



NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 1019/Independence MO 64051-0519 / (816)252-2276 December 1987



Bill Hill presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Malcolm Smith

MALCOLM SMITH PRESENTED AWARD

by Barbara Magerl

Malcolm Smith, OCTA member from St. James, New York, was recently presented the Certificate of Appreciation that was announced at the Casper convention. The certificate is OCTA's recognition of Malcolm Smith's contribution enabling the purchase of California Hill near Brule, Nebraska. Since Malcolm Smith, OCTA's first major benefactor, was unable to attend the convention, board member Bill Hill of Centereach, New York, handled the presentation.

Inspired by Irene Paden's book, The Wake of the Prairie Schooner, Smith has traveled the trail extensively, especially in Nebraska. "Malcolm feels that Irene Paden did so much work and, as far as he could determine, has not been honored anywhere in the country," Hill says. "He wanted to correct that." The donor requested that when a marker is erected at California Hill it be dedicated in honor of the noted author.

With Malcolm Smith's donation, OCTA became a landowner for the first time. Board member and attorney Bob Berry handled the purchase of the 112 acre site just north of I-80 in the Ash Hollow region. Bob reports that a marker has been delivered to Ogallala and will be placed in the near future.

OCTA MAPPING PROGRAM by Tom Hunt

Tom Hunt, OCTA's Trail Preservation Officer, would like to hear from all members who are interested in taking part in a definitive mapping of the historic overland trails. This program is essential to carrying on our preservation efforts. It will require both research of existing maps and records, and extensive field work to locate and verify the trails on the ground.

This is the chance for those of you in OCTA who have been asking for more opportunities to get out in the field and do some exploring to step forward and volunteer. But, there will also be equally important work that is suitable for those who are no longer able to be so active. It is a great opportunity to get to know the trails better and to share your knowledge of the trails with others. Hard, serious work will be involved and it will require much time and dedication.

The mapping work will be standardized, probably organized on a state or chapter basis, and will require the most exacting and exhaustive research. We are not going to allow OCTA's name to be associated with any program which is not first-rate. At the same time, it is going to be both fun and rewarding for those who participate. All those interested are asked to contact:

Tom Hunt
950 Old Trace Road
Palo Alto, CA 94306.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

October 22, 1987

Shortly after the Casper convention, Trudy and I went to Independence, MO to help establish a new National Headquarters for OCTA. That was certainly quite an experience. Some things went amazingly well, some things accidentally got accomplished, and some things hardly moved off ground zero--even with a push. All in all, it was an experience that Trudy and I will always have in our memory bank and, hopefully, it was somewhat fruitful for OCTA.

In Independence there were three locations to consider for possible office sites. The first one we looked at was an old tavern building located across the street from the Bigham-Waggoner House, and the second, a small office in a local bank. Each of these had some drawbacks so we seriously started looking over available space in the city hall. It looked like a large ground floor storage area could be available if some of

the city's stationery supplies could be shifted. I was both surprised and relieved when Bill Bullard, the city manager, said we could have the spot. It's not the Hilton, but it certainly fits our needs quite well.

It seemed like everyone in city hall turned out to help get us established. We couldn't have had a more cooperative, friendly group of individuals than those at city hall in Independence, MO. Everyone in the community wished us well and, you will note from the membership list, we have certainly picked up a lot of new members from there. Local businessmen and merchants also expressed their appreciation for us coming there. To celebrate the opening of our office a local florist brought over a large, beautiful, fall floral basket. The morning we declared our office officially open for business, the first visitor was the mayor to wish us well.

There were a few minor barbs: It was frustrating for someone who spent thirty-

seven years in the communications business to wait weeks for telephone service. But, the office is up and running with Elaine McNabney, office manager, and her group of volunteers operating it. By now I imagine Elaine feels she is one of the busiest people in Independence!

