

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Fall 2014

VOL XXIX NO. 4

Jere Krakow Selected as National Trail Preservation Officer

*By Candy Moulton
NFP Editor*

Jere Krakow is the new National Trail Preservation Officer for OCTA. His selection came at a meeting of Chapter Presidents and Chapter Preservation Officers during the 2014 convention.

Krakow, a member of the OCTA Board just beginning his second term in that office, is retired from the National Park Service where he served as superintendent of the Long Distance Trails Office.

He served on an ad hoc committee, organized last year, that drafted the new Preservation

Policy for OCTA, and has been a leading advocate of preservation of the national trails system for decades.

Under the new policy a number of chapter preservation officer positions in trail regions are authorized. Those preservation officers in turn select one of their members to serve as the National Preservation Officer on their behalf. To better support the individual officers, OCTA also has authorized hiring a consultant who would be familiar with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations related to preservation topics.

While this policy was approved

last year, it is just now being put into full effect with the selection of Krakow as the NPO. He had been serving as interim NPO.

OCTA will provide travel compensation and an annual stipend for the preservation consultant and for travel expenses of regional or chapter preservation officers.

Board Finally Passes Budget

*By Candy Moulton
NFP Editor*

During an eight hour meeting of the OCTA Board of Directors during the convention in Kearney, NE, the board addressed a number of issues, heard committee reports, and faced a special challenge to come up with a budget for the next fiscal year.

After considerable discussion, at the recommendation of Treasurer Marvin Burke, the process was referred back to the Budget Committee, which presented a budget that was later approved by e-mail vote. (See related articles.)

The board also considered a motion to authorize \$8,000 to fund an audit or review of the



Jere Krakow, left, points out trail features. A former NPS Long Distance Trails Office superintendent, he is the new leader of preservation efforts for OCTA.

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NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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CALENDAR

OCTA Mid-Year Board
March 5-7, 2015
Denver, CO

OCTA Convention
Sept. 21-25, 2015
South Lake Tahoe

2014-15 OCTA Officers.

John Krizek, President, 1190 Tanglewood Rd., Prescott, AZ 86303;
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Duane Iles, Past President, P.O. Box 310, Holton, KS 66436; 96cruisin@embarqmail.com

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Billy Symms
Pat Traffas, Officer Liaison

Committee B - Finances, Grants, Long Range Planning, and Governance

Don Hartley, Chair
Jere Krakow
Loren Pospisil
Marvin Burke, Treasurer, Officer Liaison

Committee C - Preservation, Collections, Public Relations, and Property Management

Doug Jensen, Chair
Brian Larson
Cecilia Bell
John Winner, Officer Liaison

John Krizek, President & ex officio on all committees



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OCTA Board

Continued from Page 1

organization's finances, which has not been done for several years. The board defeated the motion to fund the review and referred the issue back to the Audit Committee to develop a more refined proposal for the board to consider.

The original budget presented for approval at the meeting totaled \$336,090, of which \$154,090 is funding that will be provided by the National Park Service under its annual cooperative agreement with the organization. The overall NPS support to OCTA is down about \$3,000 from last year.

The final budget approved by the board after the meeting is \$319,290 and requires about \$20,000 from investment funds.

The final budget reduced spending in several areas.

"We have a major issue to contend with, with our finances and our future, and during the course of today there are some important things we are going to be talking about," Krizek said in opening remarks to the board at the meeting. "One of these is the involvement of this board in the fiduciary responsibilities of the board."

"If we want to turn this ship around, it's going to take a major commitment from this board," Krizek said. "We need a commitment and a plan for five years out. Until we turn this ship around the pressure's only going to increase. We're at a tough crossroads, guys. Sooner or later we're going to have to make some serious choices."

Dave Welch, past OCTA president and chairman of the Investment Advisory Committee, echoed Krizek.

"You've got to change the programs to match the size of the organization."

The allocation of resources from the NPS drew some interest from board members, most vocal of whom was Jere Krakow, who questioned the process of making the request of the NPS. OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley said he developed the annual NPS budget agreement with the help of NPS staff, and Krizek approved it, which has been the routine. Krizek said in the future the board will become more involved in the development and approval of that part of the budget process.

The board agreed to an Investment Advisory Committee recommendation to invest all money in fixed income segment of organizational endowment funds in intermediate funds. It also agreed to renew a \$25,000 line of credit with Commerce Bank in

Kansas City.

After the meeting, Krizek noted that the budget increasingly relies on the organization's endowment fund's earnings to fill the gap between income and expenses. "The enabling documents establish that's what endowment funds should be used for. The difference this year is in the amount and the identification of those funds," he said.

"The revenue pressures being felt by OCTA are not unique to this organization. Virtually every nonprofit organization in the country is facing declining memberships, and resulting budget pressures. Our average age is 70, and younger generations don't join as ours did. Yet our passion and our cause endures. Revenues through conventions, meetings, merchandise, publications, and donations, are going to become increasingly important as we move forward."

Treasurer Outlines Final Budget

*By Marvin W. Burke
OCTA Treasurer*

Net revenue is projected to be \$296,600 for the coming 9/30/15 fiscal year. The National Park Service Grants are 51% of the total operating revenue.

Operating expenses are projected to be \$319,290 for the coming 9/30/15 fiscal year.

The operating budget reflects a net loss of \$22,690.

When the withdrawals are included, the net gain is \$5,410.

CAVEAT

The budget shows an operating loss of \$22,690. Withdrawals from the Heritage Fund (\$20,000)

and Loomis Fund (\$8,100) result in a gain after transfers of \$5,410. It is anticipated that an audit/review of OCTA finances will be required at an approximate cost of \$8,000, which is not reflected in the operating budget. The \$8,000 is reflected in the projected withdrawals from the Heritage Fund. This will eliminate the projected gain and result in a small loss of \$790. Withdrawals from the endowment funds will not be made until needed and withdrawals will not exceed the limits set by the endowment agreements. I shall not support any withdrawals of principal.

Grants and Signing Process in Kansas City Area

By Travis Boley
tboley@indepmo.org

In early August, the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office in Santa Fe, NM, submitted a Challenge Cost Share Grant to facilitate the development of a short segment of recreational trail in Sugar Creek, MO. The segment lies in the historic Three Trails corridor of the Oregon/California/Santa Fe National Historic Trails and is just south of the Wayne City (Upper Independence) Landing.

