



Preservation Issues Dominate Board

By **Candy Moulton**
NFP Editor

Trail preservation issues dominated discussion at the Mid-Year OCTA Board meeting in Independence in April, where the Board of Directors approved a six-point resolution affirming that trail preservation is the organization's top priority.

"We don't have a lot of activities going on to demonstrate to our membership our preservation activities," National Trail Preservation Officer Dave Welch said, adding that the organization had "discussed preservation issues, but not preservation policy in the past seven years." He suggested OCTA was making a "slow migration to kind of hiding from this issue," which had become "contentious" both within and outside of OCTA.

The issue was forced to the forefront earlier this year when former national Board member Lesley Wischman from Laramie, WY publicly resigned from OCTA, citing what she said was a lack of commitment to trail preservation. That led some OCTA leaders to ask, "Are we fulfilling our primary mission?" Welch said.

Board member Edna Kennell of Casper, WY said much of the response to Wischman's resignation came from individuals affiliated with "environmental groups," not necessarily trails preservation groups, including the Wyoming Outdoor Council and the Sierra Club. Further board discussion, however, led to the suggestion that cooperation with such

organizations can help strengthen trail preservation activities.

As Board member Lethene Parks of Hunters, WA noted, confrontation may not help OCTA achieve its goals, but she added, "There may be times and places where we cannot avoid being controversial if we're going to work on our mission."

Board member Chuck Martin from Richmond, IN said the board needs to focus on long range planning and determine whether OCTA would do several things, such as develop procedures for land acquisition or take legal action to protect trail

Continued on page 7

Inside This Issue

Vancouver Convention Page 11

COED Reorganizes Page 12

Trails Legislation Page 13

New Mapping Chair Page 15

2003-2004 OCTA Officers

Richard Pingrey, President
P.O. Box 130, Selah, WA 98942; rjpingrey@charter.net

Vern Gorzitze, Vice President
3026 Metropolitan Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84109;
vergor@wasatch.net

Bernie Rhoades, Secretary
11809 36th St E. Edgwood, WA 98372; Rhoarclass@aol.com

Douglas Brown, Treasurer
218 N. Pleasant, Independence, MO 64050;
dougbrown@indep.k12.mo.us

Dave Welch, National Preservation Officer
102 Chinook Lane, Steilacoom, WA 98388; welchdj@comcast.net

OCTA Board Committee Assignments for 2003-2004

COMMITTEE A

Headquarters Operation
Membership
Publications

Glenn Harrison, Chair
Frank Tortorich
Bill Martin
Dave Vixie

Ex Officio Members
OCTA Past President
OCTA Secretary

COMMITTEE B

Finance, Governance
Long-range Planning

Edna Kennell, Chair
Andy Hammond
Fran Taplin
Dave Welch

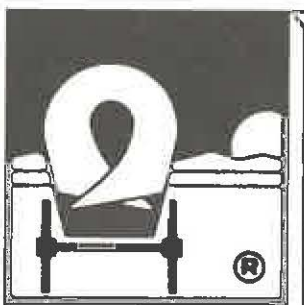
Ex Officio Member
OCTA Treasurer

COMMITTEE C

Preservation, Collections
Public Relations
Property management

Lethene Parks, Chair
Jack Fletcher
Jim Denney
Chuck Martin

Ex Officio Members
OCTA Vice President
OCTA Preservation Officer



News From The Plains

Editor

Candy Moulton
Star Route Box 29
Encampment, WY
82325
307/327-5465
nfpocta@aol.com

Contributing Editors

Bill Martin
Richard Pingrey
Kathy Conway
Travis Boley

Oregon-California Trails Association

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P.O. Box 1019
Independence, MO
64051-0519
888/811-6282
816/836-0989 (Fax)
octa@indepmo.org

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WHAT'S HAPPENING...

July 15, 2004
Postmark Deadline for 2004
OCTA Election Ballots to be
Returned to National
Headquarters

July 24, 2004
Deadline to send letters of
support for HR-1051 to local
Congressional representatives

August 11-14, 2004
OCTA Convention
Vancouver, Washington

March 4-5, 2005
OCTA Board Meeting

August 2005
OCTA Convention
Salt Lake City, Utah

August 2006
OCTA Convention
St. Joseph, Missouri

From the President

Richard Pingrey

rjpingrey@charter.net

Dear Members,

In this issue of *News From the Plains* you will read about actions taken by the Board of Directors at the April meeting. There were positive proclamations of support for more effort to be given to trail preservation and related issues. There was a strong plea for support of HR-1051, the House of Representatives bill that would allow additional segments of the Oregon, California and Pony Express trail routes to be considered for possible inclusion for National Historic Trail designation. I hope each of you did your part and wrote or faxed your Congressman and asked them to support this legislation. In all, the April Board of Directors meeting was quite productive with several positive motions passed by the board in support of needed programs and activities. Now the hard work starts. We need people to step forward and help implement those motions and resolutions. We are a volunteer organization and we need you to volunteer your time, effort and even some money on occasion to make these things happen.

A primary concern for me personally is to strengthen the ties between the national organization and the chapters. We are all part of just one organization under one non-profit corporate structure but we often act like we are independent of each other. One reason it is so difficult to be effective in trail preservation is because we fail to communicate and work with each other on the chapter to national level. National does not do enough to help chapters. Both Travis Boley, our new Association Manager, and I want to better understand the problems chapters face and to help solve those problems. We can only do this when chapter people communicate with us and discuss the issues.

I hope you are all planning on attending the National Convention at Vancouver, WA in August. I have seen the schedule, the tours that are planned, the presentations and the entertainment program. Our hotel and convention center is on the banks of the Columbia River just three or four blocks away from the old Hudson Bay Company, Fort Vancouver.

I am sure you will go home from Vancouver very pleased with your participation.

It is also election time. There are four positions to be filled on the Board. There are some real distinctions in the views of the candidates. I hope you will take time to find out the positions candidates hold and are taking on important issues. That means going beyond the candidate's statements. Do some research. Ask questions. Who is supporting the candidates? What positions have they taken on important issues such as preservation and our professional staff? The board members represent you and you have every right to know their views on all aspects of OCTA.

Three or four important issues remain unresolved at present and they will come before the board for action in August. We are in the process of bringing the bylaws up to date with changes in goals and current activities. I take the position, as do many others, that bylaws are like our U. S. Constitution. Changes should be made only after much thought as they define our organization. They should only have minor adjustments to reflect changing conditions. We are also bringing OCTA's policy manual up to date. This is a long over due and much needed effort. A new five-year plan is being developed so we have a clear picture of where we are at present and where we want to be five years in the future.

Each time I have written to you I have emphasized the need and importance of having volunteers carry out the programs of our organization. If we are to maintain our character of a volunteer organization it is essential that people volunteer to take responsibility for programs and activities. The opportunities are unlimited. They range from working alone at home collecting data from pioneer diaries for our COED program to running for a position on the board of directors or the thousand of opportunities between those extremes. Don't say you were never asked to participate or contribute. The fun of being a member starts when you get involved.

Trail Journal

Candy Moulton

NFP Editor
nfpocta@aol.com

Every year I get a call from the 4th Grade Wyoming History teacher at my local elementary school asking if I can come in and talk with her students about the trails. I always go. It's fun talking about emigrants, wagons and wagon trains with kids who are intensely interested in the important things, like "How fast do you travel?" "Do you use oxen?" "What do you eat?" "What do you take with you?" My answers: "Three to four miles an hour, we use mules but I've traveled with oxen, whatever the cook serves, only the essentials, sunscreen, mosquito dope, my camera, computer, cell phone." The last three items really get their attention, and then we talk about what the emigrants took.

Last summer I traveled with Ben Kern for a few days on his Cherokee Trail Wagon Train ending our trip in my hometown. We started the last day of the journey with two teenage boys in the wagon whom I had first told about the trails when I visited their 4th grade class years before; by the time we'd traveled the 18 miles to town we had filled the wagon with nearly a dozen other kids whom we'd picked up along the road. Literally!

I'd made arrangements for a couple of my nieces to come ride with us, but the others joined us without any prior planning. They were all ranch kids whose parents saw us as we traveled. They came out just to watch us pass, but we couldn't resist. "You wanna ride?" I'd ask, and they'd come a'runnin'.