On the way home we stopped by Hutchinson, KS for the Santa Fe Trail symposium. Marc Simmons, president, had asked if I would come to receive an award they wished to present OCTA. It reads: The Santa Fe Trail Council presents this award to OCTA in recognition of your contribution to the history and preservation of the old trail. Signed: Marc Simmons, President. It certainly was a well organized event.

With more fine memories filed away, we headed on west, stopping in Denver to meet with Jim Bowers and John Latschar, then on to Lake Tahoe for a visit with Chuck Dodd. By this time we didn't feel it would be appropriate to go on north without a visit with Tom Hunt!

There were enough things we weren't able to accomplish during our stay in the midwest that we are now making preparations to return.

Something I forgot to mention. Just before we had to leave Independence we received the "News from the Plains" produced for us by the St. Joseph Museum. What a great job they did. This is through the combined efforts of Linn Hoyt and Marilyn Taylor, though you won't find their names on it.

I hope to see all of you on the trail.

Your president,
Dick Ackerman

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

December 1987

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ARCHAEOLOGISTS PURSUE JOHNSON RANCH ANALYSIS

by Betty Graham Lee

Last August at the Casper convention, it was agreed to establish an Archaeological Preservation Fund. Donations from OCTA members would be used toward analysis and preservation of endangered historic sites on private lands.

In mid-October, a first step was taken in this direction by committing funds for a survey of the historic Johnson Ranch near Wheatland, California. This location was brought to the attention of historians by Jack and Richard Steed who had rediscovered the lost ranch (see Overland Journal, Winter 1986). It had been a major end-of-the-trail emigrant haven between 1845-1849. The Donner rescue effort was based here, and Fremont, Kearny, Kit Carson and other notable western explorers and military units camped at the site.

OCTA contracted with an outstanding young historical archaeologist, Jonathon Horn, to do the work. Jon grew up in Sacramento and had done historical archaeology in that area, although he is now working out of Montrose, Colorado. He is enthusiastic about the site and has completed the required mapping, photography, research, and artifact study. His analysis will soon be sent to OCTA board members and the Archaeology Committee. It will include the present condition of the site and information on threats to its integrity by erosion, development, cattle, off-road vehicles, etc. It will review the probabilities of excavation yielding significant additional information, and contain advice on options for future

action. Jon is also doing the tedious but necessary paperwork for nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places. Fortunately, the ranch owners and manager have been extremely cooperative and interested in the project...thanks to the amiable relations Jack and Richard Steed have developed.

As Jon has agreed to write a full account of his work for "News from the Plains" or Overland Journal, he will soon be telling his own story. However, his formal report may not include information on the roles played by OCTA volunteers, so here it is.

Although much appreciated, the attention and interest of well wishers could impede the progress of Jon's work. Through an effort coordinated by Frank Tortorich, Jack Steed and two OCTA members, Dr. Ruth Allen and Betty Lee, "fielded" for Jon. Each came at his own expense and did what he could to be of paramount service to the professional. There were numerous visitors everyday and the volunteers spent hours giving newspaper interviews, hosting and listening to local visitors, and guiding trail buffs, artists, and people in search of old Camp Far West over the area.

It proved to be extremely educational, exhilarating, and enjoyable. Jack Steed enchanted onlookers and reporters by sharing his vast mental encyclopedia of dates, event, and personalities associated with Johnson's Ranch. His enthusiasm was contagious. Ruth Allen's MD ability was not tested as everyone quickly learned how to get through barbed-wire fences and blackberry bushes with few scratches and to stay away from poison oak and bird hunters. She did

keep cold lemonade and juices flowing through our sun-parched bodies. At other times she was listing local flora and birds and sketching artifacts. Betty Lee planted colorful flag markers in the ground at surface locations of historic debris, soon making the hills look as if flowers were making a riotous display of themselves after a spring rain.

Through it all, Jon Horn exhibited professorial patience beyond his years as he explained what he was finding, how he determined the dates of various artifacts and how they were used, and how we could help with the inventory and photographic records. He did this so smoothly that we were disillusioned into thinking we were indispensable.

