



NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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



FROM THE OUTGOING

PRESIDENT

August 22, 1987

To All Members of OCTA:

As outgoing president, I would like to share a few thoughts with you of both an official and a personal nature.

I would first like to apologize to those of you who attended the Casper convention. As you know, the awards banquet turned out to be a somewhat emotional affair for me. I don't apologize for the emotions--they were genuine and heartfelt--but I do very much apologize for the fact that those emotions prevented me from being able to address some remarks to you which I felt were incumbent upon me to express as your president and, indeed as an individual and fellow OCTA member.

On that long, beautiful drive out to Casper from California, I spent a great deal of time attempting to come up with that one word which would adequately encapsulate Greg Franzwa. Many words came to mind--all of them wonderfully and intensely human--but none of them were really totally successful in capturing the essence of the man. And then, on the bus trip out to Prospect Hill, the word I was looking for just suddenly popped into my head, a word which fitted Greg and fitted him well.

The word is "undeniable."

Whether it be used in describing his personality, his point of view of things, his energy, or his dedication and enthusiasm for historic trails preservation, the word is appropriate. He is as undeniable in his way as are those two historic places along the emigrant trail that we visited a little later in the day: Independence Rock and Devil's Gate. And, in my estimation, it is as undeniable as those two places that Greg's name will be remembered and honored, along with such names as Ezra Meeker and Irene Paden, for his contributions to the cause of historic trails appreciation and preservation.

The presentation of the 1987 Meritorious Achievement Award to Greg is OCTA's way of saying that we honor his efforts, we admire his foresight, we appreciate his drive and work and dedication, we are grateful for his vision, and we are thankful for his commitment.

This award is our way of saying that the work of OCTA--the work that Greg Franzwa started--will go on and will be successful.

This award is OCTA's way of saying that we wish Greg well and that we hope that the time will come when he will be back among us. Back among us, and just as undeniable as ever.

However, it would be wrong of me to leave you thinking that all thanks are due to Greg. The thanks that

are due for the successes we have had to date--and they are many--are due to all of you. The truly marvelous thing about OCTA is that it is a genuine working organization--a family, really--in which everyone pitches in to get the work of trails preservation accomplished. We may have fun doing it, we may enjoy the pleasure of each others company in the process, we may share our enthusiasm, but the real point is that we manage to get our needful and important work done while all of this is going on.

It has been my honor to lead this effort over the last two years.

My thanks to all of you in OCTA--the officers, the board members, the committees, the chapters, and most especially all you members out there across the country for this truly magnificent joint effort. We have accomplished much in a very short time--certainly much more than I ever dreamed would be possible--but, in truth, our work is only beginning. The challenges and the pleasures are waiting. We have a marvelous part of our common American heritage to preserve, to appreciate, and to enjoy. We are in good hands under Dick and Trudy Ackerman.

Let's get on with the job.

Warmest regards,

Thomas H. Hunt
Past Himself

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

by John Latschar

428 dedicated OCTA enthusiasts attended the 5th Annual Convention of the Oregon-California Trails Association in Casper, Wyoming from August 12-16, 1987. The attendance was again a record-breaker, as it has been every year, and was up by 29 from the 399 who attended in 1986 at Carson City.

Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia were represented at Casper with the most highly-represented states being (in order): California, Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming and Missouri. The three leading cities in attendance were San Jose, Casper and Oregon City.

Tuesday, August 11, over forty members took advantage of the pre-convention tour offered on Tuesday, August 11, up the north bank of the North Platte River (otherwise known as the Child's Route). They arrived in Casper that

evening dusty, tired, but happy and full of praise for Randy Brown, the tour leader.

Surprisingly, up to sixty-five members of the Association attended all or parts of the board of directors meeting which started at 9:00 AM Wednesday morning and lasted all day. Both the members of the board and other attendees were more than happy to break for the opening reception that evening. Local chapter meetings followed the reception.

Thursday was devoted to talks and presentations by an impressive cast of our own members: George Watkins, Fred Trende, Susan Badget Doyle, Walter Edens, Mike Bateman, Gene Potter, Charles Martin, Jr., and Bill Hill. Tom Hunt opened the session that morning by explaining to the membership the circumstances surrounding the sudden resignation of Gregory Franzwa as our Executive Director. Tom's remarks are printed in this newsletter and many of the excellent talks given at the convention will

be reprinted in future issues of the Overland Journal.

Thursday evening the entire convention rode over to Fort Caspar and the Platte Bridge Station site Thursday evening for a buffalo barbecue and remarks by Bill Bragg, Casper's noted local historian. Despite the day-long worries of Lee Underbrink, program chairman, the weather cooperated beautifully on this and all other outings of the convention.

Friday morning everyone boarded one of the eight buses necessary to carry our growing conventions around the country and headed east of Casper. Highlights of that day included the dedication and inspection of numerous historic sites and gravesites with historic markers and fences installed by Lee, Reg Duffin, Randy Brown, and lots of local help. Brand new OCTA markers were seen at the First Interstate Bank of Casper, the Parker-Ringo gravesites, the Joel Hembree grave, the Mary Kelly grave, and the Quintina Snodderly grave. If anyone has any doubts about the value and effectiveness of OCTA's historic marking program, one look at the beautiful and dignified new historic markers now in place across this portion of Wyoming will dispel all such doubts. Our graves and sites committee has done an outstanding job!

Lunch was served on Friday by the Douglas Cowbells at the delightful Ayres Natural Bridge. It was at this time that Jacques Downs and Jim Rankin were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their assistance in cleaning up, marking, and fencing historic gravesites. Stops were also made that day at the Reshaw Bridge site, the Platte River ferries, the Ada McGill grave,

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

September 1987

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the Deer Creek crossing (where OCTA managed to stop a freight train), and Fort Fetterman.

