Beale Road, but is the site of a route used by wagons carrying ore from nearby mines through the area. At this particular site, the heavy ore wagons had to come down a steep hill over solid rock. Over the years, deep ruts were left in the rock for quite a distance. It was an impressive site for everyone.

We spent quite a while at the site of Camp Beale Springs. These springs

were first located by Beale's party in 1859 and he changed the road to take advantage of them. The spring continues to this day, with watercress and mint in abundance. There are numerous signs of human use of the area, from the rock walls of the corral, traces of foundation stones of the military camp, the concrete walls of a one time city water reservoir and swimming pool, plus evidence of Indian habitation.

The afternoon ended back at the museum with a short tour given by Loren and then a look at the historical library and some of its books and maps.

The group met at a local restaurant for dinner and a short business meeting. We also recognized two couples that would celebrate their wedding anniversaries on April 14; Robert and Betty Lee, 50 years; and Aubrey and Wilma Haines, 44 years.

We had a slide program back at the museum. Loren Wilson showed various Indian sites in the area and some of the work being done to survey, protect and preserve the sites. He also had slides of various Beale Road sites.

On Sunday morning we met early at the museum parking lot for our trip out to the Sitgreave's Pass area. At the entrance to the canyon leading to the pass, we met our guide, Ed Edwards

another museum volunteer. We took several short hikes that day, the first being across a wash and over to the Beale Road trace. The swale was quite easy to see.

As we went up the highway towards the pass, there were several places where evidences of the old wagon road could be seen. At one stop we hiked down the wash from a spring and we could see where Beale's workers had put in a rock retaining wall for the road to come more gently down a grade. At that location we found the initials or names of three individuals, with one of them being dated at 1859. These were probably men who worked on the road, perhaps research will tell us more about who these men were.

Another stop was to see the foundation walls of an old blacksmith shop used by the ore haulers. The ore road and the wagon road were sometimes the same trace, and sometimes were different traces. Also complicating the scene were buried pipelines which had destroyed the road traces in places.

Finally we reached the pass itself. There is a Beale Road sign at the pass, put in by the BLM. Ed showed us several places where traces of the road could be seen, including more rock retaining wall. The view from both sides of the pass is spectacular. Towards the east, we looked back down the canyon we had just come up; while towards the west, we could see the Colorado River valley and California on the far side, much as the emigrants saw it.

From a lookout point near the pass, several followed Ed down the road trace. Great difficulty was encountered by Beale and the early emigrants at this site. Wagons were let down by rope, and we found that just walking down the hillside is difficult. Fortunately, the rest of the group brought the cars around so it was not necessary to climb back up.

Some ended the weekend by going into nearby Oatman for a late lunch. The town was alive with tourists, bikers and burros, but we were able to find a semi-quiet place for a good lunch, while we talked over what we had seen.



*These deep and impressive ruts, found in solid rock, were made by ore wagons going through Kingman, Arizona.*

*photo by Robert Lee*



## CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

In addition to the many activities scheduled at the Omaha convention, three workshops will be offered.

### **ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1990, 8:00 P.M. JUDE CARINO AND CRAIG BROMLEY, CO-CHAIRS.**

The Archaeology Workshop, under the direction of two professional archaeologist and OCTA members, will cover three areas: an overview of ethics of archaeology; methods to prevent vandalism of historic sites; the utilization of the Archaeology Committee in public/private/OCTA agreements for site identification and preservation.

This workshop has been scheduled by itself on Wednesday evening so that convention participants can attend it in addition to other workshops. OCTA feels that it is important that its members have an understanding and appreciation of the importance of proper archaeological methods in historic trails preservation.

### **MAPPING THE EMIGRANT TRAILS (MET) WORKSHOP FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1990, 8:00 P.M. TOM HUNT, CHAIR**

This workshop is open to those who are planning to participate in OCTA's MET program and also those who would simply like to gain an understanding of what the MET program is all about. The workshop will discuss the guidelines and methodology for the trails-mapping program, cover what is required of members wishing to participate in the mapping program, and will also inform participants of the strict standards of research and verification under which this program will proceed.

