

News From The Plains



Volume XVI, No. I

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

January 2002



OCTA member Tom McCutcheon of Rock Springs, WY at the site of Cherokee Trail graves on the Wyoming-Colorado border. See page 12 for a story on how the graves were located and preserved — Photo Courtesy Mike Brown

OCTA Sponsors Trails Preservation Conference

OCTA is sponsoring a trails preservation conference in Salt Lake City March 6-7, with participation expected from the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Partnership for a National Trail System and private interests.

“The purpose of the conference is to discuss the state of our preservation activities, update the membership on key preservation issues and provide information on techniques and tools for improving our preservation efforts,” said OCTA National Preservation Officer David Welch.

A preliminary agenda includes an overview of the state of preservation activities at the national and chapter levels, including a review of pending legislation and trail mapping and marking activities.

A panel discussion is planned to discuss trail issues from private perspectives, including those of landowners, utilities and energy developers. There will also be reports on partnership activities with both private landowners and government agencies.

Representatives from the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and other organizations have been invited to lead discussions, along with a number of OCTA members and committee chairs.

The second day of the conference will be dedicated to the “nuts and bolts” of trail preservation. Mapping and marking techniques will be discussed in detail to include the use of the latest GPS technology and mapping software. A new policy for use of trail markers other than the carsonite and novalloy markers will also be discussed.

Suggestions for additional topics to be considered should be submitted as soon as possible to the National Preservation Officer.

Those who would like to attend are also encouraged to contact Welch directly at 253-584-0332 or djwelch@csi.com. Information also will be posted on the OCTA website (www.octa-trails.org) by the end of January.

Nominations Sought For OCTA Board of Directors

Nominations are now being accepted for four positions on OCTA’s Board of Directors, with elections to be held this spring.

Terms expire in August for Robert Kabel, Suzette McCord-Rogers, Fran Taplin and Randy Wagner. All are eligible for new three-year terms. (Taplin was appointed to fill the balance of the term of Don Popejoy, who resigned.) Directors may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Because all OCTA Directors serve “at-large,” location of residence or chapter affiliation (if any) is not a requirement. Any OCTA member can submit one or more nominations.

The following information must be submitted to the Nominating and Leadership Committee:

- Continued on Page 12

From the Editor's Desk . . . by Bill Martin



The winter snows are covering many of the emigrant trails, and those that aren't snow-bound are likely thick with mud. Which leaves trail hounds pretty much house-bound, thick with the company of a few good trail books, pleasant memories of last summer's treks, and pleasant dreams of outings to come. But while actual trail life is dormant, that doesn't mean there isn't a great deal of activity – if not on the trails, at least about the trails.

One of the most significant happenings about trails is the OCTA-sponsored trails preservation conference in Salt Lake City March 6-7 (right before OCTA's Mid-Year Board meeting). The brainchild of National Preservation Officer Dave Welch, the conference will bring together many groups and individuals who have a vested interest in making sure the trails are preserved for future generations. Dave is to be saluted for his initiative in getting this particular ball rolling.

There are always a lot of trails preservation activities going on at both the chapter and national level, and the conference is an opportunity to bring a coordinated approach to the most important mission OCTA has. Getting everyone hooked up to the preservation wagon can add important muscle to the effort.

Meanwhile, there's a report in this issue from OCTA's new mapping chair, the energetic Frank Tortorich. Maps have long been a subject of considerable discussion at any gathering of trail buffs, and Frank has laid out an ambitious program for a complete mapping of the emigrant trail system. It not only will add greatly to the body of knowledge about trails, but it will provide some tremendously useful tools to anyone who follows the footsteps of the emigrants.

And while those two efforts are going on, the finishing touches are being put on plans for the 20th OCTA Convention, scheduled in mid-August in Reno. It promises to be an exceptionally entertaining and educational convention. Just the opportunity to see some of the truly great trails of the emigration – the Applegate, the Donner, the Carson, the Forty-Mile Desert and others – makes the trip to the Biggest Little City In The World something to look forward to this summer. Plan your calendar early.

We feel obliged to mention that we had planned a story in this issue of *News From The Plains* on federal legislation which would allow the Bureau of Land Management to sell the historic Martin's Cove property in central Wyoming to the LDS Church. The story was first reported by Chris Smith in the *Salt Lake Tribune* last October and, as you might expect, stirred considerable discussion.

But we elected not to write a story after we learned in early December that the legislation, which at first appeared to be imminent, was in the process of being revised and the entire proposal would need to be studied in detail. It will probably be some time before the matter reaches the "imminent" stage again. We'll provide a detailed report when developments warrant.

Finally, for the record, we learned just after the October issue went to press that U.S. Senate and House negotiators had agreed to an Interior Appropriations package that provides \$2 million for design and construction of a California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, NV. It will be a terrific addition to western history preservation.

Stay warm this winter and we'll see you in Reno.

– Bill Martin



News From The Plains

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Masthead Photo Courtesy of Denver Public Library,
Western History Collection

Submission Guidelines

News From The Plains welcomes news, features and photos related to the work of OCTA and its members and to the preservation of our trails heritage. Material is due 30 days prior to publication dates. Material should be sent either on a computer disk (in Word or text format; please make sure you include a hard copy) or via e-mail. Pictures are appreciated and can be sent via e-mail, on a disk (jpg format) or originals for scanning.

Next Deadline Is March 1, 2002

From The President . . . by Randy Wagner



We Have Met the Enemy... (with apologies to Pogo)

The oil and gas exploration, drilling and related pipeline activities taking place in southwestern Wyoming along the Oregon, California, Mormon, Pony Express, Overland, Cherokee and Lander trail corridors have been much on my mind.

And every time I get really upset over something that seems inevitable, I think back to a time, some 40 years ago when Paul Henderson and I were traveling those same trails in the midst of another energy boom. Uranium was the prize being sought back then.

The trails were mostly unmarked and unmapped in those days. Few people knew where they were and even fewer cared. Paul did care, with a passion that was obvious and infectious.

The Sweetwater, South Pass and Sandy regions were a virtual forest of brightly painted claim stakes. Everywhere we looked we saw a regular pattern of earth mounds gouged out by bulldozers as a method to prove-up on claims. Heavy equipment operators were using the trails as access roads and, in some cases, blading them to make their travels easier.

Paul was visibly upset by all this seemingly unnecessary destruction. I didn't have to ask him why. Yet he made an observation, almost in passing, that I've never forgotten.

"The pioneers who came west and made these trails would probably be pleased," he said. "This is what they came west to do."

He was right, of course. The emigrant pioneers, the people we all celebrate and the ancestors of many of you in OCTA, were not your average candidates for membership in Friends of the Earth.

They were moving west to tame and eliminate its wilderness, to exploit its hidden riches, to cut its timber and clear its forests, to plow and plant its land, to build cities and establish commerce, to "civilize" or replace its native peoples and to populate its vast wide open spaces. This was their dedication. The only part of the trail they wanted to see was the end.

Most of them, with the exception of Ezra Meeker and a handful of others, never wanted to see any of it again.

In the 1840s, Lansford W. Hastings, he of Donner Party infamy, wrote from his self-appointed post as head of the West's Chamber of Commerce:

"...the time is not distant when these wild forests, trackless plains and untrodden valleys will present one grand scene of continuous improvements, universal enterprise and unparalleled commerce. When these vast forests shall have disappeared before the hardy pioneer, these extensive plains shall abound with innumerable herds of domestic animals, these fertile valleys shall groan under the immense weight of their abundant products. When the entire country will be everywhere intersected with turnpike roads, railroads and canals and when all the vastly numerous and rich resources of this now almost unknown region will be fully and advantageously developed."

