

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association



Winter 2019

Volume XXXIV, No. 1

Capitol Christmas Tree Completes Oregon Trail Journey

The 2018 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, the Oregon Trail's gift to the American people, was lighted on Thursday, December 6, on the west lawn of the Capitol, completing a 3,000 mile journey from Willamette National Forest in Oregon.

The spectacular masthead photo above was taken at Chimney Rock in Nebraska by photographer **Sharon Johnson of Sagebrush Junction Photography** in Scottsbluff as the truck carrying the tree was on its eastward journey.

Each year a different National Forest provides the Capitol Christmas Tree. The tree from the Willamette Forest was selected to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail and the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act.

After being cut on November 2nd, the tree followed the trail by highway, making stops at more than 25 local communities along the trail, including in Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri.

The tree includes ornaments representing each of the historic trails administered by the National Park Service.



Capitol Christmas Tree after it completed its trip on the Oregon Trail.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends in OCTA,

Recently, a respected member and mentor brought some important concepts to mind with regard to the mission of OCTA.

At its beginning, our founders described OCTA's mission as "preservation, appreciation and enjoyment of the emigrant

trails." It's time that we re-examine that purpose.

For years, we have used the mantra of "Save the Trails" but perhaps we should emphasize the "appreciation and enjoyment" of the trails as well. Preservation goes much further than our efforts to shepherd and document physical vestiges of trail—it goes to preserving our membership too! This friend went on to state: "It was thought that the emphasis on preservation would stimulate membership, but there is no evidence that this has occurred. At the same time we may have lost membership due to a perception that OCTA is no fun."

At a time when there are negative messages everywhere, a return to a balance of all three goals might provide our members, and the general public, with a more positive message. I encourage each of you to appreciate and enjoy our trails, while we continue the work of preservation, too. Let's work together to make OCTA fun—it can be done!

It was a privilege to attend the Partnership for the National Trails System Symposium in Vancouver, WA Oct. 22-25, 2018. The sessions were valuable and enlightening. It was a joy to meet several members of the Northwest Chapter for supper and an informal visit one evening. NPS Deputy Superintendent John Cannella, NPS

Historian Dr. Frank Norris, Association Manager Travis Boley, and OCTA PNTS Liaison Bill Martin joined us. The following day was most enjoyable and memorable, as John Cannella and Frank Norris joined Travis and me for a full-day on the Barlow Road in Oregon. A sign plan was reviewed and additional trail sites were identified. We even met up with the bus tour of PNTS attendees being led by members of the Northwest Chapter.

This officer attended the Annual Meeting of Trails Head Chapter on November 3 in Kansas City. She has also been involved with researching sites along the Oregon-California Trail in Douglas and Shawnee counties in Kansas. It was exciting to participate in the Charrette in St. Joseph, MO in November. Gateway Chapter gained numerous new members and garnered much public interest and awareness during this valuable process. What a joy it was to welcome the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree to both Kansas City and Independence November 20-21. The tree was harvested in the Willamette National Forest on November 2 and followed the Oregon Trail eastward enroute to Washington D.C. where it will be revealed on December 5.

The Long Range Planning Committee has been hard at work. This group has been tasked with determining long-term objectives of OCTA, and then developing strategies to achieve the objectives. Soon, a membership survey will be available for your valuable input. It is essential that you participate and that you express your opinions and ideas through this survey, which will be emailed. Should you need a printed survey, please notify OCTA Headquarters. Thank you in advance for your help in this endeavor.

Along with planning for the Mid-Year meeting and Symposium, OCTA is exploring the likelihood of hosting a Mapping and Marking Workshop and Conservation Easement Workshop in the Spring or early Summer of 2019. This would be a three-day commitment and all are invited to participate.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Officers, we hope each of you have enjoyed wonderful and safe Holidays. We trust that when you shared special times with family and friends, that you shared your trail lore so they can appreciate your involvement with OCTA. Then make plans for a springtime (or winter!) outing so they can experience and enjoy the trails too.

Thank you for your membership and service,

Pat Traffas, OCTA President
traffasp@gmail.com

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New Editor Sought for *News From the Plains*

OCTA is seeking a new editor for its quarterly *News From The Plains* newsletter. Long-time editor Bill Martin has announced plans to retire from the position following completion of the April/Spring 2019 issue.

Per OCTA Policy, the Board of Directors will make a decision on the new editor based on a recommendation from the Nominations & Leadership Committee, with input from OCTA's Publications Committee.

Applications should be sent to N&L Chair John Winner [swinner@dataentree.com] no later than February 15. The Board is expected to make a decision at its Mid-Year meeting on March 14. Applications should include a resume, a summary of relevant experience, writing samples, references, and brief statement of why the applicant is interested in the position.

The editor will be responsible for preparing four NFP issues annually on a schedule to be determined by the Board. The publication schedule historically has been Winter/January, Spring/April, Summer/July and Fall/October.

The editor will be responsible for soliciting and writing articles, editing as necessary, and design of the final publication. The editor is expected to attend the Annual OCTA Convention and the Mid-Year Board meeting.

Editing and/or reporting and photography experience is required, as well as proficiency in the use of publishing programs. Outstanding written and verbal communications skills are required. Knowledge of Overland Trails history, while not required, will be helpful.

The Editor can be expected to receive a professional fee, to be determined by a contract for a period of up to three years, as well as reimbursement for a portion of the costs of travel to Board meetings. The Editor will be supervised by the chair of the Publications Committee and will provide written reports of activities as necessary.

For a full job description, visit octa-trails.org/octa-eneews/job-description-for-news-from-the-plains-editor/

For questions about the work the job entails, you can contact current editor Bill Martin at nfpocta@gmail.com or Publications Committee Chair Bill Hill at hillhousew@aol.com.

The logo for "Save the Trail" is written in a stylized, cursive script. The word "Save" is in a larger, more ornate font, while "the Trail" is in a slightly smaller, simpler script. The entire logo has a soft, glowing shadow effect behind it.

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PRESERVATION



By [John Winner](#)

National Preservation Officer

Although we are still tracking over 40 projects that have potential threats to emigrant trails, it seems that there has been a lull in some activities. That's not to say there is a false sense of security, just less correspondence in the past few

months. Two major transmission line projects are still in our crosshairs: The R- Project in Nebraska and the B2H Project in Oregon/Idaho.

