



News From the Plains

Winter 2008

Vol. XXII

No. 1

Oregon-California
Trails Association

40th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act in 2008

By Ross Marshall
President, Partnership for the
National Trails System

October 2, 2008, is the 40th anniversary of the passage of the National Trails System Act by the U.S. Congress. This Act provides for the designation by Congress of individual scenic and historic trails of national significance to be admitted to a select family of national trails to preserve cultural resources for the enjoyment of the American people.

The Partnership for the National Trails System has designated 2008

as a year of commemoration of this 40th anniversary. In fact, the plan is to initiate *A Decade for the National Trails* that leads toward the 50th anniversary in 2016. So the strategy is to provide both a one-year and a decade-long emphasis.

The purpose of this initiative is to provide a vehicle to raise the American public's awareness about the National Trails System, to promote and support events along the trails to commemorate this anniversary, support our member organizations like OCTA as they promote and participate in their trail events, and to attract the attention of both public and private partners to enable the family of National Scenic and Historic Trails to be elevated to a much higher level of completion and use.

We are very pleased that our longtime friend Jere Krakow, recently retired NPS Long Distance Trails Superintendent, has agreed to be the 40th Anniversary Committee Chair. This committee is already functioning and involves people from among our membership and

federal agency partners.

One of the unique features of the Act is that it contemplates each of the 25 designated national trails to be managed by a public-private partnership involving an administering federal agency such as the National Park Service along with a private-side non-profit group such as OCTA. This experiment, which has allowed federally appropriated funding to be used with private-side management participation, has worked exceptionally well and Congress continues to be more pleased with the results as the years go by.

Our country's National Trails System is unique; no other country has anything similar. Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the passage of the Act is not only appropriate but will open doors of opportunity for all our trails that we have not yet imagined.

More exciting information will be forthcoming soon as plans, events, and materials begin to emerge from the committee under Jere's leadership.

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News From the Plains

Editor

Candy Moulton
Star Route Box 29
Encampment, WY 82325
307/327-5465
nfpocta@aol.com

Contributing Editors

Robert Clark
Bill Martin
Glenn Harrison
Travis Boley
Kathy Conway

Oregon-California Trails Association

News from the Plains
Published quarterly
P.O. Box 1019
Independence, MO
64051-0519
888-811-6282
816-836-0989 (fax)
octa@indepmo.org

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Masthead photo by Candy Moulton

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Winter 2008 News From the Plains

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Glenn Harrison, *President*, 1132 30th PL. SW, Albany, OR 97321-3419;
glennharrison@cmug.com

Bill Martin, *Vice-President*, 706 Country Club Road, Georgetown, TX 78628;
lexiconomist@suddenlink.net

Joyce Everett, *Secretary*, 5632 Sparas St., Loomis, CA 95650; joy4everett@yahoo.com

Turner Rivenbark, *Treasurer*, 119 Sunset Rd., Wallace, NC 28466;
trivenbark@embarqmail.com

Dave Welch, *National Preservation Officer*, 4374 Vashon Dr. NE
Lacey, WA 98516; 360-923-0438; welchdj@comcast.net

Vern Gorzitze, *Past President*, 3026 Metropolitan Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84109;
vergor@viawest.net

2007-08 OCTA Board of Directors

Robert Clark, Norman, OK
bob@ahclark.com

Bill Wilson, Boise, ID
ma_bill@msn.com

Patricia Etter, Mesa, AZ
patricia.etter@asu.edu

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jpfletcher@olympus.net

Duane Iles, Holton, KS
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

John Krizek, Prescott, AZ
JKrizek@aol.com

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Fern Linton, Green River, WY
flinton@wyoming.com

John Mark Lambertson
Independence, MO
jlambertson@indepmo.org

Suzette McCord-Rogers
Highland, KS
nahm@kshs.org

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Jack Fletcher
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Lethene Parks, Vancouver, WA
lethene@comcast.net

Brent Reber, Salt Lake City, UT
b_reber@msn.com

Dave Vixie, Paradise, CA
drvixie@yahoo.com

Winter 2008 News From the Plains

August 5-9, 2008

Trails, Tragedies, and Triumphs

Nampa Convention Planning Progressing

By Roger Blair
Convention Co-Chair

The Idaho and Northwest OCTA Chapters extend an invitation to all members to attend the 26th annual convention to be held August 5-9, 2008, in Nampa, Idaho. Although this convention marks a return to the Boise area—Nampa is a few miles west of Boise—there will be much that is new to entertain and educate attendees.

The meeting will be held at the modern Nampa Civic Center. As was the case at the Gering-Scottsbluff convention, the Civic Center is not associated with a host hotel. The nearest motels are one to three miles distant. Blocks of rooms have been reserved at several of these facilities at reduced rates for OCTA members. Even if reservations exceed the number of blocked rooms, motels have indicated they will honor the negotiated rates provided the reservations are timely and rooms

are still available.

The usual high quality presentations, workshops, chapter meetings, evening entertainment, and bus tours will be offered. Talks will revolve around the convention theme of "Trails, Tragedies, and Triumphs." A book room will provide opportunity to stock personal libraries for the long winter period when chapter treks are not an option. And what would a convention be without Author's Night and the raffle? There are even plans for a wagon train to arrive early in the week to help kick off festivities.

If your schedule permits, you should be able to find a pre-convention tour that attracts you. These include a one-day bus tour of the Twin Falls area with visits to Stricker Store, Rock Creek Station, Milner Ruts, Heyburn Visitor Center, Shoshone Falls, and more. Another pre-convention tour will cover the 1863 variant of Goodale's Cutoff north of Emmet, Idaho. This trek will also visit Goodale Ridge ruts,

the 1876 freight road remnants, and the Martha Jane Roberts grave. The Chesterfield Historical Group will offer a tour in eastern Idaho north of Lava Hot Springs. Finally, you may choose to follow the Fort Hall Road from the Raft River and generally follow the route to the Humboldt River. Stops will include, among other important landmarks, City of Rocks, Granite Pass, Record Bluff, and the Little Goose Creek Canyon. This last tour will be a three-day back country trek requiring two nights' dry camping, high clearance vehicles, and CBs.

The regular convention tours will include one two-part tour, the Utter tour, which will be offered both tour days so you will be able to participate in either or both portions. One segment of the Utter tour will cover the South Alternate Trail in Owyhee County, Idaho. Highlights of this portion will discuss the 1860 Utter Wagon Train Disaster, historic Murphy, Idaho, the Owyhee County Historical Society Museum, and trail ruts and swales. Short trail hikes will be offered. The second Utter tour will cover the South Alternate into Oregon and describe the events along that portion of the trail, with visits to Starvation Camp of the Utter survivors, Keeney Pass, Alkali Springs, Birch Creeks ruts, Farewell Bend, and Huntington, Oregon, before returning to Nampa.

The Boise Valley tour will extend from Bonneville Point east of Boise to Old Fort Boise Replica in Parma. Intermediate stops include a short walk on the trail in Oregon Trail Historic Reserve Park in Boise, Ward Memorial Park, the site of an Indian

Online Convention Registration Available

For the first time, convention attendees will be able to register online.

To sign up for the 2008 Nampa Convention, go online April 1 at OCTA's website and register for all events and activities. Registration forms and booklets will still be mailed, but online registration is encouraged and preferred.

www.OCTA-trails.org

Nampa Convention Plans

Continued from Page 3

attack on the Ward party in 1854, and the crossing of the Boise River in Caldwell, Idaho, with opportunity to view the defile down which wagons were lowered.

The Goodale Cutoff tour will cover the original 1862 route of the Goodale Wagon Train. Highlights and stops will include the difficult Goodale Ridge to the Payette River segment, the Bluff Trail, Mann Creek and Thousand Springs routes, Midvale Hill ruts, Little Weiser River camp with Martha Jane Roberts grave, Salubria town site, Cambridge Museum, and Camp Creek trail ruts.

The North Alternate and Kelton Road tour will be featured as a one-time, non-repeated offering. From the Snake River ferry crossing, the tour will follow the North Alternate

across Malad River, along Clover Creek, and up King Hill to rejoin the main trail at Hot Springs Creek. Sites on this tour include Salmon Falls Creek crossing, Thousand Springs, the trapper ferry site, and the Kelton Road bridge ramps at the Malad River crossing. Stops at the Hagerman Fossil Bed Visitor Center and Hagerman Historical Society Museum will be included. The four-foot deep ruts approaching Clover Creek will offer a short hiking opportunity and a short walk to view the Malad River.

An additional one-day only tour will follow the Oregon Trail in reverse from Rattlesnake Creek past the Hot Springs site before going to Glenns Ferry and Three Island Crossing State Park. A reenactment

of the Snake River crossing will be a highlight of this bus tour. From Three Island Crossing, the tour will follow the trail from Canyon Creek to Browns Creek. An additional highlight of this tour will be a visit to view Ditto Creek Inscription Rock.

