

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS



THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

December 1988

OUTINGS '89

Get ready to start marking your calendars! You mobile OCTAns will have a lot to choose from this summer, as the chapters have already been planning their 1989 outings. Much is tentative yet, but we already have enough to start your mouth watering. (See tentative list on page 3. We're working to have a final list by the next issue of *News From the Plains*.) Most outings are planned by, offered for, and led by chapter members, but all chapters welcome OCTA members wherever their homes are.

Arizona takes the prize for being the first to go in 1989, with a weekend historical overview of the Santa Cruz River Valley from Spanish Times on, to be held in Green Valley, Arizona, January 14-15. As part of the activities, James Carter and Doyle Reed will present an evening program on the Butterfield Stage route, concentrating on the Southwest area. For details, contact Betty Lee, Rt. 2, Box 757A, Saford, AZ 85546, (602) 299-7143.

California comes in a close second getting things going, with a snowshoe trek, January 22, 1989. This trek will lead hardy souls out of the Donner Camp site north of Truckee, California, toward the other Donner Party locations at Donner Lake, following a route that some think was the actual route followed by Tamsen Donner and others who walked the seven miles several times that winter of 1846-47. The trek *will not* be cancelled because of *too much* snow. (There was more than twenty feet of snow on the ground when Tamsen did it.) Want to see if you are as hardy as Tamsen? Contact Chuck Dodd at 3501 S. Bascom, #A4, Campbell, CA, 95008 for more information.

We Miss You, Barbara!

The last issue of *News From the Plains* carried "A Fond Adieu" from Barbara Magerl, who served most capably as its editor. We owe Barbara many more thanks than we can ever give.

OCTA is a wide-spread organization with many trail preservation projects—many more than it has money to support. So it is by volunteers that OCTA survives. Barbara is one of the best, giving time that could easily find other uses with family and with earning a living. She will continue as Chair of the Public Relations Committee (at least for a time), but is unable to continue as editor of *News From the Plains*.

Every time one of our key "workers" is forced to leave a position, as Barbara was, we must find a

replacement, for OCTA's work must continue. It seems at those times that too much of OCTA's work is borne by too few people. It's hard on the few people, and its not good for the organization. The more we can get more people involved, the better off OCTA will be.

So, show your thanks to Barbara in an active way. You have abilities OCTA needs. Come join us in the work of preserving the trails. Our trail preservation work and our standing committees are described elsewhere in this issue of *News From the Plains*. Pick something that interests you and call or write the committee chair. We need your help.

Thanks again, Barbara, for yours.



How many people do you know who advertise OCTA every time they use their car? OCTA MEM has several meanings: Life MEMber. First MEMbership Chair. Mary Ethel Mueller.

From the President's Desk

It's been three months since our successful convention in St. Joseph but it has not been back to a boring routine at the desk. It seems OCTA has something going somewhere all the time and the president can stay as busy at these activities as there's time for.

Through a memo I have recently released to Board Members, Officers and Chapter Presidents, I have asked OCTA to become better acquainted with the land owners and land administrators of the property our western trails cross. I have asked that we do this in as friendly a manner as we can. There's nothing like a good handshake and a sincere hello. We may not always be met with the same friendly attitude we wish to extend but at least we can say, we've tried. Every member of OCTA can help establish us as not only the premier historic trail organization in the country, but also the friendliest. Let's help build a relationship with these individuals founded on trust and good will. The few individuals we may meet who are difficult, we should respect their point of view and always remain friendly.

I recently found it necessary to make a quick trip along the main stem Oregon Trail from eastern Oregon to Oregon City. Trudy accompanied me on this quick swing but what made this trip different was, I took a little extra time to renew a relationship with some land owners and land administrators as well and made it a point to stop and meet land owners and administrators that I had not personally known.

Everything went so well on that trip, I felt it was timely to meet the National Park Services manager of the Oregon Trail, Ruth Anderson, whose office is in the Pacific Northwest Regional Headquarters in Seattle, Washington. I just had a few things on my agenda as I wanted this meeting to be a get acquainted session. She suggested a 7:30 am time at her office which is just fine for me being an early morning person. I dis-

Continued on page 8.

CHAPTER NEWS

Colorado Chapter

by John Dailey, Chairman

A Colorado Chapter outing occurred October 28 through 30 in the Julesburg, Colorado area. It started with a get-acquainted and get-organized time at the Julesburg Museum on Friday afternoon. The OCTA out-of-town participants were treated royally by the Fort Sedgwick Historical Society with coffee and cookies and a "private" tour of the museum. For such a small town, they have a spectacular and good-sized museum! If you happen by Julesburg, stop at the old railway station near the center of town. Friday evening was a showing of a film covering the Ash Hollow segment of the Nebraska Centennial Celebration.

During the day Saturday and Sunday morning, twenty OCTA members and eight Fort Sedgwick Historical Society Members and two others enjoyed a "bouncing good" time in a school bus learning about the historical sites around Julesburg. The sites were the South Platte Pony Express Station site, California Hill Trail Marker and ruts, an inhabited soddie near Windlass Hill, Windlass Hill, Rachel Paddison Grave, Ash Hollow, prior Julesburg town sites, Fort Sedgwick and cemetery sites and the Upper California Crossing of the South Platte. Site information was provided by such notables as Merrill Mattes, Doris Monahan, Jim Stretesky, Gene Mikelson and others. It was an informative and enjoyable time for all. Merrill even saw a place for the first time! It seems a little hard to visualize the South Platte as a mile wide and a few inches deep without trees and with many sand draws descending from the hills. I suppose some people would view that as a desert.

Of course, there had to be a chapter meeting on Saturday evening. This meeting was open to the Fort Sedgwick Historical Society members as well. Some might describe it as a discussion rather than a chapter meeting. But most important, a good and informative time was had by all.

We can't think enough of the Fort Sedgwick Historical Society for their hospitality and detailed planning for the weekend outing! They really know how to put on a tour!

Following the organized outing, several OCTA members stopped to see the Spring Hill Station site and Platte River Road ruts near Crook, Colorado and to visit with members of the Logan County Historical Society. This chapter has observed a wealth of informed and active historical preservationists in local historical societies who are also interested in trail sites. We plan to pursue common interests and activities.

People appointed to provide liaison with the national organization are:

John Dailey, Education Committee
Byron Hooper, Historic Preservation
Marjorie Walker, Membership
Byron Hooper, Public Relations

Gateway Chapter

by Francis Peniston, President

The Gateway Chapter began a new year in September with the election of officers. They are:

President, Francis Peniston
Vice-President, Jackie Lewin
Secretary, Mary Jo Sprague
Treasurer, Sandy Taylor
Committee Chairmen appointed were:

Research, Larry and Kathy Bunse
COED, Linn Hoyt
Programs, Rich Nolf
Hospitality, Tish Haynes
Nominating, Marilyn Taylor

During September, eight chapter members accepted the invitation of the Trails Head Chapter to join them on a Trail Trek on a section of the Independence Road of the Oregon Trail from Topeka, Kansas, to the Vermillion Crossing.

At the November meeting held at the Patee House Museum in St. Joseph, a slide program was given by Marilyn Taylor on the sites which can still be seen on the St. Joe Road through Kansas. Approximately 25 people attended the meeting.

On Saturday, November 5, the Gateway Chapter and the St. Joseph

Museum sponsored a field trip of the St. Joe Road in Doniphan County, Kansas, for members of the Doniphan County Historical Society. The trip, which began at the Wyeth Hill overlook of the Missouri River Valley, included stops at a point where two different river crossing trails converge, Mosquito Creek Crossing, Wolf River Crossing, Wolf River Cemetery, and Iola Cemetery (both on the trail). Lunch was at the Highland Sac and Fox Presbyterian Mission now operated as a museum by the Kansas State Historical Society. In addition, as this was a car caravan, the group was able to drive over a section of the trail which became public domain and is still used as a dirt road. The group was given information on OCTA membership and their help was encouraged in more fully researching the trail through their county.

Future plans of the executive committee call for a combined meeting with the Trails Head Chapter in either Weston or Fort Leavenworth in March or April.

The next meeting of the Gateway Chapter will be on January 17, at the Robidoux Row Museum.

Northwest Chapter

by Dick Ackerman, President

The Northwest Chapter concluded its outings for 1988 with over 30 members participating in the Fort Walla Walla Whitman Mission tour the 1st and 2nd of October. Dick and Jerry Waller certainly put together a wonderful program for us. Of particular interest to many of us was following what is thought to be one of the main routes from the bottom of Blue Mountains to the Whitman Mission area. There certainly seems to be at least some diary information that substantiates the route we traveled.

Northwest Chapter Preservation Officer is Garth R. Kendig.

Planning is already underway for next years activities and will be one of the subjects under discussion at the chapter's Officers and Directors meeting to be held December 7, in Woodland, Washington. The Board of Directors will also set the date,

time and place for the annual membership meeting tentatively scheduled for January.