The **Nebraska R-Project** is a proposal from Nebraska Public Power District to construct, operate and maintain a 225-mile, 345-kv transmission line from the Gerald Gentleman Station north across the South and North Platte Rivers and Birdwell Creek. The R-Project is proposed to then extend east and then north through the Sandhills to Thedford, before turning eastward to Clearwater, Nebraska. Amanda Gibbs, Nebraska Chapter President and Linda Tacey, Nebraska Chapter Preservation Officer, stay in constant contact with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency overseeing this proposal. If approved, the transmission line and other infrastructure would cross the Oregon and California and Mormon National Historic Trails, causing major direct and indirect effects. To date, large crowds, including many OCTA members, have attended several public meetings expressing enormous opposition to the project.

The **Oregon/Idaho B2H Project** continues to go on and on and on.....If we were to recap the events to date it would fill a warehouse. OCTA member Gail Carbiener, who has devoted what seems to be a lifetime to this project, reported the latest, here is a summary of Gail's comments.

"We would hope that a pause could occur over the holidays, but not so! We keep plowing ahead. Some involved get paid during this time, but not us volunteers.

"At the last Energy Facilities Siting Council (EFSC), the Siting Analyst presented an update. She does have a sense of humor as she told the Council: "For context to the scope of a review, the application is approximately 20,000 pages long and weighs 240 pounds."

"She also said: "The Department's determination of completeness does not denote a recommendation of approval; rather, an application is complete when the Department determines that it contains adequate information for the Council to make findings or impose site certificate conditions on all applicable Council standards."

"It is important to know that after the issuance of the Draft Proposed Order, there will be five in-person Council

hearings during 2019. These will be held in the vicinity of the proposed facility. These EFSC hearings are **on-the-record**, so we must be prepared."

So....if you are inclined to follow along, here are a couple websites for your New Year's reading:

www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/B2H.aspx

www.boardmantohemingway.com/documents.aspx

Here are a few other projects that have had some recent activity:

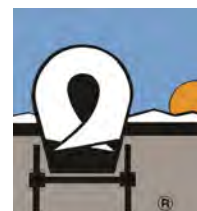
Mitigation for the **Long Canyon Project** open pit mine on the Hastings Cutoff in northeast Nevada continues to move forward. A major component of this mitigation is the creation of a Conservation Easement on the California National Historic Trail to protect the Gravelly Ford Site and Trail leading to the site.

Recently I was informed that the mining company operating the Long Canyon Project is proposing to expand the existing project area. This will open a whole new set of discussion on Direct and Indirect Effects on the Hastings Cutoff.

In western Nevada, the Federal Highway Authority is proposing to develop a "Borrow Pit" for aggregate material for **highway construction along US 50**. The proposed site is 40 acres adjacent to a Class 1 trail segment on the Carson Route of California National Historic Trail. In discussions with the Nevada Department of Transportation, they have agreed to protect the trail by constructing a temporary one-quarter mile fence adjacent to the trail with orange netting.

In California, the Governor signed an emergency proclamation to remove dead and dying trees, 200 feet from the centerline of State Route 88. Segments of the **Carson Route** are within these parameters impacting the trail. An archaeological consulting firm was hired by Caltrans to perform the work. OCTA teams spent several days with the consultants identifying trail segments to minimize impacts to the trail.

As I have mentioned in the past, we have a pretty good network of communication both in the public and private sector. OCTA's Chapter Preservation Officers are constantly alerted to trail threats, but your vigilance is crucial. Help where you can....*more to come*



Southern Trails Chapter Hosts Albuquerque Symposium

The Southern Trails Chapter will hold its annual Symposium February 22-24 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Presentations from Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region, will highlight the symposium.

Mahr, whose offices have oversight and management responsibilities for historic trails in the West, will provide a review of steps necessary to obtain historic trail designation for southern routes at 11 a.m. on Friday, and a program on historic homes along the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro following dinner on Friday evening.

Also on Friday, Harry Buchalter of the University of New Mexico will speak on "Pathways to New Mexico, Stories of Jews in the Land of Enchantment" at 9:30 a.m. There will be presentation by OCTA National President Pat Traffas and OCTA Western Regional Representative Sharon Brown as well as the Southern Trails Chapter membership meeting.

Tours on Saturday will include key points on the El Camino Real, including the Gutierrez-Hubbell House, Old Town, the Petroglyph National Monument and the Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum.

Saturday's dinner speaker will be Dr. Ron Stewart on "Elephants, Camels, Black Ant People. Oh My!"

Sunday will be for volunteers for the 2019 Santa Fe Convention, including stops at the Hotel Santa Fe, Sage Hotel, Farmers Market and Palace of the Governors. Participants will have an opportunity to travel via the Sundowner train.

Registration is \$35 per person or \$45 for couples or families, and \$20 for students, plus the cost of meals. Full registration information can be found on the southern-trails.org website. A late fee will be charged after February 5.

The symposium will be held at the Hoffmantown Church, 8888 Harper, NE, in Albuquerque. Accommodations are available at the LaQuinta Inn & Suites (Journal Center), 7439 Pan American Freeway NE, Albuquerque, at special rates of \$55.80 to \$64.80 per night. Call 866-5287-1498, option 1 (confirmation code 4023-421) and mention the Southern Trails Chapter of OCTA when making reservations.

**Save the Date: California-Nevada Chapter
Spring Symposium, April 24-27, San Juan
Batista, CA. Visit canvocta.org for details.**

"Truman & the Trails" Independence Symposium

OCCYA and the Trails Head Chapter will present "Truman & The Trails," a Symposium that will focus on the role of Independence, Missouri, as the starting point for the Oregon, California and Santa Fe Trails.

The Symposium, scheduled March 14-16 at the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, will also focus on President Harry S Truman's family ties to the trails and his later role in development heritage programs along the trails.

For registration information, visit octa-trails.org. The host hotel is the Drury Inn at 20300 East 42nd Street in Independence. OCTA has a block of rooms at \$95 per night, including a hot breakfast, dinner and an evening "happy hour." (For reservations, call the hotel at 816-795-9393 and ask for the OCTA room block. You may also book on-line at druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=2360324. Reservations must be made by February 13 for the discounted rate.

OCTA will hold its National Mid-Year Board meeting on Thursday beginning at 9 a.m. at the Drury Inn. The Symposium welcome reception and dinner begins at 6 p.m. at the Frontier Trails Museum.