If funded, Sugar Creek Mayor Matt Mallinson will provide the match to ensure the construction of this "demonstration" of how to develop a National Historic Trail

in an urban setting where most remnants of the trail are lost to time and development. If awarded, the total project will cost \$50,000.

In late August, OCTA worked with the cities of Sugar Creek and Independence to submit a Planning Sustainable Places grant to the Mid America Regional Council (MARC). If awarded, this grant would fund the development of a recreational trails plan in the Three Trails corridor for these two communities.

The grant would pay for the necessary landscape architects and engineers to identify the easiest, most cost-effective way to build recreational trail in the historic trail corridor. Independence and

Sugar Creek have dedicated \$8,000 each toward the project as part of a required match, for an overall plan cost of \$80,000.

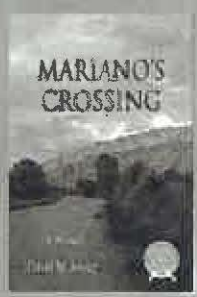
The submission of these two grants was a direct result of the Kansas City Trails Conference, which OCTA held last March.

Stay tuned for much more on this project in a future issue of *NFP*.

So why should OCTA care about these developments? How do we benefit? Why should we be involved? Taking the long view, the best road to preservation begins with awareness. The general public will never care about trail resources if they are not aware such things exist in their midst. By building recreational trail and installing trail identification signs and exhibits along the length of our historic trail corridor in greater Kansas City, the public becomes more aware of remaining trail resources because the planned trail heads are at places where these resources remain. Trail-related parks, homes, and buildings from the trail era, preserved lengths of wagon swales, and trail museums and historic sites will generally serve as trail heads.

OCTA is at the forefront driving these initiatives at the local level. We already have an eye toward applying for future MARC funding to help us develop similar trail planning documents in Raytown and in cities of Leawood, Overland Park, Olathe, and Gardner on the Kansas side.

With a completed 40-mile recreational trail that is fully and vibrantly identified as the Oregon/California/Santa Fe National Historic Trails, it will be virtually impossible for general public to ignore something so important that Congress chose to designate it as nationally significant. In this way, we hope to continue to see growth in terms of monetary support and membership at the local level, and if successful, to replicate it in other urban areas traversed by our trails.



Mariano's Crossing
By David M. Jessup

Based on real characters and the mysteries connected with historic events, *Mariano's Crossing* is a mesmerizing tale of people struggling to find their places in the rapidly changing landscape of post-gold rush Colorado along the Cherokee Trail.

First Place - Rocky Mt. Fiction Writers
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- *A vivid piece of writing!* *NY Times* bestselling author Louis Bayard.
- *A beautiful, exciting, wonderful novel!* Laura Pritchett, PEN USA Award winner.

Order from bookstores, on-line booksellers or from www.davidmjiessup.com

Call For Papers for 2015 Convention in Lake Tahoe

The Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) invites submission of abstracts for papers to be presented at its 2015 annual convention. The meeting will be held in Lake Tahoe, NV, Sept. 18-24, 2015. The deadline for receiving abstracts of 200 words maximum is Dec. 1, 2014.

The theme of the convention is "A Bonanza Of Trails." All submissions relating to mid-nineteenth century overland migration to the West will be considered, but priority will be given to subjects related to the theme, especially what happened on trails in the Reno/Tahoe area, during and after the overland trek. Papers addressing trail development, emigrant experiences on the various trails, experiences of minority groups

including Black Americans on the trails, and Native American impressions of the Westward Movement and its impact on their way of life, are solicited. Presentations by descendants of pioneer emigrants are also sought. Some talks may be grouped as a panel presentation, dependent upon the number of submissions. Talks should run approximately 45 minutes in length.

Papers should be scholarly and original. Permission may be sought for publication in OCTA's *Overland Journal*.

For consideration, abstracts should be submitted by Dec. 1, 2014, to Ken Johnston, 5709 Casa Way, Klamath Falls, OR, 97603. For additional information call 541-883-7671 or email kljstn@msn.com.

OCTA Publication Editor Applications Now Accepted

OCTA is accepting applications for the position of Editor of *News From the Plains*.

Current Editor Candy Moulton has resigned her position, effective Jan. 1, 2015.

The editor serves as a private contractor and receives modest fees for services.

To apply send a letter of interest, resume and work samples to Duane Iles, Chair of the Nominations and Leadership Committee at P.O. Box 310, Holton, KS 66436; 96cruisin@embarqmail.com

A full job description for the position is available upon request. The deadline for applications is Nov. 30, 2014.



NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

The **National Frontier Trails Museum** in Independence, Missouri brings the pioneer experience on the trails to life. The only museum in the nation certified to interpret the Lewis & Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon, California and Mormon Pioneer trails, the **National Frontier Trails Museum** offers:

- A unique collection of original artifacts and special exhibits
- Firsthand written accounts, travel diaries and journals
- Interactive displays, audio guides and gallery walks
- Children's programs and activities
- A robust research library
- A gift store with the region's largest selection of trails books and merchandise

Pack your provisions, circle the wagons and saddle up for a visit to the **National Frontier Trails Museum** where the West welcomes you, the journey begins and your adventure awaits.

318 W. Pacific • Independence, MO 64050 • www.FrontierTrailsMuseum.org

Kearney Convention Highlights



In addition to presentations and workshops, OCTA members toured trail sites, locations related to the Indian wars period, and had a concluding picnic at Fort Kearney. The convention was August 4-8 in Kearney, NE.

(Photos by Roger Blair)





OCTA AWARDS

Gregory M. Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award Duane Iles

The recipient of the 2014 Gregory M. Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award is Duane Iles, shown at right with President John Krizek. Iles is the immediate past president of OCTA and current membership chairman. For many years he has been the driving force in the preservation of the Alcove Spring historic site on the Oregon-California Trail near Marysville, KS.

In recent years he has worked closely with the National Park Service in holding listening sessions with Native American tribes located in close proximity to the trail corridor. He is involved in planning a Symposium that will be held in September at Alcove Spring that will feature Native American dancers and other activities that are trail related at that historic site.



Duane Iles, right, and OCTA President John Krizek.