Because we hadn't really planned on picking up so many passengers, the back of the wagon was soon filled with little girls lying on our tents, bedrolls, and gear bags, while I had one child in my lap on the front seat. We made quite a sight as we rolled into town and to the park where a "History Camp" was underway for older children. I'd arranged for our stop there, giving those youngsters a chance to talk with the teamsters who'd just traveled 18 days over the Cherokee Trail.

This past school year I encouraged the teacher to take her students to Casper for a visit at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, with time

for a stop at Independence Rock. She called me last night, as the school year wound down, to say they had made the trip (more than six hours just riding on the bus) and adding a stop at Martin's Cove and the Mormon Handcart Visitor's Center. She had never been to the Casper center and told me she was skeptical when told to plan for two hours with her students there because she didn't think it would hold their interest for that length of time. In reality, the students were at the center for almost three hours, taking the time to pull the handcart, view films and exhibits, and listen to Ben Kern in an

audio program in which he talks about his wagon trains. These students had studied the trails and many of them had met Ben so the center really grabbed their attention.

As you go about trail activities this summer, consider asking a youngster to join you, or contact a local teacher and offer to give a program during the upcoming year where you can talk about the trails and catch some enthusiasm.

Fall Issue *News From the Plains*
Deadline: August 20, 2004

Corrections

Here is the proper E-mail address

The e-mail address for Gary Shurtleff shown on page 4 of the registration booklet for the OCTA Convention is incorrect. The correct address is shurtgarymarley@comcast.net.



Beckwourth Trail data incorrect

The Three Flags Highway was finished in 1923, not 1905 as noted in the article on the Beckwourth Trail in the last *News from the Plains*. Also, the 100,000 people who used the trail did so from 1851 through 1860. The article incorrectly reported the number and years of trail travelers.

Headquarters Manager's Report

Kathy Conway

KConway@indepmo.org

As we welcome new OCTA members to our organization, we are hopeful that they will join us for their first convention in Vancouver, WA! No doubt with this year's varied convention themes of Lewis and Clark, Native American culture, Fort Vancouver, the fur trade and the Oregon Trail, all history enthusiasts will want to join us this August in Vancouver.

Several reminders

Don't forget to cast your vote in the upcoming annual election of four Directors for the National OCTA Board. Ballot envelopes must be postmarked no later than July 15, 2004.

Please communicate with your Congressional representatives and urge them to support HR-1051 (See Legislative Report in this issue for more information). Do this no later than July 24, 2004. We suggest letters or faxes to your Representative's local office. (Do not send e-mail). If you did not receive our legislative letter in May. Please call us at 888-811-6282 for details. We need your help!

Our first coin in our coin series is here! Coin No. 1 honors the Lewis and Clark expedition and is a commemorative piece for the Bicentennial celebration. One or more can be easily reserved for you. Please see our full page ad and order form in this issue.

In and Around the Organization

Bill Hill has written a new book entitled *Lewis and Clark Yesterday and Today*. We will have copies available to sell through the OCTA bookstore this summer. Call us toll free and order your copy today.

Dr. and Mrs. David Fairbanks, OCTA members from Bethesda, MD last May donated to OCTA a magnificent three-foot in diameter bronze marker entitled, "The Old Oregon Trail" hoping to have it placed here in Independence. We now have an

agreement with our Jackson County government to have the bronze installed as a memorial marker to the Trail on the grounds of the Truman Court House at the center of the old Independence Square. We are delighted that OCTA will gift this marvelous art and history piece to the Independence community that we have been part of for several years now. Thank you Dr. and Mrs. Fairbanks for making this possible!

Another Dr. Fairbanks, Daniel to be specific, has presented us with a bronze bust of Ezra Meeker. This is a copy of an original bust that had been lost or destroyed. Daniel created the new bust using photos taken of Ezra Meeker sitting for his portrait being sculpted by Daniel's grandfather, artist Avard Fairbanks. This bust is one of only two castings and

resides in our OCTA Headquarters office. The other will be presented to the Ezra Meeker Home in Puyallup, WA. Thank you Daniel, not only will we will utilize this piece to tell the Meeker "trail" stories, we are additionally grateful to manage "Trail" business under Ezra's

watchful and interested eyes!

Promoting our trails can take many forms, we wish to mention Edna Kennell's recent award this spring. In April she was presented the BIG WYO Award by Gov. Dave Freudenthal at the 2004 Wyoming Governor's Conference on Hospitality and Tourism in Casper. The BIG WYO Award is presented annually to a private sector person for outstanding performance in promoting tourism for the State of Wyoming. Congratulations, Edna!

Also, long time OCTA member, Stan Paher reports that he has placed 270 copies of the Winter issue of the *Overland Journal* in western Nevada libraries and bookstores, including Borders and Barnes and Noble. In this issue, Stan has an intriguing article on the western Nevada emigrant trading posts of 1850-1851. He has also sold several copies at slide show-lectures and craft shows. With each copy, Stan places an OCTA membership brochure and knows new memberships will result.

Continued on next page

Call OCTA Headquarters
Toll Free

888-811-6282

Association Manager's Report

Travis Boley
Tboley@indepmo.org

The Oregon-California Trails Association's Board of Directors approved a new historic coin series at its Mid-Year Board Meeting in April. This series will depict a different trail theme every year. The coin, minted by the Highland Mint of Melbourne, FL is one Troy ounce of silver and comes in a black jeweler's box, with a certificate of authenticity and a coin stand. Each coin is individually numbered, and the pressing is limited to 1,000 pieces.

The first in the series commemorates the official opening of the West for the United States, the Lewis and Clark expedition. The obverse of the coin features an image of the explorers, while the reverse replicates the famed Jefferson Peace Medal handed out by the duo to Native American leaders. The reverse also says "Oregon-California Trails Association" across the edge, as will all future series.

Each coin will debut in the spring of each year and we plan to do only one per year. Future topics will include stories from the Oregon and California trails as well as other important trails, although these topics will be kept as highly guarded secrets until the time of their unveiling.

I recently visited the kickoff of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event in St. Charles, Missouri, where these commemoratives were quite well received. Though competition for products was fierce, OCTA was certainly pre-eminent amongst the myriad booths at the festival. In fact, we were so

pleased by our participation that we plan to attend some smaller events along the Missouri River this summer, as well at the signature event held in the Kansas City area over the Fourth of July weekend. If any of you are planning on visiting a Lewis and Clark event this summer be certain that you find the OCTA booth, as we will have lots of neat products and information with us.

If you're planning on buying one of these beautiful commemoratives, I would highly suggest that you get your order in now. Most of the low numbers (certainly everything below 60) plus a good portion of even numbers have already been claimed, but there is still the opportunity to own this once-in-a-lifetime piece. We'll even reserve the same number for you for future editions. Be sure to see the advertisement here in the *News From the Plains* for complete ordering information. Get your order in now, because we're also advertising in *We Proceeded On*, the magazine of the Lewis and Clark Foundation. Once that is published I expect the remaining stock to be rapidly depleted.

Watch also for other new products, which will make their debut at the OCTA convention later this summer in Vancouver, WA. If you can't make it to the convention, don't fret because we'll be sending you more information once it becomes available. See you down the trail!

Headquarters Report *Continued from previous page*

Thanks, Stan, for marketing OCTA to a wider audience.

OCTA friend Chuck Dodd recently published his new guidebook, *Chuck Dodd's Guide to Getting Around in the Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon*. It is well written and retails for \$18.65. We have a limited number to sell. Chuck has already sold out of his first printing!!! Call us toll-free 888-811-6282 to order.

Judy Budde, former teacher and valued headquarters volunteer, has taken our teacher's

information packet "on the road." This spring, Judy graciously offered to market OCTA's educational program by calling upon numerous school districts. She aptly presented the "trail history pitch" and has reached several interested audiences, both teachers and classes.

Thanks to all OCTA members.....for your continuing support and loyalty.....you make our jobs here at Headquarters very meaningful!

Preservation Issues

Continued from front page

resources. "Are there sites on the trail that are so precious that [OCTA] would go to all lengths to protect them?" he asked. "How serious are we about preservation? Are we serious enough that we would take legal action, or buy a piece of land and save it?"

