

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Fall 2017

Volume XXXII, No. 4

Jere Krakow Receives Distinguished Service Award



Jere & Jan Krakow

- Photo by Roger Blair

Long-time OCTA leader Jere Krakow of Santa Fe, N.M., was named 2017 winner of the Greg Franzwa Distinguished Service Award, the organization's highest honor. Krakow, who retired this year after serving on the Board and as

OCTA's National Preservation Officer, received the award at the 35th annual OCTA Convention in Council Bluff, Iowa.

Jere grew up in Nebraska and spent the first half of his career as a professor of history at Missouri State University in Springfield. He changed directions in the 1980s when he went to work as a historian for the National Park Service.

His NPS projects included histories of parks, parkways, the Wilderness Road and mapping the Santa Fe and Trail of Tears National Historic Trails. In 1995 he was named Superintendent of National Trails for the Intermountain Region and administered nine national historic trails and the Route 66 preservation program.

He retired from the Park Service in 2007 and became a full-time volunteer with OCTA, the Camino Real Trail Association, and the Partnership for the National Trails System. He was elected to the OCTA National Board of Directors in 2011 and became National Trails Preservation Officer in 2014.

As NTPO, Jere has monitored dozens of trail threatening projects in nine states. His long-time belief, recorded on film and in his perseverant attitude and activity is "We try to preserve everything, knowing that there is the possibility that we're going to lose."

OCTA Board Approves \$317,480 Operating Budget

The Board of Directors of the Oregon-California Trails Association approved a \$317,480 operating budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 at its annual meeting held during the Council Bluffs Convention.

With revenues estimated at \$309,500, the budget projects an operating loss of \$7,980, about half what was projected for the previous fiscal year. OCTA's fiscal year begins on October 1.

Treasurer Marvin Burke said 42 percent of OCTA's budget will come through National Parks Service grants, compared to 45 percent in the last fiscal year. The total grant support from NPS for the next fiscal year will be \$133,000.

Aside from NPS grants, the largest revenue sources in the FY 2018 budget are \$75,000 from membership dues, \$30,000 from the annual convention and \$28,000 from annual fundraising mailings.

Burke reported a net operating loss of \$8,324 for the first six months of the current fiscal year, a period ending March 31, 2017, compared to a loss of \$11,619 for the same period last year.

In other financial matters, the Board received a report from the Investment Advisory Committee (IAC) that the value of OCTA Endowment Funds was \$1,462,394 as of July 7, 2017, an increase of about 6.4 percent since January 1.

The funds include \$413,435 in the Martin Fund (restricted to legal expenses), \$307,218 in the Loomis Fund (restricted to preservation) and \$741,731 in the unrestricted Heritage Fund.

The IAC also reported that the Endowment Funds were officially moved from the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation to Brighton Jones in late May, a change approved by the Board in March.

In addition, the Board approved an Investment Policy Statement drafted by the IAC that will govern how Brighton Jones manages OCTA's Endowment funds.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The 2017 OCTA Convention had something for everyone and it was good to see so many in attendance. We welcomed those who were attending for the first time, renewed acquaintances with longtime friends, and honored many for their achievements. This unique

convention was largely driven by volunteers and by our Association Manager and Headquarters Manager, and we extend our appreciation to all who pitched in. Your efforts made for a most memorable event.

A signature year is being planned for 2018. Did you know that it will be the 175th Anniversary of the Oregon Trail and the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act? These occasions present excellent opportunities to have public events, publicity in area newspapers, and create public awareness of our

beloved trails. Press releases will be created and emailed to assist you. The Mid-Year meeting and Symposium will be held in Gila Bend, AZ in early March and then we will gather in Ogden, UT in August for a much-anticipated convention. We need and invite your participation throughout 2018.

It's time that we provide a much more robust website which will better serve the needs of members and the public alike! There is such a wealth of information to share that we simply must accomplish this right away. Other priorities will be Education Outreach, placing OCTA on a path to financial security, implementing the 2015 Strategic Plan, and strengthening our membership. And we will have some fun along the way!

The Board of Directors and Officers thank you for the privilege of serving our distinguished Association. We are eager to listen, to extend a helping hand, and to act upon the needs as they arise. Best wishes of happiness to each one of you for the upcoming holidays and for a peaceful new year.

Pat Traffas, President

2017-2018 OCTA Officers

Pat Traffas, President
Overland Park KS
traffasp@gmail.com

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

Sandra Wiechert, Secretary
Lawrence, KS
wiechert@ku.edu

Marvin Burke, Treasurer
Northglenn, CO
mdburke@msn.com

**John Winner, Preservation Officer/
Immediate Past President**
Placerville CA
swinner@dataentree.com

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Cecilia Bell, Silver City NM
ceciliajb@aol.com

Ginny Dissette, Brighton CO
vdissette@gmail.com

Duane Iles, Holton KS
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

Matt Mallinson, Sugar Creek MO
ms844@hotmail.com

Chuck Milliken, West Jordan UT
c-m.milliken@att.net

Dick Nelson, Lenexa KS
kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net

Vern Osborne, Cheyenne WY
vcosborne58@gmail.com

Loren Pospisil, Gering NE
loren.pospisil@nebraska.gov

Dick Waugh, Oroville CA
camalobo@comcast.net

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Published quarterly by the
Oregon-California Trails Association
(A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit)
P.O. Box 1019
Independence MO 64051

Phone: (816) 252-2276
Fax: (816) 836-0989
Email: octa@indepmo.org

Bill Martin, Editor
706 Country Club Road, Georgetown TX 78628
(512) 818-1609

**Winter Issue Deadline
November 28, 2017**

**Send Materials to
nfpocta@gmail.com**

OCTA Approves Elko As 2020 Convention Host City

The National Board of Directors at its annual meeting in Council Bluffs approved a proposal to hold the 2020 OCTA National Convention in Elko, Nevada. The 2018 Convention will be Ogden, Utah, and the 2019 Convention will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In other action, the Board:

- Accepted the resignation of Jere Krakow as OCTA's National Preservation Officer and Board liaison to the Partnership for the National Trails Systems. Immediate Past President John Winner will serve as NPO until chapter preservation officers select a permanent replacement. Past President Bill Martin was named PNTS liaison.
- Heard that a new PowerPoint presentation has been prepared for use by the OCTA Speakers Bureau. For more information, contact Sharon or Travis Boley at headquarters. Eventually the presentation will be added to the Learning section of the OCTA website.
- Was told by the National Park Service that it is encouraging each historic trail organization, including OCTA, to plan special events in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Act in 2018.
- Voted to pay off the OCTA credit card balance of approximately \$8,800 with a distribution from the Heritage Endowment Fund. The Board will also hear recommendations at its Mid-Year meeting concerning an \$8,400 balance on its bank line of credit.
- Also heard from the NPS that 28 or the 74 routes under study will be included in a recommendation for addition to the National Historic Trails system following a feasibility study of possible additions.
- Approved a revised job description for the OCTA Association Manager.
- Approved a contract extension for OCTA Western Regional Representative Sharon Brown.

OCTA Directors Elected



Newly elected National Directors are Cecilia Bell, left, of Silver City, NM, and Chuck Milliken of West Jordan, UT. Cecilia will be serving her second three-year term, while Chuck was elected for the first time.



Solar Challenge Expected For Oregon Trail Next Summer

It is a near-certainty that the Oregon Trail will have a high-profile in the 2018 American Solar Challenge, a solar car endurance event for teams of college-built vehicles traveling more than a thousand miles across the country.

Although a specific route has yet to be announced, it is expected that the race will start in Omaha next summer and head westward from there.

The 2016 Solar Challenge followed a 1,975 route from Brecksville, OH to Hot Springs, SD. The event was a partnership with the National Park Service for its 2016 centennial.

Both OCTA and the NPS are expected to be heavily involved in the 2018 race. If, as anticipated, it follows generally the route of the Oregon Trail staging stops and vehicle check-ins will be held at various locations on the route, allowing local OCTA members to get involved.

More information will be forthcoming this fall.

OCTA National Officers Elected



OCTA National officers elected for the next year are, left to right, Treasurer Marvin Burke of Northglenn, CO, Secretary Sandy Wiechert of Lawrence, K.S., President Pat Traffas of Overland Park, KS, and Vice President Duane Iles of Holton, KS.

National Trails System Act Turns 50 in 2018

In 1968, the Congress of the United States passed the National Trails System Act which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 2, 1968.



To date, the National Trails System (NTS) includes 19 National Historic Trails, 11 National Scenic Trails and more than 1,200 National Recreation Trails, which provide outdoor recreation

opportunities, promote resource preservation and invite appreciation of America's history and cultural diversity.

In a speech to Congress in February 1965, President Johnson stated, "The forgotten outdoorsmen of today are those who like to walk, hike, ride horseback, or bicycle. For them we must have trails as well as highways. Our doctors recommend and encourage such activity for fitness and fun. I am requesting, therefore, that the Secretary of the Interior work with his colleagues in the Federal Government and with State and local leaders and recommend to me a cooperative program to encourage a national system of trails, building up the more than hundred thousand miles of trails in our national forests and parks."



Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior, formed a committee to study existing trails and published a report *Trails for America* in December 1966. Legislation would initially

establish three trail designations: National Scenic Trails, National Recreation Trails, and Connecting and Side Trails. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter would sign a law designating National Historic Trails as the fourth category.

Today, there are National Scenic Trails, National Historic Trails and National Recreation Trails for all to encounter and enjoy. Only Congress may designate what is a National Scenic or Historic Trail, and either the

Secretary of the Interior or Agriculture may designate a National Recreation Trail. Trails are administered by the National Park Service, the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, which vary depending on the type of trail.

National Historic Trails must follow routes of documented significance as closely as possible. The first Trail to receive National Historic Trail status was the Oregon Trail in 1978. Another designation would follow when Nebraska's Representative Douglas Bereuter introduced H.R. 479 on January 11, 1991 to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the California National Trail. H.R.479 was signed by the President of the United States on August 3, 1992.

From the dawn of the organization of the Oregon-California Trail Association, chapters and individuals embraced the concept of promoting public awareness and involvement.

The efforts of OCTA have often been lauded by the National Park Service, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Because of OCTA's diligent research and documentation of these trails, federal agencies



gained knowledge and understanding of these trail systems and have become invaluable partners. Our effectiveness as an organization is strengthened through an enlightened and energized public and through our partnerships on local, state, and federal levels.

Earlier generations have given us an incredible gift. Let us commit to continue the fine work as we pay it forward to future generations. Join in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act in 2018!

Submitted by Pat Traffas, National President, Oregon-California Trails Association. Pat also serves as Co-Chair of the Research Committee and on the Mapping and Marking Committee of the Santa Fe Trail Association, Board Member of the Lewis and Clark Trail, and is Vice President of the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association.

Faster Than the Pony Express!!!

(Or the USPS) Receive News From The Plains in a convenient email format, delivered directly to your computer mail box. To sign up, just send an email to octa@indepmo.org.

OCTA Endorses Fundraising Goal to Build Education Outreach



Over 1,100 students in the Independence, MO, School District study local trail history every year, thanks to the journaling program supported by OCTA's Education Outreach Committee. Dozens of school districts and hundreds of teachers around the country have expressed interest..

OCTA has endorsed an effort to raise at least \$10,000 to support efforts of the Education Outreach Committee to extend its education curriculum into more school districts across the country.

"Our initial goal is for 100 people to donate \$100," said Matt Mallinson and Audrey Elder, co-chairs of Education Outreach. "This seed money will allow us to apply for matching grants, non-matching grants and other educational funds such as sponsorships and corporate educator supporters. It will help us reach out to and follow up with more educators and provide important teaching materials."

To support the effort, you can send your check to OCTA, with "Education Outreach" designated in the memo line. You can also make a gift online at octa-trails.org/search/donate-online by indicating "Education Outreach" in the space provided for designation.

At its annual meeting, the OCTA Board of Directors voted to establish a specific budget line item for donations to the Education Outreach program.

The Committee has spent three years creating and implementing the educational curriculum that is being used nationwide in many school districts, public and private, targeted to eighth grade students.

During the month of March, each student is given a copy of an emigrant journal from the more than 700 that have been archived on the octa-journals.org website. The student becomes that person for the entire month, researching the routes, foods, unknown words, life and death issues, diseases, geography, etc.

The curriculum was developed by the Independence, MO, School District and has been made available to any school district that wants to use it.

The curriculum is a turnkey program that is very adaptable for use anywhere in the United States. An instructor can simply choose from the archived diaries

appropriate for their area and school grade. This can be adapted from a one-day teaching to a five-week or longer program.

Teachers can utilize clips from OCTA's "In Pursuit of a Dream" movie, as well as other OCTA tools from our website to enhance the program. This is adaptable for all grades as well as collegiate levels of education.

The Education Outreach Committee has attended two National Social Studies conferences (in New Orleans and Washington DC) and one state convention. The program has been presented and shared with thousands of educators throughout the United States.

The interest and involvement on all levels of education has been overwhelming. We require teachers to become members of OCTA at the Educator level (\$45/year) before they may log into our sites.

"This pilot program has proven very successful in furthering education of our trails throughout our country," Mallinson and Elder said. "It has grown to the point that OCTA needs to hire a part-time employee to keep up with the growth. We also need at least two volunteers from each Chapter to help with contacts and follow up. We also want to develop an Educator E-Newsletter."

The next major goal of Education Outreach is incorporation of Native American History into the curriculum. With the help of the National Parks Service, progress is already being made.

Please consider making a \$100 contribution to support Education Outreach by mailing a check to OCTA, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051 or making a gift online.

- Matt Millinson & Audrey Elder

2017 OCTA AWARDS

Distinguished Volunteer



Jean Coupal-Smith of Shawnee Mission, KS, received the **Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award** at the 2015 OCTA Convention in Council Bluffs. Initially involved in visiting and researching DAR Santa Fe Trail Markers, she

Jean Coupal-Smith, right, with OCTA President Pat Traffas.

— Photo by Roger Blair

began volunteering with the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, then became a member of OCTA and began volunteering at headquarters.

She accepted being vice president of Trails Head Chapter and very soon became the chapter's president. She also has served as Treasurer for the KCAHTA.

Her leadership skills, people skills, likable personality and overall intelligence has enabled her to not only be involved in most of the trail matters in the Kansas City area, but is often involved as a leader.

She has attended all the OCTA conventions the last few years and has been a very active participant with Headquarters, registration and leading our auction processes. She is a familiar face at OCTA convention registration tables.

President's Award



OCTA President Pat Traffas with City of Independence Tourism Manager Kristi Eckfeld.

—Photo by Roger Blair

OCTA presented a special President's Award to the City of Independence, MO., for its long-time commitment to OCTA and preservation issues. The citation reads: "From OCTA's very first convention in Independence at

Friend of the Trail



Friend of the Trail Award recipients Ray Feldkamp, left, and Frank Bruna.

— Photos by Tom Parker

Ray Feldkamp of Manhattan, KS, and Frank Bruna of Bremen, KS, has been named recipients of OCTA's National Friend of the Trail Awards for helping preserve a historic landmark on the Oregon and California Trails.

Property owned by Feldkamp is the location of the end of the Independence Branch and the St. Joe Branch in Washington County, Kansas. It was at that point that they joined to form the main branch of the Oregon-California Trail.

It is also the route of the Pony Express, the Overland Stage and the Military Road from Ft. Leavenworth to Ft. Kearny.

Since purchasing the land, Feldkamp has always allowed interested individuals to visit the site.

Bruna is a tenant farmer on the property and has always been very careful when farming near the site. He never plows or plants too close to where the monument is located. He frequently mows the area to keep the site accessible.

the Roger Sermon Center, with a reception at the Bingham-Waggoner House, and Mayor Barbara Potts' participation in a monument dedication, to its development of the city's National Frontier Trails Center and the city's long-time commitment to host OCTA headquarters, the City of Independence has been an important, valuable partner in achieving OCTA's mission. For over 30 years, OCTA has greatly benefitted from this partnership. We wish to express our appreciation by presenting the City of Independence with a President's Special Award."

MORE OCTA AWARDS



From left, Norine Kimmy, Jean Coupal-Smith & Pat Traffas, all DAR members, with OCTA Awards Chair Dick Nelson.

—Photo by Roger Blair

Certificates of Achievement

OCTA presented National Certificates of Achievement to retiring Board member **Jere Krakow** and Convention Chair **Travis Boley**.

Jere served on OCTA's Board of Directors for six years, 2011-2017 and also served as OCTA's National Trail Preservation Officer. "OCTA's Board and membership owe a great debt of gratitude for his faithful service and dedication to the Association," the Certificate said.

Travis' Certificate read, "This convention is rather unique in that there is no host chapter. This meant that OCTA would act as the host. Travis has worked tirelessly for the last two years working with local historical groups, organizations and business partners to put together this years event. He has put forth a tremendous effort to bring all of the entities together to make this a truly memorable convention."

Distinguished Service Award

The Sacajawea Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution received an OCTA Distinguished Service Award for its efforts to restore and preserve 11 Oregon Trail markers between Olympia, WA, and the Columbia River initially placed in 1916.

A century of weathering and vandalism had taken its toll on the bronze plaques, making them unreadable, especially to passing motorists. The Sacajawea chapter determined that the markers should be restored to their original condition in honor of our heritage.

Aided by a professional preservationist who helped train DAR members in the art of restoration, the first two markers were restored in July, 2016, and the remainder over the next three months.

More than 200 local, county and state officials attended a re-dedication ceremony in September, 2016. One marker was located near what was called Cowlitz Landing where American settlers first arrived in 1845 on their final overland leg to Puget Sound. The City of Toledo stepped forward to support the project by landscaping the area around the marker.

