

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association



Summer 2019

Volume XXXIV, No. 3

Santa Fe is the place to be in September

Several years ago, OCTA surveyed its members to determine where they would like to have a National Convention. Santa Fe, New Mexico, was first on the list and this is the year that members' wishes come true.

OCTA's 37th Annual National Convention will be held in New Mexico September 3-8, 2019, opening up never-before-seen attractions to attendees. The Santa Fe area offers a combination of French, Spanish and Native American culture and history and convention organizers want to share as much of it as possible.

Additionally, it is the first OCTA convention held in the Southwest and the first to be hosted by the Southern Trails Chapter.

Headquartered at the historic Hotel Santa Fe, the convention will feature a stellar cast of speakers offering their expertise on a wide range of New Mexico history and tours to nearby sites, including Santa Fe Trail ruts, Taos, Fort Union, Chimayo and Albuquerque.

For registration information and complete details on speakers, tours and hotels, visit www.octa-trails.org. Register early to save on registration fees.

The first official convention event is the traditional Welcome Reception on Tuesday evening at the historic Palace of the Governors on the square in Santa Fe. Originally constructed in the early 17th Century, it is now the oldest continuously occupied public building in the United States.

Convention activities during the day on Wednesday will be held at 200 acre El Rancho de las Golondrinas (The Ranch of the Swallows), just a few miles from Santa Fe. The historic location on the ancient Camino Real is now a living history museum and convention guests will be treated to docent-guided tours and a catered lunch.

OCTA's annual membership meeting will be held after lunch, followed by a keynote address from Dr. Carlos Herrera, a national expert on Juan Bautista de Anza, 18th Century Governor of New Mexico and military leader.

Thursday and Saturday are tour days, featuring two full-day tours (Taos and Fort Union) and two half-day tours (to Chimayo and Albuquerque). *(Continued page 2)*



El Rancho de las Golondrinas



El Rancho de las Golondrinas

The convention concludes on Sunday morning with non-denominational services from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Historic Loretta Chapel, led by Larry Haslam, retired Glorieta Conference Center Director/Administrator.

Seating for many of the activities at the Hotel Santa Fe are limited, so register early to guarantee your place for what promises to be one of the most unique and memorable conventions in OCTA history.



Loretta Chapel

See the convention guide online for tour details.

Fourteen speakers are scheduled for Friday at the Hotel Santa Fe and the nearby Santa Fe Farmers Market. Also on Friday, OCTA's traditional Live Auction and Authors' Night will be held at Farmer's Market, with a dinner featuring New Mexico cuisine.

OCTA's annual Awards Banquet (with Native American cuisine) will be held on Wednesday evening at the Hotel Santa Fe, also the site of Saturday's closing barbecue dinner featuring entertainment by Red Steagall, a nationally known cowboy poet and entertainer and former poet laureate of Texas.



Red Steagall

Famed Western entertainer and cowboy poet Red Steagall will perform at the closing banquet of the 37th Annual OCTA Convention on Saturday, September 7, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Steagall is a recording artist, songwriter and television and motion picture personality. More than 200 of his songs have been recorded by him and other artists. He is the past Poet Laureate of Texas and has performed at the

White House for President Reagan and around the world.

A resident of North Texas, he has released more than two dozen albums and once had 26 consecutive singles on national country music charts. You may have seen him on Hee Haw or hosting the National Finals Rodeo, or heard him on his nationally syndicated "Cowboy Corner" radio show.

His list of awards and accomplishments is longer than we have room for. Be assured that convention-goers are in for a rare and special treat. Seating is limited for this once-in-a-generation opportunity, so make your reservations early by visiting www.octa-trails.org.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



According to the recent OCTA survey, our publications are of great value and interest to each member. Credit goes to each contributor, but especially to our editors and reviewers. We wish to thank Marlene Smith-Baranzini (*Overland Journal*) and Bill Martin (*News From The Plains*)

for serving as editors of these excellent publications in recent years. Please join me in welcoming Jay Lawrence as editor for *News From the Plains*, and we look forward to announcing an editor for *Overland Journal* in the near future.

The Mid-Year Board Meeting was held March 14, 2019 in Independence, MO. While wintry weather precluded some from attending, a quorum was present. Trails Head Chapter graciously hosted the luncheon for those attending the Board Meeting. A two-day symposium "Truman and the Trails" followed on March 15-16, with half-day tours, followed by half-day presentations at the National Frontier Trails Museum. Each evening featured musical entertainment, scrumptious fare, time for fellowship and even a personal visit from "President and Mrs. Truman." This format was a change from tradition and was well-received and enjoyed by over 50 attendees.

"A strategic planning process identifies strategies that will best enable a nonprofit to advance its mission. Ideally, as staff and board engage in the process, they become committed to measurable goals, approve priorities for implementation, and also commit to revisiting the organization's strategies on an ongoing basis as the organization's internal and external environments." The current Strategic Plan for OCTA was developed in March 2015, and adopted by the Board of Directors that autumn. OCTA will assess and draft a Strategic Plan in 2020, which will become our "yardstick" for the next five years. The importance of this task cannot be overstated, and this process needs to have the input from the general membership. When you read the current Strategic Plan (on OCTA website) you might sense that it is somewhat unrealistic. It is admirable to have lofty goals, but it is more sensible to have fewer and better-defined goals which are achievable and beneficial to the membership and to OCTA. Please discuss your ideas for the upcoming

Strategic Planning process with members of the Board, officers, and Association employees. Ask yourself, "Is that strategy relevant to OCTA's mission?", and "Have we identified the proper priorities for a sustainable and successful future?"

The winter of 2018-19 was a "doozy!" We're ready for warm sunshine, winning baseball teams, and outdoor activities with our trail buddies. The upcoming activities being planned by your chapters sound so inviting, and you are encouraged to invite your neighbors and friends to join in the fun. Don't forget to publicize your activities!

How quickly these two years have passed. My fondest reflections are of the times spent with each and every chapter, whether it was a meeting or an activity, and the chance to meet our members up and down and across our thousands of miles of national historic trails. Your warm hospitality and many kindnesses are treasured memories, but, oh, the times out on the trail with you were just the best! So while it's pleasant to reflect, like with Strategic Planning—it's important and necessary to set our sights on the future. My sights are set on seeing you in Santa Fe in September at "The Gathering" where the influence of Spanish, French, Native American and Anglo cultures come together.

*Yours in OCTA,
Pat Traffas, President*

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Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame

2019 Inductees

John Bidwell 1819-1900

John Bidwell helped organize the Western Emigration Society in Missouri in 1840. In May 1841 he joined the group that would become known as the Bidwell-Bartleson Party, the first wagon train to leave the States with the goal of reaching California.

As the company's secretary, he kept a detailed journal, which has become a primary source for information on this trail-blazing company and its trek.

Bidwell joined the California Battalion in the Mexican War, discovered gold on the Feather River, developed Rancho Chico, founded the city of Chico, served as a congressman after the Civil War, and was the Prohibition Party candidate for President of the United States in 1892. He was a prolific writer on the history of his overland journey and the development of early California. His home in Chico is now Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park.