News of our activities was reported in twelve west coast papers, including The Sacramento Bee, the Appeal-Democrat of Marysville, and the San Francisco Examiner. Later, Jack Steed reported that he had been host to a TV crew who sent out the story by satellite to two Los Angeles stations and one in Fresno.

The Archaeological Reservation Fund is certain to grow after the completion and publication of the Johnson Ranch analysis. At present, it is in need of donations to finalize the payment of \$500 for this first project. Hopefully, many of you will send a few dollars earmarked for the Fund to OCTA treasurer, James Bowers. His address is 450 South Otis Street, Lakewood, CO 80226. Funding of such projects as has recently been done at Johnson Ranch will clearly contribute to information gained and protection of major trail sites located on private property.

WANTED

IN SEARCH OF...

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: to chair the National Education Committee. We have volunteers scattered around the country to serve on the committee, but are short a chairperson.

NARRATOR: for a slide program on the migration west.

PHOTOGRAPHER: to take pictures primarily at the national convention for our publications and news releases.

The pay for these positions is poor. The benefit package is worse. With luck, you may be able to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses! The opportunity to serve is there and the appreciation of the membership is overwhelming.

If you are interested in helping in any of these needs, please write the president in care of the national office.

HELP WANTED

OCTA HEADQUARTERS in Independence, MO is rapidly approaching the time when it needs an **employee or shared employment.**

Skills preferred: business office experience, typing, word processing or personal computer experience, a self starter, and most importantly - the ability to work with and guide volunteers; must live within commuting distance of Independence City Hall; prefer

current OCTA member. If interested, or know someone who is, please contact **President's Desk** at OCTA Headquarters.

!!! FOUND !!!

One exposed Kodachrome 36-exposure slide film. Found on Casper tour bus following trip east of Casper. Ayres Natural Bridge, Ralston and Hembree graves, horses near graves. If yours, please send \$6.50 to cover development and mailing to:

Steve Moore
Route 1, Box 1280
Burney, CA 96013

WANTED

Book sellers for OCTA '88. If interested contact:

Rich Nolf
St. Joseph Museum
11th & Charles Streets
St. Joseph, MO 64501

PERSONAL COMPUTER

We have immediate need in our national headquarters for an IBM compatible computer with hard disk/card, monitor and printer. A new one, or funds to procure a new one, would be nice, used equipment would do very well.

If you or someone you know are updating your equipment, instead of trading it in, it could be of benefit to you to donate the equipment

as a tax write off--and it certainly would be a blessing to OCTA!

Please write the president at the national office if you can help in this endeavor.

INFORMATION PLEASE

HUMBOLDT RIVER TRAIL (Nevada) diaries that refer to sightings of Beowawe (Be-o-wa-we) or Volcano Springs' geysers or steam clouds in Whirlwind Valley;

CROFUTT, GEO. A. TRANS-CONTINENTAL PACIFIC RR GUIDE BOOK (various titles), post 1880 editions referencing geyser area in Nevada. Please write to:

Jan A. Roberts
5706 236th SW
Mountlake Terrace, WA

Genealogical/biographical information on descendants of the ten men listed below who were in **Dr. Elijah White's 1842** emigrant party to Oregon City, Oregon

- Gabriel Brown
- Winsted Bennett
- James Force
- Daniel Girtman
- Andrew D. Smith
- Walter Pomeroy
- Owen Summer (Summer)
- Thomas Shadden
- J. W. Perry
- Columbia Lancaster

Please send information to:

Janet Huston
912 E Sixth
Newberg, OR 97132

M O R E . . .

INFORMATION PLEASE!!

HUBBARD FAMILY CROSSINGS

Charles Hubbard and wife Margaret Cannon Hubbard, crossing 1847.

Joseph, Eli and David Hubbard, crossing 1853 on train with Venable brothers, Zumwalts, Thurmans, Applegate, Robert and Jo McLaughlin, Wells, Kennedy and Charles Felton.