Due to vandalism, five of markers were missing the emblems which had been placed on the original plaques. The DAR ordered new emblems and the last of them was placed in June, 2017.

The Sacajawea Chapter published a book featuring the Oregon Trail Marker Centennial Restoration project and received first place awards in the Washington State Historical Preservation competition and the National DAR Society competition.

Reporting Volunteer Hours Just Got Easier!

It is easier than ever to keep track of your OCTA volunteer hours, with a form available on the Internet. Just visit octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer to see how.

In the past, we have asked you to report your hours annually, which sometimes created a challenge in re-creating a year's worth of volunteer activities. Now you can report them immediately after they occur.

For example, if you attended the OCTA Convention in Council Bluffs, you should go to the webpage now and enter your name, email, mileage, hours you spent at the convention (as well as your travel time getting to and

from the convention), and what you spent on registration, hotel, food, travel, etc.

All OCTA volunteer hours and expenses are reported to the National Park Service and the Partnership for the National Trails System. The numbers are essential for keeping funding in place for the National Trails System.

This new webpage will literally allow you to input your data in about 30 seconds. Visit octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer and try it now!

PRESERVATION

Following is excerpted from a review of projects that impact historic trails prepared by the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR), which oversees western emigrant historic trails. If you have questions, you can contact OCTA National Preservation Officer John Winner (swinner@dataentree.com) or NPS archaeologist Lee Kreutzer (lee_kreutzer@nps.gov). For more information about the NTIR, visit nps.gov/ntir/.

NEW

North Savery Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, Wyoming. The Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District proposes to authorize 6,670 acres of vegetation treatments, including salvage logging, pre-commercial thinning, and hazard tree clearing, as well as transportation system changes, in an area northwest of Encampment, Wyoming. This project may be in the vicinity of the South Alternate of the Cherokee Trail in Wyoming. However, because this feasibility study route is not a designated national historic trail, NPS will not comment. Other interested parties may elect to be involved.

Landscape Vegetation Analysis Project Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (NOI). Medicine Bow National Forest, Wyoming. The USDA Forest Service proposes to treat 150,000 to 350,000 acres of beetle-infested areas in the Medicine Bow National Forest. Treatments will include tree cutting, mechanical and hand treatment methods, prescribed burning, and other actions. The Cherokee Trail may cross the treatment area. Because this feasibility study route is not a designated national historic trail, NPS will not be commenting. Other interested parties may elect to be involved.

Gateway West Transmission Line Programmatic Agreement (PA). Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming. In 2013, consulting parties signed a PA with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to guide Section 106 compliance for the impacts of the Gateway West Transmission Line across Wyoming. The BLM proposes to amend the PA to allow Rocky Mountain Power to submit three separate Section 106 reports instead of one report.

Gateway West Transmission Line, "Reconsider the Jan. 19, 20017, Record of Decision Approving Segments 8 and 9 for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project." BLM's original January 19 routing decision was successfully appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 requires BLM to issue specific right of way grants related to these two segments of the proposed powerline. BLM has initiated scoping for an Environmental Assessment to reconsider the Jan. 19 decision, but the congressionally identified routes and the No Action alternative will be the only alternatives considered. Comment deadline was September 27.

Skull Valley Solar Farm, Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA).

SITLA is considering a proposal to permit construction of a solar array on state school trust lands (which are used to generate funds for public schools) in Skull Valley, west of

Salt Lake City. The project could impact the Lincoln Highway and original traces of the Hastings Cutoff in the area of Big Springs at Timpie Point. State-authorized projects are not subject to the National Historic Preservation Act or the National Environmental Policy Act; however, SITLA has consulted with the Crossroads Chapter of OCTA and also reached out to the NPS to hear concerns about potential impacts and ideas for avoidance and mitigation.

UPDATES

Normally Press Lance Natural Gas Development Project Draft EIS. Pinedale and Rock Springs field offices, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming. Jonah Energy LLC is proposing up to 3,500 directionally drilled wells to be developed adjacent to the Jonah Field, approximately 35 miles south of Pinedale, Wyo. A draft environmental impact statement is available for public review and NPS has submitted comments.

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Final EIS and State Review, Oregon and Idaho. Oregon Bureau of Land Management, Vale District Office. BLM's record of decision had yet to be released as of late August. Meanwhile, Idaho Power has submitted to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) an amended preliminary application, which largely follows the BLM's agency preferred route but proposes some routing variations on nonfederal lands. Application materials currently are in review by ODOE, state, county, and municipal entities, and federal agencies whose land jurisdictions may be affected by the project. A public review period will follow later, possibly in Spring 2018. [See separate story on page 9.]

Lander Road Damage Mediation (Memorandum of Agreement development). Bridger-Teton National Forest, Wyoming. Forest personnel conducting watershed restoration activities inadvertently damaged the Lander Trail section of the California NHT south of Afton, Wyo. The Forest's leadership team initiated consultation with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, OCTA, the Alliance for Historic Wyoming, the National Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, affected Indian tribes, and others. A meeting of interested parties was held in late May and a site visit was held in June. An interdisciplinary Forest Service team continues to work with interested parties on this matter.

Deschutes National Forest Ringo Project (Draft EIS in progress). Deschutes National Forest, Crescent Ranger District, Oregon. The US Forest Service will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to reduce tree density and surface fuels on 30,000 acres on the Upper Little Deschutes and other watersheds. The Free Emigrant Road feasibility study route crosses the area.

Continental Peak Grazing Fences and Enclosures (Memorandum of Agreement development). Wyoming Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office. This project, proposed in 2008, entails installing 26 miles of three-strand electric fence in the Continental Peak Grazing allotment. The project will cross the Oregon, California,

(continued on page 9)

Preservation, *continued*

Mormon Pioneer and Pony Express NHTs within the South Pass National Historic Landmark. BLM has been consulting with NPS, OCTA, and other interested parties and is developing a memorandum of agreement to address adverse effects. The consulting parties have agreed on several mitigation actions.

Rock Springs Resource Management Plan Revision, Wyoming. (Draft EIS in development). Wyoming Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office. Resource management plans for federal lands specify where development and use activities may occur and areas or zones (such as national historic trail corridors) where certain restrictions or special considerations will apply. The BLM released a preliminary draft EIS for review by cooperating agencies. NTIR has submitted comments on the preliminary draft EIS.

Gold Bar Mine Project Draft EIS. Nevada Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office. The Gold Bar gold mine project, located in Eureka County, Nevada, has the potential to affect the associated setting and view shed of the Pony Express National Historic Trail. NTIR has been working closely with the BLM to ensure that trail concerns are adequately identified and analyzed within the NEPA document. The BLM has submitted the "Plan to Treat Adverse Effects to Historic Properties" and NPS is reviewing the document.

Long Canyon Mine Final EIS and Proposed Mitigation. Nevada Bureau of Land Management, Wells Field Office. The Long Canyon Mine is an open pit gold mine located south of Interstate 80, just south of Oasis, Nevada (approximately half way between Elko and Wendover). The final EIS found there will be an adverse effect to the Hastings Cutoff of the California National Historic Trail. Mitigation discussions with the project proponent, BLM, NPS, OCTA, Trails West, and other interested parties are ongoing. Some options being explored include mobile apps, virtual tours, conservation easements, and signage.



Shop Amazon, Save The Trails!

OCTA is now part of the Amazon Smile program and each purchase made through Amazon will result in a donation to OCTA's trails preservation efforts. Just bookmark

smile.amazon.com. The first time you visit you will be asked to designate a charity.

Follow the instructions and find OCTA. Then, each time you shop on Amazon, enter the storefront through Smile and your purchases will result in a donation.

There is no additional cost. Amazon will track OCTA spending and cut a check for us on a quarterly basis. It's an easy way to shop and benefit trails preservation at the same time.

B2H Transmission Update

The Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line continues to dog OCTA and our ability to protect the Oregon Trail. Slow but positive action is taking place.

First, the BLM has yet (as of this writing) to release its Record of Decision based upon the Final Environmental Impact Statements. The Record of Decision will determine the route on Public lands.

Idaho Power has submitted its Amended Preliminary Site Application to the Oregon Energy Facilities Siting Council (EFSC). This group will determine the route on private lands. Idaho Power has proposed a route not recommended by the BLM in the Final EIS. There is significant public opposition to the Idaho Power routes.

The Oregon Public Utilities Commission (OPUC) has received Idaho Power's 2017 Integrated Resource Plan, a 20-year projection that continues to include the B2H.

All this means that OCTA continues to work with local landowners, county and city governments, and citizen groups that are trying to "stop" the B2H completely. A ground swell has started determined to fight the agencies and Idaho Power. The need for the power line is being questioned. Solar, wind, conservation, and major users in Idaho may make the power line obsolete before it will be built.

