

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Spring 2016

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OCTA Medallion Unveiled



A 36-inch, 200-pound bronze medallion created by early 20th century American sculptor Avar Fairbanks and donated to OCTA was installed on the west side of the Truman Courthouse on the Square in Independence, Missouri. OCTA donated the medallion to Jackson County. Created in 1924, the medallion will be on permanent display on the Square in Independence, a jumping off place for the Oregon, California and Santa Fe National Historic Trails. Similar medallions are located in a handful of other trail states. Top photo, OCTA members, from left, Pat Traffas, Jere Krakow, John Krizek, Matt Malinson, Dick Nelson, John Winner (standing), Travis Boley (kneeling), Aaron Mahr (standing), Ross Marshall (kneeling). Bottom photo, Aaron Mahr helps Jackson County Executive Frank White unveil the medallion, as David Fairbanks, son of the sculptor, watches.

BLM Will Allow Expanded Use of Hardcart Treks

More handcart reenactors may be along and near national historic trails in Wyoming following a "determination" issued by the Bureau of Land Management in June, a decision that has drawn some criticism from OCTA officials.

The BLM Lander, Wyoming, office agreed to reissue a special recreation permit that will allow up to 8,000 participants per year, with a five-year average not exceeding 7,000 participants. Up to 350 individuals per group will be permitted, with the annual average not to exceed 200.

The BLM had received more than 250 public comments on the renewal of the recreation permit sought by the LDS church for reenactments along portions of the Oregon, California, Pony Express and Mormon Pioneer trails in the Rocky Ridge area.

The decisions allows a maximum of 2,000 participants per week between July 1 and August 31 and a maximum of 1,000 between September 1 and September 15. Two groups per day, with a maximum of three treks per week, will be permitted July 1-15 and four groups daily, with a maximum of five per week) between July 16 and September 15. No trekking will be allowed on weekends.

Wyoming OCTA and OCTA National had filed comments supporting limits on the trekking season to three days a week July 15-September 15, recommending the size of the trekking parties be limited to 200, that the maximum number of trekkers per year be kept at 6,000, and offering Wyoming OCTA help with annual monitoring of the trails.

"BLM did not restrict trekking as much as some of us hoped they might," said Wyoming Chapter President Tom Rea. "Still, though, I do think they will do a better job of monitoring than they have in the past."

OCTA has been invited by Lander BLM to participate in monitoring the historic route up and over Rocky Ridge this season

OCTA National Preservation Officer Jere Krakow

(continued on page 5)

FROM THE PRESIDENT



By [John Winner](#)
OCTA President

Greetings to all. By now with summer upon us and the weather more gentle, the juices should be flowing and all are eager to get out and enjoy some of the rich heritage that we have a passion for.

Whether you are engaged in trail work, fun trips to historic sites, planning educational events, doing research or just reading about events of the past, there is no shortage of things to do or places to go.

While you sit at the table enjoying that cup of coffee or cup of tea thinking of places to go, here are just a few suggestions. Plan a visit to your local museum. Besides all the history that abounds, many museums have research programs and are constantly looking for information. Share some of your knowledge and experience. Perhaps you have an item or two that would be a good fit for the museum.

If you have an urge to be philanthropic, visit your local library. Offer them a subscription to OCTA's *Overland Journal*. It's less than \$50 a year. This is OCTA's signature publication, recognized as one of the best. OCTA headquarters can help you with the details.

If you're looking for a trail experience, the Bureau of Land Management operates three excellent Trail Interpretative

Centers; The National Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon; The National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming and The California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada. All three are a must see and have outstanding exhibits of nineteenth century emigrant travel. During the annual Trail Days, June 4-5, at the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, OCTA participated in the dedication of the library with contributions of publications and funds to the *Western Emigrant Trails Collection*.

August 25 marks the 100th. anniversary of The National Park Service. Throughout the year the NPS will celebrate Centennial Events. Many of the Centennial Events will include activities on the National Historic Trails. You can find a list of events on the NPS website.

Finally, kudos to the folks in the Idaho Chapter. OCTA's 34th Annual National Convention is just ahead, August 1-5 at the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel and Event Center in Fort Hall, Idaho. The theme this year, "Cultures and Changes," promises a week of educational and entertaining talks, great tours and a host of other events. **Join us in Fort Hall.**

But most of all, support OCTA and the local chapters and help us *Save the Trail*.

More to come.....

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OCTA Trails Lead to Fort Hall in August

Oregon-California Trails Association
NATIONAL CONVENTION 2016



FORT HALL, IDAHO
Cultures and Changes

OCTA members looking forward to the 34th Annual Convention at Fort Hall, Idaho will be immersed in the full range of Overland trail and Western experiences, from mountain men and fur trappers to tribal cultures

and trail adventures.

The Convention will be held from Tuesday, August 2, through Friday, August 5, sandwiched by pre- and post-convention tours on Sunday Saturday.

A welcome reception will be held on Monday, August 1, which is also Author's Night, and the OCTA National Board of Directors will meet on that day as well.

The convention will be headquartered at the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel & Event Center, site of a great lineup of speakers on Tuesday and Thursday, the Awards Banquet on Tuesday, and a dinner and live auction on Thursday.

But as usual with an OCTA convention, many of the most memorable activities will take place away from the hotel.

Wednesday and Friday are devoted to tours, which will see the area of fur trappers in Eastern Idaho, the Oregon-California trail to the east and to the west (separate tours), Fort Hall, the Milner Ruts (hiking tour), and "Scenic Idaho," a special "non-trail" tour.