Welch advocated developing preservation structures at the local level, so the National Preservation Officer can deal with bigger policy issues, and coordination with other groups. He said in many cases government employees looking out for trail issues are not appreciated. "Some of them are under attack ...for trying to do the work that I think

No board member objected to the need to take a stronger stand for trail preservation, but Kennell questioned issues related to viewsheds and setting. The preservation resolution states that those are important aspects of trail preservation and "we expect them to be considered in impact assessments." Kennell questioned the phrasing, suggesting that the word "expect" is too strong.

Other board members, including Chuck Martin, said there should be no attempt to "water down" the resolution wording or intent by OCTA to demand high standards with respect to trail preservation. The board approved the resolution by unanimous vote, with Kennell abstaining.

The board also agreed to commit resources for training and to develop a list of preservation projects OCTA will undertake. (See Preservation Officer report elsewhere in this issue for details.)

The issue was localized when preservation issues in Wyoming became the focus of discussion. Kennell noted that Wyoming OCTA was in

the process of developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the chapter and Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). It was pointed out that no chapter has the authority to negotiate or execute such agreements independent of the national OCTA.

"We cannot have chapters entering into agreements with organizations," Welch said. Such agreements need to be joint efforts between chapters and the national organization. That is "one of the fundamental problems of policy being developed at the chapter level and not at the national level," Welch said.

Board member Bill Martin of Georgetown, TX asked, "Is there a feeling in Wyoming that they are entitled to go do these things without national involvement?"



OCTA Board Members had earnest discussions about trails preservation, financing and other organizational issues at the Mid-Year Board Meeting.

this board would support," Welch said, adding in some cases there are attempts to remove the employees from their jobs because of their support of trails and other cultural resources.

The board agreed OCTA needs individuals at the local level who are knowledgeable about local and state laws as well as trail resources, and stressed that the national organization needs to develop an effective chapter program and provide training.

OCTA President Dick Pingrey urged proper training for people working on preservation issues at the national level, but Past President Randy Wagner noted that "to succeed, you have to get along with the person on the ground" and that requires local involvement. Welch agreed, noting that past successes have occurred when OCTA members have developed relationships with local managers, as in the case of the Beckwourth Trail in Nevada.

Continued on next page

Trail Preservation

Continued from previous page

Kennell replied, "I think there is some of that" adding that when Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal made significant changes to the State Historic Preservation Office, OCTA was not included as a "recognized authority" on the trails. "The people they are using as licensed historians don't know about the trails," she said. The discussion about an MOU between Wyoming OCTA and SHPO came up as a way to involve the organization, she said.

Bill Martin asked again, "Is there a feeling on the part of the Wyoming chapter than they can negotiate agreements without national involvement?" To which past OCTA President Randy Wagner of Cheyenne, said, "No." But Welch said in some cases he believes the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming goes "answer shopping." If the state BLM goes to National OCTA "they are probably not going to get the answer they want... so they go to the state organization," suggesting a belief on the part of the BLM that National OCTA has a stronger policy with respect to trail preservation than the Wyoming Chapter.

For instance, Welch said National OCTA calls for a "strong position in terms of protecting settings and viewsheds consistent with federal laws." That issue is the "major area of conflict with Wyoming

OCTA in part because the petroleum industry does not like the strict view national OCTA endorses, although he said for the most part, "we've not had problems with most of the large companies that are involved.... We have a little more resistance from the small producers." The issue is "fairly controversial," Welch said adding there are some areas in Wyoming "that are written off" for trails preservation because impacts are so significant.

Even so, Welch maintains that the "BLM in Wyoming is our friend; we don't have to agree with them on everything. We are accomplishing things by working with them."

Welch said he doesn't "challenge the dedication of our people in the Wyoming chapter to the protection of the trail," but he said some in the chapter do "not clearly understand the preservation laws," adding "that's our fault" because National OCTA has not provided adequate information and training to chapter representatives. But Welch said the Wyoming chapter is "not inclusive in its decision making. There are a lot of people in Wyoming that do not feel they are involved."

In subsequent action, the board approved the concept of entering into an MOU with Wyoming SHPO. At press time no final action had been taken.

Preservation Update

- The **Whitman Mission** eastern access hiking trail improvement project, expected to cost up to \$5,000, is underway. National OCTA has pledged funding, the NW Chapter has pledged \$750, and other funding may come from the California-Nevada Chapter and from the National Park Service.
- A project involving identification of boundaries at **South Pass** in Central Wyoming may be undertaken that would involve research and field work. The project would require professional consultants and may be funded cooperatively with the National Park Service through the Challenge Cost Share Program. A specific proposal will be developed before any action is taken. Federal lands at South Pass are managed by the Rock Springs and Lander offices of the BLM. More information about this proposed project will be presented to the OCTA Board in August.
- A number of development projects in Wyoming threaten or impact trail resources. These projects are being monitored by OCTA members living in Wyoming. The programmatic agreement on the Pinedale Anticline project is still being negotiated.
- Past trail marking projects helped protect trail segments during recent logging operations in the **Blue Mountains** of

Board Resolution

Approved April, 2004

1. Trail preservation is OCTA priority.
2. Viewsheds and setting are important aspects to trail preservation and we expect them to be considered in impact assessments.
3. OCTA will implement a training program for developing chapter preservation officers or assistant national preservation officers that will enforce the policies of the national board.
4. OCTA re-affirms its commitment to work as partners with the Federal and state agencies responsible for the protection of historical and cultural resources.
5. OCTA will develop working relationships with other organizations with similar or intersecting interests. This includes historical preservation, recreational and environmental organizations.
6. OCTA will establish and fund meaningful preservation projects that demonstrate our commitment to trail preservation.

The board re-affirms the Preservation Policy adopted on August 14, 2001, at Casper, WY.

OCTA Preservation Policy

Whereas the mission of OCTA is the preservation and appreciation of the trans-Mississippi emigrant trails, and

Whereas those trails are continually and increasingly threatened by development activities, and

Whereas energy development and telecommunications activities pose a special threat to the emigrant trails

OCTA hereby affirms its commitment to protect the emigrant trails. Furthermore, OCTA is committed to work with government agencies and private interests to seek solutions considering the interests of all involved parties. Where reasonable compromise is not attainable or established procedures are not followed, OCTA may take appropriate legal steps.

OCTA's expectation is that high potential sites and segments, as defined in the trails' management plans, will be protected to the maximum degree possible. Mitigation shall include use of alternate sites away from the trails, careful routing of roads and pipelines, and minimization of visual impacts over the widest possible area. Development activities must include a plan for restoration of the site to its original state after activities cease.

Preservation Update

Oregon. Kudos to the Northwest Chapter and the landowner.