Friday morning begins with a bus tour of the Independence Route from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Afternoon speakers beginning at 1:30 p.m. will include David Jackson on "Independence in the 1840s;" a Greg Hatten perspective on steamboats, river crossings and heritage tourism; and Anne Mallison, who will be on the Daughters of the American Revolution, Harry Truman and the National Old Trails Association. (A fourth speakers was yet to be confirmed at press time.)

Friday evening there will be a wagon ride from the Museum to Mallison Manor Winery, where dinner and entertainment will be provided.

Saturday morning there will be a tour of the Westport Route from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Afternoon speakers beginning at 1:30 p.m. include Dr. Jon Taylor on "Competing Histories and Independence;" Lou Austin on utilizing historic trails for community improvement; and a panel discussion on the future of the 3-Trails Corridor in the greater Kansas City area.

For a final, full schedule, visit octa-trails.org. Symposium registration is \$30 for individuals and \$50 for families, plus \$25 for Thursday's chuck wagon dinner at the Frontier Trails Museum and \$25 for the buffet dinner at the Mallinson Manor Winery. Optional Friday and Saturday bus tours are \$45 each and the wagon ride is \$25.

Education Outreach Promotes OCTA in Schools

OCTA's Education Outreach Committee (EO) has been out and active, attending the National Council for Social Studies meeting in Chicago in December and the Iowa Council for Social Studies in Altoona, Iowa, in October.

In Altoona, several hundred people were offered opportunities to attend class presentations and participate in personalized discussions and guidance on the implementation of OCTA's classroom curriculum. We gained new membership and expanded our participating teachers. We thank Gina Sifers and Paul Budd for helping with this event.

In Chicago, we got our message in front of more than 2,000 people. This is the fourth year we have participated in the National Council for Social Studies meeting. It felt like each person came by our booth two or three times to talk. It is impossible to share with you all the stories that people shared with us, but a few special ones should be shared.

Several people stopped by to say they have traveled overland trails from beginning to end or parts at a time. Some teacher shared that they are already using our curriculum, in all or part. Some colleges said they would like to incorporate our ideas. Others had no idea we existed, but have done something similar to what we do and will now include our curriculum. Many had seen us before, but repeated exposure to us has encouraged them to join. Some reported that their parents had been members in the past, but having passed on, they will now take up the torch. Others were retired and looking for ways to continue to stay active in teaching and thanked us for this opportunity to do so. Many had already been to Wayne City Landing and visited the Three Trails Museum on their quest for the beginnings of the trails. Some are writing books on the trails and have been seeking further information. Some that are already teaching with our materials stopped to ask for suggestions on what to do next. Some asked if there are local chapters that could provide speakers.

Travis Boley used to attend these conventions with good results, but he reports that since we have the EO materials and curriculum he has seen a major increase in interest. Having the curriculum already built and available for immediate use coupled with the movie *In*



OCTA's Matt Mallison, at left, visits with an attendee at the National Council for Social Studies meeting in Chicago.



Matt Mallison, left, and Paul Budd at the Iowa Council for Social Studies meeting.

Pursuit of a Dream and OCTA's new website has proven to be a major advantage for enhancement of our mission statement. All teachers see the importance of primary source information and are extremely excited for the opportunity to use the journals that we have archived and digitized. The excitement generated by the EO endeavors continues to grow as can be seen in our new memberships. Another dozen people joined at this convention.

We have more follow up to do after this convention than we have ever had in the past. It is encouraging for the EO committee to see and feel this progress. We are putting together our list of conventions to attend in 2019 so please contact us with any questions and suggestions.

- Matt Mallinson and Audrey Elder, Education Outreach co-chairs

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



By Travis Boley

November was an exciting month for many reasons in OCTA, not least of which were some unique growth opportunities. The St. Joseph (MO) Charette, the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree tour along the Oregon Trail, and the National Council on Social

Studies Conference in Chicago kept OCTA exceedingly busy late this autumn.

During the first full week of November, OCTA and its Gateway Chapter hosted our National Park Service colleagues in St. Joseph for a highly successful charette. With nearly 50 participants representing a wide swath of community interests, we were able to take down new and innovative ideas that will help St. Joseph create a more vibrant historic trails environment over a large geographic area, from the south boundary of the Patee House and Pony Express Museum, to the north into and beyond the downtown area, and to the west to the riverfront. Those ideas will be shared once NPS completes its report, but the early drafts look amazing. Those of you who attended the final Friday presentation saw the PowerPoint presentation detailing those wonderful ideas. Best of all, the Associated Press widely distributed the *St. Joseph News-Press* story about the charette, garnering us attention in papers from Miami to Washington, DC and beyond during a busy election week. It was stellar receiving viral treatment for our trails!

For much of November, the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree traveled from Oregon to Independence along the Oregon Trail to help celebrate the 175th anniversary of the trail. With multiple stops in all of our trail states, the tree was a great opportunity to help shine attention on the work we do. This was especially evident in both Kansas City and Independence, where our Trails Head Chapter participated in a big way at both stops. The tree's trip culminated with an appearance in the St. Louis Thanksgiving Day Parade before finally heading to Washington to be installed at our Nation's Capitol.

Finally, OCTA board member and education committee co-chair Matt Mallinson joined me as we attended and staffed a booth at the National Council on Social Studies Conference. There we had the opportunity to engage about 3,000 teachers and administrators and show them our resource-rich websites. The feedback we received was universally praised for the work OCTA has done to increase access to primary source materials and to work with school districts to create curriculum and train teachers in its use.

However, the greatest benefit OCTA saw in November

as a result of these activities was membership growth. Many new members joined as a result of our charette in St. Joseph because they want to work with OCTA to implement the plans that were prepared. Teachers joined at the social studies conference because they wanted increased access to OCTA staff, volunteers, and materials. OCTA President Pat Traffas even got Santa Claus to join at the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree event at Kansas City's Union Station! All told, we added about 20 new members as a result of the increased attention we are giving to projects, programs, and events. However, because of non-renewals, we are only holding our own and treading water.