OCTA AWARDS

Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Tom McCutcheon

The 2013 Elaine McNabney Volunteer Award was presented to Tom McCutcheon of Rock Springs, WY, in recognition of his outstanding volunteer achievements. He has been an avid supporter of trail interests prior to and since the founding of OCTA. He has served as a trail guide on many treks and historical studies. He has served as friend and host for trail enthusiasts for many years. He has located trail-related graves some had thought had been lost. Tom, a member of the KANZA and Wyoming Chapters of OCTA, is always willing to lend a hand.

He has, over many years, collected an impressive trails and western history book collection, which he has now donated to the Lincoln County, Wyoming Branch Library in Afton, WY, where it has become part of their permanent collection. The Library is in the Star Valley of Western Wyoming, a home of the Lander Road of the Oregon-California Trail.



Tom McCutcheon has led many treks on trails in Wyoming and has also been active with trails projects of the KANZA Chapter.



OCTA AWARDS

Distinguished Service

Sharon Brown



Sharon Brown has spent her career with the National Park Service working on many trail-related initiatives.

Sharon Brown is the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her long-standing contributions to the Oregon and California Trail Association as a National Park Service professional.

Her top quality efforts range from serving on the OCTA editorial committee of the early 1980s to many significant contributions especially during the last 12 years. As deployed staff to Ft. Vancouver she

devoted much time in coordinating with the Pacific Northwest and California-Nevada chapters, served as ex-officio on the Oregon Trail Advisory Council, and as a key liaison in planning and carrying out the Vancouver convention of OCTA.

Sharon also led the OCTA effort to develop and finalize the current Strategic Plan, interpretive projects such as Gardner, Kansas, and for the past several years has been the key contact in developing the annual budget and cooperative agreements between the National Park Service and OCTA. She is the consummate professional who contributes in a helpful and cheerful way to the betterment of the national trails nationwide.

First National Bank - Omaha, NE



First National Bank of Omaha, NE, received a Distinguished Service Award for the development of a downtown sculpture park that highlights the trails experience.

"Pioneer Courage" is a spectacular piece of art and design honoring the westward migration located on several city blocks in downtown Omaha. The family owned First National Bank created the sculpture park. Bank Chairman Bruce Lauritzen is committed to portraying these unique sculptures.

The bank paid the total costs of the emigrant sculpture park and another that depicts Nebraska wildlife with buffalo stampeding and geese and other birds taking flight along the Platte River.

This is still a work in progress as other sculptures are planned for the Pioneer Courage area. The sculpture park is located at 1620 Dodge Street in Omaha.

First National Bank Market President Mark Sutko accepted the award for "Pioneer Courage."



OCTA AWARDS

President's Award



Chapter members accepted the President's Award for their work on projects in Kansas City.

Trails Head Chapter

The Trails Head Chapter of OCTA has for many years played a leadership role in the development of the National Historic Trails story in the Greater Kansas City area and this year received a special President's Award.

There are four National Historic Trails (NHT) in the area – the Oregon, California, Santa Fe, and Lewis and Clark. However, until about twenty years ago, very little was done in terms of widespread promotion, preservation, interpretation, updated research, or the development of public-private partnerships.

Various Trails Head leaders such as Mary Conrad, Craig Crease, Lee and Dorothy Kroh, John Mark Lambertson, Ross Marshall, Dick Nelson, Pat Traffas, and others, began at that time to strategize how to develop both public and private partnerships to raise public awareness of the NHT assets.

The results have been spectacular including the purchase and establishment of public parks on the trail (up to 160 acres in size), the placement of approximately 80 wayside exhibits, hundreds of street signs along the trail routes, and the publishing of newsletter information, maps, driving route brochures, and other brochures.

This work has been made possible by partnering with federal agencies like the National Park Service, state Department of Transportation, many local city parks and public works departments, other historic trails groups like the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, the River Bend Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, and with hiking/biking trails groups. The trails work also has been shown to

OCTA members on several bus tours during the 2012 Convention headquartered in nearby Lawrence, KS, hosted by Trails Head Chapter.

In March of this year, the Kansas City Trails Conference was held in Independence involving 130 or so people from across the country including the Boards of Directors of the above groups. The purpose was to celebrate and display the trails system to the many that came from other states and to discuss how to further develop urban trail corridors in Kansas City and in other metropolitan areas as well.

Trails Head Chapter members believe the Kansas City area to be the most-developed National Historic Trails system of any metropolitan area in the nation. Trails Head Chapter and many of its members have been the key to this wonderful success story.



OCTA AWARDS

Friends of the Trail

Hall County Historical Society



OCTA President John Krizek, left, and Hall County Historical Society President Fred Roeser.

In 1995 the Hall County Historical Society in Grand Island, NE, Friend of the Trail recipient, raised \$24,000 to purchase a strip of land on a slight ridge between the Platte River and Wood River two miles south of Alda, NE. This is referred to as the Murdock Site for its owner in 1866.

The purchase kept the site from being sold as a residential or commercial building location. The two and one-half acres contain rut swales made by thousands of travelers. In fact nearly every emigrant bound for points west, following the north side of the Platte, went through the location.

The National Park Service erected an interpretive panel on the site. It also contains a Hall County Historical Marker that was placed in the 1930s, which is the last remaining marker of its kind in the original location.

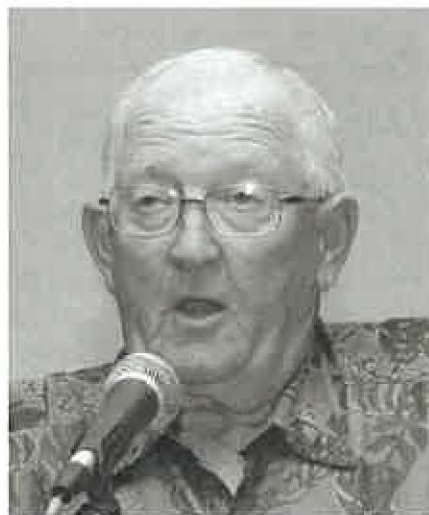
Richard Pariset

In 1860 Nebraska City business interests were looking for a more direct route to the second Fort Kearny that had been established in 1848. They contracted with a civil engineer to do a survey. When plotting a trail pass in the vicinity of present Beaver Crossing, NE, they discovered a small stretch of Beaver Creek with the ideal criteria for a ford. It contained a sandy bottom and gentle slopes with stands of cottonwood trees.

