

JUNE  
1991

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

## OCTA - ITS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

by Charles W. Martin, Jr.  
Chair, Long-Range Planning Committee

Why does OCTA exist? What does it do? What does it expect to do in the future? How can it serve the widely varied interests of its membership yet still retain sufficient focus to be effective as the only national organization dedicated to all the overland routes in the western United States? Is it doing a good job? These are questions that must periodically be reviewed and answered if OCTA is to retain its vitality and purpose, and if it is to be successful in accomplishing the task for which it was established. Those who founded OCTA did so for the reasons expressed in the Statement of Purpose (which can be found inside the back cover of each issue of the OVERLAND JOURNAL), but the question remains, how do we achieve these purposes? What are the specific goals that guide the organization and against which OCTA can measure its effectiveness and success? How can OCTA maintain stability, consistency and focus and at the same time retain the flexibility to respond appropriately to rapidly changing situations and to utilize the varied interests and talents of the membership?

The Board of Directors, at the Omaha convention, asked the Long Range Planning Committee of Maurice Burchfield, Baldwin Lamson, Ross Marshall, and Charles Martin, Jr. to examine OCTA's long-range objectives with these issues in mind. The Committee received suggestions and comments

from OCTA's officers, Board members and committee chairs and brought a recommendation for revision of OCTA's long-range objectives to the mid-year Board meeting. The revisions did not alter OCTA's Statement of Purpose; rather, they were intended to help achieve those purposes largely by recognizing the need for both long range "goals" and short or intermediate term "objectives". Baldwin Lamson pointed out the importance of this distinction.

*"... long range objectives should be semi-permanent, and only changed when external conditions or internal considerations of great importance make this necessary. They should be truly long range and worded so as to accommodate short or intermediate term purposes. It is understandable that shorter term objectives will depend on year to year priorities, opportunities, and changes in achievability. Above all long term objectives should be of such great importance that they will be a stable, continuous goal upon which the virtual survivability of the association will depend."*

Maurice Burchfield reminded us of the difference between our "goals" and "objectives":

*"... our long range interests are 'goals' to be sought in a continuous pursuit. Our more immediate interests are our 'objectives'. Objectives are easily measured but goals are timeless."*

### INSIDE: LOOK FOR

➤ DEDICATION OF MATTES  
RESEARCH LIBRARY

➤ START OF WALK FROM  
ST. JOSEPH TO SACRAMENTO

➤ EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

After considerable discussion, the Board of Directors accepted the recommendation and approved the following as OCTA's Long-Range Goals:

I. Seek establishment of a preservation system that can identify, interpret, monitor, and protect the western overland trails of the United States.

II. Urge designation by the Congress of the United States as National Historic Trails those overland trans-Mississippi trails determined to be of national historical importance.

III. Design and establish automated information data bases relevant to the overland migration along these trails.

IV. Serve as an information resource for those responsible for the education of all ages concerning the significance of the nation's westward migration.

V. Encourage establishment of emigrant trails national monuments, parks and preserves when appropriate to facilitate education and preservation goals that elucidate the importance of the western movement in our national heritage.

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At the same time that the Board accepted these long-range goals, it formally adopted the following short and intermediate range objectives to help achieve the long-range goals.

1) Authorization by the Congress of the United States of the California and Pony Express Trails as National Historic Trails.

2) Establishment of a historic preservation system to monitor and protect the western overland trails from outside threats.

3) Completion of the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED) project, including computerization of the data, as soon as possible.

4) Development of educational guidelines for use by school sys-

tems in the study of westward migration.

5) Establishment of an Emigrant Trails National Monument in northwestern Nevada.

6) Development and promotion of programs to bring to the attention of the public the significance of the westward movement to our national heritage.

These shorter term objectives are OCTA's immediate interests, the focus of our current efforts. They may change from year to year as they are met, or as needs, interest, or expertise require their modification or the addition of new objectives. They should, however, remain consistent with the more permanent long-range goals that they serve. Periodic review of short-term objec-

tives is a Board responsibility and provides a way of assessing OCTA's effectiveness. Their flexibility enhances vitality by allowing OCTA to respond to changing conditions and opportunities and by encouraging members or groups of members to utilize their interests and talents in ways consistent with OCTA's goals. At the same time, the semi-permanence of OCTA's long-range goals provides the stability and survivability of any organization.

NOTE: Maurice Burchfield, Baldwin Lamson and Ross Marshall are to be commended for their dedication and hard work. The committee's recommendations were the result of their thoughtful analysis and perceptive suggestions.

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## TRAIL LEGISLATION PLEASE WRITE LETTERS NOW!!!

There's Good News and Bad News on our trail legislation.

The Good News is that on April 11th, the House Subcommittee on National Parks & Public Lands, chaired by Bruce Vento (Minnesota) held hearings on California Trail and Pony Express Trail bills HR-479 sponsored by Doug Bereuter (Nebraska) and HR-1229 sponsored by John Doolittle (California). Public testimony was limited to Ken Martin (NPEA) and Bill Watson (OCTA) which Jeanne Watson helped prepare.

April 16th, the Subcommittee designated HR-479 as the House trail bill. They added an amendment on the Pony Express portion, asking the Secretary of Interior to study the Sacramento to San Francisco trail segment. If that study subsequently determines that it is historically significant and if it is feasible, the Secretary can order that segment added to the Pony Express National Historic Trail without further action by Congress.

April 24th, the Interior & Insular Affairs Committee, chaired by George Miller (California) approved HR-479 as amended. This bill contains the standard trails bill wording on no condemnation of private land without the consent of the landowner.

May 8th, with a roll-call vote of 409 to 0, the House of Representatives passed HR-479 and sent it to the Senate for consideration.

Please write to your:

Representative (spell name correctly)  
House Post Office  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Thank him or her for supporting HR-479 and for their part in the unanimous passage of this bill. Then ask their help in resolving the wording difference between the House and Senate bills.

Senator Harry Reid (Nevada) sponsored bill S-801 co-sponsored by Richard Bryan (Nevada), Paul Sarbanes (Maryland), Timothy Wirth (Colorado), Jake Garn (Utah), James Jeffords (Vermont), John Danforth (Missouri), and Orrin Hatch (Utah).

Unlike HR-479, S-801 contains a clause forbidding condemnation of any

land along the trail. S-801 extends anti-condemnation protection to government land lease holders and to inholders (private land encircled by government land). OCTA is agreeable to either version. We must get the differences resolved to get our trails legislation enacted.

The Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks & Forests needs to study both bills. The Bad News is that they will not consider these bills until after the Fourth of July break. We urgently need Senate action before they leave in mid-August for their long break.

Please write a separate letter to each Senator from your state:

Senator (spell name correctly)  
Senate Post Office  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ask them to urge the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks & Forests to promptly hold hearings on S-801 and HR-479. Also ask their support for passage of a trails bill with wording acceptable to both the House and the Senate.

Jeanne & Bill Watson  
Legislative Co-chair



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Bill Watson

Many thanks to Jane Mallinson, President and other Friends of the Trail Center who hosted a preview reception for the Mattes Library on Friday evening, April 5th. A number of Gateway and Nebraska Chapter members joined us for the Saturday dedication. The Library facility including the handsome wood shelving was built by the National Frontier Trails Center. Merrill gave a grand talk and we had a great time.

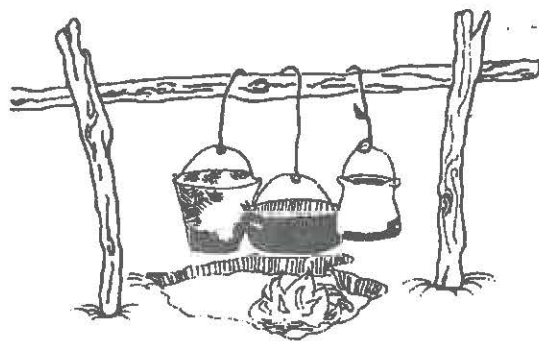
Our thanks for a job well done and best wishes to Gerry Motsinger who moved to the Johnson County Archives. A warm welcome to Bill Bullard, new Administrator of the NFTC.

During our spring meeting, the Board and Officers were briefed on the extensive OCTA long range plan developed by the Long Range Planning Committee. The Committee did a great job and provided a number of thought provoking questions and suggestions as seen in the front page article.

The Board approved the NPS/OCTA partnership agreement for work preparing the Oregon Trail for its '93 sesquicentennial. Markers and installation tools have been ordered for the chapters designated projects. A number of interpretive signs are being developed by the Grave and Sites Committee and are covered by this agreement.