Both trains traveled via Barlow trail and left from vicinity of Pleasant Hill, Pike County, Illinois.

DeGuire and Compton - train left Ste. Genevieve or Fredricktown, MO in 1854 to Green River then Humbolt Trail to Marysville, California.

American Fur Co.--anyone who may have worked with John Baptiste DeGuire from 1830-37.

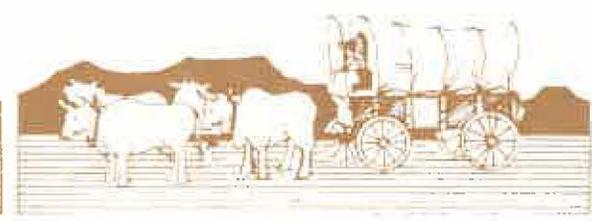
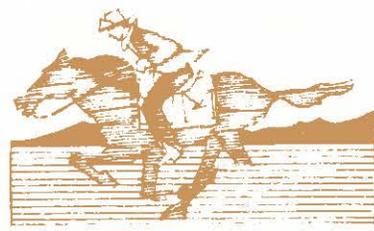
Please send diaries and/or information relating to any of the above to:

Mrs. Bill D. Foster
975 Terrace Dr. NW
Salem, Oregon 97304

THE ST. JOE ROAD

To help verify the committee's findings, Gateway Chapter's research committee is searching for diaries and journals of those who traveled the St. Joe Road. If you have any information which you feel will help, please contact:

Heidi Hornaday
St. Joseph Museum
11th and Charles
St. Joseph, MO 64501



CALIFORNIA & PONY EXPRESS TRAIL LEGISLATION UPDATE

✓ Bill & Jeanne Watson
Legislative Co-Chair

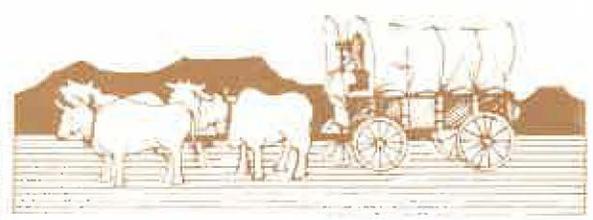
Congratulations to the 14 OCTA Trail Legislation volunteers who completed initial staff contacts with 13 Senators and 13 members of Congress to call their attention to the upcoming California National Historic Trail & Pony Express National Historic Trail bill. These OCTA contacts include 7 of the 12 members of the Senate Public Lands, National Parks & Forest Sub-committee and 7 of the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. Special thanks to Earl Schmidt who is heading the California and Nevada legislation efforts. The NPEA made their first of several planned contacts. We still have a number of initial contacts that need to be made. Any OCTA members willing to help, please contact Earl Schmidt (Calif/Nev) or Bill and Jeanne Watson.

While waiting for the National Park Service Departmental review of their staff recommendation on the California Trail and the Pony Express Trail, we proceeded with initial Senate and House contacts to "test the water." The initial results have been good and the reception by Senate and Congressional staff members has been quite favorable.

The Park Service staff recommendation on the California and Pony Express Trails complies with Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act. However, our enabling legislation cannot be properly introduced until the Departmental review is completed.

There is some confusion in Washington because Congress currently has before it HR 2988 - the Western States National Trail Act of 1987 (NOT our bill) which would designate a "Western States Pioneer Express National Historic Trail" and a "Tahoe Rim National Scenic Trail." To further complicate the matter, these trails have not gone through any NPS feasibility study.

The OCTA legislative volunteers will soon begin follow up contacts. When the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails recommendation clears the Departmental review, our OCTA-NPEA enabling legislation can be introduced and bill numbers assigned. We will keep you posted so that all can participate in the legislative process.



CHAPTER NEWS

GATEWAY CHAPTER

The Gateway Chapter has held three membership meetings since its formation last July. The September and November meetings had programs dealing with the St. Joe Road in Doniphan county, Kansas. Dick and Trudy Ackerman were in St. Joseph for the November meeting to meet the Gateway members and to update them on the activities of OCTA. Local members appreciated their interest in taking time out of their busy schedule to visit.