For those wanting a bit more realistic experience on the trail, a five-mile hike will be offered. Hikers will follow a portion of the South Alternate containing pristine swales from the Swan Falls Dam to Murphy Rim. Time permitting, the Sinker Grade ascent, with a hike up the grade where there are ruts in rock surfaces, may be offered. This is also a one-time offering.

Mark your calendars now. The convention is a week earlier than usual. Come enjoy the offerings.

Nampa Accommodations

Motels

Super 8—624 Nampa Blvd, 208-467-2888, Kathy/Tracy, depak_kapu@yahoo.com; Open price—\$64 per night.

Sleep Inn—1315 Industrial Rd., 208-463-6300, Anita Sartorius, gm.id003@choicehotels.com; 20 Rm. Block—\$69.99.

Days Inn—130 Shannon Dr., 208-442-0800, Richard Bell, rpbdaysinn@msn.com; 40 Rm. Block—\$59.99.

Shilo Inn—Nampa Inn, 617 Nampa Blvd., 208-466-8993, Ruth Story, ruth.story@shiloinns.com; 40 Rm. Block by July 3, 2008—\$69.

Shilo Inn—Nampa Suites, 1401 Shilo Dr., Nampa, 208-465-3250 Ruth Story,

ruth.story@shiloinns.com; 10 Rm. Block, July 3, 08—\$92.

Holiday Inn Express—4104 E. Flamingo Ave., 208-466-4045, Teri Plummer, Director, teriplummer@cablone.net; 25 Rm. Block by July 21—\$89.99

Other possible motels without any agreement. Some are small, more distant, cheaper, and/or conditions unknown:

Budget Inn, Nampa, 208-466-3594

Desert Inn, Nampa, 208-467-1161

Best Western, Caldwell, 208-454-7225

Sundowner, Caldwell, 208-459-1585 Hampton, Nampa, 208-442-0036

La Quinta Inn, Caldwell, 208-454-2222

Motel 6, Meridian, 208-888-1212

Comfort Suites, Meridian, 208-887-3990

RV Parks

Garrity Blvd. Park, 3515 Garrity Blvd., Nampa, 208-442-9000.

Mason Creek Park, 807 Franklin Blvd., Nampa, 208-465-7199.

Caldwell RV Park, 21830 Town Cir., Caldwell, 208-454-0279.

Decoy RV Park, 15702 Riverside Rd., Caldwell, 208-455-1545.

The President's View

Glenn Harrison
glennharrison@cmug.com

OCTA Has Something for Everyone

The good thing about OCTA is that there is something for everyone. If you like the outdoors and searching out that unexplored alternate route, there are opportunities. If you enjoy mapping trail routes, there are more trail segments to map. If you can operate a GPS, there are opportunities for you to help out. If you like placing carsonite markers along known trail routes, there are opportunities to carry a marker or use a pounder. If you are a hiker or walker, there are many trail many segments to follow. If you like history, there are many historical events that happened along the trails. If you like to travel, there are many opportunities to drive near trails and visit trail sites and ruts.

If you enjoy reading, there are many diaries to explore. You could add to the database compiled through the COED project. You could read diaries looking for interesting quotations that could be used in the GPS notes for a particular location, an interpretive sign, or historical marker. If you like to write, there are opportunities for submissions to the *Overland Journal*, *News From the Plains*, or your chapter newsletter. You might even become a newsletter editor or contribute to a website. If you like extensive research, there are opportunities for new trail related books. If you enjoy social opportunities, there are chapter meetings, outings, symposiums, and the OCTA conventions.

If you enjoy period music, drama, reenactments in period clothing or other artistic endeavors, there could be a place for you. If you like a wagon trail experience, there are some wagon rides. If you like eating, there are opportunities for a dinner,

banquet, or lunch on the trail.

If you like speaking opportunities, there are chapter and convention papers to present. You could be a speaker for another group or talk with a class of students. On November 27, my wife and I wore period clothing and accompanied our granddaughter's class on a field trip to the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City. Our granddaughter has nine ancestors who traveled on the Oregon Trail.

If you are into genealogy, there are many opportunities to follow your ancestors or other people as they traveled west. In the last *NFP*, I shared some of my trail related genealogy. The October and November issues of the Idaho Chapter "Trail Dust" carried articles by a new OCTA member, Ann Tomlinson. Some of the same families were mentioned in that article, so we have been communicating and it turns out we are third cousins. We share some of the same ancestors, but are descended from sisters. She has several siblings, so I have newly "discovered" relatives in Idaho, Minnesota, Texas, Oregon, and several other states. She even knew of another relative in Tennessee who had written a book on family decedents, which I bought. Ann has e-mailed her grandmother's recollections, a family pedigree chart, and a photograph and I have e-mailed some information and photos of our common ancestor's gravestones near Albany. We plan to meet at the Nampa, Idaho Convention.

If you are willing to be a leader, there are always positions as chapter and national officers, board members and committee chairs. If

you like helping out there are always arrangements to make and things to do at meetings. If you desire legality, there are bylaws to revise or policy statements to formulate. For most of us it is through a combination of these activities that we appreciate the hardships and sacrifices made by those who traveled all of the Western migration trails and expanded this nation.

The point of all of this is that you have the opportunity to get involved and help out in a worthy cause. Let people know what you would like to do and how you could help. Even if you wonder "What's in it for me?," think about the varied opportunities. If you are a member of another historical group, perhaps there could be a joint meeting. Help make a visitor welcome. Visit with friends and other members. Invite other people to join OCTA. In that way we will continue to grow and be a vital organization. There is a need for your talents at the chapter and national levels. And you will enjoy the work and the fellowship.

Raffle Donations Needed

OCTA will hold a raffle in connection with the 2008 Convention in Nampa. Please consider making a donation.

To donate contact

Patti King, pattiking@pobox.com;

Mary O'Malley,
OCHSpress@owyheemuseum.org;

Pati Sweet, karnysweet@msn.com

From the Association Manager...

Travis Boley
Tboley@indepmo.org

OCTA Documentary In Progress, Online Store Running

A lot has happened in the short time since we last published, and I want to be certain to provide some of the highlights:

As you likely know, we now have in hand approximately \$250,000 for the production of a documentary that will focus on the hardships emigrants experienced on the trails, children in particular. We've just signed a new production contract with Boston Productions, Inc. (if you've seen the films at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, then you're familiar with their rich cinematography).

OCTA's own Candy Moulton (a finalist for a Western Writers of America Spur Award for Best Documentary in 2003 and the 2006 Spur winner for Best Biography) will write and produce. Other OCTA members already on the planning/research/writing/production team include Board Member Dave Vixie, Will Bagley, and Quackgrass Sally. We anticipate even greater participation by members as the project takes off. Boston Productions has joined OCTA as a corporate member and we welcome them to the organization as well as to the lead role on this project.

We're still actively seeking more funding for website and curriculum development, so if you're interested in making a contribution do not hesitate to contact me.

By now, you've received our annual Year End Appeal letter. As noted, general operating funds are the most needed. Finding funding for programs is usually not an issue, but finding the funds for regular office funds is difficult. Your general

operating contributions help fill the gap that most funders will not. If you know of such funders, again, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you ever shop online, we've devised a really easy way for you to help OCTA while you help yourself. Stores like Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Home Depot, FTD Flowers and more than 1,000 others participate. The next time you shop online, go to www.octa-trails.org and scroll down to the bottom of the home-page. The next-to-last link reads "Shop & Donate to OCTA." When you click on that link and follow the directions, the program will install a gold shopping bag that reads "Oregon-California Trails Association Marketplace" on your desktop. By clicking on the gold shopping bag you'll be taken to the website for www.fundraising-solutions.org. There you can either type in the name of the online store you seek by typing it into the search bar on the upper right, or, you can look on the left side of the page for merchant descriptions. As an example, if you were to enter "Wal-Mart" into the search bar, you would see that they'll donate 3.5-6 percent of your total purchase back to OCTA. You will pay no more than if you went directly to Wal-Mart's website, but by beginning your shopping experience at our website you will ensure that OCTA gets a donation based on your purchase.

Another way to help OCTA is to bring us new members. OCTA did see modest growth in the last year, but over the past few months we've seen a slight decrease in our gross membership numbers. Take a moment to buy a membership for that

friend or family member with whom you'd like to share your passion. If each of us brought simply one more member to OCTA, we'd double in size overnight. And as was reported in the last issue, OCTA is conducting an exciting membership campaign to help motivate you to bring us new members. Details are included elsewhere in this issue and are also posted on our Web site.