Pre-convention tours will be over Hudspeth's Cutoff and the Oregon Trail from the East and post-convention tours will be on the California Trail (three-days) and Goodale's Cutoff

Friday night's closing Celebration Barbecue will be held at the Fort Hall Replica in nearby Pocatello and will

include mountain man demonstrations as part of a fur trapper rendezvous. The adjacent Bannock County Historical Museum will also be open for OCTA members.

Convention speakers will focus on the history of the area, beginning with a keynote on Tuesday featuring four members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe who will use a round-table format to share the history of their tribe.

Other topics of interest will include the role of Fort Hall both to the fur trade and overland emigration, the discovery of South Pass, Goodale's Cutoff and the Lander Trail, Idaho trail diaries, and much more.

The Idaho Chapter has been working very hard to make this one of OCTA's best conventions. We hope to see you there!

For more details and to register, visit the OCTA website at www.octa-trails.org



The Fort Hall Replica in Pocatello will be the site of the Celebration Barbecue on Friday evening at the Fort Hall Convention.

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FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



By [Travis Boley](#)

It was a flurry of activity for OCTA in the Kansas City area from June 4 through June 9. As the Kansas City area continues to build momentum toward building the nation's first retracement trail in the 46-mile long shared corridor of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trail, we felt it was time to share some of our work with the greater metropolitan area.

We kicked off the festivities by unveiling our new red granite bench at Cave Spring in Raytown, Missouri. Congressman Emanuel Cleaver joined Raytown Mayor



Congressman Emanuel Cleaver speaks at Cave Spring in Raytown, Missouri.

Mike McDonough and Sugar Creek Mayor (and OCTA board member) Matt Mallinson at the dedication. The bench was purchased by OCTA with a \$3,000 placemaking grant from the Kansas City Area Realtors Association. OCTA's Audrey Elder and Travis Boley joined with Al Maddox, Executive Director of Cave Spring, to dedicate the new bench, which was placed adjacent to a 1909 Daughters of the American Revolution trail marker and in the corridor that will one day soon feature part of the retracement trail.

On Monday evening, June 6, OCTA joined with our partners the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, the National Pony Express Association, and the Trails of Tears Association to host the Partnership for the National Trails System's biennial Historic Trails Workshop in Independence. Meetings were held at the new Stoney Creek Inn, which features a large lake and several miles of hiking trail adjacent to the property, giving workshop attendees a great outdoor outlet when the meetings ended every day.

In addition to a large number of Trails Head Chapter

members (many of whom deserve profuse thanks for months of volunteer effort to put this week together) and OCTA HQ staff, the workshop was attended by OCTA President John Winner, OCTA Vice-President Pat Traffas, OCTA Past President John Krizek, and OCTA Preservation Officer Jere Krakow. Attendees learned how the Kansas City area worked with the National Park Service, multiple levels of government, and other partners to create the 3-Trails Partnership that will continue to push for completing the entire 46-mile long corridor as a hiking/biking trail. Other speakers included sessions on board development, fundraising, utilizing GIS to record historic trail sites, and another retracement trail development underway in the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail corridor in Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

There were also several other trail dedications during the weeklong workshop. First up was the dedication of the 1924 Avarad Fairbanks Oregon Trail bronze medallion at the Historic Truman Courthouse on the Independence Square. Jackson County Executive (and former nine-time Gold Glove winner for the Kansas City Royals) Frank White, Jr. joined with National Park Service Superintendent Aaron Mahr, medallion donor Dr. David Fairbanks, and OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley to dedicate the medallion. With over 100 people in attendance, the event was covered spectacularly by the *Kansas City Star*, the *Independence Examiner*, and several local television stations (links to all



The Pythons Drill Team led the opening march across the new Powder Mill Pedestrian Bridge.

of these stories can be found on OCTA's Facebook page). We were joined by the Van Horn High School choir and Independence Boy Scout Troop #282, who sang the Star-Spangled Banner and presented the colors ahead of the ceremony.

(continued on next page)

Travis Boley *Continued From Previous Page*

Immediately following this dedication, the city of Independence held a ground-breaking for its new trail-themed park designed especially for handicapped children. Independence Mayor Eileen Weir and city parks and recreation director Eric Urfer were joined by National Park Service Superintendent Aaron Mahr



Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office, speaks at the dedication of the new Powder Mill pedestrian bridge.

(whose office funded part of the project) in turning over the first shovels of dirt for the project.

Later, workshop attendees enjoyed an evening under OCTA-blue skies at the Mallinson Vineyard and

Hall in Sugar Creek, Missouri. There they heard from famed Jackson County residents of the 19th century such as George and Mary Easton Sibley, William Becknell, John Bidwell, William McCoy, Alexander Majors, Matilda Young, the Rev. Bernard Donnelly, and Frank James, many of whom were portrayed by Emmy-award winning actors from the PBS documentary “Bad Blood.”

Finally, on Thursday, June 9, we dedicated the nation's very first pedestrian bridge built over an interstate highway. The Powder Mill Bridge is now open for use at Bannister Road and I-435 in south Kansas City. On hand for the dedication were members of the Kansas City City Council, the Missouri Department of Transportation, National Park Service Superintendent Aaron Mahr, and even a local marching band, which led the way across the bridge for the first 100 or so people who joined us for the dedication.

These are the first steps of many that remain to be taken in the coming years to completely build out the corridor in a usable fashion. On Tuesday, July 19, members of OCTA and other trail associations will join with the National Park Service and the Mid-America Regional Council to discuss the initial planning phases for the communities of Sugar Creek, Independence, Raytown, and Kansas City on the Missouri side and Leawood, Overland Park, Olathe, Gardner, and Edgerton on the Kansas side. Stay tuned to future developments via OCTA's Facebook page, E-News, and this publication.