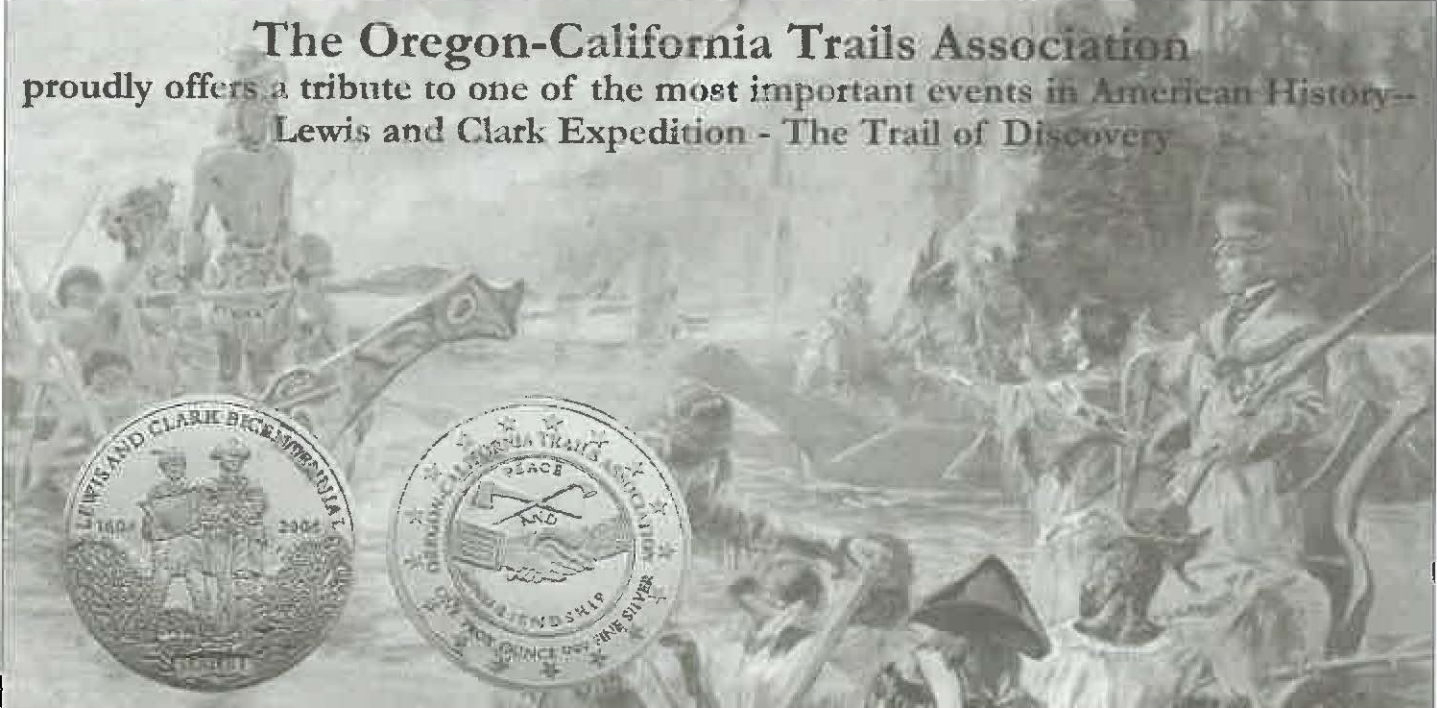
- The **Beckwourth Trail** protection outlined in the Spring issue of *NFP* is a "great example of local people working for trail protection," according to National Preservation Officer Dave Welch who noted that local members Dave Hollecker and Tom Fee were "prepared and proactive" leading to successful efforts to protect that trail segment.
- The OCTA Board in April approved development of a **Memorandum of Understanding** that would involve National OCTA, Wyoming OCTA, and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Initial efforts to develop the MOU were launched by Wyoming Chapter representatives.

- The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has a land transfer proposition at **Rye Patch Reservoir** in Nevada that may impact trail resources. This issue is being monitored by CA-NV Chapter Preservation Officer Leslie Fryman.
- The National Preservation Officer will present a proposal to the board for a preservation **training program** that will be offered to all OCTA members.

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proudly offers a tribute to one of the most important events in American History--
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Background Image: *Lewis and Clark on the Lower Columbia River*, Charles Russell, 1906

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Inviting Summer Days and Nights in Vancouver

Roll On, Columbia!

An awesome OCTA convention is ready to unfold for you in Vancouver, WA this August, on the banks of the Columbia River—and it is still not too late to sign up to participate in all the festivities! Expect seasonably mild weather.

There will be excellent speakers, engaging workshops, entertaining re-enactors and musicians and extensive tours. The book room will offer you opportunities to browse for rare and new books and chat with authors, while the raffle and auction will give you a chance to obtain something special. Variety will abound in the meals being offered—the banquet, the barbeque and dining “on location” during tours.

An exciting innovation is being offered for the first time at this convention where teachers will be able to earn undergraduate or graduate credits. Anyone interested in participating is eligible to sign up at the opening workshop. Northwest OCTA is supporting several teachers with partial scholarships in the belief that the knowledge they gain will translate directly into developing potential new OCTA members by getting them interested while they are still young.

Four historical strands will weave together the convention theme, “Roll On, Columbia! River Trail of History.” Papers offered at the convention will cover diverse aspects of Native American culture; the Lewis and Clark expedition and its impact on the region; Fort Vancouver and the fur trade; and emigrant travel and subsequent Willamette Valley settlement.

A number of challenging and enlightening workshops will be available. Trace your ancestors, experience pioneer music or check some archaeological digs at Fort Vancouver. Alternatively, learn techniques for teaching pioneer history, preparing interpretive media for a trail site. Or brush up on the latest in chapter building and convention methods.

Convention evenings will offer several options. Tradition, as well as good food, will be served at the awards banquet and the barbeque. See some special people at authors’ night, the re-enactors’ night, and the program by Marv Ross and the Trail Band.

Highlights of any convention are the tours. This one is so jam-packed with tours. The first pre-convention tour begins on Sunday, August 8, and the last post-convention tours occur on August 15. Take a two-day auto tour from Hermiston to The Dalles while traveling west to the convention, visit two “ends” of the trail at Fort Vancouver and Oregon City, or drive on from Vancouver to another “end” by taking the Cowlitz Trail to Puget Sound in Washington. While at the convention, choose from a journey through the Columbia Gorge, a trek along the Barlow Trail, an excursion down the Willamette Valley, or an exploration of Lewis and Clark’s route along the Lower Columbia. To wind up the week, there are tours to see a Chinook plank house, or Oregon City; or take off on your own to visit Mt. St. Helens or tour the Columbia River on a sternwheeler.

If you haven’t registered yet, do it now! If you find that rooms are no longer available at the Red Lion at the Quay, numerous alternative options are noted in your convention brochure, available with the registration form, online, at the Northwest Chapter website, <http://nwocta.com/>.

We look forward to seeing you in Vancouver, August 8 –15.

Convention Overview

Pre-convention tours	August 8-10
Board Meeting	August 10
Workshops	August 10 & 12
Convention Opening	August 11
Awards Banquet	August 11
Papers	August 11 & 12
Tours	August 13 & 14
BBQ at Fort Vancouver	August 14
Post-convention Tours	August 15

COED Reorganizes, Plans for Future Activities

By Marley Shurtleff
COED Vice-Chair

Fifteen OCTA members gathered March 5 – 7 in Sacramento, CA to review COED Committee accomplishments of the past year, and to plot the course of future activities. Sallie Riehl has agreed to chair the COED committee for the next year, and Sharon Manhart and Marley Shurtleff will serve as vice-chairs.

Although Bob and Barbara Kabel are easing away from their previous major level of involvement with the committee, Bob is completing some initial COED website revisions with Kathy Buob.

Many other members also are involved. Bob Evanhoe will assist Rose Ann Tompkins in maintaining the Manual for COED Surveyors. Cherie Evanhoe communicates with people who have contacted COED in the past with information about diaries or other source material. Sallie Riehl, Lethene Parks, and Betsy Kanago are focusing on the repositories. Charlie and Nola Little and Shann Rupp are coordinating their lists of documents ready to be surveyed. Kathy Buob offers technical computer assistance. Dave Welch, Jim Riehl and Gary Shurtleff will continue managing the COED database.

A key visible achievement for COED has been the completion of the Emigrant Names disk. By mid-March this year, 284 copies of the disk had been sold for revenue of \$8,520. Many people are benefiting from improved access to the index of names and locations.

Since the last COED group meeting in January of 2003, several other COED committee activities have been completed. A major achievement shared at the March meeting was the revised Manual for COED Surveyors, completed by Rose Ann Tompkins. This manual will help make future

surveys more accurate and tailored for inclusion in the COED database. Dave Welch has developed an administrative computer program, "The Assignment List," to help the assignments coordinator, Shann Rupp, track the progress of surveys in work. Sallie Riehl has reviewed and updated the list of document repositories and has included websites.

Jim Riehl and Barbara Kabel have edited the computer scans of the surveys in the current database so that they can be sold. Importantly, almost a thousand surveys from previous years, in various stages of completion, have been collected together and organized so that they can be tracked, checked for accuracy, processed, and incorporated into the COED database and into a future release of the Emigrant Names disk.

The COED committee has much more to do. As COED leaders over the years have made clear, managing COED is like running a business, with many administrative, technical, production, and personnel responsibilities involved in moving potential projects forward. One goal made at the March meeting was to continue the restructuring of the COED team to take on those evolving responsibilities. The COED website needs to be updated and revised. Potential document repositories and owners need to be determined and checked out—and, in many cases, thanked for their help. Some route codes used in the surveys need to be re-evaluated. The bulk of partially processed surveys need to be completed before additional survey activity can begin in earnest again, and the committee needs to begin planning for new products to develop from the information resident on the COED database.