We at OCTA HQ want to encourage our chapters and committees to create or participate in a wide swath of such activities. This is the way we will grow as an organization. We used many tools to entice new members to join, including free copies of some of OCTA's extra inventory. From copies of our educational workbooks to copies of Randy Brown's twin publications *Graves and Sites on the Oregon-California Trail* and *Historic Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails* to our historic trails map to copies of our *In Pursuit of a Dream* DVD, we were able to add an extra enticement for folks to join. We encourage our chapter leaders and committee chairs to contact us so that we can send you some of these items if you are attending events and attempting to get new members. These gifts work! Give it a shot and help us to really grow throughout 2019!



OCTA Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame in Fifth Year

The OCTA Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame (ETHoF) committee is currently evaluating and will soon elect the Class of 2019. Results will be announced at the mid-year board meeting in Independence in March.

The purpose of the ETHoF is to highlight those from the past who made significant contributions to the establishment and preservation of the western emigrant trails. Since many OCTA members have been recognized by the OCTA awards program, the committee's emphasis has been on the pioneers of the trail itself and the trail preservation movement. For this reason, by committee policy living OCTA members are not considered since this would duplicate the awards program.

Nominations of individuals, and comments on those being considered, are welcomed. Those elected previously and those being considered for election are shown in the list below. A nomination form is available at the OCTA website: octa-trails.org/emigrant-trails-hall-of-fame.

The form and comments may be sent to the committee at ETHoF1846@gmail.com. Additional information on those previously elected may also be found on the website.

Summary ETHoF Elections and Nominees

Class of 2015 (Elected)

Howard R. Driggs, Gregory Franzwa, William Henry Jackson, Merrill Mattes, Ezra Meeker

Class 2016 (Elected)

Paul Henderson, Minnie Howard, John McLaughlin, Marcus and Narcissa Whitman

Class of 2017 (Elected)

Aubrey Haines, Jesse Applegate, Walter E. Meacham,

Class of 2018 (Elected)

Horace Albright, John G. Ellenbecker, John Unruh, Merle Wells

Future Consideration

Ackerman, Dick

Antilla, Alice

Bancroft, Hubert Howe

Bidwell, John

Bigler, David

Bishop, L. C.

Bonney, W. P.

Bray, Mildred

Clark, Arthur Jr.

Clark, Arthur Sr.

Coe, William Robertson

DeVoto, Bernard

Ford, Henry

Franham, Thomas Jefferson

Fremont, John C.

Giles, John G.

Greenburg, Dan W.

Hafen, LeRoy R. and Ann

Himes, George

Holmes, Kenneth

Hope, Arthur

Kelly, Charles

Kelly, Hall J.

Kennell, Edna

Kimball, Stan

Krakow, Jere

Lee, Jason

Long, Margaret

Martin, Charles, Sr.

Masters, Joseph G.

Morgan, Dale

Morrison, W. W.

Nickerson, Capt. H.G.

Paden, Irene

Parkman, Francis

Peterson, Henry C.

Porter, Mae

Scott, Levi

Smitton, Larry

Spalding, Henry

Stuart, Robert

Watson, Bill & Jeanne

Wyeth, Nathaniel

Young, Brigham

Nominations Sought for OCTA National Board

Nominations are being accepted through February 15, 2019 for election to OCTA's National Board of Directors. Directors serve for three-year terms and may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Members of the Board are responsible for setting policies and priorities for the organization and electing officers. They also serve as important liaisons with OCTA chapters.

The terms of Board members Ginny Dissette, Dick Waugh and Dick Nelson will expire in 2019. Nelson is completing his second term, so he is not eligible to run again. Board members serve three-year terms and may serve no more than two consecutively.

Directors are expected to attend two board meetings annually one of which is held in conjunction with the OCTA Annual Convention. The second, Mid-Year meeting, usually in late winter or early spring, is held in rotating locations.

In order to be a candidate for the Board of Directors all that is required is being an OCTA member in good standing, a short statement of qualifications and experience, a photograph and the endorsement of three members of OCTA.

Candidacy papers should be sent to the Nominating and Leadership Committee Chair John Winner at swinner@dataentree.com or mailed to 3541 Sundance Trail, Placerville, CA 95667.

For more information about the elections process or the job you may also contact other members of the Nomination and Leadership Committee. Bill Martin at bmartinocata@gmail.com or Roger Blair at rblair@oregontrail.net. Additional information may also be found in the Members area of the OCTA website.

Award Nominations Sought

Nominations are due June 1 for the annual OCTA awards to be presented at the 2019 Convention in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Awards include the Greg Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award, OCTA's highest honor, and the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award. Non-members categories include Distinguished Service and Friend of the Trail Awards.

Awards nomination forms can be found on the OCTA website by visiting octa-trails.org/activity-forms. Questions about the awards process should be addressed to Awards Committee Chair Dick Nelson at kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net

News From The Chapters

Barlow Road

SOUTHERN TRAILS

More than four years of hard work came to fruition with the dedication of a restored plaque at Navajo Springs marking the establishment of Arizona's first territorial government in 1863.

The site is about four miles south of the Navajo exit off Interstate 40. It is still a working ranch. The area also is still a spring and even though the ranch has fenced the whole area off with barbed wire to prevent cattle from getting stuck, we still need to complete the fence, for the long-term protection of the monument. Access to the site is by arrangement only.

Originally placed in 1930, a sandstone marker had been badly damaged. Former OCTA President John Krizek learned of the marker's status during Prescott's sesquicentennial celebration and began seeking support for its restoration.



From left: Pat & Ken White, former "Trail Turtles;" Reba Grandrud, Southern Trails chapter president; Kay Lauster, president of the Chino Valley Historical Society; Tracy DeVault; Tom Jonas; Yavapai County Supervisor Craig Brown who did the honors reading Governor Goodwin's proclamation of December 29, 1863, and his wife Sandi; Elwood "Al" Pahi, Navajo rancher host; Cecilia Bell, OCTA board member; Kay and John Krizek. Behind Al is Richard Begay, Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Manager, and his friend; and in the back OCTA VP Lee Black and John Bell, holding up the flagpole with the 34-star (1863) flag.—Photo courtesy of Tom Jonas.

GATEWAY

2018 has been a year of learning and sharing for Gateway members. In October, members took part in St Joseph's Riverfest sponsored by the Downtown Association and the Parks and Recreation Department. Seven members took turns speaking to the attendees about the experiences of trail emigrants. Due to the rainy day, the program was held inside the Restoration Church which is housed in the historic natatorium building on the riverfront. Food, music, and costumed reenactors were also featured.

