

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association



Fall 2019

Volume XXXIV, No. 4

OCTA in Santa Fe - An Exceptional Experience

The 2019 OCTA Convention promised to be one of the most unique and memorable conventions in OCTA history and it delivered on every level. Historic Santa Fe provided a perfect backdrop for the first OCTA convention in the Southwest to be hosted by the Southern Trails Chapter.

As members and guests registered throughout day one, the Board of Directors Meeting, chaired by Pat Traffas, handled OCTA business. Every aspect of the organization was covered, including officer and chapter reports, headquarters news, preservation project status and plans, upcoming events, OCTA financial standing, fundraising, donations, website work, investments, long term planning, marketing, mapping and marking, awards, and more. Incoming board members were welcomed and nominated new officers announced. Reports were delivered on education outreach, governance, education awards, and chapter development. Clearly, no stone was left unturned and this organization has a dedicated and talented group of leaders. The day was capped off with a Welcome Reception at the New Mexico Historic Museum and the courtyard of the Palace of the Governors.

Wednesday began with a day at Rancho de las Golondrinas, a historic 200 acre property preserved in its 18th and 19th century state. Period-dressed docents described and demonstrated elements of early settler life in their town site, schoolhouse, flour mill, fields and

settlers cabins. After an open-air lunch, event co-chair Cecilia Bell introduced representatives of the Chiricahua Apache Nation to bless the event and welcome the attendees. Pat Traffas chaired the Annual Membership meeting, introducing new officers and board members for 2019-2020. The microphone was then turned over to author and professor Dr. Carlos Herrera who spoke on Juan Bautista de Anza and his 10 year governorship of New Mexico. Our evening event was the Awards Banquet dinner. Members efforts were honored and applauded, old friends gathered, new friends met.

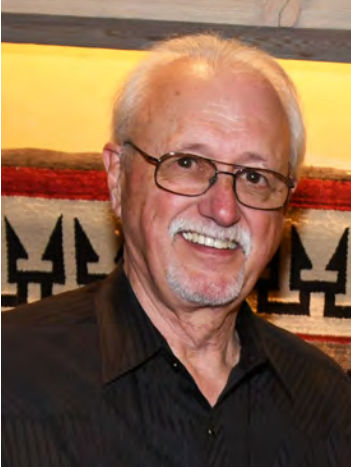
Thursday and Saturday tours went to Taos, Chimayo, Fort Union, Albuquerque and Pecos, led and narrated by OCTA leaders and local guides. Friday was filled with talks by local and regional experts on Southern Trails area history, archeology, and anthropology. Topics covered rail, trail, military and Native American subjects often left unexamined in traditional studies of the American West.

The week was a first-class immersion in the Southwest and an overwhelming success. The dedication, organization and planning by Co-Chairs Cecilia Bell and Lee Black and their committee was evident at every turn and we thank them for presenting a tremendous event.

Engraving from *Commerce of the Prairies*, *The journal of a Santa Fé Trader 1831-1839*. Josiah Gregg 1844



FROM THE PRESIDENT



As my term of service begins, I wish to express gratitude to Pat Traffas for her capable leadership, gracious spirit and encouragement to all during the past two years as OCTA President. Additionally, my sincere appreciation for the excellent 37th Annual OCTA Convention goes to OCTA staff, Travis

Boley and Kathy Conway along with their support from Jean Coupal-Smith, Mary Weickert; Southern Trails Chapter members Cecelia Bell as Co-chair, John Bell, Sandi Black, Sue Loucks, David and Shirley Smythe, Bill Martin, and John and Susie Winner plus the many other volunteers who helped make the Convention a rewarding experience for attendees. As is the case in every Convention, success can best be measured by the inspiration and knowledge taken home by attendees and then shared with others.

Among many Convention highlights were the outdoor membership meeting at Rancho de las Golondrinas and the Teacher of the Year award received by Ms. Jill Jones, of Wisconsin. Her selection is a tribute to the valuable initiative of the Education Outreach Committee and their presence at the National Social Studies Convention. Communicating the many treasured heritage resources of OCTA with teachers, community organizations and leaders is essential to developing financial stability and membership growth. Kudos to the Awards Committee in recognizing Gary Werner, retiring Partnership for the National Trails System Executive Director. Gary has been a convincing Capitol Hill voice these past 28 years. Closing the Convention was western heritage preservationist, singer and cowboy poet Mr. Red Steagall who left the Saturday night crowd marveling at his performance and his appreciation for all that we are about.

Pat Traffas convened a productive Annual Board meeting. Long Range Planning Committee Chair, Camille Bradford, presented a visionary three-point report focused on the most important issues before OCTA: financial stability, membership and leadership development. New Board members Jean Coupal-

Smith, Steve Knight and Bill Martin were welcomed. Appreciation was expressed for the valued service of departing Board members, Ginny Dissette, Dick Nelson and Dick Waugh.