In addition to the activities already mentioned, individuals attending the meeting stepped up to the many tasks involved in guiding COED through the next year.

OREGON - CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

CONVENTION STATION



Roll On Columbia - River Trail of History
VANCOUVER, WA 98661 - AUGUST 11, 2004

2004 Convention Postmark

The traditional postal cancellation will be available at the 2004 OCTA Convention in Vancouver. Members not attending the convention may obtain examples of the cancellation by sending a stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope to: Convention Station, C/O Postmaster, P.O. Box 9998, Vancouver, WA 98668-9998. Requests can be sent one week prior to August 11 and no more than 30 days thereafter.

Trails Bill Gains Legislative Momentum

By Bill and Jeanne Watson
Legislative Liaisons

Many thanks to each of the OCTA members who have taken the time to write to his or her Representative, House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo and House Resources - National Parks Subcommittee Chairman George Radanovich asking them to support HR-1051.

The momentum and support is growing in support of HR-1051 to authorize the study of specified trail segments to identify those that meet the requirements of the National Trails Act. As of Memorial Day Sponsor Doug Bereuter, NE - 1st, has been joined by six Co-Sponsors: Earl Blumenauer, OR - 3rd; Peter DeFazio, OR - 4th; Dennis Moore, KS - 3rd; George Miller, CA - 7th; Tom Lantos, CA - 12th; and Loretta Sanchez, CA - 47th.

If your Representative is listed above, please send him/her a thank you note.

We greatly appreciate the hard work of Travis Boley and Kathy Conway to obtain and insert in the OCTA mailing the FAX numbers of the representatives by state plus creating the stamped,

OCTA presented
Nebraska
Congressman
Doug Bereuter
with an award
for his assistance
on Trails
Legislation.



return post card for your use. Those FAX numbers get your letter direct to your Representative's office.

If you have not yet written your letters, please do so now using the office FAX number for your Representative from the insert list.

OCTA joined the Pony Express Trail Association in presenting an award of appreciation to Nebraska Congressman Doug Bereuter for his past trails support.

Your letters are working and we greatly appreciate your support. Also, keep track of your time, mileage and expenses on this and other OCTA activities for use in our 2005 report to Congress of what has been done by volunteers in support of the Oregon and California Trails.

Bill and Jeanne Watson Receive "Take Pride In America Award"

Bill and Jeanne Watson, co-chairs of the OCTA Trails Liaison Committee, received a "Take Pride in America Award" from the U.S. Department of the Interior for volunteer service. The award was presented by Kathleen Clarke, Director of the Bureau of Land Management, at the BLM's first National Historic and Scenic Trails Workshop in Riverside, CA. in March.

The Director's Award for over 2,000 hours of volunteer work is part of the President's initiative recognizing community service. This is the first time it has been presented to National Historic Trail volunteers. The awards acknowledge contributions that "enhance and expand volunteer stewardship of parks, wildlife refuges, forests, recreation areas, beaches and shorelines, cultural and historic sites." At the Riverside meeting, with 100 attendees, the Continental Divide Trail also received a "Take Pride in America Award" for its trail volunteers program.

The Watsons have chaired the OCTA Trails Liaison Committee for 18 years and worked to

obtain National Historic Trails designation for the California and Pony Express routes in 1992.

They continue to work on Congressional authorization for studies of additional routes to these as well as the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer trails. In late April, OCTA sent a special mailing to all members requesting them to write their Representative asking him/her to support HR-1051 before July 24.

Bill served as the fourth OCTA president and Jeanne as secretary and each served two consecutive terms on the board. They represent OCTA at Trails Advocacy Week each year in Washington D.C., and at the Partnership for the National Scenic and Historic Trails. In addition the Watsons and their family are Adopt-A-Trail volunteers with the U.S. Forest Service in California's Eldorado National Forest, working each summer to help preserve the Carson Route across the Sierra Nevada.

OCTA Board Recognizes Cherokee Trail, Approves Library Proposal

The OCTA Board took the following action at its official Mid-Year Board meeting in Independence, MO in April:

- Agreed to transfer \$12,456 to the general endowment fund and keep \$38,000 in an operating reserve account.
- Noted that Frank Tortorich from California resigned as national mapping chair and that Jim McGill of Idaho will take over those duties.
- Appointed Sally Reihl as COED Chair with Marly Shurtliff and Sharon Manhart as vice chairs.
- Gave Association Manager Travis Boley authority to spend up to \$250 to consult with an attorney to develop an intellectual property licensing and reproduction rights document, to be used in developing an agreement for granting use of materials. The board also authorized Boley to write a consultation grant worth up to \$10,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities for outside consultants to assist with development of a five-year plan for OCTA.
- Approved Series 1 of an OCTA Historic Coin Series.
- Instructed Board Committee A to develop materials for administering annual reviews for OCTA employees and also to review existing membership and dues structures and make recommendations at the August board meeting.
- Discussed the need for better communications between national officers, staff members and the chapters.
- Passed a resolution to reaffirm Article 13, paragraph B of the OCTA bylaws, which states only a dues paying member of the association in good standing shall be eligible to become a member of a chapter.
- Agreed that Board Committee B will continue to continue its investigation into laws of Colorado and Missouri to determine future changes

necessary under an ongoing revision of the OCTA bylaws.

- Approved a motion to encourage chapters to study the feasibility of establishing libraries in each state or region with the overall library project to be coordinated with holdings of the Mattes Library.
- Discussed the possibility of developing specific archaeology projects to undertake, including a possible survey of names on rock outcrops near Point of Rocks in southwestern Wyoming.
- Approved a resolution affirming that OCTA recognizes the documented routes of the Cherokee Trail as important alternate routes of California National Historic Trail and supports designation of the Cherokee routes as a national historic trail.
- Agreed that the California Trail Center in Elko, NV can develop a logo that is similar to the OCTA logo.
- Discussed preservation and publication issues. (See stories elsewhere in *NFP*.)

OCTA Board Meeting August 10, 2004 Vancouver, WA

Agenda items...

- ◆ 2005 budget
- ◆ Bylaw revisions
- ◆ 5-Year Plan
- ◆ Membership Issues
- ◆ Preservation Activities
- ◆ OCTA Publications

...And MORE

New Mapping Chair Needs Cooperation, Communications

By James McGill
OCTA Trail Mapping Chair

In sensing the responsibility that I face as your present Mapping Chairman I would like to establish a communications network, all inclusive for everyone concerned. In order to do this I will need your input of names and e-mail addresses of all possible persons in your chapters who should be and will choose to be involved.

I will first speak a little of myself in order to establish my need for the help of all concerned. I am relatively new to OCTA, and know little about what my position has required in the past or exactly how we will need to become organized as a Mapping Committee and other assisting workers. I sense that most of you are probably much more experienced than I in the work of OCTA, and I hope to depend upon many of you for your expertise and guidance. I look at this new opportunity as a work still in developmental stages.

I am retired and have found pleasure in my involvement with OCTA and I-OCTA thus far, and hope to have a lot of time to devote to our work together. Therefore, I will make myself as available to all of you as I can, and am willing to travel and communicate directly with you about your particular

situations and needs in mapping trails in your area. I know that some of you are way ahead of this new start for me, and have done much of the mapping that we hope to finish.

It may be helpful for you to communicate to me the extent of mapping already done, the methods you have used (hopefully by *MET Manual* standards), and an estimate of how much still needs to be done to finish the task in your state/area. With as much information as possible we can begin to put together an estimate of the whole work that lies ahead for us. Each chapter does need to establish a preservation/marketing officer for guiding chapter responsibilities.

Please send me e-mail addresses as soon as possible, for convenience and speed in communication, and other information on people that will be working from your chapters. I will send out to all the information gathered in order to set up a multidirectional communication network.

James W. McGill, President I-OCTA
Chairman OCTA Trails Mapping Committee
305 Melba Drive
Nampa, ID 83686
208/467- 4853 or 208/250-6045
jwmcgill@pobox.com

Trails Books and Western Historic Trails Map Forthcoming

By Bill Martin
Publications Chair

OCTA members will have an opportunity to add to their trails-related book collection during the next year, while at the same time supporting the goals of the organization, with three new publications expected to be available.

