

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Fall 2018

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Nebraska Power Project Poses Threat to Historic Trails

A new front has opened up in OCTA's fight against development projects with the potential to have a serious impact on the legacy of the Oregon, California and Mormon National Historic Trails.

Already aggressively fighting the proposed B2H power line in Oregon (see the B2H update on page 6; see the Preservation report on page 5 for information about other projects), attention is also being focused on the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) R-Project Transmission Line in Nebraska.

If approved, the project will cross intact ruts in the Sand Hills near Sutherland, Nebraska. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is the lead federal agency and has received input from the National Park Service about potential impacts to the trails.

The estimated cost of the 225-mile project is \$363 million, including transmission lines and substations. The 345,000-volt transmission line would run from near Sutherland to an existing substation east of Thedford, then connect to a second substation to be located in Holt County. At a NPPD board meeting in mid-August, it was reported that 66 percent of more than 600 easements and 60 percent of right-of-ways have been acquired.

During a July public meeting in North Platte, Nebraska, some 100 local attendees criticized the project because of possible environmental and cultural damage. However, NPPD considers the proposed route for the power line final and has declined to make modifications.



Trail ruts near Sutherland, Nebraska

FWS has identified seven sites with "potential adverse effects," including well-preserved ruts of the Oregon/California Trail south of Sutherland and the Mormon Trail north of it. At the July meeting, critics of the project, including OCTA members, said Oregon Trail ruts west of the O'Fallon's Bluff eastbound Interstate 80 rest area run at least seven wagons wide. The Mormon Trail ruts are similarly spectacular, they said.

Fish & Wildlife began conducting its third round of cultural surveys in late August. If approved, construction of the project could begin as early as December, 2018, after NPPD receives a Record of Decision from the USFW.

"This is further evidence of the need for OCTA members to be vigilant in protecting our historic trails," said OCTA President Pat Traffas. "Sometimes that means we must fight for every mile of our threatened legacy."

FROM THE PRESIDENT



It was great to see so many of you at the convention in Ogden. The members of Utah Crossroads Chapter hosted nearly 300 members to a week of activities and experiences that we will never forget. Their efforts were much appreciated by all who attended.

Some of the many actions that your Board of Directors took during the Board Meeting were to adopt the budget for the upcoming year, and to confirm the appointment of Camille Bradford as Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee. This committee has been dormant for quite a period of years. Members who have agreed to serve with Camille are Glenn Harrison, Duane Iles, Bill Martin and Dick Waugh. The committee will be tasked with determining "What we want OCTA to be in the future" and will strategize on how to achieve that. The committee will report at the Mid-Year Board meeting.

Your volunteer hours are so important—and they need to be reported. This is easily done by using a tab at the top of the new OCTA website (Volunteer Hours) or with a paper form which your chapter President may ask you to complete at a meeting or activity. Your hours, mileage, and unreimbursed expenses translate into a dollar amount which is reported to Congress. This is the yardstick that Congress uses to appropriate funds to support our trails through the National Park Service especially. Last year OCTA reported about 60,000 hours, but many times that amount were

actually provided. Please do your part and accurately report all you do!

How have you celebrated during this grand year of Anniversaries? There are still a few months left to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the Oregon Trail and the 50th Anniversary of the National Trail Systems Act. Soon the National Christmas tree will be harvested in the Willamette National Forest and will travel the Oregon Trail eastward towards our nation's Capitol. Communities along the route will be able to experience a very unique event.

Our membership numbers remain fairly constant. For any organization to thrive, growth and participation are essential. Every chapter has interesting meetings, programs and activities. Invite friends, neighbors, or co-workers to your next program. Just one exciting tour or interesting program could be the catalyst to gain members for your chapter. There are some remaining Challenge Coins for you and that new member!

Make plans to attend the OCTA Spring Symposium in Independence, Missouri March 15-16, 2019. The theme will be "Truman and the Trails." There will be half-day tours and then lectures both days. The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, March 14 preceding the Symposium. Details for hotels, tours, and meals will be forthcoming.

Enjoy the wonderful upcoming autumn season and the good company of OCTA members up and down our trail corridors.

-- [Pat Traffas](#), OCTA President

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OCTA Leadership



Shown with OCTA President Pat Traffas, Dick Waugh, left, was elected Vice President of OCTA and Lee Black, right, was elected Vice President-President Elect by the OCTA Board of Directors to serve during the 2018-2019 Board year. Sandra Wiechert and Marvin Burke will continue as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

— Photo by Bill Martin

New OCTA Board Members



Newly elected OCTA Board members John Briggs of Idaho and Helen Hankins of Nevada. Duane Iles of Kansas and Matt Mallinson of Missouri were reelected to their second three-year terms.

— Photo by Bill Martin

Funds Still Sought for Franzwa Memorial Bench

Contributions in support of a memorial bench for OCTA founder Greg Franzwa are still being accepted. Greg was OCTA's first president and functioned as an executive officer for the first few years, utilizing his Patrice Press business to promote OCTA and its mission.

The memorial bench will be installed near OCTA headquarters at the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, Missouri. The goal is to raise \$2,500 for fabrication and installation. As of late September, the effort was still about \$500 shy.

You can help by sending a donation to OCTA headquarters. Please indicate that the donation is designated for the Franzwa Memorial Fund. Send your donation to OCTA, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051.

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OCTA Board Approves \$312,750 Budget

The OCTA National Board of Directors approved a \$312,750 operating budget for the October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019 fiscal year.

Budget revenues and support are projected to be \$291,000, including \$133,000 provided through a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service. The shortfall between revenues and expenses will be made up through withdrawals, as needed, from OCTA's Endowment funds.

The \$312,750 in operating expenses represents a reduction of about \$5,000 from the budget approved for the previous fiscal year. The NPS contribution has not changed.

In a report to the Board at its annual meeting held at the Ogden National Convention, Dave Welch, chair of OCTA's Investment Advisory Committee, said the total value of the organization's three endowment funds was \$1,519,154, as of July 9, 2018, compared to \$1,493,535 on January 1.

Fund balances for each of the endowment funds were:
Martin Fund (legal) \$435,187
Loomis Fund (preservation) \$332,575
Heritage Fund (unrestricted) \$751,392

Welch said that while as much as \$45,000 may be available from the endowment funds for use during the next fiscal year, Loomis and Martin funds can only be used for designated purposes.

He also noted that "withdrawals from the endowment funds since inception total about \$260,000. With compounding reinvestment, this may account for a reduction in our current fund balances of as much as \$350,000."

Long Range Planning Committee Re-Activated

OCTA has re-activated its Long-Range Planning Committee to help position the organization for membership and financial growth.

President Pat Traffas named Camille Bradford to chair the committee. Other members will include Duane Iles, Dick Waugh, Glenn Harrison and Bill Martin.



Board member and out-going Vice President Duane Iles addresses the Board of Directors during its Annual Meeting in Ogden, Utah, in August.

— Photo by Roger Blair

The Committee will make its first report to the Board at its Mid-Year meeting in March.

In other action, the Board:

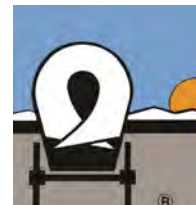
- Heard reports about planning for National Conventions in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 2019; Elko, Nevada, in 2020; and Casper, Wyoming, in 2021; as well as a Board Mid-Year meeting and symposium to be held in Independence, Missouri, March 14-16.