Handcarts

(continued from page 1)

was disappointed in the decision.

“Though a few tweaks of trail resource monitoring were made, with perhaps OCTA in mind, the increase in trekkers of another thousand users is the path to increases every time the permit is renewed,” he said. “Where does the trekker number get ‘frozen?’ OCTA made many monitoring recommendations that were ignored.”

Krakow noted that the Lander BLM has made the central focus of the permit renewal the “recreation experience” and not included in the permit is any orientation of trek leaders to tell the entire story of the other three trails on the same route as the trekkers use. That type of orientation would significantly improve the “recreation experience,” which is the central focus of the Lander BLM permit renewal, he added.

The BLM's Environmental Assessment of the proposal had identified three alternatives:

Alternative A, dubbed the “no action” alternative, would have allowed the permit to be reissued, subject to standard rules, i.e. groups would be limited to 25 people and two vehicles. Larger groups would require a special permit for each single event.

Alternative B would have changed the total number of hand cart reenactors from the current 6,000 per summer to up to 8,000, with a five-year average not to exceed 7,000 during a July 1 to September 15 season on a Monday to Friday schedule. The maximum number of trekkers per party would increase to 350, with up to four groups allowed per day.

Alternative C would have allowed for incremental increases in the number of trekkers to increase incrementally, with a shorter season beginning July 15 and Tuesday through Thursday treks only. After five years, the annual average would not exceed 7,000 trekkers.

The BLM's final decision adhered mostly to Alternative B, although it also incorporated some elements of Alternative C.

Among the monitoring steps the BLM determination calls for are: ride-along opportunities for interested parties to support or learn about monitoring efforts; interdisciplinary trail impact monitoring; monitoring and date of experiences and benefits will be collected from onsite users; and before and after photo monitoring on the trail will be implemented.

In addition, the BLM will continue to conduct training for trek volunteers to encourage protection of trail resources and will post a group use schedule on its website prior to the start of the trekking season. It also calls for at least two volunteers for each trek group and one volunteer for every 50 individuals for groups larger than 200.

Correction

To Convention Booklet

The phone number for Registration Inquiries on page four of the Convention Registration Booklet contains a typographical error. The correct number for Registration Chairs Jim and Kathy Green should be (913) 837-4783. Jim can also be reached via cell at (208) 401-6025 and Kathy by cell at (913) 980-8258.

Business Sponsorships

For just \$50 a year, you can become an OCTA business sponsor, a great way to connect your business to tourists following the trails.

Business sponsors receive a listing on the OCTA website, a window decal, a framed wall certificate and an OCTA trail map. To learn more, contact OCTA headquarters at (816) 252-2276.

Current business sponsors include:

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Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau, 2930 Old Oregon Trail Rd, Gering, NE

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IDAHO



Idaho OCTA members on their Spring Byway Tour on the Oregon Trail, where members celebrated Bill Wilson's 82nd birthday.

PRESERVATION

Every other year the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) conducts a workshop for National Historic Trail advocacy groups.

This year it was Independence, MO that hosted the conference. Local chapters of OCTA and the Santa Fe Trail Association, along with the National Pony Express Association, the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association and the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation planned and carried out the total program with considerable assistance from the PNTS.

Approximately 75 representatives of national historic trail associations from across the nation attended. The single most significant focus of the workshop was the 40+ mile corridor of three national historic trails that make up a greenway corridor across Jackson County Missouri and Johnson County Kansas (see details in the Association Manager report herein).

Several attendees noted the heavy concentration of historic trail development by Kansas City area volunteers in close collaboration with the National Park Service.

A delightful presentation on Board Recruitment by consultant Carol Weisman of Board Builders highlighted the conference on Wednesday.

Key elements of each workshop are the conversations related to protection and education for and about historic trails with and among representatives of trail associations around the nation.

— Jere Krakow, OCTA National Preservation Officer and PNTS Representative



OCTA Board member Matt Mallinson, right, hosted workshop attendees for an evening reception at the Mallinson Vineyard and Hall in Sugar Creek, Missouri.



OCTA's Pat Traffas, Jean Coupal-Smith and Dick Nelson with a group of visitors at Wayne City Landing in Sugar Creek.

UTAH CROSSROADS

Experiencing early trails that overlap is not unusual in our world. However, our Crossroads Chapter spring tour emphasized the trail corridors immensely.

There is a location in northern Utah which includes the routes of early Native American tribes, routes of early explorers, and

includes the trails of the first white man in wagons (i.e. in 1841 Bidwell-Bartleson), as well as the grade for the first transcontinental railroad in 1869.

Now there are modern roads which travel through these sites where one can view the rocket casings (manufactured and tested by ATK) which begin their journey to Florida and on into space, creating new trails.

Locations we visited included:

- Crossroads members, along with more guests than usual, began the day in Tremonton at Eli Anderson's Wagon Museum. If lined up, this vast array of historical wagons would stretch a mile.
- Conner Springs – (named after Patrick Conner of the Bear River Massacre fame) served as a common camp spot for westward travelers. We also spent time here, looking for Fremont Indian rock art.
- ATK's famous propulsion rocket display – much of the equipment for space exploration began here.
- Golden Spike Monument Visitor's Center – where east and west rails met. (Some were enlightened by a ranger who was an expert on the various sizes and types of rails used over the years.) As we approached the Promontory Mountains from the east we noted the steepest rail grade of the entire route from the Missouri to Sacramento.
- Spiral Jetty in the Great Salt Lake, a man-made marvel. A Google Search of "Utah Spiral Jetty" will inform those who are interested.

