

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

=NEWS FROM THE PLAINS=

WINTER 2011

VOL XXVI NO. 1

Construction Near Mountain Meadows Site

Historic Trails Damaged by Pipeline

By John Krizek
OCTA Board Member

Pipeline construction in southern Utah has caused significant damage to historic trails in Holt Canyon near the infamous Mountain Meadows massacre site.

Portions of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and the Salt Lake to Southern California wagon road were damaged, according to T. Michael Smith, preservation officer of the Crossroads Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association. The Old Spanish Trail (1829-48) was a pack train route connecting Santa Fe and Southern California. The Salt

Lake to Southern California wagon road (1848-ca. 1869), originally developed to connect the new Mormon settlement in Utah with the west coast, is being considered for inclusion in the National Historic Trail System. The two trails roughly overlap for several miles in Holt Canyon, approximately 35 miles west of Cedar City, UT.

The mostly-underground UNEV pipeline is a 399-mile project designed to carry petroleum products between Woods Cross, UT, and Las Vegas, NV. Several weeks ago, Smith and Al Matheson of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) noticed the pipeline construction

had clipped and sliced its way across historic trail paths.

"It appears to be a case of various cultural resource evaluations required for construction approvals not adequately identifying such historic resources," Smith said. "The pipeline contractor apparently was operating within their established corridor. But the corridor was too wide, and should never have been allowed to run through such a historically sensitive area. Tragically for our American history, destruction of a National Historic Trail segment has been the result."

Additionally worrisome, according to Smith, is a proposal to put a transmission line across the Mountain Meadows National Historic Site, at the south end of Holt Canyon. In 1857, some 120 men, women and children, members of an Arkansas-to-California wagon train, were killed at the site by a Mormon militia and Indians. Many of their bodies are interred in a mass grave at a monument at the site.

While the extent of the trail damage is still being assessed, as part of the mitigation for this trail damage OCTA is working with OSTA, the Bureau of Land Management, and the pipeline contractors to better mark the trails and avoid additional damage.

The UNEV Pipeline project is a partnership between Holly Corporation and Sinclair Oil.



Damage to the historic trail is clearly evident at the right of this photo, where the newly disturbed ground crosses the trail. (Photo by Al Matheson)

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News From the Plains**Spring Issue Deadline**

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Send materials to
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Preservation Workshop: Learning About and Enjoying Trails

By Ted Heil
OCTA Nebraska Chapter

How can you distinguish between different conditions of a historic trail—is it unaltered, used, or verified? How can you identify the kind of trail segment in which you stand—is it a depression, swale, rut, or track? The best way I know is to get to an OCTA-sponsored Preservation of Historic Trails Workshop.

In the company of 20 or so fellow trail enthusiasts, I had the opportunity to attend such a workshop in July. Participants from Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and even Colorado gathered in Galva, KS, to learn how to map, mark, and monitor trail segments.

The site of the workshop in McPherson County offered a unique location for our education, as numerous historic trails cross the area, including the Santa Fe Trail, Cherokee Trail, Chisholm Trail, and several old Indian trails. The weather was hot, as you would expect for July in central Kansas, but it didn't keep us from learning about preservation and getting out to see some wonderful Santa Fe Trail segments.

The workshop materials, developed by OCTA members, included an information binder for each participant as well as the Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET) Guide, both of which have been refined and revised over the years. (The MET Guide is available online as a PDF file on OCTA's web site.)

Our presenter was David Welch, OCTA's former National Preservation Officer. The training centered on the three primary activities of trail mapping, marking, and monitoring.

Welch thoroughly covered these topics, and by the end of the workshop we could recognize the different classes of trails and how to describe and document them.

We learned about principles of trail location and verification, how to find and research historical resources, and check the reliability of physical and document evidence. The mapping portion of the training even included the practical use of Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers to ensure the most accurate possible identification of trail locations.

The workshop next considered marking the trail, and the policies that OCTA has in place that cover the various types of markers and installation. We learned how visual inspection and photographic records can be used to monitor the trail segments, and that collaborations with landowners can help maintain the integrity of the segments.

The workshop also included discussion about the legal aspects of mapping, marking, and monitoring trails on both public and private land, and OCTA resources to support the activities of local chapters.

For our field exercise on Sunday morning, we had the privilege of visiting some well-preserved Class I swales of the Santa Fe Trail on private land. The pasture (located at N 38.42613 W 97.32286) has never been broken and is the site of French Frank's road ranch about six miles SW of the Santa Fe Trail's well-known Cottonwood Creek crossing.

If you look at the pasture using an Internet map viewer (such as Google Maps), you can see it is almost the last visible trace before the trail is lost in the plowed land to the southwest. The

locations of some of the long-gone road ranch buildings are marked with fence posts close to the creek.

We explored the entire site, walking in the very paths the traders and emigrants took on their way to and from Santa Fe. It was exciting and awe-inspiring to be there and envision the sights and sounds of wagons, drivers, mules, horses, and other travelers on the trail. You can learn more about the site's history at <www.santafetrailresearch.com/main-route/santa-fe-chisholm-trail.html>. After hiking around the pasture, our hosts provided a wonderful picnic lunch, which we enjoyed under the shade of some old homestead trees.

So what did I learn at the Preservation Workshop?

I learned all about OCTA's program for mapping, marking, and monitoring our historic trails. I learned there is much that can be done, even on the eastern end of the trails where agricultural land use has eradicated most visible trail segments. Research is needed to verify and document routes as accurately and precisely as practicable, and if possible mark the trail to ensure its location and history is remembered in the future.

Right now it's mostly book learning for me, but I'm looking forward to applying what I've learned to increase our knowledge and understanding of the trails. I learned a wonderful quote from Welch, who, in response to a question about walking in trail segments, said, "It's okay to walk in the trails. The trails were made by people who walked there before us. We're not trying to keep people from going near trails, we want them to enjoy and appreciate them."

Continued on Next Page



NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Preservation

Continued from Page 3

I found that perspective refreshing. I also learned a little bit about the many trails crossing that part of Kansas; until this visit, I had no idea how much trekking of people and animals occurred there in earlier centuries. Finally, thanks to a delightful little museum and very knowledgeable residents, I learned quite a bit about Galva, KS, and the town's very interesting history.

Attending the workshop was an educational and enjoyable experience. It included time-tested materials, an interesting and experienced presenter, wonderful hosts, and good food in a relaxing setting at the edge of the Flint Hills.

I met interesting people with a wide variety of reasons for learning more about trail preservation. We experienced the kindness of landowners to share a special location, and the gracious hospitality of the workshop's organizers. I am grateful to the members of OCTA who developed the methodology and materials for the Preservation Workshop.

If you are interested in helping to preserve trail history and have the opportunity to participate in a workshop, I highly recommend it as a great jumpstart to getting involved. In fact, OCTA's Nebraska Chapter is hosting a Preservation Workshop May 14-15, 2011, at the Western Historic Trails Center in Council Bluffs, IA.

Further information will be provided in the future regarding registration and attendance. It's a great way to meet other "rut nuts," learn more local history, and get valuable training in preservation techniques.

Oregon Residents Oppose Antelope Ridge Wind Farm

By Travis Boley

OCTA Association Manager

In November, the citizens of Union County, Oregon, voted 5,246 (51.91%) to 5,060 (48.09%) against going forward with the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm project. A company wants to develop a project that would generate \$40 million in taxes and fees at a place called Antelope Ridge in Union County, Oregon. This project would have direct impacts on the Oregon Trail. The vote, however, was only advisory and was not binding. The county appears to be going forward with the project anyway.

This may be the first time that the voters in a community have objected to wind farm development, in spite of

the promised financial benefits.

OCTA's concern is that the project will have major impacts to the Oregon Trail and its setting in this area. OCTA Past President Glenn Harrison provided a "Letter to the Editor" of the *LaGrande Observer* that outlined the impacts the project would have to the trail. He also shared a copy of this letter with the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council, which includes a new member from Union County as well as the council's chair, who hails from the adjacent county.

Also, a local advocacy group called the "Friends of Grand Ronde" has a content-rich Web site, which describes their opposition to the project in some detail. OCTA, through its preservation officers, is monitoring the situation.

Mid-Year Board Meeting in Utah

The OCTA Board will hold its mid-year meeting Thursday, March 24 and Friday, March 25 in Cedar City, UT. The Thursday session will last all day while the Friday meeting is expected to conclude by noon.