Hastings was a better visionary than a pathfinder. Today the spirit of free and unrestricted individual enterprise that he found so prevalent among the pioneers exists only within a few family farmers and ranchers, small business men and women and a scattering of prospectors and wildcatters probing the public lands.

Paul Henderson, together with a few other dedicated early trail buffs, was on a lifelong mission to call attention to the western emigration trails; to make them important as a cultural/historic resource in the states they passed through and to the citizens of those states; to have them marked on private and public lands; to get them on the map and to provide them with some measure of protection.

He succeeded in this effort, better than he ever knew. But I still reflect back to those earlier days and wonder how he would have dealt with the current, and apparently never-ending, debate between preservation and progress.

How would he have reacted to the "evil" energy companies that are now carrying on with the kind of work that our very own pioneer heroes started?

— Randy Wagner

News From Headquarters . . . by Kathy Conway



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2002!

As we greet a New Year, we extend to all our members appreciation for their continuing support of OCTA's ongoing preservation and educational goals. We thank all the volunteers throughout the organization that carry out the "business of OCTA" at "ground level."

In November, OCTA began its 2001-02 Fund Raising Campaign. If you haven't donated to your favorite OCTA activity, there's still time. As of this writing we have collected \$8,100 with over 125 members contributing. (For a list of contributors, see story elsewhere in this issue.)

OCTA continues to be the recipient of wonderful donations. It was great to have Bill and Shann Rupp deliver to headquarter-

ters a folder full of copies of diaries plus two originals. Earlier this fall, Ward Crowley donated his collection of postal cancellations, envelope cachets and post cards dealing with Oregon Trail history. Many of the post cards depict Ezra Meeker and his various trips over the trail.

By now, everyone should have received the 2002 OCTA Catalog. Over twenty-five books/items have been added to tempt you. Winter is a great time to stock up on trail books. So why not order now? Online (www.OCTA-trails.org) or call toll-free 1-888-811-6282. For those who have been asking for an OCTA cap, please see page 27 of the catalog.

As a reminder, OCTA's new e-mail address is: octa@indepmo.org.— Kathy Conway, Headquarters Manager

National Preservation Officer Report

by David Welch, National Preservation Officer

As expected, Wyoming remains at the center of our preservation activities. Energy development in the vicinity of the trails continues at a rapid pace, but our close working relationship with the BLM and leaseholders is resulting in significant mitigation.

Of major significance is a new BLM Wyoming "Interim Guidance for Managing Surface Disturbing Activities in the Vicinity of National Historic Trails." The guidance provides a methodology for assessing the impact of an activity on the nearby trail and outlines possible mitigation.

The guidance has been wrongly interpreted by opponents as establishing a five-mile corridor on both sides of the trail in which no activities would be permitted. In fact, the guidance includes a methodology with a terrain database that extends for five miles on each side of the trail.

The database permits examination of the visual impact of an activity in that area. If the impact is significant, mitigation is encouraged. Activities are not banned except within the long-established 0.25 miles on each side of the trail.

For example, assume a drilling activity and follow-on production is proposed near a historically significant trail segment two miles from the trail in rolling terrain. The site location is entered in the BLM computer program and its visibility is calculated by comparing its elevation with the trail elevation and intervening hills and gullies.

A hypothetical observer is moved along the trail segment to determine the proposed site's overall visibility. If the site is highly visible (multiple viewings from multiple points along the trail), then mitigation is appropriate. This might involve moving the site up to 200 yards or changing the site design to reduce the visual impact. If the site has low visibility, no further action is required.

As a test, the new methodology was applied to drill sites owned by Wolverine Gas and Shell Oil last summer. In each case the companies were receptive to making adjustments to minimize visibility of production equipment from the trail.

On November 30, 2001 a "training session" was held in Casper, Wyoming for representatives of leaseholders, developers and trail enthusiasts. Several OCTA members attended, including myself. As expected, many from the energy industry are not enthusiastic about the new guidance. Much of that is based upon the perception that the guidance is establishing a ten-mile buffer when it is not.

Others perceived that a new requirement was being established although in actuality the guidance is implementing the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act and related regulations. Even without the new BLM guidance, a developer must demonstrate that an activity does not visually impact a historic site to avoid mitigation.

From OCTA's perspective, the guidance is not perfect. Many of the decisions are subjective (historical importance,

Mid-Year Board Meeting Set For Salt Lake City

The mid-year Board of Directors meeting will be held in Salt Lake City on March 8-9, 2002, immediately following the Winter Olympic Games.

Board member Vern Gorzitze is making arrangements for hotel and meeting rooms. Details will be available in January by contacting OCTA headquarters or on the OCTA website.

At press time for *News From The Plains*, the agenda was not yet set, but it is expected that time will be devoted to a final resolution of the Association Manager position issue.

Also, National Trails Preservation Officer Dave Welch is expected to present a detailed look at the growing list of energy boom-related problems taking place on the public lands in the western states and suggest some possible solutions.

The COED program will be discussed at the Board Committee level in a report by Bob Kabel. All Officers and Board members who have suggested agenda items under old or new business should contact me by mid-January so that they can be included with adequate time for discussion.

All Board members and Officers are required to attend and all Chapter Presidents are invited to sit in and participate in the discussions. Also, all Officers, Directors, Chapter Presidents and Committee Chairmen should submit a brief written report of their activities since July, 2001 to the Independence office by February 4 for inclusion in the meeting packet.

Only those Committee Chairs requesting some action by the Board are asked to attend the mid-year meeting. Suggested motions or resolutions related to that business must be submitted in writing to the office, copy to the President, by the February 4 deadline in order to be considered.

Committee Chairs who feel they need a full Board of Directors meeting packet should contact Kathy Conway by early February. The packets tend to be quite large, take considerable time to assemble and are expensive to produce and mail, so please make sure you need one before you place your order.

These policies will remain in effect for all Board of Directors meetings for the next two years and will not be repeated in future issues of *NFP*. Of course, everyone is expected to attend the summer convention meetings, but the request for written reports about 40 days before the meeting still applies.

Board meetings are always open to all OCTA members.

— Randy Wagner

site integrity, and site manageability). It is imperative that we involve ourselves in the process and that we stand ready to provide documentation if we feel a site assessment is inaccurate.

The research we do on trail location and history and our trail marking could determine how well a site or segment is protected. Please keep up the good work!

Reno 2002 Update: Hotel Change Means Lower Rates

by Chuck Dodd, Convention Chair

Want to know how to panic a convention chair? Tell him, less than a year before the convention, that the hotel selected as convention headquarters has closed its doors.

In early October, the Reno Flamingo hotel, previously the site for our 2002 convention, was sold – it closed its doors about two weeks later.

But we have a new convention hotel: Reno's newly renovated Circus Circus!



The hotel is part of the Mandalay Resort Group that includes the Mandalay Bay, Luxor, Excalibur, and Monte Carlo properties in Las Vegas, as well as the Las Vegas Circus Circus. Reno's Circus Circus has recently undergone an \$80 million renovation, and has joined with Reno's Silver

Legacy and El Dorado resorts to provide hotel, casino, dining, entertainment, and parking facilities that spread over six blocks of downtown Reno.

