

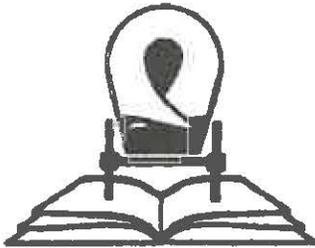
JUNE
1992

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519 Phone and FAX 816-252-2276

COED OFFERS SPECIAL TO OCTA MEMBERS



The **Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED)** program is ahead of schedule and would like to show the membership what it has been doing. Though far from complete, more than 550 documents have been entered into the database. With that in mind, any OCTA member may now ask for a search of a name that might be in the database.

In the center of this newsletter is a four-page removable insert concerning the COED program and how to order your search. This is a trial program approved by the Board of Directors and is limited to **300** requests, valid through **July 31, 1992**.

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS SCHEDULE CHANGE

After this issue, the NFP goes to a new schedule for production. The new schedule is as follows:

- OCTOBER --- deadline, Sept. 1**
- JANUARY --- deadline, Dec. 1**
- APRIL ----- deadline, March 1**
- JULY ----- deadline, June 1**

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!

Last month, Headquarters sent out the official ballots for the election of your Board of Directors. All member units receive one ballot. Included in the mailing was biographical backgrounds on the eight candidates. Ballots must be postmarked by July 20 to be included in the count. As in any election, your vote is important. Please return your ballot if you have not already done so.



CONVENTION UPDATE

PLANS ROLLING ALONG

Registrations for this year's annual convention in Rock Springs are pouring in, according to Jeanne Miller at OCTA Headquarters in Independence. Several activities are full, including the Saturday float trip on the Green River, the pre-convention Lander Road hike, the South Pass hike, the Slate Creek workday, and some of the post-convention tours. Other activities are filling steadily. If you can be flexible as to which day you can take a particular tour, be sure to indicate that on the Tour Preference Form in the registration packet. The Sunday float trip, Archaeology Field School, and the bus tours were still open when this article was written.

So, if you haven't registered yet - DON'T DELAY. We're expecting a lot of new members and folks from the community to be joining us for the fun.

Be sure to bring your trail clothes for Friday evening's barbeque. As we will be spending a lot of time outdoors on tours, hikes, and the float trip - bring sun screen, sun glasses, sturdy shoes, and a hat. The elevation in Rock Springs is over 6000 feet and the summit of South Pass is over 7000 feet.

SEE THE "REMOTE" TRAIL ON POST-CONVENTION TOURS

This year's post-convention 4WD tours will offer a wide variety of main trail, cutoffs, and out-of-the-way sites. The Overland Trail through Southern Wyoming tour (erroneously called Overland Stage tour in the registration materials) will include stops at stage stations and emigrant campsites such as Point of Rocks, Big Pond, La Clede, and the Saratoga Platte Crossing. Contact Walter Edens, 1814 Park Avenue, Laramie, WY 82070 for more information. The Lander Road, Outlaw Trail-Brown's Park, Sublette Cutoff, and Hastings Cutoff/Donner Route/Mormon Trail from Fort Bridger to Echo Canyon all promise to be fun. Contact the individual tour leaders listed in the registration materials for details.

from:
Mike Brown, Convention
Chairman
P.O. Box 246
Rock Springs, Wy 82902

(307) 382-5350 or
(307) 875-4812

ENJOY WYOMING ON YOUR WAY TO AND FROM ROCK SPRINGS

There's a lot to see on your way to Rock Springs and on your way home after the Convention. For a free OCTA travel information packet about sites to visit on your way to and from Rock Springs and for a free Wyoming high-way map, write or call:

Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 398
Rock Springs, WY 82902
(307) 362-3771

Be sure to tell the Chamber that you are coming to Rock Springs for the OCTA Convention.

OREGON TRAIL FILM TO PREMIERE AT ROCK SPRINGS CONVENTION

After three years of careful research and production, the two-hour documentary film **THE OREGON TRAIL** is nearly complete. As a special pre-convention treat, the 4-part documentary will make its premiere showing on Tuesday, August 11 at 7:00 P.M. in Rock Springs at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in the ballroom. Admission is free.

Produced by Emmy award-winner Steve Boettcher and OCTA member Mike Trinklein, **THE OREGON TRAIL** stands as the only in-depth, comprehensive film about the trail ever made.

The film intertwines rare historic images along with current footage of remaining trail landmarks. "We spent years sifting through archives across the country," Trinklein said, "In the end, we put together the biggest collection of authentic drawings, paintings and photos ever assembled."

The film is interspersed with interviews with four OCTA members: Merrill Mattes, Charles Martin Sr., William Hill, and Larry Jones. Jones also served as script consultant.