Wyoming Chapter

by Kathy Orr, Secretary

The Wyoming Chapter continues to grow. We have 42 members. In August we had a great trek to the

western section of the trail and the Sublette Cutoff. The trek was led by Karen Buck and Bob Rennels. Lee Underbrink attended the National convention and brought a good report back to the chapter. Randy Brown received the L. C. Bishop award for his work on the trail. We are looking forward to an interesting schedule for our 1988-98 year.

1989 CHAPTER OUTINGS (Tentative)

Arizona Chapter (Contact Betty Lee, Rt. 2, Box 757A, Safford, AZ 85546, (602) 299-7143.)

January 14-15 Historical overview of Santa Cruz River Valley; Butterfield Stage Route concentrating on the Southwest.

March 11-12 Field trip continuing study of trails through southern Arizona. Details yet to be determined.

California Chapter (Contact Mary Mueller, 1112 Silver Oak Court, San Jose, CA 95120 (408) 268-7389.)

January 22 Donner Camp Snowshoe Trek, Truckee, California

April 9 Johnson Rancho Site Tour (near Wheatland, California)

May 27-28 General Membership Meeting, Winnemucca, Nevada, followed by Preservation Projects: grave marking and fencing at Gravely Ford (near Beowawe) and Susan Coon grave (on Applegate/Lassen Route, near Rye Patch Reservoir)

June 10 40 Mile Desert Trek

June 17 Carson Big Trees Route Trek

June 24-27 Preservation Project: signing and fencing, High Rock Canyon, Nevada

July 8-9 Donner Trail; Verdi, Nevada, to Donner Summit, California

July 15-16 West Pass Backpack (Caples Lake to Tragedy Springs, California)

August 19-20 Mormon-Carson Route (West Pass to Placerville)

October 14 Henness Pass Road (Marysville to Nevada City, California)

Colorado Chapter (Contact John Dailey, 3588 S. Nucula St., Aurora, CO 80013, (303) 690-7814.)

Winter Afternoon sharing trail photos, stories, and preservation ideas

Spring or Summer Upper California Crossing from Big Springs, Nebraska to Courthouse Rock (joint outing with Nebraska chapter along Lodgepole Creek)

Wyoming Chapter (Contact Art Randall, 1000 Beaumont Dr., Casper, WY 82601, (307) 265-1042.)

Spring Guernsey to Ft. Fetterman Trek

Ezra Meeker Was Our Neighbor

*Reminiscences by
La Monte C. Harris,
Shawnee Mission, Kansas*

It seems strange how fate sometimes throws people together. I am sure that when my parents purchased a piece of property on Yarrow Point they didn't realize they would be living neighbors to such a well-known person, in the Northwest, as Ezra Meeker. Yarrow Point is a projection of land extending out into Lake Washington east of Seattle. There are three points, namely Hunts, Evergreen and Yarrow which is furthest to the east. Each of the points has a main road running down the center with homes built to each side, with some fortunate enough to have lakeshore frontage. When we moved there, probably late 1917 or early 1918, Ezra Meeker was already living there with his daughter Carrie, and his son-in-law, E. S. Osborne. Their place was called "Scituate." The name surely had some meaning and I believe it was from an ancestral home in the East.

Our relationship with Mr. Meeker became closer when my mother went to work for him in the processing of dill pickles which he sold by the barrel to stores in Seattle.

Transportation to Seattle was by boat. Either by driving about 5 miles to Kirkland where there was a ferry or by a passenger boat that made stops at small docks which were in convenient places along the sides of each of the points. A small steamer, the Ariel, could haul some freight so I believe that some if not all of Mr. Meeker's products were distributed in that manner.

At the time that my mother worked for him, Mr. Meeker was in the process of writing what I believe was his last book, *The Busy Life of Eighty-Five Years*. After the printing was made he gave my mother an autographed copy, but in the course of several moves after our stay on Yarrow, the book somehow disappeared. I would certainly like to have it now.

I recall my mother saying that quite often when they were working, Mr. Meeker would think of something he

wanted to add to his book. He would stop immediately and write it down in a journal he carried with him.

This book was a hard cover type. Inside the back cover there was an advertisement for an automobile called a "Pathfinder," which was quite an appropriate name for a vehicle he would advertise.

I know Mr. Meeker made at least three trips back over the Oregon Trail to promote its marking. Two trips by ox-team in 1906 and 1910, and one by automobile about 1915. Perhaps the Pathfinder car was the one used for the 1915 trip.

During the time we knew Mr. Meeker he was a frequent visitor in our home. I don't know whether it was my mother's cooking that attracted him or the fact that my grandfather was living with us at the time. As near as I can remember, my grandfather and Mr. Meeker were the two oldest men in the neighborhood so they no doubt had much in common.

My mother used to ask Mr. Meeker how he was feeling, since he was around 90 years, and his inevitable response was to dance a little jig to show that he hadn't lost all of his pep.

Ezra Meeker was of the old school as he was quick to express his opinion of the high heels my sister wore. She was in her late teens at the time, 11 years older than I was, and for that place in time I suppose her heels were high. Mr. Meeker didn't hesitate to disgustedly refer to them as "spikes." I wonder what he would think of the height of heels today. He was also very independent as he would show no little amount of irritation if someone would attempt to assist him in boarding or getting off the passenger boat at our "Sun-nyside" landing.

We were certainly saddened by his death in 1928. We lived in Seattle at that time and were away from home and didn't know about it until after his burial.

I do feel that, even though I was young at the time, it was a great privilege to have known a man who was so instrumental in seeing that at least a portion of our history was

documented and identified with markers for the education of future generations. There surely should be more men of this caliber in our society.

Ezra Meeker's Dill Pickles

Wash proper size cucumbers and put in a 55 gallon barrel in layers of about six inches with a good sized sprig of dill and a cheesecloth bag containing the following spices:

1/2 cup small red peppers

1/2 cup whole allspice

a few bay leaves for each layer

1 tsp. caraway seeds

a few grape leaves

Repeat the layers until the barrel is filled to the desired level. Fill barrel to cover the cucumbers with brine (5 lbs. salt to 7 gallons cold water). Place a weighted board on the cucumbers to keep them submerged.

Meeker's recipe made no mention as to how long it would take for the pickles to be good for eating, but occasional testing would establish that fact.

Ezra Meeker

(From the Concise Dictionary of American Biography, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1964.)

Oregon and Washington pioneer. Born near Huntsville, Ohio, 1830; died Seattle, Washington, 1928. Emigrated from Indiana to Oregon 1851-52. A farmer most of his life near Puyallup on Puget Sound, he gave his time to commemorative marking of the Oregon Trail after 1906.

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Market St., Portland, OR
97201.

DONORS RECOGNIZED

Convention Raffle

Dick Ackerman reports that donors contributing items for the raffle at the convention in St. Joe, which brought in \$561, are: Jack Holmes (matting and framing Jackson prints), Trudy Ackerman and Helen Holmes (stitchery), Tom Hunt (mosaic), and Kaw Valley Films (Oregon and Pony Express Trail videos), Patrice Press, Bill Hill, Beautiful America Publishing Company, and Jack Steed (books).

Trail Markers

People who donated to OCTA's trail marking efforts by "purchasing" Carsonite markers are listed to the right.

They Bought Trail Markers

Jeanne Miller	Independence	Missouri
E. W. Puckett	Elizabethtown	New York
Rus Genung	Juniata	Nebraska
Mel and Mary Cottom	Manhattan	Kansas
Mike and Renee Bateman	Poccatello	Idaho
Peter and Ellen Day	Oregon City	Oregon
Joann and Leroy Jackson	Waukegan	Illinois
Silvia Mooney	Kansas City	Missouri
Elaine McNabney	Kansas City	Missouri
Anne and David Carter	Centerview	Missouri
Susan Badger Doyle	Albuquerque	New Mexico
Chuck Dodd	Tahoe City	California
Don Buck	Sunnyvale	California
Bill Hill	Centereach	New York
Tom Hunt	Palo Alto	California
Dick Ackerman	Salem	Oregon
Mary Mueller	San Jose	California
Fran Taplin	Eureka	California
Jim and Margaret Bowers	Lakewood	Colorado
Jane Mallinson	Sugar Creek	Missouri
Peggy Smith	Mission	Kansas
Phyllis Gehring	Oregon City	Oregon
Robert Ripley	Wichita	Kansas
Jeanette Roberts	San Jose	California
Judy Budde	Grandville	Missouri

Letter from OCTA Member in Japan

1-22-6, Oosumigaoka
Tanabe-town, Tsuzuki-county
Koyoto, zip 610-03, Japan
November 11, 1988

Dear Sir,

Hello from Japan. Let me introduce myself. I'm interested in Mathew C. Perry, who came to Japan in 1853, the first Japanese embassy to the USA in 1860, Pony Express, Gold Rush, the West and things American at that time.