After returning to Casper Friday evening, most of the conventioners still had the energy and patience to attend the Annual Business meeting of the Association (probably because dinner was served just before that meeting started).

On Saturday the eight buses loaded up once again, this time to travel west. Stops were made at Red Buttes (also known as the Bessemer Bend crossing of the North Platte River) where the BLM has an interpretive site; at Devil's Backbone (also known as Rock Avenue or Avenue of Rocks); and at Prospect Hill where we all participated in the BLM's dedication of a brand-new interpretive site. Several folks also lingered to help the BLM install the first of its new wooden trail posts at the top of Prospect Hill.

Lunch on Saturday was served at Independence Rock. Here we were treated to the hospitality of the Wyoming Recreation Commission and everyone had plenty of time to scramble around the rock, climb on top of it, or to hunt for inscriptions and caves. After several hours at Independence Rock, the group headed west to view Devil's Gate from the Sun Ranch property. A threatening cloudburst at that point did nothing more than help Lee maintain his schedule since it hurried everyone back to the buses in time to arrive at Casper right on schedule.

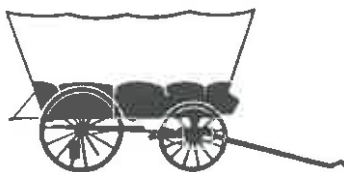
After a quick change of clothes and a short cocktail hour, everyone was seated promptly at 7:00 PM Saturday night for the annual Awards Banquet and the passing of

the presidential gavel from Tom Hunt to Dick Ackerman. Sunday morning two buses and a caravan of cars headed west again on the post-convention tour to South Pass, Pacific Springs and Parting-of-the-Ways.

As usual, the convention was pronounced by one and all to be a rousing success, and thanks are due to Lee Underbrink and his cast of local hosts, including the Natrona County Historical Society. The folks in St. Joseph are going to have a hard task to follow, but they have already guaranteed us that they're up to the challenge.

A mere recital of the places seen, the papers given, and the activities of the convention doesn't do justice to the grand time that was had. Several special efforts should be noted, such as a crowd of 400 people being welcomed by Wyoming ranchers on their private lands to participate in dedications. The owner of the Ringo-Parker gravesite even went so far as to go out early that morning and flag over a mile of gentle trail ruts crossing his property to make sure that everyone could distinguish where the trail went.

But best of all, of course, were the people. OCTA people just seem to be special. I can think of no other group of people with whom I would rather spend time than the friendly, dedicated, out-going members of OCTA. That's why I'm already looking forward to seeing everyone again next year in St. Joseph - It's just like a grand family reunion!



1987 - 1988 OFFICERS

The following officers were elected by the board of directors at the annual business meeting on August 14 in Casper, Wyoming:

President

Rickard W. Ackerman
3027 Twin Oak Place NW
Salem, Oregon 97304
503/581-0328

Vice President

Charles W. Martin, Sr.
414 N. 118 Plaza, Apt 5
Omaha, Nebraska 68154
402/333-4919

Secretary

John A. Latschar
794 Urban Street
Golden, Colorado 80401
303/969-2210 (work)

Treasurer

James F. Bowers
450 S. Otis
Lakewood, Colorado 80226
303/922-0535

Legal Counsel

Robert L. Berry
11505 Pacific Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68154
402/333-3522

1987 - 1990 DIRECTORS

Four members were elected from a well-qualified field of candidates to serve a three-year term on the board of directors from 1987 to 1990:

Merrill J. Mattes
Karen Buck
Charles (Chuck) Dodd
George T. Watkins, III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

by John Latschar

The board of directors met during the Casper convention, from 9:15 AM to 6:35 PM and from 8:45 PM to 11:45 PM on August 12, and again from 4:15 to 6:00 PM on August 13. Highlights of the meeting minutes have been summarized by John Latschar, Secretary.

Finances. Our accountant showed the following summary of OCTA's treasury as of June 30, 1987:

Revenues	\$40,126.42
Expenditures	<u>27,597.46</u>
Net (1/1 - 6/30)	\$12,528.96
Total Cash	\$32,405.40
Operating cash	<u>13,012.17</u>
Restricted funds	\$19,393.23

Restricted funds are monies not available for general operating expenses of the association. These include all life membership funds which have been set aside to build the association's endowment, and all other special project funds which have been specifically donated and set aside for grave marking.

The finance committee proposed a draft 1988 budget to the board showing anticipated expenditures of \$49,000 for the year. If membership receipts and other income for 1988 maintain the 1987 levels, there will be a shortfall of \$1,902. However, if membership grows at the 25% rate experienced in the past several years, the 1988 budget will show a surplus which would become available for additional projects.

Approval of the 1988 budget was postponed by the board of directors until late this fall. This will give the

board time to assess the impact of moving the national headquarters, and the impact of finding new, permanent publishers for the Overland Journal and the "News from the Plains."

Long Range Planning. The long range planning committee, chaired by Dick Ackerman, has set the following goals and objectives for OCTA for the next several years:

1. Passage of the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails legislation.
2. Establishment of a historic preservation system to monitor and protect the trails from all outside threats.
3. Completion of the COED program as soon as possible.
4. Development of educational guidelines for school systems for the study of westward migration.
5. Establishment of the Emigrant Trails National Monument.
6. Increased promotion and development of programs and activities that bring the westering national heritage to the public's attention.