OCTA's Board of Directors adopted a Strategic Plan earlier this year. If you've not yet perused it, you can find a link to the document right on OCTA's webpage. Please take a chance to look it over and see if there are ways in which you might help us fulfill our well-laid plans. Again, you can contact me for information on how to get involved.

OCTA has sent its new product catalog to the printer. In fact, by the time you're reading this, you may already have it in hand. You'll note a number of new additions, so be sure to fill your library with excellent trail literature.

Late this winter, OCTA also will roll out a product catalog to send to various museums, trail centers, historic sites, visitor centers, and other trail-related sites that have retail areas. If you have a personal contact at such sites, would you mind helping us make an initial introduction so we can place our myriad products in more diverse locations? Products don't sell products; personal relationships with people sell products. If you can help, please contact me and I'll send you as many product catalogs and/or samples as you might need to help us get our foot in the door.

**Headquarters
Manager's Report**

Kathy Conway
Kconway@indepmo.org

OCTA Receives Research Materials, Memorial Donation

Many of our members know Dr. Fred Gowans and his excellent book *The Great Fur Trade Road* published in 1994. Recently Dr. Gowans donated his research materials for this book to OCTA. We are happy to report this research collection will go to our Merrill J. Mattes Library in Independence. Looking through some of the collection, we see some very interesting copies of maps. Thank you, Dr. Gowans.

And, speaking of the Merrill J Mattes library, John Mark Lambertson, Director of the National Frontier Trails Museum and "keeper" of all the research materials, reports the library now holds over 3,200 books, and 2,000 maps. He also emphasizes the core of the research materials is made up of 2,600 trail diaries, letters, and reminiscences. Be sure when you are in the area, to make an appointment to visit, research, and appreciate our wonderful library.

With the beginning of a new year, most of us make some resolutions for enhancing our lives and those of others. One suggestion for a good resolution for all of us is to include

OCTA in our estate planning. According to current research more than 80 percent of Americans contribute to the nonprofit groups of their choice throughout their lifetimes. But only eight percent of people choose to continue this support through a charitable bequest. Let's turn this low number around and remember OCTA for years to come by a planned gift.

Memorial Honors Elaine McNabney

Glenn Harrison's article in the fall NFP mentioned a memorial gift given to help fund the production of OCTA's educational documentary concerning children on the trail. Dr. Kendall McNabney made this gift in memory of his wife, Elaine. We are so grateful to receive this donation and feel it is fitting to honor Elaine's love of trail history by this gift to the film. For many years Elaine would don a "bonnet and blue calico costume" to become "Little Elaine" and dramatize to elementary school children what it was like to be a child crossing the plains in a wagon train.

Trail Reenactor Hosts Dutch Oven Cookoff

The Rocky Mountain Dutch Oven Cooking Company offers a weekend seminar May 17-18, 2008, at the Miner's Delight Inn Bed & Breakfast in Atlantic City, Wyo. Taught by Riverton's Jack Schmidt, a frequent pioneer trail reenactor, students will use various fuels to season and cook in their new cast iron Dutch oven.

The \$230 or \$251 fee

(depending upon accommodation; taxes included; \$55 for the second person of a couple) also includes a set of cooking gear, one night's stay at the inn, four meals, and a guided tour of the South Pass City State Historic Site and Carissa gold mine.

For more information, call (888) 292-0248 or visit www.minersdelightinn.com.

Save The Date

March 7-8, 2008

**OCTA National Board
Meeting and
CA/NV Chapter
Mini-Symposium in
Sacramento**

The agenda for the National OCTA Board meeting, to be held in Sacramento, Calif., March 7 and 8, has not yet been set, according to President Glenn Harrison.

The meeting will coincide with the annual CA/NV Chapter Symposium.

The Saturday night banquet will include recognition of the 1846 Wagon Committee at Sutter's Fort. This committed team, including some OCTA members, worked for seven years to raise money and worked with a South Dakota wagon maker to bring an accurate reproduction of an 1846 emigrant wagon to enhance interpretation at the fort.

"Camp" with members of National Board, Officers, Chapter Presidents, OCTA staff, National Trails Office staff and CA/NV members at the Hawthorne Suites (free hot breakfast buffet, free shuttles to Old Town, the state Capitol, Downtown Mall).

For more informaton contact Chapter Symposium Chair Joyce Everett (916) 652-3776 or joy4everett@yahoo.com.

OCTA Jeffery/Goodale Wagon Train 2008

By Dell Magnum
Board of Directors
Idaho Chapter of OCTA

The Oregon California Trails Association will hold its 26th annual National Convention at the Nampa Civic Center August 5-9, 2008. To coincide with this event we will have a wagon train travel from Montpelier to Nampa.

The wagon train will try to follow as closely as possible the same



route used by those early pioneers. We will travel portions of the Oregon-California Trail, the Jeffery/Goodale Cutoff, the Kelton Road, and trails used by stagecoach. In places these trails still exhibit evidence of the thousands of wagon wheels and hoof prints needed to move America west.

By traveling these famous trails via horse and wagon we hope to provide a chance for Idaho horsemen and others to visit these historic locations. It will also be an opportunity for teamsters, outriders and wagon riders to experience, however modernized, the determination it took to travel through unfamiliar country in order

to reach a new beginning.

Horses, mules and oxen were the power to move hardy pioneers across this region. Today Americans travel at speeds per hour that our predecessors traveled per week. With this wagon train we are offering a chance to slow back down to three or four miles per hour and let the world know that life doesn't need to be traveled at such a frantic pace.

We will be in communication with several area news agencies to provide information about the part that these trails played in the expansion of America, and that a large portion of the credit should go to the horse. Nearly all of the proposed route will be on state, county, BLM or Forest Service roads, however in many places these roads cover, cross or parallel the ruts left here over one hundred years ago. We hope to bring to the public's attention to the fact that places like this still exist and should be preserved for the future generations to view.

We will start from Montpelier at the first of July and travel through Georgetown to Soda Springs. Then we will continue through Chesterfield and across the Fort Hall Reservation on Ross Fork Creek. After leaving Fort Hall, we will cross the Snake River at Ferry Butte and travel to Blackfoot before turning west to the Big Southern Butte and Arco.

The Goodale Wagon train camped at Champagne Meadows and then covered some very narrow winding tracks along the edge of the Craters of the Moon out past Carey and over Bradley Summit, where several teams were needed just to pull one wagon up that steep grade. We will turn

north and continue through Gannet and turn west again across the Wood River Valley to Rock Creek before traveling past Moonstone and across the flats behind Fairfield to Castle Rocks and around Little Camas reservoir to the Dixie Cutoff. From there the wagons will go around Tollgate Hill to Immigrant Road and the Mayfield Road before following Blacks Creek road under Interstate 84, through Kuna.

The wagons will arrive in Nampa the first week in August in time for the OCTA Convention. This 500 mile trip will take us through eight Idaho counties. There will be at least five wagons travel the entire route and perhaps as many as twenty at various other locations with an unknown number of outriders and passengers. Any one is welcome to come join us for an hour, a day, a week, or the entire trip.

Wagons do not need to be authentic to the old days and horses, mules, oxen or even a donkey cart can join in if they can manage to travel approximately 3 1/2 miles per hour and average 18 miles per day. Alfalfa hay cubes or pellets will be available to meet weed free regulations at cost plus delivery.

We will try to camp where water is available each night but there may be a few places where we have to haul water for the animals. All fire regulations will be followed. Meals will be available at a reasonable cost, but there will be additional costs such as fuel for the water truck or any additional support vehicles.

If you plan to camp overnight with us, please bring your own trail gear. We will try to move it to the next camp site by wagon or shuttle.

For more information contact me.

Federal Budget Approved, Trails Legislation Slows

By Bill and Jeanne Watson
Legislative Liaison Co-Chairs

They heard us! In the final hours before going home for the holidays, Congress and the White House agreed on the 2008 budget.

We hear that the National Park Service may receive an additional \$1.7 million for National Scenic and Historic Trails, excluding the Appalachian Trail. A portion of these funds are to be used for the 40th anniversary of the National Trails System and the 30th anniversary of the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails. We hear that the Forest Service may receive an additional \$2 million for National Scenic and Historic Trails. And, the Bureau

of Land Management may receive an additional \$5 million for their National Landscape Conservation program which includes the National Trails System, plus some new funds for Elko Trail Center exhibits. We have been told that most of these increases are due to the effective use of federal funds by the National Trails System Partners.

The House and Senate have each bundled many trail bills, including our Study Authorization for Additional Routes/Cutoffs, into Omnibus Trails Authorization bills that are sitting there without action. We extend many thanks to those of you who wrote to your Senators and Representatives seeking their support for our bill. Unfortunately, you can count the House or Senate

co-sponsors on one hand. The Partnership had similar results for the Willing Seller bill. Meanwhile, the newly proposed Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail bill has more than two dozen sponsors.