Circus Circus, the Silver Legacy, and the El Dorado are seamlessly connected by over-the-street second-floor promenades that will allow us access to – along with gaming areas and other attractions – 22 restaurants, all without once stepping out of doors onto a Reno street. And the hotels have cooperated to allow cross-charging so, regardless of which restaurant in which hotel you are in, you can simply charge the fare to your Circus Circus hotel room.

For our convention, Circus Circus is providing OCTA with exclusive use of its brand-new, state-of-the-art convention facilities. In our spare time, we can watch world-class circus acts and wonder at the multi-story automated contraption that recaptures the excitement of 19th century silver mining in the nearby Comstock Lode.

We can even ride Circus Circus's elevated monorail sky tram as we travel between the hotel's Sky Tower and its north Main Tower. The hotel runs shuttles between the airport and the hotel every half hour, car rental is available at the hotel,

and the ample parking just across the street is free.

Despite the "crunch" we found ourselves in after the Flamingo closed its doors, the room rates we obtained from Circus Circus are even lower than those offered by the Flamingo. Your motel bill, over a five-night stay will be some \$50 less with the Circus Circus.

Those of you who have stayed at Circus Circus in past years should note that all its rooms have been completely and tastefully renovated to match today's standards for resort accommodations. We got a very good deal, thanks to the fine work of Reno resident Dave Hollecker, convention facilities chair.

We look forward to seeing you all in Reno in August, 2002, at Circus Circus, our new convention headquarters.

The website for the Reno convention is www.wagons-1841/convention2002.htm. If you're curious about the hotel, visit www.circusreno.com

Convention Photos Needed

Gathering photos for the 20th Year Photo Album has begun. The members' response has been gratifying and the album is beginning to take form. It holds the promise that the album will stir the fond memories of events experienced during previous conventions when the 20th Year Photo Album goes on sale at the OCTA Convention, Reno, 2002.

Keep the contributions coming! In order to give recognition to the many noteworthy activities of the conventions, additional coverage is needed, especially for events prior to 1995. In fact, we do not have any photos from the first six conventions - Independence, MO ('83), Oregon City, OR ('84); Scottsbluff, NE ('85), Carson City, NV ('86); Casper, WY ('87), or St. Joseph, MO ('88).

Review your albums and send contributions to Norine Kimmy, 1437 Piedmont Rd., San Jose, CA 95132-2431. Please include the convention year, a description, and names of those in photo. Although copies are preferred, if you wish your pictures returned please let us know. Call Norine at (408) 926-6952 or email <nkimmy@batnet.com> if you have questions.



Why Conventions Practice Tours in Advance

Simply so they can avoid episodes like the one pictured here, when a tour bus got stuck in the desert near Reno.

"Please make sure the folks know that getting a bus stuck is no longer part of any of our tours," says Convention Chair Chuck Dodd.

— Photo by Dave Hollecker

OCTA Annual Fundraising Drive Underway

OCTA's Annual Fund Drive is off to a great start, with more than 125 contributions received by early December. The fund drive continues through the end of February.

Funds can be designed for the Endowment Fund, Annual Fund or specific Designated funds, such as preservation, graves and sites, COED, archaeology, trail mapping, education and special publications.

Endowment Fund contributions provide long-term financial stability, while the Annual Fund provides support for headquarters operations and related needs.

Contributions can be sent directly to OCTA at P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051. All contributions are tax deductible.

Donors through December 6 included:

P.H. Gillaspy	Estaline Carpenter	Janet Higley Elliott	Roy Welton
Mr. And Mrs. Ed Scoles	Peter Thomson	Karl and Mae Kawahara	David and Wendy Welch
Norman I. Barker	Timothy A. Burns	Mr. And Mrs. Edward Lynch	James E. Delehanty
Richard Pingrey	Curt Bench	John M. Bullock	Richard and Virginia Davis
Jim and Margie Sheik	Robert L. Welsh	Ann V. Bullock	Alfred C. "Bud" Hansen
Bill Ledeboer	Jack D. Hughes	Muriel and Gail Carbiener	Paul R. Mattes
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Arnold Cole	James & Carlene Spomer	Robert P. DeVecchi	C. Ross & Carole McClellan
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Marvin & Dorene Burke	Richard Higgins	Carol Bachhuber	Sandra Sue Dragoo
Lynn Alvord	Beatrice I. McDonald	Dr. and Mrs. Allan Mattern	Donna Rehbeck
R. W. Ralston	Carl MacDonald	Gene Serr	Nancy A. Brown
Clifford H. Fiscus	Lesley Wischmann	Nita R. Spangler	Howard and Bonnie Miller
Virginia Nelson	William H. Saunders Jr.	Richard Gall	James Myers
Archie Gordon	Fran and Mort Sumberg	Larry von Bargaen	Dee W. McKenzie
John L. & Helen Holmes	Shauna Robinson	Mrs. John Edward Cahill	John and Deborah Colombo
Joanne Hinchliff	Janece Thornton	Joyce P. Bolerjack	Robert R. Coward
Doug & Eloise Crary	Dick and Trudy Ackerman	Dr. Ronald and Sarah Lund	Henry and Martha Hodges
Lois A. Dove	Bill & Jacque Arends	Larry and Darlene Bafus	Keith A. Palmquist
Scott & Dorothy Hendricks			

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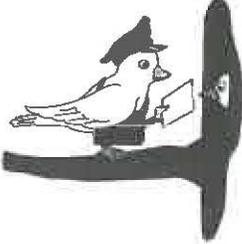
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News From The Chapters

California-Nevada

The history of the Pony Express, mining camp justice, and "Road House Cemeteries Along the Coloma and Placerville Roads" are among the topics to be presented at the annual CA-NV chapter symposium scheduled January 19-20 at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds in Placerville.

Saturday presentations will include Jim Swigart and Larry Carpenter on the Pony Express; Anthony Belli on El Dorado County mining camps; Keith Davis on California Indians during the Gold Rush; Bob Graham on Fremont's winter crossing of the Sierra in 1843-44; and Sue Silver on Road House cemeteries.

Frank Tortorich, OCTA member and an interpretive specialist for Sutter's Fort, will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday night dinner. He will speak on "John August Sutter, The Man and The Myth."

On Sunday there will be a guided tour of the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma, as well as self-guided tours of Placerville.

Other chapter news revolves around the 2002 national convention to be held in Reno next August. (See separate report on page 5)

Virginia Hammerness is accepting promises of items for the auction and hopes to hear from OCTA members who may have unusual items they are willing to part with. She suggests such items, as handwork (quilt, embroidery, needlework), jewelry, antiques, books, maps, lamps, woodcarvings, and non-perishable food items such as nuts, jams, jellies, and honey.

Norine Kimmy is busy lining up photos for the 20th anniversary album that will recall the annual national conventions since the first one in Independence, MO in 1983.

- Pat Loomis

Crossroads

The Utah Crossroads Chapter of OCTA has received a Service Award from the Utah State Historical Society, for outstanding service to the Society and to Utah history.

The Society recognized Crossroads for marking Utah's historic trails; for raising funds and erecting kiosks at Donner Spring, Donner Museum, and Bidwell Pass; and for organizing field trips, seminars, and lectures on historic trails and trail preservation.

The Cherokee Trail field trip closed out chapter activities for the year. Heavy snows in late November ended trail work and tours for what has been an active year for historic trail activities and programs involving chapter members.

The marking of the new hiking trail in East Canyon with Carsonite posts has been rescheduled by the State Parks Trail Coordinator until late spring, before National Trails Day. Chapter member Terry Del Bene of the BLM Rock Springs office was the tour guide on the fall field trip which followed a section of the Cherokee Trail. Roy Tea prepared the handout of text and maps. A burned-out segment of the trail allowed participants to view the ruts and swales of the pristine trail.