- Ratified an electronic vote taken prior to the Board meeting, to publish *News From The Plains* primarily through electronic means, with a \$20 annual charge for those who desire a printed copy.

- Approved a motion to require election of the National Preservation Officer by the Board of Directors upon a recommendation from the Nominating & Leadership Committee. Previously the position had been filled by chapter preservation officers.

- Approved a policy for receiving property donations with a value greater than \$1,000. Before accepting a donation, the policy requires a detailed description of the transaction, the benefits to OCTA, an estimated cost to complete the transaction (including annual costs to maintain the asset), and the source of funding the project.

Save The Trail



PRESERVATION



By [John Winner](#)

National Preservation Officer

The first thing I'd like to do is recognize the chapter preservation officers. I consider these OCTA chapter members as the first responders when preservation issues arise: Trails Head Chapter - Allen Wiechert; Northwest Chapter

- Billy Symms; Wyoming Chapter - Fred and Fern Linton, Randy Brown, Julia Stuble; California-Nevada Chapter - John Winner; Crossroads Utah Chapter - T. Michael Smith, Nebraska Chapter - Linda Tacey; Idaho Chapter - Wally Meyer, Don Wind.

OCTA is currently tracking over 30 preservation projects that pose threats to our trail system. I want to concentrate on some of the projects that have recently had significant action.

Long Canyon Mine Project: This is an open pit mine in Northeast Nevada on mostly BLM land under agreement with Newmont Mine Company. A segment of the Hastings Cutoff emigrant trail is within the project boundaries. As is Big Springs, a frequently noted emigrant diary watering stop. Early in our discussions, the BLM determined that the project would have no direct impact on the Hastings Cutoff. Talks then centered on Indirect Effects or visual settings. In December 2016, I submitted a series of mitigation requests including: 1) map to MET (Mapping Emigrant Trails) standards the entire Hastings Cutoff emigrant trail; 2) Create Conservation Easements or similar protective provisions on emigrant trails on Newmont properties and subsidiary properties; and 3) Allow controlled access to emigrant trails and historic sites.

The Elko Land and Livestock Company (ELLCO), a subsidiary of Newmont Mine Company owns a large portion of the land leading to Gravelly Ford, where there are numerous Class 1 trail segments, as well as the Gravelly Ford site, a major emigrant camping spot and Humboldt River crossing on the California National Historic Trail.

As a result, ELLCO has agreed to establish the *Gravelly Ford Conservation Area*. This will include the Gravelly Ford site and the trail segments leading to Gravelly Ford. In addition, the company will establish a permanent land encumbrance, conservation easement, or similar legal instrument to protect the *Gravelly Ford Conservation Area* from direct adverse impact. The proposed mitigation also includes structured access to the trail segments and Gravelly Ford Site.

Lander Road Damage Mediation: Forest Service personnel conducting watershed restoration inadvertently damaged a portion of the Lander Trail section of the California National Historic Trail. A final draft of the memorandum of agreement is now being reviewed and includes remediation of ground damage, trails markers for all segments of the Lander Cutoff, and interpretive signs on the Salt River Section of the Lander Cutoff.

Continental Peak Grazing Allotment Fencing Project, Wyoming: Hellyer Limited Partnership (HLP) proposed constructing approximately 26 miles of three-strand electric fence, separating pastures and enclosing approximately 330 acres riparian areas. One fence line will cross the Oregon / Mormon Pioneer / California / Pony Express National Historic Trail. The proposed trail crossing fence is approximately 7,855 feet long. In addition to the fencing HLP will fund the cost for production of four directional signs and sign posts to guide the public along the National Historic Trail.

Other Preservation Actions

Riley Ridge to Natrona CO2 Pipeline Projects, Wyoming: A Programmatic Agreement has been signed to address potential direct or indirect affects to cultural resources. OCTA is a Consulting Party.

Carson Route, Nevada: A proposal to extract aggregate material for use on federally funded highway projects is adjacent to Class 1 trail segments on the Carson Route. A meeting is scheduled with the archaeologist from the Nevada Department of Transportation to mark the class one trail segments.

Fire Danger Issues: Due to extreme fire conditions in California, several projects are underway to reduce the fuel load along forest highways or in National Forest areas.

In the Lake Tahoe Basin OCTA mapping crews have been working with Forest Service personnel to mark the Johnson Cutoff.

On the Carson Route in the Eldorado National Forest, OCTA mapping teams have been working with Forest Service personnel to mark trail locations to avoid equipment operators from destroying any trail segments.

OCTA members are working with consultants on the Carson Route, Luther Pass Trail, Big Tree Road and Volcano road identifying trail locations.

Again, only limited number of the preservation issues that are on the radar screen are mentioned here. The saga of the B2H project in Oregon/Idaho and the R-Project in Nebraska continue to make news and are spotlighted elsewhere in this issue. More information about those projects later. Your help is important. If you become aware of a preservation issue be sure to bring it to OCTA's attention. *More to come!!!*

B2H Project Update

The Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) transmission line continues to grind its way through the government process in Oregon.

The Oregon Energy Facilities Siting Council recently issued the Second Amended Project Order to update references to applicable administrative rules that have changed in the four years since the previous Project Order was issued. It is also being issued to update Special Advisory Groups (SAGs) that have been added or removed due to route changes since the preliminary application was first submitted in 2013.

Finally, this Second Amended Project Order is being issued to accurately reflect the necessary information that Idaho Power is required to provide in the application for site certificate. We expect the Project Order will be published soon, and this will start another round of public meetings.

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest published its Record of Decision in June 2018. Several of us made formal objections, including our friends at StopB2H Coalition. OCTA has objected to the Forest Service Visual Analysis, Clearcutting of large trees, Stream erosion, Access Roads, and Financial Security, all specific requirements of the National Forest. The current transmission line route does not cross the Oregon Trail in the forest, but has indirect effects. The resolution meeting will not likely result in an immediate decision.

There will come a time, probably late winter or early spring, when we will need all of OCTA to make our feelings known to the governor-appointed Siting Council.

-- Gail Carbiener

NPS Unveils Oregon Trail App



A new mobile application for the Oregon National Historic Trail has been unveiled by the National Park Service.

In a presentation OCTA's Board of Director, representatives from the NPS said it the app makes it possible to "journey from Missouri to Oregon with a ranger in your pocket."

The free, downloadable app is available through the Apple app store or Google Play. Search for NPS Oregon Trail. Plans are to add other National Historic Trails in the future.

Also, Aaron Mahr, superintendent of the NPS's National Trails Intermountain Region, which manages OCTA-related trails, told the Board that a new Cooperative Agreement has been signed to support OCTA through the 2019 fiscal year.

Mahr noted that the funding is "completely discretionary" and not required by the National Trail System Act, but "will continue as long as we have the funds."

He added that Cooperative Agreements with OCTA and other organizations are under constant review by the federal government "and that review is getting tougher every year. We have to show it is a valid investment of public funds."

Mahr also said the long-pending feasibility study of segments and routes on the California and Oregon trails proposed to be added to the national trails system remains under review by the Park Service regionally and nationally. Final action is not expected until 2019.

A Reminder for Ezra Meeker Life Members



Ezra Meeker

If you are an **Ezra Meeker Life Member** of OCTA and a member of one or more regional chapters, your chapter dues renew on January 1, 2019.