Membership. As of July 30, 1987, total membership in OCTA stood at 1,374. This is a very impressive increase of 374, or 37% over our totals at the time of the Carson City convention last year. All members should be aware that the process for renewals of memberships has been changed. To avoid the January crush, OCTA has adopted a computerized program written by Chuck Dodd to spread membership renewals throughout the

calendar year. In the future, your renewal notice will appear shortly before the anniversary date of your previous renewal.

Publicity. Barbara Magerl, publicity chair, noted that although several articles plugging OCTA appeared in some leading newspapers over the past year, much work still needs to be done to increase our exposure through the media. In particular, local chapters of OCTA need to become much more involved in publicity of all kinds. Anyone desiring to work in the public relations field on behalf of OCTA should contact Barbara at 6801 W 72nd Terrace, Overland Park, Kansas 66204, or call her at (913) 722-1604.

Archeology. The archeology committee, Betty Lee chair, made two recommendations to the board of directors, both of which were approved:

1. An archeological preservation fund should be established to receive donations for use in the treatment and preservation of endangered sites on private lands. (Watch a future issue for details on this fund.)
2. An archeological presentation and workshop should be conducted at the next convention.

COED. Don Buck reported on the progress made by the California/Nevada chapter on its pilot COED (Census of Overland Emigrant Documents) project. The chapter recruited 30 volunteers and, after holding two training workshops, has succeeded in entering data from 20 diaries into the computer. The board approved the committee's recommendation to extend the pilot project for another year, with emphasis placed upon improvement of the pilot

model and expansion of the project into other local chapters. There will be a COED workshop conducted at the St. Joseph convention in 1988.

Future Conventions. Rich Nolf, 1988 local arrangements chair, reported to the board on the status of planning for the 1988 convention, to be held in St. Joseph, Missouri from August 10-14. The 1989 convention will be held in Boise, Idaho; the 1990, Omaha, Nebraska; and by vote of the board of directors, the 1991 convention will be in Sacramento, California.

Executive Committee. Due to the ever increasing amount of business conducted by OCTA, and particularly the need for rapid decision-making as OCTA prepares to move its headquarters, the board of directors established an executive committee of the board. The executive committee will have authorization to carry out operational and administrative functions. The current executive committee is:

President: Dick Ackerman
Legal Counsel: Robert Berry
Secretary: John Latschar

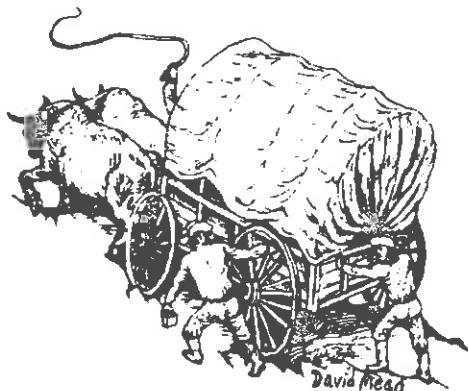
The executive committee will report to the full board of directors monthly.

In addition, the board of directors heard reports and took action on several other major issues such as: legislation, local chapter reports, publication of the Overland Journal and "News from the Plains," and the move to a new headquarters in Independence, Missouri. Highlights of those activities are presented in separate articles.

Copies of the full minutes of the board of directors meeting, and of the annual

business meeting have been distributed to all officers and directors of the association, as well as to all local chapter presidents. Copies are also available to all members upon written request to:

John Latschar
794 Urban Street
Golden, Colorado 80401



AWARDS

by John Latschar

One of the highlights of any OCTA convention is our annual Awards Banquet. It is here we have the time and opportunity to recognize the extra efforts of some special individuals and groups who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the accomplishment of OCTA's goals. This year was no exception. For those of you who missed the convention, the following is a summary of awards presented. It is also our chance to say "thanks" once again to all these deserving folks.

Certificates of Appreciation:

JACQUE DOWNS and JIM RANKIN,
two Douglas, Wyoming schoolchildren, for their assistance in the marking of emigrant gravesites.

REG DUFFIN and RANDY BROWN,
for their superb work in researching and marking emigrant gravesites in Wyoming.

LEE UNDERBRINK,
for his excellent work as Program chair for the 1987 convention.

MALCOM E. SMITH,
for his donations which made the purchase and preservation of California Hill possible.

WALTER B. HEWLETT,
for his purchase and preservation of Cold Stream Canyon.

BARBARA MAGERL and CATHY GALBRAITH,
for their service on the Board of Directors.

Rancher of the Year:

MR. & MRS. GEORGE DEIN,
Nebraska
BERNARD SUN, Wyoming
RAY C. BEDKE, Nevada
BOB WARD, Idaho
MR. & MRS. DAVID C. BAGLEY, Utah

Meritorious Achievement Wards, our highest honor:

IDAHO BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

GREGORY M. FRANZWA

And finally, the Past-Presidential Award was given with much praise and thanks, and not a few tears, to:

THOMAS HILLIARD HUNT,
who was also granted the unprecedented privilege of taking his working title -- "Himself" -- into retirement.

CHAPTER REPORTS

by John Latschar

NORTHWEST CHAPTER.

The Northwest Chapter now has 85 members. It held its spring "outing" in Tacoma and Puyallup, and plans to hold its fall outing in the Blue Mountain area near La Grande. The chapter has recruited Ella Mae Young as its COED chair, and plans to start working on that project very soon. It also has plans to fence and sign the Catherine Bonnetts Butts gravesite in October. The current chapter president is Dick Ackerman.

CALIFORNIA/NEVADA CHAPTER.