OCTA is the very organization I've been looking for. I'm glad and proud to be a member of OCTA. Once I wrote to some horse associations about abilities of horses to draw wagons, foddors they ate a day and mileage, etc. The answers surprised me: I can become a race horse owner or keep and Indian horse with unbelievably little money. But they made me think that the word American dream and the fact are still alive.

Luckily I had two opportunities to visit the USA. In 1976 I happened to meet Captain Roger Pineau, who is the authority on Perry. I could get his

book with his signature: *Japan Expedition 1852-1854*, Perry's personal journal. Since then I've had more interest in Perry. In 1986 he came to Okinawa with a picture painted in Okinawa in 1853 by Perry's artist. Mr. Middendorf, US ambassador to EC, had owned it. He was willing to release it for Okinawa. Some newspapers reported it. Owing to Rev. Bob Oechsle, I could attend the reception and meet Captain Pineau again.

Okinawa was returned to Japan in 1971. A picture of Okinawa was returned in 1986. Last year a temple bell of Okinawa, Perry had taken as souvenir that had been hung at Navy Academy, Annapolis was returned, too. This is the reason I believe, like and respect the USA.

This May I had a chance to visit Astoria, Oregon. A dedication ceremony of Ranald MacDonald, the first English teacher of Japan, was held there. Owing to the efforts of Mr. Bruce Berney, director of Astoria Public Library and many donors, the granite monument was erected.

Apart from the ceremony, I got kindness from many Americans

during my stay. Tom Hunt, preservation officer, was one of them. He was kind enough to find me the three sailors' graves of the first embassy in the suburbs of San Francisco. I got his book: *Ghost Trails to California*. The book, quoting from many emigrants' diaries, is very interesting and instructive.

I discovered for the first time there are many trails to California. Though they had difficulties and hardships, they cleared, reclaimed, watered the land and built Golden California. My dream is to trace the dream trails. California forever! Oregon-California trails forever!

Cordially,
Yuji Aisaka

Something on your mind?

Let us know what you're thinking.

Write us a letter.

MOJAVE ROAD RENDEZVOUS

by Pat Loomis

OCTA's "Rendezvous" are extended outings intended to appeal to OCTA's membership as a whole, and to provide opportunities for members to explore sections of trails too remote from centers of population to be included during conventions, and to cover sections of trails that cannot reasonably be covered by chapter outings. A Rendezvous can be called by any member with the determination to organize and lead it (or obtain another qualified leader).

The first Rendezvous, described here, was called and led by Don Buck, April 4-9, 1988.

It was a memorable five days of sand and sky, sun and wind, carpets of pink verbena, yellow dandelions

and floppy white poppies, of velvet chollo and miles of creosote bushes, yucca and angular Joshua Trees.

From the west bank of the Colorado River opposite old Fort Mojave, 22 OCTA members in eleven 4-wheel drive vehicles began the early April trek across 130-miles of the East Mojave Desert.

Led by Don Buck and following maps and a guide book provided by Dennis Casebier and Friends of the Mojave Road, the caravan moved west over the old trail once known to Indians, to Francisco Carces in 1776, to trapper/explorer Jedediah Smith in 1826-27, and to later freighters, ranchers, and miners.

The first night was spent on a windy slope below Piute Spring and the remains of an army post of 1859-67. The stone outline of buildings and the remains of the wagon road used by freighters hugged the canyon above the OCTA camp. Just below on the ridge are hundreds of boulders adorned with Indian petroglyphs.

The next day the caravan raised dust through Lanfair Valley's Joshua Tree forest, stopping so everyone could put a penny in the soft-drink can hanging from one of the spiny giants, a tradition for modern Mojave Road travelers. Part of the route was in the bottom of a narrow deep ditch, and it was one vehicle at a time down an almost perpendicular hill.

The group nooned in Rock Spring Canyon and hiked to the spring seeping through rocks as it has since the earliest Indians stopped to refresh themselves enroute to the Pacific to trade for seashells.

The next water was at Government Wells, where a windmill fills a huge tank under a giant cottonwood tree, and there are cattle corrals.

This night we camped amid Pinon pines and junipers high up at Mid Hills campground, where the BLM has installed tables, toilets, and cook stoves. The group got together for an enjoyable "happy hour" and later a campfire. Only a few tents were put up, most everyone preferring to sleep under the stars that seemed barely above the trees.

The third day's trek took us down into Cedar Wash and up over the old wagon road for a magnificent view of the East Mojave and Kelso Sand Dunes. The old road was visible winding through the Joshua Trees toward the Beale Mountains.

A stop was made at Marl Springs with its cattle corral below the old Army post of 1867-68. From here the route dipped into the wilderness area past cinder cones, with a stop to sign the trail register on the longest waterless stretch of the Road. Here, too, we got our first view of Soda



Photo by Barbara Dorr

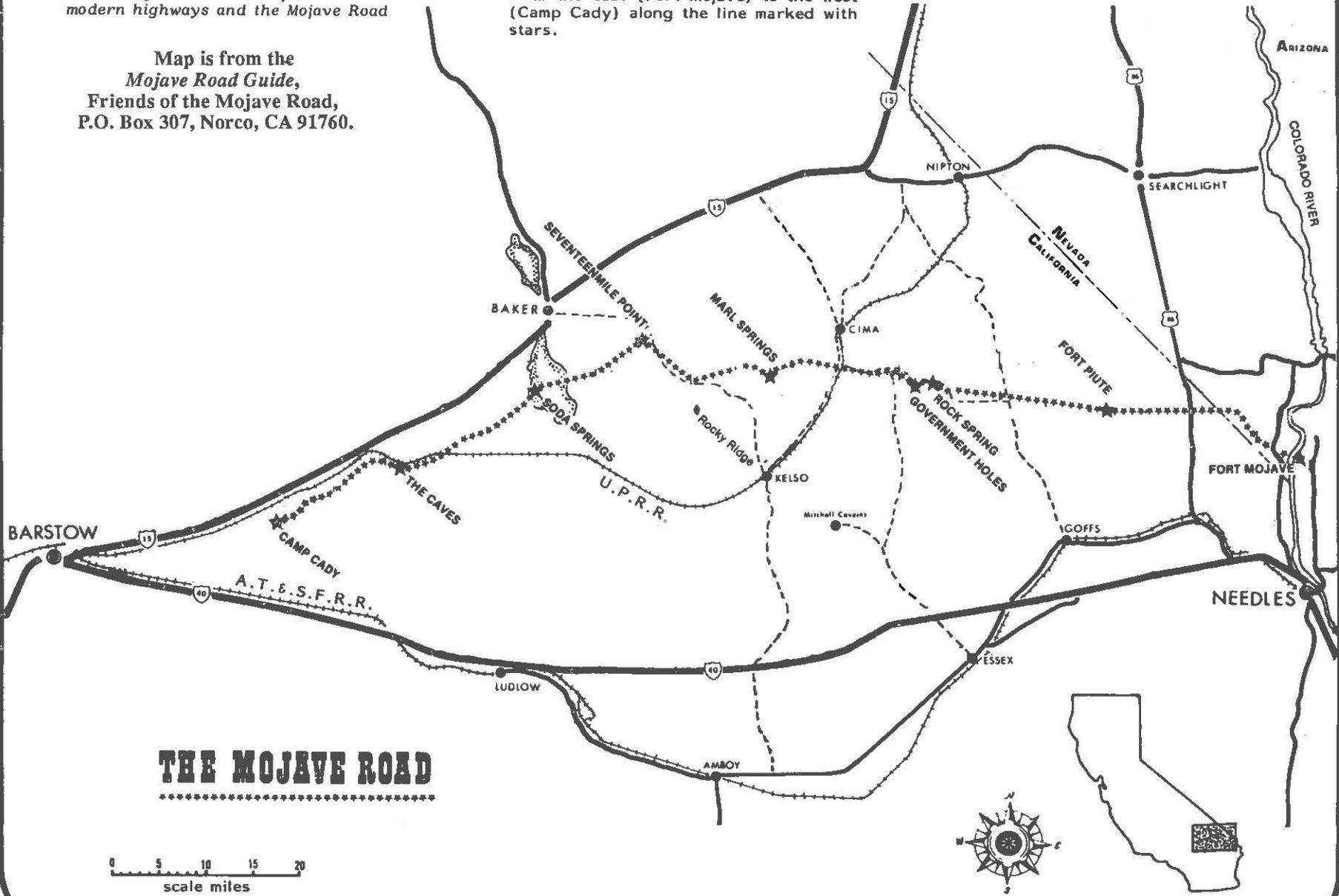
*Buzz Eckenburg, who passed away shortly after the trip, points to an Indian petroglyph near Piute Spring.
We miss you Buzz!*

Continued on page 8.

MAP OF THE EASTERN MOJAVE DESERT
 showing the relationship between
 modern highways and the Mojave Road

Map is from the
Mojave Road Guide,
 Friends of the Mojave Road,
 P.O. Box 307, Norco, CA 91760.