For your convenience, you can renew your chapter memberships online by visiting octa-trails.org/why-join-octa/ and following the appropriate links for regional chapters. You can also call headquarters at (816) 252-2276 for more information.

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.

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

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



OCTA has been busy enhancing its online presence over the past year and with help from you and our many chapters, we hope to continue expanding our reach across the nation and internationally with more and more Internet offerings.

Late this summer, OCTA launched a completely reformatted national

website at octa-trails.org. You'll find a all-new website with more color, more images, and an easier-to-navigate format. Drop-down menus give you easy access to all content on the website, and each of these sections are highlighted further down the homepage with a short narrative and image explaining each section. There is also a lot more video on the new website with plans to add much more over the coming months and years.

Educational resources and interactive maps are also highlighted, as these items are shown to attract the most visitors.

At the very top of the new website is a link for **"volunteer hours."** We hope that everyone who donates time, mileage, or money to trail-related projects will log their work here. You can input your data as often as you like, or save it up for a one-time submission at any point during the year. The information you submit is automatically tabulated and can be downloaded on our end in a complete report that we can share with our colleagues and partners in an easy-to-read Excel file. These numbers are reported to the National Park Service, who uses them to access funds in the "Volunteers in Parks" program. This year, those hours were leveraged into purchases of Terrain Navigator Pro mapping software to be used by our volunteers across the entire trails system. The numbers are also reported to the Partnership for the National Trails System, which compiles our numbers alongside those of all 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails to share with Congress to ensure full funding for the entirety of the National Trails System. We will remind you numerous times throughout the year to report your numbers.

OCTA also worked with our Utah Crossroads Chapter in the last year to launch an incredible new website that focuses solely on the trail and the chapter's work in Utah. You can see it at utahcrossroadsocta.org. The colorful new website is loaded with stunning photography and sections on Utah Trail Tours, a History of the Trails in Utah, Preservation, a section detailing all

of the split-T rail markers that punctuate the trail throughout Utah, embedded video, and an incredible library of photographs. The chapter regularly updates its website, which is being used by other chapters to model new websites.

We are now working with our Gateway Chapter in St. Joseph, Missouri to develop a new website that will be very similar to our Utah Crossroads Chapter website. There will be two important new sections. One is an



interactive GIS map to "jumping off" locations, including businesses, homes, ferries, burial places, and other things related to the trail in St. Joseph. A second new section on the Gateway site will feature a digitized library of trail diaries written by people who set out on the trail from St. Joseph. In a partnership with the St. Joseph Museum, we were able to completely digitize their collection of trail diaries this summer. We feel this new section will be an invaluable tool for researchers.

Finally, we continue to update our journals website at octa-journals.org. This website features over 400 original trail diaries (and growing) and our complete collection of *Overland Journal* and *News From the Plains*. We will soon be adding the complete collection of convention books and tour guides, as they were also digitized over the summer. Before the creation of this website, only about 10 people per year accessed the collection at OCTA's Merrill J. Mattes Library, housed in the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence. Since we digitized the collection, we had over 70,000 users in the past year alone. Any way you slice it, growth from 10 users to 70,000 is phenomenal. So phenomenal, in fact, that the Mattes Library has caught the eye of a national awards body. OCTA's digitized Mattes Library was recently nominated for a national award by a rather prestigious body. However, we were asked not to share detailed information on this nomination yet, as the nominating body wants to coordinate press on the matter. Stay tuned!

— [Travis Boley](#), Association Manager

OCTA 2018 Awards

Friends of the Trail Awards

David Gerdes of Monument, Colorado, and **Mike Olsen** and **Dee's Incorporated - Cold Water Ranches** of Utah received Friend of the Trail Awards at the OCTA National Convention in Ogden.

Mike Olsen, pictured here, and the Dee Corporation have worked with the Utah Crossroads Chapter to place T-Rail markers on land owned by the Corporation at sites along the Hensley Salt Lake Cutoff, at Pilot Springs, Emigrant Springs and Cedar Spring. They have given permission to use their gates for field trips to visit the sites. Their efforts have not only allowed the chapter to assess preservation needs in the area, but have added to the enjoyment and understanding of a significant route to California and the associated history.



David Gerdes was nominated by the KANZA Chapter for his efforts to preserve the history near his family's farm in Kansas. There are several trail markers within a two-mile radius of the farm. He brought the idea of improving the site of the Trails Junction to the attention of the Chapter. The wording on the marker was wearing away and the site definitely needed some improvements to the landscaping.

Gerdes offered to pay for the replacement of the marker and for an interpretive panel and the Chapter assisted in cleaning up the site. David has since become a member of OCTA.

Springs, and Cedar Spring and have given permission to go through all their gates for field trips to visit those sites, which include a 10-mile stretch of pristine trail.

The Friend of the Trail Award is presented to groups, individuals or organizations for work in preserving trail remnants, often on private lands.

Franzwa Award



Prolific author and historian **Will Bagley** of Utah has been named winner of the 2018 Greg Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award, OCTA's highest honor recognizing long-term and significant contributions to the organization.

Bagley, shown above in a celebratory moment with OCTA President Pat Traffas, has written, co-authored and edited many books on a broad range of topics, ranging from the Mountain Meadows Massacre, the Fur Trade, Mormon history, railroads, mining, the Overland Emigration, and much more.

Bagley served on the OCTA National Board of Directors in the 1990s and for several years was editor of *News From the Plains*.

A native of Salt Lake City who attended Brigham Young University for two years before graduating from the University of California-Santa Cruz with a degree in history, he is credited with authoring or co-authoring more than 20 books. He is a Fellow of the Utah State Historical Society.

Among many other endeavors, he is editor of the Arthur H. Clark Company's multi-volume *Kingdom in the West: The Mormons and the American Frontier* series.

Photos by Roger Blair

Distinguished Volunteer



Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter mapping chair **Richard Deisch** has been named winner of the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award for 2018.

Rich was recognized for completing the planning and mapping of numerous townships during his tenure as mapping chair.

His leadership has invigorated the mapping efforts and added members to the mapping staff. Rich's technical skills with mapping include his use of the sophisticated ArcGIS software, which he uses to interface with DigitLab and the National Park Service.

Rich coordinates the completed local mapping segments, converts the data and transmits the finished product to both the national OCTA, and DigitLab. Rich's efforts have vastly improved our overall Cherokee Trail mapping.



After six years of service on the OCTA National Board of Directors, Vern Osborne of Wyoming receives a Certificate of Appreciation from OCTA President Pat Traffas. Also completing six years of service was Loren Pospisil of Nebraska, who was unable to attend.

—Photo by Bill Martin

Distinguished Service

Gail Holmes of Bellevue, Nebraska, was named winner of the OCTA Distinguished Service Award for 2018.

Along with other historic work, he was cited specifically for his efforts to preserve the trail history of the Omaha-Council Bluffs region, including educating the public on trail history, advocating for preserving historic trail sites in Iowa and Nebraska, and research documenting the role that the region played in frontier history.

Now retired, he was recognized for his work with the Historical Pioneer Research Group, Inc. During his career, he consulted with Greg Franzwa about trails in the Middle Missouri Valley while he was writing *The Mormon Trail Revisited* and with a number of other historians and scholars.