Association Manager Travis Boley and OCTA member Gina Sifers of Bella Media Services, LLC brought perhaps the most encouraging announcement to be received by OCTA in decades. OCTA was awarded an advertising grant from Google in the amount of \$120,000 a year. The Google grant and a new Facebook promotion affords OCTA a social/cyber outreach, the likes of which it has never known. The Social media announcement coupled with the introduction of our new *News From the Plains* Editor Mr. Jay Lawrence and *Overland Journal* Editor Mr. Bob Clark sets OCTA on a new and exciting course. Appreciation was expressed for the many years dedicated to serving our members through the excellent work of Bill Martin and Marlene Smith-Baranzini, our retiring Editors of *News From the Plains* and *Overland Journal*, respectively.

A new OCTA Strategic Plan is to be developed for the years 2020-2025. The five-member committee will be Chaired by OCTA Vice-President Dick Waugh-CA/NV Chapter. Other members of the committee are John Briggs-Idaho Chapter, Ginny Dissette-Colorado/Cherokee Trail Chapter, Pat Traffas-Trails Head Chapter and Lee Black-Southern Trails Chapter. It is the intent of the committee to evaluate the previous plan to determine those areas where continued emphasis should be focused. Working with our friends and partners at the National Park Service, the committee will seek Chapter input and participation in order to develop a meaningful, workable and measurable Strategic Plan. Your input is important to the success of OCTA moving forward.

In closing, you have done an excellent job reporting your investment of hours and financial resources to the OCTA office. We urge everyone to take time now to provide an update in order to demonstrate your continued appreciation and support for our National Park Service partner. Thank you, National Trails Intermountain Region Superintendent, Mr. Aaron Mahr for your continued partnership and support and that of your excellent staff.

*Continuing down the trail together,
Lee Black*

2019 OCTA Awards

Certificates of Appreciation 2019

Cecilia Bell For her generous contributions of time and effort as Co-Chairman to make the Santa Fe Convention a success.

Lee Black for his devotion and generous contributions of time and effort as Co-Chairman to make the Santa Fe Convention a success.

Ginny Dissette for loyal service on the Board of Directors 2016-2019.

Dick Nelson for loyal service on the Board of Directors 2013-2019.

Dick Waugh for loyal service on the Board of Directors 2016-2019.

Dr. Leo Oliva for program presentation on Cimarron Route and Point of Rocks, Santa Fe Convention Tour.

Faye Gaines for hospitality and interpretation at Point of Rocks Ranch, Santa Fe Post Convention Tour.

Jill L. Jones in recognition of her excellence in making the history of emigrant trails come alive. Jill also received the **OCTA Outstanding Educator of the Year** award. Her story is featured this issue.

Friend of the Trail Awards 2019

Jeff and Joyce Artz for their outstanding efforts in preserving and maintaining historic trail resources.

Marc Simmons for his outstanding efforts in telling the story of America's historic trails. Ron Kil accepted on Marc's behalf.

Gregory M. Franzwa

Meritorious Achievement Award

Turner Rivenbark in recognition of his years of service as OCTA Treasurer in the 2000s decade and for his outstanding assistance and support for his successor Marvin Burke relating to preparation of financial statements and reports for the last ten years.

Distinguished Service Award

Gary Werner in recognition of co-founding the Partnership for the National Trails System in 1991, serving as its Chair and Executive Director until his retirement this year, for his many years of working with Congress and Federal Agencies to help fund, complete, preserve and educate about the 30 National Trails, and for his support of OCTA and our two National Trails. He will retire in 2020.

Friends of the Cherokee Trail - Kansas in recognition of their on-the-ground work to educate groups at libraries, museums, historical societies, colleges, churches and the DAR, for identifying key trail sites, installing signs, doing tours and for meeting with

the landowners on the trail. Brian Stuckey was on hand to accept the award for the organization.

Merrill J. Mattes Award for Excellence in Writing

Don Buck Best Article, 2018 Overland Journal, Volume 36, Number 2, Summer 2018. Marlene Barzini-Smith, retiring editor of the *Overland Journal* presented this award. John Winner accepted the award on Don Buck's behalf.

Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award

Tracy Devault As a member of the Trail Turtles, the mapping committee of the Southern Trails Chapter, he helped map hundreds of miles of southwestern trails which added to the knowledge of their location and history, and he helped to adapt GPS coordinates in the Southwest to a usable software format.

Jerry Eichhorst in recognition of his exceptional skills as the leader of the OCTA Convention Planning Committee in developing an improved and simplified overall process for planning and budgeting our conventions and symposiums, which also relieves chapters of much of their repetitive work.

Paul Dinwiddie in recognition of his exceptional expertise and technical skills with the OCTA Convention Planning Committee in developing registration software, developing the registration website and training the national OCTA staff in implementing it, all of which greatly upgraded OCTA's registration process.

