



News From the Plains

Summer 2008
Vol. XXII No. 3

Oregon-California
Trails Association

Trails: Tragedies and Triumphs

Nampa to Host OCTA Convention

By Candy Moulton
NFP Editor

Tours along the Goodale Route, and to the Three Island Crossing Reenactment, plus workshops, speakers, the annual author's night, awards, and entertainment are all being planned for the 26th Annual OCTA Convention Aug. 5-9, in Nampa, ID.

Pre-convention tours take in the Fort Hall Road and trails sites in the Twin Falls area. During the convention additional tours are planned to learn about the Utter Tragedy and to visit Oregon Trail sites in the Boise Valley.

Keynote speaker on Wednesday, Aug. 6, is Robert Meinen, director of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. Other presentors are Ray Egan, Mary Michaelson, Jacqueline Williams, Pat Packard, Jim Henderson, Paul Nettleton, Don Shannon, Lynn Porter, Dave Welch, and Jim McGill.

The OCTA band is expected to perform for the opening reception. Other convention activities include

author's night, chapter meetings, the awards banquet, a live auction, a performance by the Wapato Indian Club dancers, and a barbecue.

A wagon train led by Dell Magnum was expected to leave Montpelier, ID in early July and travel across the state to conclude activities at the convention in Nampa.

There is no official OCTA hotel for this year's convention, however several properties are offering special rates. They include:

Super 8—624 Nampa Blvd, 208-467-2888, Kathy/Tracy, depak_kapu@yahoo.com; Open price—\$64 per night.

Sleep Inn—1315 Industrial Rd., 208-463-6300, Anita Sartorius, gm.id003@choicehotels.com; 20 Rm. Block—\$69.99.

Days Inn—130 Shannon Dr., 208-442-0800, Richard Bell, rpbdaysinn@msn.com; 40 Rm. Block—\$59.99.

Shilo Inn—Nampa Inn, 617 Nampa Blvd., 208-466-8993, Ruth Story, ruth.story@shiloinns.com; 40 Rm. Block by July 3, 2008—\$69.

Shilo Inn—Nampa Suites, 1401

Shilo Dr., Nampa, 208-465-3250 Ruth Story, ruth.story@shiloinns.com; 10 Rm. Block, July 3, 08—\$92.

Holiday Inn Express—4104 E. Flamingo Ave., 208-466-4045, Teri Plummer, Director, teriplummer@cableone.net; 25 Rm. Block by July 21—\$89.99.

A number of RV parks also stand ready to serve OCTA members.

Registration booklets were sent to members earlier in the spring. If you have not yet registered for events, it is still possible to do so either online, or by calling headquarters at 888-811-6282.

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News From the Plains

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News from the Plains
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Masthead photo by Candy Moulton

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Summer 2008 News From the Plains

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"In Pursuit of a Dream" Filming Begins in Wyoming and Oregon

By Candy Moulton
NFP Editor
Film Producer/Writer

The Oregon-California Trails Association is developing a multi-layer project to draw attention to the overland trails in a program designed to attract young people and their families to the trail experience.

This program will have several components including a one-hour action-adventure educational film involving teachers and students to be broadcast, three 18-minute video programs to be marketed to schools and youth groups, a Web site that will have information about the ongoing film projects and a database of curriculum materials, virtual trail information and photos, and other components for use by teachers, students, and the general public.

The film and videos will focus on the hardships and stories from the trail to Oregon in the 19th century as we put a group of award-winning teachers and students on the trail to experience overland travel.

The mission is to share the story of the trails with a younger audience to encourage them to better appreciate our nation's heritage. They will be riding on wagons and walking with the wagon train, camping out, sleeping in tents, cooking over campfires and experiencing other travel like that of the pioneers. The company hired to do the actual production is Boston Productions Inc. of Norwood, MA, which created multimedia materials for the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, among other work.

Filming will be underway for two weeks on or near the trail in several locations during the summer of 2008, in Wyoming (June 28-July 4) and in Oregon (July 7-11). It will involve 23 students from Massachusetts, California, Colorado, and Wyoming.

Guiding the students during their two weeks on the trail are three award-winning teachers—Dave Vixie, OCTA National Board Member and Paradise, CA, middle-school teacher; Kim Merchant, a recently retired

Greenhouse, and The Trading Post, all of Encampment, WY, with lodging for pre-production provided by the Ramada Plaza Riverside Hotel in Casper, WY.

Other donations of goods, time, talent, and services have come from Betty Vyvey, Penny Walters, Flossie Moulton, Myrna Stadtfeld, Jane Leche, Camille Bradford, Jim Tompkins, Glenn Harrison, Wendell Baskins, Roger Blair, Randy Brown, Larry Skorupa, Steve Moulton, Judy Saulcy, Kendall McNabney, Will Bagley, Paul Hutton, Edna Kennell, Mills Land and Livestock, Rattlesnake Grazing Association, Pathfinder Ranch, Dumbell Ranch, Murphy Ranch, Mormon Handcart Ranch, and Sun Land and Cattle Company.

Support comes from the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, Casper, WY; Colorado-Cherokee Trail, Wyoming, and Northwest Chapters of OCTA; National Historic California Trail Interpretive Center/Becky Smith, director, Montpelier, ID; National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center/Sarah LeCompte, director, Baker City, OR; Wyoming State Parks and Historic Sites; Wyoming State Lands;

Other support comes from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Pathfinder National Wildlife Refuge; U.S. Bureau of Land Management/Wyoming and Oregon; Oregon Coordinating Council; John Schneider/John McLoughlin House NHS, Oregon City, OR; End of the Oregon Trail Museum, Oregon City, OR; Aurora Colony Museum, Aurora, OR; Philip Foster Farm, Eagle Creek, OR; and Mt. Hood National Forest/Oregon.

*Learn more about this OCTA project by
visiting our blog*

www.octatrails.blogspot.com

elementary special education teacher from Casper, WY; and Janet Wragge, a fifth grade teacher at Oregon Trail Elementary in Casper, WY. All three are past OCTA Educator award winners.

This project—estimated to cost \$300,000 when fully complete—started with a donation from the Malcolm Smith Jr. Foundation. Additional funding has been received from other private contributions as earlier reported in *NFP*.

Recent contributions include \$30,000 from the National Park Service for development of the Web site and \$25,500 for travel and other costs associated with the film plus \$10,000 each from the Sweetwater County Travel and Tourism, Carbon County Visitor's Council in Wyoming and Wyoming Travel and Tourism.