The meeting will be held at the Crystal Inn, 1575 W 200 N, Cedar City, UT 84720; (888) 787-6661 or (435) 586-8888. Rooms (single king and double queen) are \$60 and include a hot breakfast. They can be reserved by asking for the OCTA rate.

Cedar City has daily flights to and from Salt Lake City on Delta/SkyWest. Enterprise Rent-A-Car is the only rental car company in Cedar City. Cedar City is also accessible from the St. George, UT airport (54 miles to the southwest), Las Vegas airport (175 miles to the southwest),

and the Salt Lake City airport (243 miles to the northeast).

OCTA President Bill Martin and Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter President Camille Bradford invite members to Cedar City by late afternoon on Wednesday, March 23, to attend the Howard R. Driggs Memorial Lecture at Southern Utah University (SUU), which this year features award-winning documentary film-maker Dayton Duncan. Duncan was writer and co-producer of PBS's *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, which was produced by Ken Burns.

Beginning on Friday OCTA will hold a symposium on the grounds of SUU. See details for the symposium elsewhere in this issue of *NFP*.

FROM THE

ASSOCIATION MANAGER

Travis Boley
tboley@indepmo.org

The center of this issue of *News From the Plains* contains a four-page pullout section detailing OCTA's upcoming Cedar City, UT, symposium, which is scheduled for March 24-27, 2011. OCTA is partnering with Southern Utah University to bring the story of the Salt Lake to Southern California Road to life.

Attendees will also learn about trail damage at Holt Canyon and the northern end of Mountain Meadows, and what the Bureau of Land Management, Old Spanish Trail Association, and OCTA are doing to both mitigate the damage already done and to prevent future damage from occurring.

Our speakers will address topics such as the story of the first '49ers over the route (including the harrowing episode in Death Valley suffered by one of the emigrant groups), the Howard R. Driggs trail collection in our host university's library, OCTA's Congressional Legislation initiative to designate these southern routes as part of the National Trails System, gold missionaries, and the story of the Mountain Meadows Massacre.

A Saturday afternoon bus tour will take symposium attendees to Mountain Meadows and other sites along the wagon route in southern Utah, while a 4x4 tour will take participants out on the trail in areas southwest of Mesquite, NV, on Sunday.

Sixty-eight people from New York to California and all points in between attended the symposium in

Marysville, KS, Oct. 8-10. Friday night began with a screening of *In Pursuit of a Dream*, which garnered a lot of positive feedback. On Saturday, symposium attendees heard a series of great speakers. After lunch, local historian John Howard set the stage for that afternoon's tour and both of Sunday's tours by providing a great overview of the history of Marysville, as well as both Marshall and Washington counties in Kansas.

Those who made the trek to Alcove Spring were greeted with the rare appearance of Naomi Pike Falls,

key Oregon Trail sites, historic cemeteries and villages, river crossings, and a few rare circular barns. The tour also included a short ride on the historic tracks of the Central Pacific Railroad from 12th Road in Marshall County, KS to the Marshall/Washington county line. Another tour headed north, visiting sites such as the Marshall Ferry on the Blue River, Hollenberg Station near Hanover, KS, Rock Creek Station near Fairbury, NE, the Old West Trail Center in Odell, NE, and the Homestead National Monument near Beatrice, NE.

Leading the way in organizing the symposium were OCTA members Charlie Weickert and Duane Durst, who also manages Hollenberg Station for the Kansas State Historical Society. Many other people deserve special mention for planning the symposium include OCTA Vice-President Duane Iles, KANZA Chapter President Alicia Keegan, Brenda Staggenborg of the Marysville Chamber of Commerce, Gloria Moore from Washington County (KS) Tourism, and Blake Bell from Homestead National Monument.

This doesn't come close to naming everyone who attended meetings, prepared food, handled registration, or assisted with all of the other jobs that go into putting on such an endeavor. All were volunteers, putting in substantial hours and driving many miles over the course of the summer to arrange for the tours.

We are also making plans for a June 2011 symposium in Fayetteville, AR, but the dates have not been set.



which usually flows only during spring months or after several days of rain. OCTA Vice President Duane Iles gave a history of the area and then led a tour over its hundreds of acres, showing where the Oregon Trail crossed, the location of James Reed's rock inscription, numerous wagon swales, and the possible location of some emigrant graves, including the area where pioneer woman Sarah Keyes was most likely buried.

Dr. Michael Tate from the University of Nebraska-Omaha delivered the keynote speech for the symposium. His talk focused on the first weeks of an emigrant's journey after jumping off from the Missouri River.

One tour headed south, visiting



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Winter Offers Trail Opportunities

Bill Martin

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The Winter season isn't the most opportune time of year to be out on the trails, but preservation doesn't hibernate. While cold weather may confine many trails enthusiasts to reading good books, that doesn't mean there isn't a lot happening along the emigrant roads.

For instance, you'll read in this issue about OCTA's efforts, spearheaded by the Crossroads Chapter, to call attention to some grievous damage that was done to historic trails near the Mountain Meadows site in Utah. Because of something that has all the earmarks of a bureaucratic mistake (and that's my opinion only, by the way), a pipeline project managed to harm segments of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and the historic Salt Lake to Southern California wagon road. While it's

too late to prevent what happened here, we're confident that raising a ruckus now will put the permitting folks on notice that they better not let it happen again. This same area is targeted for a future transmission line and officials know we will be watching.

You can read about other preservation issues elsewhere in this issue, including our continuing efforts to mitigate the impact of wind farms on the trail setting in the West. This is an on-going challenge with no easy solution, but OCTA has drawn a line in the sagebrush in matters that potentially have direct impacts on the trail.

Speaking of preservation, it's not too late to send any comments you may have on OCTA's Preservation Policy. As I reported in the last issue, we've set up a special e-mail address—preservation@octa-trails.org—which you can use to share your thoughts. The Board of Directors will be considering possible revisions to this policy at its mid-year meeting in March and it is extremely important that the policy reflects the wishes of the OCTA membership.

With regards to the OCTA Board, you'll read in this issue about the opportunity you have to help us protect and preserve the trails by running for an elected seat on that body. Having been involved in one leadership capacity or another for more than 15 years, I can tell you that there is nothing more rewarding than being in a position to make a meaningful contribution to the trails and to the organization. Right now, OCTA is blessed with a strong Board of Directors, men and women who bring a variety of backgrounds, interests and talents to the work of telling the stories of the trails. Board members directly represent the members, and if you want an opportunity to make a difference for emigrant trails, won't you consider being a candidate for the Board?

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank the members of the Crossroads and Northwest Chapters for their hospitality on my visits last Fall. If you want to know why OCTA is a success, all you have to do is spend some time with chapter members who are the heart and soul of preservation. I urge you to visit a chapter meeting in your area whenever you have an opportunity.

THE 1873 MODOC WAR?

Visit us to learn about the most significant Indian war in western history, were it not overshadowed by Custer's debacle at the Little Big Horn.



Captain Jack
Modoc leader



General Canby
assassinated



Toby Riddle
war heroine



General Davis
won the war

Klamath County Museum

1451 Main St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601 • (541) 883-4208 • modocwar.org

In 1873, a small band of Modocs, led by Captain Jack, successfully defended their stronghold in the lava beds at Tule Lake in Northern California against over 600 U.S. army troops. When the Modocs assassinated General Canby and Reverend Thomas at a peace parley on April 11, 1873, the Modoc War suddenly became sensational news—international as well as national. Were it not overshadowed by Custer's shocking defeat at the Little Big Horn three years later, historians have written that the Modoc War would rank as the most significant Indian war in America's western history.

The Modoc War is the only Indian war in which a full-ranking general has been killed. Other unique aspects are that it was photographed by Eadweard Muybridge, "father of the cinema," and sketched by renowned British artist/reporter, William Simpson. In 1955, Hollywood made a Modoc War movie, "Drum Beat," starring Alan Ladd as a peace commissioner and Charles Bronson as Captain Jack.

Visit our Klamath County Museum to learn first-hand about the Modoc War. Then drive south to Tule Lake where the war took place. The lava beds there are officially designated as Lava Beds National Monument (LBNM) and managed by the U.S. National Park Service.

The Modoc War is an untold story which you will find intriguing, tragic and suspenseful.



Simpson assassination sketch

General Canby's camp at Tule Lake

Get a free MODOC WAR map, email dwoodhead3@earthlink.net or call (415) 931-7682

FROM THE

HQ MANAGER

Kathy Conway

Kconway@indepmo.org

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year 2011.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a full-page insert devoted to new books we have added to our store. We know you will find an interesting title to order. We also wanted to let you know that OCTA now accepts Discover in addition to VISA and MasterCard for any of your charge transactions.