In addition, for three years he hosted "Crossroads to the West," a 15-minute radio program that aired five days a week.



Mattes Award



Frank Norris and Lee Kreutzer were presented with the **Merrill Mattes Award** for excellence in writing. Their article "Trails and Rails: The Impact of Railroad Construction on the Overland Trails, 1863-69" appeared in the Summer 2017 - Vol. 35, #2 issue of the Overland Journal.

— Photo by Roger Blair

News From The Chapters



GATEWAY

A bus tour was held by the chapter on June 2. Several Gateway members researched and presented information about the St. Joe Road between St. Joseph and Sabetha, Kansas, for the tour. Members and non-members were invited to learn about and visit the trail. Those presenting were Corky Smith, Shirley Meyers, Bill Leppert, Jackie Lewin, Karen McClellan, Carole McClellan, Fred Sawin, Marilyn Bryan, and Lauren Manning. Twenty-eight people were on the tour.

A summer membership picnic was held at the home of Jackie and Jerry Lewin on July 7. The special guest and speaker was OCTA President Pat Traffas who shared what other chapters have been doing and have found successful as well as issues facing OCTA. Twenty-five Gateway members attended.

Gateway members are looking forward to the November charrette conducted by the National Park Service. A local group including Gateway members has been leading a resurgence of community interest in the trails. The week-long charrette will help focus the group along with community wishes, attainable goals, and interpretative projects. More to come on this next time.

-- Jackie Lewin



Gateway members and friends headed off for a tour of the St. Joe Road.



Karen McClellan tells Bob Corder and Bill Leppert about the importance of the Iowa, Sac and Fox Presbyterian Mission.

Save The Trail

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

The California-Nevada Chapter held its annual Directors Board and Membership meeting during the OCTA Convention in Ogden, Utah.

Seated on the board were Ken Johnston and Steve Shaw, both returning directors who volunteered to complete another three years of service.

The Board elected Dick Waugh to continue as President and Ken Johnston as Vice President, and reappointed Kathy Koester as secretary and Phyllis Smith as Treasurer. At the board's request, John Winner will continue to serve as the chapter Preservation Officer.

Aaron Mahr of the National Park Service updated the chapter on the **California Trail signing project** that has been a cooperative project with the California Department of Transportation. It began a decade ago when the National Park Service and Caltrans reached an agreement to post the California Trail signs.

After many years and multiple stops and starts, Caltrans District 3 has approved the plans along state highways in its area, and other districts are reviewing plans. We may need to provide help by having members involved with local agencies and other stakeholders to provide permission to install the signs.

Susie Winner reported the California-Nevada Chapter membership has been holding steady with 286 memberships. That represents over 400 persons involved in the Chapter. Susie announced Janet Nowlin was assuming the chair of the Membership Committee.

The **OCTA 2020 National Convention in Elko, NV** is proceeding on track, being well-organized by Chairperson Helen Hankins with assistance from Chapter Director Duane Jones. There are several themes and tracks that are being considered. The hotel contract has been signed, and a meeting will occur in November to complete arrangements for the venue at Elko's newly-designed convention center.

The **Elko Hot Springs Project** is moving along with grants and design for the development of the site. The Hastings Cutoff mapping group, the Chapter's newest mapping project, has had several outings and has been meeting with success in locating and confirming the trail.

John Winner reported on **preservation issues** throughout the chapter's territory, including the Eldorado National Forest scheduled fuel reduction projects and the Long Canyon project. The Chapter is working with Butte County, CA, the lead agency for an Off-Highway Vehicles grant that would affect the Beckwourth Trail.

The **Fernley Sand Swales** Cleanup was held September 22 in conjunction with National Public Lands Day. Jon

Nowlin is leading the Chapter's contingent and is actively involved with the BLM and City of Fernley in gaining the support of the community to clean the area.

Nowlin reported that the Central Pacific RR embankment that had been eroded by off-highway vehicles has now been repaired and the area protected by several barriers and signs. The off-highway vehicles have apparently been avoiding the area. There is a noticeable reduction in OHV use and trash.

Signs that were placed stating No Trashing or Dumping seem to be having an effect in the areas away from the railroad alignment. Although dumping still occurs, it has been drastically reduced. The Sand Swales are on the last seven miles of the 40-Mile Desert.

Other projects involve the **John Marsh House** near Mt. Diablo in the Bay area. The Marsh home was the ending location of the Bidwell-Bartleson emigrant wagon train. The California-Nevada Chapter has been requested to provide an interpretive sign at the location as it relates to emigration over the historic trail. The Board has agreed to contribute money for the sign but will wait until the State Parks moves forward in conjunction with the foundation working to preserve the home.

The Chapter is working closely with the community of **Dayton, Nevada** to place interpretive signs along the California Trail, which is the main street of historic Dayton. Locals have already contributed money for the panels, and we are hoping to complete the project by the end of this year.

The chapter is awaiting word from the National Park Services River, Trails and Conservation Access Program on a **grant application** to conduct a charrette to assist in developing the Fernley Sand Swales.

There have been several outings led by Chapter member David Fullerton, one on **Roller Pass** which resulted in a short video that is on the OCTA website and on OCTA's Facebook page. Frank Tortorich is leading his "Wedge Warriors" on the annual trail clearing and mapping project along the **Carson Route** at the end of August. Projects are scheduled along the trails in the Tahoe area and the Highway 50 corridor.

The **CA-NV Spring Symposium** is scheduled for San Juan Bautista, CA, on April 25-27, 2019. Steve and Patty Knight have once again committed to hosting the symposium in central California. It is hoped to be able to include some members of earlier emigrant families as well as exploring some lesser-known trails in California.

— Dick Waugh

NORTHWEST

Work continues on various trail-centered projects.

About a year ago, with the support of the National Park Service, Northwest OCTA, National OCTA, and three landowners, Gail Carbiener started the process of getting 3.66 miles of the Oregon Trail above the City of La Grande listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register, the nation's official list of buildings, structures, districts, sites, and objects significant in American history, is maintained by the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. In Oregon, the



NW Chapter booth at the Oregon Lavender Festival.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) assists property owners, governments, and interested citizens in identifying and listing Oregon's most historically important resources on the National Register.

Gail found that the Oregon National Historic Trail has only three segments included on the register in Oregon, the most recent almost 30 years ago! They are: 1) Barlow Road, 30 miles over Mt. Hood, listed in 1989 & 1974, from Wasco to Hood River; 2) Vale District, seven miles of Keeney Pass, the hot springs and Henderson gravesite, listed in 1975; and 3) Well Springs, seven miles on Boardman Bombing Range, listed in 1978.

In fact, only seven Oregon Trail sites have been listed along the entire length of the trail, and all were done in the early 1970s. On June 22, SHPO had their meeting in Redmond, Oregon, and Gail presented a brief outline of the project to the full State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation. Currently working with SHPO staff, they look forward to the February 2019 meeting for their first formal presentation. Gail stated, "With the 175th Oregon Trail anniversary, they are committed to not waiting any longer, and so are we."