Donations have been received from Aunt Martha's, Doggett

National Historic Trails Preservation Workshop in Arizona

**By Ross Marshall
President Partnership for the
National Trails System**

Approximately 80 people attended the National Historic Trails Workshop in Phoenix, AZ, May 6-8, sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System.

Nearly all of the seventeen National Historic Trails were represented by either members of the support organizations like OCTA or by state and federal agencies like National Park Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service.

The theme was "The Strategy for Preserving Historic Trails," primarily led by Dave Welch, OCTA's National Preservation Officer. He was aided by Leslie Fryman, California-Nevada

Chapter Preservation Officer.

Other leaders from public agencies and the trail organizations led sessions on land use planning, mitigation resources such as section 106 and NEPA, visual resource management, cultural landscape assessment, and small group roundtable discussions of these topics.

One of the key documents for this workshop was OCTA's outstanding Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET) Manual that has become a standard throughout the nation. In fact, OCTA's trail preservation program is head and shoulders above the other trails' programs, partly because it has been our primary strategy since our founding 26 years ago, and partly because OCTA is many years older than most of the other support organizations. Even though

we have a lot yet to do in trail

preservation, OCTA can be proud of what we have accomplished and for the opportunity we have to share our experience and knowledge with other trails in the Partnership that need it.

Most of one day was spent on the Sonoran Desert southwest of Phoenix examining ruts of the Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic Trail that was also used by the Mormon Battalion and the Butterfield Overland Stage Route. Applying the techniques of the MET Manual was part of this exercise.

Many attendees signed up to participate in an ongoing working group on preservation issues.

On behalf of the Partnership, of which OCTA is a member, I want to express our appreciation to Dave Welch for sharing his experience and knowledge and for his leadership in designing this workshop. OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley had a primary role in organizing the workshop.

Bringing Life to the Emigrant Experience

"Footsteps to the West"
"River Crossing"
"Stagecoach Ride"

*National Historic Trails Interpretive Center
Casper, Wyoming*

"In Pursuit of a Dream"
Oregon-California Trails Association


BOSTON PRODUCTIONS

Convention Registration Available Online

It is not too late to register and attend the 2009 OCTA Convention in Nampa, ID.

To sign up, go online at OCTA's Web site and register for all events and activities.

www.OCTA-trails.org

OCTA Needs Your Continued Support

As the father of four children, I am acutely aware of the increase in costs of late, especially when we visit the grocery store. The last two visits to the market resulted in food bills on the north side of \$200, which were the first two times I ever dropped that much dough on the neighborhood grocer. Two staples in my household, milk and bananas, have seen price increases of over 50 percent in only a few months.

I recently learned that a friend is having her home foreclosed upon, and I see the foreclosure notices popping up on the doors of other homes all around the Kansas City metro area. On the drive into the office this morning, I noted the \$3.70/gallon price at the local filling station. And when I got into the office, my e-mail inbox was jammed with budget requests for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

All of this got me thinking about the viability of some of the activities OCTA undertakes on an annual basis. The landscape we try to monitor is immense. The territorial area of our chapters is, in some cases, multi-state. Many of the trails are accessible only with 4WD vehicles, most of which get poor gas mileage or require the more expensive diesel fuel.

The most important annual fundraiser OCTA undertakes each year, its annual convention, requires most attendees to travel great distances. Whether you're driving or flying, it's a certainty that you will pay substantially more to travel this year than you did last year. Our best cushions against a depressed economy, OCTA's endowments, are not immune to the effects of a

sagging economy. The stock market has steadily eroded over the past few quarters, and I'd estimate that OCTA's portfolio has shrunk by about 5 percent during this time period.

This brings me back to the 2008-09 fiscal year. We'll begin piecing a budget together in late June, and one of the most important decisions we'll have to make in building the expense column is guessing what numbers to plug into the revenue column. Though it appears that the 2008 Nampa convention will once again be well-attended (at least according to the number of registrations we've received thus far), there is no way to determine what the cost of fuel may do to the entire economy at this time next year.

I encourage you to make plans to support OCTA by attending the convention each and every year. It's such an important source of revenue, and I'm fearful that the price of fuel may impact this long-standing tradition. Bus tours, a cornerstone of a successful convention, cost more every year. So please help us ensure full busses by signing up for tours. Even if you absolutely cannot attend the convention, you can always make a donation to help support the convention.

We're doing a few things now to lessen the potential blow of a poorly attended convention in the future. One of the immediate things you'll see is the development of an affinity credit card designed especially for OCTA. I strongly urge you to consider applying for this credit card. There are five attractive designs from which to choose. Thanks especially

to Roger Blair, Randy Wagner, Bob Kabel, and Scotts Bluff National Monument for providing the images on the new credit cards.

For information on the credit card, visit the OCTA Web site, www.octa-trails.org/octa_credit_card.html. OCTA will receive \$50 for each successful application. If every member of OCTA took one of these cards, we'd instantly add almost \$100,000 to our coffers. Moreover, OCTA will receive a percentage each time you use your card. I conservatively estimate this to make a \$10,000-\$14,000 impact the first year. Considering that the board usually budgets \$20,000 in revenue for each convention, it's easy to see that the affinity credit card program will become an important source of revenue going forward.

The annual year-end appeal is another important stream of revenue for OCTA. This year, we brought in \$19,445 (though we hit \$20,000 the last couple of years). By now, you should have received a special mid-year appeal. Designed to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the 1978 addition of the Oregon National Historic Trail to the amended National Trails Act, giving to this appeal will impact our operations in a significant way. Please help ensure a balanced budget in 2007-08 by contributing to this appeal.

OCTA was blessed by a dedicated National Preservation Officer for the past several years. But current NPO Dave Welch recently informed the board that he'll be resigning this post

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Many Advantages, But Play by the Rules

The Oregon-California Trails Association is the preeminent guardian and promoter of the inspirational story of the 19th-century American westward migration. However, individuals and even chapters sometimes forget the benefits and requirements of membership. This is a reminder that OCTA provides many advantages to support chapters and members, but chapters and members must play by the rules.

OCTA's mission is to protect the historic emigrant trails legacy by promoting research, education, preservation activities, and public awareness of the trails, and to work with others to promote these causes. OCTA's mission of preservation, appreciation, and enjoyment trails goes beyond any chapter. These are issues that must be dealt with in a consistent manner at the national level. To achieve its mission, OCTA's Strategic Plan lists four goals with appropriate objectives and implementation actions:

- 1 – Preserve the historic emigrant trails.
- 2 – Be an effective historic trails organization through appropriate partnerships.
- 3 – Improve organizational and management effectiveness.
- 4 – Keep OCTA's base membership energized.