Another NPS/OCTA partnership agreement on the Second National Conference for National Historic Trails and National Scenic Trails also received Board Approval. This conference will be held November 14 - 17 at the Manucha Center in the Columbia River Gorge. OCTA will handle the registration and finances for this conference similar to our national conventions. Dick Ackerman heads local arrangements, Jim Budde financial matters, and I'm on the national steering committee.

Hope that you have sent in your registrations for August. Jeanne and I look forward to joining with you for the many exciting activities planned by the Sacramento Convention Committee.



Below: OCTA Headquarters in Independence shows off its new sign.



## BOOK NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

*Lest we forget that various items can be ordered directly from headquarters in Independence; Jeanne Miller, office manager, will be using the NFP to tell us of specific books or other trail related items. You will therefore have a chance to buy direct from the office. Remember also, that OCTA always has a table at the national convention where you can purchase various books and other items.*

**A GEOLOGIC AND TOPOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE UNITED STATES ALONG INTERSTATE 80** by Chet Reymo, Northbrook, IL, Hubbard

In an OVERLAND JOURNAL review, OCTA member, Steven P. Born, a junior high school science instructor, says,

*"This wonderful little book is an indispensable geology guide for the layman traveling the California or Oregon Trails; . . . easily digested in an evening."*

This book covers the Oregon-California trails and Mormon trails from Omaha/Council Bluffs to the Fort Bridger/Salt Lake City vicinity. After that point it crosses Utah and Nevada to California through Donner Pass, Sutter's Sacramento and ending at the Golden Gate.

|                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Twenty pages of maps and diagrams | \$6.95 |
| Postage and Handling              | \$1.50 |

May be ordered from OCTA, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519

## ROSE ANN'S TWO TRACK

As you head for the convention in Sacramento, or other vacations, whether in the mountains, along the seashore, even following the trails, be thinking about possible stories and articles for NFP. The OVERLAND JOURNAL has a goal of scholarly works to be read, saved and savored. The NFP serves a different purpose, namely to knit our widespread membership together as one of its communication arms. You see a variety of committee and chapter

reports, convention highlights, and trail news. In this latter category, I would like to encourage you to share your experiences, research, and questions.

Some issues have general themes, but in addition, I am always looking for short articles of interest to the larger membership. Great literary expertise is not necessary, just an interest and enthusiasm in the western trails. We can't all write the scholarly pieces that we enjoy in the OVERLAND JOURNAL, but many of us have interesting bits of research, or stories from our travels on the trails that others would enjoy reading. Share them with us!

And PLEASE, when you send me your reports, stories, articles, pictures - whatever, include photo and story

credits. I cannot give the proper credit unless I have the information. Also, it helps me to receive the copy in type-written form.

I try to use copy as I receive it, with minimum editing, though space considerations sometimes call for changing it.

### FUTURE DEADLINES

**AUG. 30 FOR THE SEPT. ISSUE  
THEME: CONVENTION WRAPUP**

**NOV. 15 FOR THE DEC. ISSUE  
THEME: CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

Rose Ann Tompkins, Editor  
1125 W. Mission Drive  
Chandler, AZ 85224  
(602) 963-3565



*These four Oregon City, Oregon teachers were 1990 exchange teachers to Independence, Missouri. They are, left to right: Jim Tompkins, Wendell Baskins, John Salisbury and Ed Tarpin. Read more about OCTA member Jim Tompkins and his use of trail history in the classroom on page 15.*



Dear Aunt Hattie,

I hopn yall get this her leter on the trale. Im goin to giv to a yougin that is fixin to work on one of them feries on the cutof on the Gren Rivr. He sad he wod askt al them ther wagons if theys from Bonaparte, Iowa of the States.

I knod yall ar usin Grandaddy Thomas' guid he wrot in '50. My mama, your sister Jennie did to. If ya werto leve the shors of Iowa an the Missouri rivers ner the en of April lik Granddaddy Thomas did this her leter shud rech ya bout midn of Jun.

By now ya seen a grat many sites. That plac caled South Pass wher the water on this side of the pass gos to the big Pacifke Oshun an on you sid, thats acomin, run to the big Alantke. Jus plum amazin. Cannt wait to her what ya thut of the devils gat, an didya sign yor nam on Independes Roc? Did ya hav time to clim Scotts bluf.

An tel me Aunt Hattie, is Chimne Roc still standin? Yongins in ar train tried to brak off that ther top wit rocks or ther daddys gun! Hop ya had simlar tim with the injuns. They mostly jus asked fer stuff to eat or wear. Hopn ya'll kep a good eye on yor catl and horss 'cau them injuns lik to snek in the nite whils yor aslep an mak off with them.

Oh, Aunt Hattie Is been prayn hard that yor wel an ner get colera or smal pox. Lots of that on the tral thes day.

Jus think in about 40 das from when ya git this her leter, yorll be cookin wit wod not buflo paties, getn water from a pump insted of a boilen eac drop to drink. Eat grits wit no san or them dang, ops sorry, flys. Ya kin war proper cloths agin an shos with hels an slep on clen shets an hav privace when ya do wemem things.

Tru, its dusty her but notin lik the trail, Aunt Hattie.

Ill hav fres fruit an vegtabls redy fir ya.

Ya hav som mity tall montains to clim still from wher ya ar but then, Aunt Hattie, the vus an floers wil mor n mak up fer the hard work. Ons ya git to the top, its prety levl to Wevervil and then slowly downside to Sutter's Fort.

Be sur an watch fer floers that look kinda lik pant bruises, tine litl corn stalks an muls ears.

Be sur to put som floers on the graves of them pur Mormon boys at the springs along the crest of the montains.

Kep an eye out fer miners letuc, wild unins and leks to eat. Thatll hep kep yor spirts up. That an al that sweett watter bublin up from the grond.

The glosr the tim gets the mor I pin fer yer, Aunt Hattie.

I knowd youd mak ie, easpecal with the Waggon Master Tom leadin. Im prud to call you my aunt.

My this her leter wil way to much fer the lad to cary ifn I dont stop now.

Love from California

Your Neice, Anna Mae



# MAKING PLANS FOR THE CONVENTION

It is about time to get out all the maps and begin to plot the route for the trip to the mines in August. You have much better material to work with than the 49ers and we here in "the mines" are ready and willing to help. If you are driving west, try to take as much time off from the old grind as you can and make it the trip of a lifetime. Mary Ann has given you an offer you can't refuse, she will send all those brochures in advance so you can plot your course, rather than finding out all of the things you have missed once you are in California.

Since my MA +35 years of Study are on "California and the West", here are some tips, but only on California. You have all those other guide books to use as you head west.

## WEST ON I-80

Let us assume you will be entering California on I-80. You already know by the pre-registration packet that you will be taken to Donner summit, so you don't need to do that on your own. You can stop in Fallon, Nevada, and see where the trail headed for Carson Valley, and you, too can swing off on I-50 and head to Carson City. Virginia City of the comstock Lode fame is still going-mostly mining tourists, but interesting. Try to avoid at least some of the one armed bandits found there and everywhere in Nevada. Museums in Carson City include a wonderful mining museum in the old court house, if it is open, and just out south of town a new rail museum. The rarest gold collection is in the Carson Nugget. There is a map of a walking tour available. As you proceed south, go to Genoa, and visit the Old Mormon Station and a nice museum in a Victorian House.

You can take a switchback up the eastern face of the Sierra to visit Lake Tahoe called the Kingsbury Grade, Hwy 207. South Shore is largely given over to tourists and gambling, North Shore, less so. The lake and the basin in which it is found are beautiful. You can come into Sacramento on I-50, the Carson

Pass, which you may also opt to visit in a post conference trip. Points of interest are marked on a Gold Rush Map, but Placerville, near the base of the trail is worth some time . . . it originally was known as "Hangtown".

You may also swing back to I-80 from North Shore. Truckee has an interesting history as a rail town with all of the attendant attributes. Today, the historical society has converted the old tin-roofed, brick jail to a museum. As you head west, look for Highway 20 into Grass Valley-Nevada City. This approximates the emigrant road to Nevada City opened in 1850. None of our tours will go there and they are my choice of places to visit in the northern mines. Plan to spend a day or two. Northeast of town 16 miles on North Bloomfield Road or Tyler-Foote Crossing Road is the North Bloomfield-Malakoff Diggins (no g) State Historic Park which has exhibits of Hydraulic mining and the largest remaining pit carved out of a mountain with those huge monitors plus an historic town. There are picnic spots, camping, fishing, etc.