Our Annual Fund Drive is well underway. This year our goal is \$20,000. Without your faithful support, OCTA will not be able to fully fund worthwhile preservation projects and programs and keep itself on a sound financial basis. If you haven't sent your contribution, won't you please take a moment to do so to assist us, as you have in the past, achieve our goal? As of this date we have received over \$7,000.

2010 Election Results

OCTA elected four members to the Board at the convention in Elko. Vote tallies are as follow:

Linton, Fern	595
Etter, Patricia	567
Massee, Paul	505
Surrena, Patrick	463
Bradford, Camille	428

Annual Fund Drive Well On Its Way!

As of November 24, 2010

General Fund	\$4,474
Education	1,213
Endowment	525
Preservation	1,252
Total	\$7,464

Donations from:

Hank Abraham
Diana Ahmad
Ralph Anderson
Norman Barker
Gary and Nancy Bjorge
Janet Boom
Judy Brown
Marvin and Dorene Burke
Helen Kennedy Cahill
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Quick and easy links to trail facts, people and places, resources, events, and more.



NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Membership Drive Underway: I Got Mine!

By Duane Iles
OCTA Vice President

Membership is the concern of everyone in OCTA. We need all of you to go out and recruit ONE new member. All those neat things we do are so much easier when we have enough people to accomplish them. To recognize those outstanding OCTA members who sign up a new member, we have begun a new program: *I Got Mine!*

If you recruit someone new, you will be recognized by having your

name listed in this column of *NFP*. All *I Got Mine!* members will be recognized at the convention. Also, you will receive the new, high quality, collectable bandana. The bandana will be given to recruiters. It cannot be purchased. Don't miss out on this opportunity to sustain our membership and get a great OCTA collectable.

When you recruit an individual or corporation, put your name on the application as referring the new member or contact headquarters so you will receive credit.

As soon as the office receives the paid membership, you will receive your bandana.

I Got Mine! Members:

Gene Serr, Muriel Carbiener, Carolyn Logan, Art Cobery, Gail Robinson, Lynn Davis, Fern Linton, Fred Linton, Charlotte Glinsky, Pat Fletcher, Carolyn Luckey, Joyce Bolerjack, James Dayley, Edna Kennell, Paul Scherbel, Charlie Weickert, Mary Weickert, Duane Durst, Bert Eddins, Gayle Eddins, Donita Cohorst, Ross Marshall, Jack Fletcher, Tom Fee, and Jack Moore.

Legislative Work Begins Anew

By Bill and Jeanne Watson
Legislative Liaison Co-Chairs
BillJeanneWatson@att.net

OCTA's primary objective for Trails Advocacy Week 2011 will be to find a lead sponsor in Washington to introduce the proposed Southern Trails Feasibility Study Authorization legislation. Bert Eddins, Southern Trails Chapter President, is leading this effort for OCTA. Then we will line up additional co-sponsors in support of this important bill. It will be an exciting and busy week.

We will deliver OCTA's 2011 Report to Congress with examples of the effective use of federal trail funds and the estimated totals of "2010 Volunteer Contributions." Your help is urgently needed now! If you have not already done so, please send your 2010 volunteer hours, expenses, and miles information to your chapter's volunteer hours coordinator or directly to us.

The leadership of the House of Representatives will change in

January when the current minority becomes the majority and all House committee and subcommittee chairs will change. At Thanksgiving time, Congress was still continuing the fiscal year 2010 budget into 2011 for our federal agency partners. This results in about a ten percent monthly decrease from 2010 funding and the zero Challenge Cost Share Program dollars authorized. Rumors are that this may continue all year with serious impact on OCTA's projects and funding.

The use of budget "earmarks" is a very old Congressional tradition and perk that is less than one percent of total federal spending. It is interesting to note that in a number of close Congressional elections in November, on both sides of the aisle, the re-elected incumbent credited "earmarks" for his or her success. Most of the increased funding over the years for our federal agency trail partners was from Congressional "earmarks" including the BLM's Baker City,

Casper, and Elko trail centers.

Our OCTA Legislative Liaison team going to Washington, D.C., for Trails Advocacy Week, February 13-17, 2011, will find many changes and challenges. Newly elected Representatives and Senators will be located in basement, courtyard, or attic offices. Offices vacated by departing members of Congress are available to returning members by bid and based upon their seniority. In the House each new majority committee and sub-committee staff will switch offices with the new minority staff.

Fortunately for us, the telephone number for each senator by state and each representative by congressional district remains the same as do those, by political party, for each congressional committee and subcommittee staff. Making advance appointments in the House and Senate and verifying the location of each office will be an essential activity by our team before we reach Washington, D.C.

Board Nominations Needed by April

By Glenn Harrison
Nominating and Leadership
Committee Chair

Your help is needed in encouraging potential OCTA Board of Directors candidates to decide to run for a term on the board. There are four board positions to be elected each year. We also need to elect a vice president and a secretary next August.

If you know someone who would be a good board member or officer, encourage him or her to be a candidate. OCTA board members serve at-large, so the location of residence or chapter affiliation is not a requirement. It would be nice to have candidates from throughout the country. Officers are elected by the board.

The board meets two times each year—one is at the OCTA convention and another at the mid-year meeting. Funds are available to assist with the mid-year board meeting expenses.

Candidates need to submit:

1) Information about the nominee's trail background and experience and the extent to which the person has participated in OCTA and chapter activities.

2) A written endorsement from a minimum of three (3) additional OCTA members explaining why the candidate would be a good board member.

3) A written statement from the

member being nominated indicating his or her willingness to serve actively on the board and a board committee if elected.

4) A brief statement (about 100 words) of what the candidate would like the board to accomplish in the next three years and how the candidate can help OCTA reach its goals.

5) A good quality photo of the candidate, which could be used in publicity. (This should be a print or digital image scanned or taken at 300 dpi or higher.)

For further assistance board candidates may contact one of the members of the Nominating and Leadership Committee, a current OCTA board member, or a chapter president.

All nominations must be mailed or

e-mailed by April 1 to
Glenn Harrison, Chair
1132 30th Place SW
Albany, OR 97321-3419
541-926-4680
<gr.harrison@comcast.net>

The Nominating and Leadership Committee is composed of the OCTA Past President as chair, a chapter president, and an OCTA member at large. Others elected to the OCTA Nominating and Leadership Committee at the last convention are Doug Jenson, <jensond@ida.net> and Mary Ann Tortorich <Annamae1846@gmail.com>.

Also, any member interested in serving on next year's Nominating and Leadership Committee, should contact a current committee member.

Additional Routes Study Update

By Jere L. Krakow

Several OCTA members have volunteered to assist with work necessary by the staff of the National Trails Intermountain Region-National Park Service to provide a Feasibility Study report for Congress on additional trail routes.

During the last few months, I have met with potential volunteers at several trail association meetings, including the Elko convention. At the present time, seven volunteers are in the final stages of mapping and documenting routes that are not yet in the database for the Oregon and California Trails. These routes are primarily in the Sierras, along the Central Overland Trail, and on a portion of the Bidwell-Bartleson

route to California.

In the spring, the National Park Service staff determined that copies of paper maps at 1:100,000 scale should be used to draw in lines of the routes. The lines will be scanned and digitized for the database. The timetable for completion of the work was December 2010.

Some of you may recall from the earlier *NFP* update this year that most study routes have been mapped and documented. I will provide updates about this work to you on the OCTA Web site, in *NFP*, and at meetings of the board.

Should you wish to contact me about the additional routes study, my e-mail address is <jlkrakow@msn.com>, and my telephone number is 505-828-0309.

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NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

In Pursuit of a Dream Wins Another Award

OCTA recently learned that *In Pursuit of a Dream* was selected as winner of "Best Experimental Film" at the Oregon Film Awards. This is the fifth major award garnered by the movie. Previous awards include the Oregon Heritage Excellence Award, the Spur Award from the Western Writers of America, and a Silver Remi from WorldFest in Houston.

The movie was also declared a Finalist at the International Family Film Festival in Hollywood.

In November, OCTA Board Member Quackgrass Sally and

Boston Productions Producer Candy Moulton screened *In Pursuit of Dream* twice at the Heber City (Utah) Cowboy Gathering.

In addition to screening the movie and taking questions after each showing, Quackgrass Sally staffed an OCTA informational booth, handing out OCTA membership brochures, information sheets on the movie, and other trail items. This opportunity to show the film and have a booth came through cooperation with Western Writers of America (WWA), which has been involved with the Heber

City Gathering for three years.