Presidents Award

Pat Traffas in appreciation of her leadership and service as President of OCTA from 2017-2019 and for her dedication to the purposes of our organization in preserving and interpreting National Historic Trails.

Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame

Representatives of the 2019 Hall of Fame award were asked to speak, and presented with reproductions of the original plaques on display at the convention. 2019 Inductees included **John Bidwell, Kenneth L. Holmes, Stanley B. Kimball, Jere L. Krakow** and **William and Jeanne Watson**.

Jere Krakow Jan Krakow accepted the award on behalf of her husband Jere, who passed away in 2017.

John Bidwell Adrienne Glatz and Nancy Leek accepted the award on behalf of the Bidwell Mansion Association and joined us for the week.



Travis Boley presenting to Turner Rivenbark



Ron Kil
accepting
for Marc
Simmons



John Winner accepting Mattes Award
for Don Buck from Marlene Smith-Baranzini



Dick Waugh



Jan Krakow accepting for Jere



Brian Stucky for Jeff & Joyce Artz



Lee Black with Adrienne Glatz and Nancy Leek
from the Bidwell Mansion



Ross Marshall accepting award on behalf of Tracy Devault



Lee Black
and Cecilia Bell



Gary Werner with Bill Martin



Jean Coupal-Smith
with Dick Nelson

2019 OCTA Outstanding Educator – Jill Jones

Jill Jones is the teacher every one of her seventh grade students at Silever Lake Intermediate School in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin will remember and every OCTA member will wish they had for middle school history. By creating a classroom simulation where the students role-play pioneers traveling on the Oregon Trail, she challenges them to learn, to plan, to make critical decisions and to journal their efforts and successes along the way.

“This simulation really allows students to walk in the footsteps of the pioneers, to assume a pioneer identity, along with an occupation and family, create a backstory which includes the reasons for traveling west, and select a mode of travel for how they get to Independence, Missouri.

The students face challenges such as floods, droughts, blocked trails, snakes, Native Americans, and lack of food. The would-be homesteaders must make numerous individual and small group decisions such as what to do about a lack of water, how to cross a flooded river, how to deal with others along the trail, and which trail to take.”

The simulation begins when students walk into her door and she greets them as Jim Bridger, the trail boss, dressed in her duster and cowboy hat. Students are assigned to a wagon train with roughly seven members. Each wagon train selects a wagon master to help guide the team west and with the help of their team, they make decisions that play out in this simulation. Students

in each wagon train select a journal writer, materials master, a wagon master and an assistant wagon master to help out each team. These roles help teams stay organized, responsible and keep things rolling.

After selecting their pioneer identity, students must stop in Independence and visit the court house and

buy their supplies. They are directed to several general stores in town for purchases. While shopping, students are working with both a budget of \$500.00 and also a 1,000 lb. weight limit for the Prairie Schooner or the Conestoga wagon choice they made.

Jim Bridger (Jill) acts as the trail boss of all wagons traveling west. Pioneers quickly make their purchases, filling out a supply list and make sure they have stayed under their weight limit.

In addition, they make decisions about

the supplies they select and why they are necessary for life on the trail. Students grow in their understanding of practicality, such as taking a Dutch oven instead of a Franklin stove. Students get their supply list approved by Bridger and then it's time to start their journey west.

In June of 2017, Jill and her father traveled the first 1,000 miles of the Oregon Trail, beginning in Independence, Missouri. She uses the pictures from her trip in her campfire chats to help the students see the sights and sounds of life along the trail. She plans to cover the next 1,000 miles of the trip this summer, traveling from Fort Bridger to Oregon City.



Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame

The Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame Committee welcomes nominations for new members to be inducted in 2020. The criteria for selection and the nomination form are on OCTA's website:

<https://www.octa-trails.org/emigrant-trails-hall-of-fame/>

The Committee particularly welcomes nominations of individuals whose achievements are less well-known to OCTA members.

Please submit nominations by October 31 to:
ETHoF1846@gmail.com

New OCTA Board Members



Newly elected OCTA Board members Bill Martin of Texas, Jean Coupal-Smith of Kansas and Steve Knight of Nevada.

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.

B2H Project: A 300 mile transmission line in Eastern Oregon crossing the Oregon National Historic Trail seven times.

On May 23rd the State of Oregon Department of Energy issued their Draft Proposed Order (DPO) on the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission project and recommended approval, with conditions, to the state's Energy Facilities Sitting Council (EFSC). This action started the mandatory public comment period. Initially, 60 days for comments was granted, however, later extended to August 22, 2019. Public hearings were scheduled to be held by the State of Oregon Department of Energy along with EFSC. The public hearings were held in Ontario, Baker City, La Grande, and Pendleton. The public hearings were well attended, nearly all opposing the project.