"Larry Jones' input was critical," Trinklein commented, "because we wanted complete historical accuracy. He cleaned up our errors and gave us guidance. That was important because the 'Hollywood' telling of the trail experience has been inaccurate and sensa-

tional. We wanted to make a film that an OCTA member could be proud of."

Last summer, Boettcher, Trinklein and their film crew traveled the entire length of the trail from Independence to Oregon City - filming remaining trail segments and historic sites. "Because much of the trail is well-preserved, we could effectively recreate the sights and sounds that the pioneers experienced. We show the western vistas just as the emigrants saw them 150 years ago," said Trinklein.

Trinklein, an OCTA member and film professor at Idaho State University, is working on the documentary while on a sabbatical leave. Boettcher, an independent film producer, has received over 30 major awards for his productions. His previous work has appeared on NBC, CNN and PBS.

The two have not yet finalized an arrangement for national airing of the film, although they have had extensive talks with PBS and two cable networks. The program will most likely air nationally in 1993, the trail's 150th anniversary.

More immediately, the film is available for purchase on VHS videocassette at various historic sites along the trail. It will also be available at the screening before the OCTA Convention in Rock Springs - and throughout the convention.

ATTEND THE COED WORKSHOP

IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE COED PROGRAM

This convention workshop is for OCTA members who would like to become volunteers in the COED program. The goal of COED (Census of Overland Emigrant Documents) is to survey and record in a computer database, essential information from documents written by emigrants during their journey overland. During the workshop you will receive instructions and a handbook with all the information necessary to survey emigrant documents.

Before the end of the year, the COED program will be able to supply volunteers with documents to survey. If you had decided in the past not to join COED because of the need to search for emigrant diaries, journals, letters, etc., on your own, please reconsider. You will be able to survey in the comfort of your home without having to take the time to locate material!

The workshop will focus on training new volunteers in survey procedures. Current survey volunteers are always welcome to attend as a "refresher". No major revisions have been made to the instruction handbook since last year.

Kathy Roubal



Fiscal Year 1990-91 Report: Expenses

The March, 1992 issue of the NFP contained a brief article on OCTA's revenue sources. This article will provide an explanation of how the revenues are spent. For purposes of discussion, the expenses for the last fiscal year are as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Officers | \$ 9,583 | % 6.5 |
| Committees | 7,176 | 4.9 |
| Headquarters | 26,504 | 17.9 |
| Preservation | 5,905 | 4.0 |
| Publications | 37,009 | 25.0 |
| Other | 61,651 | 41.7 |
| Total Expenses | \$147,828 | % 100.0 |

Total expenses equal \$147,828, but this figure is deceptive because it includes the convention expense (\$48,826) which expands the total expenses unnecessarily and its inclusion prevents a realistic presentation of annual expenses. The key figure that needs to be derived from the convention revenues is not the revenue or the expenses, but the net income. A more realistic assessment can be obtained by deducting the convention expense from the total expenses as follows:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Officers | \$ 9,583 | % 9.7 |
| Committees | 7,176 | 7.2 |
| Headquarters | 26,504 | 26.8 |
| Preservation | 5,905 | 6.0 |
| Publications | 37,009 | 37.4 |
| Other | 12,825 | 12.9 |
| | \$99,002 | % 100.0 |

Expense Groupings:

Officers (5) and Board of Directors (12) - \$9,583 was spent. The principal expenses (in descending order) were the President, expenses for Mid-Year board meeting and Treasurer (accounting services).

Committees (17) - \$7,176 was spent. The largest expense was borne by the Membership Committee \$5900 (membership renewals and mailings), Nominating Committee (annual election), and Legislative Committee (mailing).

Headquarters - \$26,504 was spent. The single greatest expense was for the salaries of the two part-time associates (one FTE) and the related expenses associated with maintenance of the Headquarters' Office (supplies, copies, telephone, etc.).

Preservation - \$5,905 was spent. These funds were almost evenly divided between the Preservation Officer, Archaeology, Graves & Sites, COED, Trail Mapping and Marking. This category was inadvertently left off the Annual Report for FY 1990-91.

(See NFP March, 1991, p. 7)

Publications - \$45,684 was spent. (This figure includes \$8,675 which represents the production costs for special publications (2). This budgetary segment is responsible for the publication of our quarterlies (*Overland Journal* and *News from the Plains*) and Special Publications (*Graves and Sites* Booklet and the *Western Emigrant Trail Map*). The sale of these items contributes to the revenue side of the budget.

Other Expenses - \$12,825 was spent. The principal expenses are represented by the purchase of new inventory for the OCTA Store (books, sweatshirts, etc.) and capital equipment (office furniture, computer programs, mailing equipment, etc.)