The first week in November was extremely important to Gateway and the future of trails recognition in St. Joseph as the National Park Service held a charette which was open to the public. Many good ideas were shared – some of which can be started as we await the final report of the NPS landscape architects. Gateway was pleased with the number of City officials and Chamber of Commerce members who took an active role in the discussions.

The annual membership dinner was held on November 13. Sara Wilson, director of the St. Joseph Museums, presented a program on the Buell Woolen Mill blankets in the Museum's collection. The Buell Mill was in operation during the emigration, and the blankets were purchased by many going west. Today, the Buell blankets are highly prized. New board members were elected at the meeting (see photo). The new board will meet in January to plan the activities and projects for 2019.

Lastly, many of our readers may remember Esther Kreek. She often played the hammered dulcimer at the OCTA musicians' jam at conventions. She is responsible for introducing a number of St. Joseph people to OCTA by encouraging us to attend the convention at Scottsbluff in the mid-1980s. We are pleased to announce that in November she was inducted into the Missouri Music Hall of Fame.

- Jackie Lewin



Gateway Board members for 2019: Front l to r – Jackie Lewin, president; Sandy Smith, secretary; Cindy Weaver; Carole McClellan, vice-president. Back l to r – Fred Sawin, treasurer; Glendon Hartman; Bill Leppert; Shirley Myers; Corky Smith; Dave Berger; Jerry Mogg. Not shown are Dr. Robert Corder and Lauren Manning.



Lauren Manning



Esther Kreek



Right, Fred Sawin

Left, Karen McClellan



St. Joseph Museums Director Sara Wilson, right, shows one of the Buell Woolen Mill blankets in the museum's collection.

NORTHWEST

The Northwest Chapter had an information booth at five Oregon major events this season, with the last being at the End of the Oregon Trail's 175th Anniversary festivities in Oregon City. A large number of chapter members were present both days to meet with the public and answer questions about the trail in general and give them maps and information to take home. OCTA members Marge Harding and Wendel Baskins both made interesting presentations during the event.

The chapter's annual fall picnic meeting was held September 29 in Vancouver, WA. Highlights: Sharon Brown, Western Region Representative, reported on the Partnership for the National Trails System and its upcoming national conference in Vancouver. Polly Jackson disclosed she is leaving the chapter membership and secretary positions but will stay on as webmaster. Gail Carbiener gave an update on B2H, which is continuing its progress toward being approved. Plans will be made for the annual meeting next March to be held at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center, Stevenson, WA. Robert Baker gave an interesting PowerPoint presentation on three exploratory hikes on Laurel Hill on the Barlow Road. Roger Blair shared his photographs of the 2018 OCTA Convention in Ogden, with special effects. After lunch Dave Welch concluded the programs with an informative presentation on the Whitman Mission route and cutoff to Fort Nez Perce/Walla Walla.

Gail Carbiener reports that the B2H application submitted to the Energy Facilities Siting Council (EFSC) is 20,000 pages long and weighs 240 pounds. It was officially accepted on October 3. B2H must undergo a thorough review and meet the council's siting standards to receive a site certificate. The EFSC's determination of application completion does not denote a recommendation of approval. It means the application is now ready for review. There will be five public hearings on the application in 2019, likely one each in Ontario, Baker City, La Grande, Pendleton and Boardman.

On October 5th Oregon Governor Kate Brown issued a state-wide proclamation honoring the 175th Anniversary of the Oregon Trail and marking the arrival of the Great Migration in October 1843. The year 2018 is also the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act (1968) and the 40th Anniversary of the Oregon National Historic Trail (1978). Now more than ever the Oregon Trail in Oregon needs protection and its legacy shared with this and future generations.

- Dennis Larson



NW Chapter President Rich Herman presents a copy of the Governor's proclamation to OCTA President Pat Traffas

NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Chapter has been busy helping the Scotts Bluff National Monument centennial planning committee, including helping the "Trees Along the Trail"

Christmas Tree decorating project at the Legacy of the Plains museum. The Chapter's tree is show at right. The insert photo shows a closeup of ornaments on the tree. Also, the chapter was on hand to help the Monument celebrate its 99th birthday with a groundbreaking ceremony for a new visitor center.



IDAHO

The Jeffreys-Goodale Cutoff outing led by John Briggs and Dan Dunne in late August was well-attended. People had a great time as John and Dan led the group along the Jeffreys-Goodale route from the Fairfield, Idaho, area to the west.

The IOCTA fall chapter meeting on October 6 in Mountain Home was enhanced by presentations from Luke Hittner of the BLM in Burley and John Hiler of Mountain Home. Luke talked about the improvements being made to the Milner Recreation Area west of Burley on the Oregon Trail. John talked about the history of the King Hill area on the North Alternate Oregon Trail/Kelton Road. My thanks to all of the officers and directors elected at the meeting, as well as the numerous volunteers holding other positions. All of these people help keep the chapter running smoothly.

Three Boise Community Education classes on the Oregon Trail in Idaho will be held in late February. Visit boiselearns.org to register for these classes.

The chapter spring meeting will be Saturday, May 11, at Burley. Planned guest speakers are Jim Hardee and Leo Ariwite. Both are very interesting, knowledgeable, and fun to listen to. I am tentatively planning a couple of days of searching for the Kelton Road stage station and metal detecting at City of Rocks on the Thursday and Friday before the meeting. We did similar activities earlier this year and found it to be very interesting. New ideas have surfaced about the stage station location so a new area will be searched.

Please watch the chapter website (www.IdahoOCTA.org) calendar page for activities being planned for next year.

Winter has now set in with the first snowfall of the season in the Boise area. It is now time to hibernate, research, and make plans for next summer. Merry Christmas to all.



*I-OCTA outing group at Skull Rock.
- Photo by John Briggs.*



*Jeffreys-Goodale tour participants examining ruts.
- Photo by John Briggs.*

2019 OCTA National Convention

The Gathering

Feria de Pielés

Le Rendez-vous

A Blending of the Trails

September 3-7, Santa Fe, NM

CROSSROADS

It doesn't take long for a convention to become history. After months of planning it's over in a week. From my point of view it was a success. The speakers, bus trips, meals, vendors, the activity room, and the pre- and post-convention trips were all successful thanks in a big part to the planning of Gar Elison and Terry Welch and all those who volunteered (too many to mention). But thanks to all! Also, it was good to have Linda Carter back with us again. The only problem from my point of view was the parking; the main city terrace was road-blocked with construction.