The Mojave Road Recreational Trail runs
 from the east (Fort Mojave) to the west
 (Camp Cady) along the line marked with stars.



THE MOJAVE ROAD

0 5 10 15 20
 scale miles

Rendezvous (Continued)

Lake, and from up on Rocky Ridge our eyes could easily follow an early wagon road that made its first steep descent down Jackass Canyon.

A stop was made in Willow Wash to look at the nooks and crannies in the lava cliff, home to gecko and chuck-walla lizards, soaring red-tailed hawks, bats and (although we didn't see many) rattlesnakes. Near here, two cars made a foray 15 miles into Baker for such necessities as beer and ice.

Continuing, the caravan crossed Soda Lake, stopping so all could deposit a rock on the growing pile at Government Monument.

Camp was made at the Granites, a picturesque outcropping of rock, made spectacular by a cloud-enhanced sunset.

Crossing the flood plain of the Mojave River the next day, the caravan abandoned the road marked by guide poles to enjoy the fun of sloshing and sliding in the deep sand. This became more of an adventure when Buzz Eckenburg (pulling a two-motorcycle trailer) got stuck and had to be pulled out by Andy Hammond's heavy vehicle.

During this journado we passed miles of wild flowers and nooned under the Union Pacific trestle at the entrance to Afton canyon, beside the tiny Mojave River (two feet across and two inches deep).

Driving on through Afton Canyon, we stopped at the only well of potable water on the desert route, everybody taking a hand at pumping to fill water jugs. Next came the marshes with their deep holes of black ooze. Cameras came out and each driver was cheered as he plowed through the muck, the cars climbing up out of the holes festooned with streamers of decayed vegetation and black mud.

A few miles past the marshes, we hiked, vertically, to the mesa to view the prehistoric Indian site known as the Triangles.

Our Mojave Road route ended at Manix Wash and we climbed out onto Interstate I-15, where most of the group elected to spend one more night on the desert, and followed

Don Buck north to Spanish Canyon on the Old Salt Lake Trail. Enroute we detoured around a desert tortoise and two of the group swore they narrowly missed running over two "mating" rattlesnakes.

Night brought a howling wind and blowing sand, and adventure for Mary Mueller who crawled out of her sleeping bag to turn it around so the sand wouldn't blow in on her head, ending up chasing the air mattress down the canyon.

After a morning climb up to the pass where ruts of the old wagon road are still visible, the caravan headed for Barstow and civilization.

Those who shared this memorable adventure were Susan Badger-Doyle, Carl Sloan, Jack Root, Andy and Joanne Hammond, Buzz Eckenburg, Chuck Dodd, Barbara Dorr, Charlie Harrison, Joanne Johnson, Baldwin and Ormie Lamson, Jim McClain, Doyle Reed, George and Evelyn White, George and Beverly Hesse, Ester Crosby, Mary Mueller, Don Buck, and Pat Loomis.

More pictures on page 18.

Who is calling a Rendezvous for 1989?

President's Desk (Continued)

covered she had a few things on her list to discuss with me. The meeting lasted for 2½ hours and as I was leaving, I wondered why it had taken me so long to make the appointment. We didn't settle any earth shaking problems or reach any momentous decisions but we did have some rather clear candid conversation which will help establish a better understanding between both organizations. I look forward to future conversations with her relating to mutual concerns and interests.

It's obvious we don't win them all. Congress ended this last session without passing the California Trail/Pony Express Trail legislation. The dockets in both the House and Senate became so jammed with what was determined critical legislation the trail bill just became lost in the shuffle. It's not totally back to the drawing boards. Our legislative committee co-chairmen Bill and Jeanne Watson are already making plans and preparations for the next session of Congress. We are fortunate to have members as qualified as they are co-chairing this committee and under their guidance and with your support I'm certainly optimistic this legislation will pass during the next session of Congress.

On another note of interest, the Board of Directors has approved the establishment of a photography committee and has also approved Carl and Lida Sloan to co-chair that committee. I'm sure the Sloans would be interested in hearing from anyone

who has anything they would like to contribute to the committee. Photographs, slides, expertise, time, whatever, drop them a line. They are listed of course in the new membership roster.

During a recent conversation with Lois Daniel, our Overland Journal editor, she assures me the next issue of the Overland Journal would be in our National Headquarters office for mailing around the middle of December and that the following issue should be in the office around the middle of January. We have been a little slower in getting these production wheels in motion than we had hoped but everything is beginning to come together and we are quite optimistic that we will soon be back on schedule. Lois informs me she would appreciate a larger pool of articles to draw from than she currently has. If you have an article or articles you would like to have considered for publication, please forward them to Lois Daniel. Also, if you have been putting off writing an article for one reason or another, some of these longer fall and winter evenings may be just the ticket for completing such a project. Let's share some of your research with the rest of the members.

Trudy and I are already looking forward to next year's convention in Boise, the plans sound great, so if we don't see you somewhere on the trail, we will look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely, Richard W. Ackerman

Land For Sale Near Independence Rock

The Wyoming Centennial Commission is selling square-foot parcels of a "Centennial Acre" in the area around Independence Rock. So now you have the opportunity of owning Wyoming real estate (and getting a ceremonial deed) for just \$10. If you're interested, contact the Commission at 122 W. 25th St., 1st Floor East, Cheyene, WY 82002.

OCTAns Appointed

Polly Fowler and Jane Mallison have recently been notified that they have been appointed by Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel to serve for two years on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Advisory Council. Polly was nominated by the Friends of the Three Trails Organization in Independence, and was supported by OCTA's Dick Ackerman, Independence Mayor Potts, and National Park Service's Normal Riegel. Jane was appointed by the National DAR.

Mattes Draws Big

Merrill Mattes gave a lecture sponsored by the Colorado Historical Society, on The South Platte Trail, on October 26, and drew more than 300, the largest crowd in the history of the lecture series, which are presented annually by the Society. Merrill reports that he picked up several members for OCTA.

OCTA Banner Presented

Kathy Roubal, with the able assistance of her generous mother, has tailored an OCTA wall banner that can be displayed at next convention's Awards Banquet. President Ackerman, upon receiving the banner, commented "It's membership dedication like yours that gives OCTA the strength it has and the inspiration to continue." Thanks, Kathy. We'll look forward to seeing the banner in Boise.

A MEMORIAL

We Lose Helen Henderson

A funeral for Helen Henderson, 90, of Bridgeport, Nebraska, was held October 20 at Bridgeport Presbyterian Church. Helen, who died October 17 in Scottsbluff, was buried alongside her husband, Paul C. Henderson, famous Oregon Trail historian, in the Oregon Trail Cemetery. Memorials have been established for OCTA as well as for the church.

Helen was married in 1923 to Paul Henderson, to whom a special trailside memorial at the cemetery foreground, was dedicated by OCTA during the 1985 convention at Scottsbluff. Helen's name also appears on Paul's memorial inscription, as his helpmate on his pioneering research work. Helen was OCTA's first honorary member.

Helen is survived in the immediate family only by Marge Waitman of Longmont, Colorado (a member of OCTA), five children, and twelve great-great-grandchildren. Her other daughter, Pauline Boyer, who helped OCTA plan for the Paul Henderson Memorial, died in 1987.

OREGON RANCHER RESPONDS TO AWARD

by Shirlee Evans

Clint Krebs, resident manager for the Krebs Ranches of Cecil, Oregon, made a powerful statement summing up his feelings about the trail that crosses their land. This was at the time the ranch, owned by the Krebs families, was placed in nomination for OCTA's Rancher of the Year for Oregon, awarded them at the St. Joseph convention.

When asked how the traces left on their land had been missed by the plow, Clint stated, "By luck, or by love of this desolate land, or by some hidden voice whispered by some unknown passer-by of years gone by, the Krebs families, spanning seventy years, have not destroyed part of American history that can never be duplicated by mankind today."

As a youngster, Clint grew up riding and playing in the trail traces, unaware at that time of their significance. His love for the golden

rolling hills of sage bordering the Columbia River (extending south toward Heppner between The Dalles and Pendleton) is evident. On their 5,600 acres the Krebs families concentrate on raising sheep, cattle, wheat, and alfalfa.

Clint and his wife Maureen are now members of OCTA, raising their three youngsters to appreciate the land and the history that crosses it. Long may their "tribe" continue!

We're interested!

Write an article for us, telling of your experiences on the trail.

Action On Oregon Trail National Monument Near Baker, Oregon

Bob Rennells reports that the BLM has received federal funds of \$1.3 million, and has begun planning the Oregon Trail Center at Flagstaff Hill near Baker, Oregon. Oregon Governor Neil Goldschmidt also announced his state's approval of \$730,000 for construction and marketing support there. \$80,000 of the approved funds will be available immediately; the remainder, the Governor indicated, was contingent upon support from the federal government. An additional \$390,000 will be available from local and private sources, the Governor said.