Moulton and Will Bagley, both OCTA members, also presented talks about the trails as part of the WWA program.

There are currently two educational distributors interested in making the movie commercially available. Because we know many of you are interested in acquiring a copy of it, we will spread the word when we have something to report.

The film has been selected to screen at the Trail Dance Film Festival in Duncan, OK, January 28-30.

It's an Important Time for Education

By Bill Hill
Education Publications and
Education Awards Chair

February, March and April are three very important months for the Education Committee's projects — the activity book raffle, the Outstanding Educator Awards, and the calendar project. Information and any related forms about these projects can be found on OCTA's Web site and can be downloaded for personal use. During each of these months there is the deadline for one of the projects.

February 1 is the deadline for the activity book raffle. A drawing is held from all the postcards received at headquarters. Schools or teachers who wish to receive a class set of one of OCTA's activity books may send in a postcard with their school information and the subject or title of the book they wish to receive. The books are *Reading, Writing, and Riding Along the Oregon-California Trails; Finding the Right Place; Following Lewis and Clark's Track; and Here Comes the Pony*. You can



help participate by encouraging your child's teachers to send in a card. Teachers from Kansas and Utah were selected in 2009 and 2010.

March 31 is the deadline for our Outstanding Educator Awards. The five categories or levels are: primary/elementary; middle school; high school; college/university, and institution-museum/parks/historic sites. The award is presented to teachers/advisors for their programs that go beyond the normal classroom activity in showing creativity and extensive student involvement. There is a small monetary prize that goes with the awarded certificate. We encourage individual teachers

to apply or others to nominate teachers or programs they know to be exceptional.

April 15 is the date for the submission of student artwork for the 2012 calendar. The theme is "Trading Posts and Forts along the Trail." This project uses an interdisciplinary approach, blending art and history. Students are asked to draw any of the many posts and forts that were found on the variety of trails used by the emigrants as they moved and settled the West. Twelve to fourteen drawings will be selected; these will then become the basis for the 2012 calendar. In addition to receiving a copy of the calendar, the students whose artworks are selected also receive a check for fifty dollars. The contest is open to elementary students through fifth grade. While teachers are encouraged to involve all their students, an individual child can also participate. Copies of the calendar are available for only \$5. There are still a few copies of the 2011 calendar, "Hazards Along the Trail" available. Contact headquarters.

Oregon-California Trails Association Spring Symposium 2011

A celebration of the historic trails of southern Utah.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

See the back panel of this insert or register online at www.octa-trails.org. All meetings and events will be at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, unless otherwise specified. The Crystal Inn, with a special rate of \$60/night (which includes a full hot breakfast), is the host hotel.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 23:

7:00 – 9:15 PM: OCTA presents its multiple award-winning In Pursuit of the Dream docudrama in the theater at SUU's Sharwan Smith Center, plus Q&A with producer Candy Moulton and field producer Quackgrass Sally

Thursday, March 24:

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: OCTA Board Meeting at the Crystal Inn & Suites Conference Center (1575 West 200 North, Cedar City, Utah 84720)

7:00 PM: Howard R. Driggs Memorial Lecture & reception. OCTA members invited. Free.

On March 23th, 2011 on the Southern Utah University campus in the Great Hall of the Hunter Conference Center at 7:00 PM, Dayton Duncan will give the third annual Howard R. Driggs Memorial Lecture, sponsored by Southern Utah University and the Friends of the Gerald R. Sherratt Library.

Dayton Duncan, an award-winning documentary filmmaker and author, wrote and co-produced PBS' *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* documentary, produced by Ken Burns. He is the author of nine books, including *Out West: A Journey through Lewis & Clark's America*. He also serves as director of the National Park Foundation.

Friday, March 25, 2011:

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: New Board Member and Chapter President Orientation

9:00 AM – Noon: OCTA Board Meeting at the Crystal Inn & Suites Conference Center

Noon: Lunch on your own

3:00 – 6:00 PM: Registration desk open in the 100 Level of the Gerald R. Sherratt Library

3:30 – 5:30 PM: Symposium papers presented at the Gerald R. Sherratt Library (100 Level) – see details on page 3

3:30 PM: Steven Heath, Old Spanish Trail Association, Director - "Jefferson Hunt & Alienation of his Pioneer Company Which Soon Chose Fateful 'Shortcut' to Gold Fields"

4:00 PM: John Krizek, Oregon-California Trails Association, Director - "Ordeals of Death Valley Pioneers"

4:30 PM: Col. Al Matheson (Ret.), Utah Trails Expert - "Old Spanish Trail to Holt Canyon: Current Problems & Solutions"

5:00 PM: Camille Bradford - "Dr. Howard R. Driggs: His Life and Legacy"

5:45 – 7:00 PM: Opening Reception/Tour of the Driggs Collection, Garden Level, Special Collections Room, Sherratt Library

7:00 PM: Dinner on your own. Map and list of restaurants will be provided.



Saturday, March 26, 2011: Saturday morning's speakers are at SUU's Sharwan Smith Theater

8:00 AM: Registration desk open outside the theater's main entrance

8:30 AM – Noon:

8:30 AM: Leo Lyman – "Escalante Trail to the Arrowhead Highway: Pack Mules to Model-Ts"

9:15 AM: Mike Landon, OCTA Crossroads Chapter – "Gold Missionaries: Route and Experiences in Southern Utah toward Southern California"

9:55 AM: T. Michael Smith, OCTA Crossroads Chapter Preservation Officer – "Dealing with Trail Issues in Holt Canyon, Mountain Meadows, and Related Sites"

10:30 AM: Albert Eddins, President of OCTA Southern Trails Chapter – "Congressional Initiative for Recognition of Southern Trails through Arizona and Utah to California"

11:10 AM: Michael Empey, Southern Utah Office, Congressman Jim Matheson – Comments

11:25 AM: Sarah Schlanger, PhD, Associate State Archaeologist, New Mexico, BLM Lead on the Old Spanish and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trails, "Cooperation of Federal Agencies with Historic Trails Organizations: Advice & Direction"

Noon – 1:00 PM: Lunch and Program – Starlight Room, Sharwan Smith Center

1:00 – 5:00 PM: Bus tour Along the Wagon Road of the Spanish Trail through Mt Meadows

6:30 PM: Dinner in SUU's Great Hall, located on the top floor of the R. Haze Hunter Conference Center

7:30 PM: Keynote Speaker: Author Lyman Hafen (Santa Clara, UT), Executive Director of the Zion Natural History Association, will share stories of southern Utah, Nevada, and the Arizona Strip



Lyman Hafen comes from the fifth generation of a Mormon family that settled along the Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers in the early 1860s. Growing up on the edge of St. George, he witnessed firsthand the transformation of his boyhood village into a bustling city. In high school he carried on the family tradition as a cowboy, participating in rodeos as a bull and bronc rider as well as a roper. In 1973 he won the Utah State High School Rodeo All-Around Championship. A graduate of Brigham Young University, Hafen began his writing career in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Like many others of his generation, Hafen could not shake the red sand of Southern Utah from his shoes. He returned with his young family to St. George in 1983 where he became founding editor of *St. George Magazine*, and began teaching writing classes at Dixie College. He is currently the Executive Director of the Zion Natural History Association. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Santa Clara, just west of St. George, with their five children. Over the past 10 years, Hafen's fiction and nonfiction have received seven awards from the Utah Arts Council. He's written for a number of regional and national magazines, among them *Travel-Holiday*, *Nevada Magazine* and *Arizona Highways*, and has published six books.

Sunday, March 27, 2011:

Tour I: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM: Four-Wheel Drive Tour: Wagon Road route through Nevada

Leo Lyman will lead participants in their own four-wheel drive vehicles from Gunlock, UT, up Utah Hill to Mesquite, NV, and on to Mormon Mesa along the Emigrant Wagon Road. If you don't have a four-wheel drive vehicle, we will try to match you up with those who do. Participants will have the opportunity to purchase lunch in Mesquite.

Tour II: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM: High-Clearance Vehicle Tour: Mount Misery

LeRoy Johnson will lead participants in their own high-clearance vehicles to Mount Misery (the name given to the headwaters of Beaver Dam Wash by 49ers), the site where several parties of gold prospectors who had broken off from Jefferson Hunt's party turned back to rejoin Hunt. Those who continued on past Mount Misery eventually lost their way and became known as "the Lost Death Valley '49ers." Box lunch will be provided.