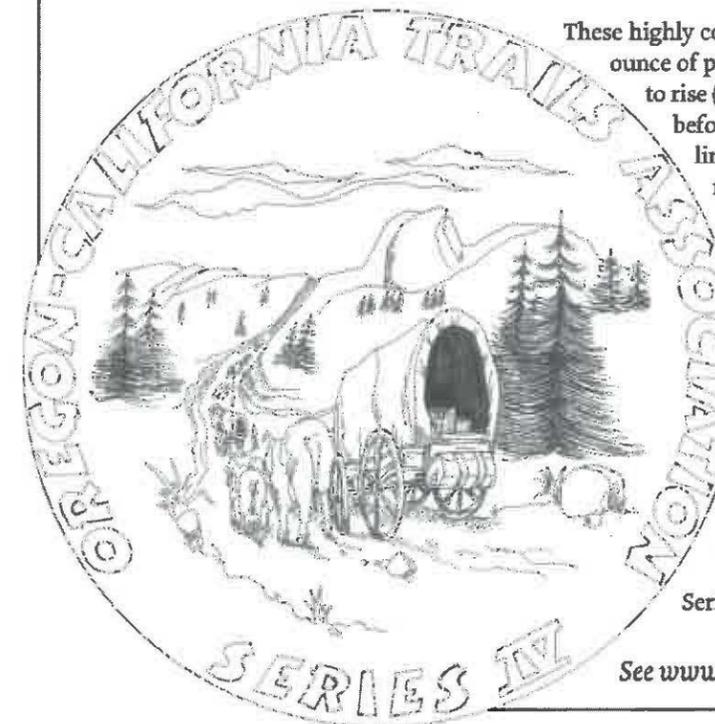
NOTICE

Please send your 2007
volunteer hours, miles
and contributions to us.

E-mail:

BillJeanneWatson@aol.com

ANNOUNCING SERIES IV OF OCTA'S HISTORIC COIN SERIES— THE 25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY COIN!



These highly collectible commemorative coins are made of 1 Troy ounce of pure silver, and because the price of silver continues to rise (doubling in the last year alone), be sure to get yours before we are completely sold out. This is an extremely limited edition of only 200 coins and there will be no reprints, so don't miss out! Reserve yours today for only \$39.95 (plus s&h).

Pre-order OCTA's 25th Silver Anniversary coin today by calling us toll free at 888.811.6282 or by emailing us at contact@octa-trails.org. Coins will arrive from the Mint in early August.

There remains a very limited supply of the earlier three coins. You can own all four coins for only \$99.95 (a \$129.80 value).

- Series I—Lewis & Clark Bi-Centennial (2004)
- Series II—Bent's Fort, Colorado on the Santa Fe and Cherokee Trails (2005)
- Series III—Ezra Meeker Oregon Trail Centennial (2006)

See www.octa-trails.org/store for more coin information.

Northwest Chapter

Whidbey Island Tour, Sign Dedication Held

By Roger Blair

Windmill development continues to grow in Oregon, at an exponential rate it seems. Driving along Interstate 84 across Oregon, one can now see dozens of towers in place. They generate more than energy. Each tower represents thousands of dollars



OCTA President Glenn Harrison spoke at the Willow Creek Campground Sign Dedication near Cecil, Ore.

to the landowner annually. Hence, the high profile of groups of towers and the substantial revenues they bring in represent a potential threat to the Oregon Trail landscape, and sponsors' disinterest in considering impacts on the trail. The chapter now receives much earlier notification of proposed windmill farm development, so we have a better opportunity to provide early input on the impact to the trail and potential mitigation.

Last spring The Oregon Trail Protection Act was under consideration in the Oregon legislature. The act failed to pass. Ostensibly, the legislators wanted to know exactly what they were protecting with the proposed

legislation. They specifically wanted to know exactly where the trail is and what condition it is in. In the end, the legislature did direct the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to conduct a study of the most definable locations of the Oregon Trail throughout the state. This directive originally included funding to conduct ground verification and a current conditions assessment, but this funding was withdrawn by the close of the session. As a result OPRD must come up with a plan to compile all of the existing information in its GIS system and work with partners to conduct some field work.

As the recognized trail experts, Northwest OCTA will work with OPRD in accomplishing this goal. NW Chapter Marking and Mapping Chairman Stafford Hazelett deserves special thanks for his efforts concerning the legislation as well as working with all concerned in evaluating windmill farm impacts on the Oregon Trail.

The chapter held its fall get-together on Whidbey Island in September. It was well attended and we had an excellent program put together by Jack and Pat Fletcher. Located in Puget Sound, Whidbey Island was originally settled by the Ebey family. Winfield Scott Ebey was a brother to the first settler, Isaac Ebey. Winfield's diary is one of OCTA's published books. During the two day event we heard talks about the Ebey

family and current efforts to preserve cultural and open space values within Ebey's Landing National Historic Site. Highlights of the bus tour, led by very knowledgeable local residents, included visiting Ebey's Landing, viewing the Ebey homestead (although from afar), and seeing the Ebey family graves in the local cemetery.

At the end of September about 60 people attended the dedication of OCTA's Willow Creek Campground sign near Cecil, Ore. The effort, conceived and spearheaded by John Edmundson, a Heppner, Ore., resident, expressed appreciation to all the many people and organizations involved in the project. Although John is not an OCTA member, he is a member of a local scenic byways group. Funding for the sign was shared by Northwest OCTA Chapter and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Representing OCTA were National President Glenn Harrison and Chapter President Roger Blair. Keith May, an OCTA member and president of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC), officially represented OHTAC. John Chess represented Tamastsiht Cultural Institute.

Ione, Ore., fourth and fifth grade students sang *Roll On, Columbia, Roll On* and the Oregon state song. Instrumental music was provided by Duane Neiffer, Alex Carlson, and Eric Jepsen. The ceremony was closed with a 1950 poem about the Cecil Store written and read by Dorothy Krebs, a local landowner whose family owns the property containing the trail campground and creek crossing.

Nominations Requested for OCTA Board of Directors

"Members shall be advised in writing prior to January 31 each year, either by a direct mailing or in the Winter issue of an OCTA publication, of the number of directors to be elected in the next election and they may submit one or more recommendations for Board nominees. Each recommendation shall be in writing and shall include the following:

- 1) *Information about the trail qualifications and experience of the person recommended, the extent to which such a person has participated in the affairs of this Association, and other pertinent information requested by the Nominating Committee.*
- 2) *A written endorsement of such person from three (3) additional members in good standing.*
- 3) *A written statement from the member being nominated indicating his or her willingness to serve actively on the Board if elected.*

The last date on which such recommendations shall be submitted shall be the first day of April preceding the next annual meeting."

In accordance with the OCTA Bylaws the Nominating and Leadership Committee is now accepting nominations for the board of directors.

Each year, the terms of four of the twelve directors expire. In 2008 the terms expire for Jack Fletcher, John Krizek, Suzette McCord-Rogers, and Brent Reber, several of whom are eligible to run for reelection should they desire to do so.

Because OCTA Directors serve at-large, location of residence or chapter affiliation is not a consideration. All members in good standing are eligible to be nominated and any

OCTA member in good standing may submit one or more written nominations.

In addition to the three requirements listed above the Committee requests that nominees also submit the following:

- A brief (about 100 word) statement on the goals and objectives the nominee would like to see OCTA accomplish during next several years and what the nominee could do to help the Association reach those goals and objectives.
- A passport type photo of a quality suitable for reproduction and printing.

Trail-related activities are a key consideration for all nominees, but nomination of persons with service on other association boards, or with management and financial expertise, is encouraged. Also, experience as an educator, historian (amateur or professional), and/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.

To assist the committee, submission of a resume for each nominee is encouraged.

Elected 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 a board designated, or a chapter sponsored site. The association may reimburse some travel expenses connected with duties of the board.

The deadline for receiving nominations is April 1, 2008. Nominations should be mailed to the Nominating and Leadership Committee chair:

Vern Gorzitze
3026 Metropolitan Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84109-2238

Committee members:
Vern Gorzitze, Chair
Roger Blair, Chapter President
Mary Ann Tortorich, Member at large

If you have any questions, please contact Vern at (801) 484-9623 or by e-mail at: vergor@viawest.net.

Westerners Honors Etter Story in OJ

In October, Westerners International awarded Patricia Etter a second place Coke Wood award for the best journal article in Western history at the Western History Association Convention in Oklahoma City. Her article, "A Tramp Across Texas: A Diary of a Trip on the Bark Norumbega to Galveston, Texas, then Overland to California, March 8, 1849, to May 1850," was published in *Overland Journal*, Fall 2006.

Less is known about eastern gold seekers who boarded a ship in New York, in order to arrive at a starting point of various overland trails, and the "trail" by sea is an adventure in itself. In addition, David Demarest, the diarist, minutely described his trail between Galveston and El Paso on what was known as the Upper Trail across Texas. The article also contains a detailed itinerary and description of stopping points along the way.