In celebration of that anniversary, the Clackamas County Historical Society, the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, and Victoria's Treasures Image and Impressions are sponsoring "The Oregon Trail Story Symposium/Learn HERstory in History." It is being held in Oregon City on October 11-13. For information contact Marge Harding at harding1863@comcast.net or www.oregontrail175th.com. There will be pre-symposium tours of the Barlow Road and the Columbia River Gorge and lectures on topics such as "Giving the Noose the Slip," "Bloomers and Bonnets on the Trail," "Tabatha Brown Mother of Oregon," "Black Women in Oregon," "Mourning in the Territory," and presentations on Narcissa Whitman and Abigail Scott Duniway among others.

On June 2 NW Chapter members Robin Baker, Henry Pittcock, Alex Coach, and Steve and Theresa Fisher enjoyed an impromptu hike of 3.5 miles on sections of the Barlow Road near Mt. Hood. Cars were placed at both ends of the route. They started on the Pioneer Bridle Trail and went west about a mile until encountering a Barlow Road swale. Continuing on they found a wooden Oregon Trail post with a carved "gate" symbol, a wooden "Original Wagon Road" sign mounted on a tree, and a second wooden post that had rotted out at the base and needs to be replaced. After lunch at a moss-covered area called Hunter's Camp, they continued on toward Laurel Hill and HWY 26 where they picked up their car and shuttled back to the beginning.

On June 16 several NW Chapter members were at the Philip Foster Farm Opening Day festivities in Eagle Creek, Oregon, that featured "Fire Cooked Flavors" with foods cooked in Dutch ovens over open fires. Chapter members talked all things trail with visitors and farm staff alike.

On June 23 and June 24 NW Chapter members staffed a booth for the fourth year at the Clackamas County Lavender Festival, held at the Oregon Lavender Farm. Within view of the Barlow Road, chapter members contacted over 200 people to talk about the Oregon Trail, hand out brochures and maps, and to obtain details of trail location from neighbors and landowners. Several attendees mentioned reading the OCTA plaque about the Barlow Road that was installed on the farm property last year. Again, the ongoing chapter goal of educating the public about the trail's history and legacy was accomplished.

-- Dennis Larsen

SOUTHERN TRAILS



Rededication of the Arizona Territorial Government monument at Navajo Springs was scheduled for Saturday, October 6.

The site is about 3 ½ miles off Interstate 40, located on a Navajo reservation. The Navajo Nation has been extremely cooperative in the project to replace the monument.

The new monument was donated through the efforts of OCTA's Southern Trails Chapter. In the photo is the work crew that installed the new marker, (left to right) Clarence Bedonie, Richard Greene, Kevin DeVault and Tracy DeVault. Not pictured is Al Pahi, who was there during the entire operation to place the marker.

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

A chapter outing to the Overland Trail Museum in Sterling, Colorado took place in July. On September 30 the chapter planned to join members of the Loveland Historical Society for a bus trip to Fort Laramie, with stops at the Oregon Trail ruts and Register Cliff near Guernsey.

The chapter's Mapping Committee has three new members and Bruce Watson has been training them how to access data to map historic trails, using Terrain Navigator Pro, Google Earth, online topographical maps and BLM data. The new members are tasked with mapping several unfinished townships in El Paso County and near the Wyoming state line.

Richard Deisch was the winner of this year's Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award at the convention in Ogden. Richard moved to Arizona earlier this year but remains Chair of the Mapping Committee, with Bruce Watson serving as Co-Chair. Prior to his move, Rich made preliminary contacts with the City of Colorado Springs regarding potential signage of the Cherokee Trail. At the chapter meeting in Ogden we welcomed Jane Vander Brook of Olympia, Washington as our newest Life Member.

-- Camille Bradford



Colorado-Cherokee Chapter members at the Overland Trail Museum.



The Colorado-Cherokee Chapter was well-represented in Ogden.

CROSSROADS



Jess Petersen with a new T-Rail marker.

On Wednesday July 3rd, a Crossroads' work crew consisting of Jess Petersen, Bryce Billings, Vic Heath and Sheri Biesinger replaced a T-Rail on the east bank of the Jordan River.

It all started with an email OCTA relayed to Crossroads saying 'one of your T-Rails is missing.' I talked to Bryce and Jess, who both thought I had finally lost my mind but decided to check for themselves. Bryce went knocking on doors in the area to eventually find somebody who remembered a marker being there but couldn't recall when or why it was removed. Jess did some further research to find that the original was probably removed because it was considered to be part of the levee.

I have rarely seen one of our T-Rail work parties draw as much interest. Sheri Biesinger of the Granger, Utah Facebook history group, who had originally alerted us about the absent marker, brought a crowd to watch the installation as well as pitching in to set the post. Terry Welch, Nancy Petersen, Marie and Drew Wanosik spent most of their efforts explaining OCTA to the many people using the Jordan River Parkway Trail that morning, who were curious about us digging.

Jess arranged for the replacement to be just inside the property line of Radius Engineering, so it is less likely that this one 'walks away'.
-- Drew Wanosik

It didn't take long for OCTA's 36th Annual Convention to become history.

After a couple of years of planning, negotiations, organizing meetings, pre-trips, phone calls and e-mails, disappointments, and emergency planning, it all came together the first week of August, 2018, in Ogden, Utah.

From my point of view it came together very well. There are so many people to thank I don't know where to begin, but Gar Elison and Terry Welch deserve the most accolades for its success. I was especially happy to see Will Bagley receive the Greg Franzwa Award as well as other deserving people. The speakers were very well versed in their subjects which were well-delivered and timely. The meals were excellent; the venue, more than adequate. However, parking, at times, did become a problem. Ogden's fault? At least one person got a parking ticket.

Registration was about 287. It is unknown how many Crossroads members were there but I saw quite a few, and I believe most were involved with the functioning of the convention. Good volunteering there!!

The bicycle ride with Lee Kreutzer and Steve Allison down the old highway in Echo Canyon was a success. Much history there!! Hopefully this old highway will always be kept open just for the historical sites along the way.

The pre- and post-convention trips went well from all accounts. Thanks to all the volunteers for this success. Thanks to Victor Heath for the "mini tee posts" given to some participants and volunteers. The bus trips, a big part of any convention, went well too. And the stop at Eli Anderson's Wagon Town Museum was also a place of much interest on the Bidwell-Bartleson bus tour.

Much thanks to Laura Anderson for the maps on the walls from the National Archives as they were really of special interest. The activity room also went well as there was a lot of activity and interest shown there.

Thanks again for the volunteerism, and to the vendors and caterers for their efforts.

- A. Oscar Olson

Revised Crossroads Rail Marker Book Available

The newly updated and expanded 2nd edition of *Kiosks and Rail Makers, Marking Emigrant Trail through Utah with feeder trails in Wyoming & Idaho* by Roy Tea & Charlie Burkhalter (aka Crossroads' T-Rail book) is now available.

With contributions from Vic Heath, Jess Petersen and Bryce Billings, the book is available from the Utah Crossroad Chapter for only \$10 (plus \$3.28 postage). Spiral bound with 56 pages, including 12 maps, it includes GPS information for the markers listed. This volume covers most of the trails in Utah all the way down to Greenville in Southern Utah.

Send your Name, Address, # of copies that you want and your Payment to: Drew Wanosik, 862 South 1200 West, Salt Lake City UT 84104. Please make all checks payable to UTAH CROSSROADS

TRAILS HEAD

Since returning from the Ogden Convention, Trails Head hasn't made any formal scheduling for the fall. Our Fall Membership meeting will be sometime in November. However, there are a few items that were discussed in our membership meeting in Ogden, where about 20 members were present. Since we had five calendar winners from our chapter, pictures and a write up in our newsletter will take place. Plan to have those posted as well to the OCTA Web page. We were very happy to have that many young kids be winners and know they were as excited as well.