Key features of OCTA include:

- OCTA is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with affiliate chapters, and donations made to OCTA are tax deductible. However, the IRS requires an annual report

from OCTA that includes financial information of the association and all of its affiliate chapters. If any chapter does not submit the necessary financial information on time, it could jeopardize OCTA's tax exempt status, thus affecting all its members.

- OCTA provides blanket liability insurance while on any OCTA or chapter outing or activity, but our insurance company requires that a waiver agreement be signed for each outing or field trip. If an outing occurs without using the required signed waiver forms, the chapter, its officers and board, and the outing leader could be held liable for damages. Because there are legal and liability issues, only OCTA members and chapters that are in compliance may use the initials OCTA.

- OCTA conventions include speakers, tours, awards, and other activities. This year the convention will be held August 5-9 in Nampa, ID, so make your plans and turn in your registration form, which may be done online.

- OCTA and its chapters hold symposiums and other gatherings in different parts of the country. OCTA is sponsoring a major symposium on trails in the Southwest to be held from Friday through Sunday, Jan. 16-18, 2009, in Yuma, AZ. It will involve members of OCTA and several other trails and historical organizations and will be open to the public with a different registration fee for members and non-OCTA members. The Mid-year OCTA Board meeting will be just prior to this symposium. All chapters put on quality symposiums

- OCTA recognizes the importance of all western migration trails. Articles on these trails and emigrants who used them appear in OCTA's *Overland Journal*. Speakers on a variety of trails have appeared at our national conventions. OCTA's map, made in cooperation with the National Park Service, includes nearly all of the historic western trails—far more than are recognized by federal legislation.

- OCTA members receive the *Overland Journal* and *News From the Plains*. In addition to the OCTA magazine and newsletter, members may receive e-mails from OCTA and have access to OCTA's Web site.

- OCTA Trail Preservation Workshops have been conducted in most chapter areas and were attended by many trail enthusiasts. OCTA's Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET) manual is now used by all agencies for recognizing and mapping trails. When OCTA chapters participate in mapping and marking activities, OCTA should be provided with a copy of the quad maps. This helps keep track of all emigrant trails and what has been mapped.

- The value of mapping and other volunteer hours and expenses recorded by OCTA members is used to match grant funding for trail markers and cost share grants for other OCTA projects. It is an important figure submitted to congress each year to support NPS funding. Your donated time is greatly appreciated as is your support through dues, special

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The President's View

Continued from Page 6

donations, and convention attendance. You might consider donating your tax refund or rebate to OCTA.

- Each chapter president or a representative is a nonvoting member of the OCTA board. We appreciate having most chapters represented at each meeting. This chapter representation at each meeting is important.

- By holding one board meeting at the convention site and the Mid-year Board meeting in a different part of the country, the OCTA board is more accessible to the members.

- Any OCTA member may be a candidate for the OCTA board.

- As an outgrowth of OCTA's Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED), Paper Trail is the expanded website database created by OCTA volunteers from thousands of 19th century trail-related documents. Paper Trail is at www.paper-trail.org. A committee is working on having this research information available as a member benefit.

- OCTA is developing "In Pursuit of a Dream," an adventure video illustrating the difficulties and joys of the emigrant experience. It will be available for schools and television programs in 2009. Video clips will be available for educational opportunities as a part of this project. OCTA's "Saving a Legacy" video illustrates what OCTA members do and may be used when you are addressing groups to talk about trails or emigrant migration.

- OCTA volunteers work with the U.S. Senate and House members in an effort to add migration trail routes and cutoffs to the existing National Historic Trails System. To increase our effectiveness, OCTA is part of the Partnership For The National

Trail System, which is a coalition of historic and recreational trail organizations with similar interests.

- OCTA Members get a discount when purchasing at the OCTA store.

OCTA has granted charters to seven chapters that agreed to fulfill the requirements of gaining and maintaining chapter status. If a chapter does not remain in compliance with its charter and OCTA's policies and guidelines, it may be disbanded for failure to comply. Furthermore, OCTA's bylaws state, "Only a dues-paying member of the Association in good standing shall be eligible to become a member of a chapter."

If chapters adjust their membership year to coincide with the member's OCTA anniversary month, then it is easier for members to renew or join OCTA and chapters. Individuals may become a member of one or more chapters by paying the chapter membership dues and may remain a chapter member so long as his or her membership in OCTA is current and the chapter membership dues are paid. We encourage you to pay OCTA and chapter dues at the same time by sending a check or other form of payment to OCTA headquarters. This practice has enabled members to join multiple chapters. (See www.octa-trails.org and click on "Join OCTA.") When such payment is received, OCTA then sends chapter dues to the appropriate chapter.

Receiving a chapter newsletter shows interest, but is not membership. We need members who are willing to support OCTA's efforts by joining even if they are no longer able to actively participate. When I was the Northwest Chapter

president, we had a situation where a longtime member mailed in chapter dues but didn't include OCTA dues. Even though she was 102, I made the contact and she paid her dues.

Since all chapter members must be OCTA members, if anyone is not an OCTA member they are not chapter members, even if they paid dues to the chapter. If someone is not a chapter member, they are not eligible to be a chapter officer. We can do more together than any of us can do alone. I hope that the individuals who have done good work over the years as part of OCTA and one or more chapters will continue to participate as members of OCTA and continue that effort. It is important for members to participate in OCTA and chapter activities whenever possible.

Thanks for your continued support of OCTA.

Web site Recommendations Sought

The OCTA Web site, www.octa-trails.org, has been updated and improved during recent months, but Web Site Editor Marley Shurtleff asks all members of the organization to review the site and let her know what new materials they would like to see.

If you have suggestions, please send them to Marley at shurgarymarley@comcast.net.

Education Contest Winners Announced

By Bill Hill
Education Committee Chair

The winner of the classroom set of activity books for this year is Jennifer Hunt from Boise, Idaho, where she teaches fourth grade in the Cynthia Mann Elementary School. She expressed both her great surprise at being selected and her appreciation to OCTA for the books and assured us her students would make good use of them. She selected a set of *Reading, Writing, and Riding Along the Oregon-California Trails*.

Each year a drawing is held for school teachers who have a choice of selecting any of the OCTA Educational books, including the newest title, *Here Comes the Pony*,

The artwork for the education committee's calendar project "Animals Along the Trail" has been selected and the new calendar will be available at the convention in

Nampa, Idaho. Each month features an original piece of art created by an elementary student.

Each student whose artwork was selected will receive a copy of the calendar and a \$50 prize. One copy of the calendar also goes to the student's elementary school. The new calendar costs \$10 and is for sale through headquarters. There are only a limited number available for sale, so order now.