SPEAKERS

Friday, March 25:

3:30 PM: Steven Heath "Jefferson Hunt & Alienation of his Company Which Soon Chose Fateful 'Shortcut' to Gold Fields"

Steve Heath (Cedar City, UT) is Past President of the Old Spanish Trail Association and has taught mathematics at Southern Utah University for 30 years. He also has a masters degree in the History of Science and has a keen interest in the history of the southern Utah national parks and monuments. He will discuss Captain Jefferson Hunt (1804-1879), who guided several parties of gold prospectors from Utah to California. Many of the pioneers he led in the 1849 Mojave San Joaquin (Mojave Sand Walking) Company became impatient and decided to try a shortcut to cut several weeks off their travel time. Although most of those who abandoned the company later rejoined Hunt, those who continued on their own lost their way and became known as "the Lost Death Valley '49ers."

4:00 PM: John Krizek "Ordeals of Death Valley Pioneers"

John Krizek (Prescott, AZ), OCTA board member and award-winning documentarian, will tell us the story of gold rush pioneers who left Jefferson Hunt's party in southwest Utah thinking they were taking a shortcut to California. Instead, they became hopelessly stranded in the place they would later name Death Valley. Lewis Manly and John Rogers walked, crawled and climbed almost 300 miles through desert wastelands, over mountain ranges, and across waterless plains in search of a rescue for their fellow pioneers. John will talk primarily about this group during its time in Utah and Nevada.

4:30 PM: Col. Al Matheson "Old Spanish Trail to Holt Canyon: Current Problems & Solutions"

Col. Al Matheson (Cedar City, UT), OSTA board member, will talk about current issues at Mountain Meadows.

5:00 PM: Camille Bradford "Howard R. Driggs: His Life & Legacy"

Camille Bradford (Westminster, CO) is the President of OCTA's Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter and step-daughter of the late Howard R. Driggs. She will discuss his career and incredible archival collection of trail-related items, now housed as a special collection at the Sherratt Library. During his distinguished career, Dr. Driggs was both a Professor of English Education and historian of the American West. He was well-known throughout the country as an author and speaker and became the President of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association in 1928. It later became the American Pioneer Trails Association, which he led until his death in 1963.

Saturday, March 26:

8:30 AM: Leo Lyman, "Escalante Trail to the Arrowhead Highway: Pack Mules to Model-Ts"

Leo Lyman (Leeds, UT), previously a board member of the Old Spanish Trail Association, retired college professor, and author of multiple books on all facets of the American West, will provide the historic background for all of the historic trails, roads, railroads, and highways throughout the region, from Escalante in the 1700s to the coming of the railroad in the 1800s through to the Lincoln Highway in the first half of the 20th century to the modern-day interstate system.

9:15 AM: Michael Landon, "Gold Missionaries: Route and Experiences in Southern Utah toward Southern California"

Michael Landon (Salt Lake City, UT), an LDS archivist, will show how gold-seekers passing through Utah greatly affected the Mormons and their unique culture, bursting the bubble of isolation that LDS Church leaders hoped to achieve by establishing its stronghold in the Great Basin. He'll also illustrate how Mormons both profited from and, in some instances, became 49ers themselves.

9:55 AM: T. Michael Smith, "Dealing with Trail Issues in Holt Canyon, Mountain Meadows, and Related Sites"

T. Michael Smith (Salt Lake City, UT), Crossroads Chapter Preservation Officer and archaeologist with the Museum of Church History and Art, will discuss balancing energy development with historic preservation in Holt Canyon and Mountain Meadows.

10:30 AM: Albert Eddins, "Congressional Initiative for Recognition of Southern Trails through Arizona and Utah to California"

Albert Eddins (Scottsdale, AZ) will discuss obtaining Congressional authorization for a "Feasibility Study" of the southern overland migration routes used by emigrants and gold rushers to reach southern California. The proposal was prepared by OCTA's Southern Trails Chapter and Crossroads (Utah) Chapter, with assistance from OCTA's Legislative Liaison Committee. The purpose of the study is to determine if these emigrant trails meet the criteria of the National Trails System Act for designation as a National Historic Trail.

11:10 AM: Michael Empey, Southern Utah Office, Congressman Jim Matheson - Comments

11:25 AM: Sarah Schlanger "Cooperation of Federal Agencies with Historic Trails Organizations: Advice & Direction"

Sarah Schlanger (Albuquerque, NM), Old Spanish Trail Administrator for the Bureau of Land Management, and T. Mike Smith, preservation officer for the Crossroads (Utah) Chapter of OCTA, will discuss the UNEV pipeline and its effects on the setting of the Old Spanish Trail and the Salt Lake to Southern California Wagon Road. They will also discuss mitigation of the damage and steps taken to prevent future episodes of damage to historic trails and their setting.



Make Awards Nominations

By Dick Nelson
Awards Committee Chair

It is time to begin the nomination process for the OCTA Awards to be presented at the August convention in Rock Springs, WY.

To make a nomination, it is necessary to complete the Award Form, which is published on the OCTA Web site in the "Members Only" Section. If possible, complete the form and e-mail it to the Awards Committee by sending it to Awards Committee Chairman Dick Nelson, <KCnelson43@sbcglobal.net>. If you do not have access to the Internet and need a form, contact OCTA Headquarters at 888-811-6282. The deadline for nominations is June 1.

The categories and the qualifications are as follow:

Meritorious Achievement Award — the highest award OCTA can give to recognize long-term and significant contributions to OCTA. Only members can qualify for Meritorious Achievement.

Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award — bestowed on OCTA members who contribute significantly to achieving OCTA goals and projects. Only OCTA members can qualify for Distinguished Volunteer.

Distinguished Service Award — granted to organizations, businesses, government agencies, individuals, or others who contribute or participate in furthering OCTA's programs directly or provide substantial support in a non-affiliated way to trail preservation and education.

Friend of the Trail Award

presented to groups, individuals, or organizations that have direct ties to lands over which historic trails pass. Neither property ownership nor current residence on trail property is required, but emphasis is placed on preservation of trail remnants, education of the public about their historic resources, and allowing responsible public access to the historic resources.

National Certificates of Appreciation — presented to individuals and organizations that have made a particular effort in achieving a short-term OCTA goal. These certificates are for efforts of national scope; appropriate chapters should recognize more regional or local efforts.

Young OCTAN Award — presented to children and youth between the ages of six and twenty-one who have demonstrated particular interest in OCTA and the history and/or preservation of historic emigrant trails. The nominee will have demonstrated this interest by an activity in the field or via a school or class project in such a manner that is considered outstanding and far above the typical field or school project. The project may also be an outstanding personal endeavor undertaken on the nominee's own initiative. An entire class or group of school-aged children may be nominated as one aggregated nominee. Qualifying standards would include participation in OCTA meetings, outings, and/or work projects over an extended period. OCTA membership is not a requirement.

NEW MEMBERS

New members over the past three months are Rick Anderson, Meriden, KS; David Lewis Beck, Blue Rapids, KS; Larry L. Boerio, Long Beach, CA; Bruna Brothers Implement, LLC, Marysville, KS; Bob Carlson, Marysville, KS; Donita Cohorst, Marysville, KS; Dr. Dennis M. Dailey, Lawrence, KS; Sharon Danhauer, Loveland, CO; Joyce Eilert-Jones, Axtell, KS; Susan Etelamaki, Marysville, KS; Shirley J. Evans, Battle Ground, WA;

Donald Gier, Marysville, KS; Jean Gorthy, Aiken, SC; David Hammett, Marysville, KS; Dave Harbin, Mira Loma, CA; Darline Harvey, Drexel, MO; Gary L. Hicks, Overland Park, KS; Jeannie Johnson, Olsburg, KS; KanEquip Inc., Marysville, KS; Shirley & Pete Kephart, Columbia, MO; Judi Laughter, Green River, WY; Stephen C. LeSueura & family, Arlington, VA; Tracy and Linda Linton, Frisco, TX; Marysville, KS Chamber of Commerce; Carolyn and Gordon McGregor, Carmichael, CA; Mary Merica, Omaha, NE; Anne J. Miller, Murrieta, CA; James Moorman, Fernley, NV; Corinne More, Needles, CA; Brian Morrison, Ferndale, CA;

National Historic Trails Center Foundation, Casper, WY; Nancy Nolte, Blue Rapids, KS; Bill Oborny, Marysville, KS; Oregon Trail Equip., LLC, Marysville, KS; Stephen & Marylyn Pauley, Ketchum, ID; Dr. Jerry Reddach, Waynesboro, MS; Dee & Donald Reinhold, McPherson, KS; Paula K. Reynosa, San Luis Obispo, CA; David P. Robrock, Tucson, AZ;

Don Rowlison, Studley, KS; Ben S. Scherbel, Big Piney, WY; Beth Skinner, Marysville, KS; David Smythe, Placerville, CA; State Bank of Blue Rapids, KS; Vicci S. Thompson, Bellingham, WA; Ruth Wetter, Marysville, KS; and Shepard Williams, South Dennis, MA.