The research committee, comprised of about 20 Gateway members, has been active in preparing for the 1988 convention in St. Joseph. Field trips have been taken into Kansas to determine the exact location of the St. Joe Road which extends to just past Marysville, where it joins with the Independence Road before crossing into Nebraska. Sites have been chosen which will be of interest to OCTA members.

IDAHO CHAPTER

Judging from their newsletter, the Idaho Chapter has had an active year. Besides preparing for the 1989 convention, they report many trail markers in the Boise district and the trail north of Glens Ferry. The Burley and Shoshone Districts are preparing for markings in the near future.

A June tour of the California Trail from Goose Creek to Wells, Nevada also resulted in a marker installation. The condition of other markers was checked on this tour and approximately 80 names plus miscellaneous dates

and initials were catalogued during this outing.

The September 12 tour in Caribou County included Lanes' grave on Lander Road, Steamboat Springs and Oregon Trail ruts through the Soda Springs golf course.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

The fall outing of the Northwest Chapter was held in eastern Oregon on September 26 and 27. On the afternoon of the 26th, Bob Rennells led the group on a tour of the Blue Mountain National Forrest segment of the trail. The morning of the 27th was devoted to touring the LaGrande area and as far south as the top of Ladd Canyon. This is Bob's home area and reports indicate he did his usual superb job of trail interpretation.

On Saturday, October 24, with the help of volunteers from the Earl Dean Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers Association, the Northwest Chapter fenced and signed the Catherine Bonnett Butts' pioneer grave. Catherine was traveling with her family on the Meek Cutoff route to Oregon, became ill and died October 2, 1845. The death was recorded by a relative and wagon train member Samuel Parker: "Here we buried Mrs. Butts and three more." It was undoubtedly a common grave and the other three occupants will probably always remain unknown. The grave is approximately 20 miles south of the present community of The Dalles on a barren sage brush covered hill. OCTA members can take pride in knowing another grave site is signed and protected.

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

After an organizational meeting in October in Tucson, the Southwest (Arizona-New Mexico) Chapter held its first field trip on November 7-8 near Safford, Arizona. In this event hosted by Bob & Betty Lee, 13 members and several guests toured a portion of the route followed by General Stephen W. Kearny's Dragoons into Arizona in 1846. The group inspected a prehistoric Indian village and other features noted in Lt. Emory's report of the expedition.

Officers of this new chapter are: Chairman, Jack Root, Vice Chairman, Aubrey Haines, Secretary, Susan Badger and Treasurer, Sheri Lee.

TRAILS HEAD

During Dick Ackerman's first visit to Independence, the Trails Head Chapter hosted two Oregon National Historic Trail sign dedications, complete with state and local dignitary participation and local television coverage. The first, a sign in Independence Square, was dedicated on September 4, and the second was a sign unveiled near Cave Spring Interpretive Center in Raytown on September 19.

Trails Head participated in the first Annual Fall Crafts Event at Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway, Kansas on October 10-11, generating some new friends as well as funds for the chapter. The chapter has been requested to return to Shawnee Indian Mission to take part in the Christmas Open House using the MECC Oregon Trail computer program. This was a very popular visitor's

CHAPTER NEWS ... Continued

activity last year at the Mission.

Also on October 10, chapter members attended the dedication of Pioneer Park in Westport and the unveiling of a statue to which they had contributed. The statue depicts John Calvin McCoy, Jim Bridger and Alexander Majors.

Trails Head members have also volunteered time and service to the new national headquarters.

FORMING CHAPTERS

COLORADO-WYOMING

Duke Simonia has volunteered to chair a Colorado/Wyoming chapter. Although not yet organized as a chapter, the initial meeting of people from Colorado and Wyoming interested in the Overland Trail met September 19 at Virginia Dale Stage Station north of Fort Collins on US 287. The group then traveled to the Big Laramie Station southwest of Laramie, Wyoming, present home of the Richardsons. About 25 people participated in this field trip arranged through the efforts of Barbi and John Dailey.