The California/Nevada folks have established a trail preservation program, an "Adopt-a-Trail" program, and have done a superb job of setting up, running (and funding!) OCTA's pilot COED program. The chapter presented a proposal to host the 1991 convention in Sacramento, California. The board of directors approved this proposal. Frank Tortorich is the chapter's president.

IDAHO CHAPTER.

Idaho has also started an "Adopt-a-Trail" program and is actively assisting the Idaho Bureau of Land Management in marking the Oregon Trail throughout the state. The chapter has also adopted the maintenance of all Trails West markers in Idaho and is working on the publication of an Idaho trails booklet in conjunction with the BLM. Larry Jones is president.

NEBRASKA CHAPTER.

The Nebraska Chapter, formed in the spring of 1987, has 30 members and is pursuing its main project at California Hill. A historic marker has been completed for that site and arrangements have been made with the Nebraska Highway Department for its installation. Bob Berry is president.

TRAILS HEAD CHAPTER.

Centered in the greater Kansas City area, the Trails Head Chapter has been quite active. Their 55 members took part in the dedication of the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence, Missouri, conducted a "Walk-a-Swale" program with 125 Girl Scouts, and distributed 15,000 bookmarks to children's libraries. Plans are underway for the marking of Blue Mound, Kansas, an early trail landmark. The chapter reported that the State of Kansas has completed the marking of the Oregon Trail along all federal and state highways in Kansas, and Johnson County has completed its marking of county roads. Barbara Magerl is president.

GATEWAY CHAPTER.

Our newest chapter, located in the St. Joseph Missouri area, was organized in the summer of 1987 and formally recognized by the board of directors at the Casper convention. The chapter has 32 members, is chaired by Jim Mehl, and is hard at work on its plans to host and organize the 1988 convention.

OVERLAND JOURNAL

PUBLICATION

by John Latschar

With the resignation of Greg Franzwa as executive director of OCTA, the association is actively seeking a new publisher for the Overland Journal. The board of directors has established two primary criteria for the new publisher:

1. to maintain the overall quality of the publication, and
2. to present appropriate ways of reducing the cost of publication.

We have already received one proposal from Historic Publications, Inc. of California and are exploring several other possibilities. If you are in the publishing business, or know someone who is, please contact a member of the board of directors for more information.

In the meantime, Chuck Dodd has volunteered to publish the two remaining 1987 issues at cost in order to help us get back on track with our publication schedule. Until we contract with a new publisher, all articles for submission to future issues of the Overland Journal should be submitted to:

Chuck Dodd
P O Box 6598
Tahoe City, CA 95730
916/581-3141.

The board has also established an editorial review board to review potential articles submitted for publication in the journal. If you are interested in serving on this board, please contact Dick Ackerman.



A NEW HOME FOR OCTA

Bill Bullard, City Manager for Independence, Missouri, came to the Casper convention armed with a most magnificent proposal. By unanimous resolution of the Independence City Council, Mr. Bullard made a formal proposal to the Board of Directors for OCTA to establish its national headquarters in that city. The proposal included:

1. Free office, research, and archival space with utilities provided, in perpetuity, in the new National Frontier Trails Center.
2. Pending completion of the first phase of construction of that Trails Center in July 1989, free interim office space in one of three available locations in Independence, effective immediately.
3. In the immediate future, as OCTA reorganizes its headquarters and headquarters staff, the City of Independence also offered staff support, as required, to man the phones and handle the mail flowing through the office.

Mr. Bullard came prepared and authorized to approve a Memorandum of

Understanding between the City of Independence and OCTA, and to nail down the details of the agreement. The board of directors can act fast when it has to! Within a day, Bob Berry, our legal counsel, had hammered out a draft Memorandum of Understanding which was approved by Mr. Bullard and the board of directors.

As you read this, OCTA's president, Dick Ackerman is spending four to six weeks in Independence, working with the city and some local OCTA members on all the necessary details to get our new headquarters established and running. Elaine McNabney has volunteered to be OCTA's local office manager, and OCTA plans to take advantage of the staff support offered by the City of Independence until we're ready to hire our own staff.

Eventually, most of the functions previously conducted out of Gerald and St. Louis, Missouri, will be centered in Independence. First, we hope to transfer all membership functions to Independence followed by the publishing of the "News from the Plains," and sometime next year, the accounting system.

COMMITTEES

by John Latschar

The association's activities have spread out into numerous areas over the past several years. In order to streamline these activities, the board of directors has authorized the president to appoint standing committees to concentrate on critical projects and programs. Each of these committees is made up of volunteers from OCTA's membership, and each committee could use more assistance. If you are interested in working in any of the following areas, please contact the appropriate committee chair.

Finance Committee

John Latschar
794 Urban Street
Golden, Colorado 80401
303/969-2210

Long Range Planning

Dick Ackerman
3027 Twin Oak Place NW
Salem, Oregon 97304
503/581-0328

Legislative Committee

Bill & Jeanne Watson
3 Drum Hill Drive
Summit, New Jersey 07901
201/273-7817

Curriculum Committee
vacant

Membership Committee

Mary Mueller
1112 Silver Oak court
San Jose, CA 95120
408/268-7389

Publicity Committee

Barbara Magerl
6801 W 72 Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66204
913/722-1604

Graves & Sites Committee

Reg Duffin
822 Beach Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60525
312/352-6918

Archeology Committee

Betty Graham Lee
Route 2, Box 757A
Safford, Arizona 85546
602/428-1196

COED Committee

Don Buck
1158 Ribier Court
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
408/739-8521

Awards Committee

John Latschar
794 Urban Street
Golden, CO 80401
303/969-2210

Rancher Committee

Karen Buck
Box 147
La Barge, Wyoming 83123
307/386-2321

Preservation Committee

Tom Hunt
950 Old Trace Road
Palo Alto, CA 94306
415/941-0815

CALIFORNIA - PONY EXPRESS TRAILS UPDATE

by John Latschar

OCTA's number one objective for the coming year is the authorization by Congress of the California and Pony Express Trails as National Historic Trails.