The site is located on property currently owned by Richard Pariset. To his knowledge this area has not been extensively cultivated. It has been, and is currently being used, as a cattle pasture and for growing hay. The land use history coupled with the presence of visible surface features, such as swales, ruts, and depressions, led to further

archaeological investigations by the National Park Service and University of Nebraska.

Richard has preserved the trail remnants in cooperation with the archaeological study and has provided public access by appointment to the site.



Pariset is a Friend of the Trail.

Brian and Michelle Arrants

Brian and Michelle Arrants received a Friend of the Trail Award for their protection of the Smith-Simonton Grave site at Indian Hollow also known as Ayr Ruts six miles south of Hastings, NE.

This property is located at 875 West Saddlehorn Road in Adams County Nebraska. The farmer to the west was encroaching on the grave marker and an OCTA interpretive panel. Brian built a fence and installed a gate to allow access to the site. He moved the interpretive panel to prevent future damage. He also preserves the two rut swales on the southern edge of the property.



Williams Family



John Krizek presents the Williams Family with a Friend of the Trail award for their care of the Mid-way Station near Gothenburg, NE.

The Williams Family of Gothenburg, NE, was recognized for care of trail sites.

In 1881 Henry Laurens Williams and his wife Catharine, looking for a more healthful climate, began buying land in the Platte Valley. In 1901 the family moved to Gothenburg. They owned interest in and

eventually owned both the Upper and Lower 96 Ranches.

In 1931 Catharine Williams donated the Machette log cabin on the Upper 96 to Gothenburg and Post 64 of the American Legion moved the building to the Gothenburg park. It has been known ever since as the "Sam Machette Pony Express Station. Another log building, believed to be a Pony Express blacksmith shop, was donated to the Lincoln County Historical Society and is preserved in the museum in North Platte.

There have been four generations of the Williams family in Gothenburg operating the 96 Ranch. The Upper 96 Ranch was sold. They still own the Lower 96 south of Gothenburg and maintain the Midway Station building. Some argue this was also a Pony Express Station. In 2011 Larry Gill as CEO of 96 Ranch built a three-sided building over the Midway Station to protect it from the weather.

Troy and Kari Legg

Troy and Kari Legg were recognized for their protection of trail rut swales and the site of Sand Hill Station west of the Susan C. Haile grave near Kenesaw, NE.

Several years ago this property was in danger of being developed for crop production. The Leggs purchased the land and built their home on the west portion, avoiding the rut swales and the station site. They use the area as horse and cattle pasture and allow access for people interested in the trail.



Kari and Troy Legg with their award.

Larry and Sandy Snell

Larry and Sandy Snell of Kenesaw, NE, have maintained the Susan C. Haile/Lone Grave site from 2003 to 2012, and for their efforts they received a Friend of the Trail Award. Several times during the summer they mow trim and pickup trash and place flowers. The site is owned by Adams County Historical Society.



OCTA AWARDS Educators of the Year

Educators Recognized for Trails Programs

By Bill Hill

*Education Award and Publication
Committee Chair*

Three Outstanding Educator Awards were presented this past August at the Kearney Convention. Bonnie Willhelm was recognized for her Pioneer Schoolhouse program at the Museum of the American West in Lander, WY. The approach used in this program not only teaches about our history, but tries to make the whole education process as much as possible like it was for the early pioneers. It is based on an in-depth week long program.

All students attend classes in period clothing in a historic restored one-room schoolhouse. Ringing the bell starts the daily half-day school program. The course of study includes the "3 R's" using the teaching methods of the past as well as the appropriate behavioral standards expected of students attending school at that time.

Even recess is educational as students learn and play the games, use the toys, and sing the songs of the past. The hands-on approach is used as students learn the life skills needed during the 19th century. In addition, students are taught about the historic trails and military forts and their special roles in Wyoming's history.

Kathleen Schulte from the Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill in Salem Oregon was recognized for her "Oregon Trail Live" program to make



Jody MacBride, left, and Amy Wilson accepted their awards in person while Lisa Brown and Robert Schroeder were unable to attend the convention.

history fun, but not to make fun of history. The program is based on the video Oregon Trail game with the special permission from its creator and present copyright holder. Children (and their parents who are invited to participate and often do) are divided into teams and must then face ten challenges based on the game and actual pioneer experiences such as: caulking a wagon, building a shelter, gathering and tossing "buffalo" chips, and others. Another unique aspect is that the game involves a wide degree of support, sponsorship, and participation by various groups from the local community in the program including local cafes and stores, musicians and music groups, 4-H, the local historical society, and even local blacksmiths.

The Swasey Central School fourth grade team teachers Amy Wilson, Jody MacBride, Lisa Brown, and Robert Schroeder from back east in Brentwood, NH, were recognized for their program of study about the migration west over the Oregon Trail. The multidisciplinary, hands-on, simulation approach over weeks of classroom work includes the reading

of actual diaries and special programs on various topics, such as cooking, music, and dancing.

During this whole program students assume the identity of different travelers, learning why people went west, making preparations for the journey by studying supplies needed and different routes, joining a wagon train, and then "making the journey." As they learn, students keep a daily journal.

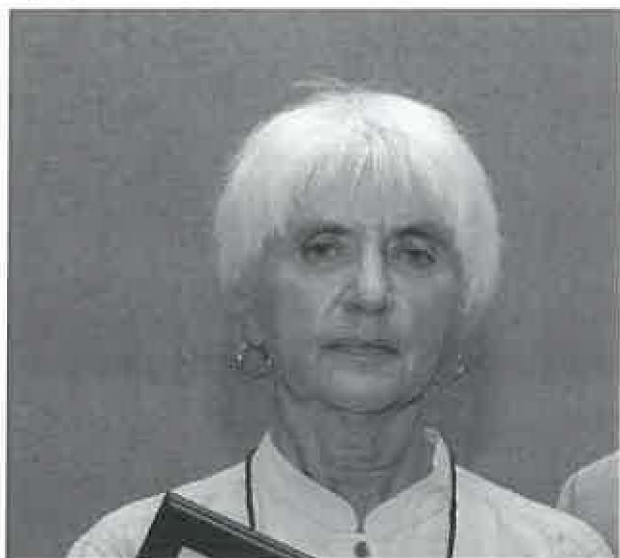
The study culminates with a day-long involving parents and community members all in period dress in a field with wagons, with campfires and a variety of individual activities. Some include: making toys and playing games; using old-

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OCTA AWARDS

Educators of the Year



Kathleen Schulte accepted the award on behalf of the Willamette Heritage Center.