In Nevada City, you will find a town full of Victorian houses, and museums. The National Hotel is the oldest continuously open hotel in the state (1854), and worth a look or a stay. The Firehouse #1 built in 1861 is the headquarters for the Nevada County Historical Society. They have several resident ghosts, artifacts on early Chinese, Lola Montez, Maidu Indians, photos of early miners and interesting published historical bulletins. (The model railroad people have used this building for one of their available models!) The library of genealogical records, maps, photos and information on early Nevada County is at 214 Church St., open 1 to 4 except Sundays.

Two of the best hard rock mining tours you can find are between Nevada City and Grass Valley. They are the county-run North Star Powerhouse with the original 30 foot Pelton Wheel, (world's largest), and with many other

relics of hard rock mining nicely displayed. The state park at the Empire Mines is also not to be missed. It is the deepest, richest mine in California. The Bourne Cottage is also on the extensive grounds. This brick building was the only one of the "cottages" built by the Bourne family of Ireland, another is Filoli near Woodside, California. Both have been used in Movies. Tours are available and I recommend them.

Grass Valley is only 4 miles from Nevada City. It is a different feeling, being more of a worker's town. The Holbrook Hotel is interesting, the Grass Valley Museum, the home of Lola Montez and Lotta Crabtree are must sees. Try a Cornish Pastie for lunch. It was the traditional fare for the "Cousin Jack's" who were brought in from Cornwall to work the hardrock mines. Their traditional square homes are in abundance with their 4 sided roofs. There is also a museum in the first orphanage in California run by some concerned sisters.

Dutch Flat is also an interesting sidetrip off of I-80, but you will miss it if you go to Nevada City. It is a much smaller area. The last time I was there, a miner came into the grocery store with his "poke" to have the grocer weigh his nuggets and flakes!

Continue west on Highway 20 to Rough and Ready, Timbuctoo, Smartville, and Marysville, then south to Sacramento. This was on the Gold Rush trail, also. Marysville, named after Mary Murphy, has a Chinese Joss House. Or you can keep on Highway 49 to Auburn. It has an interesting preserved old town. The Placer County Museum is at the fairgrounds on the highway just before you come into town and I-80. Take I-80 on into Sacramento.

## SOUTH FROM OREGON

Some of you will be entering California from Oregon. The fast way is I-5. Stop in Yreka to see a quaint little gold rush town, now more into lumbering. They have a fine museum in the south end of town. From there you can see Mt. Shasta which is generally given the title of the most beautiful mountain

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in the state, since it is volcanic with two craters, Shasta and Shastina. It has glaciers on the top all year. Volcanoes are single mountains, and the Sierra Nevada are a snow covered serrated mountain range . . . a different beauty. Shasta is dormant. Shasta Dam is the chief source for the Central Valley Project run by the Bureau of Reclamation.

If you have lots of time, heading west at Redding on 299 to Weaverville is an interesting trip into the Siskiyou Mountain gold sites. Weaverville is a charming little town with a "Joss House" and a museum and a working stamp mill. It is in the coast redwoods, Sequoia Sempivirons, and logging is done in the area today. East on 44 out of Redding is Mt. Lassen, the last volcano in the U.S. to spout off before Mt. St. Helens. Today it is dormant, with wisps of vapor at the top. It is worth a day or two at least, if you have time.

Back to I-5 west of Lassen and it is nearly a straight shot into Sacramento through rice growing country, or you can take 99 at Red Bluff to go through Chico and stop at the restored Bidwell House, through Oroville and past the dam built with the hydraulic tailings left by miners (there are still plenty left to see). Oroville Dam is the Chief Dam of the California Water Plan. Water from both Oroville and Shasta run south in nearly parallel canals until they come together at Dos Amigos, below San Luis Reservoir. Since we are in the fifth year of a drought, neither reservoir will be full. Further south on 99 is Marysville, Yuba City, and then Sacramento.

#### OTHER GOLD RUSH AREAS

We will have tours from Coloma where gold was discovered on January 24, 1848 south to Jackson. You may wish to go back more leisurely on your own afterwards. Highway 49 takes in most of the gold rush towns. We will not be taking you to some places that you may wish to see. West of Jackson on Highway 88 is the Indian Grinding

Rock State Park which is interesting and the little gold town of Volcano. Carson Pass is on 88 from Jackson to Lake Tahoe and Gardnerville.

South of Jackson, 49 goes through Mokelumne Hill, San Andreas, Angels Camp, to Sonora which is an interesting area. It would be a good place to stay and branch out in several directions. They have a museum that once housed the famous bandit "Black Bart". Northwest out of Sonora is Columbia State Historic Park which has tried to capture the gold rush feeling. Murphys is also a gold rush site worth spending some time in. It is on Highway 4 which goes over the Sierra at Ebbetts Pass to Lake Tahoe and Markleeville.

South of Sonora is Jamestown and the railroad which has been in so many movies, (Petticoat Junction) and the town was in "High Noon". Continuing south on 49 are Chinese Camp, Coulterville and on down 49 to Mariposa. The California State Mining and Mineral Museum is on display in a new museum at the fair grounds. It is exceptionally well done. The Mariposa Museum which includes some artifacts from the John Charles Fremonts who lived there for a time is also worth seeing. Highway 49 ends at Oakhurst, the end of the southern mines.

#### AFTER THE CONVENTION

Before or after the convention, you may wish to see other sites in California. Certainly, San Francisco is always worth a visit. If you have never ridden the cable cars from the wharf to Market Street, it is fun and a good way to see the city. Parking is difficult in San Francisco. When I take tours, I leave the bus at the wharf and load my students onto the cable cars and we walk. The Mint Museum at 5th and Mission does have a parking garage across the street. It has interesting tours which are free. The Wells Fargo Museum on Montgomery off of California Street (Cable Car line) has been upgraded and is interesting and free. Chinatown is mostly for tourists, but is a must see if you have never

been there. There are available tours or you can wander. It is on the site of the first settlement, Yerba Buena, when Portsmouth Square was fronting the bay. Fort Point under the Golden Gate Bridge is the only brick fort west of the Mississippi River and is a copy of that at Fort Sumter. It is manned by tour guides in Civil War Uniforms and is free. It is a beautiful city and certainly worth a weekend or more. Send for Chamber of Commerce literature. Hotels are not cheap.

The best California Museum in the state is the Oakland Museum. It is a two block walk from the Lake Merritt Station on BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit), which is a fun ride, especially if you go under the bay to San Francisco. It has three levels, which are natural science beginning at the ocean and explaining a swath across the state, over the Sierra and into the desert. Plants and animals are freeze dried and look so natural. It is really well done. The second floor is history which begins with Indians, Spanish, Gold Rush, and continues to a more recent date which can't be history yet, I remember it! The third floor is art, beginning with primitive art and ending slightly west of art. They also have special rotating exhibits on each floor and a wonderful gift shop.

If you are into research, the best may be the Bancroft Library at U.C. Berkeley, but hours have been cut back drastically because of state budgetary restrictions recently. It is one of the repositories for the state's history. Others you may wish to consult are the California State Library in Sacramento and the California State Archives in Sacramento.

I have spent the last 50 years trying to see everything in this state and am still working on it. Plot your course carefully. Consult the guides. Catch me at the Conference with questions. But - Enjoy and Have Fun. It is a wonderful place to visit.