OCTA members following the Pony Express Trail in western Utah should take the time to visit the little cemetery located on the old Faust Ranch just off State Route 36.

The cemetery plot sits on a small hill near the old Faust Pony Express Station. The station site has been marked by Pony Express historian Joe Nardone.

In August, a new granite monument was dedicated at the burial site. Some of the names of 14 people known to be buried in the plot are listed. Some are unknown, listed only as "Unknown Immigrant Children." It is a lonely place and near the trail that was used not only by the Pony Express, but also used by westbound travelers in the mid-1880's. -- Al Mulder

OCTA Charter Member Bill Mueller Passes



OCTA charter member William (Bill) Mueller of San Jose, CA died October 28th at the age of 78. Bill was the husband of Mary Mueller, one of OCTA's busiest and best known OCTA volunteers. Both Mary and Bill were life members of the organization.

After more than 30 years with IBM, Bill spent his retirement traveling and fishing. He attended numerous OCTA outings and the national conventions in Wyoming at Rock Springs (1992) and Casper (1987) and was at the Salt Lake convention in 1994. He also attended CA/NV symposiums including Redding, Mariposa, and Stockton.

Bill gave total support and encouragement to Mary, enabling her to devote so much time to OCTA and the San Jose Argonaut Historical Society.

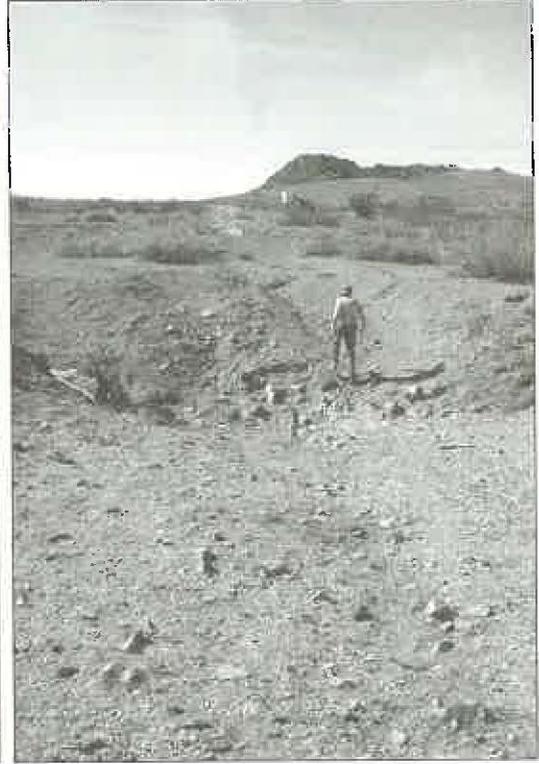
Southwest

The Southwest chapter's fall mapping trip was held along the Southern Trail in New Mexico October 10 to 17, 2001. Fourteen members, one guest and one dog, from four states, spent part or all of the week working along the trail.

We began where we had left off in the spring, continuing to fill in a few gaps and extending the mapped areas. In spite of all our mapping aids, we continued to have trouble locating trail through certain spots, realizing our research must continue to solve these problems.

With such a sizeable group, we were able to break into smaller units to cover different areas on some days. As a result, several gaps were filled and several new areas investigated. We finished small portions both east and west of Cow Springs, extended previous mapping west of Soldiers Farewell along the Apache Pass Alternate, and worked in the Coyote Hills and Whitmire Pass area. The area north and south of Separ continues to elude us.

One unfortunate find was destruction of pristine trail in Coyote Hills. Since our last visit in 1995, a water line to cattle tanks has cut through several miles of the area. The original trail trace was used as a pathway for the buried water line,



The impact of construction of a water line on a pristine trail section can be seen in these pictures. The photo of the dry wash on the left was taken in 1995 and shows remnants of trail. Evidence of the trail has all but disappeared in the photo on the right, taken late last year.

— Photos by Rose Ann Tompkins

effectively destroying the vestiges we had mapped on our previous visit. This example of trail destruction reveals how difficult it is to preserve the trail in remote areas. (See accompanying before and after photos.)

The weather remained mild, though darkness came early along with chilly temperatures, forcing early retreats to the vehicles. Evening meals expanded the gourmet tradition, provided in turn by various participants. No one went hungry.

There was only one tire casualty on this trip, considering the rough terrain we encountered on several days. Greenes lost two tires at once when they ran over a hidden metal rail imbedded in a streambed. They came prepared with two spares and were soon operating again. Dave Hollecker had a vehicle problem on his way to meet us, spending an unexpected night in Kingman, AZ. He caught up with us by the middle of the second day on the trail however. Greenes brought a new pop-up canopy shelter giving us shade for lunch and a shower enclosure at the end of the day.

A decision was made use the spring mapping week for a reconnaissance trip over the Upper and Lower Roads in Texas. Ken White and Richard Greene will plan that trip.

A short business meeting was held one evening. The group discussed placing another marker along the trail, with several possibilities being discussed. Chapter President, Charles Townley, will pursue our suggestions.

— Rose Ann Tompkins



Lunch along the trail, courtesy of the Greene's new sun shelter.

— Photo by Ken White

Wyoming

By Ron Lund

It all started when a highway contractor applied to the Wyoming State Land Board for a permit to mine rock from property next to historic Devil's Gate, to use as highway aggregate.

Adjacent landowners and trail historians objected to this use and the contractor, upon being advised of the historic value of this location, withdrew his application for the permit. Whether he withdrew out of respect for the land or out of desire to avoid heated controversy is not totally clear.

This "near miss" motivated the Wyoming Chapter to take advantage of a relatively unused state law that would give some protection to this section of land.

At a regular membership meeting in October 2000, the chapter president was authorized to petition the Wyoming State Environmental Quality Council to designate the property, Section 36, R87W, T29N, as "rare or uncommon."

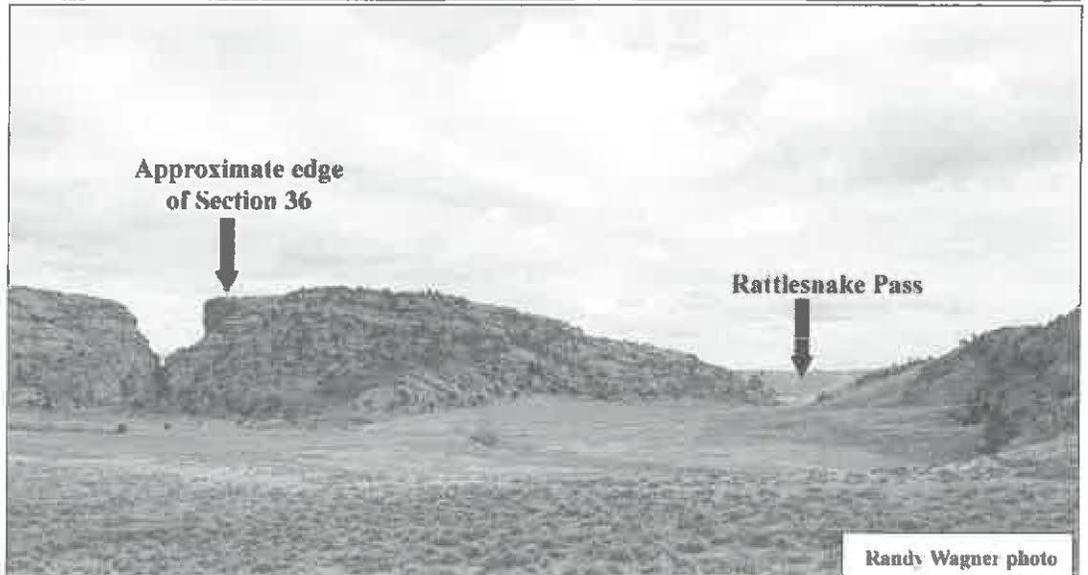
The President and the Preservation Officer of National OCTA gave approval for the Chapter to go ahead with this effort. Copies of the appropriate rules and procedures and the relevant statutes were obtained and were carefully studied. The petition was prepared strictly according to the above Rules and Procedures with the help of a number of chapter members, national OCTA members, and the BLM and NPS. The petition was submitted to the EQC on November 15.