On July 26, 2019 as OCTA's National Preservation Officer, I filed a Declaration with the EFSC.

OCTA members were encouraged to send comments to the ESFC prior to the August 22nd deadline.

R-Project: A 225 mile transmission line by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) crossing the Oregon-California and Mormon National Historic Trails.

The US Fish and Wildlife service issued an "Incidental Take Permit" (ITP) authorizing this project to move forward. Once issued, a "Petition For Review Of Agency Action" was filed in the United States District Court by the law firm of Eubanks & Associates, LLC from Fort Collins, CO. Petitioners were Oregon-California Trails Association, Western Nebraska Resource Council, Hanging H East, LLC, a limited liability Corporation and White Tail Farms East, LLC, a limited liability Corpora-

tion. Respondents were the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Department of Interior.

On July 12, 2019, I submitted on behalf of OCTA, a Petitioners Declaration to be filed with the claim with the U.S. District Court.

One of the stipulations of the claim, OCTA would not be responsible for any cost associated with this claim.

By the end of July, attorneys were moving towards working out an agreement whereby the Department of Justice, NPPD, and Plaintiffs would stipulate to an expedited merits briefing schedule in lieu of us having to file a preliminary injunction motion. In exchange NPPD would be willing to agree to hold off any major construction activities that could otherwise be conducted under the ITP.

On August 14th, 2019 the court approved a litigation schedule proposed by the parties that allows us to bypass the need for preliminary injunctive relief and to instead move directly to the merits of the case. Merits Briefing schedule as follows:

November 8, 2019 – Petitioners file their opening merit brief.

December 13, 2019 – Federal Respondents file their answering brief.

December 20, 2019 – NPPD files its answering brief.

January 24, 2020 – Petitioners file their reply brief.

Avangrid Aurora Solar: A 640-acre solar farm near Battle Mountain, Nevada on the California National Historic Trail.

The Winnemucca, Nevada office of BLM requested assistance from OCTA and Trails West to conduct a land survey to determine if this project would have a Direct Effect or Indirect Effect on the California NHT. On June 21-23, 2019 a survey was conducted by BLM, OCTA and TW to determine the effects of this project on the California NHT. The conclusion was no Direct Effect since the California NHT did not cross the Section of land where the solar panels would be installed and the Indirect Effects would be minimal due to the visual setting of the area already impacted by the Interstate Highway, Transcontinental Railroad Line and Valmy Power Plant.

The Long Canyon Mine: This project in Northeast Nevada is a large open pit mine operated by the Newmont Mining Corporation. Most of the land is public, under the control of BLM. The project impacts the Hastings Cutoff part of the California National Historic Trail. OCTA has been involved (*continued on following page*)

in this project for years resulting in several mitigation discussions. BLM determined there were no Direct Effects, a decision disputed by OCTA. Although MET mapping the Hastings Cutoff in the Goshute Valley was separate from the Long Canyon mitigation, BLM agreed to assist OCTA with MET mapping of the Hastings Cutoff in the Goshute Valley.

In April 2019 BLM issued a draft copy of a Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP) titled *An Indirect Effects Treatment Plan for the Newmont Mining Corporation Long Canyon Mine in Elko County Nevada*. The report detailed mitigation of historic properties indirectly effected by the Long Canyon Mine Project including Hastings Cut-off of the California National Historic trail.

Within the project boundary is Big Springs Ranch including the location of the Settler's Cabin a mid 19th. Century structure. The proposal is to stabilize the cabin and maintain it in a suspended state of decay. Stabilizing the Settler's Cabin will help the public visualize what ranching life was like in the 19th century.

Mitigation also includes a Conservation Easement to protect the Gravelly Ford site and the California Trail leading to the site on the California NHT from I-80 to Gravelly Ford. Proposed protection of the trail is 50 meters on either side of trail segments and 100 meters surrounding the Gravelly Ford site. A 3D virtual tour of the trail from I-80 to Gravelly Ford is also part of the mitigation.

I-229 St. Joseph Missouri: OCTA has requested Consulting Party status.

The Federal Highway administration (FHWA) and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) are conducting an Environmental Assessment for improvements to I-229 and the Double Decker Bridge carrying I-229 through St Joseph, Mo. There are several National Registered Historic Properties listed and Historic Districts near the project.

On behalf of FHWA, MoDOT has requested participation as a Consulting Party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of projects they carry out, approve, or fund on historic properties.

Programmatic EIS for Fuel Breaks in the Great Basin: The BLM has asked for comments on a draft programmatic environmental impact statement for fuel breaks in the Great Basin that will analyze the environmental effects of constructing a system of fuel breaks across portions of six states in the Great Basin: California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. These fuel breaks would be used to

improve fire suppression opportunities in the project area and ultimately would contribute to the potential for reduction in wildfire intensity and severity throughout the Great Basin. Be that as it may, many of the emigrant trails could be impacted by this project.