OCTA will have a say at both the Public Utilities Commission and the Energy Facilities Siting Council. is OCTA may need the assistance of an attorney during public comment periods as both agencies rely upon legal facts, not emotion.

Concurrently, the Northwest Chapter has employed an archaeologist to get four adjacent landowners Oregon Trail eligible for listing on the National Register. B2H runs close to these properties. No segments of the Oregon Trail in Oregon have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1975! -- *Gail Carbiener*

Visit OCTA on the Internet

[OCTA-trails.org](https://octa-trails.org)

[OCTA-Journals.org](https://octa-journals.org)

OCTA Volunteer Hours

octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer

PUBLICATIONS

LeRoy Johnson and **Tom Sutak** were presented with the Merrill Mattes Award for excellence in writing in the *Overland Journal* at the Council Bluffs Convention.

Their article, "Unscrambling the Old Spanish Trail and the Southern Route" appeared in the Winter 2016-17 Vol. 34.

Two of the students whose artwork was selected for the 2018 OCTA calendar, "Emigrant and Indian – Musical Instruments" received a warm welcome at the Convention. After the students autographed them, we quickly sold out. There are a limited number of calendars at headquarters. If you did not purchase one during the convention, please contact Kathy at HQ. The cost is only ten dollars.

The topic for next year is "Emigrant and Indian – Types of Dwellings." Information about the student calendar contest and also about the raffle drawing for a class set of our activity books should now be available on OCTA's website.

Our editors continue to encourage you to provide feedback, both positive and negative. If you like an article, let us know. However, if one feels that somehow we have missed the mark, we need to know that too! If there is a topic or issue that you think would be a positive we will try to work towards including it. We also continue to need your assistance in finding advertisers for our publications.

For the past two summers we have been making the spring or summer issues of the *Overland Journal* available to museums and visitor centers along the trails. This is one way



Tom Sutak, left, and LeRoy Johnson, right, winners of the Mattis Award for excellence with *Overland Journal* Editor Marlene Smith-Baranzini.
—Photo by Roger Blair

we are working to expand OCTA's "footprint" to the general public. We are asking our members and/or chapters to consider sponsoring a gift subscription to your local library. If you are considering doing this, please contact us, and we can discuss it. We would like to keep track of those libraries contacted and those which are participating. Our goal would be to have the library become a long term member of OCTA.

- Bill Hill, Publications Chair



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

For OCTA Life Members

If you are an **Ezra Meeker Life Member** of OCTA, it is time to renew your chapter membership affiliations.

For your convenience, you can renew your membership online by visiting OCTA-trails.org and click on the "Become a Member" section. You can also call headquarters at (816) 252-2276.

If you are not an Ezra Meeker Life Member, you can join at that level at any time. The cost is \$1,000, which can be spread over several regular payments.

Call headquarters for more information. Remember, funds from Life memberships goes directly to OCTA Endowments, helping create a legacy of support for trails preservation and education.

Save the Trail

KANZA

The Trails Junction marker northwest of Marysville has been deteriorating for some years. In 2016 the KANZA Chapter of OCTA decided to clean up the old marker which had been installed 75 years earlier in 1941 by the American Pioneer Trails Association.

While visiting the site it was decided to erect a new interpretive panel to better explain what happened at this site. The Chapter contacted the National Park Service to get its guidance so the panel would be in compliance with others erected throughout the National Historic Trails System.

KANZA hired graphic designer Mindi Raker of BlankSpace to do the overall design of the plaque. We also engaged artist Matthew Laznicka of Illustrations to provide the 'picture' for the plaque. After approvals were given, the National Park Service sent the file to Pannier who created the 36" by 24" Rhino Polycarbonate Panel. The panel came mounted on an aluminum cantilevered base.

The panel was installed at the site early August. The KANZA Chapter hosted the dedication of the panel on Sunday, August 13th at 2:00 p.m. This program was part of the 2017 post-convention tour.

We have also been working with the National Park Service on marking a local tour route of the Oregon, California and Pony Express Trails from Marysville to the Hollenberg Pony Express Station.

The trail has been driven, marked and information sent to the National Park Service. The signs are currently in production. Washington county employees will install the signs in their county and Marysville and Logan Township members will install the signs in Marshall County.

-- Arleta Martin



Left to right, Camille Bradford, step-daughter of Howard Driggs; David Hammett, great grandson of John Ellenbecker; and Janet Kanter, great-great granddaughter of Ezra Meeker. Descendants of three of the greatest trail preservation icons ever.. — Photo by Tom Parker



A portion of the crowd at the dedication. — Photo by Tom Parker



From left to right, Glendon Hartman, Jerry Lewin, and Jackie Lewin of the Gateway Chapter with the original restored monument.

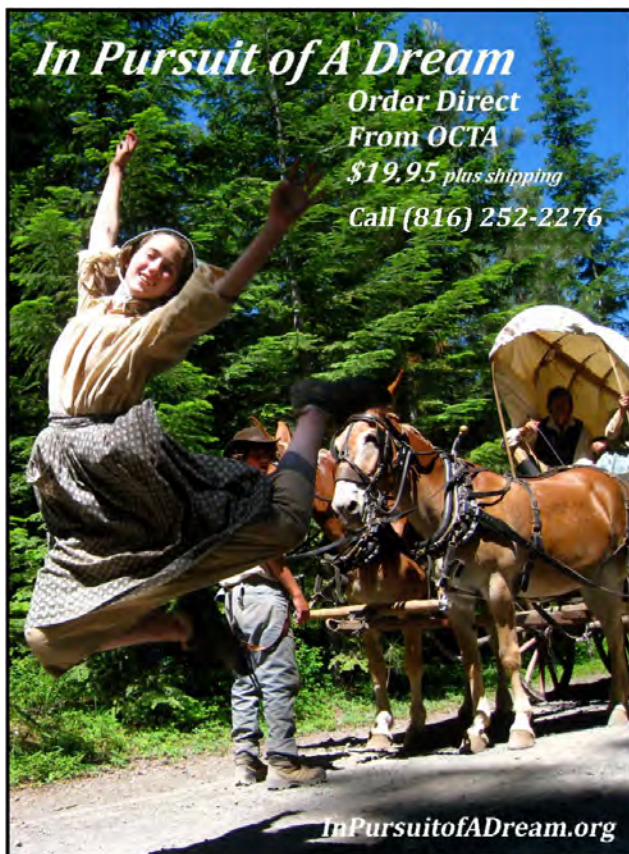


Original marker dedication in 1941.

TRAILS HEAD



Calendar artists Samantha Jo Kirk, left, and Maggie Moloney were guests of the Trails Head chapter at the Council Bluffs convention.



I'd like to start off by extending my deepest appreciation of the Oregon-California Trails Association membership! I was truly moved and honored to be the recipient of the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award at the Council Bluffs 2017 OCTA Convention.

This is an organization that is worth all of the stress and headaches that come with the type of volunteering I do for OCTA. It is rewarding to do the "behind the scenes" work that I do. I have made wonderful friends over the past five years. I have been able to go to parts of this beautiful country I might not have gone to. So Thank You all, this is a great organization to belong to and gain new friendships through.

Trails Head is very honored to be the home chapter of our new OCTA National President, Patricia Traffas! Congratulations to your new position and we look forward to working with you the next two years. I see new and challenging projects on our horizon.

This year, as in the past few years, Trails Head has sponsored the OCTA Calendar Contest with the St. John Paul II Catholic School in Overland Park, KS. We were very pleased to have not only one but two calendar entries being chosen for the 2018 OCTA Calendar.

With the Convention being in Council Bluffs, IA the chapter decided to sponsor our winners and families to the Wednesday morning General Session and lunch. We were very excited that they would be able to come and receive their Award during this time. Samantha Jo Kirk, 4th grade winner and Maggie Moloney, 3rd grade winner had a great time being introduced to the convention and autographing calendars, which quickly sold out. Congratulations to these very talented young artists! I know they had a fun time while there and getting to sign their calendar month.

Thanks also goes out to Bill Hill who chairs the Calendar Contest yearly, I know he has a hard job when it comes to choosing only 14 pages of artwork from the several hundred that he receives for judging. This is a fun and rewarding way to bring our trail history of our communities to these kids. The teachers appreciate having a fun project that helps them provide learning opportunities in the classroom; art, history, and research. From what I learned from the mom's this also extended on home as they got them involved in helping do research and learn about the trail days. I encourage other chapters to promote the Calendar Contest; the rewards are well worth it and the inquiring questions are the best.

Now that the convention is over, life will take on a slower stride for a while. Our Annual Membership meeting will be November 4, 2017, planning for this is in the works. Until then I'm letting the "trail dust" settle and enjoy this very early Fall like weather.