Bonnie Willhelm accepted the award for the Museum of the American West in Lander, WY.

time construction tools needed for home construction, making yokes & carrying water, cooking, blacksmithing, and driving a team of steers.

With all the recent financial and time constraints facing organizations and schools, it is nice to see that some still give their wholehearted support to their programs.

If you know of teachers or centers and museums that have valuable programs that should be recognized for their outstanding work with students please contact them and encourage them to participate in our recognition and award program. Information can be found on OCTA's website under the Learn-Opportunities portion. Mailing to a limited number of schools and museums will also occur this fall.

Once again congratulations to our Outstanding Educators! Another highlight of the

convention was the attendance of Izzy Young, one of one of the fourteen students whose artwork was selected for the 2015 Calendar "Plants Along the Trails – Edible, Medicinal & Dangerous." Each of the children received a copy of the calendar and a check for fifty dollars. Once again, the calendar was well received by our members and some lucky members bought copies signed by Izzy. If you did not place your order before the convention or purchase one during the Kearney convention, you may be out of luck. Only a very few were left at Independence and might still be available for \$10.

"Emigrant and Indian Toys & Games" is the topic for our 2016 calendar. Information about the project and procedure can be found on the OCTA website under the learn-opportunities section.

Information about our activity book raffle for a class set of books is also available online.



Calendar Artist Izzy Young shows off her winning artwork in the 2015 OCTA Calendar.



OCTA AWARDS

Young OCTAN

Danny Mallinson

Danny Mallinson completed his Eagle Scout project by placing a limestone post marker in front of 3118 N. River Blvd. in Sugar Creek, MO. This is the first limestone post in proximity to the Wayne City Landing.

"Most wagons that went west up until 1851 came right across this ground," he said. "From early 1800s until 1851 (when a flood took out the sand bar that was the landing place for the steam ships) westward travelers would arrive by steamship at Wayne City Landing, right down the street from here. On their way to Independence, many would have stopped and watered at the natural springs located on this property. These are the first springs on the trail. Because this is a confirmed route the wagon trains traveled, this property was awarded a limestone marker to commemorate the Santa Fe, Oregon and California trails."

OCTA has received grants to place signage from Wayne City Landing along River Blvd. to the Independence Square to mark these trails. A walking trail (sidewalk) is expected to follow along the same route. This is truly a historical site and Sugar Creek should be proud that these trails started here. This is also in the area of William Gilpin's holdings and his planned Gilpin Town.

Danny is the fifth generation in the same area, growing up involved with the original family farm of the 1850s. He is the son of Sugar Creek Mayor Matt Mallinson.

Danny graduated this year from William Chrisman High School, the same high school where his grandparents graduated.

He is attending Iowa State University this fall.



Danny Mallinson with OCTA President John Krizek.



Merrill Mattes Award

Jess Petersen



Receiving the Merrill Mattes Award for best article published in the Overland Journal was Jess Petersen for "Rediscovery of Government Springs," which was published in the Spring 2013 issue. The award was presented by OJ Editor Marlene Smith-Baranzini.



OCTA Convention 2014

Board Members, Convention Planners recognized



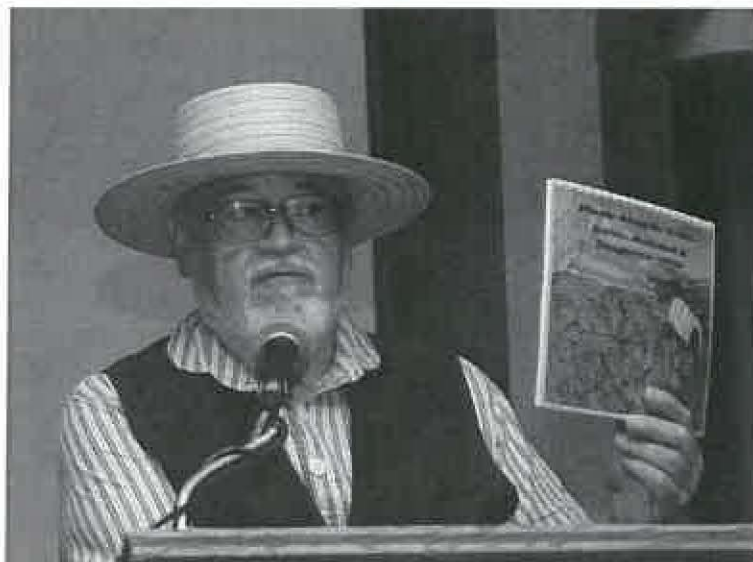
Retiring OCTA Board members recognized for service to the organization included above from left, Barb Netherland, President John Krizek, David Vixie, and Pat Fletcher.



Travis Boley was recognized for his 10 year anniversary as OCTA Association Manager.



Bill Petersen and Ronnie O'Brien were recognized for their work in organizing the Kearney Convention.



Bill Hill encourages OCTA members to purchase a copy of the 2015 calendar featuring student artwork.

**All Convention Photos
by Roger Blair**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Convention Afterglow and Future Planning

By John Krizek
jkrizek33@gmail.com

As we bask in the afterglow of another great OCTA convention, I can't help but feel a little selfish--that we are able to enjoy those bus trips and speakers, and all those other folks out there are not. We could try harder to include them! Thanks again to convention chairman Bill Petersen and his crew for all their dedication and hard work.

With the retirement of veteran board members Pat Fletcher, Barb Netherland, and Dave Vixie--and with the welcoming of new board member Cecelia Bell and the re-upping for a second term of Jere Krakow--we've completed the transition to a nine-member board of directors, from the previous twelve. We look forward to Pat, Barb, and Dave remaining active amongst us as we keep this organization moving down the trail.

One subject that received a lot of attention at the board meeting in Kearney is the donation of collections, and the updating of OCTA's policies and procedures in that regard. How many priceless collections of books and artifacts

exist on the shelves and in the personal libraries of our ageing membership--and what will happen to them once we are gone? The Collections Committee, chaired by Lethene Parks, is working through the copyright and control issues involved in handling donations of such collections, and our relations with the libraries that officially house collections donated by OCTA members, so that proper guidance can be offered to those wishing to make such donations.