Preservation Officer's Report

David Welch
welchdj@comcast.net

South Pass Petition Signatures Still Needed

As of late November (when this is being written), we have more than 700 signatures on the petition to increase protection for the South Pass district, an area extending from Independence Rock to the Big Sandy River. The BLM's Lander office has begun revision of that office's Resource Management Plan (RMP) which will provide guidelines for the use of the area. The petition will be presented to the BLM as evidence of widespread support for preserving this historic area.

Our approach supports continued ranching use of the area but discourages energy development, pipelines, and mining along the trails and the viewshed. We anticipate varying levels of protection along the corridor with the highest in the summit area. The petition is available at OCTA's website (www.octa-trails.org).

If you haven't signed it, please do.

Another activity receiving attention is road closures planned by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in Oregon and California. This is being done to reduce impacts on forest lands and to eliminate some of the roads that are no longer needed. We have found that the good intentions of the USFS included closure of some roads that we wish to keep open. They thought that closing historic roads was by definition preferred. However,

OCTA's long-standing position is that MET Class 2 roads (two-tracks used by motorized vehicles) should be kept open with limited maintenance but no improvement. Class 1 trails (pristine ruts and swales) should not be driven on since that will degrade them to Class 2 and can begin a process that could make them Class 3 or



Weeds and grass were cut and debris cleaned up at the Donner Spring site during an annual work day by Crossroads Chapter members. See related article on page 18. (Photo by Oscar Olson)

Class 4 at a later time. The USFS has been receptive to our comments. This is a good example where continuing interaction through a trail monitoring program might have avoided a misunderstanding. Early involvement is essential.

Since this report will reach you in January, I want to encourage you to begin planning next summer's outings and projects. I would especially like to encourage projects. Chapters usually have good outings for the "appreciation and enjoyment

of the trails," but preservation work (mapping, marking, and monitoring) also should be undertaken each year. What is the condition of markers and interpretive signs in your chapter's area?

A prime example of an excellent project is the Fernley Deep Sand Swales maintenance performed by members of OCTA's California-

Nevada chapter led by Tom Fee, Andy Quinn, and Steve Knight. Other participants included the BLM, Fernley Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Fernley Preservation Society. Under an agreement with the BLM, OCTA is responsible for monitoring and removal of trash from the area. When we agreed to this arrangement, we did not think that the area would be a dumping ground for old cars, trailers, and trash in general.

Last October the chapter removed more than sixteen trailer loads of trash from this historic area that includes not only the California Trail but also the original Central Pacific railroad grade. For more details and photos, see related article on page 20. Well done!

Finally, I would like to remind you that OCTA is still seeking a national preservation officer to take office in August 2008. If you are interested, please contact me by phone (360-923-0438) or e-mail me.

Improved Website Access, Enhanced Features in Place for OCTA Members

By Marley Shurtleff
OCTA Web Editor
webeditor@octa-trails.org

Take a fresh look at the OCTA website (<http://octa-trails.org>). In September, the OCTA general and bookstore sites moved to a new and more modern server, allowing for some changes and additions to offerings.

Recently, a new form has been added to make it quick and easy for you to reach the correct OCTA contact about the topic you want to discuss, without having to look up an e-mail address. Look for the "Contact Us" navigation link on the left side of the OCTA Home Page. That site displays options for sending a message to groups of recipients. It offers topics for discussion and links to information, a space for comments, and a spot to request a response. We hope you'll find this a good way to reach OCTA leadership.

More educational materials are online for current use. Check "Learning Center," where Bill Hill is raffling a free set of books for the classroom. "Classroom Resources" offers access to several online books, lesson plans, reading lists, and even webquests. The informative "Virtual Trail" is available once again, as well.

The "Training" link under "Preservation" has an impressive

assemblage of information about strategies, monitoring, marking, and mapping, thanks to the efforts of our Preservation leadership. Spend some time reviewing the beautiful presentation packages there, and be better prepared to understand what you will experience before you head out on the trail.

The Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED) database development has been underway for most of OCTA's existence. The database is moving to a new web format (called Paper Trail) that both PCs and Macs can access. Check the "COED" section to find information about joining Paper Trail, to look online for all the information that was previously available on the Emigrant Names II Disc Set... and more!

A recently added section, "Member Resources," contains tools to help all members complete those necessary administrative tasks that go along with the fun stuff on or about the trail. Visit this "one stop shopping" area for online waiver forms to print, educator and award nomination forms, budget development and expense reimbursement forms, and more important but often overlooked bits of information and assistance.

Modifications and improvements will be continuing to the general and bookstore sites for some time, so check back regularly.

Construction Winding Down at California Trail Center

By Mike Brown
Elko BLM

The scheduled construction period for the California Trail Center near Elko, Nev., is nearly up and work is being finalized. In mid-December, West Coast Contractors had finished the fence at the main entrance and several sub-contractors were also completing details, said Dave Jamiel, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) California Trail Center Manager.

Jamiel added that Copeland Electric installed track and pendant lighting fixtures in the south exhibit and gift shop areas, and set panels and controllers in the mechanical room. Parker Heating installed piping and equipment in the mechanical room and set plumbing fixtures.

"As we wrap up construction we're planning the next phases of the project. The Trail Center exhibits will arrive staggered over the next two years with the first part of the exhibits coming next spring," Jamiel concluded.

News From the Plains
Spring Issue Deadline

February 25, 2008

Send materials to nfpocta@aol.com

More Work on the Apache Pass Trail

By Rose Ann Tompkins

In October, 12 Trail Turtles returned to map more of the Apache Pass Trail in southwest New Mexico and southeast Arizona. Tracy DeVault was the trail boss again and kept us organized in working some of the places where the trail is hard to find—and hard to reach. We did make progress and have much of it now mapped between Soldiers Farewell and the actual pass near Fort Bowie. Little has been done between the pass and Tucson where it rejoined the Southern Trail. We met at Fort Bowie to begin our week, welcomed as always by SWOCTA member and ranger, Larry Ludwig.

The group works well together, whether sleuthing out where to look for trail, driving the back roads to reach trail crossings, dividing up the spots to view, record and photograph, or making camp. There are no slackers in this bunch.

Along the way we saw more wildlife than usual, including a hawk dining on a snake, a number of small antelope herds (which we seldom see), and a rattlesnake quietly coiled on the trail. Not so wild was a group of pinto horses which visited us looking for handouts.

We continue to work on publishing our findings, though that is going slowly.



Looking at landmarks from the top of Rattlesnake Point where there are a number of mortar holes. Left to right: Tracy DeVault, Neal Johns, Pat White, Ken White. (Photo by Charles Townley)



Steins Stage Station ruins with Steins Peak in the background. (Photo by Cam Wade)

Your membership number and expiration date are printed on your mailing label. Please check to make sure your membership does not lapse.

Gateway Chapter

Gateway Rounds Out 2007 with Activities



Cindy Weaver and John Yount were featured speakers at the Gateway Annual Meeting.

Story and Photos
By Jackie Lewin

Twenty Gateway members and their guests had a full day of adventure in late September when they visited Lexington and Arrow Rock, two of Missouri's most historic towns that were connected by the Santa Fe Trail. Roger Slusher, president of the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association and a descendent of the area's first settlers, served as tour guide. The group enjoyed lunch at the historic Huston Tavern in Arrow Rock, built in 1834. Arrow Rock was the home of three 19th century Missouri governors as well as Dr. John Sappington, who gained fame for advocating the use of quinine as an effective treatment for malaria.

The annual membership dinner and election was held Nov. 13 at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion Museum in St. Joseph. Thirty-eight members attended and enjoyed a barbecue buffet. Officers elected to the board were: Bill Leppert, president; Wayne Schutte, vice-president; John Atkinson, past-president; Joann

Floyd, secretary; Marilyn Bryan, Treasurer; and Pete Duncan and Fred Sawin, board members. Appointed chairmen who also serve on the board are: Betty Sawin, historian; Jackie Lewin, newsletter editor; and Paul Dittmore, preservation officer.

The program for the evening was "Oxen – The Beast of Burden on the Overland Trails" presented by



Gateway members and friends pose for photo in front of the J.P. Sites Gunsmith Shop in Arrow Rock, Missouri.

Cindy Weaver and Jim Yount. The couple own and display a team of oxen. They spoke about the benefits of oxen on the trail and the different breeds that may have been used.



Gateway's 2008 board, from left, Jackie Lewin, Paul Dittmore, Wayne Schutte, Marilyn Bryan, Joann Floyd, Bill Leppert, and Pete Duncan. Not pictured are Betty Sawin and Fred Sawin.