-- Jean Coupal-Smith

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

The California-Nevada Chapter held a board meeting in conjunction with the national convention in Council Bluffs. There was a good turnout of 25+ California chapter members at the meeting, which was held in the Holiday Inn at Council Bluffs, adjacent to the Ameristar Hotel, site of the Convention

Because of the limited time, regular business was quickly handled. It was noted in the Treasurer's report the Chapter is on solid financial ground, and an audit indicated no discrepancies and continued sound booking practices. The Board elected and appointed officers as the by-laws require. Dick Waugh was selected as President, Steve Shaw as Vice President, Kathy Koester was reappointed Secretary, and Phyllis Smith will continue as Treasurer. Continuing their Board terms were Ken Johnston, Mark Wilson, and Steve Knight. John Winner was appointed by the Board as Chapter Preservation Officer, a dual role as he is also the National Preservation Officer.

There were two highlights of the meeting. Two chapter members were seated on the Board after being elected earlier this spring. Dave Smythe from Placerville, California, has been a long-term chapter member involved in numerous projects throughout the chapter. Dave has also conducted the audits of the chapter's financial books in the past. He has a sound and historical view of chapter outlays and expenditures that will help guide the Board. Also seated was Duane Jones, a resident of Elko, Nevada. Duane has a history in retail, operating his own business, and has recently retired. Duane is currently on the board of the California Trail Historic Alliance, a supporting organization of the California Trail Interpretive Center west of Elko. Duane brings his experience as a community member, retailer and in writing grants for nonprofit groups. The Board looks forward to having Duane as a member and utilizing his skills.

The second highlight was the Board's approval to accept the National Board's designation of Elko as the site for the 2020 OCTA National Convention. There has been a lot of Elko community enthusiasm and business support already generated, three years out, to bring the convention to Elko once again. In fact, members of the community traveled to Council Bluffs and put on a presentation for the National Board. The Chapter Board was impressed with the willingness of Elko residents to step into the leadership roles. Helen Hankins of Elko has already been named chair of the convention committee

and will be reaching out to both local residents and chapter members to assist in the development of the programs and to enlist volunteers for the 2020 convention.

There are several Chapter projects nearing completion, ongoing and in the works. The Fernley Sand Swales display project is completed as noted elsewhere in this issue. The Swales Cleanup will occur on September 30th and is shaping up to be a special event. The Beckwourth Trail will be hosting an outing with a Reno Boy Scout Troop in September as well as investigating a possible new section west of Elizabethtown. The Volcano Road mapping group has confirmed several sections of the road and will be out again in September to work another portion. A work-day is scheduled on the Luther Pass Road, also in September. Frank Tortorich and his Wedge Warriors replaced an interpretive sign at Caples Lake on the Carson Trail as well as helping map a section of the Big Tree Road in August (see separate story).

Nevada's Department of Transportation is finishing construction of the USA Parkway, connecting I-80 east of Reno and Sparks, with US 50 east of Carson City, passing east of Washoe Lake en route. Adjacent to the junction at Highway 50, the Department is building a roundabout containing some interesting iron cut-out sculptures. The State did not initially reach out to OCTA on this work but has been made aware we would like to assist in future such projects, including interpretive panels at the roundabout if appropriate.

However, the construction does reveal the interest developing in showing the emigrant routes and history of trail areas. Residents in Dayton, NV, along the Carson Trail and US 50, have contacted our Chapter requesting we collaborate with a display in their city similar to the Fernley project.

The Chapter and Board look forward to fulfilling our mission by continuing these projects and instituting new projects in Dayton and other significant places along the California Trail and its cutoffs winding their way through the Sierra Nevada and into California.

-- Dick Waugh



CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

Fernley Swales Signage



A nine-month process that started in October 2016 came to fruition August 25 and 26, 2017 in Fernley,

NV. The CA-NV Chapter Board authorized an interpretive panel display at the Fernley Sand Swales just north of Fernley off Interstate 80. Chapter member Jon Nowlin brought the project to the Board and requested both funding and support. The Board unanimously voted to proceed with the installation.

Over the last nine months Jon and his committee of Nevada residents, including Tom Fee, Steve Knight, and Dave Hollecker, designed the panels, had them built, and worked with the local community to overcome the usual obstacles involved with this kind of project.

On Thursday, August 25, a group of OCTA volunteers and BLM archaeologist Rachel Crews installed the two information panels at the entrance to Terrible's Truck Stop, at the Fernley East I-80 exit (Exit 48). The next morning a Nevada Energy crew assisted in installing the distinctive "California Trail" historical marker, similar to those along the two branches of the California Trail across Nevada. We are most appreciative of Terrible's Truck Stop providing the very visible and accessible site for this interpretive display on the history of the Fernley Sand Swales. The Chapter has nothing but thanks and praise for Nevada Energy and their line crew for installation of the "California Trail" historical marker. Their community spirit and willingness to provide a crew without charge made the project possible.

The display provided a rallying point for the Public Lands Day cleanup of the Fernley Sand Swales on September 30, led by the Fernley Rotary and Fernley Boy Scout Troop 1783, in cooperation with the California-Nevada Chapter of OCTA and the BLM Sierra Front Field Office in Carson City.

An official dedication of the interpretive panel signs and California Trail post will be held during the California-Nevada Chapter Spring Symposium in April 2018, with a gathering and ceremony.

-- Dick Waugh

Caples Lake Signage

Last winter experienced record snowfall in the Sierra Nevada. The deep and heavy snow did damage to buildings, cabins, roads and tumbled numerous trees across the Carson River Route. All our interpretive signs on the Carson Rive Route came through with flying colors.

However, that was not the case in the winter of 2015-2016 when the heavy snow snapped off one of our interpretive signs from its supporting base. This one is located at the Caples Lake Boat Launch Ramp where we have two interpretive signs. The problem stemmed from the use of an incorrect design base for the area. We are fortunate that only the base was damaged and not the interpretive panel.

I took panel home and contacted our CA-NV Chapter Board of Directors and submitted a request to purchase a new base to replace the destroyed one.

Without hesitation the board approved \$1,000 for the replacement base that include shipping and materials for installation.

On August 17, 2017, five dedicated CA-NV OCTA members assembled at Caples Lake to replace the legs and sign. Those members were Jon and Janet Nowlin, Larry and Phyllis Schmidt, and Mike Stroude. Along to help was an EID Ranger Denney and me. I wore two hats: an OCTA member and the US Forest Service representative.

When we arrived at Caples Lake to start the work EID Ranger Denny was there with the area coned-off so we could work unencumbered by parked vehicles. I did not expect that wonderful support by EID.

The US Forest Service should also be thanked for their help providing tools, transporting of the sign base and an employee (me) to assist with the project. he crew did a wonderful job, completing it in about two hours

It is this type of cooperation between OCTA and other agencies that are a blessing in helping to preserve the trail and educate the public to our most valuable heritage resource.

- Frank Tortorich



COLORADO-CHEROKEE

On June 10, Camille Bradford gave a wonderful presentation on W. H. Jackson at the Westminster Historical Society building for the OCTA-Colorado Chapter and WHS members.

Her presentation also included history on Ezra Meeker and Howard R. Driggs who in addition to Jackson, were one of the first inductees into OCTA's Emigrant Trail Hall of Fame.

Afterwards, Linda Graybeal took the group to the Westminster Castle to view an original W. H. Jackson photo taken near Telluride, Colorado.

Our next event was scheduled for September 30 to tour the one of the last standing CCC camps and Red Rocks Park, in Morrison Colorado. The tour will be presented by Denver Mountain Parks.

We will have our annual board meeting in late fall.

-- Mark Voth



Colorado-Cherokee members in front of the W.H. Jackson photo at Westminster Castle.

NORTHWEST

The new trail year got off to a good start with the NW Chapter hosting the 2017 OCTA Mid-Year National Board of Directors meeting and Spring Symposium in Vancouver. The four-day event was very successful thanks to the efforts of Lethene Parks, who was event chairman for OCTA.

The 25th Anniversary of the opening of the NHT Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill, Baker City was well represented by several NW OCTA members. The National Park Service had a very interesting program with remarks and remembrances by several good speakers and a performance of "Fanny" by Joyce Bagley Hunsaker.

Great weather followed us to the annual Oregon Lavender Farm's annual Festival on June 24-25. NW OCTA had an information booth for the third year and a new OCTA Barlow Road plaque was dedicated. Thanks to Henry Pittock for coordinating this event and especially for all his efforts in getting the Novalloy plaque designed and installed. We had a large group of NW chapter members present for both days helping to answer local land owner questions about the Barlow Road. We made several important contacts with locals who are welcoming OCTA to meet with them and verify trail remnants on their land. We are optimistic that this well attended event will make the public aware of the Oregon Trail/Barlow Road and hopefully will generate new membership.

Henry Pittock, as Mapping and Marking Chair and Paul Massee as V.P. are coordinating several interesting outings and activities for this summer. The outings for this summer are auto tours centered on the Barlow Road segment of the OT from Barlow Pass to Laural Hill. We are also planning several mapping and marking projects along this segment of the Barlow Road.