While the above listed expense categories provide a broad outline of OCTA expenses, it is possible to break down each account by specific expenses, although it hardly seems necessary. Suffice to say that OCTA's Officers, Chairpersons, Coworkers, and Associates are prolific users of postage, telephone, copy services and office supplies. Nor has there been any attempt to construct an assessment of the cost equivalents for the building facilities and services provided by the City of Independence. In addition, there is no accounting system that could incorporate the tremendous amount of personal time, supplies, computer time, etc. that is so freely spent by the OCTA membership and volunteers without reimbursement (except for the warm feeling and smug inner satisfaction that one gets when a job is well done).

Any questions about OCTA's revenues or expenses, contact Jim Budde.

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Jeanne Miller, Headquarters Manager

The following books have been added to OCTA's catalog list:

EMIGRANT TRAILS WEST

The Trails West organization has reissued their book compiled by Devere and Helen Helfrich and Thomas Hunt. It was originally published in 1984. It is a guide to Trail Markers placed by Trails West, Inc. along the California, Applegate, Lassen, and Noble Emigrant Trails in Idaho, Nevada, and California. Included are brief histories of the trails covered and separate driving guides to the markers set along these trails. Maps by Herman Zittel, photographs by Helen Helfrich, Betsy Washburn, and Paul Houghton, cover by Richard Davis. A preface to the 1992 edition is included.

Comb-bound, paperback

\$12.95

OREGON TRAIL: VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

The Story Behind the Scenery

Text, Dan Murphy

Photography, Gary Ladd

Travel with groups of Pioneers who in the 1840s and 1850s sought a better lifestyle as they trekked from Missouri to Oregon. Drawn from dairies and journals are 27 vignettes about their way of life on specific days during their adventure. 64 pp, 57 color photos, 6 historic paintings, 27 tracking maps.

Paperback

\$5.95

THE YEAR OF DECISION: 1846

Benard DeVoto

This is the first volume in Bernard DeVoto's classic account of Western Expansion, examining how the year 1846 changed the course of American history.

Paperback

\$11.95

ACROSS THE WIDE MISSOURI

Bernard DeVoto

DeVoto tells the story of the Northwestern fur trade at its height in the 1830s. The competition, the characters, the rendezvous, and the importance of this activity to the Westward migration that follows is chronicled in detail.

Paperback

\$10.95

REMEMBER: 10% discount on book orders to OCTA members

NOTE: Postage and handling costs: \$3 first book, \$1 each additional book

Be sure to drop into the Book Room at the convention. OCTA will have books, maps, pins, patches, tee and sweat shirts available for sale. Displays by other book sellers will be there also.

OCTA LOGO

A little over a year ago OCTA applied for a trademark status for their logo. The intent is to insure that OCTA will have the exclusive use of the logo in furthering its purpose, aims and goals.

On March 18, 1992, we received notification from the United States Patent and Trademark Office that the OCTA logo has been registered (#1,676,257). Therefore, any future use of this logo by any individual or organization without the express permission of OCTA will not be permitted. This registration is not intended to discourage the headquarters, the chapters, or individual members from utilizing the logo on official business, but it is intended to prevent other individuals and organizations from using the logo without OCTA's written permission. Future use of the OCTA logo should include the placement of the symbol "R" in a circle in the lower right-hand corner of the logo. See example below.

The effectiveness of this registration is dependent upon the members of OCTA's use of the logo only for official organizational matters. Any other use of the logo is not permitted.

If there are any questions concerning the use of the logo, or if any member discovers a questionable use, it should be reported to Headquarters immediately.



Official OCTA logo as now registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark office.

NOTES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As of March, OCTA has 1986 memberships, including the categories of life, institutional, corporate, patron, supporting, family, individual and student. The largest category is individual memberships. In addition 107 libraries subscribe to OCTA publications.

Geographically, OCTA has members from forty-eight states. California leads in memberships with 588. The next highest in order are Oregon, Washington, Missouri and Colorado, followed closely by Wyoming and Nebraska.

Spring and summer are great times to promote OCTA. Many chapters are now able to get out and have field trips which attract the participation and attention of those who are not familiar with OCTA. Please publicize and use these chapter outings as a way to attract members to OCTA. Let them know how their membership can protect the trails and educate others in the enjoy-

ment of the migration period of American history.

At the mid-year board meeting in Independence, the Utah Crossroads president, Al Mulder, showed an attractive plexiglass brochure holder. The chapter members have been placing these at selected sites in their state along with brochures. Crossroads board member, Randy Wilson, donated the holders. If other chapters are interested and do not have a source for the holders, the Utah Crossroads Chapter offers their supplier: Plastic Design & Fabrication, Inc., 2534 West Directors Row, Salt Lake City, Utah 84104. The cost is \$5 each for orders of 10 or \$4 each for orders of 20.