We heard nothing for several months. Then we were notified to attend a meeting of the Council in Laramie in early February 2001. As often happens in February in Wyoming, a blizzard hit the state on that day. All roads in and out of Laramie were closed.

The Council set up an emergency telephone conference call meeting in Cheyenne. Randy Wagner, who lives in Cheyenne, was the only OCTA member to attend in person. I was on line

Approximate edge
of Section 36

Rattlesnake Pass



Randy Wagner photo

petition. That meant that it would at some future time schedule a public hearing on the issue. In the meantime we received several requests from the Council for additional information.

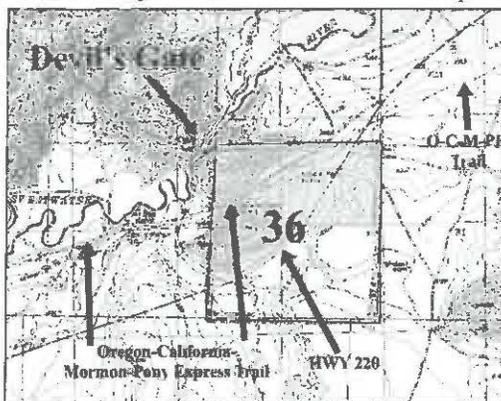
We finally were notified in late June of 2001, that a public hearing was scheduled for August 31, 2001, in Casper. As the petitioner, the Wyoming Chapter was required to make all of the required public and individual notices of that meeting. The expense of all of these notices was to be born by the Chapter. Because our chapter treasury was low, national OCTA graciously offered to help with some of our expenses out of the national preservation budget.

On August 31, 2001, the public hearing was held, testimony in support of the petition was supplied in person and in writing by local and national members of OCTA, and from members of the BLM and NPS as well as from several state agencies. We heard no oral testimony in opposition to our petition. Chapter members guided the Council on a tour of the site, and the Council seemed genuinely impressed with the historic importance of this location.

On October 30, 2001, a final meeting was held in Laramie to come to a decision on the issue. At this meeting no further testimony was to be presented, but the petitioner was to be present to answer questions that the Council might have. I attended as chapter president, along with Randy Wagner, OCTA's national president.

Ultimately, the Council was not willing to designate the entire section, but did vote unanimously to designate as "rare or uncommon" the entire north half of the section and the portion of the south half lying north of State Highway 220. This compromise was quite satisfactory to the Chapter.

This designation provides protection against surface non-coal mining, which is just the threat that was facing the land earlier. Competent geologic consultation advises us that there is no credible likelihood of coal deposits or of petroleum reservoirs in this location.



for the telephone conference call, since roads in and out of Casper also were closed.

In spite of those difficulties, the Council voted to "consider" our

KANZA

By Ken Martin

Every two years, Arleta and I organize and host an "Echo of Times Past" wagon train that travels across one of the historic trails in northeast Kansas. This year, the event was held October 16-20 on a section of the Independence Branch of the Oregon-California Trail.

The day before, we hosted a "Kansas History Day" for area students at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka. Three of our wagon train participants, who have authentic covered wagons, set up an encampment so we could visit with the students about the wagons and how life was for the emigrants.

We also included small programs on making butter, pioneer clothing, objects used in that era, mapping and "prairie coal" (AKA cow chips). Because of rain that day, we had to move into the restored Pottawatomie Baptist Manual Labor Training School building (on the site) and give our program indoors. We had 400-plus students and teachers in attendance.

Our first night in camp was a "cool" one; the thermometer read 28 degrees! We started from the Louis Vieux Cemetery, in Pottawatomie County and traveled, as close to the original trail as possible, through Marshall County to the Cottonwood/Hollenberg Station in Washington County. We rode for five days and traveled 86 miles, crossing many miles of virgin prairie, sometimes right on the trail. We were able to view numerous existing swales and several emigrant grave sites.

On the first day out, we traveled through tall prairie grass that came up to the top of the harness on the horses and mules. As we crested a hill on the second day, we passed a pasture that contained 20 head of buffalo. Each day held a "new" surprise, whether it be wild turkey, deer or just beautiful fall foliage.

This year's ride (our fifth wagon train) commemorated the 1841 trek of the Bidwell-Bartleson Party, so we passed out information about John Bidwell and his overland journey to the Mexican province of Alta California.

As this was a modern day wagon train, we wanted only to

review the history, have fun and enjoy the beautiful sites and scenery. We wanted none of the hardships, deaths or accidents that the emigrants experienced. But... we did have an accident.

Gary and Joyce Hazelton, KANZA Chapter members, upset their covered wagon trying to maneuver a creek crossing. Gary and another individual were pinned beneath the wagon in the creek bed; Gary had a hard time keeping his face out of the water. The other wagon train people were quick to react, they lifted the wagon, freeing the two from beneath the wagon and were able to upright the wagon.

Joyce was riding in the rear, taking pictures and was tossed around. During this time, their team of mules stood perfectly still. Like the emigrants, Gary and Joyce crawled back up on the wagon seat and continued traveling. Both of them were a little stiff and sore for the next few days.

I could go on and on about all the sites and trail remnants that we viewed, but you will have to see them yourself when you attend the OCTA convention here in Kansas in 2003!!!!

Thanks to 37 landowners, who allowed us to cross their private property; three towns and the Cottonwood/Hollenberg Station who provided us with treats and entertainment we had a very enjoyable time. The KANZA Chapter served cookies to the participants when they camped at Scott Spring, near Westmoreland, KS.

Have you ever seen a covered wagon at a drive-in window? A "Daisy Creem" owner in Blue Rapids served free ice cream cones to the participants as they passed his drive-in window on their way to camp at the Marshall County Fair Grounds.

When the wagon train arrived at the Sale Barn in Marysville, the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors served participants cakes and pies. On our last day we arrived at the Hollenberg Station, they had made arrangements to have a band playing for our enjoyment during our last meal together.

Yes.....there are beautiful sites and people who will welcome you to Kansas for the OCTA convention in 2003..

*Joe Nardone, right,
and Curt Martin
at the Big Timber
Pony Express trail
marking in
southwestern
Wyoming.*

*- Photo by Terry
Del Bene*



CA-NV participants in a two-day hiking tour of the Walker River-Sonora Route. L-to-R, front row, Diane Wilson, Marilyn Larson. Back rows David Johnson, Lisa Johnson, Bob Wilson, Gerald King, Larry Larson, Robin Hook, Curtis Grant, Shann Rupp

Trails Head

The annual meeting of the Trails Head chapter held on November 15 and the following slate of officers was approved and elected:

Dick Nelson, President; Eva Allen, Vice President; Elaine McNabney, Secretary; and Judy Budde, Treasurer.