Mary Lou Lyon

# SEE YOU IN SACRAMENTO!



| OCTA BALANCE SHEET                          |    | September 30,<br>1990 | September 30,<br>1989 |
|---|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                               |    |                       |                       |
| Petty Cash - Independence Office            | \$ | 750                   | \$ 750                |
| Cash in Bank:                               |    |                       |                       |
| Preservation Fund                           |    | 1,834                 | 800                   |
| Graves & Sites                              |    | 880                   | 830                   |
| Trail Marking Fund                          |    | 2,570                 | 2,375                 |
| Trail Mapping Fund                          |    | 186                   | 186                   |
| Archaeology Fund                            |    | 106                   | 106                   |
| Black Rock/High Rock Fund                   |    | 510                   | 271                   |
| COED Fund                                   |    | 271                   | 460                   |
| Education Fund                              |    | 400                   | 400                   |
| Headquarters Fund                           |    | 3,953                 | 3,953                 |
| Convention Fund                             |    | 500                   | 20,428                |
| Publications Fund                           |    | (5,560)               | (5,560)               |
| OCTA Store Fund                             |    | 7,163                 | (385)                 |
| Photography Fund                            |    | 250                   | 250                   |
| Life Memberships (to be transf. to CD)      |    | 2,250                 |                       |
| General Fund                                |    | 45,460                | 60,773                |
| Cert. of Deposit (Life mem)                 |    | 25,749                | 22,338                |
| Cert. of Deposit - Denver (Life mem)        |    | 2,238                 | 4,305                 |
|   |    | <u>27,987</u>         | <u>26,643</u>         |
| Cash & equivalents                          |    | 89,510                | 80,792                |
| Inventory - OCTA Store                      |    | 4,294                 |                       |
| Fixed Assets:                               |    |                       |                       |
| Furniture & Fixtures                        |    | 6,188                 |                       |
| Office Equipment                            |    | 1,105                 |                       |
| Less: Accum. Depreciation                   |    | (7,293)               | 0                     |
| Land - California Hill                      |    |                       | 6,260                 |
|   |    | <u>6,260</u>          | <u>6,000</u>          |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                         |    | <b>\$100,064</b>      | <b>\$86,792</b>       |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                          |    |                       |                       |
| Santa Fe Trail Store Account                | \$ | 0                     | \$                    |
| Payroll Taxes Payable                       |    | 671                   | (2)                   |
|   |    | <u>671</u>            | <u>(2)</u>            |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                    |    | <b>671</b>            | <b>(2)</b>            |
| <b>FUND BALANCE</b>                         |    |                       |                       |
| Retained Revenue Over Expenses              |    | 88,877                | 79,900                |
| Current Revenue Over Expenses               |    | 10,516                | 6,894                 |
|   |    | <u>99,393</u>         | <u>86,794</u>         |
| <b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>                   |    | <b>99,393</b>         | <b>86,794</b>         |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b> |    | <b>\$100,064</b>      | <b>\$86,792</b>       |

| OCTA STATEMENT OF REVENUES FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1990 |                  |                  |                           |                |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| REVENUES   | ACTUAL           | BUDGET           | OVER<br>(UNDER)<br>BUDGET |                |
| <b>DUES &amp; MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>                           |                  |                  |                           |                |
| Annual Dues  | 52,370           |                  |                           |                |
| Life Memberships   | 2,250            |                  |                           |                |
| Miscellaneous Revenue  | 439              | 55,059           | 54,000                    | 1,059          |
| <b>INTEREST INCOME</b>   |                  |                  |                           |                |
| Interest - CDs   | 1,344            |                  |                           |                |
| Interest Income - Checking                                       | 2,419            | 3,763            |                           | 3,763          |
| <b>CONVENTION REVENUE</b>  |                  |                  |                           |                |
| Registration   | 30,809           |                  |                           |                |
| Bookroom   | 350              |                  |                           |                |
| Raffle Income (net)  | 641              | 31,800           | 41,000                    | (9,200)        |
| <b>DONATIONS</b>   |                  |                  |                           |                |
| General Fund   | 622              |                  |                           |                |
| Preservation   | 1,035            |                  |                           |                |
| Graves & Sites   | 50               |                  |                           |                |
| Marking  | 194              |                  |                           |                |
| Black Rock/High Rock   | 50               | 1,951            | 500                       | 1,451          |
| <b>PUBLICATION REVENUE</b>                                       |                  |                  |                           |                |
| Ads - News From the Plains                                       | 400              |                  |                           |                |
| Subscriptions - OJ   | 2,475            |                  |                           |                |
| Sales - OJ   | 1,161            |                  |                           |                |
| Ads - OJ   | 850              |                  |                           |                |
| Shipping & Handling - OJ   | 90               | 4,976            | 5,000                     | (24)           |
| <b>OCTA STORE REVENUES</b>                                       |                  |                  |                           |                |
| Sales  | 13,951           |                  |                           |                |
| Shipping & Handling  | 413              | 13,464           |                           | 13,464         |
| <b>GENERAL CASH</b>  |                  | 20,000           |                           | (20,000)       |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>  | <b>\$111,013</b> | <b>\$120,500</b> |                           | <b>(9,487)</b> |

## TAX LAW CHANGE ENCOURAGES DONATIONS

A temporary change in federal tax law encourages the donation of certain types of appreciated property, such as art, historical artifacts, and manuscripts, to museums and historical societies.

The provision says that for taxable year 1991 only, "If a taxpayer makes a charitable contribution of tangible personal property (other than inventory or other income property, or short-term capital gain property), the use of which is related to a deduction for both regular tax and alternative minimum tax purposes in the amount of the property's fair market value (subject to present-law percentage limitations)." The alternative minimum tax rate will rise to 24 percent in 1991.

"Tangible person property" does not include securities or land, but does include works of art, manuscripts, and certain other "collectibles".

If you have been considering the donation of a historical artifact, 1991 may be a good time to make such a gift. Write:

Jim Budde  
c/o OCTA Headquarters  
P.O. Box 1019  
Independence, MO 64051-0519  
or call (816) 252-2276.

### NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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Rose Ann Tompkins, Editor



## GEORGE WATKINS COLLECTION TO BE ADDED TO MATTES RESEARCH LIBRARY

On March 19, 1991, George T. Watkins III donated his collection of over 400 trail diaries and reminiscences to OCTA. This extensive collection covers early exploration and settlement of the Northwest, and the lives of Oregon, California, Mormon and Santa Fe trail emigrants.

Larry Jones and Bill Watson inventoried over 330 bound editions plus 14 binders containing copies of 70 additional diaries. They were carefully packed in 13 boxes and shipped to Independence. The Watkins Collection is now being formally inventoried and catalogued by Deborah Hickie, the new Archivist at the National Frontier Trails Center.

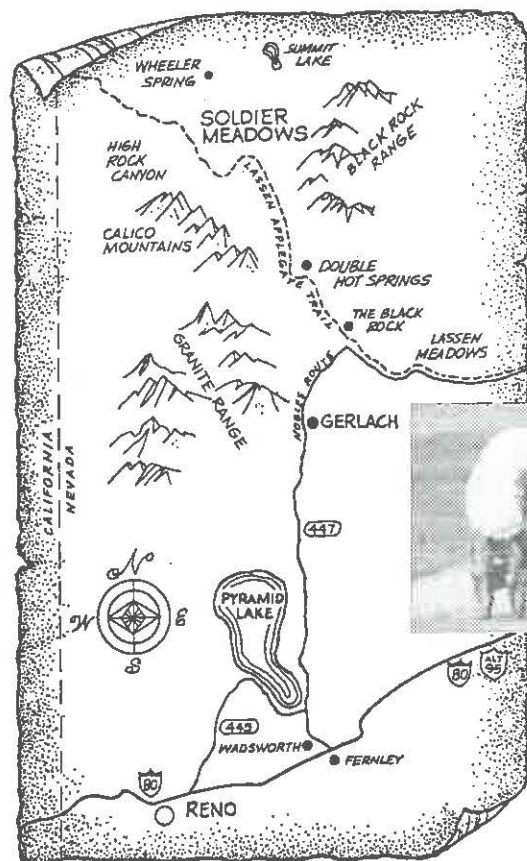
George's most generous gift comprises one of the finest private collections of trail diaries and reminiscences. It will be housed in the National Frontier Trails Center on new shelving to be built adjacent to the recently dedicated Mattes Library. The 400 diaries and reminiscences in the Watkins Collection nicely compliment, and do not duplicate, the 1400 items of trail research material in the Mattes Library.

Jim Conway designed an attractive book plate to identify printed material given to OCTA and placed on permanent loan to the NFTC. One version identifies the Mattes Library, a second version will identify the Watkins Collection and a third version will identify other gifts and their donors.

## CALL FOR FIDDLERS THREE

All Convention bound OCTA musicians should pack their musical instruments (fiddles, harmonicas, guitars, mandolins, etc.). Be prepared to join the OCTA "traditional music ensemble," which will provide background music of American traditional trail music (REDWING, TURKEY IN THE STRAW, SWEET BETSY, etc.) for the social gathering Wed. evening. As the OCTA JAM GROUP is an impromptu organization, there may be other opportunities for the group to "render a few more tunes" during the convention. All instruments are accepted. Any questions or comments?