We enjoyed the variety of interesting sites and a day together!

-- Terry Welch



Utah Crossroads members at the Eli Anderson Wagon Museum and Point Lookout Historic Site.

Crossroads has had a good start for 2016, thanks to the leadership of Terry Welch and the board. We have a new recording secretary with the retirement of Craig Fuller. Her name is Laura Anderson. Welcome aboard.

We had our spring membership meeting on March 31 at the Salt Lake County Chambers preceded by a board meeting. Our speaker was Ron Barney, retired from the LDS Church Historian and Archives office. He spoke on new discoveries of emigrant trail diaries and recent trail discoveries. He was well received.

We have had a work detail also. On April 29th we set three more T-posts in strategic Salt Lake Valley locations. The first one (a drum roll please) was at the City Hall grounds (permission for this marker placement did not come easy). This was a historic emigrant stopover for those going west or south. It was called "Emigrant Square." The whole city block is currently called "Washington Square." It contains gardens, fountains and additional historical markers. Crossroads member Linda Turner was instrumental in making this event happen.

We also set two other markers on this day. One was at the Central Overland Trail (Tooele Branch) at the Jordan River crossing just west of downtown Salt Lake. The other one was at "Black Rock" at the south end of the Great Salt Lake. The existence of a trail at this location is without debate, but there are no traces. All trail indications have been destroyed by railroad, I-80 and mining activities during the last century. We had a fine work crew show up for this day.

-- Oscar Olson

SOUTHERN TRAILS

The Southern Trails Chapter of the Oregon California Trail Association held its annual symposium the first week of April, including a BBQ and lecture John P. Lagellier on "Buffalo Soldiers on the Trail." Would you believe that some of the Buffalo Soldiers rode bicycles not horses!

There were several outstanding presentations. Kathy Klump, Wilcox's historian, shared the area's history from 1880 to Arizona's statehood in 1912. She was also our Walking Tour Guide.

Other informative lectures focused on Cooke's Trail, Beaver Trapping, Presidios and Military Forts, homesteaders and the Butterfield-Overland Stage in Arizona. Tracy Vault, a member of the Trail Turtles introduced the audience to his work with drones to locate inaccessible sites, such as Ewell's Station. Out on the tour, he demonstrated the art of "droning."

The highlight of our Chapter Business meeting was the unanimous vote to publish the findings of the Trail Turtles. Their many hours of searching for artifacts and sites along the Butterfield-Overland Trail have produced invaluable information. Tracy must teach us how to use a drone! -- Cecilia Bell



Doug Hocking, left, with tour leader Gerald Ahnet on a Southern Trails tour during the chapter's annual symposium.

Track Your Volunteer Hours & Expenses

Volunteer hours and expenses accumulated by OCTA members are important assets for the organization in securing federal funding for preservation of the trails.

You can help OCTA by keeping track of your hours and expenses, including travel time and costs. A form is available on the OCTA website at www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms.

Volunteer hours for the year should be reported to OCTA Headquarters Manager Kathy Conway kconway@indepmo.org by January 15.

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CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

The California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada celebrated its annual "Trail Days" on June 4-5 and activities included dedication ceremonies for the new library that has been a work in progress for several years.

For several years the Trail Center, operated by the BLM, has been accumulating publications with the intent to have a library available to visitors that wish to learn more about the western emigrant experience.

The CA-NV Chapter of OCTA, the Southern Nevada Conservancy and the California Trail Center Foundation have been instrumental in the development of the library.

OCTA President John Winner stated, "We are very fortunate to have as part of the California Trail, two excellent library collections, the *Western Overland Trail Collection* at the California State Library in Sacramento, California and now the *Western Emigrant Trail Collection* at the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada."



Left to Right: Blaine Benedict, Retired Executive Director, Southern Nevada Conservancy; Helen Hankins, President, California Trail Center Foundation; John Winner, OCTA President; Marc Jackson, California Trail Interpretive Center Manager; and Craig Boone, CTC Librarian.

CA-NV Chapter Spring Symposium, Susanville, California



CA-NV Chapter President Mark Wilson presents a leadership award to former Chapter President and current OCTA National President John Winner.



Ken Johnston speaking at the Peter Lassen burial site.



Richard and Orsela Silva with the Lifetime Achievement Award presented at the Chapter's annual awards banquet.

Photos courtesy of Ken Johnson

GATEWAY

On April 23, Gateway members gathered on the banks of the Missouri River to dedicate the replacement signage on the monument at River Front Park.

The three-sided, concrete monument recognizes the Pony Express, Oregon-California Trails, and Fur Trader Joseph Robidoux, the founder of St. Joseph. Several groups cooperated in the project. Funding was provided by the Gateway Chapter and a grant from the Missouri Questers. Labor was provided by the St. Joseph Parks and Recreation Department and Boy Scout Troop 216.

The Gateway Chapter welcomed Travis Boley as speaker for its March meeting, which was co-sponsored by the Pony Express Museum. Travis told the group of 80 attendees about recent successes with trail recognition in the Kansas City area and spoke of the potential success in St. Joseph. The Oregon, California, Pony Express, and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails all pass through the area.

On Labor Day weekend the Chapter is sponsoring a bus to Alcove Spring for a guided tour and the performance of the Topeka Symphony at the site. Any OCTA member wishing to join in should contact Bill Leppert, memphis@stjoelive.com for more information.