Merrill Mattes, author of "The Great Platte River Road" suggests we consider mapping the Overland Trail in Colorado. This has not been done and very little has been written about this portion of the emigrant road west.

A date for the next meeting is not set, but when this takes place, hopefully,

there will be an agreement to organize formally.

Some may wonder why things haven't jelled before this, since John Latshcar, Jim Bowers and Merrill Mattes, all ranking national officers or Board members, reside in this proposed chapter area. Merrill Mattes believes the explanation is that they are all so involved in national OCTA affairs they must leave it to others to work on the state chapter. Merrill also states his confidence that effective action will come from this latest effort, whether it be Colorado alone, or Colorado-Wyoming.

SOUTH of the MASON-DIXON LINE CHAPTER

Clyde Welsh has taken the initiative and is seeking persons interested in forming a "South of the Mason-Dixon Line" Chapter. Anyone interested should get in touch with him at:

706 Novarese Street
Memphis, TN 38122

ITALIAN MEMBER VISITS DONNER AREA

by Barbara Magerl

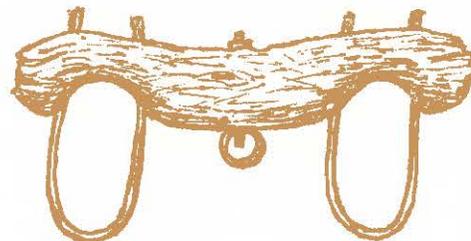
Francesco Dona, OCTA member from Italy, recently visited the United States for the first time, and it proved to be quite an adventure for him! Several years ago Mr. Dona read an Italian book about the Donner tragedy and became consumed with the story. It has become his dream to place a tribute to

the Donner Party in California, but as yet he has not received support for this project from either Donner descendants or the state of California.

Self-taught in English, Francesco Dona comes from a family who has worked in the glass business for generations on an island near Venice. He borrowed funds for his trip, and the stress of the first flight of his journey, and reportedly of his life, made him reluctant to board yet another plane in New York to continue to California! A compassionate pilot contacted California OCTA members with whom Dona had corresponded and the harried traveler was convinced to continue his trip.

Tom Hunt, past-president of OCTA, was among the well-wishers who greeted Mr. Dona at the San Francisco airport. Although there are no roads for cars on his home island, Dona braved the California highways in a rented car. In his ten-day visit to California Mr. Dona visited a Donner family in Saratoga and the Johnson's Rancho where he explored the area in the company of the Steed family. "He is a charming gentleman," Hunt reports. "His enthusiasm is dauntless because this memorial is the dream of his life."

Anyone wanting to correspond with Mr. Dona may write to him at Calle Bertolinia 1/6, 30141 Murano, Venezia, Italy.



CALL A RENDEZVOUS!
by Don Buck

Why "Call a Rendezvous?" OCTA needs an alternative national activity to complement its national conventions. As our conventions grow in participants, there is less opportunity to camp and hike along the remote and dusty trails, at least for those who enjoy roughing it. Thus this proposal:

That any OCTA member, group, or chapter can "Call a Rendezvous" for the purpose of exploring more remote trail sections, those least often seen and most removed from possible convention trips.

That such a rendezvous should not conflict or detract from scheduled conventions, either in time or area.

That the calling of such a rendezvous should be published in the "News from the Plains" and be open to the national membership.

That OCTA's knowledgeable trail trackers be encouraged to call at least one rendezvous each year.

That the caller(s) delimit the rendezvous site, number of days, and participants, types and numbers of vehicles, camping conditions, and any additional equipment needed.

That each participant in the Rendezvous should be asked to donate, above any rendezvous expenses, \$10 to OCTA's Historic Preservation Fund.