Kenneth L. Holmes 1915-1995

Kenneth Holmes, a university professor, historian and author, was the Editor of *Covered Wagon Women: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trails*. Holmes was born in Montreal, Quebec and grew up in southern California. He began his career as a Baptist minister and later obtained a doctorate in history at the University of Oregon. In 1967 he joined the faculty at Oregon College of Education, (now Western Oregon University).

After his retirement he became particularly interested in the Oregon Trail and the diaries of women who had crossed it, leading to the research that



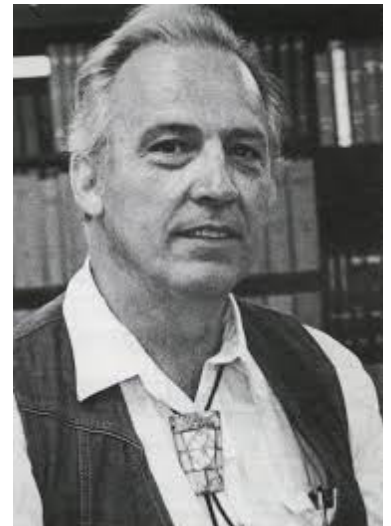
resulted in the eleven-volume *Covered Wagon Women* series, first published between 1984 and 1993. He was also the author of *Ewing Young: Master Trapper*, co-author of *Historical Atlas of Early Oregon*, and editor of *Linfield's Hundred Years*. Holmes also wrote "Pages from the Past," a syndicated newspaper column in the Northwest and numerous articles for scholarly publications.

Stanley B. Kimball 1926-2003

Stanley Kimball, a noted historian of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, was a professor of history at Southern Illinois University for over 40 years. Kimball received B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Denver and his doctorate in East Central European History from Columbia University. He was a prolific author of books and articles on Latter Day Saints history and the Mormon Trail.

A founding member of the Mormon Trail Association, Kimball compiled a Historic Resource Study for the National Park Service. He received the Department of the Interior Outdoor Recreation Achievement Award and a Special Commendation for his work on the Mormon Pioneer Historic Trail.

He served as President of the Mormon History Association in 1984 and received the Grace Arrington Award for Mormon History Excellence in 1992. *Heber C. Kimball: Mormon Patriarch and Pioneer*, his biography of his great-great grandfather, received the association's Best Book Award in 1982. Kimball's other books include *111 Days to Zion: The Day by Day Trek of the Mormon Pioneers*; *Historic Sites and Markers Along the Mormon and Other Great Western Trails*; and *Discovering Mormon Trails: New York to California 1831-1868*. He was also the co-author with Don Oscarson of *The Travelers Guide to Historic Mormon America*. (Continued page 5)



Jere L. Krakow 1938-2017

Jere Krakow had a distinguished career with the National Park Service, where he served as Superintendent of National Trails for the Intermountain Region. After retirement in 2006 he became active in OCTA where he was a board member for six years and served as National Trails Preservation Officer.



He also served as the organization's liaison to the Partnership for the National Trails System and received OCTA's Meritorious Achievement Award in 2015.

His interest in Western American history and the trails began as a youth in Nebraska. An Oregon Trail marker near his home inspired his lifelong interest. After graduation from Peru State College, he received a master's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin and a doctorate from the University of Colorado. From 1967 to 1983 he was a professor of history at Missouri State University.

William and Jeanne Watson

William: 1927-2016 • Jeanne: 1929-2015

William "Bill" and Jeanne Watson's contributions to the emigrant trails extended from 50 years of field work on the emigrant trails in the Sierra to OCTA's board room and the halls of Congress. Bill served as OCTA's President and on the Board of Directors,



but his primary contribution, in conjunction with his wife of 60-years, Jeanne, was liaison with Congressional staff on matters affecting the emigrant trails. A singular achievement was the passage of legislation establishing the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails.

The Watsons were at the forefront of creating the successful Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), which today represents all 30 National Historic and Scenic Trails authorized by Congress. For more than 31 years, they made an annual trek to Washington DC to advocate for the trails system and to provide Congress with a progress report summarizing how volunteer efforts were preserving this vanishing piece of American heritage. Recognition for their work included OCTA's Meritorious Achievement Award, the Department of the Interior's Take Pride in America Award, and the PNTS Lifetime Achievement Award.



PRESERVATION



*By John Winner
National Preservation Officer*

OCTA's mission is to protect the Historic Emigrant Trails Legacy by promoting research, education, preservation activities and public awareness of the trails, and to work with others to promote these causes.

We continue to monitor numerous activities that pose threats to the historic emigrant trails. The two major transmission line projects are the **B2H Project** in Eastern Oregon on the Oregon National Historic Trail and the **R-Project** in Nebraska on the Oregon-California and Mormon National Historic Trails. Both projects will have direct and indirect effects on the trails.

The **B2H Project** has been going on for over 10 years. The project proposes a transmission line in Eastern Oregon from the Columbia River to the Boise, ID area. The principle power company, Idaho Power, has applied to Oregon's Energy Facility Sitting Council for a site certificate to build the project. At present, five public hearings are scheduled at various locations during the comment period. Numerous factions, mostly volunteer, continue to oppose the project, but with over 20,000 pages of text and close to 80 exhibits, the task is daunting.

The **Nebraska R-Project** is a proposal from the Nebraska Public Power District to build a 225-mile-long transmission line that would place towers directly over the Oregon-California and Mormon National Historic Trails. Opposition has been tremendous. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the lead agency, seems to be ambivalent to the opposition with little to no communication. The latest information provided from an on-line search indicated that on April 16th., the Public Service Commission granted the Districts application to construct, operate and maintain the R-Project Transmission Line. Also, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has granted an "incidental take permit" affecting the American burying beetle. An incidental take permit allows private parties to proceed with lawful activity that results in harm to an endangered or protected species.

In Nevada, the **Long Canyon Project** is an open-pit mine operation on the Hastings Cutoff of the California National Historic Trail. As previously reported, OCTA submitted several mitigation requests

including the creation of a Conservation Easement for the Gravelly Ford Site and Class 1 trail segments on the California NHT leading to the site. The Bureau of Land Management recently completed the draft Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP) titled "An Indirect Effects Treatment Plan for the Newmont Mining Corporation Long Canyon Mine in Elko County Nevada". I am pleased to report the HPTP does include the creation of a Conservation Easement. Also recommended in the HPTP is a 3D virtual tour of the trail from I-80 to Gravelly Ford, and access to maintain trail markers. Within the project area at the Long Canyon mine site on the Hastings Cutoff where the original settlers' cabin is located at Big Springs, the recommendation is to stabilize the cabin and maintain it in a suspended state of decay.

Other projects in Nevada that are requiring written response include the expansion of the existing **Hycroft Mine** operation. The proposed expansion consists of extending processing activities and constructing a tailings storage facility. The proposed project would affect eagle nests and territories, and emigrant trails. This project has an impact on both the Applegate and the Nobles Trails. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been issued and we are currently within the 45-day comment period.

On the California National Historic Trail west of Battle Mountain, Nevada, a new project, the **Avangrid Aurora Solar Farm** is proposed. This project will cover 695 acres (600 acres of solar panels and 95 acres of power line and power line access road). Multiple trail segments of the California NHT pass through this area. The BLM, Winnemucca Office has scheduled a two-day field outing with OCTA and Trails West to validate trail locations and determine Direct and Indirect Effects to the trail.