Jackie Lewin
Membership Chair

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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Rose Ann Tompkins, Editor



Left: Example of brochure holder being used by the Utah Crossroads Chapter. See membership article for more details concerning this holder.

photo by Rhonda Clem.

1992 ROCKY MOUNTAIN FUR TRADE SYMPOSIUM

The Museum of the Mountain Man will be hosting the 1992 annual fur trade symposium in Pinedale, Wyoming. The symposium will be dealing with the Rocky Mountain trade period of 1820-1865.

Dates for this symposium are Sept. 10-12 with a pre-conference tour of regional museums and Yellowstone National Park.

The symposium will focus on the academic presentation of papers on a variety of Rocky Mountain fur trade topics including Plains Indians cultural interaction, the archeology of Fort Bonneville and Fort Bridger, the socio-economic influences of the beaver and robe trade, and the Romantic Era of the Rendezvous and the Mountain Man.

A special art show of contemporary and historical fur trade works will be on exhibit during the month of September.

For more information, please write or call the Museum of Mountain Man, Box 909, Pinedale, WY 82941. (307) 367-4101.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR OCTA MEMBERS ONLY

June 1992

COED now has more than 23,000 emigrant names in its database!

There is still a long way to go before COED is "complete," but your Board of Directors has approved a trial program to start making outputs from the database available.

If one of your ancestors traveled overland in the emigration, now, for a limited time, COED will search the emigrant names database for the name of your ancestor. We will then provide you with a report listing all occurrences of your ancestor's last name, identifying the document in which each occurrence was found, and why the name was reported (meeting on the trail, marriage, death, etc.). If the name is not in our database, we'll let you know that, too.

This limited offer is being extended as a trial before we make name searches generally available to the interested public. It gives us an opportunity to work out procedures and to develop ways to make our reports more useable. And it gives you an opportunity to find references to your ancestors who participated in the emigration, from more than 550 emigrant documents.

If you would like to request a search for the name of an ancestor who traveled in the emigration, complete the form on the next page and send it to:

COED
Oregon-California Trails Association
P.O. Box 1019
Independence, MO 64051-0519

Although we are requesting \$2.00 to cover postage and handling, our normal fee is being waived during this trial period. So, act quickly! This offer is limited to the first 300 requests received, and is valid only through July 31, 1992. We will begin mailing responses as soon as we start getting inquiries, but may not be able to get them all done before the convention.

One last thing: We'll have COED at the convention and would be happy to show it off. Please plan to spend a few minutes with us then.

COED™

CENSUS OF OVERLAND EMIGRANT DOCUMENTS



COED is a trademark of the

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Document: Diary of Stephen T. Gage, Pioneer
Author: Gage, Stephen T.

Beal, Mathews Male 1852 Pg. 10
From: RI Boon County
Cited as: Death, Murder

Document: Diary of Jay Green
Author: Green, Jay
Editor: Kitchen, Merrell
Published: Diary of Jay Green
Stockton, CA: San Joaquin Pioneer Soc, 1955
Original held by Mrs. F. L. Niblett

Beel, Mather Male 1852 Pg. 13
From: KY Barn County
Cited as: Death, Murder

Document: William P. Hampton's Diary
Author: Hampton, William Perry
Original held by WI. (Mrs. H. Burwell, Rdng. CA)

Ballou, Mr.
Cited as: Non-Emigrant

Ballou, Mr.
Party: Book III

Document: Diary of Pr
Author: Hickman.

Bell [no fir 1856 Pg. 33

Bell female 1856 Pg. 34

Male 1856 Pg. 35

Male 1856 Pg. 40

grant

COED SEARCH REPORT
NAME Sample Page



COED is a trademark of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Census of Overland Emigrant Documents

Request For NAME SEARCH

SPECIAL OFFER FOR OCTA MEMBERS ONLY

Name You are Searching For:

Last Name: _____ Male Female

First Name: _____ Age: _____

What years should the search cover? 18 ____ through 18 ____

Did the person who is the object of the search participate in the overland emigration? Yes No ?

If "Yes," please provide the following information:

Year on Trail: 18 ____ ? (Between 18 ____ and 18 ____)

Left from: State: _____ County: _____ City: _____

Destination: State: _____ County: _____ City: _____

Died on trail? Yes No ? Born on trail? Yes No ?

Do you have or know of an unpublished emigrant diary or letters from or about the person who is the object of this search? Yes No

How do you know that the person who is the object of this search participated in the overland emigration?

Diary, letters, or reminiscence. Family oral history.

Newspaper accounts. Family bible.

Other (please describe): _____

The information in the "Name You are Searching For" block of this form will be entered into our database and will be released to others who request a search for the same last name.

Do you want a list of other requestors who have asked for a search of the same last name? Yes No

Are you willing to release your name and address to others who may request a search for the same last name? Yes No

REQUESTOR

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

See reverse for instructions and fee schedule.