Eldorado National Forest: Several fuel reduction projects are underway in the Eldorado National Forest. OCTA members have been assisting the archaeologists from the Forest Service in locating and flagging trail segments on the Johnson Cut-off and Carson Route in an attempt to minimize any trail damage.

Fernley Swales: The Fernley Swales are an approximately three and one half mile segment of the California National Historic Trail near the end of the infamous Forty Mile Desert just north of Fernley, Nevada. In 2000 the **Fernley Swales Historic Preservation Easement** was established for preservation.

Recently, Mark IV Capital, a privately held real estate firm acquired 4400 acres in Fernley, Nevada surrounding and including the **Fernley Swales Historic Preservation Easement**. The easement includes the Fernley Sand Swales and the roadbed of the Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR). After the rails were removed, the CPRR



grade was part of the Victory Highway (1903-1932)

Although land within the easement prohibits development, the surrounding land is subject to development.

CA-NV chapter members, Jon and Janet Nowlin who have taken on the lead role for the preservation of the "Swales", indicated that the Mark IV Capital group is sensitive to the transportation history at the Swales and CPRR and have changed the name of their proposed industrial park to "Victory Logistics" in recognition of the CPRR grade that later became the Victory Highway. Plans are underway for all parties to meet to determine how best to preserve the historic integrity of the easement and accommodate the growth of the region.

For many years the CA-NV Chapter has participated in an annual cleanup and (*continued on following page*)

photo monitoring of the easement. The area seems to be a favorite dumping area for the locals. In an attempt to curtail some of the dumping, BLM has obtained 10 each of new signs, post and hardware for the Swales.

Lander Cutoff, Salt River Section in Lincoln County, Wyoming: Between August 16th and September 1st, 2016, the Greys River Ranger District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest (FS) attempted to address soil compaction from user created routes and dispersed camping which had resulted in decreased vegetation and increased soil runoff into the Salt River. What occurred by the Forest Service ripping the ground, was damage and diminished integrity to four segments of the Lander Cut-off, part of the California National Historic Trail.

Following the FS action, the FS and The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer began mitigation discussions with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which includes: OCTA, NPS, Wyoming State Senator, Star Valley Historical Society, Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, Lincoln County Historical Society and City of Kemmerer.

In late August 2019, at the time for me to submit this

report for *News from The Plains*, a **Memorandum of Agreement** (MOA) had been prepared and distributed for signatures. Briefly stated, the MOA stipulates FS begin remediation of the on-the-ground damage to the trail to be completed within one year following the execution of the MOA. Additionally, the FS shall provide and install trail markers for all portions of the Lander Cut-off NHT within five years, the FS shall collaboratively design, produce and install two Interpretive Signs on the Salt River Section of the Lander Cut-off within five years. The FS shall complete or update Trail Management Objectives for all segments of the Lander Cut-off that have existing detailed cultural resources. There are a few other administrative stipulations in the MOA.

Once signed and executed, the MOA and implementing Appendix A will become available.

These are some of the known threats or activities that are impacting the trail system. No doubt there are others, while it may be impossible to preserve and protect all known trail segments, we need to be proactive.

Your keen awareness of activities in your region is greatly appreciated. *More to Come...*

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Published quarterly by the
Oregon-California Trails Association
(A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit)
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Publication News



There's A Lot Goin' On *Bill Hill - Publications, Chair*

Here is a quick review of some of the items announced during the Santa Fe convention.

First, our new editors for *News from the Plains* and the *Overland Journal*, **Jay Lawrence** and **Bob**

Clark respectively, were introduced. Jay took over the *News from the Plains* in the spring from Bill Martin and Bob will take control from Marlene Smith-Baranzini with the fall issue of the *Overland Journal*. Jay is new to OCTA, and the convention enabled him to meet many of our members and to put faces with the names. The transition has gone well. I also wish to thank both **Susan Badger Doyle** and **Camille Bradford** for their service on the Publications Committee these past few years. Their comments and counsel will be missed. At the same time, I wish to welcome **Frank Tortorich** to the committee. His knowledge and dedication will be very helpful as our publications continue to develop.

The coming fall issue of the *Overland Journal* will be the first with a new printing company, Sheridan, out of Hanover, PA. A review by the Publications Committee of our printing company is required every few years. The process started last year. Under the watchful eye and hand of Ariane Smith, Marlene Smith-Baranzini, recently with our new editor, Bob Clark and the committee, the consensus was to change printers to Sheridan with approval by HQ. It would allow for the wider use of color, allow for other technical improvements, and other options at a reduced cost.

Don Buck was the recipient of the **Merrill Mattes Award** for excellence in writing. His article "Development of Emigrant Trail Research in the Post Weddell Era in the Truckee-Donner Pass Region of California" is reflective of the ideals of OCTA and the writing and research standards of Merrill Mattes for whom the award was named. The article appeared in the Summer 2018 - Vol. 36, #2 issue of the *Overland Journal*. If you did not read the article when it was first published, there is no better time than now to go back and read it.