The monument, which will be built on Flagstaff Hill around 15 miles of wagon ruts preserved in the grazing land outside Baker, will include a 23,000 foot interpretive center.

OCTA has supported the Flagstaff Hill proposal from its inception, and considers it to be another important addition to our growing number of federally-designated overland emigrant trail units.

Trail Project Gets Wyoming Support

From the Rock Springs, Wyoming *Daily Rocket-Miner*, Oct. 26, 1988

The Wyoming Centennial Committee recently approved the BLM Rock Springs District's grant application for funding the district's Oregon-Mormon Trail marking project.

The project was ranked first among 18 considered for funding.

The Rock Springs District plans to install interpretive signs and trail markers on approximately 300 miles of trail and cutoffs in southwestern Wyoming.

Plans also include research, stabilization, protective fencing, picnic tables and a parking area on selected sites along the trail. After the work is completed, a self-guided auto-tour cassette with map-trail guide and a video tape will be developed. Assistant District Manager Don Seibert said, "We're thrilled with the announcement. It's not every day that a federal agency receives assistance from the state level."

Last July, the Rock Springs District "kicked off" the Oregon-Mormon Trail Gift Catalog project with the South Pass Interpretive Sign dedica-

tion. Seibert added, "Local people and organizations have been extremely generous, donating their time and money. We've had donations and pledges from Chevron, John and Leonard Hay, the Oregon-California Trails Association, the Farson 4-H Club, Nancy Peternal, the Wool Warehouse, Mormon Church, Susan McKinney and Karen Raecht".

City Of Rocks Success!

Idaho Chapter President Larry Jones informs us that legislation has passed Congress establishing a 14,320 acre National Reserve at City of Rocks, Idaho.

President Regan is expected to sign the bill.

This legislation has been one of the top priorities of OCTA, and all who have been involved in this successful effort are to be heartily congratulated.

City of Rocks will be in a pre-convention tour prior to next year's National Convention in Boise.

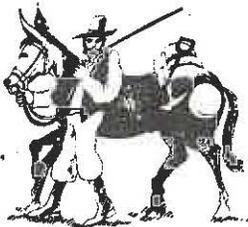
Parran Flat Update

National Preservation Officer Tom Hunt reports that he has received word from the Office of the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C., that OCTA's appeal on Parran Flat has been upheld and that this historic section of trail has been ruled eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

This shows that the system does, indeed, work. Many thanks to all of those within OCTA who responded to the preservation alert and wrote letters of support for the appeal.

While this ruling does not guarantee the protection of this area, it is a significant achievement for historic trails preservation. OCTA will now work with the BLM to have Parran Flat protected and to get Parran Flat and other sections of trail across the Carson River Forty-Mile Desert Route formally nominated to the National Register.

A FIVE-STAR OVERLAND NARRATIVE



THE LONG ROAD TO CALIFORNIA

The Journal of Cephas Arms Supplemented with Letters by Traveling Companions on the Overland Trail in 1849

Plagued by a series of stampedes and the loss of cattle, the Knox County Company of Illinois arrived at Salt Lake late in the season. Rather than hazard crossing the mountains at this time, they elected to join the Jefferson Hunt train bound for California by the southern route. This trail, instead of affording them a swift and a safe journey, as promised, presented great hardships and much suffering.

The book, printed in an edition of 487 copies, cloth-bound, is available at \$15.00 per copy, plus \$1.50 for mailing, from

THE PRIVATE PRESS OF JOHN CUMMING
465 HIAWATHA DRIVE MOUNT PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858

Octa Signs Mark Graves And Mckinstry Ridge

Achievements of OCTA's Preservation Efforts

Lee Underbrink has passed on the text of three signs installed by OCTA's Graves and Sites Committee this past summer. The signs mark the Alvah H. Unthank grave near Glenrock, Wyoming, the Bennett Tribbett grave near Three Crossings, Jeffery City, Wyoming, and on McKinstry Ridge north of Douglas, Wyoming. The Unthank sign is on public land although the grave it marks is on private land and not accessible to the public. The Tribbett sign and grave are on private land as is the McKinstry Ridge sign.

The text of the signs is as follows:

Alvah H. Unthank

Nineteen-year-old Alvah Unthank was one of a group of young men who left Newport, Wayne County, Indiana, for the goldfields of California in 1850. On June 23 the wagon train passed Register Cliff, south of Guernsey. There Alvah inscribed his name: A. H. UNTHANK 1850.

In the early evening hours of June 28 the party made camp here by the North Platte River on account of the sudden sickness of Alvah. On June 29 a family friend, Pusey Graves, wrote: "Lay by today to doctor and nurse Alvah. June 30 Alvah is getting worse it's quite hopeless complaining none. July 1 Alvah is rapidly sinking. July 2 In the early morning hours Alvah died." Cholera had taken its toll.

Graves wrote: "Alvah lay calm bore his suffering patiently and uttered not a murmur or groan. Bid his father to be of good cheer. His child has paid the great debt of nature. Procured a large neat headstone. Solomon Woody carved the inscription." At noon Tuesday, July 2, 1850, the solemn task of burial took place.

Bennett Tribbett

Private Bennett Tribbett was a nineteen-year-old soldier stationed here at Three Crossings Station. He was a member of Company B of the First Battalion, Sixth Ohio Volunteer Calvary. On December 14, 1862,

Tribbett died of an appendicitis. His burial was described by Pvt. Anthony Barleon in a letter written to Bennett's sister, Arviley, at home in Athens County, Ohio.

"We made a coffin of such lumber that we had which of course were rough boards but we planed them off as smooth as we could. We dressed him up in his best clothes which were new and clean, laid a blanket around him, and we tucked a blanket around the coffin which made it look a little better . . . When the time arrived for his burial he was bore off by the arms of 6 of his former associates accompanied by an escort of six men who performed the usual military escort and ceremony. When we arrived at the grave we put the coffin in and the escort fired three rounds over his grave. So he was buried with all the military honors of a soldier."

In July, 1863, four newly recruited companies were consolidated with the old battalion to form a new regiment, designated the Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, which continued to serve on the frontier until the last companies were mustered out on July 14, 1866. By Civil War standards casualties in this regiment were light. Three officers and fifteen men died as a result of actions against the Indians; one officer and fifty-eight men, like Bennett Tribbett, died of natural causes.

McKinstry Ridge

On June 26, 1850, portions of two emigrant companies, the Upper Mississippi Ox Company and the Wisconsin Blues, passed this way enroute to the gold fields of California. They are believed to be the first wagon trains to follow a route beyond Fort Laramie that remained north of the N. Platte River. This trail segment, ending at the ferries of the Platte at present-day Glenrock and Casper, is known as Child's Cutoff, named for Andrew Childs of Waukeshaw, Wisconsin, whose

emigrant guidebook was published in 1852.

School teacher Byron N. McKinstry of McHenry County, Illinois, was, like Andrew Childs, a member of the Upper Mississippi Ox Company. His diary entry for June 26 describes this stretch of trail:

"After following the river for 5 or 6 m. we crossed some very rough ground. Following a kind of divide first rising in a Northerly direction to the summit, then turning S.W. and descending to the Platte the crookedest road possible. These hills are bare and have a wild savage appearance, but little vegetation on them. Camped on the Platte. Poor grass. 20 m."

McKinstry's diary, published in 1975 by his grandson, Bruce L. McKinstry, has become a classic trail account. This stretch of Child's Cutoff, described so vividly by Byron, is named McKinstry Ridge in his honor and also for grandson Bruce, who, by tracing his grandfather's journey across the country, has made an invaluable contribution to trail scholarship.

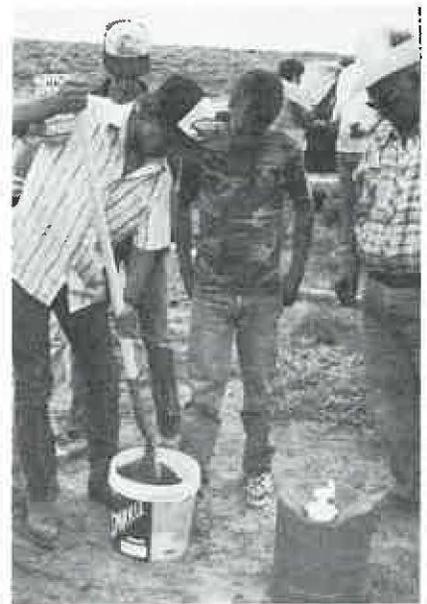


Photo by Karen Buck

Wyoming Boy Scout Troop #600 assisted in improvements at Nancy Hill's grave on the Sublette Cutoff

California Trail and Pony Express Trail Legislation Update

by Bill and Jeanne Watson,
Legislative Action Committee

With the Reagan Administration and the 100th Congress ending in a few short weeks the questions are:

Where does the Trails Legislation stand?