Contact: Olive Donaldson, P.O. Box 493053, Redding, CA 96049 (916) 221-5521



*Sign on to Explore*

## THE APPLGATE/LASSEN EMIGRANT TRAIL

Join us this September on an 8 day wagon train ride tracing the Applegate/Lassen Emigrant Trail through Nevada's Black Rock Desert. Step back into the 1800's and ride along in a Conestoga wagon, on horseback or follow on foot. All wagons, horses, livestock, camp crew and food supplied by Spanish Springs Ranch. Trek also includes a day at our historic Soldier Meadow Ranch that dates back to 1865.

**Date:** Sat., Sept. 28 thru Sat., Oct. 5

**Place:** Meet at Gerlach, NV.  
("where the road ends and The West Begins")

**Cost:** \$950 on horseback  
\$850 in wagon  
\$650 on foot

For more information and signup, call...

**1-800-272-8282**





# 1991 COMMEMORATIVE WALK TO SACRAMENTO GETS BIG SENDOFF IN ST. JOSEPH

On Friday, May 17, several members of the Gateway Chapter were on hand to help send-off fellow OCTA members Robby Gunstream and Harlan Wadley on their 2,000 mile trek along the California Trail. They left at approximately noon from the historic Patee Park, site of the beginning of the first Pony Express run to California.

Their beginning had some similarities to those of the emigrants of nearly 150 years ago. As in the 19th century, it will be an adventure and a chance to deal with the climate and terrain of the western United States. There was some apprehension on the part of the men and the mules, Johnson and Jackson, at the prospect of crossing the Missouri River. The traffic over the Pony Express Bridge was about as frightening to the mules as boarding a ferry to cross the Missouri River was to the stock of the early emigrants. At least the 1991 travelers had a police escort, Gateway members and St. Joseph Museum staff members to walk with them and protect them. In the 1840s in St. Joseph a "night watch" was hired by the city council to protect the citizens from the emigrants. Once in Kansas (19th century Indian Territory) Harlan and Robby shook hands on their conquering

of the river and the furtherance of their journey.

Also as in the mid 1800s, a crowd gathered. However, these were not fellow emigrants headed west. These were school children anxious to see Robby, Harlan and the mules and hear about their planned adventure. The Gateway Chapter and the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums sponsored two programs for elementary school children on Friday morning. Approximately 200 students heard about the Bidwell-Bartleson Wagon Train and asked questions about the upcoming trip. Questions ranged from "Will you stop at McDonalds?" and "What will you do about water in the desert?" to "Will you stop to gamble in Nevada?" and "How will you take a bath?"

After the programs for school children, Robby and Harlan loaded each mule with about 100 pounds of supplies. During the trip across the river, the packs slipped and had to be retied a couple of times. But, like the early emigrants, Robby and Harlan will soon be "trail toughened" and know exactly the best way to load the pack mules.

On Thursday evening, Gateway and the St. Joseph Museum held a picnic for Robby and Harlan at the Wyeth Hill

Park overlook. From that point, the Missouri River and 19th century ferry crossing sites were clearly visible.

The Gateway members who will be attending the Sacramento convention will be particularly interested in seeing the arrival of Robby and Harlan on Thursday evening at Sutter's Fort after 82 days on the trail. Harlan said he would be looking for them too - but, of course, he wanted to see his family first.

Although not an official OCTA event, the organization will be following the itinerary of this small company as it makes its way on the trail and through several chapter areas. OCTA chapters as well as interested individuals, communities, and organizations have been notified so they can offer assistance and publicity to the packers and their mules.

Robby D. Gunstream is a native Californian, a graduate of USC and Yale University. Following receipt of his Master of Music degree from Yale, he worked for the National Association of Schools of Music and Wheaton College before being appointed to his present position of Executive Director of The College Music Society. He began researching The California Trail

continued next page • • •



*Left: Robby Gunstream speaks to a group of school children while Harlan Wadley holds the mules. The school program was sponsored jointly by the Gateway OCTA Chapter, the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express Museum (seen in the background).*



*Right: The procession leading to the Missouri River is at this point just a few blocks from the starting point at the Pony Express Museum. In the lead are Robby Gunstream and Harlan Wadley leading Johnson and Jackson, followed by several Gateway members on foot, Larry Bunse with the live-stock trailer and ending with a police car.*



• • • continued

in 1982 and this commemorative walk in 1991 combines his interest in an extended trek with his desire to experience something of the Nineteenth Century on its own terms.

Harlan Wadley is also a native Californian, a graduate of Pasadena College and Loma Linda University Medical School, plus a psychiatric residency in Connecticut. After a time of extended travel, he had a hospital-based practice in psychiatry in Eugene, OR. Harlan is now experimenting with a life

style involving about eight months of travel per annum with temporary positions in psychiatry. His participation in the commemorative walk stems from his friendship with Robby and Robby's powers of persuasion.

A few of the stops on their itinerary are given here. If you want to help them when they pass through your area or just want more information, contact Jackie Lewin, St. Joseph Museum, 11th & Charles, St. Joseph, MO 64501.

Day 1 - May 17 - leave St. Joe  
 Day 4 - May 20 - Marysville  
 Day 12- May 28 - Fort Kearney  
 Day 22 - June 7 - Ash Hollow  
 Day 30 - June 15 - Fort Laramie  
 Day 37 - Independence Rock  
 Day 42 - Pacific Springs  
 Day 47 - Soda Springs  
 Day 54 - City of Rocks  
 Day 59 - Wells  
 Day 67 - Winnemucca  
 Day 71 - Ragtown  
 Day 76 - Hope Valley  
 Day 82 - Sutter's Fort

After Fort Laramie, the dates are not firm. There will be some rest days and the schedule has to remain flexible. Robby will attempt to keep Tom Hunt informed about where they are in the final part of the journey.



*Above: Robby Gunstream, left, and Harlan Wadley, right, cross the Missouri River on today's bridge instead of an emigrant ferry, and head for California.*

*Editor's note: This article has been put together from information and pictures sent to me by Jackie Lewin and Tom Hunt.*



## DO WE HAVE YOUR NUMBER?

by Elaine McNabney

Do you remember the "olden days" when you were known by your name? Even OCTA uses a number, although your names remain our primary interest, and your OCTA number actually is your ZIP code. Based on the returned mail received, I am convinced that no further effort is made to deliver the NFP and OJ if your ZIP code is incorrect. To help in our efforts to get your mail to you, please check your mailing label every time! I'm essentially a trained monkey on the computer and am quite apt to make mistakes, and in many areas ZIP codes are changing to meet expanding population needs.

Another change in your label will occur as you renew during the year: all punctuation will disappear. This is especially hard for me as I can feel my mother's frown; however, the postal service insists on this, and to ignore this directive could further slow our mailings. Your labels reflect your name and address as listed on your membership form with one name for individual members and two or more for family or higher membership levels.

As you know from an earlier article, ten (10) is a key number for our bulk mailings. Ten items with the same five digit ZIP code and ten items with the same first three digits receive preferential treatment. I nearly cry when I have only nine "alikes" and must tie them in the same state bundle. Canvass your neighborhood for folks who do not yet know they are trail buffs!

The last horror in our bulk mailings is yet to come ... nine digit ZIP codes. Chuck Dodd, who designed our membership computer program, is in the process of changing it so it will accept the additional four digits. Many of you have included them in your new or renewal membership forms, and I will be able to refer to them when our program accepts the additional numbers. However, one of these months I shall be writing here again, asking you to use your full ZIP code on all communications. Please check your labels and notify us as soon as you know your new address when moving. You will get your mailings more quickly and save us \$1.45, the cost for each remailing.

## TRAIL BITS

Elaine McNabney reports that her husband, Dr. Kendall McNabney, has returned from the long trail that took him to the middle east as part of Operation Desert Storm. She personally thanks all who wrote and called her after Bill Watson mentioned the deployment in the last NFP. Elaine said "The well-wishes really cheered me up!"



## KUDOS FOR LOIS DANIEL

In her letter to OVERLAND JOURNAL readers on the inside cover of the Vol. 4, No. 4 issue, Lois Daniel, OJ editor, informs us that we are finally caught up on our back issues and that we are now on schedule again. The entire membership of OCTA owes Lois a loud and sincere "Thanks!" for persevering and for bringing us up to date with such verve and style. I am sure that there were times when Lois wondered whether she could ever do it. The answer to that is very clear. Despite very tough going initially in getting suitable material while, at the same time, having to face and to overcome all the problems that an editor has to face in dealing with new publishing technologies, Lois has done the job brilliantly for us. Not only has she satisfied the needs of the membership by producing a bright, informative, readable magazine, but she has made it the magazine of record for the overland emigrant era. Proof of this is in the impressive list of research, university and public libraries which subscribe to the OVERLAND JOURNAL. Even those of us who have been on the periphery of this long and difficult effort, can appreciate her dedication to quality and her dogged determination to get the job done for us.