This is the third Utah OCTA Convention I have participated in and helped with to some degree. I remember the 1994 convention. Dave Bigler was the chairman. He and many of the volunteers are now gone. I remember Dave Bigler and Will Bagley being elected to national positions. (I still have the newspaper clipping.) We had over 700 in attendance. The only larger convention was Baker, Oregon, the year before, which topped 800.

In 2005 we had another national convention. I don't remember the attendance but 300 plus comes to mind. We had some of the same people working on committees, and many of them are also gone now. The only criticism that I remember we received was that we had the "same field trips." Perhaps that's why we selected the Ogden area and different topics and trips. Ogden was a good choice.

In other news--our fall dinner meeting attracted well over 40 and the speaker was Jay Buckley. He spoke on how the fur trade travelers influenced later travel in the western migration. This was well received. We want to thank the Fort Douglas Museum for accommodating us

and the staff's helpful attention to our needs. Thanks, Beau Burgess.

We also want to thank Victor Heath for his creation of the miniature rail posts given to members who participated in various activities throughout the year. Also a big thanks to Laura Anderson who obtained the large period maps that were around the wall of the convention. They were a great addition.

Other fall activities included a work detail on October 20 into Skull Valley, Utah, to correct the placement of a rail post on the Hastings Road at Hope Wells. It was placed in about 2002 in an area that has since overgrown with vegetation and was no longer visible. So a work detail went out to move the post closer to the road and make it more visible to those who may be using a road guide to these sites. Those participating were Jesse Petersen (and Nancy), Vic Heath, Bryce Billings and myself.

On November 15 we had a fall membership meeting at Fort Douglas wherein new officers were installed--Steve Allison as president, Connie Bauer as vice president, Joyce Marsing as secretary, and Drew Wanosik stays as treasurer. Other committee personnel stayed or were replaced as necessary.

Hearty thanks were expressed to all who have worked so hard for us in the last few years and especially during the convention.

Brenda Bowen then gave a talk on the Great Salt Lake, the Bonneville Salt Desert and its history and other information that is relevant and interesting to the history of Western Utah and our trails.

Dates for next year's activities are yet to be decided but are a priority. Stay tuned.

- A. Oscar Olson

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

On September 30 a group from the chapter joined a group from the Loveland Historical Society for a bus trip to the Guernsey Ruts, Register Cliff and Fort Laramie. Many thanks to board member Sharon Danhauer for organizing this event. (Photo at right.)

On October 27 the chapter met at the Ranch Country Club in Westminster to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. Steve Friesen, the former Director of the Buffalo Bill Museum in Golden, was the guest speaker. His presentation, "Great Plains Crossings and Intersections," discussed the points of intersection between the Oregon Trail, Pony Express, Indians and Buffalo Bill, along with interesting legends associated with them.

- Camille Bradford



CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

I'm submitting this chapter report on behalf of Dick Waugh, President of the California-Nevada Chapter. As most of you know, on November 8 a wildfire began in the Feather River Canyon in Butte County, California. The "Camp Fire" consumed over 153,000 acres, devastated several communities, including the town of Paradise, and claimed, as of this writing, 88 lives. Dick, a member of Butte County Search and Rescue has been part of the recovery mission.

Another sad note regarding the Camp Fire, Dave and Karen Vixie lost their home in the fire. Dave, a long time OCTA member and former National Board member said they were able to evacuate safely with all their animals; however, all their structures were lost. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this tragedy.

Notwithstanding all the adversity's, the California-Nevada Chapter reaches out to the membership with a variety of activities.

The CA-NV Chapter joined with the Eldorado National Forest for a special event celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails system. The chapter participated in the event with a display table and John Winner appeared as a guest speaker. The event was held at the Adventure Mountain Chalet on Echo Summit, Highway 50. Three national trails pass through Echo Summit. California Emigrant Trail, (Johnson Cutoff), Pony Express National Historic Trail and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

A successful day of clean-up was at the Fernley Sand Swales on September 22. This annual chapter event, under the direction of Jon and Janet Nowlin, was held in conjunction with National Public Lands Day. In addition to OCTA members, volunteers from BLM, Fernley Rotary Club, volunteers from the City of Fernley, including the Mayor, and other volunteers made this day a success.

On October 20, Chapter Vice President Steve Shaw and wife Donna staffed the chapter display table at the 5th Annual Heritage Day at the Marsh Creek State Historic Park in Brentwood, CA, location of the John Marsh house. The John Marsh house was a stopping place for early pioneers. John Marsh (1799-1856) was a native of Massachusetts and graduate of Harvard University where he studied medicine. He came west in the 1830's to seek his fortune, bought a large tract of land known as Rancho los Meganos. He eventually built a large home entirely of stone quarried from the nearby hills. The home is now being restored through the efforts of the John Marsh Historic Trust.

Recently, two historic hikes in the Donner Pass area were led by chapter member David Fullerton. David has

more energy than the "Energizer Bunny". David's first hike on July 15 was up Coldstream Canyon to Roller Pass. The hikers included OCTA's Past National President John Krizek and chapter webmaster Dee Owens who filmed the event. David's second sponsored hike was October 7. This hike was over Stephens Pass, location of the original Sierra crossing.

Several chapter mapping events and activities have recently occurred:

Frank Tortorich led his faithful "Wedge Warriors" on the two-day annual outing. This year's event included a tour of the Big Tree Road and MET mapping the Big Tree Road. Part of the mapping process was to determine suitable locations for Trails West Rail Markers. The outing included an overnight campout and potluck.

The Johnson Cutoff mapping team held a two-day outing in the Lake Tahoe area, one day working on the Johnson Cutoff emigrant trail in the Tahoe Basin, the second day on the Luther Pass emigrant trail. This outing was highlighted with a tour of the historic Celio Ranch located on the emigrant trail and an evening potluck at the ranch.

On the Carson Route, outings were held to assist the Forest Service in trail validation for hazardous tree removal and trail validation to avoid trail destruction for road construction.