Congratulations to our budding artists: Esteban Baiz, Newman, CA; Jenna Carter, Salt Lake City, UT; Holly Daugirda, Salt Lake City, UT; Laura Hernandez, Patterson CA; Emma Heyn, Salt Lake City, UT; Griselda Izarraras, Newman CA; Jeremy Ludwig, Salt Lake City, UT; Tressa Marrē, Salt Lake City, UT; Lorena Martinez, Newman, CA; Abigail Olds, Salt Lake City; Chelsea Smith, Spring Creek, NV; Viviana Sotelo, Newman, CA; Daniela

Vazquez, Newman, CA; and Jesse Veal, Newman, CA. We also thank their teachers for their cooperation and for integrating our project into their busy schedules.

If you did not purchase the 2008 calendar, "Chimney Rock throughout the Year," headquarters still has a few copies available. The theme and contest guidelines for our 2010 calendar project will be announced at the Nampa convention and in the fall in *News From The Plains* and on our Web site.

From the Headquarters Manager...

Kathy Conway
Kconway@indepmo.org

Don't let the wagon train leave without you! It's not too late to join OCTA members and friends this summer in Nampa, ID, for OCTA's 26th Annual Convention. To register, go online at OCTA-trails.org and fill in your tour and event choices or call headquarters at 888-811-6282 and we'll handle the registration by phone. As always, there will be plenty to experience and learn plus a chance to meet new friends and reconnect with long-time ones.

Visit our online store. We are continually adding new books. Take a look at our newest addition: *Seven Months to Oregon: 1853* (Harold Peters) 443 pp, 51 illustrations (maps, photos, charts). This is a remarkable new book of diary and reminiscent accounts of several missionary families who traveled from Upstate New York to Oregon. This is one to add to your library!

From the Association Manager...

Continued from Page 5

later this year, and the complexity of the job has increased to the point that the board has agreed to pay for the expertise required to do the job effectively. This will add at least \$15,000 to the annual budget. Add to this the necessity of expanding and maintaining a first-rate Web site and the likelihood of needing another \$5,000 each year to contract with a webmaster, and suddenly we start eating into our new revenue streams in significant ways.

Recently, OCTA launched a "Memorials" section on our Web site. It's a place where we honor our dearly departed members. You can keep other OCTAns informed

by sending memorial information to our webmaster at webeditor@octa-trails.org.

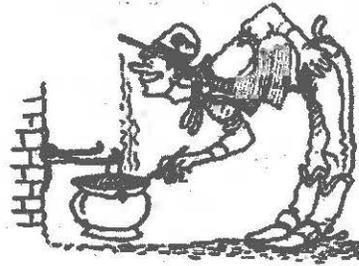
As part of the 2008 convention, OCTA is involved with a wagon train across Idaho. The 455-mile trek will traverse the trail from Montpelier to Nampa in about 27 days. A number of public events are being planned and it is also possible to ride along for one or more days. Information is on our homepage at the link that reads "Summer 2008 Wagon Train" or you can contact Dell Magnum for more information at target@cbyteusa.net or (208) 785-6006. Idaho Public Television will film both the first and last days of the wagon train, so here's your chance to be a TV star!

Canyon Creek Stage Station Dedication

On Wednesday, July 30, join the Mountain Home Historical Society, the Elmore County Historical Foundation and the Snake River Outpost No. 1811 of the Lucinda J. Saunders Chapter No. 1881, E Clampus Vitus as we welcome the Oregon California Trails Association Convention Wagon Train at its Canyon Creek stop on the Oregon Trail. There we will circle the wagons and prepare for an evening full of good old-fashioned fun. Invite your friends and be sure to dress up "country-style." Plans for the celebration include:

5 P.M. - Hook up with us for the unveiling and dedication of the new Canyon Creek Station & Stage Stop plaque. There will be speakers, historians and a representative of the

Avard Fairbanks family, who have donated a beautiful bronze medallion to be placed on the plaque.



6 P.M. - Rally round the table for a clamp-style barbeque dinner to be prepared and served by our volunteers. For the paltry sum of \$10 a real hot-on-the-trail dinner can be experienced. Featured will be Pep's smoked pork tenderloins, Sourdough Leo's before daybreak slow-rise

bread, Mountain Home special false-alarm beans and the famous Lucinda Saunders style Idaho spuds.

After dinner the plan is to entertain everyone "Western Style" with music, dance, and storytelling. Take a tour of the old stage stop, walk around the graveyard of lost pioneer souls and enjoy the games of the era as you step back in time to relive life on the trail. When you park be sure to travel down the actual Oregon Trail as it descends the mountain into the campsite. Watch for wildlife and we don't mean just the fun going on at camp. There will be opportunity to purchase a chance on a commemorative quilt, \$100 in silver, and commemorative coins.

All proceeds from this event will be directly utilized to assist in our goal to Preserve Idaho History.

Trails Symposium to be held in Arizona

Plans are progressing for the "Roads to Yuma" historic trails symposium in Yuma January 16-18, 2008, according to chairman John Krizek.

The keynote speaker for a Saturday night banquet is University of New Mexico Distinguished Professor Paul Hutton, a historian and author. Hutton, who teaches history at UNM, is executive director of the Western Writers of America, a five-time winner of the Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum for his articles and documentary films, a five-time winner of the Spur Award from WWA, for his books and films, and a consultant for the OCTA film, "In Pursuit of a Dream," that is now in production.

An array of additional speakers are being lined up covering the Spanish era in the 1700s to the Mexican War/Gold Rush era when thousands

of California-bound pioneers, along with military detachments, chose the southern route that crossed the Colorado River at Yuma.

Tours are planned covering several of the pioneer and early routes that converged on the historic crossing point of the Colorado River, from the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition in the 1770s to the gold rush era of the 1840s and 1850s to the stage routes of the late 19th Century.

While members of the Southwest and California-Nevada chapters of OCTA will be key to the first-ever event, members of several other historic and trails organizations will be invited to participate.

The steering committee of John Krizek and Patricia Etter, OCTA board members who live in Arizona; long-time Arizona trails advocate Reba Grandrud; CA-NV chapter

veteran Dave Hollecker; and OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley, are at work lining up the details. People interested in staying abreast of developing details can have themselves added to the mailing list by calling OCTA toll free at (888) 811-6282 or by dropping OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley an e-mail at tboley@indepmo.org.