Chapter members Jim and Judy Budde along with Kathy Conway from Headquarters presented the Certificate of Appreciation to former OCTA Executive Director Jeanne Miller

on December 2. Jeanne has always been a good friend of OCTA and has done a great deal to further OCTA's goals. She was especially pleased to receive this honor.

Trails Head and OCTA lost an esteemed member and long-time supporter recently with the late September passing of John Leamon. John, who won OCTA's Meritorious Achievement Award at the Kansas City convention in 2000, will be missed by his many friends and acquaintances. — Dick Nelson

Carrie: A Little Publicity Leads To Trail Diary Discovery

By Shann Rupp

Just a year ago, the original manuscript of the Lizzie C. Charlton diary was presented to OCTA for safekeeping after being found in a garbage dump! (See *NFP*, January 2001.)

It was in a lovely colorful tin box, accompanied by a pair of leather baby shoes. The diary was not brilliantly written, but its value is in the fact that it was salvaged!

Much was learned later about Lizzie by John Mark Lambertson's research and by descendants who read the story in the *Kansas City Star* and in AP releases as far away as Oregon and Alaska. An interesting fact was that the family, traveling as late as 1866, detoured to Fort Bridger from South Pass, instead of taking the Sublette Cut-off, and then traveled up the Dividing Ridge to Soda Springs on their way to Oregon. We can only assume they needed supplies, but the diarist doesn't tell us why they dipped down, only to go north again.

Last winter our daughter went to a college luncheon and while there went over to a woman and introduced herself. For some reason, there was a "slip of the lip" and instead of giving her married name, she gave her maiden name, Rupp.

Earleen Norris responded excitedly, saying: "Oh! I have a diary for your mother!" I had put a notice in the college magazine in 1998 about the importance of preserving original diaries and asking if anyone knew of any. That was the connection.

Earleen had lost track of the information telling how to get in touch with me. Once in touch with her, I learned that the diary belonged to her husband, Frank, who is the great grandson of Caroline (Carrie) Alda McLaren. Frank was looking for a good permanent home for the overland diary as well as the diary Carrie wrote after her arrival in Oregon. He also wanted the two diaries to be kept together. With that agreement, Frank turned the diaries over to me to give to OCTA.

Carrie McLaren traveled in 1865 and the picture of her reveals a close resemblance to Lizzie Charlton, who made the journey a year later. The dress and hairstyle, which are so similar, are undoubtedly a product of the times.

Other similarities are interesting. Both girls were 16, they both left from Council Bluffs and went to Oregon. Carrie's family followed the Cherokee Trail to Ft. Bridger. From there, their journeys match, taking the Dividing Ridge Route to Soda Springs and thus to Oregon.

Fortunately for the reader, Carrie shares more of her thoughts, names more people and locations, and writes more colorfully.

Examples: "Des Moines a very nice place you bet." "It rained like fun." Another time - "It rained like split." "Traveled all day in dust so thick that a feller did not know whether he had any eyes or not." "Traveled all day And cold as the very old harry - like to froze to death" "... warm as the very duse..." "... dust thick as pudding."

Upon arrival in Portland, OR, Carrie states that Oregonians consider it cold, but she doesn't think so when you can hear a robin sing.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if one or more original diaries were to surface every year? I heartily encourage all OCTA members to put a notice of some sort in their local paper. That is how I obtained the William Monroe diary in 1991.

Bob Booker of Sonora, CA donated his grandfather's diary and presented it to OCTA at the Sacramento convention. Many people do not know about OCTA. An article for a local newspaper provides a stellar opportunity to cite some basic facts about our organization and to point out the part that finding and surveying overland diaries plays in preservation. Also, if you have a picture that shows a wagon rut, trail, or trace, the reader can see for himself that there is still evidence of the migration. This could whet one's interest in becoming a member or helping to locate diaries.



Carrie McLaren



The Chip Eklund family of Green River, WY, levels a Cherokee Trail marker. Note the burned vegetation in the background.

Scouts, BLM Helping Cherokee Trail Recovery

Portions of the Cherokee Historic Trail that were burned over about 40 miles south of Rock Springs, WY during the fires of 2000 are on the road to recovery, thanks to the efforts of BLM employees and Wyoming Boy Scouts.

Grass and shrubs are helping anchor the soil and prevent erosion, due to the efforts of BLM Cultural Resource Specialist Terry Del Bene, an OCTA member, who walked and reseeded two formerly pristine stretches of the Cherokee Trail for five miles, carrying 100 pounds of native seed mix and a seed broadcaster.

Meanwhile, trail marking efforts which had been delayed by the fire were resumed by teams of Boy Scouts and their families, who installed more than 100 markers on the Cherokee and Overland Stage Trails in two outings last summer. Scout team leaders earned their Eagle rank for the project.

"With this project we did with the Eagle Scout boys, we're passing the torch onto the next generation for managing the trails," said Del Bene. "We asked each boy that in 30 years when the markers need replacing they bring their sons out and do the trail work. This is really a reach into the future and we're confident these boys will come back as adults – a generation from now."

The trail seeding project was designed to keep ruts from washing away with spring runoff without vegetation in place.

"Trail ruts are ready-made channels for water" Del Bene said. "On the plus side, however; the fires did uncover additional ruts and alternate routes of which we were unaware."

In the early years of the Gold Rush, a worldwide cholera epidemic hit the existing emigration routes to California very hard, killing thousands of potential miners before they could try their luck. Alternate routes were designed to avoid disease-ridden trails. The Cherokee Trail routes established in 1849-1850 became major emigration routes for westward migration.

-- Mike Brown

Chance Encounter Leads To Cherokee Trail Graves

A chance encounter between an OCTA trail buff and a retired nurse led to the discovery/location of two 1852 Cherokee Trail graves on BLM public lands in southwest Wyoming.

Rock Springs WY OCTA member Tom McCutcheon became acquainted with Jan Guiterrez, a retired nurse in Rock Springs, who told him about two graves near her father-in-law's homestead ranch southeast of Rock Springs on the Wyoming/Colorado border.

McCutcheon commented, "Jan showed me the grave in the summer of 1998. She passed away less than a year later. I visited the site several times, and this past June showed the grave to Terry Del Bene of the Rock Springs BLM office."

Cherokee Trail experts Jack and Pat Fletcher quickly researched the names and found out that the people buried there are probably Robert Davidson (from Dwight, Polk County, AR) and a child of Hiram Allen's. Cause of death was likely mountain fever. A doctor was with the party and he attended 50 people for mountain fever, including people in other parties as well. The wagon train included many people from Polk County, AR, headed to California. The party went on the Sonora Route in 1852.

- Mike Brown

Board Nominations (cont'd from Page 1)

- Information about the qualifications and experience of the nominee and the extent to which the nominee has participated in the affairs of OCTA.

- A brief (about 100 word) statement on the goals and objectives the nominee would like to see OCTA accomplish during the next several years and what the nominee could do to help the association reach those goals and objectives.

- A written endorsement from three OCTA members.

- A statement of willingness to actively serve, if elected, signed by the nominee.

Trail-related activities are a consideration for all nominees, but the nomination of persons with service on boards of other associations, or with management and financial expertise, is encouraged. Also, experience as an educator, historian (amateur or professional) or researcher should be noted. A demonstrated interest in all western trails and trail-related history is more important than single trail or event expertise. Submission of a resume for each nominee is encouraged.