Idaho Chapter Markers Set

By Jim McGill

On the afternoon of Saturday, October 13, 2007, I-OCTA members and visitors marked the Jeffrey-Goodale Cutoff across the Moonstone Ranch, east of Fairfield, Idaho. The following day we marked the trail from the Wood River Valley to the west, to the east side of the Moonstone Ranch.

As the ranch name implies, the Moonstone is on the south side of Moonstone Mountain and on the north side of U. S. Highway 20. It is presently owned by Camas Creek Ranch, Corral, Idaho, and supervised by Manager Rod Gonzales of Fairfield. Although the ranch gates are locked because of past abuses of the ranchland and roads by hunters and others, Rod and his wife graciously obtained permission for I-OCTA to search for and mark the trail. Our appreciation was given to them, and the time was rewarded by finding some good, unmarked trail remnants in one area on the east, and the remarking of an old Class 2 trail/road westerly on which we found one old marker.

We found a good length of a swale coming up west from the Poison Creek Canyon (Section 10), and another starting across an adjacent section of land from the east (Section 9). Much of Section 9 is heavy sage brush and the weathered trail was well hidden and difficult to find across the middle. On the west

Continued on Page 17

Eldorado National Forest Leads in Trail Preservation, OCTA Tour to be Held Annually

By Frank Tortorich

On September 26, 2007, a milestone was reached with regard to emigrant trail preservation.

Eldorado National Forest Supervisor Ramiro Villalvazo had requested that Amador District Ranger Doug Barber find a date for a tour of the emigrant trail I would lead in the area of Highway 88 corridor.

During a Forest Service employee retirement dinner, I met Ramiro within the first month or two of his arrival as forest supervisor. He was very interested in hearing about my 28 years as a volunteer for the Forest Service working on the Carson River Route of the California Trail. He, being new to the forest and the area, wanted to learn about the forest and requested a tour.

Doug, only months on the job as the Amador's new district ranger, is not new to the area. He, too, is very interested in the historic trails and learning new information about the forest he is charged to protect.

With many folks wanting to attend the tour, Doug worked to find a date that would work for most of them and September 26, 2007, was chosen.

I was delighted when the following Forest Service employees were able to attend the tour. Along with Ramiro and Doug were several individuals from the Amador Ranger District including Information Assistant Linda Anderson, Wildlife Biologist Chuck Loffland, Resource Officer Roger Ross, Timber Management Officer

Dave Helton, and Archaeologist John Connolly. Others attending were Forest Archaeologists Katy Coulter and Janelle Walker, Placerville Ranger District Archaeologist Karin Klemic, and Pacific District Ranger Diane Rubiaco.

This is the first time in my years working as a volunteer and now seasonal forest employee that the forest supervisor showed this much interest in our historic trail over Carson Pass.

Part of the group left the Amador Ranger District office in Pioneer and met the rest of the group at the old Iron Mountain ski area Sno-Park. I had a handout for them and gave a short historic overview of the trail before we formed

carpools.

We made stops at Maiden's Grave and Tragedy Spring where I told the accurate stories of these locations. Our next stop was at the Silver Lake overview to view West Pass and Melissa Coray Peak. We lunched at Caples Lake and there was more discussion about the trail. After lunch we stopped at the historic marker overlooking Caples Lake and enjoyed an eastern view of West Pass and Melissa Coray Peak.

At Carson Pass I told the story of the 1844 Fremont Expedition and the naming of Carson Pass. We then traveled east to view the famous Devil's Ladder while looking down at Red Lake.

Doug Barber was so taken with the excursion he wants it held annually.



Doug Barber, Amador District Ranger.

Trails Head Chapter

Chapter Visits Shawnee Mission

By Pat Marshall, President

On November 8, Trails Head Chapter held our annual meeting at the Shawnee Indian Mission Historic Site in Fairway, Kan., on the Westport Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trails. The meeting was hosted by Site Director Alisha Cole, who is also our chapter secretary.

The site, owned by Kansas State Historical Society, includes three brick buildings built in 1839-45, which are some of the oldest buildings in the state of Kansas. A multi-year upgrade and renovation has been underway and the 1839 building is essentially finished, including the marvelous exhibits. A portion of the second floor is dedicated to the history of the trails.

The first order of business was

to elect officers. They are President Pat Marshall, Vice-President Arnold Cole, Secretary Alisha Cole, and Treasurer Jim Budde.

OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley reported on the OCTA Convention in Gering, Neb. and the upcoming 2008 convention in Nampa, Ida. He also discussed OCTA's membership objectives and the Strategic Plan with ideas on how our chapter could implement appropriate segments of it.

Chapter Preservation Chair Ross Marshall reported on the Gardner Junction Park which is essentially finished. Yet to be installed are new interpretive panels that will interpret this important junction of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California National Historic Trails.

In addition, the new Pioneer Crossing Park was just finished and

dedicated in Shawnee, Kan. It has a magnificent life-size sculpture of both freight and emigrant wagons complete with ox-teams and people. It also has a half-dozen interpretive panels that tell the story of Kansas City's complex historic trail system.

In addition, he updated us on the progress of the chapter's MET mapping project. Now that crops are harvested, the teams can go look at some of the segments on the ground.

Our speaker was Shawnee Chief Glenna Wallace. Besides being a retired professor from Crowder College, she is the Chief of the Eastern Band of the Shawnee Nation. She discussed her tribe's experience in the 1830 Removal to Kansas and the impact of that heritage on the lives of tribal members today.

Idaho Chapter

Continued From Page 16

side the trail area was apparent as it then continued across Section 8 above a grass planted flat. The swales there were four to five feet deep in places.

This was exactly where the 1989 BLM/State Historical Society book, *Emigrant Trails of Southern Idaho*, indicated the trail would be found. Only after the trail became a sagebrush road on the western side of section 8, and then continued across Section 7, was one old worn marker found. This decal was changed from the prior designation of "Goodale's Cutoff" to the present and more correctly named, "Jeffrey-Goodale Cutoff."

Over the two day period we placed 31 new carsonite markers. Although this was on private land, the preservation of the continuous sections of the existing trail should be of interest to all parties and trail administrators.



Dell Magnum, new I-OCTA Board Member on the trail. (Photo by Jim McGill)

Crossroads Chapter

Donner Spring Historical Sites Gets New Look

By Al Mulder

The final chapter activity for 2007 took place October 23 when a group of ambitious and dedicated chapter



members spent several hours on a clean-up, paint-up, and fence repair project at the Donner Spring Historical Site. The following chapter members replaced fence poles, and stained, painted, and log-oiled the three-panel kiosk and the rail fencing surrounding the spring: Drew and Marie Wanosik, Charlie Burkhalter, Vern Gorzitze, Greg and Kathy Franzwa, Oscar Olson, and Brent Reber. The remote site requires an annual work-day by chapter volunteers to cut weeds and grass, repair damage caused by livestock, and apply protective coatings to the wood kiosk and fencing. Plans are being made to repair/replace the panels and kiosks at Donner Spring and at Bidwell Pass. A special chapter account provides funds for the purchase of materials, brushes and tools for the maintenance, repair, and upkeep of historical sites marked by Utah Crossroads.

Election for officers will be held at the January 10, 2008, Crossroads Chapter meeting. Chapter meetings in 2008 will again be held at the Salt Lake County Complex. OCTA members from other chapters are invited to attend the Utah Crossroads meetings and special events and field trips planned for 2008. A chapter membership is \$10 and the quarterly newsletter, *Crossroads*,

announces the dates of all chapter activities.

The recently published book, *The Mormon Trail Revisited*, by noted author

the Gering/Scottsbluff Convention. Yuji writes me interesting letters about his travels throughout the four islands of Japan and still remembers the experience he and Hiko had



Chapter work crew members painting, sealing, and re-staining rail fencing and kiosk. Pilot Peak provides a backdrop for the spring. (Photos by Oscar Olson)

and trail historian Gregory M. Franzwa is a historically accurate and well-written guide for anyone wanting to retrace the route of the 1847 Vanguard party of Mormon Pioneers from Winter Quarters to the Salt Lake Valley. Kathy Franzwa's excellent photographs and Gregory Franzwa's clear auto tour instructions and entertaining text make this latest book published by The Patrice Press a must for every OCTA member's library.

OCTA and Crossroads Chapter member Yuji Aisaka is still very active and a dedicated student of our western history and historic emigrant trails. Yuji's friend, Hiko, attended

with the security people at Dugway Proving Ground during the 1994 OCTA convention in Salt Lake City. Yuji recently injured his right shoulder while climbing Mount Kaimon on the island of Kyushu. Near the mountain was a WWII airbase where suicidal zero fighters were stationed. Aircraft were serviced with only enough fuel for a one-way flight. History isn't one-sided and we often forget the sadness experienced by our enemies.