News From the Plains

Fall Issue Deadline

August 25, 2008

Send materials to
nfpocta@aol.com

Paper Trail: A Guide to Overland Pioneer Names & Documents

Paper Trail is the Web site database created by the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) from thousands of trail-related original documents from the 19th century. Whether people traveled west for gold, land, religious freedom or new opportunity, they wrote letters, diaries, articles, and recollections about the journey. From over 3,500 original texts *Paper Trail* organizes

information, including over 74,000 searchable names, plus locations, routes, dates, and special features of the journey. There is a multiple page survey of each document, searchable by emigrant name or author. The Web site lists the libraries where the documents are found.

OCTA, with support and grants from the National Park Service, devoted more than 14 years to the

creation of this database, and will add new documents as they are discovered. The service is free to OCTA members as a benefit of membership. See the address below and find yourself on the journey!

www.paper-trail.org

Driggs Room and Exhibit Dedicated

Contributed by

Mary Ann Tortorich

More than a century after his service at Southern Utah University, the then Branch Normal School Founder Howard R. Driggs was formally recognized for his contributions to the University and the region on May 2, when the Gerald R. Sherratt Library opened the Howard R. Driggs Room in the Library's Special Collections and Archives.

The naming celebration on May 2, which was part of SUU's commencement weekend, highlighted Driggs' life-long efforts as an English professor and his tireless work to bring attention to the disappearing pioneer trails of the American West.

The ceremony included a multimedia program featuring a collage of images and documentary video from the Howard R. Driggs collection of the Branch Normal School archives.

In 2004, the library acquired the papers, images, film and books of Driggs, who was one of SUU's founding professors and a national figure in the pioneer trails movement of the 20th Century. The Driggs collection will now have a permanent home within the Driggs Room. The

permanent exhibit includes more than 50 books which Driggs authored, his personal research library, artifacts, images, letters, journals, speeches, and maps.

Through the acquisition of the Howard R. Driggs Collection, a great portion of University and national history has come home to SUU and adds significantly to the University's special collections.

Driggs came to Cedar City as the librarian and first English teacher at the new Branch Normal School in 1897. He left in 1905 to pursue advanced education, which led to his appointment as a professor at New York University and later as president of the American Pioneer Trails Association in New York City. He maintained friendships with Cedar City residents throughout his life. His son H. Wayne Driggs was Director of the Branch Agricultural College (now SUU) from 1945 to 1951 during the challenging post World War II period.

As a teacher, Howard R. Driggs wrote curriculum for language arts classrooms in America's public schools, but he was best known for his books on the history of the American West, and books written to encourage recreational reading among school

children. *The White Indian Boy: the Story of Uncle Nick among the Shoshones* is still in print 90 years after its 1919 publication. Driggs also wrote *The Pioneer Photographer* and *Westward America* with 19th century artist and photographer William Henry Jackson.

Thanks to a donation from his wife Margaret Brazier Driggs, and a grant from the National Trails Office of the National Park Service, the collection is available for scholarly research at www.li.suu.edu/driggscollection.

Camille Bradford, Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter President, spoke at the dedication of the Driggs collection. She is his step-daughter.

Call Headquarters to purchase your copy of the 2009 OCTA Calendar featuring artwork by school students.

888-811-6282

House Establishes Conservation System

In May the U.S. House of Representatives took a step toward giving Americans a gift of incalculable value by voting to conserve the 26 million acres of natural heritage, cultural history, and spectacular landscapes within the Conservation System, according to a statement from Denise Ryan, a legislative representative with National Wildlife Federation.

"There is hardly a piece of America's natural heritage and

cultural history that isn't recognized in the National Landscape Conservation System, from the Lewis and Clark Trail to the California Coastal National Monument to the San Pedro Riparian Area, America's first important protected bird area, to the Iditarod National Historic Trail," Ryan said.

The passage of HR 2016, the National Landscape Conservation System Act, came with support from many members of OCTA.

Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter

Preservation Training, Convention Planning Starts

From the Chapter Newsletter

The Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter is beginning serious planning for the 2009 OCTA convention, to be held in Loveland under direction of Ernie Witucki, with assistance from Travis Boley, OCTA's national Association Manager. Many chapter members have agreed to work on the convention planning and coordination.

The Smoky Hill Trail was the topic of discussion at a recent Chapter meeting with the program presented by Lee Whiteley, who spoke about his new book project on this historic trail, and Dorman Lehman sharing the latest USGS maps showing the trail as he discussed the new Smoky Hill Trail Association.

The chapter planned a mid-June Preservation Training Workshop in Castle Rock that included a one-day classroom session on the first day, followed by a one-day field trip on the Cherokee Trail. Expected to conduct the session were Dave Welch, OCTA's National Preservation Officer, and Leslie

Fryman, the California-Nevada Chapter Preservation Officer, with Chapter member Lee Whiteley planning the route for the field work including Russellville, Blackfoot Cave, Running Creek depressions, "County Line" ruts, and Point of Rocks.

OCTA's preservation training program covers three aspects of trail preservation: mapping, marking and monitoring. OCTA's Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET) Guide is the basis for the mapping portion of the program. The MET guide describes techniques for identifying, classifying and documenting emigrant trails. In the field session, the lessons learned in the classroom are tested in the field. Participants map and classify a trail segment applying MET techniques and establish marking and monitoring plans. Complete information about the program is available on the OCTA Web site.

The program training is supported by a Challenge Cost Share Grant from the National Park Service's National Trails System Office.

Progress Continues on 40th Anniversary of Trails Act

By Ross Marshall

The Partnership for the National Trails System continues to promote the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the passage of the National Trails System Act by the U.S. Congress in 1968. This act, of course, has resulted in the designation of both the Oregon and California National Historic Trails by Congress.

Among the activities:

- The Partnership partnered with the Natural Resources Council of America to hold a "kickoff dinner" at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. on February 13, 2008. Approximately 350 people attended including members of Congress, representatives of federal agencies like the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, plus many members of the Partnership and other non-profit trail organizations such as OCTA.

- Several hundred 24"x36" 40th Anniversary vinyl display banners have been distributed to various federal entities and organizations including OCTA. In fact, one of OCTA's banners will travel with the convention wagon train to the 2008 OCTA Convention site at Nampa from Montpelier, Idaho.

- The Partnership will sponsor a luncheon during the 2008 Outdoor Writers Association annual conference in Bismarck, ND, June 21-24 in order to publicize the 40th Anniversary

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Preservation Officer's Report

David Welch
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South Pass RMP Underway, OCTA Presents Petition

The staff of the Lander, WY, Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management has begun the development of alternatives for the management of resources within their area of responsibility. Included in the revised Resource Management Plan (RMP) will be proscriptions for the management of their portion of the South Pass historic landscape. This includes the majority of the "high potential segment" identified in the National Park Service's Comprehensive Management Plan for each of the four National Historic Trails passing through the area.