In Wyoming, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been released for the **Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project**. The project is located approximately 40 miles NE of Riverton. The project would include the development of up to 4,250 natural gas and oil wells and construction of water treatment and disposal facilities. The comment period closes July 18, 2019.

Most of the trail activities being monitored that were listed in past Preservation Reports are still valid. However, many of those trail projects have had little activity. In California, due to the recent destructive

fires, numerous fuel reduction projects are planned or are currently underway. Many of these projects are on National Forest land. OCTA has been working with forest archaeologists to ensure that historic trail segments are not damaged or destroyed. While many of us subscribe to OCTA's Mission, with the ever-increasing threats to our trail system, the need for more volunteers to assist in the monitoring of our trails is vital.

On the Carson Route, the most traveled emigrant trail over the Sierra Nevada, several fuel reduction projects are underway. Recently, CA-NV Chapter member, Dee Owens e-mailed to members of the California-Nevada Chapter notification of a scheduled outing, seeking volunteers, to assist the Eldorado National Forest archaeologists with trail locations to ensure protection. The following is part of the e-mail seeking volunteers. Perhaps this gives credence to our preservation mission:

Carson Route – South of Present Day Paved Mormon Emigrant Trail to Camp Creek

The early emigrants on the Carson Route avoided climbing and descending Iron Mountain by turning south to Camp Creek for water and a less arduous climb. A timber sale project is in the future for this area of the trail and verification of the early route will ensure its protection. We will be working with the Eldorado National Forest archaeologist.

Wagon ruts, a rarity in this terrain, are visible on the ridge. This will be a one mile downhill only walk each day on a different ridge, as we can drive down to the creek and leave a vehicle to shuttle us back

to the top of the ridge.

We will walk in the tracks of thousands of emigrants who traveled this trail descending to Camp Creek. Over 20,000 emigrants traveled the Carson River Route in 1849. 1850 and 1852 each saw some 50,000 people using the route. The two ridges have probably been logged in the past 160 years but other than that have seen little disturbance.

The emigrant diaries often mention Camp Creek.

Wed. Aug 8, 1849

"This morning Evan Evans killed fine fat Buck just as we were about starting and we stopt our teams to bring it in. ...We passed today through a beautiful forest of Pines and Hemlock. Nooned at Leakes Springs and came on to Camp Creek 19 miles from our Last Encampment. It has been a very Hilly road mostly down Hill. It is much warmer than it was a day or two since."

Joshua D. Brayfogle

Prince Allen Athearn, an 1849 diarist, described the descent to Camp Creek we will be verifying.

"Left camp at 6 o'clock and in about one mile came to Leek Springs. After going 2 or 3 miles the road kept on a ridge till we arrived at the descent to Camp Creek. The road immediately ascends the mountain again and continues down a ridge although quite hilly for 16 when we encamped – there being two Springs a short distance to the left and grass 2 miles to the left."

Perhaps this is why we try to protect the legacy. More to come...

Draft Project Order Issued

The Oregon Energy Facilities Siting Council (EFSC) has issued its Draft Project Order (DPO) on the **B2H Project** in Oregon for public comment. **We have until July 23, 2019 to make comments.** The staff has recommended that the Council approve the application for the Transmission Line with little to satisfy OCTA or our members. The power line can be built and mitigation will be decided at a later date.

The "Draft" Project Order still has the power line crossing the Oregon Trail ten times with only three recommended for some mitigation; accepts Idaho Power Company's argument that it is too costly to bury the line in front of the Flagstaff Hill Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

Many of you have been to Flagstaff Hill near Baker City, so I encourage you to comment. The view

out the picture window and from the hiking trail viewpoint will be destroyed. The Councilors must hear from us and require Idaho Power to bury the line for about two miles.

If you go to the EFSC web site:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/B2H.aspx>

bring up Exhibit BB and Exhibit -BB Errata Info. These are large files and will take some time downloading. These talk about the costs of undergrounding, these can be challenged.

Other areas that should be challenged are wildfire planning, roads, and inaccurate maps.

Be sure to identify yourself as members of OCTA. Even if you live out of the area, numbers do count.

Gail Carbiener

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER

Around fifteen years ago, OCTA's Census of Overland Emigrant Diaries (COED) Committee oversaw one of the organization's largest projects to date, the completion of the Paper Trail website that indexes thousands of trail diaries. Users can search on name, geographic place, tribe, and many other search terms to find ancestors and numerous other types of primary research.

Fast forward to 2019, where the Paper Trail website (found at www.paper-trail.org) has aged to the point that it was in need of some updating. The site's original builder, Looking Glass Analytics (LGA) out of Olympia, Washington, took on the task of modernizing this well-used and well-loved research archive. Former COED committee member Jim Riehl worked with LGA and OCTA headquarters to provide oversight and assist in testing the updated website before launch.

One of the main changes that OCTA members will see is the ability to create your own unique username and password. Part of your annual membership fee includes free access to the Paper Trail website as long as your membership remains current.

Members will need to click on subscription, then register and then on entering the data, will proceed to the payment page. Members on this page will need

to enter the member subscription code once in the prompted field. Payment is not necessary.

The code is OCTA720183

After this entry, username and password will give free access.

Paper Trail is a wonderful companion piece to OCTA's other diary-centric website, found at www.octa-journals.org. There, you can find hundred of original transcribed trail diaries, and by utilizing Paper Trail as an index, you can easily find the information you are looking to find. Also recall that our Gateway Chapter in St. Joseph recently launched a new website containing original diaries from people who jumped off from either St. Joseph, Buchanan County, or the immediate surrounding area. These diaries were digitized in partnership with the St. Joseph Museums, which house the collection. It can be found at www.gateway-octa.org.

We hope you enjoy the new Paper Trail website, and we really hope you use it extensively. Please share the information with others who might want to do original trail research and help us build our membership. And of course, if you have any questions about creating your unique password and username, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Travis Boley

What is their legacy? It's up to you to decide.

How much longer will our grandchildren be able to hike our historic trails?

Sadly, trails are disappearing at an alarming rate. And once they are gone, they can never be replaced.

Leaving a legacy for your grandchildren can help.

Join 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.

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

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

You can make a difference for future generations.



Planned Giving

Keeping History Alive • by Melissa Shaw, CFP®

My son Christopher and I were lucky enough to attend the 150th Golden Spike celebration in Ogden, Utah for the May 10th, 2019 event. We traveled to many of the same places we attended just a year ago with the OCTA meeting. It was great that we already had the foundation of knowledge from our OCTA perspective



and could add the train and railroad history.

The city of Ogden put on a fabulous 3-day celebration attended by people from all around the world. The quality and class of train fans was amazing. The 4014 Big Boy was fully restored over the last many years and this initial trip for the Golden Spike celebration was met with great enthusiasm.



They reenacted the meeting of the two trains in Ogden at the old Union Station, and the 844 Northern class Living Legend played the roll of the second steam engine as they faced off nose to nose for the DONE telegraph letting the world know the Transcontinental Railroad was completed. It was attended by a variety of dignitaries including the Governor.

May 10th, 2019 was an official celebration at the newly re-designated Golden Spike National Historic Park at Promontory Summit attended by about 12,000 people. It was a remarkable event, and a chance to see people come together from many backgrounds to help acknowledge all the hard work and effort it took to unite America with a common goal intended to bind our country together.