Thank you, Lois, for a job well and faithfully done. We are proud to have the OJ as our association's quarterly. It is not only our contribution to the literature of the overland emigrant experience, but it is our best link to the scholarly community and to the public in general. It is one of our most effective weapons in the ongoing battle to preserve our nation's overland emigrant trails heritage.

Tom H. J., National Preservation Officer for OCTA

**A REMINDER - RETURN YOUR VOTE FOR THE ANNUAL BOARD ELECTION BY JULY 22!**



# MERRILL J. MATTES RESEARCH LIBRARY DEDICATED

With his usual style and grace, Merrill J. Mattes accepted the accolades of his friends, peers and admirers during the festivities at the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence on April 5 and 6, 1991. The occasion was the dedication of the gift of his library to OCTA, which in turn has put it on permanent loan to the NFTC.

The Friday night reception was low key, but all made their way at some time to the area where the library is housed, a quiet corner with gleaming bookcases made especially for the collection. Many were on hand for the airing of Merrill's interview on the local PBS station, as the broadcast occurred during the reception.

On Saturday, the midday dedication was held in the Center's Auditorium, with a full house. OCTA's Board was holding its midyear meeting, but took a break to attend. Merrill's wife, Clara, his son and daughter-in-law from Omaha, and his brother and sister-in-law from North Kansas City were present. Additional attendees included other OCTA members, long-time friends of Merrill, and local dignitaries.

Merrill's remarks were the highlight of the day as he told of his work over the years and the acquisition of the numerous volumes that came to make up his library. As a founding member of OCTA, he has seen many changes in the way we look at and take care of our historic trails.

A special bookplate for the library had been designed by Jim Conway as his gift. The plates were printed by



*Above: Seen here is a portion of the Merrill J. Mattes collection in its new home. The setting is ideal for quiet research.*

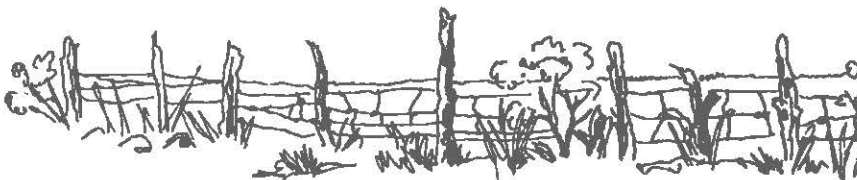
Lowell Press of Kansas City, and they donated much of their cost. The bookcases were designed and built by the Building & Grounds Superintendent at the Center, Jim Nicodemus. You read in the last NFP how the library was packed and moved from Colorado to Independence. It shows how many people have been involved in getting Merrill's library ready for all of us to enjoy.

The library is available for research for those who may live or be visiting in the area. It would be best to write or call ahead to be sure there will be someone available when you wish to use the facilities.



*Above: This plaque is prominently displayed in the library. It reads: "Merrill J. Mattes Research Library - This library is made possible by the generous gift of his personal collection of trail and western histories, including his own published works, for continued study of the emigrant trails."*

*Mr. Mattes, an eminent trails historian, is a founder of the Oregon-California Trails Association."*





## ROCK SPRINGS CONVENTION - 1992

People have been asking me about plans for the 1992 Convention in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Our community is excited about having OCTA come to Rock Springs next year and the Bureau of Land Management is looking forward to hosting the convention.

We're especially proud of the hundreds of miles of main trail and cutoffs on public lands in the BLM Rock Springs District in southwest Wyoming. It's kind of a joke (which many of you have probably heard) around the BLM that "our ruts are deeper than your ruts". We may not have the "deepest" ruts but we've certainly got more miles of pristine trail and cutoffs on public lands than anywhere in the nation. We're also proud of our many partners - the local ranchers and landowners - who have preserved the trails for the 90 years or so before BLM existed and the 130-odd years before OCTA was formed.

Since OCTA came into being, the BLM has gained a new partner to help us preserve the many miles of trail in Wyoming. In just the past 3 years, OCTA volunteers have stabilized and signed several graves and sites in the Rock Springs District.

Our focus in 1992 in Rock Springs will be choice and diversity. In addition to bus tours to trail sites and landmarks, we plan to offer guided 4-wheel drive back country tours (bring your own 4-wheel drive), mountain biking, hiking, and a one-day river float that retraces part of the path of the Manly Party in 1849 who tried to take the river route to reach the goldfields. Again, these extra tours will merely be offered. If no one signs up, that's fine. Our goal is to give OCTA members the opportunity to experience the Trails and Cutoffs in various modes of travel.

Tour sites and destinations we're looking at include: Fort Bridger, South Pass, several of the various Cutoffs, inscriptions at Names Hill, Emigrant Springs/Slate Creek inscriptions, new BLM Marking program, fords and ferries on the Green River, Parting-of-the-ways and the Little Sandy Crossing,

## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP NOT AUTOMATIC

Mary Conrad suggests a reminder to all new OCTA members that they can join a chapter or chapters, even if they do not live in the area of the chapter. If you vacation or have a special interest in a particular trail area, the local chapter would welcome you, even if they don't see your face often.

At the same time, remember that all chapter members must be national members, AND being a national member does not automatically make one a member of any chapter. Local chapters often send invitations to new OCTA members in their area, but it is up to the OCTA member to join a chapter. Chapter dues are usually quite modest, and most have their own newsletter. Any OCTA member is eligible to join any or all chapters.

At present, OCTA's Chapters are:

### CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, HAWAII CHAPTER

Judy Allen, President  
6245 Tonzi Road  
Ione, CA 95640

### COLORADO CHAPTER

John Dailey, President  
3588 S. Nucla St.  
Aurora, CO 80013

### GATEWAY CHAPTER

Larry Bunse, President  
Rt. 1, Box 85  
Cosby, MO 64436

### IDAHO/MONTANA CHAPTER

Buton Silcock, President  
5902 View Drive  
Meridian, ID 83642

### NEBRASKA CHAPTER

Bob Berry, President  
11505 Pacific St.  
Omaha, NE 68154

### NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Dick Ackerman, President  
3027 Twin Oak Place, NW  
Salem, OR 97304

### SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Harland Tompkins, President  
1125 W. Mission Dr.  
Chandler, AZ 85224

### TRAILS HEAD CHAPTER

Bill Bullard, President  
3915 S. Leslie St.  
Independence, MO 64055

### UTAH CROSSROADS CHAPTER

Albert Mulder, Jr., President  
6098 S. 520 East  
Murray, UT 84107

### WYOMING CHAPTER

Ronald R. Lund, President  
11265 Goose Egg Rd.  
Casper, WY 82604

Sublette Springs, Lander Cutoff, and more. We're also interested in your suggestions of destinations and/or specific sites you would like to see during your visit to southwest Wyoming. If you have sites in mind, please contact:

Mike Brown  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 1869  
Rock Springs, WY 82901  
(307) 382-5350

We're looking forward to seeing you in Wyoming in '92.





# EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

## OREGON TEACHER USES TRAIL CURRICULA

Jim Tompkins teaches 8th grade at the East Orient School in Gresham, OR. At the Environmental Learning Center at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, he teaches Oregon Trail history in classes and on field trips.

Jim was named the 1990 DAR History Teacher of the Year for Oregon. This year the 8th grade play on May 17th will be about the trail, and his Barlow Road trip will be June 1st. A Portland TV station taped last year's play and will send a photographer on the field trip this year.

A book by Jim Tompkins, *THE ROAD TO OREGON*, is being readied for publication. It is a series of over 50 essays about the history of the Oregon Trail, intended mainly for educational use. The essays also will be put into syndication by the *Clackamas Review*. Here we have an OCTA member educating his students about the trail in a variety of ways, and hopefully producing awareness of their heritage. AND perhaps future OCTA members!

A few excerpts from some of Jim's writings include:

"The Oregon Trail is alive today thanks to the efforts of a great number of people with various talents, abilities and one driving force - preserving the last remnants of the Great American Migration. There are activities for all ages and interest levels. Tourists can follow the route of the trail, see where history was made and have it interpreted. Tours can be made to view or walk on the actual ruts. Pageants or festivals entertain the modern day emigrants."