Other items of business to be accomplished are to complete and update our chapter by-laws and have them ready for a vote at our Annual meeting. We also want to get in place our own Trails Head web page to be linked to the OCTA web page. Hopefully that can be completed in the next few months.

As a side note: I sometimes like to close my emails with "All trails lead to an adventure." So was our trip to Ogden! The van lost AC before we got to Kearney, NE on our first day of travel. So as I drove along in 90+ degree hot wind blowing in, I tried to think of how this was a normal travel environment only a few short years ago. As a kid I grew up with 60x4 air conditioning (60 mph, 4 windows down). Didn't

seem hot then. Now this was really nothing when you start and think about all of those early emigrants who endured all of the elements of weather. By comparison, this really was a piece of cake.

Several of us driving across Wyoming ran into the "cold" rain and hail storm on Sunday morning that was pretty intense! Again the elements of nature came into play and thoughts of how those early emigrants endured all of those trials of crossing the plains! There was no turning back!

Arriving in Ogden was a continuation of "hit the floor running." Convention questions and concerns seemed to start the minute I stepped into the building. I truly enjoy doing the work for Conventions – the new people I get to meet and work with, daily timing challenges, just being involved and discovering new things about the past makes it all worthwhile. I know those that attended this year's Convention enjoyed the speakers and tours as well as the food. I was happy to be a part of it and look forward to Santa Fe next year. If you haven't considered making that Convention please do – this too will be a great Convention to attend as well as many side attractions. Hope to see you there – I'm the one who runs around wearing about 3 or 4 different hats at the same time – but I love it!

To each of you - all trails lead to an adventure!

-- Jean Coupal-Smith

Solar Challenge Ends in Bend



The 2018 Solar Challenge raced over the Oregon Trail from Omaha to Bend, Oregon. Shown above, the winning team from Western Sydney University crosses the finish line, greeted by members of the Northwest OCTA Chapter. The team completed the 1,762-mile route in 37 hours, 55 minutes.

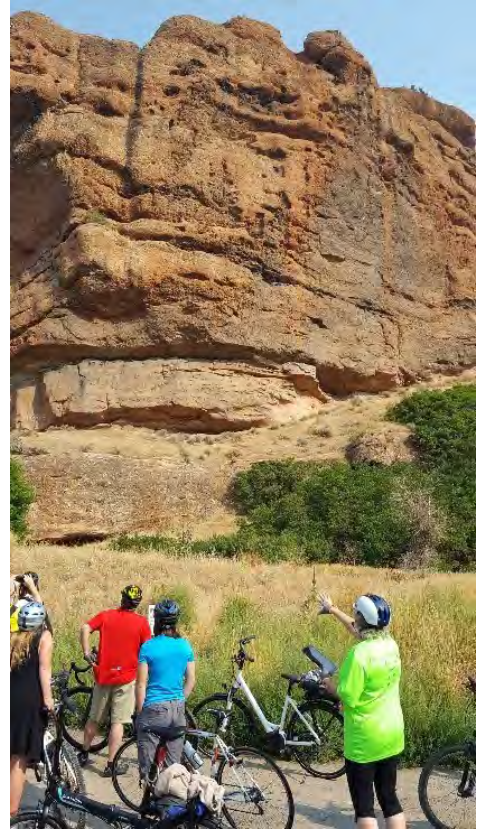
Help Needed for Education Projects

OCTA has programs to help students learn and to help recognize teachers who are educating students about the trails. You can help by telling your local school districts.

The opportunities for educators to participate in two projects are now underway. The first is the **Book Raffle** for a classroom set of one of OCTA's educational activity books on the Oregon-California, Mormon, Pony Express, or Lewis and Clark trail. All that is needed is for a school or teacher to send in a post card with the name of the book or trail they would like to receive and their contact information. The deadline is February 1, 2019.

The second is the **Outstanding Educator Awards**. The award categories are: Elementary School-Primary/Intermediate; Middle School/Junior High; High School; Post-Secondary/College, University, Adult Ed; and Museum/Institutional. Information and necessary forms can be found on OCTA's website. Recipients for each category will receive a \$250 honorarium. The deadline for applications and nominations is March 31, 2019.

Biking in Utah's Echo Canyon



I have been on a lot of historical bus and car tours, on and off road, but the Bike Tour down Echo Canyon, Utah as part of the 2018 OCTA Convention is one of my favorites.

On a bike we got a feel for the place that we couldn't get any other way. We met at a city park in Henefer and drove about 10 miles up Echo Canyon to a monument. From there we rode back down the canyon to Henefer stopping at about 15 historical sites which included some monuments, cliff formations, pioneer rock signage, and fortifications from the 1857 Utah War.

Our guide, Lee Kreutzer, was fun, interesting and very informative. At every stop she'd whip out her trusty iPad and load us up with fascinating information, including stories and interesting pioneer journal entries. People of all ages and walks of life rode along and enjoyed themselves.

My neighbor Karl summed up the bike ride for us older folks, "That was fun and interesting. I didn't know any of that. I really had a good time." My 14-year-old grandson put it this way, "That was awesome. But I thought we went too slow."

- Steve Allison

Rain Brings Good, Bad News at Alcove Spring



Upwards of 11 inches of rain fell at historic Alcove Spring in early September, leaving good news and bad news. The good news was a full-flowing waterfall, often a rarity at the park. The bad news is that two bridges were seriously damaged. A bridge built by Boy Scouts was a total loss and a new bridge by the railroad fill was moved off its piers, although it may be saved.



PUBLICATIONS

The student calendar, "**Emigrant & Indian – Types of Dwellings- 2019**" was printed in June and made available at the convention. Each student whose artwork was selected received a copy of the calendar and a check for \$50. The fifty copies brought to the Ogden convention quickly sold out. We hope that the number of students and schools participating will continue to increase. The theme for the 2020 calendar is "**Wild Creatures encountered by Emigrants & Indians.**"

Those students, with their teachers and schools, whose artwork appears in the 2019 calendar are: **Avery Judd** - Ms. Hodson / Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt



Publications Chair Bill Hill with the 2019 OCTA calendar.

Lake City, UT; **Gabriel Gibbons**- Ms. Hodson / Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Raley Blomquist** - Mr. Thorpe / Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Ruby Pehrson** - Mr. Thorpe / Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Justin Cudney** – c/o Mrs. Dutson, Bennion Elementary, Taylorsville, UT; **Coy Armstrong** co/ Ms. Smith, Bayard Elementary School, Bayard, NE; **Aanya Ahlawat** - Mrs. Van Nostrand, Golden View El. School, San Ramon, CA; **Gabriel Alliende** - Ms. Banis, Golden View El. School, San Ramon, CA; **Amber Grumley** - Mrs. Conrad, Golden View El. School, San Ramon, CA; **Carmen Balderas** - Mrs. Gittemeier, John Paul II Catholic School, Overland Park, KS; **Avery Strong** - Mrs. Kolarik, John Paul II Catholic School, Overland Park, KS; **Aubrey Massoth** - Mrs. Janner, John Paul II Catholic School, Overland Park, KS; **Ava Moran** - Mrs. Janner, John Paul II Catholic School, Overland Park, KS; **Lucy Herrold** - Mrs. Janner, John Paul II Catholic School, Overland Park, KS.