At OCTA we love the trails, and our family has always loved the trains and rails too! We are rail and trail fans and enjoy the chance to be with others who feel the same way. A place is made holy by the events that take place there. We honor those places by working



to preserve them and share the stories with others. We are lucky to have this time on Earth to walk the trails and see the beautiful colors that Utah provides us. I'm honored to have pioneer ancestors and share those stories with my son and others who share our passion. Including OCTA in your estate plan is a chance to help carry on the traditions of your own passion for the trails and be sure others have the chance to be exposed to them too. You are generous enough to give OCTA your time, money and knowledge today and we truly appreciate it.

Publication News

We welcome Jay Lawrence of Long Beach, CA to our publication's staff as our editor of *News From the Plains*. His appointment by the Board was the culmination of a three month process by the Leadership and Nomination committee after reviewing and interviewing many qualified applicants. He has already met some of you and is eager to meet and serve all of us. I have also assured Jay of the continued cooperation of the chapters and committees as they had previously done with Bill Martin.

The process for the selection of a new editor for the *Overland Journal* which started in April is nearly complete. The applicants have been reviewed and final interviews held. The Leadership and Nomination Committee has sent its recommendation to the President and the Board for their action. The new *Overland Journal* editor will take over in October.

As part of the budgetary process we are constantly striving to control our costs and to increase our revenue. We are seeking the assistance of our members in recommending organizations, businesses or members who might place ads in our publications. Please contact the Publications Committee with your suggestions.

The selection process for the recipient of the Merrill Mattes Award for excellence in writing is underway, and the winner be announced during the Awards Dinner in Santa Fe in September.

The student artwork for OCTA 's 2020 calendar "Wild Creatures Encountered by Emigrants and Indians" has been selected. The students have been notified. They represent grades 1 - 5 and five different schools. The calendars are in the process of being printed, and as in the past will be available during

the convention in Santa Fe.

The artists are: Gordon Rice, Claire Blakesley, Xavier Flouers, Tess Malmrose, Shelly Hansen & Madelyn Gibson from Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; Lucy Herrold & Mirabelle Sullivan from John Paul II, Overland Park, KS; Hunter Hill from Renaissance Academy, Lehi, UT; Vivian Zhao, Prathik Prasanna & Clint Lyndon from Golden View School, San Ramon, CA; and Maizey Wellisch & Angelica Alcala from Bennion Elementary, Taylorsville, UT.

They will each receive a copy of the calendar, as will their school, and a check for \$50.00. The theme or topic for the 2021 calendar will be announced before the Santa Fe convention. Be sure to encourage your school district to participate next year.

As always, please contact either the editors or publications with your comments and concerns.

Bill Hill

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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Welcome New Members

Tom Ashmead
Somerset, CA

Brad Cobo
West Haven, UT

Tim and Cherie Connolly
Tigard, OR

Fort Boise Garrison
Living History Association
Boise, ID

Dale Estes
La Center, WA

Clark Fenton
Arcata, CA

Colette Fleming
Mission, KS

Gary Goodson
Oasis, ID

Juliana Howard
Atwater, CA

Constance Lane
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Phyllis Naish
and Philip McManus
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Dublin, CA

Patricia Stinton
Eagle, ID

Doug Vandenberg
Commerce Township, MI

Mark Worthen
Boise, ID

Marin History Museum
San Rafael, CA

Historical Society of Dayton
Valley
Dayton, NV

CALL FOR PAPERS
Oregon California Trails Association
38th Annual National Convention
Elko, Nevada
September 18-24, 2020

THEME
Focusing on the Future
Through the Lens of the Past



TOPICS
Trail Impacts
Mitigation of Trail Impacts
Interactions of Native Americans with Emigrants
History of the Trail – From Early Explorers
to Iron Horse (European/Chinese)

The convention will feature tours of the California Emigrant Trails in northeastern Nevada, including cutoffs and alternates, and other related sites up to and including the building of the railroad. Workshops and presentations will interpret life and events of the Emigrant and railroad periods. The BLM National Historic Trail Interpretive Center will be a major feature. While papers related to the topics above are preferred, any submissions related to the cross-continent emigrations in the 19th Century will be considered.

Send one page abstract by December 1, 2019 to:
Ken Johnston, CA-NV OCTA Chapter
5709 Casa Way, Klamath Falls, OR 97603
Email: kljstn@msn.com

News from the Chapters



SOUTHERN TRAILS

Greetings from the Southwest.

The Southern Trails Chapter (STC) has been busy over the last several months. Our big activity is planning for the OCTA Annual Convention in Santa Fe, NM this September. Speakers vary on speeches on the trails but we have many who will be talking about the Southern Trails and their influence on Western migration. We had our annual STC conference in February in Albuquerque with new Board and Officers elected. We are working on getting the Southern Trail approved by Congress as a National Historical Trail in the future. Many emigrants traveled by boat to southern Texas and then traveled overland to California and other destinations. Several of our past and new officers were at the April meeting in Independence. We also are productive in local History Conferences and present at them or display and talk about OCTA and the STC. We are restarting our STC Newsletter this summer and are actively looking for contributors. This will be online and print for those who prefer it. For more information on the activities of the STC and upcoming projects, please go to our updated website at: <http://southern-trails.org/>

Mark Howe



KANZA

National Trails Day

The KANZA Chapter of OCTA had made plans to host National Trails Day at Alcove Spring on Sunday, June 2. We had to cancel our celebration because of localized flooding and wet conditions in the park.

Tuttle Creek Lake is a reservoir on the Big Blue River five miles north of Manhattan, in the Flint Hills region of northeast Kansas. It was built and is operated by the Army Corps of Engineers for the primary purpose of flood control. Water was backed up approximately 50 miles north of the Dam and had pushed into the park.

We were planning on hikes and biking in the park, wagon rides and a Memorial for Jere Krakow.

We had hired a caterer to serve lunch at noon. The afternoon was to include pioneer re-enactments, nature walks, music and information about trails in the area and Alcove Spring.

We did hold the Memorial Service for Jere, as his family and friends had made travel plans and we could access the area near the falls and Jere's lookout. People traveled to the park from Texas, New Mexico, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, and of course Kansas.

Jere's wife Jan opened the service by welcoming everyone and asking those present to introduce themselves, tell where they were from and state what their relationship was to Jere. Later we were asked to share a remembrance. We then sang Amazing Grace and afterwards most attendees hiked up to Jere's Lookout (the high spot in the park) and each of us were able to help scatter his ashes.

It was a very moving memorial to Jere.

Submitted by Arleta Martin



NORTHWEST

It is finally starting to feel like spring is just around the corner, but it did not feel that way when I made the decision to postpone our annual meeting because of the nasty winter weather we were experiencing. Both Puget Sound and the lower valley had icy roads and were colder than usual, and Stevenson had extremely icy roads and heavy frost. So in the name of safety, I decided that we should have our meeting when the weather would hopefully be in our favor. Ray Egan is bringing a special guest to our meeting to help kick things up, and Paul Massee is going to give a historical overview of the Stevenson area. We have a nice facility reserved at the Stevenson Community Library, with

some interesting discussions planned for our Annual Meeting, Saturday, June 1.