OCTA Members Help with Passport in Time

By Jack and Pat Fletcher

OCTA members Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle, Jack and Pat Fletcher, Gail Carbiener, and Ed and Ann Bagné were among approximately 20 volunteers who participated in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest "Passport In Time" (PIT) project Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2010.

The project was organized and carried out under the supervision of Heritage Program Manager Dr. Kolleen Kralick of the Laramie District Office. The purpose of the project was to locate and verify the 1850 Cherokee Trail, using found period artifacts. Gail Carbiner having worked on 73 PIT projects, is one the most qualified PIT participants. At the conclusion of the project, he wrote to the Ashley National Forest archeologist:

"We verified exactly 3.5 miles of Cherokee Trail, 1/2 mile on the BLM the balance on the National Forest. The Trail coming up the hill from the Laramie River was deeply rutted with several parallel swales, once on top the Trail had terrain much like that west of the Flaming Gorge, low sage and gravel with some grass. Even on top the Trail was mostly visible with a very shallow swale."

The Trail is a "Trail of Cut Nails" with a fair number of wagon iron parts and a few .38 cal lead balls. Jim [Kline from Wisconsin] was our hero by finding a flint-lock (hammer &) pan mechanism complete!... We also found an Ox shoe and many mule and horse shoes. Since this Trail was used for...years, we even found .50-70 cartridges and quite a few Henry's.... we probably found over 200 period diagnostic artifacts."



Chuck Hornbuckle, Suzanne Hornbuckle, Kolleen Kralick USFS, Pat Fletcher, and Jack Fletcher participated in the 2010 PIT. Among the items they discovered was a well worn or broken ox shoe, below. Since oxen have cloven hooves a complete shoe has two halves which mirror each other. Finding an ox shoe generally means an early use of the trail since mules and horses were more frequently used in later years. We do know the Cherokees had oxen to pull several of their wagons. (Photo Courtesy of Chuck Hornbuckle)

The group met each day on the trail, working from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Most had metal detectors and would dig up their "hit," record it on the prescribed form, and leave a small flag at the site. Recorders, primarily Forest personnel, would follow and record the artifact location with a GPS reading, then measure and trace each object on the form, and re-bury the artifact.

Each evening the group gathered at the campsite and had a hearty discussion of the day's finds. The evening ended with dinner, either at one's individual campsite or at the Woods Landing dance hall.

Wednesday evening we gathered at the Forest Service Office in Laramie for pizza and the showing of the PBS video of the Cherokee Trail over the Atlantic Rim (Continental Divide). Filmed in the Rawlins BLM District, it was part of the mitigation with the energy companies for damage done to the trails during operation of a coalbed-methane extraction



project. BLM and OCTA, along with several other governmental and interested parties, participated in the development of the mitigation. Pat Fletcher is and has been the Cherokee Trail OCTA representative for the past three years.

The evening ended with Kralick giving each person a beautiful PIT Cherokee Trail T-Shirt and PIT patch.

This PIT project originated in discussions the Fletchers had with Kralick and the Forest Service staff at the 2009 OCTA Convention in

Continued on Next Page

Continued from Previous Page

Loveland. Tentatively, Kralick plans to schedule another Cherokee Trail PIT project this year. It will be a challenge to find more of the trail; the forest is full of large aspen groves and dead and dying lodgepole Pine.

The Fletchers will be working closely with Kralick in scheduling this project to coordinate with the OCTA convention in Rock Springs and their pre-convention tour over the Cherokee Trail. .

Prior to the PIT, the Fletchers stopped and "talked a little trail" with the Rock Springs BLM Cultural Resource staff; then proceeded on to the Rawlins BLM office, meeting with Bonnie Bruce, in charge of the Cultural Resources staff. Bruce mentioned she would be having an archaeologist in the Jelm area that coming week and would instruct him to visit our Cherokee Trail PIT site. Rawlins BLM archaeologist James McNaughton was onsite for one day. Kralick outlined our project to him, showing him the trail and artifacts on both the National Forest and adjacent BLM land. McNaughton indicated he would try to set up a similar project on BLM lands next year.

The Ashley National Forest Cherokee Trail PIT project out of Manila, UT, occurred one week earlier than the Medicine Bow-Routt project. The Ashley PIT study was designed to find the trail as it exited the Green River, near the present Buckboard Crossing in the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, and the trail's continuance west to Fort Bridger. This PIT project is planned to continue in 2011.

NEWS FROM

NORTHWEST

We Saw The Elephant

By Jim Tompkins
Chapter President

Another season on the trail is over here at NWOCTA and the rains have started that make the fields of the Willamette and Puget Sound so green and inviting to immigrants. It is time to look back at the last year.

The year started with our annual meeting in Oregon City, which included a screening of the film *In Pursuit of a Dream*. We saw the film again in April when we showed it at Oregon City High School as a benefit for the closed museums in Oregon City. We raised over \$1,500.

The year on the trail, both marking and exploring, enabled us to contact many of our trail partners, including the Naches Pass group in the Puget Sound area of Washington, the Hugo Neighborhood Association near Grants Pass, and the Oregon Historic Trails (Governor's) Advisory

Committee (a branch of Oregon state government out of SHPO).

Field trips were held along the Applegate Trail, Free Emigrant Road, and the Lost Meeks Trail. Marking was done along the Applegate near Grants Pass and the Barlow Road near Gate Creek.

Brochures have been produced by the Naches Pass group, which will host a field trip this year, as well as the Hugo Neighborhood group. Our chapter preservation officer, as well as other members, have been working to preserve as much of the trail as possible from the threat of wind turbines. We won some protection near Fourmile Canyon and anticipate a letter writing campaign aimed at a threat on Ladd Hill near LaGrande.

The 2011 season starts with our annual meeting in Oregon City on March 5th.

NEWS FROM

COLORADO— CHEROKEE TRAIL

Mining Camps on Tour

By Camille Bradford
Chapter President

Our fall events included an outing to historic Cripple Creek and Victor, led by Berl and Pat Meyer, and a chapter meeting in Westminster on Oct. 30.

Bill Martin and his wife, Diane, attended our October meeting. We enjoyed having the opportunity to visit with them and to hear Bill's talk on OCTA's current initiatives and objectives.

Doris Monahan, a noted Colorado

historian, was also a speaker at this event. Doris is the author of *Destination Denver City: The South Platte Trail and Julesburg and Fort Sedgwick: Wicked City – Scandalous Fort*. She spoke on her many interesting experiences doing the research for her books and getting them published. Her talk was followed by a book signing.

Congratulations to chapter member Lee Whiteley, who recently received the Howard Raynesford Lifetime Achievement Award from the Smoky Hill Trail Association.



NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Convention to Focus on Wyoming Trail Sites

By Tom Rea
Wyoming Chapter Vice President

OCTA's annual convention August 8-13, 2011 will feature five full days of talks, book sales, banquets, and general western sociability as well as walks along and visits to some of the most pristine and important stretches of historic trail in the entire West. If you've never seen South Pass and its trails, you'll want to sign up for the bus tours during the convention, and for the pre- and post-convention treks.

Wyoming is host to hundreds of miles of trail that look very much like they did 160 years ago. Guided tours also will be available before and after the convention—in your own vehicle—to the Sublette Cutoff, the Seminole Cutoff, the Salt Lake Trail and the Hastings Trail, and the Overland/Cherokee Trail.

Talks will focus both on Trail history and on the preservation challenges the

trails face today. Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs will host most of the events. About 150 rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn and nearby Holiday Inn Express and Comfort Inn. Saturday's events—outdoor exhibits, food and fun—will be at Expedition Island in Green River. John Wesley Powell launched his boats there for his historic explorations of the Green and Colorado rivers in 1869 and '71.