"In addition to markers at significant sites are the trail route markers placed along highways that parallel or cross the trail. Placed by varying groups such as the DAR, Oregon Centennial Commission, the Oregon-California Trails Association, or local historical societies, they come in many sizes, shapes, designs and condition of repair. OCTA is attempting to mark the entire trail with unobtrusive, indestructible carsonite reflectors. . . . Maps showing greater detail is an on-going project of OCTA. Using air photos, old surveys, and on-the-ground inspection by experts, they are plotting the trail on large topographic maps."

"Five year old Nicholas Bigelow leads his mother through the snow down the actual ruts of the Barlow Road. They join the rest of the special Saturday class of school children from East Orient School and their parents. At the bottom of the trail they watch the Pioneer Woman's Grave Memorial Snowball Fight. Rachael Ross, a quiet studious eighth grader, clobbers her mother with a snowball. . . . Hundreds of people have gone on field trips on the Barlow Road, parents and children, teachers and students, from 5 to 95. It takes at least two days to see most of what is left of Barlow's Mount Hood Toll Road."

"Hannah Sester, one of my 8th grade students, wrote the following review. 'This is a story of a kind of strength that not many people today can boast of. I was glad to read it. It seemed more real to me to read it out of a real diary! Sometimes the Oregon Trail seems more like a fairy tale passed down from generation to generation.'"

Jim requires his students to read one of three diaries. The reminiscence of Henry Garrison from 1841 is one of their favorites, and was the one reviewed above.

Look for Jim Tompkins at the Sacramento Convention. He is always ready to talk about his educational tools in teaching the history of the trails.



Above: Jim Tompkins leads the way down the "Chute" on Laurel Hill on the Barlow Road. With him are Ryan McKeel, center, and Wendy Tompkins, Jim's daughter.

## EDUCATION CHAIRMAN ASKS FOR HELP

One of the projects that the Education Committee is presently working on is the development of a student activity book on the Oregon-California Trails. It is being planned to be appropriate for grades four through eight. Written materials, maps, puzzles, charts, etc. are being developed at this time. We are looking for an experienced illustrator who would volunteer their services/ideas to assist in the development of the booklet. If you wish to be considered or just to help out on this project or to join the Education Committee, please contact:

William E. Hill  
91 Wood Road  
Centereach, NY 11720-1619



## COED WILL EXPAND TO INCLUDE SOUTHERN TRAILS

Until now, COED (Census of Overland Emigrant Documents) volunteers have been focused mainly on overland travel along the Platte River Corridor to California, Oregon, Utah and Colorado. By the end of this year, the COED Committee would like to begin the expansion of the program to include southern trails into California.

Preliminary work to be done is:

- Identify volunteers who would like to visit museums, libraries, historical societies, etc, and help develop a locator file/inventory of documents related to travel on the southern trails. This will enable us to know where the documents are when we are ready to begin the actual document surveys. This can begin now.

- Put together a list of names of volunteers who are interested in surveying the documents and doing data entry.

- Develop instructions, route codes, maps origin and destination codes for the southern routes, using the same format as the current COED handbook. This will require the help of those who are knowledgeable in the areas the trails passed through.

It would be beneficial for prospective volunteers to attend the upcoming COED Workshop at the OCTA convention in Sacramento. You will gain training and "hands on" experience in the COED program and be able to start surveying as soon as we begin.

If you have attended COED workshops in the past, but not recently, please plan on attending. The instructions have been updated several times and you may not have the current edition.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the jobs that need to be done, or you would like more information on the COED program contact:

**Kathy Roubal, COED Chair**  
2221 S. 25th Avenue  
Broadview, IL 60153  
(708) 345-7128

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## CHAPTER NEWS

### IDAHO

The annual meeting was held April 13 at the historic Stricker Ranch. Current and past business were addressed, and the by-laws were formally approved. Following the business meeting, a catered lunch was served. Afterwards, Johnny Meyers, President of the Friends of Stricker, and Tom Lloyd, caretaker of the ranch, led the group on a guided tour of the grounds, ending at the cemetery. Here, plans were discussed on the possibility of OCTA fencing the cemetery to help insure the preservation of the site. Since more than one emigrant is buried at the site, it was agreed to submit a fencing proposal to OCTA's graves committee. Virginia Ricketts will write up the known history of the burials, and Johnny Meyers will provide the measurements of the cemetery. During the remainder of the afternoon, Clair Ricketts led the group on a tour of Rock Creek crossings and the day concluded with a visit to Malad Gorge State Park where participants viewed the crossing of the Malad River by the North Alternate and the site of the Malad Stage Station.

**Trail Outing** - April 30 to May 4 marked the joint outing with the CA/NV/HI Chapter to assist the Elko District, BLM, in the marking of the California Trail and installation of interpretive signs from Goose Creek to Winecup Ranch. Approximately 30 members set up camp at Rock Spring. The weather was typical for springtime in Northeastern Nevada - a little sun - a little rain - a little snow - and the ever present wind.

Under the expert guidance of Don Buck, members marked the trail from the Idaho line to the head of Little Goose Creek Canyon. While hiking through the latter mentioned area, excellent ruts were discovered. Don noted the location on his ever present maps, and the hikers placed markers in appropriate locations.

On May 4, the campers participated in BLM's dedication of the California Trail Back Country By-Way ceremony,

and enjoyed a fine barbecue served by BLM to over 150 attendees.

The chapter again expresses appreciation to all the private landowners along the California Trail for allowing us to mark the trail on their property. BLM is also to be congratulated for their active role in helping to preserve the trail.

**On May 11**, chapter members Burt Silcock and Larry Jones hitched a ride with Idaho State BLM Director Del Vail, and attended the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Flagstaff Hill Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon. Numerous dignitaries were in attendance and everyone was very enthusiastic. Hopefully, some of their enthusiasm can be transferred to the Idaho Congressional Delegation and our Governor. Everyone in Baker is looking forward to hosting OCTA's 1993 convention.

**June plan** - June 8 will be the date for a planned outing on the Goodale Cutoff. The group will meet at Craters of the Moon Visitor's Center and will include segments of Goodale's Cutoff on either side of the Craters of the Moon boundary. In addition, special permission has been given to OCTA to travel the Cutoff inside the Park's boundary. There will be an optional hike up a wooded ravine that was once traversed by emigrant wagons while the rest will travel a stage route detour, with all meeting at Big Cottonwood Creek, an emigrant campground. Larry Jones

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### UTAH CROSSROADS

**May 18 Outing** - The chapter scored some notable "firsts" when more than thirty chapter members traced for the first time the exact trail of the Bryant-Russell Party in 1846 from Bear River, just north of Evanston, WY, to Weber River, near present Croyden, UT. Twice delayed by late spring storms in the Rockies, the trek was led by trail expert, Rush Spedden, and organized by Al Mulder and Morris Goates.

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Guided by James Hudspeth, the nine Bryant-Russell packers on mules, plus three scouts from trailing Harlan-Young wagons, were the first that year to take the California Trail's Hastings Cutoff from Fort Bridger to the headwaters of the Humboldt. Their route from Bear River to the north of Echo Canyon crossed lands now owned by Deseret Land & Livestock Co., which graciously gave permission for our trip.

Also in May, Crossroaders welcomed Jeanne Watson who spoke before the Utah chapter's spring membership meeting in the Salt Lake County Commission Chambers on her book, **TO THE LAND OF GOLD AND WICKEDNESS**. Afterward, her husband, President Bill, updated local OCTA members on national activities, including pending trails legislation.

In April, chapter members mounted an expedition to the foot of 10,700 foot Pilot Peak on the Utah-Nevada border, where wagon trains rested after crossing the Salt Desert, to restore the old Muncee cabin at Pilot Springs on property now owned by rancher Dean Stephens. There were thirteen in the work party.

This fall, chief Crossroads cartographer, Kent Malan, will lead a two-day commemorative field trip over the Bartleson-Bidwell Trail from Soda Springs to Pilot Peak. All OCTA members are invited to join the trek on Sept. 21-22 which will feature a visit to one of Utah's best kept secrets, a stunning collection of Indian Petroglyphs, near Connor's Spring north of Great Salt Lake.

Earlier in September, Al Mulder will host a Bar-B-Que at the Lazy M Ranch, near Oakley, Utah, where Crossroaders will gather for the chapter's fall membership meeting.