I am now taking applications for an excellent opportunity available soon for someone interested in Oregon Trail Mapping and Marking. Henry Pittock has announced that he will soon be retiring from the lead of this position and will provide on-the-job training to anyone who wants to learn the details of this rewarding opportunity. He has a most excellent team of very knowledgeable volunteers who are technically advanced and enthusiastic. Please let Henry or me know if you may be interested so we can discuss the position to see if it is a fit for you. *(Continued page 14)*

Chuck Hornbuckle has accepted the position of Membership Chair, and Jenny Miller will take over as Chapter Secretary at the end of the year, both from Polly Jackson. Polly will continue her duties as chair of the Chapter Website. Polly has been handling all three of these activities, so now she will devote her attention to the website. Thank you, Polly.

I am happy to announce that our chapter will be soon be purchasing ten T-Rail markers, which will be installed at key remote locations along the trail over the next two summers. This project has been inspired by Gail Carbiener who has much experience with their use and confidence in their longevity and endurance against vandalism. The only hesitation has been the cost of purchasing them. Thanks to Sharon Brown, Western Regional Representative, for coming up with the idea of asking national OCTA for funding and to Dave Welch, OCTA Mapping and Marking Chair, for authorizing funding for the purchase of the rails. Thank you to both Sharon and David.

Sallie Riehl, chapter VP, is making plans for some interesting chapter outings and activities. She will discuss them at the annual meeting and ask for your input. Please contact her with your ideas or volunteer to help her make them happen.



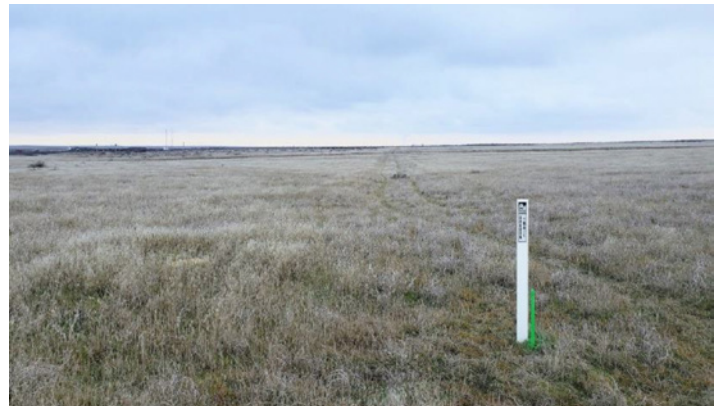
Joyce with Tom Laidlaw

It is with a heavy heart that we have learned of the recent passing of Joyce Bolerjack, longtime OCTA active member, longtime friend to all. Joyce's health had been in decline for several months, but she never lost her sense of humor and positive attitude. Whenever there was laughter on the trail or at a banquet table, you would usually find Joyce at the center of it all, usually as the instigator. Joyce, you will be missed.

Rich Herman, President

Trail Marking on the Umatilla Army Depot

Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 5:30 a.m., Wendell Baskins, Rich Herman, and Robin Baker left Portland for the Umatilla Army Depot near Hermiston, Oregon. Our goal was to install white Carsonite Oregon Trail



Oregon Trail and OCTA Trail marker on SE corner of Umatilla Army Depot

markers on the Oregon Trail where it crossed major roadways. The weather was cool, but luckily there was no rain or wind!

We met Michele Lanigan, the sole civilian army employee left on the depot, at the Headquarters Building. Soon Sam Pambrun arrived from Pendleton, and our party was complete. We started in the SE corner of the Depot in an area designated to be turned over to the Columbia Development Authority (CDA) for eventual development for industrial uses. Fifteen markers were placed in this area, which includes an old airstrip.

We then moved west to the SW corner of the depot, again in an area designated for the CDA, where we placed



Wendell Baskins and Rich Herman setting an Oregon Trail marker on the Umatilla Army Depot.

nine markers. The Oregon Trail here is pristine and can easily be seen stretching westward into the distance.

Lastly, we placed seven markers along a stretch of Oregon Trail near the mid-eastern edge of the depot, in an area designated for a CDA Wildlife Refuge. This was along an alternate route of the Oregon Trail, where this section headed NW toward the Columbia River. It was a long but productive day of trail marking. We arrived back in Portland around 9:00 p.m.

Robin Baker

IDAHO

The weather turned beautiful in southwestern Idaho just in time for Oregon Trail activities to start. We had a great turnout for the annual spring byway tour on April 27 with over 40 people participating. Many of the people were very interested and promised to join OCTA and IOCTA.

We had two great days searching for the Kelton Road stage station and doing controlled metal detector searches at City of Rocks under the direction of the park archaeologist in early May. In addition, the landowner of the private property within the park allowed us access to view the names on rocks which are typically not available to view. The spring chapter meeting in Burley was attended by 40 people including several new members. The group then visited Caldron Linn, site of a canoe tragedy for the Hunt party of 1812. I led a tour of the Oregon Trail byway the next weekend for the Boise City Club which had 20 of their members attend. My thanks to the Boise City Club which donated \$5 per person to the Idaho chapter.

Paula Davina has continued to lead the effort for getting National Park Service signs installed along the Oregon Trail through Ada County. Some roadblocks have been encountered as Ada County and the ITD have balked at adding more large signs along busy

thoroughfares. NPS continues to work with ITD in the hope to establish a statewide signage plan.

Ada County Parks & Waterways is planning to improve the Ada County Oregon Trail site in southeast Boise off Highway 21. I met with the Ada County Open

Spaces & Trails Coordinator to tour the site and show him the various roads of the area. Ideas being considered for the area are to add gravel walkways, markers along the Oregon Trail and Kelton Road ruts, a restroom, and additional interpretive signs. I assured him that the Idaho chapter was happy to help with the effort.

Some interesting activities are being planned for the summer. We will be going out on the North Alternate Oregon Trail on June 22. On July 13 we will be returning to eastern Idaho to continue our exploration of the Lander Trail. John Briggs has offered to lead another Jeffreys-Goodale outing on August 10. The fall chapter meeting will be held on October 5 in Boise. We will hike the Ada County Oregon

Trail site after the meeting and lunch.

I hope you will join me on these outings. They should be very interesting.

Jerry Eichhorst



Participants of the annual Spring Byway Tour



Some of the names written on the rocks at Idaho's City of Rocks by California Trail emigrants. These rocks are on private property and not available for public viewing

Visit OCTA on the Internet

OCTA-trails.org

OCTA-Journals.org

[Report OCTA Volunteer Hours at octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer](http://octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer)

TRAILS HEAD

The first-ever Sunflower State [Kansas] Trails Appreciation Day was held in the Topeka State Capitol on January 31. It was sponsored by the Sunflower Foundation as a day to celebrate all the ways that trails make Kansas a great place to live, work, play and visit. Many trail groups had displays around the rotunda and many of us connected with our Senators and Representatives. I represented OCTA and had a space next to the Alcove Springs display attended by Duane Iles.

Our chapter member Jean Coupal-Smith has put her name forth as a candidate for OCTA national board. Jean is past President of Trails Head, current chapter Vice President, and has been generous volunteering her time at OCTA headquarters and at conventions and symposiums. The election will take place at the September Santa Fe OCTA Convention.

We are excited about plans to develop a new OCTA website for Trails Head Chapter. An agreement has

been signed, and several people will be working on possible content.