Conference events will start Monday, Aug. 8 with a meeting of the national OCTA Board at the college. The convention starts with an evening welcoming reception at the Holiday Inn. There will be two full days of speakers, a panel discussion, workshops, chapter meetings, and the awards banquet, Thursday and Friday, Aug. 11 and 12, will feature bus tours to Brown's Park, famed outlaw country where the Utah, Colorado and Wyoming borders meet; to South Pass; to the

Lander Road and the Sublette Cutoff; and to Fort Bridger and the western end of the Wyoming stretch of the Overland Trail.

A book room, with exhibits and books for sale from publishers, booksellers, museums, and government land agencies will be open at the college Tuesday through Friday. Thursday night will be authors' night, when individual authors will be on hand to sign and sell their books.

On Friday night, the OCTA film *In Pursuit of A Dream* will be shown. Special historical events will be held Aug. 13 in Green River featuring living history camps.

For more information, contact Fern Linton, <flinton@wyoming.com>, or Pat Cywinski,

<cywinski.pd@gmail.com>.

Interested authors and exhibitors should contact Tom Rea, <trea@tribsp.com>.

NEWS FROM

TRAILS HEAD

Chapter Elects Officers, Gives Awards

By Pat Traffas
Chapter President

The Trails Head Chapter annual membership and awards meeting was held on Nov. 13 at the Kansas City Central Library downtown. We had a guided tour of this magnificent library, which is housed in an 1895 monumental building that was built and occupied by the First National Bank.

Officers were elected as follows: President Pat Traffas, Vice-President Dick Nelson, Secretary Mary Conrad,

and Treasurer Arnold Cole.

Annual awards were presented as follows: Meritorious Achievement Award to Elaine McNabney (posthumously), who was an early leader of the chapter and OCTA's full-time volunteer when the headquarters office was first opened in Independence in the late 1980s; Distinguished Partner Award to Steve Rhoades, who has played an integral architectural role in the development of the local 1000-mile-long MetroGreen recreational trail system and has partnered with

historic trails in several locations; and the Award of Appreciation to the Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, located on the Westport Route, for their continued interpretation of the historic trails in new exhibits, site demonstrations and re-enactments.

Regular planning meetings continue to prepare for the 2012 OCTA Convention, which will be headquartered at the nearby Holiday Inn in Lawrence, KS. Our theme will be *Westward Go! Tribes, Territories and Trails*.

Chapter Celebrates 20th Anniversary

By Oscar Olson

On Sept. 11 we recognized our 20th anniversary with a BBQ and membership meeting at Benson Mill in Tooele County, which was truly memorable. Attending were OCTA National President Bill Martin, National Legislative Liaisons Bill and Jeanne Watson and more than 50 members. Our speakers were "early Crossroads pioneers," such as founder Al Mulder, Roy Tea, George Ivory, Will Bagley, as well as T. Michael Smith, and OCTA National Board Member Matt Ivory.

Also we read letters from Dave Bigler, founder and first Crossroads President, and Marta Lienhard Vincent.

September 18 we gathered at Grantsville, UT, to make a trek on the Hastings Cutoff Road over the Cedar Mountains to Grassy Mountain and on Grayback Mountain to retrace some of the Donner Trail and check our markers. Roy Tea was trail guide assisted by John Eldredge.

The local BLM has erected California Trail signs in and about Skull Valley, Utah, informing those who pass by that this was an important part of the westward migration. We are happy to see this and their participation. We had about 20 members join us on this day including National Treasurer Marvin and Dorene Burke from Colorado. October 16 saw another Crossroads group head north to Idaho to retrace part of the Bidwell-Bartleson Trail of 1841 from Soda Springs, ID, to Corrine, UT. Roy Tea led the trip.

On October 19 President Linda Turner, mapper Roy Tea, and I

attended an all day meeting in Salt Lake City on the Sigurd to Red Butte Transmission Line that may affect our historic Salt Lake to Southern California Road (SLSCR) and Old Spanish Trail (OST) segments in a few years.

On October 26-27 Charlie Burkhalter and I were invited to Cedar City by Col. Al Matheson, who is both an OST and Crossroads member, to inspect the UNEV pipeline going through the Mountain Meadows area in southern Utah.

solutions.

This fall Roy Tea took out work parties on two separate days to place carsonite markers and do GPS marking on the Hastings Cutoff. The chapter's procedure for placing markers on hard-to-see trails is as follows: 1) Locate the trail that can be seen on aerial photographs, Google, or Map Tech images. 2) Place and name each GPS waypoint (or pin) on the obvious trail at visible intervals of one half or one mile. Record the coordinates. 3) Place the coordinates



Chapter members on the Hastings Cutoff Trek. (Photo Courtesy of Bryce Billings)

The pipeline also affects part of our SLSCR and the OST. There is much concern about this pipeline and other utilities using this corridor. The BLM, UNEV pipeline officials, and consulting archaeologists were on hand to discuss how we can reduce the damage on the ground to our trail segments. It appears that many of the trails in this area are not marked. Pipeline officials said they need to know where the sites are in order to avoid future problems. We have work to do. The OSTA members are going to be a big help in developing

in hand held GPS unit. 4) Use the GPS unit in the field and locate the trail for each waypoint by its coordinate. 5) Place a carsonite at this location, (if desired). You sometimes cannot see visible traces of the trail on the ground in spite of the fact that you can see it from the aerial photographs. We've had success with this method in marking trails and locating swales that are slowly disappearing and are becoming less visible from the ground or are hidden by large sagebrush and other ground cover.



NEWS FROM

SOUTHERN TRAILS

Chapter Plans Winter Meeting

By Albert Eddins
Chapter President

The annual winter meeting of the Southern Trails Chapter will be held on Feb. 25, 26, and 27 at the Borrego Springs Resort in Borrego Springs, CA. Following the style of last year's winter meeting in historic Tubac, AZ, a welcome reception will be held on Friday evening with speakers on Saturday and a bus tour on Sunday.

Emphasis for the presentations and the tour will be on the history of the Southern Trail across the Colorado Desert from the Yuma Crossing of the Colorado River to the fork in the trail at Warner Ranch. The trail then continued on to San Diego or to Los Angeles.

After a brief rest at the Yuma Crossing, emigrants and animals, nearly worn to the limit after months of desert travel, still faced the worst of their journey. The 100-mile stretch from the Colorado River to Carrizo Creek contained all three of what had to be a desert wagon traveler's worst nightmare: deep sand, little or no feed, and very poor if any water. Carrizo Creek marked the beginning of the end of the misery. It was a low point of survival as well as a low point in altitude (500 ft).

At Carrizo Creek travelers began to leave the desert behind. There were still challenges ahead, such as Box Canyon that caused the Mormon Battalion such difficulty getting their wagons through. The growing signs of more and higher quality grass along with dependable water supply had to be a big lift in spirit as the travelers began climbing from the desert floor.

A few days later the scattered stands of oak trees with a clear mountain stream of water running through grass meadows at Warner Ranch (3,000 ft) was the proof that they had finally made it to California.

Be sure to read and bring with you the article by Phil Brigandt in the fall 2010 issue of *Overland Journal*. It's an excellent article on the history of the Southern Trail across the Colorado Desert and can serve as a reference to what you will hear and see at the meeting. The article is also posted on our Web site <www.southern-trails.org>.

For those who want to arrive early, we are planning a 4x4 day trip from Borrego Springs to Carrizo Creek, with stops at Box Canyon and Vallecito, on Friday, Feb. 25. The trip, guided by Sue Wade, archaeologist at Anza Borrego State Park, and Chris Wray, southern California historian, will require a 4x4 vehicle.

Participants will return to Borrego Springs in time for the welcome reception that evening.

Although not confirmed in time to get in this issue of *News from the Plains*, we have requested permission for special access to tour Warner Ranch on Sunday Feb. 27. If approved, this will be an opportunity to see things that few people have seen since the trail was in use. This tour also will include findings from recent archaeological work done on the ranch.

Access to Warner Ranch, privately owned property, has been highly restricted for many years. Once approved, the details of the tour, meeting agenda, registration fee, lodging, and RV parking will be sent to chapter members. Guests are very welcome and can find all information concerning the meeting at <www.southern-trails.org> as it becomes available.

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Upcoming Events at the National Frontier Trails Museum

National Frontier Trails Museum
318 W. Pacific
Independence, MO 64050
816-325-7575

\$6.00 Adults, \$5.50 Seniors 62 & over, \$3.00 ages 6-17

The National Frontier Trails Museum is pleased to announce the following upcoming 2011 special events.

January

Thursdays in January
2:00 pm
Regular admission rates
Gallery Walk: "Manifest Destiny" Manifest destiny compelled thousands to move west in the 19th century. During this 30-minute guided tour, we explore the origin of the term and its lasting impact in US history.