The National Park Service has completed its feasibility study and reports that the final study will be printed and submitted to Washington, D.C. in September 1987. As you may know, the Director of the National Park Service will submit the Park Service recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior. Following the Secretary's approval of the report, it will be submitted to the appropriate sub-committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Legislation to authorize the trails will then be introduced. The timetable for introduction of legislation is uncertain since we cannot forecast how long it will take for the Secretary to transmit the report to Congress. Congressional action, of course, will depend on the status of the budget and the status of affairs in Central America and the Persian Gulf.

Thanks to your outpouring of support during the public

review of the study the message has been heard loud and clear by the National Park Service. Over 940 written responses were received during the public review, and over 500 people attended the eight public review meetings. The great majority of these responses were from OCTA members, and OCTA members were almost unanimous in their recommendations--we want the entire California Trail system authorized as National Historic Trail. The National Park Service has responded by revising its final report and is recommending Congress to call for authorization of every single alternate trail and cutoff of the California Trail system.

Our partner in this effort, the National Pony Express Association, was equally vocal during the public review process and the National Park Service will recommend the authorization of the entire Pony Express Trail. In order to coordinate efforts during the legislative campaign, Don Buck has been appointed by the board of directors to work closely with the past-president of the National Pony Express

Association on lobbying efforts.

Bill and Jeanne Watson, chairs of the legislative committee, will coordinate OCTA's membership efforts to:

1. get the legislation introduced into Congress
2. get the legislation through the appropriate subcommittees of the House and Senate, and
3. get the final bill passed.

The first step is to contact all members of the House and Senate subcommittees to line up their support for introduction of the bill. The board of directors has already approved the draft legislation, so it is ready for introduction. Below is a list of all the House and Senate sub-committee members which need contacting. If you know any of these legislators, and are willing to assist in this major legislative effort, please send you name and address to Bill or Jeanne at 3 Drum Hill Drive, Summit, New Jersey 07901, 201/273-7817. Once they have collected a roster of volunteers, the Watsons will publish OCTA's program and schedule for the legislative campaign.

SENATE Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks & Forests

Dale Bumpers, chairman
John Melcher
Bill Bradley
Jeff Bingaman
Timothy E. Wirth
Kent Conrad
Mark O. Hatfield
Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.
Pete V. Domenici
Malcolm Wallop, ranking
minority member
Frank H. Murkowski
Chic Hecht

Arkansas
Montana
New Jersey
New Mexico
Colorado
North Dakota
Oregon
Connecticut
New Mexico

Wyoming
Alaska
Nevada

Dale Kildee
Tony Coelho
Beverly E. Byron
Don de Lugo
Peter H. Kostmayer
Richard H. Lehman
Bill Richardson
Fofa I. F. Sunia
George (Buddy) Darden
Peter J. Visclosky
Jaime B. Fuster
Mel Levine
James McClure Clarke
Robert J. Lagomarsino
Ron Marlenee, ranking
minority member
Dick Cheney
Charles Pashayan, Jr.
Larry E. Craig
James V. Hansen
Bill Emerson
Barbara F. Vucanovich
Ben Blaz
John J. Rhodes, III
Elton Gallegly

Michigan - 7th
California - 15th
Maryland - 6th
Virgin Islands
Penn - 8th
California - 18th
New Mexico - 3d
American Samoa
Georgia - 7th
Indiana - 1st
Puerto Rico
California - 27th
N Carolina - 11th
California - 19th

Montana - 2nd
Wyoming
California - 17th
Indiana - 1st
Utah - 1st
Missouri - 8th
Nevada - 2d
Guam
Arizona - 1st
California - 21st

HOUSE Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands

Edward J. Markey
Nick Joe Rahall II
Bruce Vento, chairman
Jerry Juckaby

State & District
Massachusetts - 7th
W Virginia - 4th
Minnesota - 4th
Louisiana - 5th

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

D R A F T

CALIFORNIA AND PONY EXPRESS TRAIL LEGISLATION

AN ACT

To establish the California National Historic Trail and Pony Express National Historic Trail as components of the National Trails System.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of American in Congress assembled,

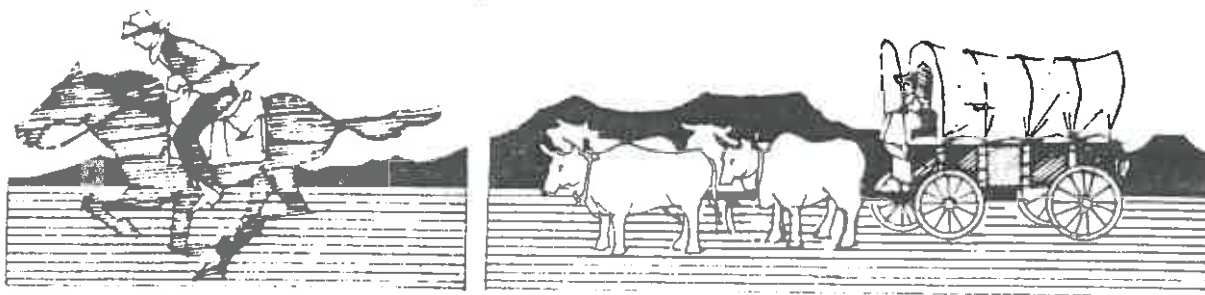
The National Trails System Act (82 Stat. 919; 16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.), as amended, is further amended as follows:

(a)DESIGNATION. - Section 5 (a) is amended by adding the following new paragraphs at the end thereof:

"(16) The California National Historic Trail, a route of approximately five thousand seven hundred miles, including all routes and cutoffs, extending from Independence and St. Joseph, Missouri, and Council Bluffs, Iowa, to various points in California and Oregon, as depicted on the map identified as "Proposed Route - California National Historic Trail: in the Department of Interior's California and Pony Express Trails study report dated September 1987. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior."