Cold weather has frozen the water barrel, so we'll wait until Spring before starting on the trails again.

Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter

Cherokee Trail Video, Maps Reviewed at Fall Meeting

From the Chapter Newsletter

At the Fall meeting, chapter member Johanna Harden, Archivist of the Douglas County Libraries, showed

Chasing Fortune, Chasing Dreams: The Cherokee Trail, a 30-minute documentary which tells the story of trail travelers based on their journal entries. It includes an interview with

Lee Whiteley, a chapter member and noted Cherokee Trail historian.

Following the video Johanna and her colleague, Annette Gray, gave a presentation of maps, photographs, and other materials pertaining to the Cherokee Trail.

On the Cherokee Trail to the Gold Fields, has been adopted as the theme for the 2009 OCTA convention to be held in Colorado.

A Preservation Training Workshop will be held in early June and will include a one-day classroom session at the Douglas County Library in Castle Rock and a one-day field session on the Cherokee Trail. The Workshop will be conducted by Dave Welch, Leslie Fryman, and Jim McGill.



Members view Cherokee Trail maps and documents at the recent chapter meeting. (Photo by Camille Bradford)

Wyoming Chapter

Sinclair Pipeline Skirts Trail, Wind Study Underway

By Lee Underbrink

The Sinclair Oil Corp. pipeline from Casper to Sinclair, Wyo., is almost complete as work begins to reclaim the land following construction. An inspection of the line reveals little damage to the trail. As the pipeline crosses the road above Clayton's Slough, there is complete damage but it was probably necessary and the trail is still very obvious across the road. If we have to share our trail with a pipeline, this was a well done project.

The next development along our premium trail out of Casper to Independence Rock is under

consideration. Two companies have applied to use wind anemometers to test the wind speeds of Ryan or Prospect Hill. The area is on both sides of the ridge that contains the BLM interpretive site. It is anticipated that it will take a year to determine if the wind speeds allow concentration of turbines. This is on private and BLM land. The closeness of a substation makes this an attractive place to have a wind farm. We will be on guard!

The Natrona County Historical Preservation Committee and the Wyoming State Archaeological Society will fund the search for the location of the Custard Wagon Train massacre near Casper using ground

penetrating radar next spring. Almost from the time of its happening in 1865, the location of the battle and burial of soldiers who were killed in the fight have been one of the mysteries of the area.

On the day Lt. Caspar Collins was killed in the Battle of Platte Bridge, a wagon train en route from Sweetwater Station to Platte Bridge Station was ambushed by Indians. Nineteen soldiers under the command of Sgt. Amos Custard were killed and buried on the field.

The location of this fight, which was observed from Platte Bridge, has stumped all because no ground indication has been found.

CA/NV Chapter

Cleanup Takes Place at Fernley Deep Sand Swales

By Tom Fee

The first Fernley Deep Sand Swales cleanup in Nevada occurred in May 1998. The second was in 2001, but since then we have cleaned annually the first Saturday in October.

Some thoughtless Fernley residents have been avoiding the cost of taking their trash to the Fernley Transfer Station by dumping it in the desert. A convenient place for them to dump is a short distance north of the Truck Inn. A lot of the refuse ends up on the 130 acre easement designed to protect the California Trail, the Central Pacific Railroad Bed, and the sand dune system in those 130 acres within Section 6, Township 20 North, Range 25 East.

For many years Section 6 was U.S. Government property managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It is now private property due to a land exchange in 2001. The CA-NV Chapter has an agreement to clean up the easement and also to do an annual photo monitoring, taking 24 pictures of specific areas from specific points so they can be compared for damage.

Prior to 2006, we had general debris, appliances, mattresses, etc., to haul out. In October 2006, we discovered an abandoned and burned out vehicle at the edge of the Central Pacific Railroad bed near the west boundary of the easement. We also found two trailers near the south boundary, one of which was occupied by squatters. On June 15, 2007, when I went out to look over the area, I found one trailer gone and the other burned to the ground leaving a terrible mess. Further down the dirt road, near the swales, was an abandoned intact

trailer. At the edge of the CPRR bed there was an abandoned and burned out BMW, and a short distance away was the bed of a small foreign pickup truck. Near the east boundary was a very old rusted pickup bed, so old that the bed had been made of boards. This had been there for many, many years.



Volunteers clean debris from the Fernley Swales. (Photo Courtesy Tom Fee)

Checking with Waste Management revealed they do not accept abandoned vehicles or trailers. Arrangements were made to have an auto wrecker come out and haul them away. The first one I approached saw pictures of the two abandoned vehicles and stated: "They do not have wheels. It would not be worth my time."

The second place I approached was Arnold's Wrecking Yard. Arnold Coronado viewed pictures of the abandoned vehicles, pickup beds, and trailers. He said the scrap value of the trailers and pickup beds was not very much, but he would take them out as a public service, which he did on October 4. This was a tremendous

help and paved the way for a successful cleanup on October 6.

We had 15-18 Fernley residents and a good number of OCTA members to help, including Jim Allison, Rex Gardner and his son Burton, Terry Hardwicke, Dave Hollecker, Steve Knight, Skip Mills, Andy Quinn, Linda Sanders, and Dave

Valentine from the Winnemucca BLM office.

Fran Hull from the Carson City Field Office brought a two-ton BLM truck. Volunteers and employees of the Fernley Parks and Recreation Department brought flat bed trailers and pickup trucks. We had ten free dump passes from Waste Management. We ended up taking 18-20 pickup and large trailer loads to the Fernley Transfer Station. One of our Fernley resident volunteers works in the Reno office of Waste Management. She phoned an executive who gave us permission to dump the additional loads. This was our biggest cleanup effort ever.

New Members

Bill Adams
P.O. Box 490
Fallon, NV 89406
775/867-3590

Thelma Allen
2301 E Kara Anne Ave,
Nampa, ID 83686
208/466-7251
thelmaallen@quickidaho.com

Linda W. Bergeron
P.O. Box 941
Halfway, OR 97834
lindex@pinetel.com

David Bergum
P.O. Box 3583
Arnold, CA 95223
bergums@sbcglobal.net

Rodney Biesenthal
22170 Independence Rd.
Onaga, KS 66521
785/889-4645

Barbara Jones Brown
10522 S. Ojibwa Ln
S Jordan, UT 84095
801/808-2064
bjonesbrown@comcast.net

Ray Brubaker
1190 Kootenai
Billings, MT 59105

Darold Brunkow
16300 Martens Rd.
Wamego, KS 66547
785/456-2475

Hugh O. Burdick
6820 Mariner Dr.
Condo #104
Racine, WI 53406
263/886-0413
HOB@WI.RR.Com

Charles Marvin Clegg
P.O. Box 452
Ft Duchesne, UT 84026
435/722-1350

Jeannine M. Cook
1927 48th SE
Albany, OR 97322
541/928-1558
jenmairin@comcast.net

Robert L. Cook
4145 State Line Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64111

Jerry & Darlene Cornilles
11335 Shay Park Way
Nampa, ID 83686
jerry@ctcweb.net

Georgia G. Douglas
1058 SW 8th Ave.
Albany, OR 97321
541/924-1835

Robert Ferguson
555 Spruce St.
Oakland, CA 94606
robtferg@worldnet.att.net

Mike Gable
c/o Aspen Realty
609 N. Midland
Nampa, ID 83651
gable22@cableone.net

Dick Garver
P.O. Box 1002
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Roger & Jeanne Hamer
515 East 23rd Ave.
Torrington, WY 82240
307/532-2120
jhamer@prairieweb.com

Jay Harmer
775 E 100 S
Pleasant Grove, UT 84062
801/785-3766

B. J. Hatcher
10553 Royal Crest
Truckee, CA 96161
503/582-9845
bkhat@suddenlink.net

Jerry Hayes
2168 E. Parkway Ave.
Salt Lake City, UT 84109
801/484-0489
joycescondo@sisna.com

Ron King
2518 E. Locust Ln
Nampa, ID 83686
208/467-1029

William C. Kostlevy
P.O. Box 6
Hillsboro, KS 67063
620/947-3385
billk@tabor.edu

June Krol
60924 Crested Butte Ln
Bend, OR 97702
541/312-9256
jkrol@bendbroadband.com

Richard Linville
1000 Lower Bluff Rd.
Emmett, ID 83617
208/365-5227
1000roses@gmail.com

Gary D. Long
3737 McComb Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307/634-6834
glong@wyoming.com

B. Wayne & Verneal Lowry
253 Birch St.
Tooele, UT 85074
435/882-0633
bowlowry@msn.com

Sid and Laura Mardney
43 Vine Maple Ln
Sequim, WA 98382
360/808-7200
lauram@olypen.com

John & Nancy Marshall
1055 N 14th E
Mt. Home, ID 83647
208/587-4792

Judith Miller
1004 20th St.
Golden, CO 80401
303/374-1454
davidjudithmiller@comcast.net