Where do we go from here?

Will Secretary Hodel remain as Secretary of Interior?

If you are a pessimist, we didn't make it this season. Of course, pessimists seldom do. Only about 10% of the bills introduced during this session were passed by Congress.

All of us have learned a lot about the legislative process including the actions and inactions of the Administration and Congress. OCTA's and the National Pony Express Association's letter writing campaigns received a lot of attention in the House and Senate. The full effect of those letters should pay off for our Trails legislation during the next Congress.

Unfortunately, Secretary of Interior Donald Hodel has not signed the California Trail and Pony Express recommendation for National Historic Trails designation. Because of concerns about the draft enabling legislation which is part of the package, he referred the matter to their Solicitor for comment. The Department of Interior staff insist that these concerns are internal matters and not subject to public discussion until resolved and the Recommendation released. Based on several informal inquiries, we gather the basic issue is condemnation.

During the National Park Service conference on National Historic and National Scenic Trails last September, the National Park Service tried to wrap up all of us in one group with a single lobbying voice supplied by the American Hiking Society. The National Historic Trails representatives unanimously declined that proposal and agreed that each National Historic Trail Association (NPEA) wanted to keep any lobbying activities under the control of our individual Boards of Directors.

Although the Appalachian Trail has been hikeable over its entire length for more than 50 years, their Trail Conference Association is currently lobbying for condemnation of a 5,000 foot (nearly one mile) wide corridor to protect their "trail viewscape." The loud screams from private land owners are reverberating through Washington.

During a session for representatives from all of the National Historic Trails Association, we found that our needs are quite different from those of the Scenic Trails groups. The other Historic Trail Associations do not have or expect to have total public access to all private land along their trail. The NPEA for example, has agreements with individual private land owners and with public land administrators who allow the NPEA to ride almost the entire length of their historic trail once a year. Much of the private land along their route is closed the rest of the year. We learned that, to date, federal monies have neither been authorized nor spent for private land condemnation along the National Historic Trails.

Meanwhile, Congressman Norman Shumway of California was quite successful in his reelection campaign. He remains in Washington. He had trouble rallying the support of his colleagues in support of old HR5082 because they had not received the Secretary of Interior's written recommendation and draft legislation. However, Congressman Shumway plans to introduce legislation in the new Congress after the Interior Department releases its report.

Senator Chic Hecht, who introduced S2400, supporting only the Pony Express Trail for National Historic Trail designation, was not reelected. We are beginning to line up other Trails bill sponsors in the new Senate.

We don't believe that an Oregonian (Secretary Hodel) and two Californians (President Reagan and National Park Service Director Mott) will

leave the National Historic Trail designation and protection for the Pony Express Trail and California Trail (including some 300 miles of the Applegate branch in Oregon) to a future administration. We and the Interior Department Congressional Liaison staff are working to get our trails recommendation signed and enabling legislation approved by Secretary Hodel before January 1989. However, it probably will contain an anti-condemnation clause before it is signed out.

We are continuing to work hard to carry out the mission defined for the Legislative Committee during the Spring 1988 Board meeting: that OCTA's primary legislative goal is to obtain passage through Congress of bills to designate the California Trail and the Pony Express Trail as National Historic Trails. We appreciate all of your past efforts and look forward to your continuing support as we move forward toward OCTA's goal.

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Chuck Dodd, Editor
Don Buck, Proofreader

OCTA'S PRESERVATION PROJECTS AND FUNDS

by Tom Hunt National Preservation Officer

OCTA is an active organization. OCTAns work to preserve the trails, the graves, the landmarks, and the memories of the emigrants. The following describes our preservation projects and the funds that support them.

National Preservation Officer and Historical Preservation Fund

Our Preservation Officer coordinates the Association's special preservation projects and represents the Association to government agencies, private businesses, and individuals who own, manage, or use property on the trails.

We are preservations, but we work with landowners and private interests to find solutions to potential problems. We believe the best preservation is non-confrontational and that there are broad avenues we can take to reach our objectives while preserving the rights of others. So we seek solutions to preservation problems that serve our goals while they also satisfy the needs of others.

The Historical Preservation Fund is a non-specific fund established for general support of OCTA's preservation activities. Donations to this Fund will be distributed to other preservation funds as needs arise, or to new preservation activities as they are developed.

Graves & Sites

The objective of the Graves & Sites project is to research and authenticate graves and other historic sites related to the overland emigrant trails; recommend an appropriate course of action for the preservation of these sites; and, when necessary and suitable, undertake informational, educational, marking, and preservation action to ensure the protection, appreciation, and understanding of these important parts of our nation's westering heritage. Donations to the Graves & Sites Fund will be used to buy materials for fencing and signing emigrant graves and sites.

Trail Mapping

The objective of the Mapping project is to survey and map the historic overland trails and to make maps and survey materials available to OCTA members, the American public, landowners, and various government agencies, to promote the understanding and appreciation of historic trails and also to help preserve the physical remains of the great overland emigration. Donations to the Mapping Fund will be used to buy maps and other materials used in the mapping activity.

Trail Marking

The objective of the Trail Marking project is to accurately mark the historic overland trails with route signs (markers) and with informational and interpretive (podium type) signs with printed text. Donations to the Trail Marking Fund will be used to purchase markers and signs for the trails.

Archaeology

The objectives of the Archaeology committee are to advise the Association on archaeological matters and to serve as a liaison between the Association and the archaeological community; to serve as an educational and informational filter to OCTA members; to assist federal and state land managers and private land owners who find traces of the trails, emigrant graves, and sites on their property; and to support and/or conduct in-depth archaeological analyses of important sites in cooperation with landowners. OCTA has already funded an archaeological survey of the historic Johnson Rancho at the terminus of the Donner-Truckee route into California, and archaeological work is currently projected for the Bloody Point mass grave site at Tule Lake in California, on the Applegate Trail. Donations to the Archaeology Fund will be used to pay the expenses of OCTA's archaeological activities.

COED

The objective of the COED (Census of Overland Emigrant Documents) project is to survey and store in a computer database the essential information from all known emigrant documents for use by researchers, genealogists, and trail buffs. For COED, the "essential information" consists of basic bibliographical data for the documents; trail geographical data (departure and arrival points, routes taken, etc.); vital statistics on the emigrants (names; marriages, births, deaths, and graves on the trail; origins); and Indian encounters. Types of documents surveyed will include published and unpublished diaries, journals, logs, guides, reminiscences, recollections, autobiographies, letters, and newspaper accounts. Donations to the COED Fund will be used to purchase computer and survey supplies, to cover costs of printing the instructions and forms used, and to cover general operating costs for the project.

Black Rock/High Rock Memorial

The path through the Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon portions of the Applegate-Lassen Trail in northwestern Nevada remains one of the longest undisturbed sections of America's emigrant trails and is one of the most spectacularly beautiful areas. OCTA is working to have these portions of the trail established as an Emigrant Trail National Historical Monument. Donations to the Black Rock/High Rock Fund will be used to help defray the cost of that work.

Members who wish to participate in OCTA's preservation activities should contact Tom Hunt. Members who want to support OCTA's preservation activities financially should send checks to OCTA Headquarters, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO, 64051-0519; checks should be payable to OCTA and should be noted "For Historical Preservation Fund" or for one of the specific preservation funds.

OCTA'S GENERAL COMMITTEES

by Don Buck, Former Secretary, Director

Nominating & Leadership Committee

Nominates members for election to the Board of Directors; identifies members with potential for leadership roles in the Association; recommends members for election as the Association's officers and for appointment as chairs and members of the various committees.

Finance Committee

Compiles budget requests and submits a budget for the Association to the Board of Directors for approval. Recommends changes to the Association's financial system as required.

Fund Raising Committee

Coordinates fund raising activities of the Association.

Legislative Action Committee

Organizes and coordinates OCTA's activities relating to legislation impacting the trails. Current goal is to obtain Congressional enactment of legislation designating the California Trail a National Historical Trail. (The Committee is working closely with the National Pony Express Association; the bills in Congress will also designate the Pony Express Trail as a National Historical Trail.)

Membership Committee

Coordinates efforts to obtain new members, to retain current members of the Association, and to provide appropriate membership services.

Public Relations Committee

Provides the public, through the media, with information about OCTA's goals and activities, the emigrant trails and the emigration, and the need for preserving emigrant trails, graves, and sites.

Rancher Committee

Acquaints ranchers and landowners of OCTA's goals and trail preservation activities; educates ranchers and landowners of the historic trails, graves, and sites they own, and asks

them to preserve those trails, graves, and sites; works with ranchers and landowners who have difficulties with individuals and industries that might threaten the destruction of the trail, graves, and sites on their property; works with ranchers and landowners who object to visitors on their property, to obtain better access to trails, graves, and sites; honors ranchers and landowners who have preserved trails, graves, and sites with annual Rancher of the Year awards.