We ask that you encourage your children or grandchildren to tell their elementary or social studies teachers about the project. Information about the 2020 calendar can be found on the OCTA website at octa-trails.org/octa-awards/ in the Western Calendar section.

The Publications Committee is still looking for libraries willing to carry the *Overland Journal*. It is

important to remember that an OCTA member has pledged to match up to ten additional library subscriptions for those added by December 2018. Library memberships are important because they can make the magazine available to a much wider audience. Presently we have about 40 libraries that carry the *Overland Journal*. Take your copy to your local librarian and ask them if they would subscribe. If they do not have the funds, consider offering them a subscription, either personally or as a gift from your chapter. The cost is only \$45 per year. Let's not miss this opportunity to expand or extend our library subscription memberships!

This is the first issue of *News From The Plains* that is being distributed primarily through **electronic means**, as approved by the Board. The move will save OCTA between \$2,000 and \$3,000 a year in printing and mailing costs, as well as allowing for quicker delivery and full-color issues. However, if you prefer a printed copy, it will be available for a nominal cost of \$20 a year to cover printing and mailing costs. If you do not have access to a computer, a printed copy will be available at no cost to you. Contact octa@indepmo.org to make arrangements.

Because of a printer's error, some members received the Spring OJ with pagination issues. If your copy had errors, please let HQ know and you will be sent a corrected copy.

Our editors are continually working to keep our members informed of important events and providing outstanding, well-researched, interesting and informative articles about all our historic emigrant trails. We seek all forms of input, not only positive ones. If there is an area or topic we should address, we will try to do so and encourage authors to research and submit articles about those areas.

Meanwhile, the **Publications Committee is seeking additional members**. The committee is generally responsible for the oversight of OCTA's regular publications, including the *NFP* and *OJ* and other special publications. It also will have input into budget decisions, assist the editors as needed, help determine the annual Merrill Mattes Award recipients, and other matters related to OCTA publications. If you are interested, please contact me at hillhousew@aol.com. We would appreciate your assistance.

-- Bill Hill, Publications, Chair

Scenes From Ogden



The popular Activity Room



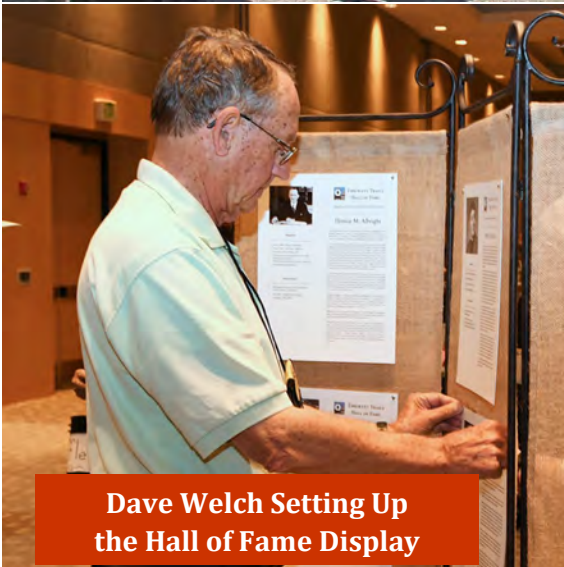
President Pat Traffas with Convention Chair Gar Elison



OCTA Members at the Golden Spike Historic Site



Activity Room



Dave Welch Setting Up the Hall of Fame Display



Chow Line

Photos by Roger Blair, Bill Martin & Sue Loucks



OCTA members on tour



Keynote Speaker Leo Lyman



Meatime Entertainment



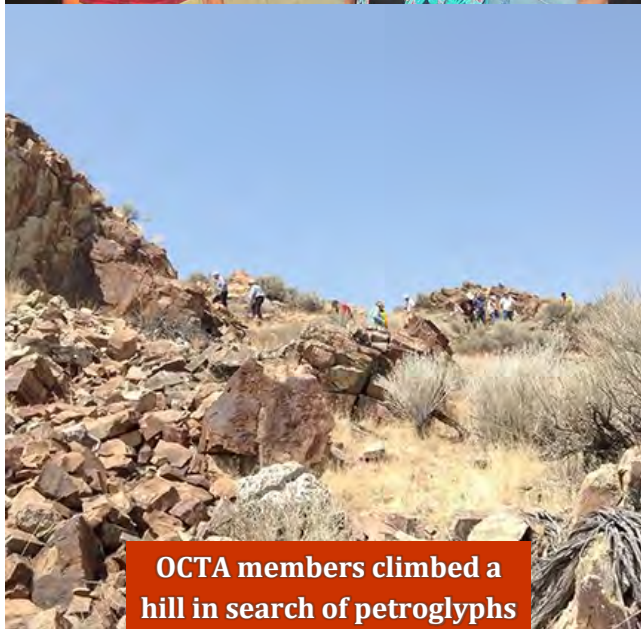
Assn Mgr Travis Boley talks to Jackie & Pinkie Ellis



Lewis & Clark buddies



Keeping an eye on a fur trader



OCTA members climbed a hill in search of petroglyphs



Geezers

When Past Is Future

This OCTA National Convention in Ogden, Utah gave me a chance to visit the ancestral homeland of my mom's family. I didn't know my Willie Handcart great-great-great-grandmother, but she was buried in Ogden in 1920.

Born in England, Lucy Ward came over as an orphan with the church at the age of 23, walked the trail and survived! I was able to visit her headstone and polish it up in an act of love and admiration. She married Mormon Battalion veteran James Barnett Cole, who had been part of the rescue party sent out to rescue the frozen handcart survivors.

Lucy and James married on November 27, 1856 at Fort Bridger, where they laid over while her feet healed. James was killed years later on their farm in Willard after an accident with farming equipment. We drove by their farm off Highway 89 as we headed toward Promontory Point for the Union Pacific Railroad tour.

If it weren't for OCTA, I might never have been inspired to find all the real history my family held. I knew I was old Pioneer stock, but I didn't have an appreciation for who had come before me. Now I know their names and faces and the stories of their hardships and the prices they paid for their freedom.

America is the land of freedoms. We appreciate our freedom of speech, but we had to fight hard to insure our freedom of religion. Our trip up Echo Canyon included history of the young men that helped delay Johnson's Army and I found two ancestors who were there in the canyon helping. Henry Eames was from England also and as a young man in Plain City, he was part of the rebellion of Mormons in addition to James Cole. A place is made holy by the events that take place there and the red rocks of Echo Canyon felt incredibly holy to me.

As a financial planner, it's important to always see not only into the past, but also into the future, and have a plan. Be ready for whatever may come your way and be willing to respond.

Estate planning is our way of giving back to OCTA with a purpose. We support our group with dues and membership, and even giving for a specific cause. We are a caring group with reverence for where we came from and a willingness to learn history. Even relearn it when necessary. We ask you to give back to OCTA because you care, and we promise to remember you when you are no longer boots *on* the ground, but boots *in* the ground.

-- Melissa Shaw Jones, Certified Financial Planner

Will you leave permanent footprints on the trails?

It's easier than you might think.