Postage & Handling \$2

Fee enclosed: _____

SPECIAL OFFER FOR OCTA MEMBERS ONLY

COED-001 4-10-92



COED is a trademark of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Census of Overland Emigrant Documents

Request For NAME SEARCH

SPECIAL OFFER FOR OCTA MEMBERS ONLY

INSTRUCTIONS

Fill in all of the blanks. If you don't know something asked for, check the ? box.

Most of the form is self-explanatory. The following may require special consideration:

Name you are searching for:

The actual search will be for the last name only, since some important citations may not include a first name. However, please give us the first name of your ancestor so we can keep our records complete.

What years should the search cover?

Please limit your request to a five year span, maximum.

Year on Trail:

If you know the year your ancestor was traveling on the trail, enter that year. If you don't know the year, check the ? box and indicate the period in which you think he or she traveled in the (Between 18___ and 18___) spaces.

Use the fee schedule to figure your fee. Make check payable to Oregon-California Trails Association. Send completed form and check to:

COED
Oregon-California Trails Association
P.O. Box 1019
Independence, MO 64051-0519

SPECIAL INFORMATION

The report you receive will includes names that sound like the name you give us. For example, if you give us "Beal," the report will include "Beel" as well as "Beal."

The report may include unexpected names and may exclude some expected names. However, the emigrants typically used phonetic spelling, so matching names phonetically may be the only way to locate the desired name.

FEE SCHEDULE

Table with 3 columns: Item, Price, and Special Offer. Rows include Name Search Report (\$20.00, Free), List of Other Requestors (\$10.00, N/A), Shipping and Handling (\$2.00, \$2.00), and Total (\$2.00).

SPECIAL OFFER FOR OCTA MEMBERS ONLY

First 300 requests only. Void after July 31, 1992.

COED-002 4-10-92

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519

GRAVES AND SITES COMMITTEE VERY ACTIVE

Six markers were authorized for installation in 1991, making a total of thirty-one Nova-Color style markers erected by OCTA since 1986.

Two markers were initiated by the CA-NV-HI Chapter. A marker for Bruff's winter camp of 1849 was installed after a chapter outing during which debris from logging operations was cleared away. The grave of Grove C. Cook in Santa Cruz, CA was also marked. Cook was a member of the Bidwell-Bartleson Party of 1841.

Two markers were initiated by the Northwest Chapter. One, commemorating the Applegate Trail, was placed near Oregon's southern border. The other marks the grave of Sarah Chambers. One of the oldest trail graves, it is located about 25 miles north of Juntura, OR. Chambers was a member of the 1845 "Lost Wagon Train".

In Nebraska the grave of Pierre Papin, long-time employee of the American Fur Company, was marked and fenced near Robidoux Pass outside Gering, NE. Permission to mark and fence this gravesite was given by Mrs. Marjorie Schleicher of Scottsbluff, the current landowner. Located at the mouth of beautiful Helvas Canyon, it is unique in that a fragment of the original cedar cross remains at the site. OCTA members visiting the area should make the effort to visit this historic grave.

The Wyoming grave of Mary Homsley was marked just west of Fort Laramie. Permission was given by the landowner, Charles Potter, of Fort Laramie. This is the fifteenth trail grave marked by OCTA in Wyoming.

Once again thanks is extended to Greg Franzwa for editing and preparing the marker layouts at his Patrice Press headquarters at no cost to OCTA.

The committee marking program will continue and suggestions from members and chapters for OCTA markers are welcome. They should be submitted to the committee chairman for consideration.

Randy Brown, Chairman

OCTA MEMBER RECEIVES HONOR

The "Dorothy Devereux Dustin County Author Collection" is the official name which has been given to the only known collection of literary works by Douglas County, Nebraska authors. The collection was dedicated to Dorothy Devereux Dustin in appreciation of her commitment and service to the Historical Society of Douglas County, in recognition of her many contributions as a co-founder of the Library/Archives Center, and her efforts to establish this collection of published works of Douglas County authors. The collection is housed in the Library/Archives Center of the Historical Society of Douglas County located on the Fort Omaha Campus of Metro Community College.

An outstanding author, historian and retired English professor, Dorothy Devereux Dustin has chronicled the cultural and economic development of Douglas County in her book OMAHA AND DOUGLAS COUNTY: A PANORAMIC HISTORY. As a volunteer, she has also contributed many thousands of hours to establish and help maintain the Library/Archives Center which has a world-class reputation for excellence in local history and community information.



FROM THE EDITOR

As noted on the front page, the newsletter is changing the dates of production. It is a minor shift in the schedule, but it will hopefully make things go more smoothly.

Although I encourage you to send pictures with your items, if possible, I want to remind you that black and white photos usually reproduce better in print than do color photos. If you have the option of sending black and white, please do so.