The OCTA Special Publications Fund has two books scheduled for publication, both "must have" volumes for rut nuts.

First out will be Randy Brown's book on historic inscriptions, due for publication in the fall. Also in production is Dick Rieck's compilation of references to death on the trails, tentatively due out in spring, 2005.

OCTA has also committed to producing the first in a series of anthologies based on articles

published during the past 20 years in the *Overland Journal*. These special, limited-edition books will each be devoted to a specific topic, such as graves, diaries, women or historic sites.

Information about pricing and availability of the books will be available in the near future.

In addition, OCTA has started production of an "official" map of Western historic trails. The map is expected to be available by the end of the year.

OCTA is committed to publishing books and other materials that contribute to the body of knowledge about the trails and generate revenues the organization can use to fulfill its mission of trails preservation.

Long term, OCTA will actively seek publishing projects that contribute to emigrant trails heritage and that can be produced and marketed profitably.

Preservation Report

David Welch

Preservation Officer
welchdj@comcast.net

As is reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the board of directors provided near unanimous support for a renewed OCTA commitment to trail preservation. You might wonder why this action was necessary, but it is easy to be distracted by issues of management and operations at the expense of our mission. The resolution serves to remind all of us of our objective. As is often said, if we don't protect the trails, who will?

Passing resolutions is well and good, but what next? What are we going to do to significantly enhance our trail preservation activities? Three steps are being taken. First, all chapters and individual members are asked to suggest projects and programs that OCTA can undertake. At this point we are not asking for leaders or workers, just ideas with enough detail to judge their worth. Projects might be undertaken as volunteer efforts, challenge cost-share grants, OCTA-funded projects or a combination of the above. For planning purposes, projects with costs ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 should be defined. We may consider larger projects later. Suggestions may include more of our current projects (trail marking and mapping and placement of site markers), but don't let your thinking stop at that point. To get the process started, send a description of the proposed project and a rough estimate of manpower and funding requirements to me (see contact information below).

The second initiative is the development of a preservation training program. The outline of the program will be presented to the OCTA Board at its August meeting. The training program will be presented to chapters and others at special meetings. The need for the program is demonstrated by a general lack of understanding of what we can and can't do with regard to trail preservation. The training will provide tools for all to effectively participate in preservation projects.

The program will include material on the preservation laws and procedures, working with Federal agencies and their processes, and the implications of private land ownership on trail preservation. Once we are past the dry bureaucratic

stuff, we will discuss OCTA's Mapping Emigrant Trails guide and OCTA's trail marking policy. Hopefully, field work can be included to give "hands-on" experience. There will also be a segment on planning trail projects and obtaining funding. If you have other suggestions, please let me know. Now is the time.

The third initiative is to improve the effectiveness of the office of the National Trails Preservation Officer. This will probably take the form of an expanded preservation committee to provide support to the national preservation officer. It has been suggested that members of the committee include chapter presidents, chapter preservation officers and members at large with special expertise in preservation and related topics. It should be noted up-front that the purpose of this committee is to implement policies as defined by the Board of Directors, not develop new policies. It will work real preservation problems, not talk about them.

The success of these initiatives depends upon you. We need ideas. We need volunteers, both leaders and workers. Many of you recently contacted Dick Pingrey or me concerning our preservation efforts. Consider these initiatives to see how you fit in. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dave Welch
253-584-0332 or
welchdj@comcast.net

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News From The Chapters

Trails Head

From the Chapter Newsletter

In March the noted frontiersman, Jim Bridger, was commemorated once again in the Kansas City area, which was his home for the last years of his life, with a statue at the National Frontier Trails Museum. March 17 was the 200th anniversary of Bridger's birth.

The Overland Park, KS City Council voted to rename Comanche Park at 82nd Terrace and Grant as Sapling Grove Park. The dedication ceremony was held in May. The park site was the general location of the Sapling Grove campground on the Westport Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trails. It was first named by George Sibley in 1827 during his government "Sibley Survey" of the Santa Fe Trail.

Nebraska

From the Chapter Newsletter

At the U.S. House of Representatives on March 2, OCTA representatives presented Nebraska Trails plaques to Congressman Doug Bereuter and his Legislative Aide, Alan Feyerherm, in appreciation of their support for OCTA and the National Pony Express Association. Also present at the awards ceremony were Gary Werner, Partnership

for the National Trails System, Madison, WI; Bill and Jeanne Watson, OCTA, Orinda, CA; Pat Hearty, National Pony Express Trail Association, South Jordan, UT; and Celina Montorfano, American Hiking Society, Silver Spring, MD. The oak plaques were created by Ken Martin, an OCTA member from Oketo, KS.

Congressman Bereuter sponsored the 1992 legislation authorizing the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails. After 13 terms in Congress, he will retire August 31, 2004, and his strong support on behalf of our trails will be greatly missed.

OCTA representatives distributed 50 OCTA packets to House, Senate and Administration members during Trails Advocacy Week. The folders plus Oregon, California, and Pony Express Trails guides and a specially created Nebraska Four Trails GIS maps were provided by the National Park Service. The GIS Map of Nebraska illustrates to Congress the achievements from a significant supplemental Park Service appropriation four years ago. The handout reports volunteers' hours and unreimbursed expenses that result in OCTA's contribution of \$11.23 for each federal dollar authorized.

An unexpected crowd of 35 people was drawn at the Western Nebraska Spring Tour along the Oregon Trail from Bridgeport to the Nebraska-Wyoming state line.



The Old Freighter's Museum in Nebraska City has new exhibits designed in cooperation with the Long Distance Trails office of the National Park Service. (Photo Courtesy, Chuck Milliken, NPS)

Southwest

By Deborah and Jon Lawrence

During late October, 2003, and early April, 2004, the Trail Turtles of the Southwest Chapter of OCTA (SWOCTA) engaged in mapping the Southern Emigrant Trail in the region starting west of Gila Bend at Painted Rocks, through the Oatman Flats (the site of the Oatman Massacre) and on to Indian Point farther west. This part of the trail was first mapped by Lieutenant Emory when he accompanied General Phil Kearny on the march to California during the Mexican War, and was mapped again by Lieutenant Whipple as part of the Bartlett U.S./ Mexican Boundary Commission Survey (prior to the Gadsen Purchase). In October, the group included Tracy DeVault, Richard and Marie Greene, Dave Hollicker, Kay Kelso, Rose Ann Tompkins and Ken and Pat White. In April the same group was supplemented by Don Buck, Judy DeVault, Neal and Marion John, Harlie Tompkins, and by Terry Cook, Reba Grandrud, Nigel Reynolds and David Schimberg.

Using aerial photographs, the group located traces of the trail on the ground and used GPS to determine coordinates. Traces of the trail included grooves worn into rock and rust from metal wagon wheels. Many artifacts were found along the route, as well as signs of ancient Indian populations (petroglyphs, mortero holes, manos and metates). Near the Oatman site, the group found markers of the graves of the Oatmans and also of the Fourn family. (William Fourn ran the Oatman Flats stage station in the 1870s and built and operated a toll road from Painted Rocks to the station. See www.asu.edu/lib/webdev/fourn.html) On the mesa above Oatman Flats, the group located a "graveyard of artifacts," indicating that this was the location of a popular trail campsite. Nearby, they discovered a ravine that they dubbed "a hidden pocket of trail paradise." The site included a pool of water,

abundant grass, trees, petroglyphs and a trail-era inscription "O W Randall 1849." While the group has not been able to find any references in the literature to Randall (if you know of any, please let us know!), they did find a mention of the site in Hunter's 1849 diary, which reads:

Oct. 21st . . . This evening we left the bottom by climbing the steep ascent to the table land.

[Now known as the Oatman Massacre Site] This, as well as the level summit, was covered with dark purple rocks of all sizes and had a most dreary appearance. Their texture is nearly that of our wild stone, but coarse in quality. About a mile from the ascent where the road bends to the south there is a plain trail leading off to the right. This leads to a rocky ravine in which are some holes of excellent water. Near here we encamped,

without grass or wood. (Robrock, David P., ed. Missouri 49er, The Journal of William W. Hunter. 1992 Univ. of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque. p. 174-5.)