Sundays in January
2:00 pm
Regular admission rates
Film Series: Learn about different aspects of western history during this series:
1/9 - "Saving a Legacy: The Oregon-California Trail
1/16 - "Fanny! A Pioneer Saga
1/23 - "Mules"
1/30 - "All Aboard! Passenger Trains in America

Thursday, January 13
7:00 pm
\$6.00 per lecture, \$25 for five part series. Advance reservations requested.
Lecture Series: Tombstone Talks - "Marble Roses: Tombstone Art, Decoration & Symbolism" NFTM Director John Mark Lambertson begins a five part series on tombstones.

February

Thursdays in February
2:00 pm
Regular admission rates
Gallery Walk: "Presidents & the West" In honor of President's Day we will investigate the role of presidents in the west.

Thursday, February 10
7:00 pm
\$6.00 per lecture. Advance reservations are requested.
Lecture Series: Tombstone Talks - "Glorious Monuments: America's Golden Age of Tombstone Art" John Mark Lambertson continues his investigation of tombstones.

March

Tuesday, March 1
7:00 pm
\$6.00 per person. Advance reservations are requested.
Lecture: "The Louisiana Purchase" Noted lecturer Jim Howk returns to tell the intriguing story of the Louisiana Purchase.

Thursdays in March
2:00 pm
Regular admission rates
Gallery Walk: "Getting Ready" We explore the

process of "getting ready" experienced by pioneers as they prepared to go west.

Thursday, March 10
7:00 pm
\$6.00 per person. Advance reservations are requested.
Lecture Series: Tombstone Talks - "Chiseled History: Curious, Informative, and Humorous Tombstone Inscriptions" John Mark Lambertson continues his discussion of tombstones.

Saturday, March 19
10:00 am
\$30 per person. Advance reservations required.
Workshop: "Decorative Crazy with Fans" Quilter Sharron Gregg facilitates this crazy quilt workshop. Fabric, thread and decorative beads provided.
Bring your own needle and scissors.

2:00 pm, March 19
Regular admission rates
Special Program: "Civil War Women of Missouri" Anne Mallinson and Nancy Lewis discuss the lives of Missouri women who endured the hardships & challenges of the Civil War.



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NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

PRESERVATION OFFICER

Historic Trail Landscape Assessments for NHTs and the National Register of Historic Places

By Leslie R. Fryman
National Trail Preservation Officer
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Landscape assessment is not a new concept to land managers, cultural resources planners or archaeologists, but only within the last decade has the evaluation of *historic* landscapes been a focus of growing attention in the arena of cultural resources management and environmental studies.

After some refining of definitions and applications in National Register Bulletin 30, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* (1999), the National Park Service reminded historians and planners that significance assessments of historic properties could (and should) include their natural surroundings, if they contribute to the significance of the property, and not just be limited to "built" resources or sites created by humans.

Since then, the documentation of historically-significant landscapes has fast become routine in cultural resources studies and environmental management. Even to date, however, the majority of historic landscape studies involve rural agricultural districts and other settlement complexes that are more geographically "discrete" and easier to manage than the historic wagon road systems that traverse the entire American West.

A rural historic landscape is defined in Bulletin 30 as "a geographical area that historically has been used

by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features."

Migration trails and transportation systems are both types of rural historic landscapes. Because these landscapes are complex and contain multiple components (e.g., sites, features, natural landmarks, and resources), they are often documented as "historic districts." That is, when land managing agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service) have much opportunity to identify and document them at all, as these studies are typically large and expensive, and therefore tend to occur only as part of environmental reviews triggered by development (e.g., energy, residential) and extraction industries (e.g., timber, mining).

Furthermore, linear landscapes/districts are disadvantaged by most environmental studies, as the study areas occur at discrete locations or only "intersect" a trail route in one or two places – allowing a historic trail district to be examined "piecemeal" and not as a complete entity. Thus the sheer size and linear design of an emigrant trail or historic transportation system tends to inhibit its recognition and accurate assessment.

Further confusion ensues as historic landscape assessments overlap with scenic quality and visual resource studies, which seldom involve historic

or cultural resources, but focus instead on the natural environment. Most of us have experienced traveling through heavily forested public land and discovering large unsightly clear-cuts or other industrial sites carefully concealed behind a screen of standing trees lining the public road. This is a good example of "visual resource management" by federal agencies – its objectives are to allow continued resource extraction and development while minimizing impacts to the scenic quality of the forest landscape, from the perspective of the visiting public using highways or recreational roads and trails.

Clearly such programs have little to do with the "historic landscape" of an important emigrant wagon road, yet the same management objectives are applied (rather unsuccessfully) in the few studies of emigrant trail landscapes completed in the past.

Specific to the trail, the objectives and criteria of the National Historic Trails System (NHT) Act and the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) also differ in terms of resource significance and management goals. "High potential sites and segments" of trails designated under the NHT Act are valued largely for their public recreation and interpretive potential, in which scenic and visual qualities necessarily play a major role, while less importance is placed on physical evidence.

National Register eligibility for historical resources is dependent

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Historic Trail Landscape Assessments

Continued from Previous Page

on visible remains having sufficient "integrity" to convey the importance of the resource in history, and includes whatever archaeological or scientific value a site or resource might possess. Thus, certain trails, trail segments and associated trail sites might be considered "high potential" for NHT purposes but would not be eligible for listing in the National Register, and vice versa.

A good example of the former is the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT, an early (1775-76) and one-time passage through Arizona and California by a party of Spanish explorers and colonists that left virtually no lasting physical evidence, only a wide and approximate travel corridor (more recently coined a "heritage corridor") identified from descriptions of known landmarks and water sources described in the explorers' journals.

The Anza NHT passes through desert areas and scenic mountain ranges already heavily trafficked by recreational visitors, and also through urban areas dotted with important historic landmarks from later periods. Consequently, many portions of the corridor are designated as NHT "high potential sites and segments" for the recreational opportunities and multi-themed interpretive possibilities they can provide.

Due to the lack of physical remains from Anza's expedition, however, no trail remnants or actual sites from the Anza period have ever been identified, and the Anza NHT is not eligible for listing in the National Register.

On the flip side, there are many National Register-eligible segments of NHT-designated trail routes having great visible trace that, due to the inaccessibility of location, short length, or a compromised setting or degraded landscape,

would make poor sites or routes for public interpretation and/or recreation. Additionally, if a trail segment or site has the potential to reveal important historic information via archaeological deposits of buried materials, it could be located beneath a paved parking lot at a shopping center and still be National Register-eligible.

Evaluating a historic trail landscape starts with identifying its extent and character, using photographic and geographic frames of reference centered on the trail itself. This is generally accomplished by hiking or driving a trail or trail segments, preferably in the direction traveled by most emigrants, and establishing distance zones defining a "near" view, a "middle" distance, and a "distant" or far view to either side of the trail.

All prominent natural features along the trail, such as rivers, creeks, springs, mountain ranges, peaks, hills and ridges, cliffs, outcroppings or boulder fields, are identified and characterized as part of the near, middle, or distant landscape zones, as are all prominent later intrusions such as roads and highways, railroads, settlements, reservoirs, energy facilities, industrial sites, and recreational facilities.

Recording all of this information is generally done by establishing relevant photo points along a trail from which panoramic views are made. These photographic images are then georeferenced and incorporated into trail map data, and the "scenic qualities" of each view are ranked in terms of distances, presence or absence of significant natural landmarks, and frequency and level of modern intrusions.

Additionally, information from

emigrant diaries and other primary accounts of travel on the subject trail or trail segment may be used to establish the "emigrant perspective" of a trail landscape. Such information would include historic trail conditions, stopping places, and natural landmarks and scenery along the route that evoked particular reactions or experiences when encountered by the road-weary emigrants.

When combined with current trail map data (e.g., remaining swales, ruts, grooved and rusted-marked rocks, possible graves, artifact concentrations), the collected landscape and historic archival information combine to form a collective picture of a trail's setting through both "emigrant eyes" and the eyes of a modern trail visitor.

In keeping with the differences between NHT program objectives and National Register significance as explained above, trail landscape assessments may contribute to both programs, albeit in somewhat different ways.

Landscape data supports NHT goals of identifying trail segments and sites with high potential for public interpretation and public recreation. At the same time, the data also contributes setting information to help establish the National Register status of segments and sites for purposes of ongoing and future

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NEWS FROM THE PLAINS



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Upcoming Showings:

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