In reading over the chapter newsletters that I receive, it is evident that much effort is going into these newsletters. They are a vital link in the communications between chapter members and between the chapters and national. One thing that I have noticed however is that some of the newsletters do not have the name and address of the editor on them. To all the chapter newsletter editors, I would say "Take some credit for the work you are doing! Let your readers know who you are, and encourage them to send you items for your newsletter."

I will be at the Convention in Rock Springs and would be glad to discuss any ideas you might have about the newsletter. Very little in this publication is "cast in stone" and suggestions are welcome.

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

WESTERN LITERATURE SYMPOSIUM SET

The American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming will host a symposium titled "100 Years of Western Literature", to be held September 24-26 in Laramie. The conference will trace the beginnings, development and current status of western writing and features panelists who are acknowledged experts on western literature, film and culture. Those wishing more information may contact the American Heritage Center at P.O. Box 3924, Laramie, WY 82071, or call 307-766-4114.

CHAPTER NEWS

NEBRASKA

Forty two people attended the chapter program at the State Museum of History in Lincoln, Nebraska on Sunday, April 26, 1992. Elizabeth Bergstrom, a Lincoln resident, gave a very entertaining program with a slide presentation and talk on "Trail Travel from the Women's Perspective." She included her own experiences in following the trail through Nebraska. Her slides of wild flowers illustrated the beauty of the prairie as seen by the women emigrants, providing them with some measure of delight on their long, dusty trail ride toward their westward destination. Elizabeth's aerial views were especially interesting as they clearly defined the trail route. The high quality of her slides was most impressive. The participation of the audience indicated their interest in the program. Several visitors expressed an interest in joining OCTA. Helen Sundell

TRAILS HEAD

(Taken from the May 1992 issue of TRAILS HEAD TIDINGS)

June 6, 1992 is the date set for a chapter trail trek from the Kansas Museum of History to the Red Vermillion Crossing. The GATEWAY CHAPTER will also participate in this trek. It is a repeat of a trek held several years ago, being held again by popular request. After a tour of the old mission building at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka, the trek will make stops at Uniontown, Rossville, and St. Marys (the lunch stop). The trek will wind of at the Big Elm on the Red Vermillion.

At the chapter's annual meeting in November, the election of officers produced the following results:

Bill Bullard - President
John Leamon - Vice-President
Judy Budde - Secretary
James Lee - Treasurer

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IDAHO

The chapter had a field trip in May on the Goodale or Jeffery's Cutoff. We met at Springfield and followed the cutoff to Big Southern Butte. Dick Hills, BLM Archaeologist from the Idaho Falls District, and Fred Dykes, Idaho chapter member and author of a book on this trail were our guides. We saw portions of the trail that are very evident. Approximately 22 miles of the trail were marked with Goodale Trail markers.

This is a section of the trail that has not received much attention. It was a very hard trail, strewn with lava rock, and a 40 mile stretch without water.

We had 24 members present. One of the bonuses of the organization is the wealth of information that the members have to contribute along with the input from the guides. We always have members who grew up on sections of the trail and they help make it more alive, adding to the enjoyment of the trip.

Janece Thornton

COLORADO

As reported in the last newsletter, the chapter will hold an outing on June 6 at the Prairie Canyon Ranch, about half way between Denver and Colorado Springs. This unique ranch is run by Bob Shultz and is located in the transition area between the plains and the foothills of the Rockies. It is a combination longhorn cattle/plains buffalo operation and private wildlife refuge.

In addition, there is significant evidence that the area was an Indian camp and rest stop for several thousand years. The Indian trail then became a significant road to the Pike's Peak gold fields after the strikes there.

There will be time during the outing to view the trail as well as other historical significant sites in the area. Jim Bowers, who is helping organize the activity, reported that as of late May, at least 21 people have indicated they will be attending.

This is the chapter's first activity in some time and they hope is that it will revive interest in the chapter.

CA-NV-HI

Sept. 5, 6, 7: BLACK ROCK/HIGH ROCK CANYON. 4WD/CB camping tour, limited to 8 vehicles and planned as a "new-comers outing". Alumni of other Black Rock trips may put their names on a waiting list. Contact: Chuck Dodd, 916-581-3141.

Oct. 10-11: BIDWELL BARTLESON ROUTE. An exploratory outing, using diaries as guides to scout out possible trail routes. Leaving from Topaz Lake and going into the Sierra Nevada. 4WD not required and two possible hikes are optional. Contact: David Johnson, 408-274-3718.

See page 15 for more from the CA-NV-HI Chapter.