OCTA History and Archives Committee

Organizes and preserves the records of the Association, and interprets those records for the membership and for posterity.

Chapters Committee

Serves as a liaison between the various chapters of the Association and the Association's Board of Directors; serves as advisors to officers in the chapters; encourages meaningful activities within the chapters; assists the chapters in the pursuit of OCTA's goals.

Awards Committee

Selects recipients and presents OCTA's awards for Meritorious Achievement and Certificates of Appreciation in support of trail preservation.

Long Range Planning Committee

Recommends to the Board of Directors long range goals and activities for the Association.

Conventions Committee

Provides guidelines for organization and conduct of the Association's national conventions; serves as liaison between the Board of Directors and convention chairs; serves as advisors to convention chairs.

Headquarters Committee

Acts as liaison between the City of Independence and the Association (the City of Independence is supply-

ing OCTA with space and support for its national headquarters); coordinates the operation of the national headquarters; plans and coordinates the national headquarter's move from its temporary location in the Independence City Hall to the City of Independence's National Trails Center.

Publications Committee

Recommends to the Board of Directors policies relating to OCTA's publications; establishes levels of quality for the publications; monitors the quality of the publications; serves as liaison between the Board and the editors of the publications.

Education Committee

Assess the curricula and educational material presently used in our schools to teach students about the westward overland emigration. Determines needs for different levels of education (elementary, secondary, and adult). Identifies educational resources currently available; prepares appropriate reading book lists for different ages and groups; develops supplemental curriculum materials and (possibly) specific educational units on the overland emigration; identifies speakers and resource people for the different areas of the country; provides appropriate slide and/or taped video materials on the westward emigration.

Photography Committee

Provides official photographers for OCTA events. Develops and maintains photo inventory of trails for use in association publications, trail promotion, and public relations. Develops photographic exhibits for new trail museum in Independence. Develops series of trail slide shows for various educational purposes.

Members who wish to participate in OCTA's committees should contact Bill Watson, Chairman, Nominating & Leadership Committee, or the appropriate committee chairperson.

OCTA'S ORGANIZATION '89

At the St. Joseph annual meeting, OCTA's Board of Directors put the finishing touches on the definition of the Association's structure, which was initially approved at their mid-year meeting in Independence, in March.

The organization chart provided in this issue of *News From the Plains* shows the working relationships between the Board of Directors, the Officers, and the various committees of the Association, and thus illustrates the structure of the Association as

approved by the Directors. As can be seen, the structure is based on the management principles of delegation and decentralization of authority, and participatory decision making.

Of great importance to the future of the Association, the Directors expanded the responsibilities of the old Nominating Committee, appropriately changing the name of the committee to the Nominating and Leadership Committee. The expanded role of this Committee now includes responsibility for identifying mem-

bers of the Association who have potential for leadership, and developing a pool of talent from which the future Directors, Officers, committee chairs, and committee members can be drawn. Chaired by our new Vice President/President Elect, Bill Watson, this committee will search to identify the leadership talent we know exists in the Association, working through our chapters and committees, and with individual members.

See organization chart on page 19.

OCTA's COMMITTEES

Archaeology

Hal and Sharon Manhart
Spring Creek Mesa
16500 6300 Rd.
Montrose CO 81401
(303) 249-2010

Awards

George Watkins
1531 Lydon Ct.
Clarkston WA 99403
(509) 758-3630

Chapters

Mary Mueller
1112 Silver Oak Ct.
San Jose CA 95120
(408) 268-7389

COED

Lynne Sinclair
460 Laurel St.
Menlo Park CA 94025
(415) 322-0242

Conventions

(chair not occupied)

Education

Bill Hill
91 Wood Rd.
Centereach NY 11720
(516) 585-2592

Finance

Don Buck
1158 Ribier Ct.
Sunnyvale CA 94087
(408) 739-5821

Fund Raising

(chair not occupied)

Graves & Sites

Reg Duffin
822 Beach Ave.
La Grange Park IL 60525
(312) 352-6918

Headquarters

Ross Marshall
6624 Craig Rd.
Merriam KS 66202
(913) 262-6445

Legislative Action

Bill and Jeanne Watson
3 Drumm Hil Dr.
Summit NJ 07901
(201) 273-7817

Long Range Planning

(chair not occupied)

Membership

Mary Mueller
1112 Silver Oak Ct.
San Jose CA 95120
(408) 268-7389

Nominating & Leadership

Bill Watson
3 Drumm Hil Dr.
Summit NJ 07901
(201) 273-7817

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Overland Park KS 66204
(913) 722-1604

Ranchers

Karen Buck
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(307) 386-2321

Trail Mapping

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Palo Alto CA 94306
(415) 941-0815

Trail Marking

Tom Hunt (Acting)
950 Old Trace Road
Palo Alto CA 94306
(415) 941-0815

BUDGET '89

by Don Buck,
Chairman, Finance Committee; Director

It takes a lot of money to keep OCTA running, and will take even more as the Association's preservation projects come up to speed. All this makes producing a balanced budget a tough job.

OCTA's 1989 budget, presented in this issue of *News From the Plains*, is the most comprehensive and detailed OCTA has ever had. This budget, with the computerized accounting system that will be put in place at the end of this fiscal year, are central to the Association's control of its finances. In addition to approving a balanced budget, other actions the Directors took at its Annual Meeting in St. Joseph will assure OCTA's members and those who donate to the general fund or to special funds that all income received by the Association will be spent in ways that most effectively brings OCTA closer to achieving its goals.

The Board of Directors discussed allocation of the Association's revenues so the money received from

the membership dues would be used to cover the Association's general expenses (including its publications) and the net revenues received from the annual convention would go exclusively to preservation projects. The Directors decided that it would not be prudent to make a firm commitment to that allocation at this time, because of a lack of certainty about some expenses remaining for this fiscal year and some contingency expenses it deemed critical. So the division remains as a goal for the future.

A related difficulty faced when it comes to planning the use of the net revenues received from the convention is that the Directors do not know the amount of that revenue at the time they have to approve the budget. Other revenues, particularly from membership dues, are fairly easy to predict, but the revenue from the convention varies widely and currently is not known for certain until a month or two after the con-

vention. The Directors took a great step toward overcoming this difficulty by declaring that the revenue from the 1988 convention in St. Joseph would be reserved for use in 1989. (In past years, some of the revenue from the convention has been used to cover current year's expenses.) By postponing the use of convention revenues and by possibly, in the future, earmarking those revenues for preservation projects, the Directors are placing the Association's finances on a much sounder basis.

As expected, the Directors had to cut proposed expenses to balance the budget. All cuts were painful, but the most painful cuts were from the preservation projects. \$1000 was cut from the Graves & Sites project; \$500 was cut from the trail mapping project; \$995 was cut from the trail marking project; \$500 was cut from archaeology; and \$85 was cut from COED. Donations to the special funds supporting those projects will be used to restore those cuts.

Another Look at Graves

by Hal Manhart, Co-Chair, Archaeology Committee

My great-great-grandfather, George W. Bower, came to the California gold fields in 1849 from Marion County, Ohio. His only surviving letter, written on Christmas day, 1851, informed his wife that he had accumulated several thousand dollars and owned a mercantile store in San Francisco. He told the family that he was leaving in the spring of 1852 to come home. He never was heard from again, and his wife was told by a returning friend that he died and was buried in an unmarked grave.

I have begun a search and have been able to locate him in the Marysville, California area in the 1850 census. I hope that future research fills in some of the gaps during his time in California.

So, you may ask, what does this have to do with graves? As long as

my great-great-grandfather lies in an unmarked grave, there is a chance that it may be discovered and even a rarer chance that he may be identified. Archaeological specialists in buttons, fibers, leathers, metals and forensic pathologists can do amazing things with carefully excavated graves leading to identification of the remains. In the *Smithsonian Magazine* (June 1988), an excellent article titled "Around the Mall and Beyond" gave an excellent example of research on human remains. An unmarked grave in a family plot had piqued the curiosity of present family members. Because they wished to identify the individual and mark the grave, they asked that a team of archaeologists carry out the research. The information gained has produced a nearly positive identification of the

individual, who died, it turns out, in the antebellum period.

Ethical standards of handling remains can and must be maintained, and with careful excavation of graves that must be moved because of natural or man-made threats to the site, a chance exists of finding George W. Bower, or someone else's great-great-grandparent.

Can't find a report from your chapter? Ask your chapter president why.

Want news of other OCTA things? Let the editor know.