"(17) The Pony Express National Historic Trail, a route of approximately nineteen hundred miles, including the original route and subsequent route changes, extending from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California, as depicted on the map identified as "Proposed Route - Pony Express National Historic Trail" in the Department of the Interior's California and Pony Express Trails study report dated September 1987. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior."

(b)AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. - Section 10 (c)(2) is amended by inserting "through (17)" after "(15)".



NOTE FROM TOM HUNT
ON THE
RESIGNATION OF GREGORY FRANZWA

August 22, 1987

Dear OCTA Members:

As you all should know by now, Greg Franzwa, our founding president and editor of the Overland Journal and "News from the Plains," has resigned from OCTA. Since I was the one most intimately involved in the dramatic events of the last few months, Dick Ackerman and the board of directors have asked me to explain to you the events leading up to Greg's resignation. This matter was addressed at the convention in Casper, but an explanation is certainly owed to all of you who were not with us there.

I think that the situation can best be explained by briefly going through a chronology of events leading up to Greg's decision to resign.

Two basic issues were involved--both having to do with the California Trail legislation soon to come before Congress. The primary issue involved the question of condemnation of private property as provided for under the existing provisions of the National Trails Act. (The right of condemnation is strictly circumscribed. Those of you who wish to read the exact wording can find it in the OJ, Vol. 2, No. 2, Sec 7(g), page 21.) A secondary area of disagreement had to do with the proposed inclusion of the Applegate Trail (or Southern Route) into Oregon as one of the trails to be

included under the present legislation.

I will deal with Greg's opposition to the inclusion of the Applegate Trail first because it is far less complicated than the issue of condemnation. Greg informed the board of directors that he was personally opposed to the inclusion of the Applegate Trail as a part of the Cal Trail legislation because it had never amounted to much and was a "failure" as a trail. He further indicated that, he would not volunteer his opposition to the inclusion of this trail should he be called upon to testify before Congress. But, if asked to express his opinion on the matter, he would have to do so as a matter of principle.

During the discussion of this issue, we had been informed that the National Park Service, responding to overwhelming public reaction at the various meetings around the country, had decided to change its position and recommend to Congress that Alternative B be the preferred Alternative. This alternative, which OCTA was supporting, asked for the inclusion of all trails and branches. In other words, thanks to your efforts as members, we had won the battle, and the Applegate Trail would, indeed, be included. (In fact, there never was any doubt of the Applegate Trail being excluded as it was also recommended for inclusion under Alternative C.)

I pointed this out to Greg and expressed my opinion that OCTA, as the country's only

national historic trails preservation group, certainly wasn't going to volunteer to throw out a bona fide historic trail on the dubious basis of it being a "failure." I questioned the basic historic accuracy of such an assessment, and also the issue of this kind of meaningless terminology in discussing historical realities. I then went on to express the opinion that personal prejudice shouldn't be allowed to cost the country another section of historic trail. I reminded Greg that neither he nor I, as officers of OCTA, really had the right to express opinions contrary to board policy as long as we were serving as officers. Since the board had not specifically discussed his objections to the Applegate Trail inclusion, and since there never was a question on the part of the NPS that the Applegate Trail should be included under either of the Feasibility Study Alternatives, I suggested that the matter was really a non-issue. At the very least, this issue should cause no more concern until the board had a chance to meet in Casper and the matter could be fully addressed.

The second issue raised by Greg in a series of reports to the board and personal correspondence with individual officers had to do with this question of condemnation. Greg has always made it perfectly clear that he has a deep and abiding personal, philosophical aversion to the idea of public condemnation of private property. Indeed, Greg was largely and happily

responsible for seeing to it that the right of condemnation was excluded from our successful Santa Fe Trail legislation, and he has insisted all along that OCTA do the same for the Cal Trail legislation.

Unlike the Applegate Trail matter, this issue was, of course, a matter of fundamental importance and concern, and one which called for a full discussion by the board before OCTA's course of action was set concerning Cal Trail legislative strategy. (It should be pointed out that by this time we knew that the NPS wished to have the condemnation clause retained and had suggested that we simply ask for inclusion of the Cal Trail under the National Trails Act with nothing else involved to complicate the proposal.) Greg's position--very strongly expressed--was that he simply could not accept the condemnation clause for the Cal Trail, that

1. if we did not volunteer to remove it as part of our legislation, it would turn every rancher in the country against us as an organization, and that
2. if the board persisted in ignoring his counsel on this matter and went for inclusion of the Cal Trail under the existing terms of the National Trails act--those same provisions which Congress, in its wisdom, had placed in the Act and which already covered the Oregon and Mormon Trails--

he would be forced to leave OCTA and take all like-minded members along with him. He then informed me and the board that he had already contacted several key members of both the Senate and House--most of them known to be adverse to the idea of

condemnation--and had raised the issue with them.