The mapping trips were considered to be a "Trail Turtles dream-come-true." (Details of the trip can be found in the SWOCTA newsletters at <http://www.physics.uci.edu/~jmlawren/SWOCTA.html>.) The group intends to travel the Applegate Trail next fall, using the new guidebook from Trails West.

Other chapter news: During the 45th Annual Arizona History Convention held in Safford, AZ, April 22-24, the Graham County Historical Society gave special recognition to Betty Lee for her many years of leadership and service to the society. She was president of the society and founding curator and director of the museum. We extend our congratulations to Betty, who is a charter member of both OCTA and SWOCTA.



Nigel Cave, Rose Ann Tompkins, Don Buck, Tracy DeVault and Ken White discuss their assignments for a day of mapping. (Photo by Judy DeVault)

Crossroads

By Al Mulder

Spring activities provided a full plate for Crossroads Chapter members with a lecture and slide presentation at the April 9 chapter meeting and a bus tour field trip two weeks later. It was an honor for me to make a presentation on the search for the Luke Halloran and John Hargrave burial sites to a lively group of chapter members and friends who attended the spring chapter meeting. Those who missed the meeting will have an opportunity to hear the talk when it is presented at the annual Utah Historical Society's annual meeting in Salt Lake City's new public library in September.

The spring field trip on April 24, attracted 39 enthusiastic trail buffs who boarded a bus at the County Complex parking lot for a tour of the Golden Pass Road and the Weber Canyon Route of Hastings Cutoff. Tour guides Jay Aldous and Roy Tea and Vice President Marie Irvine did an excellent job and made the field trip an interesting and enjoyable outing for everyone. Bernie Rhoades and his wife flew in from Washington just to make the

tour. Bernie's ancestors were part of the Harlan-Young party that traveled down the treacherous Devil's Gate section of the Weber River route.

James Hudspeth, not Lansford Hastings, was the culprit that told the large wagon party to go down the Weber Canyon. Hastings wanted the emigrant groups following his cutoff to take the route through East Canyon, a trail opened up by the Donner-Reed party two weeks after the Harlan-Young and Lienhard-Hoppe parties struggled down Weber Canyon. George Ivory did a great job on the two tour publications issued to each participant. Near Trappers' Loop, Jerry Dunton took the mike and gave a very interesting narrative on the conflicts between trapper groups in the early 19th century.

D. Robert Carter's recently published book, *Founding Fort Utah*, will make a valued addition to any historian's library. An active member of Utah Crossroads, Bob has published several books and articles on early Utah history and his careful research brings to light a number of interesting events during the early settlement of Provo and Utah Valley.

California-Nevada

by Carol March

Spring arrived in Lemoore, CA with balmy, warm weather, a Naval Air Show, a "Battle of the Decades" vintage cars display and the CA-NV Chapter of OCTA Spring Symposium. As we arrived on Friday afternoon, March 19th, the "Blue Angels" were dipping and zooming overhead — a truly spectacular welcome!

During the meeting we had reports of recent activities, including developments at the OCTA Western Library located at the California State Library, activities planned for OCTA signs marking trails in Northern California and plaques planned by OCTA and the Amador County Historical Society on the Carson Route. The board approved funding for these activities and formed a Futures Committee headed by Curtis Grant to develop a statement of goals and long range plan.

The Symposium attracted 120 people. Bernie Rhoades, of Seattle, WA and Donna Crowe, of

Newman, CA used a wonderful collection of old family letters to tell about the Rhoades family coming overland to California in 1846 and eventually settling in Lemoore. We heard how Daniel Rhoades led a rescue party into the Sierras to save Donner Party survivors and how the Rhoades brothers successfully panned for gold. Typical of most Gold Rush pioneers, however, they found the "real" gold was in land and agriculture, settling first in Gilroy, CA where they raised cattle to sell to markets in San Francisco and gold country settlements and then moving their herds and their homes to the lower Kings River area.

Mrs. Esrey shared information about her husband's pioneer family who came overland to California in the 1840s, settled along the Kings River and later intermarried with the Rhoades Family. Rob Hanson of the College of the Sequoias in nearby Visalia used spectacular slides to illustrate

Continued on page 22

Idaho

From the Chapter Newsletter

The I-OCTA chapter, which had a spring membership meeting in Burley April 24, continues its trail work with rut marking outings in May and June. Additional work is planned for throughout July, August and September, with a fall membership meeting and separate activity to mark the Hudspeth Cutoff planned for October.

Among the other activities the chapter will be working on are exploring the northern Goodale route from Emmett to Cambridge, placing historic signs along trail sites near Soda Springs, cooperating in some field trips with several County Historical Societies, offering a college credit class on Trails at Hagerman and Glenns Ferry, working with local groups in an all day, 150-year Memorial at the Ward Massacre site near Middleton and placing an OCTA sign there and providing some public access trips along the Utter Disaster route and to the OCTA signed death sites in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon.

The chapter has also developed a new www.IdahoOCTA.org web site.

Since our December 2003 invitation to the January 10, combined meeting of BLM and I-OCTA people at Twin Falls, there has been good progress.

First we had a very successful meeting, attended by 29 people from across the state. There were five BLM people, 11 I-OCTA members, six members of historical societies and other groups interested in Trail preservation, and seven private persons who had trail interests!

Many trail related concerns and needs were discussed, and the BLM representatives affirmed their own resolve to help reestablish a Memorandum of Agreement between their offices and I-OCTA.

Three regional groups of three to four I-OCTA members each and one BLM field representative were formed for the three Idaho-BLM areas of Boise, Twin Falls-Burley, and Pocatello-Idaho Falls, to plan and begin/increase preservation activities across the state. Groups were encouraged to reach out and invite others in their areas, individuals and other groups who have demonstrated an interest and common preservation goals. Communications have begun within and between groups to facilitate information needed for ordering necessary Trail marking supplies for 2004.

Wyoming

From the Chapter Newsletter

A new pipeline is being constructed from Wheatland to a point northwest of Guernsey by Kinder Morgan. This will be a small pipe and will be laid next to and within the right of way of an older line that is being abandoned. This line will cross the trail in two places west of Guernsey. No damage to the trails is expected, mainly because at those points the trail is no longer visible, perhaps because it was a casualty of the previous construction. The company has been forthcoming and cooperative in consulting with OCTA prior to construction.

The American Heritage Center of the University of Wyoming has developed a web site entitled The Western Trails Project. This involves four states: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming. Archives, libraries, historical societies and museums

in these states are collaborating to digitize materials relating to Western trails in the 19th and 20th centuries, whether traversed on foot, by horse drawn conveyance, by rail, or by highway. The Digital Initiative Web site showcases collection materials from a number of media, including photographs, drawings, maps, texts and films. The AHC has digitized 1,000 items in the collection, including 14 maps of the Oregon and Bozeman Trails.

In May, Tom McCutcheon arranged a tour of the new Rock Springs BLM building and a full day trek with quite a few stops along the back roads from Rock Springs and along the Overland Trail.

In June, Randy Brown was expected to lead a trek from the Nebraska-Wyoming state line to the Fort Laramie area that would take in such sites as the Henry Hill grave, the Charles Bishop grave, the William Clary grave, and the Grattan massacre site.

Northwest

NW recognizes Hornbuckles with Top OCTA Chapter Award

Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle were presented with the Richard and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award at the NW Chapter Annual Meeting on March 13. Chuck and Suzanne have a great record of support of the many activities of the Northwest chapter. They were presented with a plaque and their names will be added to the permanent plaque at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City.

They are known for their friendly, enthusiastic greetings that make all members and visitors feel welcome. Suzanne has been the chapter secretary and assisted in many ways, such as helping with registration, selling items at meetings and conventions and sewing the cool bands the chapter first sold at the last convention and which are still sold today. She has helped with many outings and convention activities. In addition she is very active with the DAR.

Chuck has determined much of the Cowlitz Trail route and developed interesting outings on both the Cowlitz Trail and the Whitman Route. Chuck even gave a talk about the Cowlitz Trail at the first

picnic. His tour booklets are well documented and nicely presented. He headed the Applegate Trail Marking project for the chapter cost-share grant. Both Suzanne and Chuck have participated and assisted in many other outings, sometimes by bringing up the rear.