— Jackie Lewin

Below: Gateway members gathered for a group photo after the sign dedication.



Westward Ho Chapter #173 of Questers applied for the grant from Missouri State Questers to help fund the new signs. Members attending the dedication were: (left to right) Ruth Thornton, Carole McClellan, Delores Kline and Charlene Bachman.

Boy Scout Troop #216 helped prepare the site by painting the monument. Left to right are Marcos Alvarez, Brent Hill, Zach Catron, Mark Catron, and Jordon Hill.



NORTHWEST

Lethene Parks has taken the lead in organizing the 2017 OCTA National Board Meeting and Symposium, which the Northwest Chapter will host in Vancouver, March 17–19, 2017. The goal of the event will be to highlight the historical significance of Fort Vancouver and feature the many layers of history in and around the Fort Vancouver location. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, which is also holding its national meeting at the same location as the OCTA meeting.

Paul Massee, Ray Egan and Chuck Hornbuckle are busy making plans for our annual picnic that will be held in the lower Puget Sound area of DuPont, Fort Nisqually and Steilacoom. There is a lot of interesting end-of-the-Oregon Trail history in this area.

Our longtime and very active member, Joyce Bolerjack, has donated her extensive Oregon Trail collection of books and trail related memorabilia to our chapter. Lethene Parks has undertaken the responsibility of placing these books/treasures to their best use.

Henry Pittock and Paul Massee are both busy making final arrangements to the activities and outings calendar, including a driving tour on the Barlow Road from Sandy to Brightwood to include Devil's Backbone and Marmot Road, The Lavender Farm Festival, and trail marking in the vicinity of the Lavender Farm.

Dave Welch, Ray Egan and Sam Pambrun spent some time this spring tracking down the Naches-era trail between the Whitman Mission and old Fort Nez Perce in an effort to have the route designated as a National Historic Trail. They have turned up pieces of generally unknown class one swales, most on public lands.

Gail Carbiener has provided the following information on the outing he is leading. The outing on the Oregon Trail has been set for Saturday, July 23. The objective is to mark and repair Carsonite posts on the Trail between Hilgard State Park and the Blue Mountain Interpretative Center. This is a total of 5.9 miles broken into two sections, with both the start and end of each section accessible by car. This part of the Trail was marked about 6 years ago, when Vic Bolan led our group. I expect the Carsonite posts to be in poor shape. This part of the Oregon Trail is all on National Forest except one 240-acre parcel.

Late in 2015, Glenn Harrison alerted chapter members to the OHTAC submission of a grant request—to the Oregon Community Foundation's Oregon Historic Trails Fund—for the Barlow Road multimedia educational project. The grant request with a matching

requirement had been submitted for \$2,350, but it was instead funded for \$4,000, \$1650 more than was expected. Of course the additional grant dollars are good news, but receiving them means that additional matching donations are needed. At the time of the last notification to NWOCTA in 2015, \$1,297 more was still needed to fully match the new, larger-sized grant. Recently Glenn provided an update: donations have reduced the matching shortfall to \$717, a reduction by \$580 of the total needed. An educational project like the Barlow Road multimedia one is a valuable long-term resource for providing members of the public more information about the famous route from The Dalles to Oregon City, whether that grant is managed by NWOCTA or by OHTAC.

-- Dennis Larsen

New Date for Baker City Outing

NW OCTA members have been invited to take part in Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council gathering, field trip (including B2H sites), and OHTAC meetings. Originally scheduled for June, the date has been changed because of a scheduling conflict with a major event in Baker City. The new date is September 16-18. Trip leader is Gail Carbiener.



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COLORADO-CHEROKEE



Colorado-Cherokee Chapter members visited the ranch of Jim and Diana Beason, who received the Friends of the Trail Award at the 2012 Convention in Lawrence, Kansas. From left, Herb Beason, Jeannie Mitchell, Jim Beason, Emerson Shipe, Jack & Pat Fletcher.



Colorado-Cherokee Chapter members joined the Friends of the Cherokee Trail-Kansas group for a tour of the Cherokee Trail in Kansas.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 1-5: OCTA National Convention, Ft. Hall, Idaho

September 4: Orchestra on the Oregon Trail, Alcove Spring.

September 10-11: Northwest Chapter Fall meeting, Nisqually/DuPont/Steilacoom, WA area

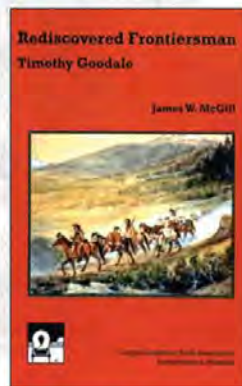
September 16-18: Northwest Chapter outing/trek to Baker City.

Looking For A Great Trail Book?

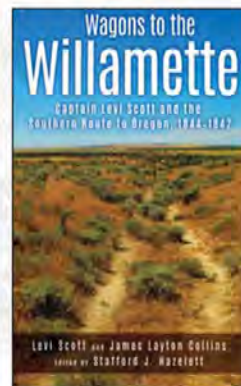
Here's just four from our best resource, the OCTA Bookstore.