Billy Symms, chapter Preservation Officer, continues to stay on top of energy projects and other threats to the Trail by attending energy planning meetings and submitting his input. Gail Carbiener continues to actively stay involved with the B2H power line and represent the best interests of The Trail and OCTA. He has been representing the NW chapter at town hall style meeting in LaGrande, OR where the local government is making the residents aware of the threat of the B2H power line and its effect on property value, view shed and quality of life.

The NW OCTA Annual Fall Picnic was scheduled for Saturday, September 23, at the Clark County Genealogical Society.

Our good spirits have been dampened by the loss of four of our good NW chapter members. The NW Chapter was well represented at the funerals for Jim Tompkins, Rene Ford, Tuck Forsyth and LeAnn Wilson. Their contribution to the success of our chapter mission was significant. They were our friends. They will be missed.

- Rich Herman

GATEWAY

The Gateway Chapter featured the 1864 Indian raids in southern Nebraska in a March 23 program entitled "War Path on the Little Blue" by Bill Leppert.

From 1860 to 1869 the Indians on the Plains between the Arkansas and Platte rivers resisted the settlers, trade stations and freighters. The cause was the trend of developing of the west with the Union Pacific Railroad which was surveyed in 1859, the 1861 completion of the transcontinental telegraph, and the gold discovery in Colorado which showed that settlers were no longer just passing through Indian lands to the West Coast.

Settlers to the Plains were impacting the lives of the Indians. They could see the buffalo, their major food source, being exterminated. The tribes had already been driven from their lands in the east and were making a last stand on the Plains. Bill presented both sides of the August 9, 1864, massacre of settlers in an area called "The Narrows" just north of Oak Grove, Nebraska, and left the 30 attendees with a lot to think about.

In April, Jackie Lewin led a group of Gateway members and friends on a tour of the grave sites of the six Pony Express riders buried in St. Joseph. The tour was a commemoration of the anniversary of the 1860, start of the Pony Express from St. Joseph. At each one of the sites, Lewin related the experiences of the rider and what he did after the Pony Express. Riders buried in St. Joseph are: Charlie Cliff and James "Bean" Hamilton in Mount Mora Cemetery; John Phillip Koerner and Michael Whalen in Ashland Cemetery; and James "Dock" Brink and "Cyclone Charlie" Thompson in Mount Auburn Cemetery. Lewin is author of *On the Winds of Destiny – A Biographical Look at Pony Express Riders*.

Later in the spring, Gateway sponsor a field trip to the site of the Little Blue Massacre and related trail sites. On May 19, sixteen Gateway members and guests carpooled to the Oak, Nebraska, area where Jean Stichka led a tour of "The Narrows" and other area locations involved in the August 1864 Indian raids. This tour was a result of the interest created by Bill Leppert's earlier program.

— Jackie Lewin



Bill Leppert during his "War Path on the Little Blue" presentation.



Gateway members after a tour of "The Narrows" and other area locations involved in 1864 Indian Raids.



Gateway members and friends on a tour of the grave sites of Pony Express riders buried in St. Joseph.

CROSSROADS

It has been a quiet summer here at Crossroads, but there is much coming to make for a busy fall. And, like most of the West, it has been hot.

On a hot August 3 we had a post-setting crew go out to set five rail posts along the Central Overland Trail from Simpson Springs to Overland Canyon, including one at Caliao, Utah. This was under the direction of Jesse Petersen. The crew consisted of Jesse Petersen, Terry Welch, Bryce Billings, Vic Heath, and A. Oscar Olson, plus Art Michaelsen and Doug Williams who are friends of Terry Welch. (We were glad to have them along.)

Another work detail is scheduled for August 30, and we will set two rail posts in Tooele County, Utah, on the Central Overland Trail (also under the direction of Jesse Petersen). We appreciate our volunteers who come to help do the work, especially Bryce Billings with his GPS expertise and Vic Heath with his truck and trailer and tools to do the heavy work.

We had thirteen attend the Council Bluffs Convention. By all reports all went well.

On August 24 we planned a convention team-planning meeting in Salt Lake City. Our fall membership meeting and social was held on September 14. The speaker was Beau Burgess of the Ft. Douglas Museum, which is where our meeting will be held.



Left to right, Bryce Billings, Terry Welch, Doug Williams, Jesse Petersen, Art Michaelsen, Vic Heath at Overland Canyon.
- Photo by A. Oscar Olson

A fall field trip is being planned which will focus on the Bear River Indian Massacre of 1863. (This will also be part of our convention in 2018.) We also hope to locate the grave of Jefferson Hunt who was not only part of the Mormon Battalion but also guided many south to California on the Salt Lake/Los Angeles Road (Spanish Trail), also guiding what would become the Death Valley 49er's who left his group at what is today's Enterprise, Utah. Our fall business meeting will be November 16, 2017, at the Ft. Douglas Museum.

-- A. Oscar Olson

Planning Underway For Ogden Convention in 2018

Mark your calendars for OCTA's Annual Convention, hosted by the Utah Crossroads Chapter in Ogden on August 6-10, 2018.

The convention will focus on Northern Utah and will not repeat information covered in the prior OCTA Conventions held in Salt Lake City.

The theme of the convention is **"Rails and Trails"** including the convergence, impacts and birth of the "Crossroads of the West," all through speaker presentations, field trips and activity/workshops focusing on Native American History, the Earliest Crossroads of the West, Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, Mountain Men, Explorers and Emigrants pre-1847.

Participants will have a choice of six pre- and post-convention tours: 1) Native American culture tour and rock art, 2) Development of the Central Overland Trail, 3) Bicycle ride through Echo Canyon and the history of this route into the northern Utah area, 4) Retracing the Bryan

Russell route, 5) Following the Hastings Cutoff, and 6) Visiting key sites on the Hensley/Salt Lake Cutoff.

There will be 12 Activity stations with themes including oxen use and training, experiencing history through new approaches (by the BLM), Native American songs and poetry, tracing your ancestors as they moved across the continent, and marketing the natural beauty of the west through early photographs and processes

Four bus tours with guides and resource specialists will take OCTA members to see the Bidwell/Bartleson route; the Transcontinental route; the use of the Echo and Weber Canyons by Native Americans, explorers and mountain men; and the Bear River Massacre Site\Shoshoni Native American tour

Speaker topics will include a historical review of the rich history of Northern Utah, the Bear River Massacre Site, construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, Mountain men, explorers and emigrants before 1847, and the "New West" through the lens of photographers.

SOUTHERN TRAILS

The Southern Trails Chapter is hosting OCTA at two major meetings in 2018 and 2019. The Chapter's annual symposium will be held along with the National Board meeting in **Gila Bend, AZ, March 1-3, 2018**. The 37th Annual OCTA Convention will be held in **Santa Fe, NM, September 3-7, 2019**.

We remember with pleasure when Jack and Pat Fletcher led the chapter in hosting the National Board a few years ago. However, we are much aware of the fact that our membership and its elected officers, state directors, staff can seldom hold face to face meetings because our chapter is so "far-flung." We must rely on meeting telephonically and by "reply all" e-mail for communication and planning.

One of our immediate needs is to fill crucial committees for the 2019 Convention, including Overall Conference Planning, Registration, Communications, Publications, Rours, Speakers, Bookroom, Auction, AV-Sounds/Media, Meals and Risk Management.

If you are interested in helping with any of those committees (and others), please contact Reba Grandrud at rgrandrud@cox.net. Participation is voluntary and all efforts are welcome and appreciated

We have some fifteen active leaders and we have always enjoyed excellent assistance and cooperation from Association Manager Travis Boley and OCTA national officers, especially those who are members of the Southern Trails Chapter.

- Reba Wells Grandrud

IDAHO

I did a presentation on the Oregon Trail in Ada County to the Ada County Historical Preservation Committee. The hope is that they will work with IOCTA to preserve the remaining trail segments in the Boise area.

I proposed adding trail signage between Bonneville Point and the Ada County Trailhead site on Highway 21 with the installation of restrooms at each end. It will be interesting to see if anything happens. We may be able to coordinate that effort with a possible NPS sign project in Ada County which is slowly getting started.

An outing of Oregon-California Trail sites in the Soda Springs area in early July was attended by 10 people. The following day, 13 people participated in a tour of the Oregon-California Trail over the Fort Hall reservation. As always, it was a hot, dusty trip. Because of the heavy snowfall over the winter, there was still snow on the mountain tops and water was flowing through normally dry drainages and across the trail in places.

I conducted a presentation of the Emigrant Trails in Idaho in August to a senior living center. Plans are being developed to take them on a tour of the Oregon Trail between Mountain Home and Boise later this fall.

A tour of the first portion of the California Trail from Raft River to City of Rocks was to be held on September 16. The fall chapter meeting will be held on October 7 at AJ's Restaurant in Mountain Home. It will be followed by a tour to view the progress made of the Canyon Creek stage station restoration.