Dave Bigler

*Right: Utah Crossroads scouting party, left to right, Al Mulder, Vern Gorzitze, Dave Bigler and Jay Haymond, inspect Indian petroglyphs near Connor's Spring. The site will be a part of the Sept. field trip being planned over the 1841 trail of the Bartleson-Bidwell party from Soda Springs to Pilot Peak.*

## NORTHWEST

**Applegate Trail Outing - May 18** is the date scheduled for the chapters outing on the Applegate Trails in Douglas County, OR, a segment established in 1846. The day is to include a stop at the Charles Applegate home in Yoncalla, dating back to 1856. The tour will end at Wolf Creek Inn, constructed by Ben Holliday for patrons using the stage line between Portland and California.

**Sherman County Cutoff - June 8** is the date for an outing from the top of the bluff on the west side of the crossing of the John Day River to near Sherar's Bridge crossing of the Deschutes River.

### Future meeting dates:

July 27-28 - Blue Mountain Hiking Segment.  
September 14-15 - Blue Mountain Working Party.  
October 12 - A Tour of Oregon City.



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## WYOMING

**Grandfathers' Walk** - The chapter's March 13 meeting program.

Pat Thompson and Bruce Peterson accomplished in the summer of 1990 what the early pioneers did on a daily basis. Pat began his journey with a dream and a desire to walk the trail. It took him two years in preparation, with physical training, obtaining permission from ranchers and purchasing equipment. The weight lifting and walking with a 90 lb pack on his back really helped. Bruce, who is a good friend of Pat, didn't decide to join him until six months before departure. His decision was based on concern for Pat walking the trail alone. Bruce is a runner and his training was running up and down mountains.

They left Fort Laramie on May 26 with a little apprehension but a great deal of determination. They were prepared for hazards like weather, rattlesnakes and lack of water; but the greatest danger they hadn't considered. **BULLS IN OPEN RANGE.** A wrangler placed his horse between the men and a bull one time, but later had to make a 50 yard dash, throw his pack over a fence (fortunate for him there was a fence) and crawl under the fence.

They had planned to visit and take pictures of all the historic sites along the trail but reality set in and all they could think about was to make the **MILES.** They found many trail markers and found them to be useful for propping up their backpacks. **NOT MANY TREES.**

Their arrival in Casper was the same day that a wagon train left Fort Casper. They followed the train past Poison Spider and left them to cross over the land. When they were approaching Devil's Gate they thought time had turned back a century and plus. For there were covered wagons, pioneers and animals on the road. All part of LDS Church filming.

Bruce saw the **ELEPHANT** and left the trail at Jeffery City. He was bruised and battered from weather, wind and very painful feet. The men found their feet suffered from blisters and soreness even though they stopped every hour, removed their hiking boots, dried

and powered their feet. Bruce later rejoined Pat and acted as a scout for the best place to sleep etc., in his four wheel drive vehicle.

Pat continued on alone and later was joined by a friend Marc Masor from Columbus, Ohio who wore tennis shoes and **HAD SORE FEET.** They arrived at Fort Bridger on June 28 with no fan fare but grateful to be at the end of their journey. The men have many wonderful memories and stories to tell their grandchildren.

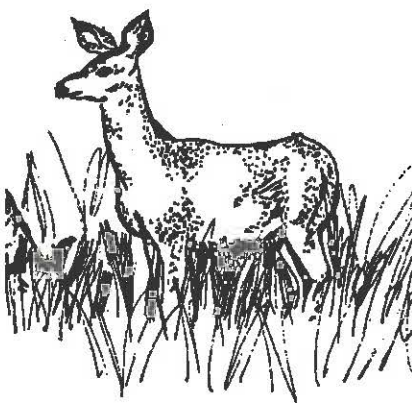
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## GATEWAY

On **April 6th**, chapter members went to the dedication of the Merrill J. Mattes Research Library in Independence. The day included a tour of the National Frontier Trails Center and the OCTA Headquarters.

On **May 7th**, the chapter met at Robidoux Row in St. Joseph. Joy Baker presented a program that was the result of her research for the Robidoux Festival last year. In 19th Century costume, she performed a one woman play about Pelagie Robidoux's thoughts at the time of her brother's (Joseph Robidoux) death in May of 1868. He died in the Robidoux Row building.

**May 16th** was a picnic at Wyeth Hill, sponsored by the chapter and the St. Joseph Museum in honor of two OCTA members Robby Gunstream and Harlan Wadley, who began a hike across the California Trail the next day. More about that event can be found on pages 10 & 11.



## SOUTHWEST

**It's high noon**, Saturday March 16th, in the tiny hamlet of San Simon, and the Southwest Chapter is back in the saddle again. Taking up a tad west of where we left off at Doubtful Canyon (Steins Peak Station) last January, we are continuing our search for the lost stations and traces of the Butterfield Overland Mail Route, Circa 1858.

Our first objective is (as often the case with this long-forgotten venture), only a site. We located it, hard by the east bank of San Simon Creek. The twice weekly stage drew up here after the perilous run through Doubtful Canyon (westbound) or the equally dicey experience of Apache Pass (eastbound). The suspense was provided by the fierce Chiracua Apache who roamed these parts under their leaders, Cochise and Mangas Coloradas.

After gazing over the San Simon Station site the group moved west and south toward the Chiracua Mountains, destination: Apache Pass. Parking our 4WD steeds, we hiked down the actual trace of the stage road to the site of Apache Pass Station. Here were rock foundations, from which one could discern the shape of the structure that once stood here. Nearby are what remains of the Ft. Bowie Cemetery, Apache Spring, and high on a plateau Ft. Bowie itself. The past and its nearby predecessor (Old Ft. Bowie) existed from 1862-1894. One's imagination was filled with thoughts of 19th century soldiers and their doings as we strolled through the remnants of this old historic post, on a pleasant winter afternoon, nearly 100 years after its active life ended.

We headed for Willcox, Arizona, vowing to resume trail hunting Sunday morning. Following dinner at the Cactus Kitchen, the group met for a business meeting and a slide show presented by Rose Ann Tompkins.

Next morning, finding the site of Ewell's Station proved a tough nut to crack; in fact, we didn't crack it. We settled for a group picture in the vicinity and resolved to work further on this one at a later date. Next stop was Dragoon Springs Stage Station, built in 1858. It

continued on next page • • • • •



*Right: Southwest chapter members investigate the Butterfield stage station remains and the graves at Dragoon Springs in southeast Arizona during their April outing.*

• • • continued

was the westernmost of the ten fortified stone stations of the old Butterfield Route. The sturdy stone walls still demark the outline of the place. A most impressive sight. Nearby are four graves, said to be Confederates, killed by Apaches in May, 1862. After a side foray to trace the spring that supplied the station, we moved westward to Benson, Arizona for lunch.

The Rio San Pedro rising in Mexico, flows northward through modern day Benson. The next station west of Dragoon Springs was an adobe structure on the San Pedro. It was destroyed by flood waters in 1883-4, along with a bridge built in 1859 by the Butterfield Company.

Perhaps the most satisfying experience of the day occurred at the site of the next station west, Cienega Springs. Sheri Lee had a copy of a photograph taken some fifty years ago, supposedly of the destroyed site of the station. Because several structures in the background of the old photo are still there, we were

able to precisely match the point from which it was taken. A close examination of the area revealed an adobe mound and a few artifacts. Eureka! We felt we had located the lost Cienega site and redeemed our egos from the unsuccessful quest for Ewell Station.

A final stop at a nearby winery brought this interesting field trip to a close. Many thanks to Bob and Sheri Lee for planning and leading it.

Jack Root

The Chapter will hold its annual planning meeting on July 13-14 in Strawberry, AZ.



## TRAILS HEAD

On April 18, a joint meeting was held with the Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center. Kathleen Tuohy gave a presentation about the restoration of the Pitcher Cemetery, located in western Independence. One of the earliest historic cemeteries in the Kansas City area, Pitcher Cemetery is on a branch of the Santa Fe Trail and was used by some trail emigrants. A couple of mass graves of cholera victims are believed to be in this burial ground, which continued to be used for many decades.

**Sesquicentennial Trek - May 18** was the date set for the chapter trek of selected Oregon Trail sites in Jackson County, Missouri and Johnson County, Kansas. It was to commemorate the Bidwell-Bartleson 1841 trip to California and Oregon.

The trek started in Independence at the site of Nebraska House on Independence's square. Other stops included the home of Smallwood Noland, proprietor of the Washington House, the Rice-Tremonti Home, Sapling Grove (site of the rendezvous of May 12, 1841), and the John Bartleson Grave. A short oral history was given at each site.

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