A related area that grows in importance for organizations like ours, in this age of budget stress and austerity, is planned giving. Our new fundraising committee chair, Melissa Shaw Jones, points out that on our new OCTA web site--under the "Preserve" section--one can get to the *Trails Legacy Society* page, which explains very well how planned giving can benefit not only the donor but can go a long way toward preserving historic trails. It's "Giving beyond your life" to your favorite cause, as one expert explains.

The story of the plight of our trails continues to radiate. In late October, the entire historic trails

community--under the leadership of the Partnership for the National Trails System, and co-hosted by our Crossroads Chapter--will gather in Salt Lake City for a workshop on historic trails. The focus will be on the Hastings Cutoff and the battle to save Pilot Valley, which you've read about on these pages. The news media in Salt Lake City has paid attention to this issue--thanks in part to the efforts of our friends at the BLM. The more people who know the story, the better.

One last story about finding new members: A week after we were out trail-scouting at the convention, I was in an urgent care facility in California, getting a little something removed from my leg (which turned out not to be a tick). When the doc tending to me heard I may have picked up the bug while investigating the Mormon Trail in Nebraska, he confessed to being a Mormon emigration history buff, and promised to look OCTA up on line. I didn't have a brochure in my pocket--which is a lesson in being prepared. You never know when you may run into the next member!



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FROM THE HQ MANAGER

Life Members Urged to Support Chapters

By Kathy Conway
Headquarters Manager

May we suggest for the upcoming holiday season – a gift membership in OCTA – makes the perfect present! Just clip and complete the membership application with check or credit card number, send to Headquarters and we'll do the rest!

We want our Ezra Meeker Life Members to know it is time to renew your chapter membership affiliations. Even though some of you lifers aren't members of one

of our chapters, you may want to consider supporting one or more of our eleven chapters. You may also want to consider supporting the chapters to further our preservation efforts throughout the western and southwestern states.

A form is provided below for you to cut out and fill in with your essential information along with the chapters you wish to join or renew.

Then either mail a check or provide a credit card number with the form and send to OCTA, P.O.

Box 1019, Independence, MO 64050. You may also renew online through the OCTA website, or call us toll free at 888-811-6282. As always, should you have questions or concerns, please call or e-mail us at octa@indepmo.org.

If you are not an Ezra Meeker Life member, you can join at that level at any time. We can even work out a payment plan if you are interested in upgrading. Increasing your membership support allows us to continue the work of trails preservation and education.

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

524 South Osage Street

PO Box 1019 / Independence, MO 64051-0519

Phone: 888/811-6282 FAX: 816/836-0989 E-Mail: octa@indepmo.org

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Expiration Date

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

(Please Check One)

<input type="checkbox"/> Emigrant (Individual)	\$50/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer (Family)	\$65/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Pathfinder (Individual or Family)	\$90/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Patron (Individual or Family)	\$125/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Merrill J. Mattes Society (Ind. or Fam.)	\$250/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional (Libraries, Museums, etc.)	\$300/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$1250/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Ezra Meeker Life Member	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> College Student*	\$20/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Educator	\$45/year

Joining a chapter is optional, and you may join as many chapters as you would like. Benefits of chapter membership include local newsletters, invitations to chapter events, lectures and treks, opportunities to make a difference at a local level and the opportunity to make new friends. Please check the chapter you would like to join and add the additional amount to your payment.

<input type="checkbox"/> California/Nevada [\$10 individual and \$15 family, \$35 Sustaining]	<input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska [\$10]
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado/Cherokee [\$10, \$200 life membership]	<input type="checkbox"/> Northwest (Oregon, WA, W. Canada) [\$10, \$15 family, \$20 corporate life membership at 20 times annual amount]
<input type="checkbox"/> Crossroads, (Utah) [\$10, \$5 students]	<input type="checkbox"/> Southern Trails (Arizona, New Mexico, Texas) [\$15 individual, \$20 family, \$50 Sustaining; \$200 Ind. Life; \$300 Family Life]
<input type="checkbox"/> Gateway (St. Joseph, MO., NE Kansas) [\$10, \$15 family]	<input type="checkbox"/> Trails Head (Kansas City metro areas) [\$10]
<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho [\$10]	<input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming [\$10]
<input type="checkbox"/> KANZA (Kansas, excluding K.C. and St. Joseph areas) [\$10, \$15 family]	

Inaugural Hall of Fame Vote Planned

By Roger Blair

Five men have been nominated for inauguration in the OCTA Hall of Fame, which was approved at the last mid-year Board of Directors meeting.

The Board approved the creation of an OCTA Hall of Fame and appointed a committee to work on the project.

The committee is comprised of three former OCTA presidents, Dave Welch, Bill Martin, and Roger Blair. They drew up an extensive list of potential names to consider placing before the membership for a vote to induct into the Hall. The committee then painstakingly pared the list down to five candidates for initial

consideration.

For each of the first three to five years the committee will propose five candidates for consideration each year and three individuals each year thereafter. The first five candidates up for a vote were announced at the recent Kearney convention. OCTA members will be receiving a ballot in the mail soon. Please vote and return this ballot. The ballot will include space for submitting your choices for future consideration by the Hall of Fame committee.

The individuals up for vote this year are:

Howard R. Driggs
Gregory M. Franzwa
Henry M. Jackson

Merrill J. Mattes

Ezra M. Meeker

OCTA members will be relatively familiar with all or most of these candidates. Nevertheless, the upcoming mailing will include a brief summary of each candidate's background, experience, and trail qualifications. To receive approval for induction, each candidate must receive 60 percent of the votes cast.

There are a large number of potential candidates, so if your "favorite" candidates are not in this inaugural group, be patient. They likely will follow. Please make your choices regarding these individuals known by voting and returning your ballot.

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Heritage Inn Express	1155 Pony Express Hwy	Marysville, KS
First Commerce Bank	902 Broadway	Marysville KS
Y Loop Road Trips	PO Box 222	Wapiti WY
American Fire and Safety	PO Box 272	St. Joseph, MO
Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau	2930 Old Oregon Trail Rd	Gering, NE
Morrill County Visitors Committee	PO Box 788	Bridgeport NE
Surveyor Scherbel, Ltd.	PO Box 96	Big Piney WY
Barn Anew Bed and Breakfast	170549 Cr L	Mitchell NE

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NEW MEMBERS

Recently joining OCTA are these new members.