As revision of the RMP began, OCTA and the Alliance for Historic Wyoming (AHW) presented almost 1,500 signatures on the petition encouraging increased protection for the area. The presentations were made by Randy Wagner, Gary Long, and Barbara Dobos with Dobos representing AHW. Another AHW leader with whom we are working is Lesley Wischmann. The presentations were made in Cheyenne to Acting State Director Don Simpson and in Lander to Field Office Manager Bob Ross. The recipients acknowledged that the signatures from across the United States brought a national perspective to the issue, which was one of our goals.

Both encouraged OCTA members to also write personal letters in support of increased protection. Letters should be sent to Bob Ross, Lander Field Office Manager, P.O. Box 589, Lander, WY 82520-0589. These letters are most effective when they contain your personal thoughts on protecting the trails. Please send a letter now.

Over the years I have made contact with ranchers in the affected area in order to get a better understanding of their perspective. There was a risk that we would be perceived by the ranchers as a bunch of urban greenies trying to impose our will upon them, which is certainly not the case. We have worked to insure that we understand their needs and to let them know that we do not oppose the traditional ranching operations in the area. I have never felt that fences, watering sites, and livestock are a threat to the trail since they are transitory in nature. Our desire is that ranchers be sensitive to the trails and their setting when these items are introduced.

Our interest in protection should focus on opposing the introduction of increased mining, gas, and oil development, and wind turbines into critical areas. The trail segments from near Independence Rock to the Little Sandy pass through relatively pristine country. Many ranchers share our concern that this area will be impacted by the large scale introduction of wind turbines or mining. So far, oil and gas development seems less likely in this area, although pipelines are a constant concern.

What form might "increased protection" take? Discussions to date have centered on designation of some of the area as an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)" or a "Special Management Area (SMA)" or a combination of both. Currently South Pass itself, which lies within the Rock Springs Field Office's area of responsibility, is within an ACEC.

This is reasonably strong protection, but includes restrictions that make traditional ranching more difficult. This is a primary concern to ranchers and one that we should address if we are to gain their support.

The process that is underway will take years to complete, but we need to stay involved at every step. If you live in Wyoming, take part in the public meetings. If you are a rancher, let us know your concerns. If you are a visitor to Wyoming, stop in at the BLM State Office, the Lander Field Office or the Rock Springs Field Office and register your concerns. If we work together, I remain optimistic that we can achieve increased protection for this important historic resource.

Trails Act Anniversary

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with the writers in attendance.

- A list of goals and objectives has been finalized by the members of the Partnership and distributed. Each organization like OCTA will be asked to prepare action plans, and continuously update them, to achieve these goals over the next decade as part of the Decade for the National Trails through 2018.

We are indebted to the leadership displayed by our friend Jere Krakow, retired National Park Service Long Distance Trails Superintendent, who serves as the chair of the 40th Anniversary Committee.

Crossroads Chapter

Hastings Cutoff and Lincoln Highway Route Tours Held

By Al Mulder

Spring has finally arrived and the good weather helped make the first chapter field trip of the year on May 3 a big success. A small but enthusiastic group of members of both Crossroads and California-Nevada chapter members enjoyed a one-day outing with four wheel drive vehicles on the Hastings Cutoff from Bidwell Pass to Big Springs, NV.

Led by trail guide Roy Tea, the group followed the trail across Pilot Creek Valley to Silver Zone Pass, across Goshute Valley and on to Big Springs where in 1841 the Bartleson-Bidwell Party abandoned

ardent student of American western history and has attended several OCTA conventions. He follows the trail activities of OCTA chapters with great interest and as an avid reader of western history books and journals his knowledge of emigrant trail history is impressive.

OCTA recently lost a good "friend of the trail" with the passing of Ruth C. Matthews, age 96, former curator and administrator of the Donner-Reed Museum in Grantsville, UT. A retired school teacher, she served many years as Grantsville's historian and goodwill representative. Ruth always gave OCTA members a warm welcome whenever she was asked to open the museum for visitors. She was instrumental in getting Grantsville City support for the installation of two interpretive panels, sponsored by Utah Crossroads, on the museum grounds. The tiny museum, a former pioneer adobe schoolhouse built in 1861, was always a popular stop during field trips on the Hastings Cutoff.

Several Crossroads members joined Lincoln Highway chapter members on a LHA chapter field trip in late April. The group of 20 members from both chapters met in Delta, UT, at the Great Basin Museum. The group



One of several springs still existing in the Magna-Black Rock area between SR 208 and Interstate 80 near Kennecott Copper Corporation's Arthur Plant. The 1846 emigrant trails came through this area. View is looking west toward Tooele Valley. (Photos by Al Mulder.)



Ruth Matthews and friend during the construction of the interpretive panel marker at the Donner-Reed Museum, which was dedicated August 11, 1996.

their remaining seven wagons. The next field trip will in the fall, in late September or early October.

Our chapter member in Japan, Yuji Aisaka, writes regularly and keeps me informed of his activities. A retired school teacher, Yuji is an

explored an abandoned section of U.S. Highway 6, listened to lectures on the history of the road and area, and ended the day with a visit to the Gunnison Massacre site. After an overnight in Delta, the group visited the WWII Japanese Internment Camp at Topaz.

Kennecott Utah Copper is planning to transfer ownership of 616 acres of wetlands near Lakepoint to the Nature Conservancy. The North Zone Wetlands are just north of the old trail route of the emigrant parties of 1846 and gold-seekers on the Hastings Cutoff. Many springs encountered by the emigrants in the area still exist and groundwater flowing from Kennecott's smelter was contaminating the wetlands between SR210 and I-80. The land transfer is part of an environmental restoration plan.

Keep those wagons rolling and we hope to see you in August.

Nebraska Chapter

A Road Rally Follows Trail

By Alicia Keegan
KANZA Chapter Secretary

Nebraska Chapter of OCTA put on a fun-filled day with an Oregon-California Road Rally which was enjoyed by all who participated on May 3, 2008.

Registration took place at the Oregon-California Trails Park, in Oak, NE. Russ Genung, past president of OCTA-NE, was there to greet the rally arrivals. The first clue took rally participants east of Oak to the Kiowa Station marker, then on a backtrack to trail points going west and back through Oak, arriving there at noon for dinner at "The Saloon" in Oak, NE. I have to recommend this place to everyone. They have some of the best burgers ever, and the friendliness of the employees and locals was fantastic. The end of the 100 mile rally was at Ft. Kearny parking lot, where trail prizes were given out.