That the president of OCTA approve well in advance any such rendezvous to ensure there is no conflict with the scheduled convention or any other called rendezvous.

Let's hear it for conventions and rendezvous!

1988 CONVENTION

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

by Rich Nolf

St. Joseph is an old river town with a long and colorful history. In 1826 Joseph Robidoux established the Blacksnake Hills trading post, and it was from here that Robidoux carved out an enormous fur empire. In 1843 it officially became St. Joseph and for a number of years was on the very edge of the frontier.

St. Joseph happened to be at the right place when gold was discovered in California. No town can claim the number of emigrants departing for the West during the years of 1849, 50 and 51. Independence was first, and Council Bluffs had the most overall, but St. Joseph holds the record for those peak years. As a prime port on the Missouri River, St. Joseph was very prominent on the frontier.

In 1858, it became the western terminus of the first cross-state railroad west of the Mississippi--the Hannibal & St. Joseph. Two years later, in 1860, St. Joseph became the eastern terminus of the famed Pony Express, officially called the Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Co. (COC & PP). Some folks identified that acronym as "clean out of cash and poor pay." After having outfitted thousands of emigrants and being an important link in the communications system between East and West, St. Joseph continued to serve as a merchandising center for the thousands who went west.

It is from this perspective that the sights you will see and the papers you will hear will serve to illustrate the significant role that St. Joseph and the surrounding communities played.

The itinerary on the opposite page is approximate. The final details in some areas are yet to be negotiated, and the overall itinerary will have to be approved by the board of directors. However, this will give you a good concept of what's going to happen during OCTA '88 in St. Joseph.

The host hotel will be the Ramada Inn with the Seville Inn, Drury Inn, Park Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) and Super 8 very near. A shuttle bus is being planned to transport people between those motels at key times. All motels are within walking distance of a large shopping mall. Also close by are some very popular eateries and watering holes! A short distance north of the motels are two fine campgrounds, Walnut Grove and Allen's AOK.

Maps locating all of these points will be sent to you along with your registration materials. St. Joseph is easy to get to by road or by plane, so come to OCTA '88 in St. Joseph.

* * * * *

Excerpt from Crossing the Plains - 1852, Origen Thomson

Saturday, March 27. --
Three o'clock this evening we arrived at St. Jo. The first thing to do was to find a place to lodge ourselves; a house with two rooms was found at four dollars a month, which we concluded to take.

We tried to duplicate these rates, but we couldn't make it !!

**OCTA '88
PROPOSED ITINERARY**

Tuesday, August 9

- 8:00 - 12:00 Tour Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch at Officer's Club
 1:00 - 6:00 Tour Weston, Missouri: McCormick Distillery,
 Pringles Winery and the tobacco industry

Wednesday, August 10

- 7:30 - 9:00 Meet the Board - Coffee & Danish
 9:30 - 11:00 Committee & Membership Reports
 11:30 - 5:00 Directors Meeting
 11:30 - 5:00 Museum Shuttle Tour for OCTA registrants
 7:00 - 10:00 Reception - entertainment, food and cash bar

Thursday, August 11

- 6:00 - 7:30 Breakfast buffet available at Ramada
 8:00 - 8:45 Merrill Mattes - "Joseph Robidoux and his
 Remarkable Family"
 8:45 - 9:30 Dr. Harmon Mothershead, "Rivertown Rivalries"
 9:30 - 10:00 Break - drinks provided
 10:00 - 10:45 Jacqueline Lewin, "The Pony Express and the
 Trail through Kansas"
 10:45 - 11:30 Gary Chilcote, "Lucky John Patee"
 12:00 - 1:30 Lunch - Ramada poolside buffet
 1:30 - 9:00 Dixie Queen Riverboat Tour, dinner at Rulo,
 Nebraska

Friday, August 12

- 6:00 - 7:30 Breakfast buffet available at Ramada
 7 AM - 9 PM Trails West Tour - lunch at Marysville, Kansas,
 dinner at Iowa, Sac & Fox Presbyterian
 Mission
 1:00 - 9:00 Alternate tour - River crossings, dinner at
 Iowa, Sac & Fox Presbyterian Mission