NORTHWEST

On the first week-end of May '92, chapter members with members of the Oregon Trail Coordinating Council and Friends of the Trail marked approximately six and one-half miles of trail ruts in Morrow County, Oregon. This section of the trail crosses the Boardman Bombing Range. The property is owned by the Department of the Navy and the trail is designated by the National Park Service to be a hiking segment. The Navy requests anyone wanting to hike this portion of the Trail should contact their Boardman Office first to be sure there is no conflict with Naval aircraft activities.

Jim Renner, Northwest Chapter Trail Restoration Coordinator, made all the arrangements for this outing. He, in

turn, asked Robin Baker, a local trail guide for assistance. The work party ended up being twenty in number plus a newspaper reporter for part of the journey. Carsonite marking posts and driving tools had to be carried the entire distance so everyone had an opportunity to help. The owner of Boardman Farms, who owns the vineyard on the eastern border of the Naval property has indicated a willingness to allow hikers to cross his property to reach the trail head or eastern boundary of the Naval property. Hopefully this can all be worked out yet this year so the hiking segment will be ready for visitors in '93.

The western terminus for this segment is at Wells Springs where the Morrow County Historical Society, with assistance from the Oregon Trail Coordinating Council, are installing an in-

formational kiosk. The marking of this segment of the trail is part of an outdoor recreation management plan recently entered into by the Department of the Navy, the Naval Weapons System Training Facilities at Boardman, and the National Park Service.

Participates in the outing were: Jim Renner; Robin Baker; Lyle and Juanita Haun; Keith and Jeanette Palmquist; John and Helen Hohansen; Don Ford; Glenn Harrison, Weldon Rau; John Shel-drake; Dick Ackerman; Lowell Tiller; Marc Ovem; Bridger, Rosanne, and Corey Baker; Katie Tworek; and Mike Scott. Members of the group traveled from Albany, Milwaukie, Lincoln City, Estacada, Ione, Salem and Portland in Oregon; Tacoma, Lacey and Olympia in Washington.

Photo and article by Dick Ackerman



Part of the Boardman Bombing Range trail marking party

SOUTHWEST

Fifteen members and two guests from California, New Mexico and Arizona joined the weekend which began unofficially at La Fiesta Restaurant in Douglas, Arizona, on April 24 where we drank Margarita toasts to ourselves and the beginning of our Southern Trail adventure in southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico.

Jack Root gathered the wagon masters together bright and early Saturday morning and went over some "rules for the road," designed for the safety and enjoyment of the group.

And away we went in a cloud of dust, east on the Geronimo Trail. We stopped for a few minutes outside Slaughter Ranch, while Reba Wells regaled us with some stories of tough John Slaughter, who legend credits with always getting his man, but who never brought him back alive! Also there was a monument raised in honor of the Mormon Battalion which trekked south of this point, passing San Bernardino Rancho, now in Sonora, Mexico.

Next stop was Guadalupe Canyon, which hugs the Mexican border and runs east into New Mexico. This canyon has eluded researchers for many years since it is on private land and the owners have discouraged the public wandering around.

I was able to arrange entrance into the canyon as far as the famed "Balanced" or "Capped" rock that so many travelers talked about. The trail crossed and recrossed the stream bed and was bordered with brilliant bouquets of bright orange globe mallow. The canyon probably had not changed much over the years except for the vagaries of Mother Nature: flooding and fire.

Before we took off up the canyon, we stopped at a little glen to see what the locals call the "white gate," a white obelisk put up to indicate the boundary between the U.S. and Mexico. The stream that flows down Guadalupe Canyon takes a southerly turn here, and I believe that this was the point at which emigrants left the canyon and turned into what is now Mexico.

We approached new beauties on our drive northeast into the Coronado



Left: The Southern Trail landmark known as Capped Rock or Balanced Rock in Guadalupe Canyon.

photo by Rose Ann Tompkins

National Forest and into the Animas Valley. This was not part of the emigrant trail. We stopped near an almost dry stream for lunch and some wagon repair. (It happened just so we could know what the argonauts of '49 experienced. This time it was a broken belt, not a felly.)

Over the mountain and into Animas Valley, we turned south toward Cloverdale Springs driving over rolling oak-covered hills. Here was an abandoned general store dating to the Twenties, when Cloverdale sported a semblance of a village and its own post office. Forty Niners mention fields of clover in many of their diaries.

Almost all the land in Animas Valley is privately owned by ranchers or the Nature Conservancy. As a result, future research will involve a good deal of PR with local people in order to obtain permission to search for the emigrant trail.

Our first stop on Sunday morning was the Nature Conservancy's new Gray Ranch. Geoff Babb, Manager, graciously allowed us to visit, though they are not yet open to the public. Their spread covers 500 square miles and protects some 100 endangered species in an ecosystem that is fairly unique.