At our snowy March 30 chapter meeting, OCTA manager Travis Boley presented an informative PowerPoint program about the St. Joseph Charette sponsored by the Gateway Chapter. Plans that could really transform visitor experiences to that city include an Oregon Trail Retracement Trail through the downtown area to the river and a Pony Express Retracement Trail to the riverfront marked with horseshoe prints on the sidewalk!

Next on our agenda is a joint bus trip with Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA) and Missouri River Outfitters (MRO) of the Santa Fe Trails (SFT) June 1 following the early SFT from Old Franklin to Independence, MO. William Becknell left Old Franklin in 1821 to go west. He ended up in Santa Fe, and the rest is history!

Lila Aamodt

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

The Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter is currently working with the city of Colorado Springs to add signage to the Bluestem Open Space, a 650 acre area south of the city's airport. The sign will provide information on the historic Cherokee Trail, which crosses the open space and the hiking trail with well defined Class 1 swales. Bill Burr, an active mapping member, is working with the Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum to finalize the sign's text.

Our chapter gained permission to access a 692 acre undeveloped Colorado Springs park along Jimmy Camp Creek, which is closed to the public for impact studies. This area was a main camping spot along the Cherokee Trail, mentioned in diaries and journals of many historic figures.

On June 7th, Bill Burr, Jeannie Mitchell, Tracy DeVault, and Bruce Watson participated in an on-site study attempting to locate camping sites along the creek, using written descriptions and sketches from journals and historic references. Due to fragile environmental conditions, vehicles weren't permitted, and the area had to be accessed by hiking. Upon reaching Jimmy Camp Creek, the locale strongly suggested access by wagon was probably confined to the area north of Highway 94 following the creek, to just inside the city park's boundaries. Upstream from



these meadows, the terrain became more difficult, as arroyos and trees would make wagon travel challenging.

The area of Jimmy Camp Creek north from Highway 94 to the city's park boundary is private land, and if access to that area could be negotiated, it could prove beneficial to further historic studies.

Camille Bradford

GATEWAY

Gateway Chapter has had an active spring with a goal of an activity each month. In March several members attended the symposium in Independence and enjoyed the bus tours of the Independence and Westport Routes. In April the group spent a day in Leavenworth. After a guided bus tour of the historic "First City of Kansas," the group visited the 1867 Carroll Mansion and the Parker Carousel Museum which houses an 1850s carousel. Lunch was at the 1887 Union Train Station restaurant. In the afternoon, the Frontier Army Museum on Fort Leavenworth was toured. In April, the Doniphan



New Gateway member Diane Waddell, Jackie Lewin, and OCTA intern Lauren Manning braved the cold to visit trail sites on the Independence Route during the March Independence symposium.



Gateway members began the April tour to Leavenworth by gathering on the banks of the Missouri River. Just a couple weeks prior to this photo, the area had been flooded.

County Historical Society hosted the Gateway Chapter in Troy, Kansas, for a picnic. Despite the off-and-on rain, a walking tour of the historic Troy square was enjoyed. Corky Smith, Pete Duncan, and Larry Faulkner spoke about Troy's history, Lincoln's December 1859 visit and speech in Troy, and the significance of the Nelson-Rodgers Home which the Historical Society has restored. Gateway Chapter is pleased to announce that it has a new website. Please visit www.gateway-octa.org. Also visit, like and follow our facebook page Oregon-California Trails Association Gateway Chapter.



Linda Berger, Marilyn Bryan, Dave Berger, Diane Waddell, and Corky Smith visit during the May walking tour of the historic Troy Square.



Gateway members enjoy a dinner provided by the Doniphan County Historical Society.

Jackie Lewin

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

We had our spring symposium in the historic town of San Juan Bautista on the de Anza Trail. Our board meeting was held in an adobe built by the Breens, survivors of the Donner Party. Ken Johnston became the Chapter President, and Dick Waugh stepped down to the Vice-President position after serving several years as our President and esteemed leader. Symposium tours included the cemetery, where many of the Breens were buried, the beautiful old San Juan Bautista Mission, and the Castro Breen Adobe, where General Juan Castro lived when John C. Fremont raised an American flag on Gavilan Mountain in protest to Castro's eviction notice.

John Winner, OCTA national preservation officer updated us on Long Canyon Mine (NV) trail impacts. We will be doing a trail survey in June on the California Trail along the Humboldt River east of Winnemucca to determine visual impacts the planned solar energy project would cause due to power lines crossing the trail.

Helen Hankins and members from Elko are busily planning for the 2020 National OCTA Convention in Elko. We are currently seeking speakers and presenters for the 2020 national convention. See the Call For Papers in this issue for information.

Dee Owens noted our upcoming outings:

- a. June, 2019: Carson Route-South of present day paved Mormon Emigrant Trail to Camp Creek
- b. July, 2019: Carson Route-Brown Rock area
- c. August, 2019: Cason Route-East of Tragedy Spring
- d. August, 2019: Johnson Cutoff-Tahoe Valley
- e. September, 2019: Georgetown Pack Trail
- f. Luther Pass Road-Humboldt-Toiyabe NF: date TBD
- g. Big Tree-Humboldt-Toiyabe NF: Date TBD

Dave Vixie of Paradise has lost his home and all of his wagon train equipment due to the Camp Fire in Paradise last summer; fortunately, he saved his mules and he was able to bring his students to Elko Trail Days this year.

Ken Johnston

WYOMING

Wyoming OCTAns are looking forward to five treks on historic trails in central Wyoming this summer. Longtime Wyoming OCTA Preservation Officer Randy Brown will lead treks sponsored by the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper. Four of the treks will leave the Trails Center parking lot at 8 a.m. Saturdays, to visit trails sites June 22 between Fort Laramie and the Glendo area; July 13 from Douglas to Casper; August 31 from Douglas along the McKinstry Ridge area north of the North Platte River and Sept. 28, a hike at Emigrant Gap west of Casper. For more information, contact Jason Vlcan at the Trails Center at (307) 261-7783, Jason_Vlcan@blm.gov.

We will also be collaborating with the Lander, WY, office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as they monitor LDS handcart re-enactors' use of historic trails especially on the historic stretch over Rocky Ridge, where so many members of the Willie Handcart Company died in 1856. The agency restricts trekker numbers and limits use to weekdays in July, August and the first half of September, and welcomes the help of OCTA and other volunteers taking close measurements of wear and vegetation on the trails before and after the season. It's a great way to spend a day in the sagebrush on one of the most dramatic, historic stretches of trail in the nation. For more information contact Wyoming OCTA President Tom Rea, trea@tribcsp.com, or Mike Coyne, outdoor recreation technician in the BLM's Lander office, at mcoyne@blm.gov.

Thanks to the BLM and The Conservation Fund, a historic stretch of the Oregon/California/Mormon trail just west of Casper has now been permanently protected. The property may include the remains of 22 soldiers killed in July 1865 by Cheyenne and Sioux warriors, who had mounted an attack on the fort at nearby Platte Bridge Station partly in retaliation for the Sand Creek Massacre in Colorado the previous winter.

The 646-acre parcel includes a mile and a half of riverfront along a loop of the North Platte. Access is open to the public from Wyoming 257, west of Casper. The river at this point supposedly boasts the most trout per mile of any stream in Wyoming; BLM announcements praise the fishing and recreation opportunities and the likely tourist revenue to the community that will result from the acquisition.