The Publications committee will again be re-evaluating our advertising rates and program and article guidelines and other items as they come up.

The student Western Calendar, "**Wild Creatures**

Encountered by Emigrants & Indians" was printed in June and sold at the convention. Each student whose artwork was selected was notified in June. Those students were announced during the recent convention. They were recently sent a copy of the calendar and their prize, a check for \$50.00. We have again had positive feed-back from some of the students, parents, teachers and schools. We hope that the number of students and schools participating will continue to increase. The theme for the **2021 calendar** is "**Dangers and Hazards Along the Trails.**"

Those students, with their teachers and schools,



whose artwork appears in the 2020 calendar are:

Gordon Rice, Mr. Thorpe, Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Claire Blakesley**, Mr. Thorpe, Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Xavier Flouers**, Mr. Thorpe, Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Tess Malmrose**, Mrs. Lowry, Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Shelly Hansen**, Ms. Hudson, Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Madelyn Gibson**, Ms. Hudson, Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Lucy Herrold**, Mrs. Kolarik, John Paul II, Overland Park, KS; **Mirabelle Sullivan**, Mrs. Gittemeier, John Paul II, Overland Park, KS; **Maizey Wellisch**, Mrs. Dutson, Bennion Elementary, Taylorsville, UT; **Angelica Alcalá**, Mrs. Dutson, Bennion Elementary, Taylorsville, UT; **Hunter Hill**, Mrs. Flink, Renaissance Academy, Lehi, UT; **Vivian Zhao**, Mr. Drake, Golden View School San Ramon, CA; **Clint Lundin**, Mr. Drake, Golden View School, San Ramon, CA; **Prathik Prasanna**, Ms. Banis, Golden View School, San Ramon, CA. *Bill Hill*

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



Past presidents John Winner and John Krizek focused quite heavily on outreach during their terms, working hard to develop a Speakers Bureau. Several chapters have run with the idea, putting their members before numerous service clubs, school groups, other

historical organizations, and any other entities that have reached out to us seeking speakers in order to educate others about the important work of OCTA. When we relaunched our website last year, we focused in part on creating tools to help potential speakers find items that could assist them in their talks.

Many of those tools can be found at www.octa-trails.org by clicking on the “Educational Resources” tab. At the very bottom of that tab is the “Speakers Bureau” section. Because some folks aren’t entirely comfortable speaking in front of new groups, you have your choice of several YouTube videos that can be shown in place of a talk. “Across the Kansas Prairie” shows what it’s like to travel in a modern-day wagon train, while “Saving A Legacy” succinctly tells the story of what OCTA does and why. For those more comfortable with speaking, there is also a short PowerPoint presentation found at the very bottom of that page.

Of course, we also encourage our members to create their own talks. As an example, I spoke to the vast majority of Rotary Clubs in the Kansas City area over the course of 2019. In January and February, I focused on our upcoming symposium, “Truman and the Trails.” As a result, we gained a few business sponsors for that event. Since March, I’ve largely focused on the Three Trails Corridor project, educating community leaders about the impact that this project will have on our metropolitan area. We are now using those presentations to start a membership campaign in this area. When I was invited to speak at the “Tuesday Night Talks” series at the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph, I focused on the charrette that was held there last November. The immediate result was many new members for the Gateway Chapter.

Obviously, I can easily travel the area in the western Missouri and eastern Kansas area. I cannot get to speaking engagements in Sacramento or Salt Lake City

or Casper as easily as I can to one in Overland Park, Kansas. But you can!

One of OCTA’s speaker success stories is that of Jerry Eichhorst, President of our Idaho Chapter.

He is involved with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Boise State University and the Boise Public Schools adult education program, where he regularly teaches about the Oregon Trail as it crosses Idaho. His work in this regard has resulted in new members and advocates to carry on the work of preserving the trail. He also regularly leads trail outings in the state, exposing people to the history that is literally right under their feet. The result is many new members of OCTA!

In mid-August, OCTA Vice-President Lee Black presented to a professional surveyors group in Albuquerque.

OCTA board member Duane Iles regularly hosts events at Alcove Spring in Kansas and invites local communities to come learn about the trail in that region.

Gateway Chapter President Jackie Lewin set up an OCTA information booth at a huge community event in St. Joseph in late August.

There are many people who regularly engage the public in a variety of ways, and there is no one way to do it. You are the greatest asset OCTA has, and you are our top advocates. You have the power to host a booth, lead a tour, teach a class, give a speech, or appear at meetings where there is an opportunity to teach others about OCTA and the trails.