On November 18, a sunny but crisp morning, the Northern Nevada Hastings Cutoff mapping team gathered in Ruby Valley, southeast of Elko for a day of mapping. Team leader Kevin Lee had enough participants to break the group into two teams. Working under a permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service and with oversight by professional archaeologists, the teams, using metal detectors, validated trail locations. Each item found was carefully described and photographed before being re-buried where it had been found. Long term plans include continued mapping on federal and private lands and a new initiative planned with BLM to map key areas of the Hastings Cutoff.

On November 4 in Oroville, CA, Butte County, the chapter held its annual Fall Board of Directors meeting. One of the Board actions was to continue financial support for the OCTA *Western Overland Trails Collection* at the California State Library in Sacramento. There are nearly 1,200 books and documents in the collection.

Through the support of OCTA and the CA-NV Chapter, the *Western Emigrant Trails Collection* was established at the California National Historic Trails Center in Elko.

(continued on next page)

TRAILS HEAD

Trails Head Chapter Annual Membership meeting was held November 3 at the Trailside Center in Kansas City. Our meeting included the nomination of new officers and passing our amended bylaws, which had not been updated in 14 years. Please "Welcome" our new officers as they will take their official office on January 1: President Lila Aamodt, Vice President Jean Coupal-Smith, Treasurer Kelly Breen, and Secretary Mary Conrad. They will serve a two year term, per our amended bylaws.

We were pleased to have two of our five students who participated and won the OCTA 2019 Calendar Contest be present with their parents. A special Certificate of Recognition was presented along with a copy of the new OCTA brochure. The following week, I was able to go to St. JPII School to present the remaining certificates to the other students as well. The students and teachers are looking forward to participating in the 2020 contest.

Our Awards Chair, Ross Marshall, presented the following awards to the individuals who have continued to support and work for the preservation of our National Trails.

Meritorious Achievement Award: Larry Short

CA-NV continued

The collection contains approximately 900 volumes, many donated by the CA-NV Chapter. The collection officially opened June 4, 2016. Due to the size of the collection and limited space at the Trail Center with no facility expansion in the foreseeable future, the collection has been relocated to the Great Basin College in Elko. A 5-year Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into with the BLM and Great Basin College, the California Trail Heritage Alliance and OCTA. The relocation will result in: Enhanced access to students, local community members, historians and researchers; Security for books and journals; space for the collection to expand and conservation for rare and special collections.

2020 OCTA Convention, Elko, NV.: *A Lens on the Past - Hope for the Future.*

On November 19th, Travis Boley, OCTA Association Manager traveled to Elko to meet with the Elko OCTA 2020 planning committee and staff from the Elko Convention and Visitors Authority to firm up plans for meetings, meals, exhibits and lodging. The convention is set for Saturday, September 19, 2020 through Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020.

Mark your calendar for the CA-NV Spring Symposium-April 24-27, 2019. San Juan Bautista, CA. Steve and Patty Knight, committee chairs.

Distinguished Partner Award: Mid-American Regional Council (MARC)

Award of Appreciation: Arnold Cole

OCTA National President Pat Traffas and Association Manager Travis Boley were present and presented the membership with updates on the organization and what to look forward to in the coming year. The Spring Board Meeting/Symposium will be held in Independence and Trails Head Chapter will be sponsoring different activities. The theme will be "Truman and the Trails." Half-day tours and speakers will be March 15 and 16. The OCTA Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, March 14 with a social gathering time that evening. We hope you will be able to attend and visit the many different sites around Independence.

Our speaker for the evening was Erin Blackshere-Poppirt. Erin is a descendant of the Kansa-French Pappan family. Her talk was "The Plains Indians," the Kansa, Osage, Ponca, Quapaw and Omaha tribes who migrated from the East and settled in different locations. She told of the many traditions that each tribe brings to special occasions and how the respect for those traditions is very important.

The artifacts and clothing she brought was most interesting and we could have listened to her for a much longer time! She is definitely a speaker to ask back for another program.

The U.S. Capitol Tree made its stop in Kansas City as it traveled from the Willamette National Forest to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the Oregon Trail. Several Trails Head members attended the arrival at Union Station on the afternoon of November 20 and others the morning of November 21 in Independence. Many of us found a spot on the large banners to write our names, along side of the thousands of other signatures from its travels.

As this year came to a close, a joint holiday gathering of the three trails (Trails Head, Missouri River Outfitters-SFTA, and KCAHTA) groups took place December 1 at Ophelia's "On the Square" in Independence. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch and fellowship with our trail friends. Each organization gave a brief overview of the past year's accomplishments and how important our continued working together has made a strong and lasting relationship. This relationship has made each of our organizations stronger.

To each and everyone I send a special Holiday Greeting! Enjoy these days ahead with family and friends. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

- Jean Coupal-Smith

PUBLICATIONS

by Bill Hill, Publications Chair

Our publications will have another interesting and challenging year.

First, as our membership ages and lives and family situations change, sometimes these issues place differing demands on individuals' time and interest and ability to participate. I would like to thank Susan Badger Doyle and Bob Clark for their many years of sound and active participation on the Publications Committee. They have asked and I have accepted their resignations. Both members will be missed, but their concerns for OCTA's goals remain. Their experience, wisdom, and judgement were always something that I could call and rely upon when needed.

In addition to the openings on the Publication Committee, OCTA will also be seeking for a new Editor for *News From The Plains*. Bill Martin has informed us that he will retire from his position in April 2019. Bill has served OCTA in many capacities. His service on publications spans many years in various positions - as a member of the Advisory Board, the Publications committee, and as Editor of *NFP*. As editor, he has most recently ushered in the development of the electronic edition which is now almost complete. Bill's dedication to OCTA and his skills in the field of publications has been outstanding. I have greatly appreciated his professionalism, his knowledge and understanding, and his reliability. He is a model for all OCTA members.

As of the end of November we have almost completely switched over to the electronic delivery of the *News from the Plains* to the membership. This past fall we had sent out two different letters to communicate with those members who might not have the means to receive the electronic delivery. We will still try to contact those few members who have not replied, but we will only be sending paper copies to those who have requested such. I think the change has gone smoothly and wish to thank everyone involved.

While the membership challenge to increase Library *Overland Journal* subscriptions has not been as successful as hoped, as of the end of November we may have increased by one plus one. Perhaps others will have come in during the month of December. Even if the challenge period has passed, please consider giving a library membership.