You can leave a legacy that will ensure that your footprints are never erased, while helping to protect emigrant trails from disappearing forever.

The threat has never been greater and your help has never been needed more.

Consider joining

OCTA's Trails Legacy Society.



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

Visit octa-trails.org/trails-legacy-society

You can make sure that ours are not the last footprints left on the trail.

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National Trails Conference



The 16th National Trails System Conference (formerly the National Scenic and Historic Trails Biennial

Conference) will be held in Vancouver, Washington October 22-25.

The conference is sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) and River Management Society (RMS) to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Trails and Wild & Scenic Rivers Systems Acts.

These side-by-side events will bring together private and public organizations and Federal agencies dedicated to the preservation of the nation's wild, scenic, and historic places.

Trail conference and river symposium themes and tracks will differ, although there will be several joint sessions. For more information, visit PNTS.org.

Visit OCTA on the Internet

OCTA-trails.org

Report OCTA Volunteer Hours at

OCTA-Journals.org

octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer

Shop Amazon, Save the Trails!



If you shop on Amazon, it's a simple step to help preserve the trails.

Each purchase made through the Amazon Smile program will result in a donation to OCTA.

Go to smile.amazon.com and designate OCTA as your charity of choice. Each time you shop on Amazon, enter the storefront through Smile and your purchases will result in a donation.

There is no additional cost. It's an easy way to shop and benefit trails preservation at the same time.

Thanks to Our 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, (541) 276-2431

Jim Blau Insurance Agency, 2661 Hub Drive, Independence, MO, (816) 833-1595

Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau, 2930 Old Oregon Trail Rd, Gering, NE, (308) 633-1808

Wagon Wheel Café, 703 Broadway, Marysville, KS, (785) 562-3784

Surveyor Scherbel, Ltd, P O Box 96, Big Piney, WY, (307) 276-3347

Lew Printing, 227-B East College St. Independence, MO, (816) 836-0219

Kenneth J Weinand DDS PC - 14500 42 St, Suite 210, Independence, MO 64057, (816) 478-4244

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:

Lila Aamodt
Lynne Alvord
Ron Anderson
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Cam Wade
Lorna Waltz
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Hamilton Wang
David & Wendy Welch
Nelson Weller
Gary Werner
Max Willard
Gareth Wilson
John & Susie Winner
Joan Young

Welcome New Members

Scott Bonawits & Celeste Ramsay,
Portland OR
Stefanie Boss & Mike Reed,
Hagerstown MD
Ryan Brown, Santa Barbara CA
Russell Buswell, Salem OR
Charolyn Gould Concepcion, Hillsboro OR
Jim Deckert, Kansas City MO
Mary Done, Sunnyvale CA
Lendon Everson, Carpinteria CA
James Forshey, Placerville CA
Emily Hauck, Gering NE
Jeff Hebert, Palm Coast FL
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Mark Stephens, Pembroke Pines FL
Donna Strider, Meridian ID
Ashley Sweeney, La Conner WA
Thomas Tetzlaff, Bend OR
Mike Thornton, Long Beach WA
Tom & Jeanne Young, Carson City NV

Trails50.org

Visit [Trails50.org](https://trails50.org),
sponsored by the
Partnership for the
National Trails System, to
find information about
activities on our national
trails during 2018, the
50th anniversary year for
the National Trails Act.



Save the Trail

REMEMBRANCES



Irv Sutton

Irv Sutton passed away this summer in Pueblo, Colorado at the age of 79. After serving in the Air Force and graduating from Western Illinois University, he taught at Macomb, Illinois, High School until 1969, when he moved to Fort Collin, Colorado. He taught at the University of Northern Colorado then became Director of the San Luis Valley Vocation School. He retired in 1982.

After retiring, he and his wife, Mable, enjoyed raising and training miniature horses and traveling the Oregon Trail from Missouri to Oregon. He was an active participant in Wyoming OCTA activities, including leading a Lander Road tour at the Casper National Convention. In addition to his wife, he is survived by four children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Gifts in memory represent a wonderful way to recognize the contributions of loved ones to the legacy of the trails.

To learn more, visit

<https://www.octa-trails.org/donate-to-octa/>

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As a long-term member of this organization, I feel grateful for Pat Traffas taking on the leadership of OCTA. In her letter to members in the summer issue she has demonstrated a high level of involvement with the goals of preserving the history of the OCT. Thank you.

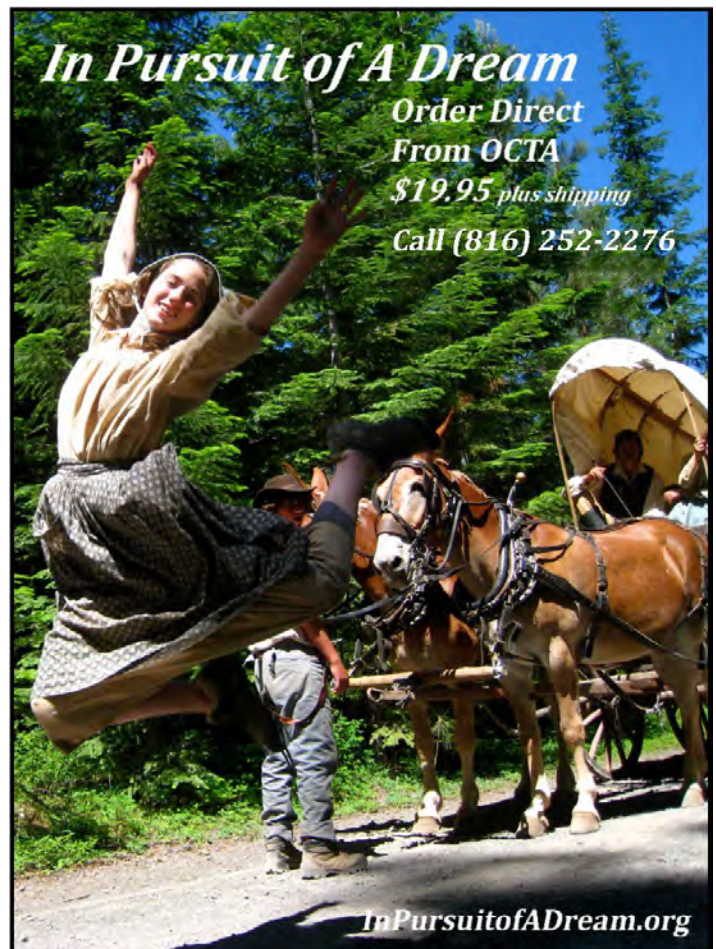
In her letter to the membership there is an error I cannot resist correcting concerning oxen on the Oregon-California Trail. I have worked oxen for 45 years and have interpreted the Trail for 40 of them in 12 states from Virginia to Utah.

I believe I can say that the pioneers never ingested any sustenance from drinking ox milk. They never milked an ox. An ox is a castrated bovine male primarily used for draft purposes.

A number of pioneers did have a milk cow with them, tied to the back of their wagons. If an ox died, she would probably be put into a yoke with an ox to help pull that family's wagon. With this change of occupation making her work hard she would have stopped making milk as her energy was then used to pull the wagon.

Devons were one of the British breeds imported from Britain. The breed is Devon, not Devonshire. The breed did come from the British county of Devonshire.

Bill Speiden, Drover



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NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

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