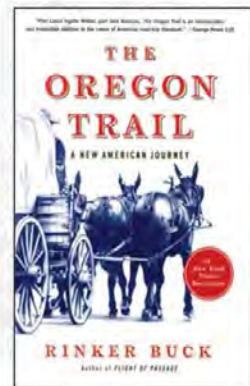
Our Faces Are Westward by Dennis M. Larsen & Karen L. Johnson, \$24.95



Rediscovered Frontiersman Timothy Goodale by James W. McGill, \$24.95



Wagons to the Willamette; Levi Scott and the Southern Route to Oregon, edited by Stafford J. Hazelett, \$29.95



The Oregon Trail, A New American Journey, by Rinker Buck, \$28.00

*Searching for other titles? Visit octa-trails.org
Call OCTA Headquarters 1-816-252-2276 to receive an overall 10% discount
for any title with your phone order. Shipping and handling additional.*

FROM OCTA HEADQUARTERS

Wouldn't this look great hanging on your wall? OCTA's new Emigrant Trail Certificate is a great way to show your pride in your trails ancestry.

The Certificate, suitable for framing, is available for anyone who has an ancestor who came West via the Overland Trails during the 1840s, 1850s or 1860s. It will quickly become a family keepsake.

The Certificate is the idea of a special Public Relations Subcommittee headed by OCTA PR Chair John Krizek with subcommittee members Jean Coupal-Smith and Pat Traffas. "It's a great way to promote pride in such connections to the era we celebrate and to enhance OCTA's role as champions of that legacy," the subcommittee said in a statement.

The certificate can be customized to fit your family's information. OCTA will accept whatever ancestry is claimed, whether through official records or family history.

The cost to OCTA members for a certificate is \$20; for non-members, \$30. Additional certificate (such as for gifts to family members) are available for \$10 each if ordered at the same time.

The certificate application form is posted on the OCTA web site. To order, go to octa-trails.org/people--stories on the OCTA website and click on the link to "Certificate Application" at the bottom of the item description.

Thank You!

Thanks to many donors who support the work of OCTA through gifts to our annual fund drive and memorial gifts to those who have passed. Gifts in the last several months boosted the total raised from the 2016 Annual Appeal to \$23,000. Gifts included those from:

Joseph Boyes	Mary Korpi
Jean Coupal-Smith	Lethene Parks
Nancy Drew	Shannon E Perry
Janet H Elliott	Jesse G Petersen
Craig Fuller	William and Carol Quist
Helen Hankins	Dan Rottenberg
Ingrid Kokinda	Bernadine Scoles
	Harry Smith



Welcome New OCTA Members

Laura K Anderson, Lake Point, UT
Ronald and Karin Balsbaugh, Northfield, IL
Richard Beery, Decatur, IL
David Bowman, Murphys, CA
Jeffrey Denman, New York, NY
Braden Duivenvoorde, Chico, CA
Charles & Angela Durbin, Gentry, AR
Pat Fluetsch, Stockton, CA
David L Gerdes, Monument, CO
Thomas Gunder, Austin, TX
Walter Lane, Tucson, AZ
Steve Ludeman, Welches, OR
John MacDiamid, Central Point, OR
Janet Mcdougall, Meridian, ID
Ken Murray, Portland, OR
Diane Root, Clackamas, OR
Kelsy Sackrey, Hilton Head Island, SC
Jen Marshall Stoik, Whitehouse Station, NJ
Brian von Borstel, Athena, OR
Risto Vuoripalo, Porvoo, Finland

Save the Trail

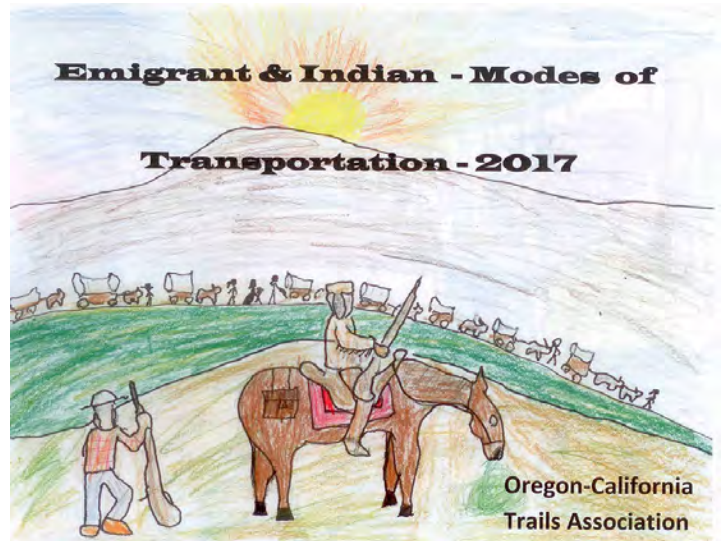
PUBLICATIONS

It is only mid-year 2016 but our publications are working hard to fulfill our obligations to keep our members informed of what OCTA national and our local chapters are doing to serve both our members and also to accomplish the tasks set before us by our Board of Directors. Helping to improve OCTA's financial position, we are actively working to reduce our costs and to increase our income.

We wish to thank all of our members who have signed up for the electronic delivery of *News From the Plains*. We encourage our other members who are still thinking of it to try it. All you have to do is to contact Kathy at headquarters and request it. Three major advantages of electronic delivery are: first, you will receive it faster than the mailed copies which can be lost or damaged during delivery; second, the edition will be in color, while the printed edition is in black and white; and third, it will help reduce the cost of the publication for OCTA. However, if after you've tried it and change your mind, you can request to be put back on our regular paper edition delivery. It is important to note that the old NFP editions are still available on line and can be called up as needed so those who do receive it electronically can easily refer back to earlier editions. As many of our members have noticed, we have increased the number of advertisements in the publication, and thus increased our income.