Saturday, August 13

- 6:00 - 8:00 Breakfast buffet available at Ramada
 10:00 - 10:45 Dr. James Pope, "Still They Come: Wagon
 Wheels on Paddle Wheels to the Heads of
 the Oregon Trail"
 10:45 - 11:30 Dr. Winton Solberg, "The Sabbath on the
 Oregon-California Trails"
 12:00 - 1:30 Lunch - Ramada poolside buffet
 2:00 - 2:45 Betty Graham Lee, "United We Stand: OCTA
 and Archaeology"
 2:45 - 3:30 JoAnn Levy, "We Were 49ers Too! Women in
 the California Gold Rush"
 6:00 - 7:00 Cash bar
 7:00 - Banquet and awards

Sunday, August 14

- 6:00 - 7:30 Breakfast buffet available at Ramada
 8:00 - 9:30 General Business Meeting
 10:00 - Concurrent Workshops:
 COED
 Archaeology
 Volunteer - Adopt-a-Trail



ELDERHOSTEL PROGRAM

by Dick Ackerman

Recently the National Director and the Oregon State Director for the Elderhostel Programs for adult education met with Dick and Trudy Ackerman in Salem, Oregon. Elderhostel is interested in developing programs covering the western migration. Not just programs, but programs involving both senior adults and R.V.'s! The campus is moving to the site!

Industry studies indicate continued increases in the sales of RV units and a high percentage going to senior citizens. The Elderhostel directors feel a portion of this group is the same as those participating in their educational programs and a program to fit this life style would be desirable. Also, given an increased interest in US history, western migration seems like a natural! After a productive round table discussion, the directors agreed to proceed. It is expected that the first program will be available in the fall of 1988.

OCTA MEMBERSHIP - NEW MEMBERS AND ROSTER CORRECTIONS

BOLD print indicates correction to the current entry in roster dated September, 1987

Ayers III, M/M Maurice F.
16720 Grandview
Stilwell, KS 66085
Fam., exp. 12/1/88

Bauman, John
4111 E. 26th Avenue
Denver, CO 80207

Belt, Richard L.
Southern Mines Press
P O Box 1010
Modesto, CA 95353
Corp., exp. 12/1/88

Bodendoerfer, Nancy
2432 Gunar Drive
San Jose, CA 95124
Indiv., exp. 12/1/88

Brandon, Palma A.
1919 Orwin Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
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Please send corrections to:
OCTA, P O Box 1019
Independence, MO
64051-0519

JOIN OCTA

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

General Office Information

As you all are probably aware, the Independence office is now up and running! Elaine McNabney, Office Manager, is there from 8:30 - 12:30, Monday through Friday and she reports, "I like my 'job'!" During the afternoon the office is manned by volunteers. There are two telephone lines to the office, but in the event no one is in the office, the phone can be answered either in the City Manager's office, or at the PBX system, and messages taken.

The **Membership Roster** has been distributed and, life being what it is, there are certain to be corrections and changes needed. **All future membership inquiries, renewals, corrections, etc., will be processed through Independence.**

"NEWS FROM THE PLAINS"

RELOCATION OF EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE

by Dick Ackerman

Barb Magerl has informed OCTA president, Dick Ackerman, that she is ready, willing and able to take over the obligation of producing the NFP. From now on, all items to be submitted for publication in the NFP should be sent to OCTA headquarters.

The cutoff date for the next issue will be February 15, 1988. Future cutoff dates will be sent to you by Barb Magerl, but the publication will be produced quarterly. As we get back on schedule with the Overland Journal, adjustments in mailing dates might have to be made to hit alternate months.

The folks from the St. Joseph Museum should rate a soft spot in the hearts of all OCTA members for what they have done in producing two issues of the NFP for us. They have done an excellent job and we thank them for it.



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