The restoration of the station by the BLM is progressing at a rapid pace. The front wall has been rebuilt this year and the beams supporting the floor for the upstairs are being installed.

Be sure to check the calendar page on the website, IdahoOCTA.org, for more information on chapter activities.

-- Jerry Eichhorst



Top, I-OCTA members at Soda Springs; Bottom, I-OCTA at Fort Hall

2017 OCTA Convention

Photos by Roger Blair and Bill Martin

Photos by Roger Blair and Bill Martin

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



Over the past month I have heard from so many people who thoroughly enjoyed their time in Council Bluffs at OCTA's 35th Annual Convention. The weather was picture-perfect, the speakers were engaging, and the tours and other events were led by fun and informative people. Thank you to everyone who made the trip to

OCTA's first-ever Iowa convention. I know it was a long trip for many of the attendees, who came from New England, the West Coast, and all points in between.

Putting on a convention is never a one-man show, and this year was certainly no exception. There are many thank yous to be delivered, but several people are deserving of public accolades for their help this year. At the very top of this list is OCTA's super volunteer (and this year's Elaine McNabney Volunteer of the Year) **Jean Coupal-Smith**. She created a massive spreadsheet detailing every event, tour and meal for which each attendee registered, a printout that I hung at OCTA HQ that wound up covering a 6'x6' space on the wall. With that information at my fingertips I could quickly and easily make decisions regarding orders and necessary expenditures. I know Jean spent many hours compiling this information and keeping me up-to-date every couple of weeks as the summer progressed.

But she went well beyond this. She created our name-tags. She assembled the registration package. She ran the registration table and helped in the bookstore. She took the lead on the auction and raffle. She hauled things from KC to Council Bluffs. She made me laugh when things got tense. She pitched in and helped **Kathy Conway** in our office to keep her sane. Most importantly, she shared my love of Kansas City Royals baseball and made the process of putting together a convention fun. Jean was richly deserving of being named OCTA's Volunteer of the Year.

So many others pitched in and helped as well. Jean's sister **Shirley** was in the book room every single day. **Ross Marshall** utilized his long-standing relationship with a bus tour company to help us get great prices. Our new president, **Pat Traffas**, secretary **Sandy Wiechert** (and her husband **Allen**), and board member **Dick Nelson** helped haul things to and from Council Bluffs, as did OCTA members Joanne and **Drew Bodner**. **Mary Conrad**, **Mary Kelly**, **Louise Hicks**, **Ruby Nelson**, **Doug & Paulina Davina**, and **Doug & Lynn Davis** assisted at registration and in the book room. **Helen Martin** dry-ran the California/Mormon Pioneer Trail route through Nebraska and sent back detailed notes to help our guide. **Teressa Sward** and **Chris Blue** from the Western Historic Trails Center in Council Bluffs were there from the beginning, helping to point me in the right direction and find the people we would need to pull this off.

Our tour guides were assembled from local Council Bluffs residents I met along the way. **Kira Gale** not only helped lead a tour, she also stepped up and spoke about Lewis & Clark, designed the boat tour wrote the Council Bluffs history book everyone received, and was at most of the early organizational meetings I pulled together. **Harlan Seyfer**, the wise sage of Plattsmouth, led a great tour and delivered a wonderful talk on early explorers in the region. **Danette Heines-Snyder** led her fun morning tours dressed as Amelia Bloomer. **Carl Scott** and **Annalee Gilbert** both stepped up literally at the last minute to fill in for Bob Sharp on his Mormon Pioneer/California Trail tours in Iowa in Nebraska when he had to be suddenly hospitalized just as we were sitting down to the opening ceremony on Wednesday morning. I really cannot thank them both enough for taking a difficult situation and running with it. We would have been lost without you both. **Colleen Wilbur** dressed in buckskins and led everyone along the Missouri River as far north as Onawa, Iowa exploring the journey of Lewis & Clark. OCTA board member **Loren Pospisil** led the pre-convention tour, while OCTA VP **Duane Iles** worked with KANZA chapter stalwarts **Alicia Keegan** and **Arleta Martin** to put together the post-convention event in Marshall County, Kansas.

Josee Beier of the Council Bluffs Convention and Visitors Bureau helped coordinate too many things to list, but suffice it to say, the local CVB should always be the first stop when planning a convention. **Rayna Gochanour** and her staff at the Ameristar and **Serena Null** and her staff at the Holiday Inn rolled easily and cheerfully with all the constant changes I kept making. OCTA's staff did tons of things behind the scenes. **Sharon Brown** compiled and wrote the opening ten pages or so of the convention book, though she did not want credit in the book for doing so (I kept my word, Sharon, and kept your name out of that book). **Sharron Gregg** was there for four hours every Monday and Friday to handle confirmations and other sundry items. And of course, I would need another thousand-word column to list all the things **Kathy Conway** did to make this convention a success. Just know that it was all appreciated greatly.

Finally, and personally, I would like to thank my fiancé **Steffany Palma** and her daughter **Gabriella** for helping Kathy in the office, especially in compiling the book store items and putting together the raffle and auction items. My daughter **Maggie** was up bright and early on a Monday morning to help me pack the truck, and my son **Joe** helped lug all the heavy items. He was also up at the crack of dawn each tour day to help load the buses. He is just starting and high school, and now that he's bigger than me, he has to help keep the old man from becoming a cripple and hurting himself with the heavier items. Most of all, **thanks to all of you who came and supported OCTA** at its 35th annual convention!

- Travis Boley

Three Elected to Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame

Aubrey Haines, Walter Meacham and Jesse Applegate have been voted into OCTA's Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame (ETHF) for the class of 2017.

The Hall of Fame was created to honor individuals whose work formed OCTA's foundation of preservation. Potential nominees are evaluated by a committee composed of three OCTA past presidents (currently Dave Welch, Roger Blair and Bill Martin) and two members appointed from the general membership (currently Camille Bradford and Bob Clark).



Aubrey Haines had a long career with the National Park Service. After serving as a park ranger in Yellowstone, following World War II he became a supervisory ranger at Mount Rainier National Park and assistant park engineer at Yellowstone. In 1960 Haines became the Park Historian at Yellowstone. His book *Historic Sites Along the Oregon Trail* became a seminal work

on primary routes and locations. He also was author of a number of books and scholarly articles on Yellowstone and western history.



A son of Oregon pioneers, **Walter Meacham** had a lifelong interest in preservation of the Oregon Trail. He founded the Old Oregon Trail Association in 1922. Later he was active in Ezra Meeker's Oregon Trail Memorial Association (OTMA) and the American Pioneer Trails Association. His early trail

promotion efforts focused on designation of the rapidly evolving transcontinental highway to the Northwest as the Old Oregon Trail Highway, a route that generally followed the route of the Oregon Trail from Missouri to Oregon.



Jesse Applegate's life was one of achievement and controversy. With his wife, 12 children and two brothers, he emigrated west from Kentucky in 1843, part of the first large wagon trail to Oregon Territory. In 1846 he played a key role in opening the South Road to Oregon, which became known as the Applegate Trail or Scott-Applegate Trail. The route was sought

as an alternative to the dangerous Columbia River float and the difficult Barlow Road south of Mt. Hood.

Expert Advise From OCTA's National Preservation Officer

Long-time National Preservation Officer Jere Krakow announced his retirement at the convention in Council Bluffs. In addressing the Board, he emphasized the need to make local contacts with the staff of elected leaders.

By Jere Krakow

A key OCTA mission is the preservation of trail resources. To accomplish this requires continuous reporting of any threats to trail resources to OCTA headquarters, the National Preservation Officer and the chapter Preservation Officers.

OCTA membership is distributed across the entire US. The heaviest concentration of members are in the states through which the trail routes pass. Each state is divided into political units, including congressional districts.

Each congressional district has an office and staff that should be regularly contacted and engaged in raising awareness of the Oregon and California National Trails. It is critical for OCTA members to establish this link. Of course, each state has two senators with offices in key locations in the state and the same applies to their staff.

I have learned from years of experience as National Preservation Officer and as representative for OCTA to the Partnership for the National Trails System that meeting once a year with congressional staff in Washington, D.C. does not raise awareness to the level OCTA would desire.

It requires OCTA members making contact with each congressional staff office **in the states** to introduce and increase their knowledge of the National Trails System. Such meetings should be ongoing and staff members should be invited to join on field trips so they can see the historic trails firsthand.

As preservation of trail resource issues arise, there will be opportunities to discuss with congressional staff the threats to trail resources, drawing on the increasing familiarity with the National Trails that your contacts have created. I believe contacting and engaging local office staff is the most effective way to achieve OCTA's preservation mission.



Previous inductees into the ETHF include Paul and Mary Henderson, Minnie Howard, John McLoughlin, Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, Howard Driggs, Ezra Meeker, Gregory Franzwa, Merrill Mattes and William Henry Jackson.