My husband & I had not been to this part of Nebraska (always taking the interstate) much less looking at the countryside with OCTA eyes. It is gorgeous in south central Nebraska. It was a good thing our children weren't with us for the day or we would never have finished the rally. I kept telling my husband, "Oh, what a perfect place to take the kids pictures." Now teenagers are not going to maneuver very fast at so many stops...hence, we would never have finished on time. But our kids would have had a blast;

they just had prior commitments. This was my first road rally and will be looking for the next, as will my husband.

Bill Petersen reported there were nine registered competitors from Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado. "Some were really hyped, armed



Participating in the Road Rally were, from left: Pat & Alicia Keegan, Baileyville, KS; Glenn Larson, Waterville, KS; Mary Wieckert, Marysville, KS; Catherine Blair, Louisburg, KS; Charlie Weickert, Marysville, KS; & Jim Barr, York, NE.

with various books and maps, which eventually led them astray," he said, adding, "Others came to enjoy the day with old friends and make new acquaintances."

We may have been a small group but we were energetic and enjoyed this so much it was the talk all the way home, and at our own KANZA Chapter meeting the next day.

To all of you involved in the

planning of this event – great job. A special thanks to Bill and Nancy Petersen who spent extra time on the rally, opening gates, and checking on progress.

After the rally many of us went to the Whiskey Creek restaurant in Kearney and enjoyed stories from the day and other conversation with our neighboring OCTA members.

Road Rally Winners

First - Alicia Keegan, Lewis & Clark Silver Medallion.

Second - Pat Keegan- "Saving a Legacy" video and map Overland Trails.

Third - Catherine Blair, Pass to Archway Monument.

Fourth - Glenn Larson, Pass to Pioneer Village.

Each of the seven competitors who finished the rally received an OCTA window decal.

Chapter Dedicates Markers

Two new markers were set to be dedicated June 7, 2008 in Nebraska. One to be placed at the actual site of Kiowa Station and the other was in the Oregon Trail Park in Oak, NE.

Shop at the OCTA Store

www.octa-trails.org

The Hunt for Descendants of John Chaffin

By Tracy DeVault

Years ago, my good friend John Gregan and I were indulging our interest in Southwestern history, taking one of many road trips to visit historical sites in the Southwest. On this particular trip we were visiting sites in New Mexico, including the ruins of Fort Cummings and Cooke's Spring. Not far from Fort Cummings, we stumbled across the grave of John Chaffin. I did not know it at the time, but Chaffin's grave lies on the Southern Emigrant Trail. This trail, running from Santa Fe, N.M., to Warner's Ranch in California, was an important route for gold seekers and emigrant families. Much later I was to learn that John Chaffin's grave is unique in that, although there are many graves along the Southern Emigrant Trail, Chaffin's grave has the original headstone carrying the name of the occupant. Sometime in the past, someone had set the original headstone in a rock and concrete base. The stone reads:

John Chaffin
Died Nov. 21, 1849
Platte Co., Mo.



Many years later I joined SWOCTA and began to participate in the Trail Turtles' project to map the Southern Emigrant Trail. Over the years we have made numerous trips to trail sites in New Mexico, Arizona, and California, including several trips to map the trail in the area of Cooke's Canyon. On each of these trips we visited the grave of John Chaffin. This gave me the opportunity to reflect on Chaffin's life and death. Early on I became aware that Chaffin's death was chronicled in the diary of Benjamin Hayes, who was a co-traveler with Chaffin on the way to the California gold fields. In August of 1849, their two companies joined together at the famous Santa Fe Trail site known as Diamond Spring. By November the combined companies had made their way to Cooke's Spring in New Mexico. John died on the evening of November 21 and the next morning Benjamin Hayes wrote in his diary:

Mr. John Chaffin had been indisposed since we left Socorro, but always rode out the day's journey. Last night I learned he had become worse; on rising at daylight I was informed that he was dead. We are now in camp waiting for the grave to be finished. The morning is very cold, with a piercing wind from the southwest; a few drops of rain fell at an earlier hour; a genuine November day. Although he died at half past ten o'clock last night, the event made little stir amongst the sleepers round him. It was very sudden; very few imagined that his condition was dangerous. The grave was dug near the roadside; cedar logs were procured on the hills half a

mile from the camp. There was no material to make a coffin. He was wrapped in a blanket, then laid in his overcoat, as if the more to protect him from the chill sod. Cedar logs were laid above and filled with sprigs of cedar; then a layer of earth and in finally, large rocks above to prevent the wolves from opening the grave. The rest, like this, was done by friendly hands, and we bade farewell to our worthy companion. He was an amiable and excellent man. He leaves in Platte County, Missouri, a wife and four children. Not one of us, I dare say, but thought of her bright hope for him at home. It will be long before the sad intelligence shall come to her from this wilderness. This mournful duty was ended by ten o'clock. At sunset we were camped on the Mimbres, distant 21 miles.

I have always wondered what became of John Chaffin's family and whether they ever learned what had happened to him. In April of 2007, Rose Ann Tompkins and I decided to use skills we obtained through our mutual interest in genealogy to try to track down the family of John Chaffin, and in particular any living descendants. Tompkins quickly discovered the marriage record for John Chaffin and his bride, Sidney Williams, who were married in Platte County, Missouri, on March 20, 1842. Subsequent research through Platte County census records showed that Sidney (Williams) Chaffin must have died before 1860 as the four Chaffin children were living with other families. There were two boys, William (born about 1843) and James

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Annual Appeal Comes to A Close

By Kathy Conway
Headquarters Manager

Some 200 members responded to this campaign. We are happy to report the excellent results and to include a list of our members who have contributed since the end of February.