Our website contains many other resources in addition to the “Speakers Bureau” section, so if you are interested in learning more, please reach out to me at tboley@indepmo.org to find out how you can help. I will send you membership brochures and other items that will help you recruit new members. I can guide you through our family of websites (you could give a speech to a genealogy group and use www.paper-trail.org as the basis for your talk, as an example) and show you how to craft your own presentation.

Please do consider becoming a participant in our Speakers Bureau. Others in your area may never learn about the work we do if you aren’t out there in your community telling others about it. Be our ambassador and help us reach that next generation of trail preservationists!

Travis Boley

News from the Chapters



Santa Fe Plaza in 1850 in New Mexico. Drawing by Gerald Cassidy.

SOUTHERN TRAILS

After two years of Santa Fe conference planning together, Lee and Sandy and John and I are enjoying a few days in Colorado.

Stopping at Chimney Rock National Monument, (not in western Nebraska but Southwestern Colorado), John and I marveled at the landmarks of the Old Spanish Trail. The aspens were just beginning to show their fall colors as we traveled over Wolf Creek Pass to Alamosa. Tomorrow we will ride the Cumbres-Toltec Train that passes through steep mountain canyons and the high desert connecting Colorado and New Mexico.

I want to thank those who made the theme "The Gathering - A Blending of the Trails" successful. The presence of the Chiricahua Apaches set the scene followed by Carlos Herrera's presentation on "Juan Bautista de Anza." Presentations on the history and culture of New Mexico by several speakers and tours to the Pecos Ruins, Taos Pueblo, ruts and swales along the Santa Fe Trail, the visit with Mr. Dogie Jones, and the Chimayo Cuisine enriched the theme.

I look forward to the 38th Annual Convention in Elko, Nevada in September, 2020!

Cecilia Bell



KANZA

KANZA's plans for the National Trails Day event at Alcove Spring had to be cancelled due to flooding in northeast Kansas. We will hold onto the plans for next year, and see what transpires.

KANZA lost past active members Ernie White & Ted Hopkins this past year. This is a big loss to us and they were great pioneers for KANZA Chapter. Ernie was great, hands on in the field in many ways, and Ted was a fantastic researcher for the things needed in the Chapter or OCTA itself.

Newsletter & Facebook Editors

- Arleta & Alicia would like feedback good or bad on the newsletter and everyone needs to help the newsletter by submitting articles it is not just our newsletter it is the memberships' newsletter.
- We are also in need of Facebook articles and to get

members to join our Facebook page. Anyone can comment and post OCTA or KANZA information on our Facebook page, KANZA Chapter of OCTA / Oregon-California Trails Association.

Preservation / Rut Nuts Pat & Alicia will be out walking this summer, hoping to do more mapping at a site found in 2018, now that they have equipment.

- Due to flooding & timing we haven't gone out yet...
- We still have not heard of anything on training from OCTA national / NPS for the software; even though we have offered our area for holding the training, and our awesome new ruts as the practice field. It's perfectly easy to get to by car and it is right off the road, highly visible and an easy walk.

*Submitted by Alicia M Keegan,
Secretary, KANZA Chapter*

NORTHWEST

In the last issue of *News from the Plains*, we noted that Ronnie Allen of La Grande, Oregon, had located the long-missing Lower Ladd's Canyon Meeker marker. He found the original marker in 2017 in the driveway of a Union County home after an extensive search. He then purchased and donated it to the Baker City Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. The stone has attracted such attention and unwanted touching at the center that it has now been placed under glass.

Allen traced the stone of that original marker to a basalt outcrop on nearby Sugarloaf Mountain, and obtained a geologically similar stone, which he then had engraved into a replica monument. This summer he placed the replica into an exhibit he created on Hot Lake Lane outside of La Grande where the Oregon Trail came down from Ladd's Hill and where Meeker dedicated his original marker on April 11, 1906. In addition, the exhibit includes a wagon wheel that came over the Oregon Trail and a mule harness donated by Willie Myers from her late husband John's collection, and a farm wagon donated by the Counsell Century Ranch, currently owned by Dale Counsell, who will serve as the custodian of the exhibit. The exhibit is part of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Ladd's Marsh Wildlife Area, with new Oregon Trail signs provided by the Oregon Department of Transportation. The upper Ladd Canyon Meeker marker is still missing but Allen says, "I am often up there looking for it."

Members of the NWOCTA Chapter will have a chance to view the new exhibit after lunch on Saturday,

September 28 when the chapter holds its fall gathering in La Grande starting at 10 a.m. in the La Grande Library at 2006 Fourth St. In addition we'll hear an update on the chapter's trail marking activities on the Barlow Road, and Gail Carbiener will present a video of trail activities from the Trails West Chapter. On Sunday a T-Rail marker will be installed on the Joe Horst property. All are welcome.