For questions or additional information about the Hall of Game, visit octa-trails.org/emigrant-trails-hall-of-fame/

FROM OCTA HEADQUARTERS

Thank You!

Thanks to many donors who support OCTA's preservation work through gifts to our annual fund drive and memorial gifts to those who have passed. Recent gifts include:

George W Davis Fund (in memory of Richard Davis)
Harry Abraham
Jim Allison
Lynne Alvord
Jim & Carol Barr
Jean & Bob Bennett
Todd & Betty Berens
Daniel Biles
Gary & Nancy Borge
Joyce Bolerjack
Bonnie Breen-Wagner
John & Patty Brissenden
E Darleen Brown
Marvin Burke
Timothy Burns
Alan Bushbaum
Roxanne Camp
Dick Campbell
George Carruthers & Marilyn Gaddis
Stephen Clark
Virgel Clark
Arnold Cole
Glenn & Dixie Colson
Joan Conzatti
Arthur & Nancy Costa
Virgil Culler
Don Curdie
Jo Anna Dale
Ronald O Downs
Nancy Drew
Nancy Elig
William & Shirley Gloy
Curtis & Nancy Grant
Bob Gravette
Glenn & Carol Harrison (in memory of Tuck Forsythe, Jim Tompkins & Rene Ford)
Charles Hauntz
Walt & Margaret
Theodore Heil
Charles & Mavis Hibbard
William & Jan Hill
Julian Holt
Chuck Hornbuckle (in memory of Suzanne Hornbuckle)
Lu Ann Hunter
Barbara Ingram
Melissa Jankovsky
Philip S King
Mary Korpi
Linda & Larry Lacey
James & Lois Lober
Nadine Long
Susan Loucks
Michael Luther
Francis Madsen Jr
Matthew Mallinson

Hugh & Carol March
Bill Martin
Don McCarter
David McCready
Gordon & Carolyn McGregor
Kathryn Miles
Linda Modrell
Jerry Mogg
Dick & Ruby Nelson
Oscar & Nate Olson
Keith A Palmquist
Lethene Parks
Joan Paulikas
Dick & Penelope Peterson
Cary R Peyton
Richard Pingrey
Vauna Pipal
Louis Ritten
Louise Hammer Rossi
Richard Schmidt
Raymond E Schoch
David & Shirley Smythe
Grayson & Carol Sorrels
Joseph & Ann Spivey
Alan & Moi Stockland
Allen Stultz
Melvin & Ellen Sweet
Linda Tacey
Pat Traffas
Mark Vangen
C M Wade
Steve & Kathryn Hamilton Wang
David & Wendy Welch
Nelson S Weller
Joseph Whitehorne
Max Willard
William & Mary Alice Wilson
Gareth Wilson
John & Susie Winner
Hank & Lynne Woodward
Joan Young (in memory of Dick Young)

Welcome New Members

Heidi Angle, Wellesley MA
Bob Beers, Las Vegas NV
Eamon Bishop, Keizer OR
Christine Boyd, Redwood Valley CA
Lori Brown, Santa Barbara CA
Dave Bruce, South Yarmouth MA
Russ Carnahan, St Louis MO
Frank Coombs, Orange Beach AL
Doug Dreyfus, Santa Rosa CA
Rodinna Frost, Crescent Valley NV
Olivia Garl, Mitchell NE
Arthur Groos, Brooktondale NY
Barbara J Hackfort, Carroll IA
Anne Hippe, Gering NE
Chandra Hoffman, Wapakoneta OH
Phillip Hoffman, Seattle WA
Susan Hunt, Seattle WA
Ginny Hussong, Kensington MD
Connie Jacobs & Tim Burmeister, Spring Creek NV
Janet Kanter, Camino CA
Michael Lee, Houston TX
Denise Mahnkey, Pullman WA
Kat & L J Martin, Clinton MT
Peter Meyerhof, Sonoma CA
James D Morgan, Wetumpka AL
Randy Peraust, Columbus NE
Trevor Porter, Torrington WY
Dallas Powell, Longmont CO
Sandy Rains, Cleveland MO
Mike Roberts, Placerville CA
A Kent Scribner, Olympia WA
Rebecca Smith, Mill Valley CA
Gerald Snodgrass, La Verne CA
Cindy Southerland, Carson City NV
Susan Stafford, Sisters OR
Cheryl Stapp, Sacramento CA
Charles Sten, San Diego CA
Connie F Thompson, Mills WY
Phillip Hanson, Independence MO
Cheyne Warren, Salt Lake City UT
John Zumsteg, Renton WA

Business Sponsors

For just \$50 a year, you can become an OCTA Business Sponsor. 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:

Blue Mountain Diagnostic Imaging, 1100 Southgate, Suite 700, Pendleton OR,
Jim Blau Insurance Agency, 2661 Hub Drive, Independence, MO.
Heritage Inn Express, 1155 Pony Express Hwy, Marysville, KS
Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau, 2930 Old Oregon Trail Rd, Gering, NE
Wagon Wheel Café, 703 Broadway, Marysville, KS
Surveyor Scherbel, Ltd, P O Box 96, Big Piney, WY
State Bank of Blue Rapids, PO Box 157, Blue Rapids, KS
Lew Printing, 227-B East College St. Independence, MO
Kenneth J Weinand DDS PC - 14500 42 St, Suite 210, Independence, MO 64057

REMEMBRANCES



Dick Young

A Celebration of Life will be held at St. Andrew Church in Yuba City, CA, on October 28 for long-

time California-Nevada Chapter member Richard (Dick) Carroll Young, 85, of Yuba City, who passed away August 6, 2017.

A native of Sacramento, he married Joan Bosworth in 1954, graduated from the University of Nevada, and had a 38-year career with the California Division of Highways/CalTrans.

Dick served as Mayor of Yuba City and President of Lake Tahoe Historical Society, Barton Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and El Dorado County STAR at South Lake Tahoe.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, three children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Donations in his memory may be made to Barton Memorial Hospital Foundation, South Lake Tahoe Historical Society, or the Oregon California Trails Association.



Della White

KANZA Chapter member Della White, 74, of Westmoreland, KS, passed away on September 3, 2017.

She and her husband, Ernest, who were married for nearly 57 years, enjoyed following the trail from Kansas City to Oregon.

In addition to her children, she is survived by eight children, 13 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the organization of the donor's choice.



Fred Abernethy

Former longtime Crossroads Chapter member Fred Edward Abernethy, 92, passed away in August.

A structural ironworker, he was a long-time member of the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Posse and the National Pony Express Association (serving as national vice president), as well as OCTA.

A World War II veteran, he lived for years in Bountiful and Bennion, Utah, before moving with his wife of 66 years, Dee, to Mesa, AZ.

Preceded in death by a son and a daughter, he is survived by his wife and two sons, 11 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren.



DeAnn Wilson

Northwest Chapter member Wanda DeAnn Wilson passed away in late June at the age of 77 following a lengthy illness. A native of

Idaho, she earned a degree in bacteriology at Idaho State University in 1961. She and her husband, Gareth, moved to Portland OR in 1973. She worked for Providence Medical Center for 30 years before her retirement.

In addition to her OCTA membership, DeAnn enjoyed reading, quilting, sewing, the outdoors and traveling. After her retirement, she volunteered at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. DeAnn also served as an interpreter at the Chaco Culture national Historical Park in New Mexico and at the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site in Vancouver, Washington.

She is survived by her husband and her two sons and daughter. Another son preceded her in death in 2002.

Memorial & Tribute

Gifts represent a wonderful way to recognize the contributions of loved ones to the legacy of the trails. To learn more, visit OCTA-trails.org/donate-online



Message from Kathy Franzwa

Kathy Franzwa, widow of OCTA co-founder Greg Franzwa, has had some recent health issues. A card was circulated at the Council Bluffs Convention and Kathy's response follows:

"I hope you can find some space in NFP for this:

"A wonderful surprise arrived in the mail a couple of days ago — a lovely card signed by many OCTA members who had attended the convention in Council Bluffs. I am deeply touched by your support and caring and am especially grateful for your prayers. Thank you all and happy trails! - Kathy"

You can write to Kathy at 8017 64th Dr. NE, Marysville WA 98270.

**Visit the OCTA Bookstore
for new books and special
prices.**



**5% Discount for
OCTA members.**

**[www.octa-
trails.org/store](http://www.octa-trails.org/store)**

**Your best stop for
books and more!**



FindYOURTrail
Discover. Connect.
Explore.



Will your grandchildren follow your footsteps on the trails?



**Our irreplaceable historic
trails are disappearing at an
alarming rate.**

**Leaving a legacy for your
grandchildren can help make
sure the trails are always
there for them to enjoy.**

Join OCTA's Trails Legacy Society today.

**Your gift to an OCTA Endowment fund through a bequest or estate gift will
guarantee our ability to preserve and protect the trails.**

The threats have never been greater. We need your help.

To learn more, visit octa-trails.org/preserve/trails-legacy-society