The land is immediately south of a Wyoming state section familiar to local trail buffs as it includes the so-called false graveyard of stones memorializing the soldiers under the command of Sgt. Amos Custard who

were killed in the 1865 fight.

The new parcel was purchased by The Conservation Fund with funds from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and transferred last fall to the BLM.

Custard and his men in a few army wagons were approaching Platte Bridge station along this stretch of trail on the day the tribes began their attack. Lt. Caspar Collins volunteered to lead a small detachment from the fort to protect the incoming party three or more miles away. But the tribal numbers—in the thousands—were far too great. Collins, several of the soldiers with him and all but three of Custard's command were killed. Indian casualties were light.



Casper oilman Robert Ellison, at left, with two veterans of the 11th Kansas regiment who survived the 1865 Red Buttes Battle, 1927. BYU libraries photo

Custard and his men were buried within a day or two of the attack, reportedly in two large mass graves; the grave-stones on the nearby state section are for memorial purposes only and do not stand above any bodies, therefore. In the 1920s, Casper oilman and trails buff Robert Ellison brought two octogenarian veterans of the fight to Casper from Kansas, but they were unable to locate the precise site of the graves. (Ellison named the fight the Battle of Red Buttes, a title which has stuck despite the fact that the Red Buttes themselves, long an important landmark on the historic trails, are not visible from the battle's location.)



Gravestones memorializing Sgt. Amos Custard and the other soldiers who died in the Red Buttes Battle are on state land next to the property west of Casper recently acquired by the BLM. Tom Rea photo.

Other efforts in the 1960s and '70s together with much more systematic searches over the last decade have proven inconclusive. Locals have high hopes the bones will still be found, especially now, as opportunities for preservation, curation and interpretation on the newly federal property will be much better than they would have been otherwise.

Tom Rea

CROSSROADS

We have been very busy this wet spring with historical issues mostly surrounding the 150-year celebration of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 2019. This event has eclipsed just about everything else at this time. This is not a bad thing when you look at the issues surrounding the 19th Century. Emigration was one of the primary objectives of that century. Examples are events such as the Lewis & Clarke expedition, the Astorians, South Pass, Fremont's work in the west, Jedediah Smith's adventures, and finally the big migration of 1841-1846 and onward of people trying to find their way west. It took much effort and planning; and money too. And it took time--from three to six months, depending upon the destination. Then, after May 10, 1869, it was just a few short days or a week or two to cross to the west. It changed America forever. Remember Fremont's words that California was the "land of eternal springtime."

Our involvement in the celebrations was as volunteers. There were about 15,000 in attendance. It celebrated the Chinese contribution which was past due. For our Crossroads spring membership meeting, we had Max Chang speak to us about the Chinese involvement. It was the focus of the National Park Service theme at Promontory Summit. But we must not forget the Irish, too, on the Union Pacific side. In 1969 the NPS had a celebration of the centennial. But since

no trains were in the area at that time, two locomotives from the Virginia & Truckee Railroad were brought in. Later, plans were found and the "119" and Jupiter were re-built for authentic display.

The Central Pacific Railroad became the Southern Pacific by the late 1800's, and the Lucin Cutoff across the Great Salt Lake was built. In 1903, the rails on the original route were taken up for scrap during World War II. About 10-12 years ago, Crossroads took a field trip from Lucin to Promontory Summit on the original route. A lot of scrap had not been picked up and we had fourteen flat tires that day on our vehicles. Hopefully, it is all gone by now. It is a fascinating trip with much history and a new view of the Great Salt Lake from the north.

On other issues, Eli Anderson of Tremonton, Utah, (and his "Wagon Town") hosted a group of enthusiasts from the National Stage & Freight Wagons Association. This was a very successful four-day gathering wherein the participants traveled a bit onto the Bartleson-Bidwell Trails in northern Utah. If you have not visited Eli Anderson's wagon collection it's a must if you are in the area of Tremonton, Utah.

Much progress and partnership is being made with landowners, and "sister" organizations are cooperating with trails people in helping to preserve trail sites on their respective properties.

Lavon Rimmasch for Oscar Olson



Eli Anderson and wagons



Promotional photo of Promontory Summit
courtesy of Terry Welch, May, 2019

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REMEMBRANCES

Joyce Bolerjack



Joyce in Baker City

Joyce Bolerjack left us Saturday, April 6. Joyce was a long-time active member of OCTA and a Charter Member of the Northwest Chapter. She enjoyed convention activities, chapter outings, and served for many years as chapter treasurer and membership chair. In 2001 Joyce received the Northwest Chapter's

Richard & Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award. Joyce's daughter Claire Vorauer arranged a memorial open house in May in the Seattle area.

Remembrances of Joyce Bolerjack received by her family from her OCTA friends

Whenever there was something to do for NW OCTA, Joyce was there. She was active with membership and as treasurer. When there was a need for a more social time in the Fall, she started us having a "picnic" that has been going on since. She was awarded the 2nd NW OCTA Meritorious Achievement Award to recognize her good work.

Glenn & Carol Harrison

Who cannot remember Joyce?

Who is that lady coming through the dust in eastern Oregon in a Lexus?

Who was that lady who ordered, received, transported, distributed and sold all those NW chapter goods, including leftover OCTA jewelry and t-shirts until they were gone?

Who was that lady who helped put together that Ebey symposium on Whidbey Island and then arranged a BBQ at her daughter's house as part of the program?

Who was that lady always so appropriately and elegantly dressed for all OCTA events?

And who was that lady with the never-ending energy and ever-present full smile?

That and much more.

We certainly remember the lady Joyce Bolerjack.

Respectfully

Pat and Jack Fletcher

I was so sorry to hear of Joyce's death, even though it was not totally unexpected. She was such a wonderful, loving person, and I always appreciated her wonderful

sense of humor. Because of my own age (almost 88) and my kids' mandate that I not drive except a little bit locally around Vancouver, I have not been able to visit Joyce in the past few years, but I have certainly not forgotten her. Again, Condolences.



Joyce receiving the Ackerman Award
presented by Lethene Parks

Lethene Parks

Claire, Ann and Bob,

Wendy and I would like to extend our condolences on Joyce's passing. We have known Joyce for almost thirty years through our association with OCTA. Joyce helped me when I was chapter President as Secretary and as an all-around helper. She was always there when needed.



Joyce at the Ackerman Award event
with Dick and Trudy Ackerman

Many times we re-shared a laugh at one of her comments. I stepped aside as Chapter President when I became National President. I convinced past-

President Jim Renner to fill-in the remainder of my term. At the chapter meeting Joyce exclaimed, "Oh good! He is my favorite President ever." There were two or three other Presidents in the room, including myself. Well, Jim is a good guy so she was probably right.

Wendy and I have made a donation to OCTA in Joyce's memory.

Dave Welch

Joyce was a true Friend of the Trail. We are so sorry for your loss. We extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family.

*Oregon-California Trail Association
Travis Boley and Kathy Conway*

FROM OCTA HEADQUARTERS

Founding Members

When OCTA was founded in 1983, a group of men and women who believed in the mission and in the importance of trails preservation decided to join this brand new organization. Anyone who joined during that first year became a charter member, the rocks upon which OCTA was built. The last time we recognized them in these pages, the list had 136 names. Today's list is down to 55 names. If you see a charter member, thank them on behalf of OCTA.