Board members are expected to attend all Board meetings. A minimum of two Board meetings are held each year, one at the National Convention and the other at OCTA headquarters in Independence, MO or at a chapter-sponsored site. Some travel expenses may be reimbursed.

The deadline for receiving nominations is April 1, 2002. Nominations should be mailed to the Nominating Committee Chair Richard H. Pingrey, P. O. Box 130, Selah, WA 98942. If you have any questions, please contact Dick Pingrey at (509) 697-4765 or, by E-mail at rjpingrey@msn.com.

What Do You Like About OCTA Conventions?

Wendy Welch supervised a survey of those who attended OCTA's 2001 convention in Casper, getting a lot of good information about what people like about OCTA conventions and a number of suggestions for future conventions.

Here's a summary of some of the things people at the convention reported:

Things you like most about OCTA conventions

The People

- the friendliness of everyone
- meeting new people with common interests
- seeing old friends
- knowledgeable guides
- hearing authorities talk on trail subjects
- The OCTA band
- "living history"
- hearing of other chapter's activities and outings
- the passion of chapter and national board members

The Tours

- seeing new ruts
- hiking
- pre/post convention tours
- seeing places not normally open to the public
- famous landmarks
- time to walk ruts and take photos without being rushed

Others

- workshops
- Book Room and Author's Night
- relaxed, informal atmosphere
- good food
- just getting to the convention site

Suggestions for future conventions

Speakers

- speakers should be storytellers and not just fact givers
- more native American viewpoint
- have tapes and/or videos of presenters for purchase
- more focus on women on the trail
- have good audio/visual equipment

People

- have home town and state on the name tags
- hold Welcome Social on first night of convention
- provide a place for people to gather in a lighted, comfortable room away from noise and smoke
- have planned activities for children, teens and young adults, provided care for young children
- make events affordable for families through special rates as a way of interesting children in the trails
- discount or offer free registration to teachers
- reach out to first time attendees
- recognize new members at the general membership meeting and the banquet
- print out a list of attendees

Increasing Membership

- develop videos to be available to schools
- involve the community in which the convention is held

Tours

- operate buses from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- stagger bus starting times so people are not all at the sites at the same time
- leave enough time at the end of tours to get ready for evening events
- consider non-trail historical stops or events

Future convention ideas

- have conventions at different times of the year, especially where it is very hot in August
- repeat the 1983 (first) convention
- consider a "moving" convention, traveling in buses like an Elderhostel
- consider having fly overs of the trails
- have a convention in Scotts Bluff put on by a consortium "The Great Plains Convention Planning Committee" with members from Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, and Kansas (KANZA)

Workshops

- have more time for workshops
- don't schedule other events during workshops
- offer workshops as pre/post convention options

Board of Directors

- board members should be more visible at conventions - perhaps with special name tags
- the board should explain its roles and responsibilities and provide more visibility of policies and procedures

Others

- keep the banquet on Thursday night
- don't rush the awards
- tapes on trail sites to be listened to enroute to conventions
- have more than books in the book room
- have something in print of where all past conventions have been held
- have re-enactors of battles, rendezvous or demonstrations of pioneer skills
- push for preservation
- post and mention details of where and when convention events will be with more descriptions of activities
- have more time for chapter meetings
- make more efforts to keep costs down
- put some fun surprises into conventions
- have all OCTA members carry OCTA brochures in their cars to pass out at sites along the trail.

Visit OCTA and the
OCTA Bookstore
On the World Wide Web:
www.OCTA-trails.org

Elko Interpretive Plan Due

A interpretive plan for the new Trails Center in Elko, NV is due for completion in March, 2002.

A series of meetings on planning were held in December in Elko, with representatives of the Bureau of Land Management and the National Parks Service, along with a core team of Elko-area trail experts.

Once the interpretive plan is complete, the next step will be the hiring of architectural, engineering and design firms.

Letters . . . Letters . . . Letters

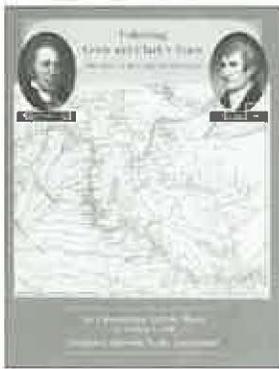
Dear Editor:

I am working on an "in depth" history of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association and its successor, the American Pioneer Trails Association (1926-1940, 1940-c.1956). If any readers of NFP have relevant material, or reminiscences, about these organizations, please contact Lloyd W. Gundy, 5923 Urban Court, Arvada, CO 80004, or e-mail <gundys@home.com>

Lloyd Gundy
Arvada, CO

Following Lewis and Clark's Track

The Story of the Corps of Discovery



Almost 200 years ago President Thomas Jefferson commissioned the exploration of the Louisiana Territory. OCTA and author, William E. Hill's, 3rd educational activity book, *Following Lewis and Clark's Track, The Story of the Corps of Discovery* will be available in August.

This illustrated 64-page book includes maps, word searches, charts, graphs, and puzzles. These activities should appeal to young and old alike. Excerpts from the journals provides insight into one of the most important events in the history of the United States. \$6.95 plus \$2.00 shipping.

Available from OCTA, P.O. Box 1019,
Independence, MO 64051-0519
or toll free 1-888-811-6282.

For online orders see www.OCTA-trails.org

Order your copy today!

OCTA Mapping Program

By Frank Tortorich

I have taken on the duties of OCTA's Mapping Chair. As the chair, my plan is to develop a coordinated project for mapping all segments of our beloved and cherished Trails.

I want to assure every one that we will be continuing the great mapping work that already has been done on the trails. The foundation of our trail research and preservation will always be the 7½-minute Quad sheets that I and many, many others have been using for over the past 20 plus years.

It is my objective is to inventory all the work that has been done, then develop a list of the work that still needs doing.

This is a mapping job that is going to take years to complete and can only be done with the help of chapters and multitudes of OCTA mapping persons. Those of you who already have been doing GPS work will be a valuable resource.

I have begun working with Jere Krakow and Kay Threlkeld at the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office concerning OCTA's relationship with the LODT's mapping program.

When I have a better understanding of the requirements and plan of the LODT, I will be asking OCTA's chapters and interested members to add their trail inventory and maps into the LODT database.

When this project is completed in 500 years, or so (Do I have to be the chair that long?), there will be a complete set of the 1,874 (at last count) 7½-minute (1:24,000) quads covering the thirteen Trail states for the serious researcher. Plus, a complete set of 1:100,000 maps for use by the public with a general interest and for educational purposes.

(When I ask myself, "am I nuts?" I don't like my answer.)

In the past few years, we have been moving into a new technology era of the Global Positional System (GPS). I am scheduled for training on a GPS process to better understand how to compliment our mapping partnership with the LODT. When I am more secure in my knowledge and understanding of the GPS process and have better developed my own GPS skills I will share this with the OCTA membership. We will then be looking for interested persons to join the project.

The last phase will be the most complex and take the longest (1,000 more years) to accomplish. This part of the project, with scientific and electronic precision of the GPS mapping program, will not only pin-point the Trail but all other important historical features, information, and data. It will also help to correct the inaccuracies in the present USGS 7½ minute Quads. But this is a long way off.

Hopefully, we will be establishing a center or centers where all these maps will be on file and available to those interested.

Yes, I am dreaming (hallucinating?) big. It is a big project and I am trying to organize a plan so we can begin pecking away as soon as possible.