I replied to Greg in the following manner:

1. The condemnation clause had never been used on any of the other historic trails, and there was very little likelihood that it would ever be used. It does, however, give at least some basis for the NPS to negotiate with some clout if an important historical property is endangered. Without the condemnation clause to back them up, there is absolutely no incentive for anyone ever to negotiate.
2. The condemnation clause was very narrowly written by Congress specifically to prevent any misuse by federal agencies. The clause is replete with administrative and legislative checks to make it almost certain that this clause cannot be used, unless for a truly, nationally-significant cause on behalf of the American people.
3. OCTA has no intention of alienating the ranchers. The entire thrust of the organization has been to work with the ranchers and win their support for trails preservation. OCTA would always be free to oppose any condemnation proposals that it deems to be unneeded or excessive. The condemnation clause hadn't been placed in the law to take away rancher's lands; it was placed in there to give the public recourse from any threat to an important historic resource whether it be from oil companies, land developers, power lines, etc.

4. There would be little chance of any condemnation proceeding being successful if OCTA, as the nation's leading historic trails organization, chose to oppose the idea.
5. The NPS has indicated that they want the clause retained, and OCTA wouldn't have much of a chance of getting Cal Trail legislation through Congress (one of our founding goals) if they chose to oppose the bill or were unenthusiastic about it.
6. I asked him not to contact members of Congress before the board even had a chance to meet and discuss OCTA's Cal Trail legislative strategy. I saw this to be equivalent to waving a red flag. It was, in my opinion, going to deny the board one of its legitimate options by stirring up needless and premature controversy over the matter.
7. With federal finances the way they are, the chances of Congress authorizing any funds for condemnation are essentially nil.
8. I reiterated that neither the president nor the executive director set the policies of OCTA--the board of directors did that--and until they had a chance to consider the matter and act on this issue, discussion of the matter in public was inappropriate for either of us, nor should our actions circumscribe the course of options open to the board.
9. I indicated that I didn't like having to operate under an ultimatum.

10. Knowing the depth of Greg's feelings, and in order to be prepared to move on the Cal Trail legislation if we should have to do so before the Casper meeting, I then polled the board by mail. I asked them to:

a.) Ratify my appointment of Greg, John Latschar and myself to a committee to frame our California Trail legislative strategy (I saw this as a way to assure that Greg had full input into the discussions and subsequent presentation to the board. Greg saw it as something of a "stacked deck." Subsequently, we were notified that there would be no need for action on OCTA's part before the Casper meeting so the committee was never activated.)

b.) Authorize me to accept the offer of the NPS to help in the framing of the Cal Trail legislation.

c.) Keep the wording of our proposed legislation just as simple as possible; simply ask that all the trails, as enumerated under Alternative B, be included under the provisions of the National Trails Act.

The board voted to support all three of these proposals.

11. Greg notified the board that, since he felt so strongly on these matters, and since the board obviously did not support his position, he had no other option but to resign the office of executive director, as editor of the OJ and NFP, and, indeed, from OCTA itself. His resignation was to be

immediate and the break was to be complete. Vol. V, No. 2 of the OJ was ready to go to press, and he would see that it was printed and mailed, but he and his staff would do nothing more for OCTA other than forward incoming association correspondence. We, in effect, suddenly found ourselves without a national headquarters.

On behalf of the board, I asked Greg to reconsider his decision. We fully recognized the great burden he had been carrying for OCTA and respected his need to get out from under all of that. Further, we wanted him to remain as a member of the organization that he had brought into being and for which he had labored so long and so hard. I also asked him to be our honored guest at the Casper convention. He replied that he could not in good conscience accept the invitation.

I hope that I have presented the situation fairly and completely. It is always hard to be totally objective when you are so intimately involved in something as volatile and emotional as this. If Greg feels that omissions have been made or the account is self-serving, I am sure that he will speak up. He has never been loathe to make his views forcefully known.

This entire unfortunate affair has been a painful and traumatic experience for everyone involved. I can only say that it is my belief that OCTA will come out of it a stronger organization for the tempering. The matter is resolved, and it is time to let it go. We now have a national headquarters in Independence. We will be carrying on with our

publications and catching up on our publishing schedule. We will be maintaining the high standards of the OJ and NFP, and we will be aiming to improve upon those standards. We intend to carry on with our trails preservation efforts in all areas.

We are coming out of this affair a little bruised and shaken perhaps, but let me assure you that OCTA is well, and our influence is growing. We are gaining new and dedicated members at an ever-increasing rate, and we have a list of most impressive accomplishments behind us. We have much good and needful trails work yet to be done. I think that we all came home from the Casper convention thoroughly impressed with what an extraordinary group of people we have in OCTA. We enjoy each other; we have fun with each other; we learn from each other. But, more importantly, we are thoroughly dedicated to getting the job of historic trails preservation done. It is comforting to know that whatever those of us in leadership positions may do in the way of screwing things up, you members will be there to keep us on course and sustain the cause.

Tom Hunt



TRAILS ALERT

PUBLIC LAW 100-35—May 8, 1987

City of Rocks Bill Pending
Your Support NeededMay 8, 1987
[H.R. 240]Public Law 100-35
100th Congress

An Act

by Tom Hunt

Senators James McClure and Steven Symms of Idaho have introduced S. 1335 to establish the City of Rocks National Reserve. A National Reserve is a relatively new concept in preservation. It establishes a cooperative approach among federal, state, and local agencies for the protection of an important national resource with one agency assuming the lead role. The lead agency in this case would probably be the Idaho State Parks Department. (Copies of the bill may be obtained by writing Senator McClure's office.)

Please write to Senator McClure and Senator Symms and

1. Thank them for introducing S.1335.
2. Tell them how important the preservation of City of Rocks is.
3. Send a copy to your Congressman.

Address letters to:

Senator James McClure and
Senator Steven Symms
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

(Your Congressman)
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

The long-cherished goal of protecting City of Rocks is at hand. Please write today!