The theme for OCTA's student calendar publication for 2020 is "**Wild Creatures Encountered by Emigrants & Indians.**" Information and guidelines for the calendar can be found on the OCTA website by clicking

on: Educational Resources; OCTA Awards; Western Calendar-Call for Artists. Each student whose artwork is selected will receive a copy of the calendar and a check for \$50.00. Their school will also receive a copy. It is open to all elementary age children whether they are in a formal elementary school or being home-schooled. The deadline for entries is April 15. We ask that you encourage your children or grandchildren to tell their elementary school or teachers about the project.

The Publications Committee is seeking additional members who would like to serve on the committee. The committee is generally responsible for: the oversight of OCTA's regular publications and editors- *NFP* & *OJ* and other special publications, also including their budgets, assisting the editors as needed, determining the Merrill Mattes Award recipient(s), helping to expand the circulation of the *Overland Journal*, and working on other requests that would naturally deal with any present and future publications. If you are interested, please contact headquarters or me. We appreciate your interest, assistance, and participation.

Information about OCTA's **Outstanding Educator Awards** is available on the website. We have often heard members speaking about the fine programs in their district's schools or how much kids have enjoyed a class program about the West. If that is true, **now** is the time to tell us, not during the convention as has frequently happened. Please contact those teachers and nominate them. There are five award categories: Elementary School-Primary/Intermediate; Middle School/Junior High; High School; Post-Secondary/College, University, Adult Ed; and Museum/Institutional. More information and the necessary forms can be found on OCTA's website under: Education Resources; OCTA Awards; Outstanding Educator Awards-Application. Recipients for each category will receive a \$250 honorarium. The deadline for applications and nominations is March 31, 2019.

For more information, contact Bill Hill at hillhousew@aol.com.



What Will Your Legacy Be?

When I think back to the days of my great-grandparents I can only imagine the hardships of working the land, harvesting crops and having a dependence on mother nature to provide life-sustaining water.

I am reminded of the “old folks” sitting around reminiscing about the “good old days.” The days when their elders hitched their wagons and headed for a new life far over the mountains to the west. The old folks were but children when the cattle herd was rounded up and the oxen yoked for the long journey to a new day, to develop a legacy that would be bestowed to future generations.

Your generation and mine are the beneficiaries of the hope they held in their hearts. So, I ask again, what will your legacy be?

As OCTA members we can be thankful for the journals that relate the trials and trail experiences. The history they left must be imparted to future generations. Our country was built on their sacrifices and quest for a promising future.

Will you rise to the call for support of OCTA’s mission and purpose? You can help insure the education of young people through your financial support of the Education Outreach effort underway. Traveling trunks

used in the classroom are being assembled through the generosity of a grant given for that purpose. It is a start.

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can call your IRA financial officer today and request a distribution, using a portion of your Minimum Required Distribution, be made to the OCTA office. Designate the distribution for Education Outreach, or another OCTA program. Obviously, you may have other interests as well. Just let the OCTA office know your desired use of the gift. Your tax-free gift does not incur federal income tax. This is an easy gift to make if it does not impair your liquidity and is as simple as making a phone call.

Your Legacy Gift will help to ensure that young people will understand the sacrifices made that benefit them and their descendants. Isn’t this worth the investment? Our hope is that recalling the past will strengthen our country’s future.

Please contact Melissa Shaw melissa@jonesfinancial.com or Lee Black leeblack1@hotmail.com if you have gifting questions or seek help completing a gift to OCTA.

Where Will Your Footprints Lead?

They don’t have to disappear.

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

**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.

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:

Eva Allen
Terry Bennett
Bonnie Breen-Wagner
Marvin Burke
Debora (DJ) Champagne Ph.D.
Donald Cooper
Jo Anna Dale
Nancy Drew
Raymond & Maura Egan
Nancy Elig
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Joyce & Dan White
Joseph Whitehorne
Max Willard
John & Susie Winner
Hank K Woodward

Welcome New Members

Ben Sher, Placerville CA
Susanne Davis, Placerville CA
Kelly Segura, Placerville CA
David Price, Eagle ID
Barbara Paterson, Leona Valley CA
Arthur Clark, Yuba City CA
Timothy Quinn, Loomis CA
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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:

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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
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Bite Me Barbecue, 1405 Center St, Marysville KS 66508 785-619-6110

REMEMBRANCES

Malcolm Smith

OCTA benefactor **Malcolm E. Smith** has passed away at the age of 101 in Hampton, New Hampshire.

He contributed to a number of OCTA projects, including the purchase of California Hill in Western Nebraska, the "In Pursuit of A Dream" movie project, and, most recently, the production of 68,000 Oregon and California Trail tourism brochures.

Malcomb began his love affair with the trails when he was 17 years old. As he told it, he stole the family car, driving to Nebraska until it broke down. He then hopped on a train to Wyoming, where he discovered remnants of the Oregon Trail.

A native and life-long resident of New York City, he had career in advertising and was a pioneer in direct mail marketing, responsible for some of the biggest selling record and tape packages. He was the former mayor of Nissequogue, Long Island.

He was a veteran of World War II and contributed to many charitable organizations, independent schools, colleges and universities. Survivors include his four children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Smithtown Historical Society, 239 E. Main Street, Smithtown, NY 11787, or to the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), 524 S. Osage St., Independence, MO 64050.

Jim Everett

Long-time OCTA member and friend of Independence Headquarters **Jim Everett** passed away in late September at the age of 90. He was a native of Alton, Illinois.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ardis, and his daughter Dr. Lynne Everett of Savannah, Georgia, as well as a sister and a brother. He was preceded in death by his youngest daughter, Susan.

Jim earned an AA degree from Graceland College and a BS from BYU before serving eight years as a minister for the Community of Christ Church.

He later obtained an MA degree in International Relations from the University of Chicago, where he was recruited by the CIA. He spent nearly two decades as a deep cover intelligence officer, traveling to more than 30 countries.

After leaving the CIA, Jim Everett moved to Independence, Missouri, where he became co-owner of an advertising agency and was involved in a number of nonprofit organizations, including eight years as the volunteer executive director of the Kansas City Interfaith Peace Alliance.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Independence Host Lions Club, P.O. Box 49, Independence, Mo 64050.



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/>

Visit OCTA on the Internet

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

Report OCTA Volunteer Hours at

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The Gathering



Feria de Pieles

Le Rendez-vous

**A Blending of the Trails
OCTA National Convention
Santa Fe, New Mexico
September 2019**



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