Ruth Anderson	Michael D. Gibson	Michael Luther	Randolph W. Seed
Todd & Betty Berens	Chris Hammond	Anne Mallinson	Art Siverling
Jo Ann Berkenbush	Joanne Hammond	Sharon & Hal Manhart	John E. Stadler
Roger P Blair MD	Norma Haner	Ross & Shirley Marshall	Leona Stovall
Joyce P. Bolerjack	Patrick A. Hearty	Mary Ellen Martin	Fran Taplin
Randy Brown	William & Jan Hill	Kendall McNabney	Frank & Mary Ann Tortorich
Don & Vilma Buck	Jim & Alma Holcomb	Steve Moore	Ann M. Van Hoff
James & Judy Budde	Thomas Hunt	Mary Mueller	Ron Volk
Jude A. Carino	James & Margaret Jenks	Mary Olch	Pennie Lynn Von Achen
Robert Clark	Larry & Pat Jones	Oregon Trail Museum Assoc	Theodore F. Votow
Laurie Davis	Milton A. Jones	Betty J. Pfaff	Edgar & Caroline Weber
Dr & Mrs Ronald O. Downs	Polly N. Kennison	Mrs. E. W. Puckett	Sandra & Allen Wiechert
Dorothy Duffin	John & Terry Latschar	Raymond E. Schoch	Herman Zittel
Marshall A. Fey	Lute Family Foundation		

Special Thanks to OCTA's Life Members

OCTA is grateful for the support of many Life Members whose contributions mean so much to the organization. Life memberships are available for \$1,000 and credit card payments can be made in installments. Life Members receive an Ezra Meeker Life Member pin, and a 15 percent discount in the OCTA Bookstore. Plus, all revenues from Life Memberships go directly to OCTA's Heritage Endowments, so your purchase will have a long-term impact on trails preservation. For more information about becoming a Life member, contact OCTA headquarters at (816) 252-2276. Current Life Members include:

Ivan Baker	Mrs. Billie Gray	James King	Bob Noll
Dr Thomas R. Bales	Jay Greene	Ormie Lamson	Stanley W Paher
Jacqueline Ball	Randell and Mary Jane Guyer	Brian Larson	M. Lethene Parks
Wayne G. Basler	Chris Hammond	Ross M. Leibold	Betty J. Pfaff
Nick F. Behrens	Helen Hankins	William and Cynthia Leutzinger	Mrs. E. W. Puckett
Lee and Sandi Black	Koichiro Harada	Brenda Lozier	Carlyle Jones Raine
Roger P. Blair, M.D.	Glenn and Carol Harrison	Al Lustig	Jack Root
Camille Q. Bradford	Warren R. Higgins	Lute Family Foundation	Bill Rupp
James and Judy Budde	William and Jan Hill	Dr Eugene I. Majerowicz	Fred Sawin
Marvin Burke	Elaine and Eugene Hill	Ross and Shirley Marshall	Ben S. Scherbel
Dr. and Mrs. B. R. Cahill	Cheryl and Gilbert Hoffman	Bill and Diana Martin	Warren Schmidgall
Cheryl Cardoza	Chuck Hornbuckle	Helen Martin	Randolph W. Seed
Thomas Cardoza	Mark Howe	Carolyn and Gordon McGregor	Donald L. Siebert
Kay, Milt and Rylene Coffman	Thomas Hunt	Kendall McNabney	Judith Space
Laura Luack Cole	Idaho State Archives	John and Jacque McVey	Leslie Joan Steuben
James and Kathy Conway	Duane and Carolyn Iles	Dan Miller	Michael Strodtman
Laurie Davis	J. C. Isble	Phil Miller	Kathryn Tanner
Douglas Co. Libraries: Shaun Boyd	George H. Isted	Margaret Morkowski	David and Sharon Taylor
Susan B Doyle	Robert A. Iverson	Candy and Steve Moulton	Kay Threlkeld
Brian L Dukleth	Jan and Sets Iwashita	Mary Mueller	Frank and Mary Ann Tortorich
Jack and Pat K. A. Fletcher	Neal Johns	Paul Murphy	William L. Trogdon
Phillip L. Foremaster	Rollie and Paula Johnson	Joe Nardone	Dave and Karen Vixie
Mrs. Kay Forsythe	Beatrice Kabler	Dick and Ruby Nelson	Pennie Lynn Von Achen
Kathy Colyer Franzwa	Janet Kanter	Dave and Donna Newberry	Wanosik Family
Amanda Gibbs	M. F. Kiber	James Nici	Patricia and Levi Traffas

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:

Della Bauer

Bob and Jean Bennett

Lee and Sandi Black

Patty and John Brissenden

Dick Campbell

Betty and Lloyd Crockford

Jo Anna Dale

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald O. Downs

Duane and Beth Fager

Craig Fuller

Don and Meredyth Gentry

Irene Gilbert

William and Ruth Harlan

Barbara and Richard Houck

Mark Howe

Dr Joe Jeffrey

Ronald M. Leistra

Bill and Julie Leonard

William and Connie Leppert

Charles and Harriet Lewis

H. Brent Lewis

Helen Martin

Jennifer and Gary Miller

Dick and Ruby Nelson

Gene Newsome

M. Lethene Parks

Gordon and Pamela Pedrow

Jesse G. and Nancy Petersen

Dick Peterson

Dan Rottenberg

Nancy Rudel

Laura D. Steele

Robert B. Stock

Donna Strider

Priscilla Vanderpas

David and Wendy Welch

Dr Gareth Wilson

Herman Zittel

Congress Reauthorizes Land & Water Conservation Fund

Congress and the President in recent months made permanent a longtime source of federal funds, used recently by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to acquire a historic trails site west of Casper.

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund was set up in 1964 to help protect parks and natural areas, using royalties and fees from oil and gas development in federal waters offshore. That law was good for 25 years; Congress reauthorized it for a second 25 years and finally for a brief, three-year term. Congress allowed the fund to lapse Sept. 30 last year, putting its future in jeopardy.

But the new Congress, which took office in January 2019, has permanently authorized the fund; no longer will there be periodic reauthorization fights. The move was part of a larger package of public-lands legislation that had been in the works for years and finally passed with heavily bipartisan support. The vote was 92-8 in the Senate in January and 363-62 in the House in February. President Trump signed the bill in early March. Wyoming senators Mike Enzi and John Barrasso voted for the bill; Rep. Liz Cheney opposed it as she opposes increasing the amount of land under federal management.

In the past the law allowed the collection of around \$900 million per year, about half of which flowed to states for land and water conservation projects while the rest was often siphoned off to support other parts of the federal budget. About \$35 million came to Wyoming over the years, Wyoming Public Media reported this spring. The money was used for parks, public pools, boat ramps, golf course improvements and trails.

The LWCF funds that allowed the BLM to acquire a piece of the Rimrock Ranch west of Casper, which includes an extremely historic stretch of the Oregon/California/Mormon Trail, flowed through The Conservation Fund, a Denver-based private nonprofit.

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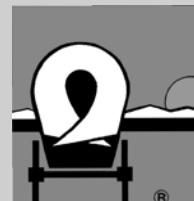
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