Tom Hunt

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Santa Fe Trail as a National Historic Trail.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end thereof:

"(15) The Santa Fe National Historic Trail, a trail of approximately 950 miles from a point near Old Franklin, Missouri, through Kansas, Oklahoma, and Colorado to Santa Fe, New Mexico, as generally depicted on a map entitled 'The Santa Fe Trail' contained in the Final Report of the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, dated July 1976. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director of the National Park Service, Washington, District of Columbia. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior. No lands or interests therein outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area may be acquired by the Federal Government for the Santa Fe Trail except with the consent of the owner thereof. Before acquiring any easement or entering into any cooperative agreement with a private landowner with respect to the trail, the Secretary shall notify the landowner of the potential liability, if any, for injury to the public resulting from physical conditions which may be on the landowner's land. The United States shall not be held liable by reason of such notice or failure to provide such notice to the landowner. So that significant route segments and sites recognized as associated with the Santa Fe Trail may be distinguished by suitable markers, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept the donation of suitable markers for placement at appropriate locations."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10(c)(2) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1249(c)(2)) is amended by inserting "and (15)" after "(13)".

Approved May 8, 1987.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 240:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 100-16 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
SENATE REPORTS: No. 100-39 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 133 (1987):
Mar. 10, considered and passed House.
Apr. 12, considered and passed Senate.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The Casper Convention is behind us and what a rousing success. Lee Underbrink and the crew from the Natrona Historical Society certainly need a big thank you from those who attended. The weather was grand, a little shower, but we were all aboard buses at the time, and it just settled some of the dust for us. The local ranchers who hosted our large group on their property were magnificent. Can you imagine over 400 trail buffs turned loose on your ranch looking over all the ruts and remnants of the migration? I'm sure some of the ranchers have never seen anything like it and certainly thought we had all flipped our lids. If they hadn't seen it themselves they never would have believed it. Let's hear it for the rancher hosts with a big **THANK YOU!!**

Now we're down to the awards banquet. Let me say that was not your new president's finest hour. The emotion of the time seemed to have taken over and, when I could no longer read my notes on the podium, I knew I was in trouble. Thank you for allowing me to stumble through. Now that my eyes have cleared, I would like to relay the few words I had prepared for Tom Hunt.

Whatever happened in the life of this otherwise normal art major from the coast of northern California to spark such an infectious interest in the great migration west, I'll never know. That interest is

extremely contagious to all of those who come in contact with him. He gave up the greenery of the Pacific coast to pursue the dry, dusty desert trail that the migration followed. He is sometimes referred to as the pined piper. He is also known as T. Hilliard Hunt or just Hilliard or Thomas H. Hunt, T. H. Hunt, T. H. H. and even Himself. I'm sure everyone here and everyone in OCTA wish to join me in A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to whatever you call yourself for all you have done for the cause and for OCTA. You're a fine example and a hard act to follow. I look forward to seeing you on the trail.

I would like to reflect just a little more, now that I'm back at my desk, about the convention. The atmosphere was not that of a sick organization, but one of great vitality, with an upward beat of where to go from here. We are growing and will continue to expand. OCTA has a very impressive track record and that record will continue to grow. We have a new address in Independence, Missouri. Shortly we will have new membership application blanks out to every member - one, or more if needed. Now, let's every member recruit a member by the St. Joseph Convention in 1988.

Dick Ackerman



TOM HUNT HIGH ROCK CANYON FUND ESTABLISHED

by Chuck Dodd

A fund to support the effort to have the High Rock Canyon designated as a National Monument has been established in the name of outgoing OCTA president, Tom Hunt. The California-Nevada Chapter initiated the fund with a donation of more than \$300, collected in response to an appeal published in their newsletter, "Trail Talk."

The High Rock Canyon, which is part of the Applegate-Lassen Route in

Northwestern Nevada, is a particularly scenic portion of the trail and is part of one of the longest sections of trail still remaining essentially as it was when the emigrants traveled it. Establishing the High Rock Canyon as a National Monument was adopted by OCTA's board of directors as a long range goal.

Those interested in supporting the effort can make additional contributions to the fund by sending a check (payable to OCTA) to:

Oregon-California Trails
Association
P. O. Box 1019
Independence, MO 64051-0519

"NEWS FROM THE PLAINS"

This issue of "News from the Plains" is being brought to you by the staff of the St. Joseph Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri.

We plan to eventually locate the publication of the "News" in the vicinity of our new headquarters in Independence, Missouri. Until that time, articles and news items for publication in the "News from the Plains" should be submitted to Richard A. Nolf, Director, St. Joseph Museum, 11th and Charles Streets, St. Joseph, Missouri 64501, 816/232-8471.

The Oregon- California Trails Association is...

...a young, vigorous
organization...

...with an
impressive track
record...

...with thrilling
publications...

...an exciting
annual convention...

...determined
leadership...

...and dedicated
members...

...you can help.
Please get behind
our cause. Join.
Today!

Membership Application



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

c/o CHARLES H. DODD / P.O. BOX 6598
TAHOE CITY, CA 95730-6598

☐ Enroll me as a member of OCTA for the year _____

Your Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Membership Categories

(check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1,000 up
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional	\$100/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$100/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$50/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Student *	\$10/year

* Proof of age 21 or younger
must accompany application.



Saint Joseph Museum

11TH AND CHARLES STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI 64501-2874



also visit the
Pony Express Museum
Extension of the Saint Joseph Museum



COME TO THE OCTA '88 MEETINGS IN ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI AUGUST 10 THRU 14