New and recent changes are also under way in the *Overland Journal*. Our spring convention edition reflected some of the stylistic and subtle changes mentioned earlier this year. We have actually increased the useable space on a page, and by altering the number of columns the reader will visually note the transition into a different section. We have also increased the number of paid advertisements, thus increasing our income while we have not had reduced our material. We hope all of you noticed and approve of our new layout.

The Summer edition of the *OJ* will continue with our new look and will introduce a new feature. As we are all aware, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the National Parks Service. In keeping with this celebration, we are working with the NPS in developing this section on historic sites and parks related to the emigrant trails. The section will provide some basic information about the site, its location (perhaps directions), hours, relation or significance to the trail, and photographs. While some of the first sites identified will be readily familiar to our members and have probably also been visited by most, part of our goal is to bring the sites to the attention of the non-members who also read our magazine and to educate them. With the recent addition of many new feeder and



splinter routes and alternates to the National Historic Trails System there are lots of new sites that deserve to be highlighted, and that is our goal. We hope that you will enjoy and find this new section useful.

The 2017 student calendar *Emigrant and Indian Modes of Transportation* (cover pictured above) will be available at the Fort Hall convention or can be ordered through headquarters. The charge is only \$10. The artwork of 14 students was selected for the new calendar. The number of entries is now approaching 300 and has increased each year. Public, parochial, private and homeschool students have entered representing grades 1st-6th. The students whose artwork was selected will receive a check for \$50 and a copy of the calendar, with another copy going to their school. This year some of the teachers also mentioned how much their students enjoy learning about the topic and then having a chance to draw what they learned.

The students honored and their teachers and schools include: Sophia Harris - Mrs. Gorman, John Paul II, Overland Park, KS; Melanie Mai - Mrs. Van Nostrand, Golden View El. School, San Ramon, CA ; Riley Quallick - Mrs. Watts, Golden View El. School, San Ramon, CA; Evelyn Wu, Liana Lee, Emily Ellicott-Pesic - Mrs. Norris, Golden View El. School, San Ramon, CA; Samuel Brooks - Mrs. Hansen, Upland Terrace Elementary, Salt Lake City, UT; Nicholas Boyce - Mrs. Boyce, Homeschool, Pinedale, WY; Violet Powell, Trevor Sperry - Mrs. Jenkins/Ms. Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; Howie Schroepfer - Mrs. Lowry/ Ms. Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; Maren McBride, Audrey Wilcox, Marie Malugin - Mrs. Harrison/Ms. Black Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT.

-- Bill Hill, Publications Chair

Preserve the Trails by Getting to Know Your Legislators

By Vern Osborne

I wish to begin with why we need to establish good communication with legislators. The primary reason is that a good portion of our budget is funded through the National Park Service which comes through Congress; also, at times we have trail encroachment issues and presently we are asking Congress to add trail segments to our National Trail System. If we inform our legislators on what OCTA is all about, then it is much easier for them to be of support. All that we do to preserve the Trail and the many volunteer hours involved in trail related activities needs to be told.

Thanks to Bill and Jeanne Watson who taught us the value of going to Washington, D.C. and meeting personally with legislators. Through the years, they developed personal relationships with many and because of that fact, they were successful in getting legislation passed. With my background, I didn't need to be sold on the importance of personal contact as Bill and Jeanne did so well. This has been extremely valuable and successful and we need to continue that effort, but it is very expensive and that is why individual chapter members need to pick up the slack. Legislators are quite interested in meeting with a constituent either in D.C. or their home offices. They are very impressed that a constituent would travel to Washington to visit with them about their concerns. They are also impressed with the amazing statistics of the number of our volunteer hours and the dollar value that it amounts to.

Going to Washington, D.C. is very important, but we need to do more. I developed a close relationship with my legislators in Kansas, which is a large trail state, and regularly informed them of the importance of those trails. Since moving to Wyoming, I have reached out to my new Senators and Congresswoman as well. Let me share with you a recent event. OCTA National Preservation Officer Jere Krakow called and informed me that it was necessary to call our congress people in regards to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Because of my previous contacts through the years with Kansas Senator Jerry Moran, who is currently on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I called and talked with a staff member who relayed my call to Senator Moran. He called me back as soon as he could and we had a good conversation and he agreed to check it out. Consequently he helped get it through the Senate. In the same process, Gail Carbiener called for help in defraying a situation in Oregon; our e-mails helped slow down that situation. It indicates that we can make a difference if we enter the conversation. Each chapter probably has a similar story.

So that we don't wait for a crises, I highly encourage someone in each chapter to be the contact person to their

federal and local legislators and begin to build a relationship with the legislator or staff member. This individual would inform them about activities and events and invite them to come along and see what OCTA is trying to accomplish. This is best done when Congress is not in session. By doing this, you will have a better chance of reaching them when Congress is in session and a need arises. During the session, the best time to reach them personally is from Tuesday through Thursday as Monday and Fridays are travel days; however, staff is available five days a week.

When you do have their attention be sure you have your "ducks-in-line" so you don't waste their time. Avoid chitchat and small talk as much as possible. They have limited time for each constituent as they are on a tight schedule at home or in Washington, D.C. Always be respectful and grateful for their time and service. Be sure to thank them for their effort, work, and for listening.

If you are a constituent, be sure to let staff know and give them your address verifying that fact. When making a request or asking a question, be sure to ask for a follow-up reply by e-mail, letter, or phone. If you've made a request for the status on trails legislation that may be pending, it is helped by your interest and bringing it to their attention.

Vern Osborne, a former state legislator in Kansas, is co-chair of OCTA Legislative Liaison Committee. This article was part of a report made to the OCTA Board at its Mid-Year meeting.

Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Memorial and Tribute gifts are wonderful way to recognize the contributions of loved ones to the legacy of the trails.

Leave your own legacy on behalf of those whose lives were marked by dedication to our Western heritage.

Visit

OCTA-trails.org/donate-online

REMEMBRANCES

Charles W. "Chuck" Martin



Former OCTA National Board member Charles W. 'Chuck' Martin Jr. died in Richmond, Indiana, at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Ellen, and three children, Amy, Catherine and Charles, along with eight grandchildren.

Chuck was born in Omaha, Nebraska, the son of Charles W. and Mary C. Martin. Charles Sr. was a long-time

OCTA supporter and Chuck was instrumental in creating OCTA's Charles Martin Endowment Fund through his father's estate and served for many years on OCTA Investment Advisory CVommittee.

Chuck graduated from Central High School in Omaha in 1950 and attended Dartmouth College in Hanover, New

Hampshire, graduating in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in geology. He went on to earn his doctorate in geology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1961.

Chuck taught for 36 years in the Department of Geology at Earlham College in Richmond, retiring in 1996 with the rank of professor. He was a founding member of and guiding force for the Earlham Wilderness Program, taking students regularly to the Uinta Mountains in Utah, and a supporter of and participant in the college's Studies in Cross Cultural Education (SICE) program in Japan.

Chuck and Mary Ellen attended nearly every OCTA convention beginning in 1983 and served on the Board of Directors from 1987 to 1992.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Oregon-California Trails Association or the Douglas County Historical Society of Omaha.

Barbara Magerl



One of the founders of OCTA's Trails Head Chapter, Barbara Magerl, passed away in Overland Park, Kansas, at the age of 84.

At the request of OCTA Founder Greg Franzwa, she chaired the planning committee for the organization's first national convention in Independence in 1983. She continued to serve OCTA for many years, both on the national and

local level, serving on the National Board of Directors as Vice President in 1985-86 and a Director in 1986-87.

According to long-time friends Jim and Judy Budde, "Barbara...played a prominent role in helping to establish and stabilize OCTA during its formative stage of development. ... Barbara's efforts on behalf of OCTA were built upon a wealth of experience from her prior work as a writer and historian. She had a deep interest for virtually any subject that was connected to local and regional history. Barbara's widespread interest enabled her to actively participate and to assume leadership positions in numerous historical organizations, which included The Heritage League. National History Day, Shawnee Indian Mission. Johnson County Museum, and the Kansas State Historical Society."

The Buddes continued, "It would be difficult to try to determine Barbara's first love whether it would be the study of history or her skills as a writer, but what is known is that she performed both these functions with

an ardor that was unmatched. Barbara was an active member of the National Association of Pen Women and evidence of her work is widely distributed throughout the Kansas City Area. Barbara never knew a stranger and no one remained a stranger when walking into a room for the first time when Barbara was present. She will be missed."

Barbara loved to bring history alive through her work with the Oregon-California Trails Association, Historic Kansas City, the Shawnee Indian Mission, the Kansas State Historical Society, the Johnson County Museum, Missouri Town 1855 and others.

Barbara wrote multiple articles on regional history for the Kansas City Public Library and led tours of Kansas City and the region for various groups. She loved writing and was an active member of the National Association of American Pen Women. Barbara was preceded in death by husband of 60 years, Howard Magerl, and is survived by her daughter Jackie and sons Chuck and Chris, three granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

James M. Rhine

Long-time OCTA member Jim Rhine passed away in Manhattan, Kansas, at the age of 90. He was a Manhattan native and was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Jan. He is survived by his daughter Jane and son Pat, along with five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Riley County Historical Society, Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research at KSU, or to the Oregon-California Trails Association.

FUNDRAISING

"In matters of fashion, sway with the times, but in matters of principles we must stand fast. "

If you are lucky enough to have Pioneer DNA, then you come from hearty stock. The weak ones never started the journey, and many of the strong ones didn't make it either due to a variety of circumstances. Are you lucky enough to be able to trace your line back to the Pioneers? Do you feel like you have a better feeling for life in the 1850's because of the work you've done studying history?

We saw transportation and communication change the world between 1850 and 1870 and it opened up opportunities as well as land. In the beginning, it was all about the land. The history of the Homestead Act and the opportunity it brought continues to be fascinating. My own great grandfather got 160 acres in 1896 near Lewiston, Idaho, and the homestead certificate is signed by Grover Cleveland.

America was founded on principles of freedom. We continue to build on those principles. We must protect our rights while we continue to stand for our principles. There is more to America than just making money. OCTA stands for many things, and it is a place where we come together for the common good. Together, we are stronger and our voice is louder.

The best planned giving thing you can do this summer is to encourage someone to take time to travel and see America. Leave the comfort of your home and get out there to see America. With the comfort of your vehicle, an abundance of food and water, maps and GPS to ease your burdens, you can still participate in this great experiment of democracy. 50 States, United for economic reasons with a common goal of peace and prosperity for all.

-- Melissa Shaw, CFP, OCTA Fundraising Chair

Leave a Legacy

for the Trails

Find out how by visiting

www.octa-trails.org/preserve/trails-legacy-society



NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

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

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

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

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



Don't Miss Out!

OCTA's 34th Annual Convention

August 1-5

Fort Hall, Idaho

Registration information available at

OCTA-trails.org

Spend your Labor Day Weekend in Marshall County!

**SUNDAY
SEPT. 4,
2016**

ORCHESTRA
ON THE
OREGON TRAIL
Where Music Meets the Meadow

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**The Topeka
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