Chuck is always willing to take on additional, important duties. He has been our chapter Trail Preservation Officer for several years. He has worked with BLM to improve and standardize marking, mapping and preservation methods. He has also served as the chapter Trail Marking & Mapping Chair and was recognized for this overload last year with a Presidential Award. Together he and Suzanne mapped and marked many trail segments and participated in several Passport in Time or PIT projects.

When we needed someone to keep track of our volunteer hours, Chuck volunteered and nudged us to turn in our hours. When we needed people to check out potential damage to the Oregon Trail, Chuck was one of the volunteers. When we needed help placing the Free Emigrant Road OCTA marker, Chuck was there.

Suzanne and Chuck often have displays at historical meetings and events promoting OCTA's activities and promoting membership. They are great educators finding ways to spread the word about the trails, both within the organization and in other community groups and events. They present information and generate interest in OCTA. Their trail bookmarks add to the promotion.

They are great team players, never needing to be in charge, but happy to help. For example Chuck drove to Centralia to pick up the key, so the building could be unlocked the following day for the first fall picnic. He printed convention seals for the chapter mailings. Chuck is always willing to figure out something, look up information, or provide an answer. Both are dependable, promptly doing what they say they will do.



Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle received the NW Chapter Richard and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award. He is the chapter preservation officer and she is his able helper on the many activities they have both undertaken over the years for the chapter.

California - Nevada

Continued from page 19

"The Flora and Fauna that Greeted the Rhoads and Esrey Families" in the Tulare Lake Basin.

Other presentations included "The Vanishing Landscapes" by geographer William Preston of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo who used maps to illustrate the history and geography of the Tulare Lake Basin in the years 1850 to 1880, and "The 1880 Mussel Slough Tragedy" by Claudia Mader, of Riverdale, CA.

The Chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award, was given to Bill and Shann Rupp for their many years of service to OCTA and the CA-NV Chapter. Bill has

served two terms as Chapter President, on the Chapter Board, as Chairperson of the OCTA Convention in Chico and on the OCTA National Board. Shann has done outstanding work on the COED program and helping set up the Chapter's Web site.

Recognized with Certificates of Appreciation by Awards Committee members Tom Fee and Fran Taplin were Chapter members Judy Allen, Leslie Fryman, Betty McClain, Jack Clough, Bob Iverson and Carol March, Symposium hosts Steve and Lynda Emanuels and El

Dorado National Forest District Ranger Judy Yandoh.

A final event at the Rhoades Family Cemetery, which has been restored by the Lower Kings River Historical Society, involved dedication of an OCTA Plaque which commemorates the "Rhoades Family - California Pioneers." Many Rhoades Family members were present. Bernie Rhoades said that the plaque represents not just "their" history but OCTA's efforts to preserve the history of all California overland pioneers for future generations.

New OCTA Members

Leland & Betty A. Alvord
208 North 3rd Street
Selah WA 98942
509/697-7914

Andy Anderson
P.O. Box 24
Graham, WA 98338
253/847-6182
asanderson@worldnet.att.net

Henry Bryan
1800 Edison Shores Place
Port Huron, MI 48060-3376
810/987-2813
henrybryan@glis.net

Brian Burton
1019 West 58th Lane
Ferndale, WA 98248

Kevin & Michelle Clark
14311 SW Wiese Rd.
Boring/Damascus, OR 97009
503/658-8659
prayer@wiconi.com

Tom & Karen Clayson
3951 Crystie Lane
Casper, WY 82609
307/577-7044
claysons@iglide.net

Kay & Milt Coffman
5471 N Collister
Boise ID 83703
208/336-5383
minikatz2@aol.com

Mervyn & Patty Crow
21900 Kilburn Rd.
Crows Landing, CA 95313
209/837-4369
pcmc2@inreach.com

Michael Curtis
1562 Cypress Ave.
Burlingame, CA 94010
mike.curtis@hal.hitachi.com

Judy Donley
E 803 Illinois Ave
Spokane, WA 99207
509/484-6950
donley62@msn.com

Judith Edwards
P.O. Box 854
Springfield VT 05156
802/855-1055
judgvermont@yahoo.com

John Everingham
735 Michigan
Wilmette, IL 60091-1956

Keith Franklin
405 I St SW
Quincy, WA 98848
509/787-2744

Craig Fuller
1845 South 1800 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
cfhistory@cs.com

Barbara Gaitley
5700 Saloma Ave
Van Nuys, CA 91411-3241
818/989-1388
hjc@7425.com

Robert Gibbs
10417 Brunswick Circle
Bloomington, MN 55438
952/835-2182
magbz@aol.com

David & Lorelei Gibson
6624 Wenonga Rd
Shawnee Mission, KS 66208
913/384-2193
dwgibson@kcfutures.com

George Gillemot
P.O. Box 5050
Carson City, NV 89702

New OCTA Members

Ruth Hall
408 E Salem Ave.
Indianola, IA 50125-2647
hallross@aol.com

Linda Hammond
7 Dee Circle
Downington, PA 19335-1550

Joe & Judy Harris
500 Sand Dollar Court
Fort Collins, CO 80525
970/223-7647
joharris98@msn.com

Donald Hill
P.O. Box 546
Scappoose, OR 97056-0546
503/543-3473

Richard Hurd
1985 Drummond Pond Rd
Alpharetta, GA 30004-0926

Paul Keeton
28396 Rolling Hills Rd
Pioneer, CA 95666
209/295-6261
paul4@earthlink.net

Vincent Kelly
1319 Cedar Avenue
Richland, WA 99352
509/943-3240

Robert Koelling
1538 Franklin St
Santa Monica, CA 90404-3265

James Kullberg
9719 Chadwick Drive
Shawnee Mission, KS 66206-21111
913/341-9259

John Mark Lambertson
National Frontier Trails Museum
318 West Pacific
Independence, MO 64050
816/325-7575
jlambertson@indepmo.org

Jane McCrum
4426 Comanche Drive
Laramie, WY 82072
307/721-4930

Jeff McGowan
17525 Auten Road
Granger, IN 46530
574/277-1494
jmegwn9@aol.com

Robert McKenzie
8125 186th St SW
Edmonds, WA 98026

Sean McPhillips
5734 Ambert
Willoughby, OH 44094
216/307-4122
sgamer1770@aol.com

Alberto Meloni
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MO 64502-0128
816/232-8471
alberto meloni@aol.com

Rich & Peggy Miller
15521 Overbrook Lane
Stanley, KS 66224
913/897-2505
buffmiller@hotmail.com

Chuck Milliken
National Park Serv./Nat'l Trails System
6659 South 3380 West
West Jordan UT 84084
801/539-4096
chuck_milliken@nps.gov

John Moore
1051 Bell St
Reno, NV 89503
775/323-6954
jrm9958@aol.com

Tom Moore
8307 61st St West
University Place, WA 98467
253/537-0564

William Morin
6505 Homestake Drive S
Bowie, MD 20720

William Mulder
1444 Circle Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-4434
801/328-2768

James Hamrick
Oregon Historical Trails Adv. Council
725 Summer St NE Suite C
Salem, OR 97301-1012
503/986-0669
james.hamrick@state.or.us

Dale & Celeste Porter
P.O. Box 711
Elko, NV 89801

Steve Roberts
P.O. Box 11347
Charleston, WV 25339-1347
304/744-1297
jstevenroberts@wmconnect.com

R.G. Robertson
9607 E Calvary Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
480/575-1881
rg@twmag.com

Dorothy Smith
1705 Wayne Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64506
816/279-5331

William & Karen Symms
95489 Highway 101 S
Yachats, OR 97498
541/547-4489
wsymms@teleport.com

Courtenay Thompson
2547 NE 16th Ave
Portland, OR 97212
courtenaythompson@comcast.net

Wallace Thompson
N 2523 Howard
Spokane, WA 99205

Dick Unzelman
P.O. Box 760
Florissant, CO 80816-0760
guffeyco@msn.com

Max Willard
1036 Carriage Lane
Casper, WY 82609
307/237-3975

Chuck Zelinka
717 Crossing Way
St Charles, IL 60714
630/513-9169

Send Address Changes to

OCTA Headquarters
P.O. Box 1019
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