General Operating Fund:	\$10,702
Education:	963
Endowment:	1,572
Preservation:	5,183
Silver Anniversary fund:	925
Publications:	100
Total:	\$19,445

Adams, Judy
Ancell, Bill and Carrie
Bauer, Della
Bean, Brian
Bennett, Brad
Black, B Lee
Bolon, Victor
Bowser, Thelma
Brown, Judy

Burke, Marvin and Dorene
Clawson, Jim and Karin
Davis, William N
Dayley, James W
Downs, Ronald O
Drickamer, Lee
Dugger, Howard
Everingham, John
Faircloth, Michael Sr
Ferguson, Robert
Forrest, Sharon
Grunland, Paul
Guthrie, Carol
Harrison, Glenn and Carol
Herring, James B
Hornbuckle, Chuck and Suzanne
Jackson, Joann
Johnson, Niel
Kanago, Jerry and Betsy
Kelleher, Joan
Kennell, Edna
Kidder, Marianne
Kobets, Sister M Frances MM
Leamon, Jean
Lehrer, Kalista S
Livingston, David Jr

Loomis, Patricia
Lynch, Ed
Martin, Bill
Maxwell, Barbara
Midkiff, Bob
Miller, Dan
Moore, Dru
Morin, William
Morrissette, Allen
Nelson, Virginia
Palmquist, Keith A
Parsons, Judson
Perry, Shannon E
Post, John and Kathy
Quint, California B
Ragen, Brooks
Renner, Willard
Sawyer, Paul
Smith, William
Spedden, H Rush
Swinerton, Dick & Mary
Tea, Roy D.
Tompkins, James M
Waltz, Lorna
Wilmunder, Alan
Wilson, Mark

Finding Chaffin Descendants

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(born about 1844) and two girls, Ann (born about 1846) and Julia (born about 1849). In 1860, the three eldest were living with Sidney's brother, John Williams, and his wife while the youngest, Julia Chaffin, was living in a boarding house with other orphaned children. According to the census records these four children were the only Chaffins living in Platte County, Missouri.

I tried to track the Chaffin boys through subsequent census records but only was able to follow them for a generation or so. I lost track of the girls as soon as they were married. As a last resort, I decided to post a query on Genealogy.com's Chaffin Family Genealogy Forum. It turned out that someone named Jackie⁴

was already seeking information on Julia Chaffin. I added a follow-up response, but was unable to contact the author of the original query.

In late January, 2008, another response to Jackie's original question was posted by Ellajean Bledsoe, great-granddaughter of Julia (Chaffin) Bledsoe. Ellajean, whose great-grandmother Julia Chaffin had married John Bledsoe, had been trying to identify Julia's parents. Family history had preserved the fact that Julia had been orphaned at an early age, but other than that, very little was known.

In March, 2008, I discovered Ellajean's response and contacted her. After exchanging much information, we were able to satisfy ourselves that

Julia (Chaffin) Bledsoe was indeed a daughter of John and Sidney (Williams) Chaffin. It was quite a moment! Ellajean had discovered the names of her great-great-grandparents and I had discovered a living descendant of John Chaffin. Sometime in the coming year, my wife and I will meet Ellajean and guide her to the Chaffin grave.

While the idea is still in a formative stage, I would like to have an OCTA-style plaque placed at John's grave. This plaque would give a little history of the Southern Emigrant Trail and explain how John Chaffin came to be buried at this place. The site is on public land, so the first step will be to get permission from the BLM.

Membership Growing, but Lags Behind Last Year's Numbers

**By Duane Iles
Membership Chair**

Membership is growing! We have had three months of growth, and now membership stands at 1,651. We are unfortunately below where we were last August, but even so the growth has been steady.

The Gold Rush contest is still underway. We have awarded the mid-term awards of free convention registration and tours. You still get a \$5 gift certificate at the OCTA store for each new member and the big awards at the convention are still up for grabs. Everyone has a chance at \$100, \$50, or \$25 awards and the

recognition that goes with it. This part of the contest will not close until just before the convention.

We need you to help. We have to keep bringing people into our organization if we are to continue to do the neat things we do. Our major organizational goals of preservation and education of the trails are still paramount. However, if we do not keep a large enough membership to be viable, we will go the same route as other organizations and fail in our goals.

Many people think they cannot recruit members or they have a difficult time asking people to join us. But remember, everyone has

close friends he or she can share OCTA with. Just invite them along on a trek, party or meeting. Give a friend or family member a gift of a one year trial membership. What better gift is there than one that gives all year long?

Jim McGill is in the lead for recruiting. His challenge, "I will win the membership recruitment competition this year, unless someone else works harder at it than I do." Who will take up this challenge? Jim gives his view of membership in his excellent publication *Trail Dust* in the May issue. Read it. He says it best, "Go out and find someone new that will be thankful to you for life!"

New Members

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**THE FRIENDS
OF THE
NATIONAL FRONTIER
TRAILS MUSEUM**

Invite You to a Fascinating Adventure.

OREGON TRAIL BUS TRIP



The Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum plan to host a nine-day escorted bus tour in September, 2008 following three of the greatest emigration trails in American history. Departing from Independence, Missouri the "Queen City of the Trails", the tour will follow the Oregon, California and Mormon Trails to central Wyoming and back.

Your air-conditioned motorcoach "wagon" will take you to exciting stops where western history was made, and the characters of hundreds of thousands of Americans were forged through dangers, hardships, and perseverance. Visit historic sites, stunning landmarks, and beautiful prairies witnessed by thousands of those hardy pioneer emigrants, and recorded in their diaries.

For more detailed information contact
Lynda Black at the
National Frontier Trails Museum,
318 W. Pacific, Independence, Missouri, 64050
816-325-7575 or lblack@indepmo.org.

NPS Funding Benefits OCTA Programs, Trail Work

By Travis Boley

The National Park Service recently agreed to modify its cooperative agreement with OCTA. Because of the big increase in base-line funding received in the National Trails System Offices in Santa Fe and Salt Lake City this year, the NPS is better able to assist its not-for-profit partners in bigger ways this year. A quick rundown of the projects to be funded with NPS assistance in the coming year:

1) \$25,500 for airfare, baggage, hotel, per diem, vehicle transportation, and additional filming of trail sites for the *In Search of a Dream* action film OCTA

is creating with Boston Productions, Inc.

2) \$21,000 to assist OCTA in distributing *Readin', Writin', & Ridin' on the Oregon-California Trails* workbooks and the Historic Trails Map to schools around the country.

3) \$14,000 for support of travel for board members, officers, & chapter presidents.

4) \$10,000 for support of Mapping, Marking & Monitoring workshops for OCTA chapters

5) \$10,000 for support of Mapping, Marking & Monitoring workshops for other trail organizations and governmental agencies.

6) \$4,800 for one-year support of a Web site editor.

7) \$4,440 to pay for insurance for the Summer 2008 Idaho Wagon Train as part of the 26th annual OCTA convention.

8) \$3,500 for travel support of the National Preservation Officer.

These items total \$93,240. All will help OCTA to better position itself in terms of what it can do regarding marketing, trail protection, membership building, and educational outreach. Please be sure to thank our NPS partners whenever and wherever you see them.

Convention Registration

Available Online

It is not too late to register and attend the 2009 OCTA Convention in Nampa, ID.

To sign up, go online at OCTA's Web site and register for all events and activities.

www.OCTA-trails.org



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