Shirley Mitts
67821 N Bay Rd.
North Bend, OR 97459
541/756-5406
rmitts29@verizon.net

Patsy Parkin
149 Preuitt Rd.
Wheatland, WY 82201

Amy & Ruth Price
1328 Allen Park Dr.
Salt Lake City, UT 84105

Celia Quignon
323 17th Ave. S
Nampa, ID 83651
208/466-0794

George Riser
3936 Martin Rd.
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-2041

Capt. John Russell
P.O. Box 1482
Renton, WA 98057
206/491-0669

Nancy Schoonover
4321 Forni Rd.
Placerville, CA 95667
530/626-4062
nancyschoonover@hotmail.com

John B. Schwartz
P.O. Box 266
Blue Rapids, KS 66411
785/363-7001

Ralph Shultz
220 Melba Dr.
Nampa, ID 83686
208/467-3713

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New Members

Continued from
Page 21

Dick Smith
211 Maple St.
Nampa, ID 83636
208/466-8771

T. J. Stohr
2927 Duncan St.
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816/671-1021
stohr-2000@yahoo.com

Carol M. Strange
4851 Rd. 197
Lewellen, NE 69147
308/778-5843
4c@embarqmail.com

Patricia Sweet
P.O. Box 771
Nampa, ID 83653
kameysweet@msn.com

Karen Graham Wade
11402 Donovan Rd.
Los Almitos, CA 90720
626/968-8492
k.wade@homesteadmuseum.org

Sam Woolsey
725 E 13th St.
The Dalles, OR 97058
541/298-8125
awoolsey@charter.net

Gary & Marg Zilkie
8630 East Saanich Rd.
N. Saanich
BC
V8L 1H1
250/655-4381
gzilkie@shaw.ca

Join the Membership Gold Rush!!!

By Duane Iles
OCTA Membership
Chair

The competition is on! Don't miss out on your chance to be a hero in the drive to build OCTA's membership and win some prizes at the same time.

As a result of all the great effort, our current membership stands at 1,657. Several members have been doing a great job and received a lot of credit in our bookstore.

Don't forget, the deadline for the drawings for the convention registration and tours is the first of March. To be eligible, you must recruit five new members or returning members. Remember to put your name on the registration when you recruit a member to get proper credit.

-Be sure to get new members into a chapter at the same time.

-Give a free year membership to your chapter when you sign up someone. (Wyoming chapter's idea!)

-Give a membership to land owners that help preserve the trail.

It is time to really work to increase the OCTA membership roster. I urge you to do your part and have even provided for some incentives.



Gold Dust Award – Get a \$5 credit at the OCTA store for each new paid membership or non-renewing member brought back.

Gold Strike Award – Be eligible for a drawing after five recruits.

- First prize – One free registration for the 2008 convention
- Second prize – One free tour and meal at the 2008 convention
- Third prize – One free tour at the 2008 convention

Bonanza Award – Award to the top recruiters with at least five recruits.

- First prize - \$100
- Second prize - \$50
- Third prize - \$25

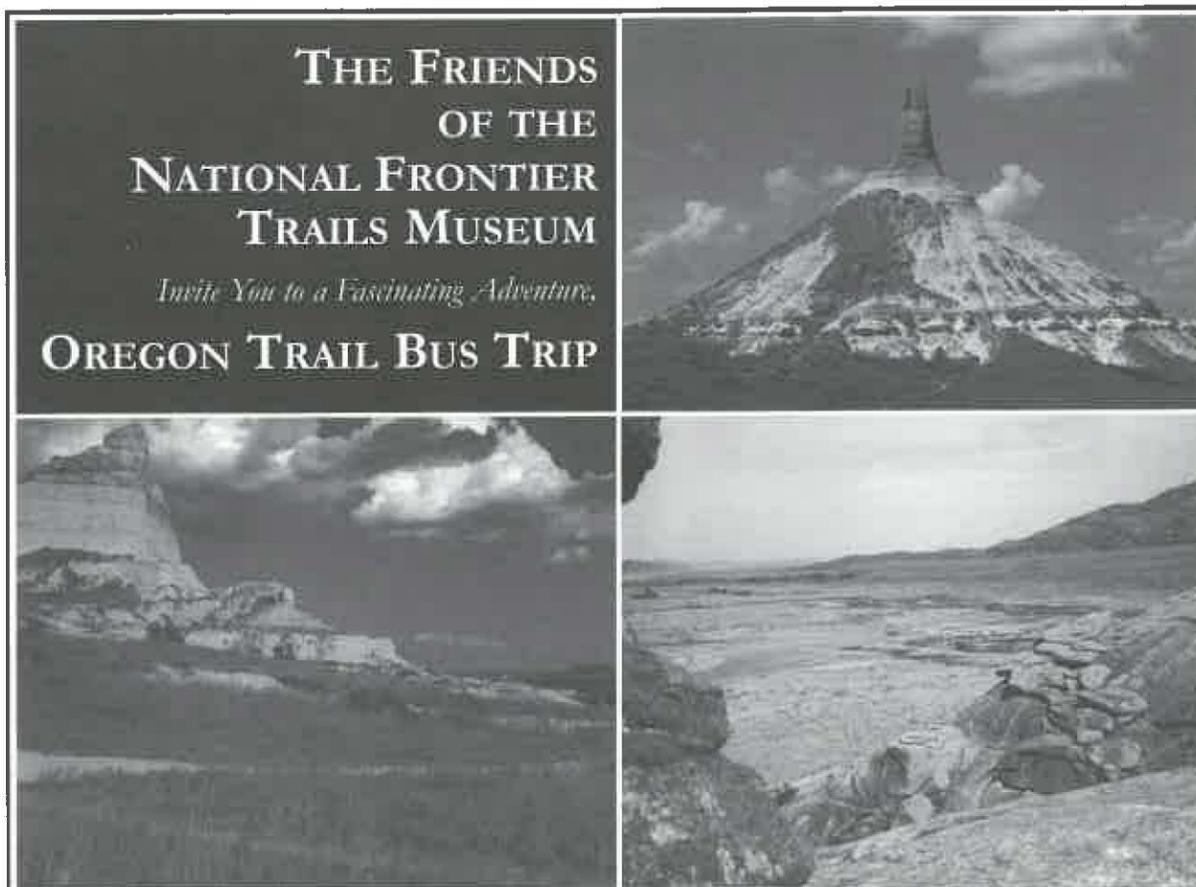
Here are the recruiting statistics since the inception of contest:

Jim McGill - Ten memberships followed by Greg Franzwa, Glenn Harrison and Patti King-McGill with two each.

Other recruiters: Jackie Ellis, Duane Iles, Bob Clark, Fred and Fern Linton, Henry and Lynn Woodward, Edna Kennell, Don Cooper, Bill Leppert, Vern Gorzitze, Tom McCutcheon and OCTA staff.

Total memberships from active recruiting: 31

Levels: One Corporate, one Pioneer, and the rest Emigrant, some with Chapter affiliation.



The Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum plan to host a nine-day escorted bus tour in September, 2008 following three of the greatest emigration trails in American history. Departing from Independence, Missouri the "Queen City of the Trails", the tour will follow the Oregon, California and Mormon Trails to central Wyoming and back.

Your air-conditioned motorcoach "wagon" will take you to exciting stops where western history was made, and the characters of hundreds of thousands of Americans were forged through dangers, hardships, and perseverance. Visit historic sites, stunning landmark perseverance. Visit historic sites, stunning landmarks, and beautiful prairies witnessed by thousands of those hardy pioneer emigrants, and recorded in their diaries.

For more detailed information contact
Lynda Black at the
National Frontier Trails Museum,
318 W. Pacific, Independence, Missouri, 64050
816-325-7575 or lblack@indepmo.org.

NPS Recognizes OCTA's 25th Year



National Park Service Intermountain Region Deputy Director Tony Schetzle left, presented OCTA with special awards at the 25th Anniversary Convention in Gering, Neb. Accepting an award for his work was National Preservation Officer David Welch, top, right.

OCTA also received an award recognizing its 25th Anniversary. Michael D. Snyder, Regional Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service signed the award which was given "In recognition of twenty-five years of service and partnership to preserve and commemorate the legacy of America's Emigrant Trails/ The National Park Service."



With the OCTA Anniversary Award are, from left, Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the National Trails System Long Distance Trails Office headquartered in Santa Fe, David Welch, and OCTA President Glenn Harrison, right. *(Photos by Roger Blair)*



Oregon-California Trails Association

P.O. Box 1019

Independence, MO 64051-0519

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What's Happening...

March 7-8, 2008

Mid-Year Board Meeting
Sacramento, California

August 5-9, 2008

26th Annual Convention
Nampa, Idaho