OCTA BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1989

General Expenses:

Board of Directors and Officers	\$5,475
Headquarters Expenses	17,350

Subtotal:	\$22,825
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General Committee Expenses:

Legislative Action Committee	\$1,000
Nominating and Leadership Committee	525
Awards Committee	400
Rancher Committee	100
History and Archives Committee	25
Public Relations Committee	500
Membership Committee	300
Finance Committee	75
Headquarters Committee	0
Chapters Committee	0
Conventions Committee	0
Long Range Planning Committee	0
Fund Raising Committee	0
Publications Committee	50

Subtotal:	\$2,975
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Publications Expenses:	\$25,450
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Education and Preservation Project Expenses:

Education	\$400
Archaeology	400
COED	950
Graves & Sites	1,700
Mapping	700
Trail Marking	2,375

Subtotal:	\$6,525
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Reserve:	\$925
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TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$58,700
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General Revenues:

Membership Renewals	\$47,300
Publications Revenues	4,400
Convention (Net Revenues)	5,000
Donations	2,000

TOTAL REVENUES:	\$58,700
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CONTINGENCY:

Purchase of Office Equipment	\$1,500
Board Travel Expenses:	1,500

Total Contingency:	\$3,000
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PUBLICATIONS EXPENSES ARE:

Costs:

Publications Committee	\$50
Overland Journal	20,700
News From the Plains	4,750

Subtotal:	\$25,500
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Revenues:	\$4,400
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Net Expenses:	\$21,100
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Notes:

Publications revenues are from advertising (both publications), Overland Journal subscriptions, and Overland Journal back issue sales.

Headquarters expenses include \$10,800 for office manager, \$3,000 for postage, \$2,500 for telephone, and costs of membership brochures and membership rosters.

Contingency Expenses: Office equipment will be purchased only as revenues exceed budgeted estimates. Amount budgeted for travel expenses will be used only if mid-year board meeting is held and if revenues permit. Any additional revenues not required for indicated contingency expenses will be added to the reserve.

Donations and Fund Raising revenues over the \$2,000 budgeted will be used to restore cuts in the preservation projects. Any additional donations above cuts will be added to the Preservation Fund.

Money from purchase of Life Memberships is added to an endowment fund.

More Pictures of the Mojave Road Rendezvous

Do you have a favorite picture of an OCTA outing or meeting?

Send it to the editor.

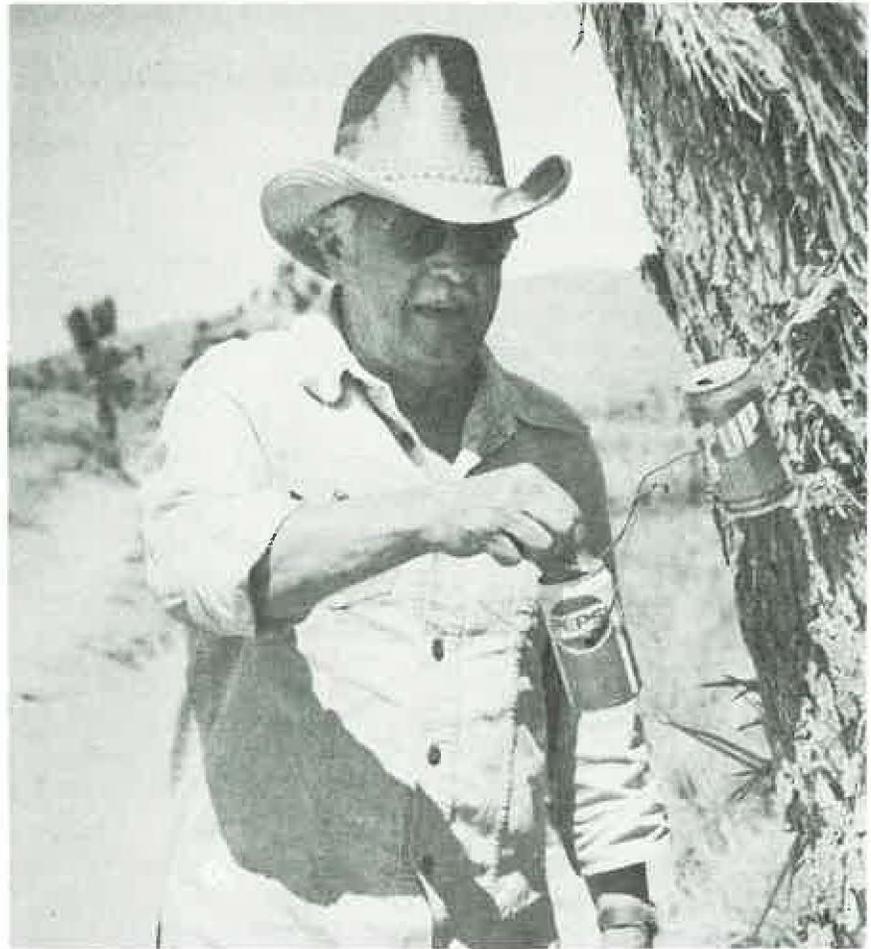


Photo by Barbara Dorr

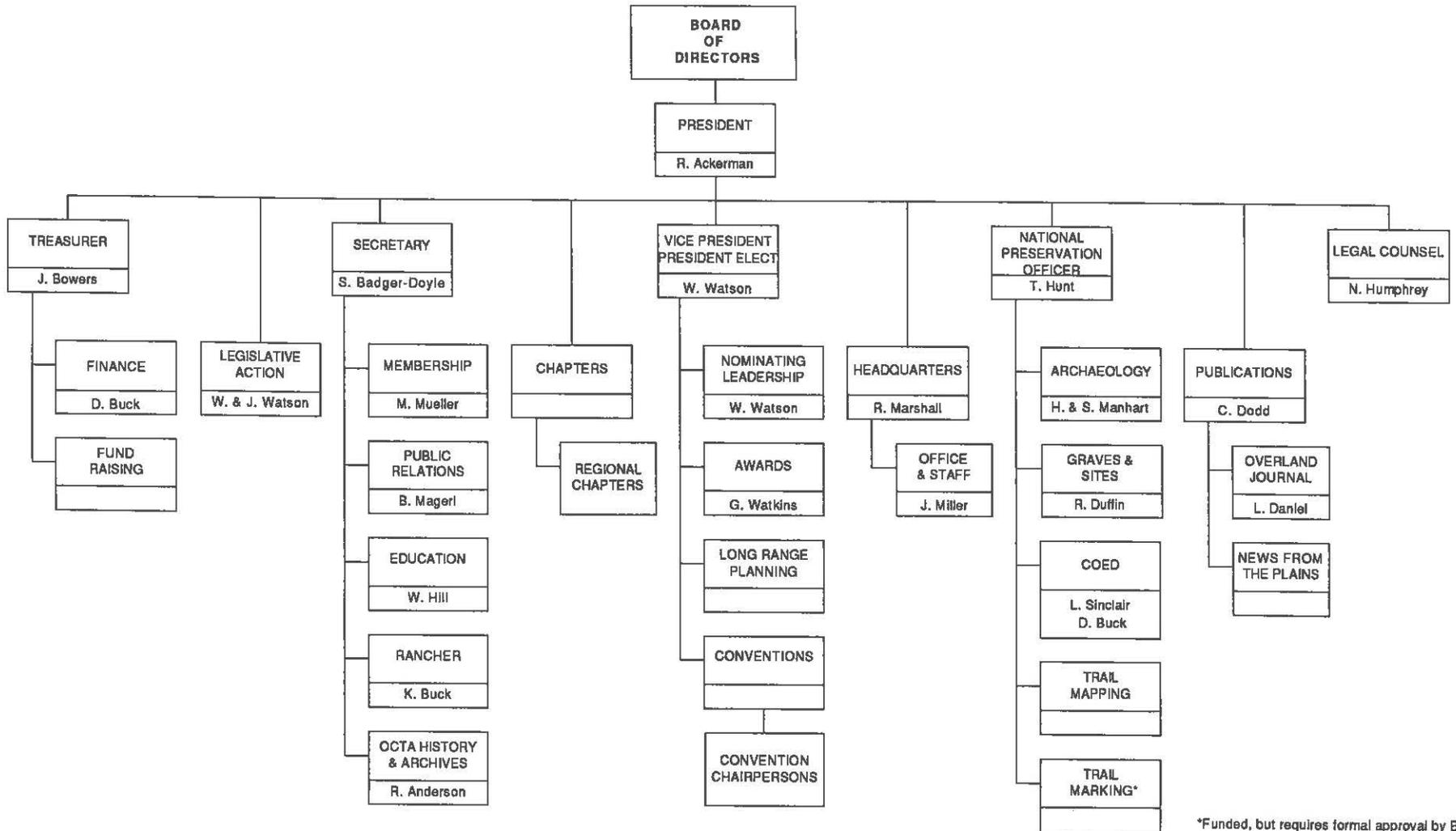
*Charlie Harrison drops coins in the Penny Can.
A Mojave Road ritual.*



Photo by Barbara Dorr

It ain't all hard work. Part of the trail experience is relaxing with good friends. Pictured are Mary Mueller, Chuck Dodd, Doyle Reed, Don Buck, and Esther Crosby.

OCTA ORGANIZATION CHART



*Funded, but requires formal approval by Board

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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