### **CENSUS OF OVERLAND EMIGRANT DOCUMENTS (COED) WORKSHOP**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1990, 8:00 P.M.  
KATHY ROUBAL, DON BUCK, & SHANN RUPP, CO-CHAIRS**

This workshop is for those volunteers who are, or would like to become volunteers in the COED program. The goal of COED is to survey and record in a computer database essential information from all known documents written by emigrants during their overland journey west. Volunteers are needed for several kinds of jobs, including locating documents in local and regional research facilities, surveying the actual documents, entering surveyed documents into the database system, and coordinating the volunteers within a chapter. To cover the cost of the materials being handed out, a \$5 registration fee will be charged.

**More information on the COED program follows, along with a form to be returned to Kathy before the convention.**

## **A REVIEW OF THE COED PROGRAM**

by Kathy Roubal

COED (Census of Overland Emigrant Documents) is an OCTA volunteer program whose goal is to survey and record in a computer database essential information from all known documents written by emigrants during their overland journey west. These documents will cover not only the main corridor through South Pass to Oregon and California, but also the Mormon route to Salt Lake City, the southern trails to California and other routes such as the Denver Road and Bozeman Trail. The database will become a useful research tool for historians, genealogists and trail buffs.

Volunteers will survey a wide variety of emigrant documents, both published and unpublished, including diaries, journals, logs, guides, reminiscences, autobiographies, letters and newspaper accounts. We estimate that there are about 3000 documents to be surveyed and anticipate that previously unknown emigrant documents will come to light as COED volunteers publicize the project and canvas local sources for relevant materials.

Information being recorded into the database includes:

- Basic bibliographic data about the document surveyed including the author, title, date, publication information, location of original document and manuscript description.

- Information about the emigrant's journey, such as place and date of departure and arrival, whom traveled with, number of family members, mode of travel, routes taken and places mentioned enroute.

- All names mentioned in the document, with vital statistics about that person's place of origin, gender and party traveled with. The roster of names will also note all deaths, births, marriages, graves and names registered which the emigrant has mentioned.

- Interaction with the various Indian tribes encountered along the way, such as attacks, friendly meetings, trading, paying tolls, etc.

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Eventually, as the COED data is collected, researchers will be able to query the database to find references to names of individuals or entire wagon trains, or to discover primary sources for material related to a particular time period, geographic location, family, emigrant route or wagon train.

Currently we have a number of volunteers collecting survey data and entering the data into the computer database. But there is much work to be done and many more volunteers are needed. By participating in COED you gain valuable insight into the emigrant experience as well as being part of an important OCTA program. Other than

a sincere interest in the COED program, no previous knowledge or chapter affiliation is necessary. If you live in an area that is too far away from the trails to be able to participate in weekend excursions or belong to the other committees that map and study the trail physically, then COED is an ideal choice to put your interests into motion. At the convention workshop, we will provide all the necessary materials to get you started as a volunteer and cover both the survey and database input phases of COED.

When you receive your registration package at the convention check-in table, you will find a portion of the

COED instructions included. Whether you are a new or current volunteer please review the material and bring it with you to the workshop.

For planning purposes, the COED Committee asks that you take a minute to complete our COED interest form. It will help us to prepare materials for the workshop. If you are interested in joining COED but unable to attend either the convention or the workshop, please indicate so in the space provided on the form and we will contact you individually. Completed forms should be sent as soon as possible. Thanks for your interest in COED - WE'LL SEE YOU IN OMAHA!!!

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### COED CONVENTION WORKSHOP INTEREST SURVEY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(S): \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a current COED Volunteer.   | <input type="checkbox"/> This will be my first COED Workshop.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I belong to the _____ Chapter.   | <input type="checkbox"/> I am not affiliated with any regional Chapter. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I plan to attend the COED convention workshop.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I cannot attend the COED convention workshop but am interested in volunteering. Please contact me.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in surveying documents and filling out COED survey forms.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in entering data from complete survey forms into the database.<br>(Access to an IBM PC or compatible machine is necessary.)          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in doing administrative work within my Chapter for COED.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in helping COED volunteers in my region to locate unpublished documents to survey that are in libraries and other research archives. |   |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Please send completed form to: Kathy Roubal, 2221 S. 25th Avenue, Broadview, IL 60153

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

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