Jacqueline Ball, Sacramento CA
Sarah Benton, Bonner Springs KS
Nicholas R. Cataldo, San

Bernadino CA

Michael Drum, Sun Valley NV
Margie Erhardt, Placerville CA
Spence Everson, Jacksonville OR
Stuart Garrett, Bend OR
Drew Harvey, Wilsonville OR
Mona Kühlenengel, Syracuse NE
Mrs William Liddicoat, Ann Arbor MI

Jay Mastrud, St Paul MN
Shirley McDonald, Hercules CA
Nancy Morebeck, Vacaville CA
Seth Owens, Sacramento CA
Reuben and Lynn Rasmussen, Cache Junction UT

Loa LeAnn Reichenberg, Grant NE
Margaret Riffel, Redding CA
Jean Sebesta, Placitas NM
Josie Smith, Chico CA
Teresa Ward, Colorado Springs CO
Nancy Wilson, Corbett OR
Norman Wisner, Oracle AZ

NEWS FROM

GATEWAY

Gateway Deals with Vandalism

*By Carole A. McClellan
Chapter President*

Vandals struck a number of trail sites in the Gateway Chapter territory this year including the theft of two signs and the flag pole marking the ferry crossing site in Riverfront Park in St. Joseph.

The chapter placed directional signs provided by the National Park Service along and near the

original sites of the St. Joe Road of the Oregon-California Trail, but vandals soon struck and caused damage.

A tour in June planned by Fred Sawin and Bill Leppert took chapter members to Fort Scott, KS and the Mine Creek Civil War Battlefield.

The chapter's annual meeting will be held in November at which time new officers will be elected.

NEWS FROM

COLORADO- CHEROKEE TRAIL

Donations Help Restoration Efforts

From Chapter Reports
Cherokee Trail mapping efforts are continuing by volunteers including Rich Deisch, Bruce Watson, Bill Burr, Roger Hanson, John Murphy, and Gary Disette. They have completed research

in Douglas County. The work on two townships in El Paso County is complete, but there are five additional townships to complete, in which there are quite a few ruts.

Research in Pueblo and Larimer Counties is nearly complete, but field work needs to be done, and may be completed this year.

In Otero County, both research and field work need to be done. It is anticipated that work may be completed next year.

During the summer the chapter had outings to Fort Garland and the Highway of Legends. The chapter also made a trip to Casper, WY and trail sites in that area, which was held in conjunction with the Loveland Historical Society.

NEWS FROM

KANZA

KANZA Marking Mormon Site

Duane Durst is working on marking a Mormon crossing in Washington County. The KANZA Chapter has learned that the state will not need to put a right-of-way in the location of the crossing because there is already a turnoff in the area.

Durst will work with chapter members to develop the engraving for the limestone marker he intends to place in the crossing area.

Annual Meeting Inaugurates New Chapter Board

From Chapter Reports

The CA-NV Chapter conducted its annual meeting during the very successful and enjoyable national convention in Kearney, NE. Mark Wilson moved into the president's chair, taking over from John Winner, who now remains on the board as past president. Dick Waugh takes over as vice president; Kathy Koester and Carol March continue as secretary and treasurer respectively. Seated as a new director was Howdy Hoover of Sacramento. Remaining board members are Dick Young, Larry Schmidt, and Ken Johnston. Norine Kimmy was appointed Awards Committee Chair.

Members in attendance heard from Aaron Mahr, NPS Superintendent of National Trails System, and Mark Wilson concerning the long-delayed marking of National Historic Trails Auto Tour Routes in California. Federal monies were appropriated several years ago, but the California Department of Transportation has failed to initiate field placement of signs. The choice of locations and installation is intended to be accomplished as a joint venture between the Chapter and Caltrans. There was general agreement that increased political advocacy by OCTA is warranted.

Planning for the chapter's sponsorship of the 2015 National Convention in South Lake Tahoe continues apace. Harvey's Hotel and Casino, on the shore of the

6225' elevation alpine lake, will be the official site. The next planning session will be held at Lou LeBonte's restaurant in Auburn, CA, on October 13 at 10 a.m. The fall business meeting of the chapter also will be held at the same location the following day. (Check the chapter website www.canvoca.org for additional information.) All are welcome.

Although all activities for next year's convention have been slotted into the schedule, many supporting volunteers are still needed to effect a smooth process throughout the week. Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile gathering during the week of Sept. 21, 2015.

The John Marsh Historic Trust has asked the chapter if we would be willing to create a plaque or interpretive panel referencing the Bidwell-Bartleson emigrant party's trek west in 1841 and terminating at Dr. Marsh's house

near Mt Diablo. Bob Evanhoe requested an opinion of the board in order to proceed in determining wording and cost. The board was favorable toward pursuing this project. The Trust will be sponsoring a gathering at the site—now a California State Park—on October 11. They would also like someone from the chapter to speak briefly concerning the westward emigration.

This has been an extremely busy year in the field with mapping crews working on six different legs of the Truckee and Carson Trails. A total of 19 work party meetings have been scheduled through the summer, culminating in October. Details are available at www.canvoca.org. Many of these routes have been approved by Congress for consideration of being added to the list of National Historic Trails as part of the California National Historic Trail.

OCTA Founding Member Dies

Howard Magerl, 84, Overland Park, KS., died Aug. 29, 2014. He was a founding member of OCTA and later was active in the early days of OCTA, working on several conventions and activities of the KC Trails Head Chapter. He was born Sept. 20, 1929, in Kansas City, Mo. He attended St. Agnes grade school and graduated from Lillis High School in 1947, where he was an outstanding football player. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1948 to 1952.

Among his assignments, he was an aircraft maintenance specialist in Japan. Howard was involved in lumber management and building supply firms, including Logan-Moore and Daniels-McCray.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Barbara; two sons, Chuck and his wife Joey, and Chris and his wife Stefani; daughter, Jackie and husband Billy; granddaughters, Amelia, Ella and Lauren; one great granddaughter, Mayla.