I find this challenge of the next phases in mapping of the Trails exciting and I hope the membership will share in my excitement and that you, too, will support this project

OCTA Award Winners

Following is a list of OCTA awards made at annual conventions from 1983 through 2001. This list, occasionally compiled from secondary sources, may contain a few errors. If so, please contact OCTA Headquarters with corrections.

1983 – Independence, MO

Meritorious Achievement
Dr. E.G. Frenchy Chuinard

1984 – Oregon City, Oregon

Meritorious Achievement
Merrill J. Mattes
Thomas H. Hunt
Institutional Meritorious Achievement
Nebraska Game and Parks

1985 – Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Meritorious Achievement
Aubrey Haines
Troy Gray
Institutional Meritorious Achievement
Wyoming Recreation Commission
Rancher of the Year
Stella Hammett (Kansas)
Ivor Dilke (Nebraska)
Rudy and Ruth Chesnovar (Wyoming)
Homer and Kay Abell (Oregon)

1986 – Carson City, Nevada

Meritorious Achievement Award
Clyde Arbuckle
Helen Helfrich
Merle Wells
Robert and Marguerite Griffin
Institutional Meritorious Achievement
Oregon City, Oregon
Rancher of the Year
Dwight Ewing (Nebraska)
Marvis Applequist (Wyoming)

1987 – Casper, Wyoming

Meritorious Achievement Award
Gregory M. Franzwa
Institutional Meritorious Achievement
Idaho Bureau of Land Management
Rancher of the Year
Bernard Sun (Wyoming)
Robert Ward (Idaho)
Mr. & Mrs. David C. Bagley (Utah)
George Dein (Nebraska)

1988 – St. Joseph, Missouri

Meritorious Achievement Award
John Latschar
Media (Meritorious Achievement)
Independence, MO Examiner
Rancher of the Year
Donald F. Willsey (Kansas)
Krebs Ranches (Oregon)
Chester & Bill Frederick (Wyoming)

1989 – Boise, Idaho

Meritorious Achievement Award
James F. Bowers
Institutional Meritorious Achievement
Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Rancher of the Year
Paul & Ruby Tschirky (California)
Herb & Mary Allen (Idaho)
Neal & Leona Ambrose (Idaho)
Bill & Edna Barber (Wyoming)
Jim & Betty Sudbeck (Kansas)

1990 – Omaha, Nebraska

Meritorious Achievement Award
Charles W. Martin Sr.
Institutional Meritorious Achievement
City of Independence, MO
Volunteer of the Year
Elaine McNabney
Friend of the Trail
Don & Jean Rowlett (Oregon)
Louis E. Schumacher (Missouri)

1991 – Sacramento, California

Meritorious Achievement Award
Don Buck
Jack & Richard Steel
Chuck Graydon-Trails West
Distinguished Volunteer of the Year
Kathy Roubal
Certificate of Achievement
Pat Reuy
Friend of the Trail
Ray Bedke (Idaho)

1992 – Rock Springs, Wyoming

Meritorious Achievement Award
Barbara Magerl
Reg Duffin
Wyoming Bureau Land Management
Distinguished Volunteer of the Year
Bill and Shan Rupp
National Certificate of Appreciation
Doris Dart
Friends of the Trail
James Gould (California)
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Osler & Family
(Nebraska)
Freed-Robinson Partners (Utah)
John & Leonard Hay & Families
(Wyoming)

1993 – Baker City, Oregon

Meritorious Achievement Award
Richard W. Ackerman
Distinguished Volunteer of the Year
Chuck Dodd
National Certificate of Appreciation
Ross Marshall
Sally True
Casper Star-Tribune
Friend of the Trail
Lyle & Carol Woodbury (Idaho)
Steven & Susan Cory (Oregon)
Peter & Jeanne Maher (Wyoming)
Wayne & Mae Koch (Nebraska)

1994 – Salt Lake City, Utah

Meritorious Achievement Award
James E. Budde
Betty Lee
Rose Ann Thompkins
Distinguished Volunteer of the Year
Vernon Gorzitze
National Certificate of Appreciation
Tom Bell
Peter DeLafosse
Friend of the Trail
Les Broadie (Idaho)

Mr. & Mrs. David Gage (Kansas)
Mr. & Mrs. John Gage (Kansas)
Joseph Ray Broadbent Jr. (Wyoming)
Joseph Siddoway Broadbent
(Wyoming)

1995 – Grand Island, Nebraska

Meritorious Achievement Award
Randy Brown
Robert L. Berry
National Certificate of Appreciation
Congressman Douglas Bereuter
(Nebraska)

Lois Daniel
Friend of the Trail
Steve Percy (Idaho)
Joe & Dianne Jeffrey (Nebraska)
Pete and Faye Gaines (New Mexico)
Edwin Boddye & family (Nebraska)

1996 – Elko, Nevada

Meritorious Achievement Award
Andy and Joanne Hammond
Susan Badger Doyle
Burlington Northern Railroad
National Certificate of Appreciation
Will Bagley
Placer Dome US, Inc.
Friend of the Trail
Maggie Creek Ranches (Nevada)
Vernon Bomgardner (Wyoming)

1997 – Pocatello, Idaho

Meritorious Achievement Award
Al Mulder
William Hill
Volunteer of the Year
Lesley Wischmann
Friend of the Trail
Gerald & Patricia Mick (Nebraska)
Merrill J. Mattes Award
Richard Dyer
National Certificate of Appreciation
Lyn Ryder
Dr. Robert Wier
Olive Donaldson

1998 – Pendleton, Oregon

Meritorious Achievement Award
Charles H. Dodd
Kathy Roubal
James Renner
Marv Ross Trail Band
Joyce Husaker
Tamastlikt Cultural Institute
Volunteer of the Year
Dr. Robert Wier
Friend of the Trail
Rachael Hunninghake (Kansas)
Gerald Swaggart (Oregon)
Merrill J. Mattes Award
Kyle D. Kauffman &
Jonathan J. Liebowitz
National Certificate of Appreciation
William White
Walt Tegge

1999 – Chico, California

Meritorious Achievement Award
Bill & Shann Rupp
Distinguished Service Award
Carrie Smith
Gerry Gates
Surprise Field Office, BLM
Volunteer of the Year
Mary Mueller
Friend of the Trail
Marion & Scott Bradley (Kansas)
William Tompson Family (California)
Merrill J. Mattes Award
Margaret F. Walker
National Certificates of Appreciation
Larry Ludwig
Kassidy & Gena Falkenburg
U.S. Postal Service

2000 – Kansas City, Missouri

Meritorious Achievement Award
John Leamon
Craig Crease
Distinguished Service Award
John Mark Lambertson
Kansas City Historic Trails Assoc.
Volunteer of the Year
Ruth Anderson
National Media Award
Kansas City Star
Merrill J. Mattes Award
Todd Guenther
Friend of the Trail
Marc & Helen Vering (Kansas)
National Certificates of Appreciation
Cave Spring Association
Friends of Rice-Tremonti Home
Walter Cook
Westport Historical Society
Kansas City Parks & Recreation
City of Westwood
Tom Laidlaw
Charles Goslin
Gail Garbiener
Trails Head Chapter
Ross Marshall

2001 – Casper, Wyoming

Meritorious Achievement Award
Bill and Jeanne Watson
Lee Underbrink
Distinguished Service Award
Judy Budde
Friend of the Trail
Norman and Gaynell Park (Wyoming)
Elvin and Shirley Holle (Kansas)
Audubon Spring Creek Prairie
(Nebraska)
National Certificates of Appreciation
Marilyn Holt
Ron Lund
Edna Kennel
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