George Pendleton, rancher, aged 74, spun stories of days long gone by. We sat, transfixed, as he told us how his mom and dad went over Guadalupe Pass in a Model-T. Frankly, that must have been an adventure, since I thought the trip scary when I did it on horseback a number of years ago.

Next, we drove north in Animas Valley to Don Shoup's Ranch, where we drove to the summit of Whitmire Pass, following a road we supposed to have been used by overland emigrants. Considering the topography, this would have been the logical crossing point for overlanders. However, many emigrants describe a "cañon" and good sized oak trees (not seen on Whitmire). This may well have been in the Gillespie Pass area and, until we have researched that canyon and compared descriptions, I am unwilling to say for sure that the route went over Whitmire Pass.

From the summit on Whitmire Pass, we had a fine view of Playas Valley to the east and the Animas Valley to the west. We ate lunches, agreed that we had another incredibly good day, then drove back to the ranch, where we reluctantly hugged everyone around before heading home.

Patricia A. Etter

Some fifty chapter members and OCTA members from neighboring states will push off on Saturday, May 30, from Warm Springs in north Salt Lake City for a two-day run over the Salt Lake Cutoff. The route was first opened in 1848 by a small pack party under Californian Samuel J. Hensley and followed later that year by the eastbound wagons of a Mormon Battalion company.

Sites visited on the first day will include Fort Buenaventura at the confluence of the Ogden and Weber rivers, fords and ferries on Bear River, Rocky Ford on the muddy Malad, Blue Springs, Deep Creek crossing and Emigrant Spring. Heavily traveled during the Gold Rush, the cutoff from Salt Lake City bypassed Fort Hall to join the California Trail about a mile south of the Twin Sisters in the Silent City of Rocks.

After an overnight stay at Burley, Idaho, the tour under field trip chairman, Roy Tea, and cartography head, Kent Malan, will follow the cutoff on May 31 from Clear Creek to its junction with the California Trail.

To complement the tour, the May issue of CROSSROADS, the chapter newsletter, will feature a new map of the cutoff by Kent Malan and day-by-day diary entries by Mormon Battalion veterans who were first to take wagons

over the route. Editor Will Bagley will compile the selections from a number of sources.

Meanwhile, Crossroads members are carrying out key roles in Utah Governor Norman Bangerter's newly created Utah Historic Trails Consortium.

The Trails Marking Committee under Chairman Albert Mulder recently completed field studies of historic sites on the Mormon Pioneer Historic Trail between Fort Bridger and Salt Lake. Points for future marking were identified by Dr. LaMar Berrett, an authority on the route followed by Brigham Young's first company. Chapter members on the committee include Gordon Jones, Lois Olson, Betty Sorenson, Garn Hatch and others.

Also underway are plans to fence and mark Donner Spring at the base of Pilot Peak on the Salt Lake Cutoff in time for dedication ceremonies during OCTA's 1994 national convention at Salt Lake City. A project survey was recently carried out by Vern Gorzitze, Jeff Carlstrom, Roy Tea, Will Bagley and Al Mulder.

At the Utah Crossroads membership meeting on April 23, Kent Malan and Roy Tea made presentations on the Salt Lake Cutoff. George Ivory reported on the chapter's participation in OCTA's upcoming 1992 national convention at Rock Springs. Dave Bigler

(Taken from April 1992 issue of TRAIL TALK, these are some reminiscences of those who attended the Yuma Crossing weekend with the Southwest Chapter, and the following De Anza Trail three day camping trip)

The Southwest Chapter's genuine hospitality in showing us their treasures was outstanding. A reception by the Arizona Historical Society followed by a dinner at the U.S. Army Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park featured an array of local dishes: Sunrise Punch (citrus juices topped off with Saguaro cactus juice), mesquite crackers, home-cured olives, barrel cactus seed cake, mesquite cookies, and Kamman sausage.

Reba Wells put together speakers including Boma Johnson, Yuma District BLM Archaeologist; and Patricia Etter, Archivist at the Hayden Library at ASU. Reba also gave an evening program on Arizona's Independence Rock, which we visited the next day.

Johnson led a tour of Pilot Knob and of Independence Rock. The latter trip into the Gila River Valley led to the group negotiating a flash flood to return to the freeway.

Neal Johns was the leader of the De Anza Trail outing, considered by the group as one of the best.

Comments on the two outings included:

It's mind-boggling to think people crossed this unforgiving desert on foot, on horseback, and in covered wagons.

Font's Point, named for De Anza's chaplain, was breathtaking, impressive because from where we were, we looked down into the Borrego Badlands, a place of weird and surreal shapes.



De Anza Trail trekkers take time out for a group picture.

photo by Shann Rupp

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THIS CONVENTION HIGHLIGHT

Recognition of OCTA's founders on Wednesday morning, August 12, in honor of the tenth anniversary of our founding, including brief remarks by these important leaders.