NEWS FROM CROSSROADS

Chapter Tours Old Spanish Trail

By A. Oscar Olson

It has been a relatively quiet summer here at Crossroads (at least on the surface). But we have been busy. At our last writing we were getting ready for the spring field trip in May, which went well. We had a good gathering and met with Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) members at the rest area on I-70 near Fremont Junction, UT, for a trip guided by Bob Leonard from the Richfield, UT, office of U.S. Forest Service on the Fish Lake Cutoff of the Old Spanish Trail. We saw many new discoveries of evidence of those passing during the 1830s and 1840s including include tree blazes, ruts, and rock inscriptions.

Terry Welsh has been busy this summer taking trips in northern Utah on the Bartleson-Bidwell Trail as well as spurring interest of landowners in northern Utah where the trail crossed. He led a group of about 8-10 people to paint the fence (which is needed almost yearly) at Donner Springs. He also stated that the phragmite spraying at Donner Springs Pond did see some results. It is reported that more



Crossroads Chapter members visited the Old Spanish Trail on a tour led by Bob Leonard. (Photo by A. Oscar Olson).

sprayings will be necessary. Glad to see that progress.

On July 7 several of us met with the BLM to film segments of trails in Utah's Skull Valley where the BLM people, Ray Kelsey, Rob Sweeten, and others, as well as some interns, walked and filmed trail segments and got some sound bites from trail enthusiasts John Eldredge, myself, and Craig Anderson from the Grantsville, UT, Sons of Utah Pioneers.

We held a fall social on Sept. 5 at the Fort Douglas Museum. It included a catered meal and a

talk by trail scholar and writer Eric Wadsworth. We had eight members at Kearney, NE, for the convention.

Discussions will be held soon concerning our 2017 convention and the question of whether we should partner with OSTA.

On September 6 the Cecil Garland memorial service was held. He was a rancher out there who fought for land conservation and water uses to include the MX missile proposal and the SNWA water pipeline.



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Idaho Fire Reveals Trail segments

By Jerry Eichhorst

The Idaho chapter enjoyed a tour of Oregon Trail sites from Caldwell to Huntington on August 2. Sixteen people participated as we followed the main Oregon Trail from the crossing of the Boise River to the Fort Boise site, then into Oregon where we followed the Trail over Keeney Pass and into Vale. After a pleasant lunch in the city park, we continued north on the dusty trail over the hills to Farewell Bend, before closing out the day at the Meeker marker in Huntington. It was a fun day for all.

Along the way near Alkali Springs, we ran into Sunny Eberhart, a 76-year old man walking across the country on the Oregon Trail this summer. I had talked with him several times

assisting him across southwestern Idaho and was happy to get to meet him. Everyone enjoyed talking with him and listening as he recited a poem titled "How The West Was Won."

The following weekend, Bill Wilson and I went out with a group of Boy Scouts to mark the Oregon Trail and Kelton Road north of Mountain Home. Much of the area burned last year so the ruts and swales were clearly exposed. We have a work outing planned



Boy Scouts at trail marker east of Canyon Creek.

with the Northwest Chapter for Saturday, September 27. We will be replacing an interpretive sign near the Henderson Grave outside Vale and installing several signposts. The same Boy Scout and his troupe will be providing much of the labor as he works for an Eagle badge. In addition, we plan to have cadaver dogs verify the Henderson grave and several sites near Farewell Bend.

The chapter fall meeting near Boise involved a convention planning meeting and a tour of local Oregon Trail sites along the foothills.

For more information on chapter activities, please visit the chapter website at www.IdahoOCTA.org.



*Sunny Eberhart recites a poem during the tour near Vale, OR.
(Photos by Jerry Eichhorst)*

Chapter Planning Symposium; New Trail Swales Located

From Chapter Reports

Planning is underway for a two-day symposium in Pendleton in 2015, hosted by the Northwest Chapter of OCTA. The event will include a day of plenary sessions and another day of tours that may take in Fort Walla Walla, the newly developed Hudson's Bay Company Frenchtown, Whitman Mission, and Blue Mountain Oregon Trail Park. It may also include a visit to Emigrant Springs State Park.

An Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Commission field trip to Emigrant Springs State Park in the Blue Mountains near Meacham has produced what may become a major preservation effort. The tour highlighted where an Oregon State

Parks and Recreation Department specialist has located four sections of probable Oregon Trail class 1 swale ruts on state land and adjacent private timber property. The private landowners have expressed an interest in selling and/or swapping the land to put the ruts in an enlarged Emigrant Springs State Park, where a Meeker marker was just recently moved to a safer viewing location.

This year the chapter worked on TIP or Trail Inventory Project. National Mapping and Marking Chair David Welch introduced the High Potential Site and Segment Inventory Project last year. It is partially sponsored by the National Park Service. For the project the main Oregon Trail in Oregon was divided into four

segments. Volunteer leaders were named and trained. The purpose of the inventory is to collect baseline documentation including data and photos of the trail in 2014.

Billy Symms, NWOCTA preservation officer, and Henry Pittock, chapter mapping and marking officer, made a June visit to the former Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot near Hermiston, OR, to see ruts of the Oregon Trail west of Pendleton connecting the main trail with the Sandy Route. The former U.S. Army depot is now administered by the Oregon National Guard and may become a tank training facility. NWOCTA has expressed an interest in preserving the old ruts and the National Guard is receptive to the idea.

Apache Pass, Fort Bowie Part of Chapter Field Trip

*By Jack Fletcher
Chapter President*

The Spring 2015 meeting of the Southern Trails Chapter will be held in Silver City, NM, with planning coordinated by New Mexico state Vice President of the chapter (and newly elected National OCTA Board member) Cecilia Bell. More details will be announced as the event draws near.

One of the chapter's new

members is Claude Hudspeth, who became the Texas Vice President of the chapter. During the year the chapter also partnered with the Arizona State Historical Society, Historic Canoa Ranch Foundation, and the Spanish Barb Horse Association for a presentation on the Wilber Cruce Mission Horse, followed by a field trip to the Canoa Ranch.

Another chapter field trip took in sites at Apache Pass and Fort Bowie. This trip was organized

by Pat Fletcher and conducted by Rose Ann Tompkins, Tracy DeVault and other Trail Turtles.

Jon and Deborah Lawrence, editors of the chapter's *Desert Tracks* semi-annual newsletter, distribute 200 copies of each issue, which contains articles written by chapter members and outside trail experts. They are expanding to include authors from Utah, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas, which all have segments of the southern trails.



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