Summer activities for the chapter in June included the annual exhibit at the Phillip Foster Farm where a table was set up with maps and information available for visitors to view and discuss. The farm is located on the Barlow Road segment of the Oregon Trail, east of Oregon City, and the event was attended by many local landowners interested in discussing their historical location. The chapter also attended the Clackamas County Lavender Festival later in the month. They shared trail history with festival-goers at the Oregon Lavender Farm, also just off the Barlow Road. Several people noted that the Barlow Road crossed their property, and they shared their family stories. Chapter members talked to approximately 85 people over the two days, including children who had learned about the Oregon Trail in school.

At other venues this summer, Susan Butruille presented a program on June 10 at the Pendleton Public Library based on the new edition of her book, *Women's Voices from the Oregon Trail*. Dave Welch presented his findings at the Umatilla County Museum on the original route of the Oregon Trail that went north to



Replica Bench

the Whitman Mission and then west to the Columbia River. While the National Park Service has determined the primary route of the Oregon Trail to be the plateau route that went overland west from the base of the Blue Mountains to The Dalles, on the south side of the river, Dave and a dedicated group have worked for years exploring and researching the earlier Whitman Route. Wendell Baskins participated in a panel discussion at the Oregon Historical Society on July 14 regarding the controversial Promised Land statue in downtown Portland. The statue of a pioneer family was created for the 1993 Oregon Trail sesquicentennial and sparked controversy when outspoken Portlanders resisted honoring white settlers who took native lands. Today the statue stands amid increasing debate about the meaning of statues representing imperialism and slavery in America's past.

Ten T-Rail trail markers have been purchased and are now ready to be installed as time allows. The information plaques with trail locations and



Replica Lower Ladds Canyon

diary quotes for each marker need to be designed and ordered. Gail Carbiener, Paul Masee, and Henry Pittock are coordinating this project, and they will determine locations and the logistics for installation. These markers are more permanent than the currently used Carsonite markers and will be an asset to our trail marking. There will also be a few opportunities for some small mapping and marking projects in the fall. Our new mapping and marking leader will be Drew Harvey, with the transition completed sometime in October.

In closing, Camille Bradford is searching for evidence of the fate of Ezra Meeker's 1928 Henry Ford-built OxMobile. She has enlisted the help of Andy Anderson of the Meeker Mansion who a few years ago made a trek to the Ford Museum also looking for the OxMobile. Anyone with information on the current whereabouts or final disposition of the vehicle should contact Camille.

Dennis M. Larsen

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.



IDAHO

New western Idaho Preservation Officers Virgel Clark and Dave Price joined me in late May to visit with a small home-owners group in Northwest Boise. Former preservation officer Wally Meyer joined us on the visit. The group went to the site of a short section of what appeared to be Goodale's North route heading west from Boise. The short section we found could be the only remnant in the Boise area as the growing city of Boise has obliterated all other traces.



Marker installed to mark section of Goodale's North route in northwest Boise

The Idaho chapter joined with the BLM On National Trails Day, Saturday, June 1, to clean up a section of the main Oregon Trail southeast of Boise. Located a short distance from housing subdivisions and main roads, this area contained tall sagebrush and historic main Oregon Trail ruts. It also contained a lot of trash as the area had been used as a dumping ground for a long time. Bullet casings and nails littered the parking lot along with furniture, mattresses, and glass. A group



Trash picked up on the Oregon Trail by volunteers on National Trails Day

of about 20 people spent 3 hours cleaning up the area from the parking lot to the base of the hill leading up to Bonneville Point.

Later in June we explored a possible burial site on the North Alternate Oregon Trail. A local road crew with ground penetrating radar (GPR) equipment scanned several suspected grave sites and found voids or cavities in the soil to the south side of the headstone rocks. Voids were also found around other suspected graves and a possible mass grave site was found. Continued explorations will be planned in the future.

The Lander Road outing in July was cancelled as it proved to be a bad weekend for most people. Only a couple of people were planning to attend, and when the landowner was not going to be available, the outing was cancelled.



Jeffreys-Goodale tour participants at Tom Cat Hill summit

John Briggs led about 20 people on the Jeffreys-Goodale Cutoff from Arco to Silver Creek on Saturday, August 10. People from as far away as Nevada drove to the isolated town of Arco for the tour. It was an interesting day following the route of the emigrants of 1854 and the 1860's around the Craters of the Moon lava flows.

I have agreed to lead an Elko convention pre-tour on the California Trail next year so will be doing some exploring of the area this fall. I will probably conduct a preview of the tour next year.

The fall chapter meeting will be held on October 5 in Boise. We have a couple of interesting speakers lined up and will hike the Ada County Oregon Trail site after the meeting and lunch.

Jerry Eichhorst

TRAILS HEAD

Trail history with maps, toys, and stories was shared by some of our members with 36 Boy Scouts at a scout meeting May 20. We enjoy such an occasion to increase awareness of the historic trails in our area.

Our National Trails Day bus tour June 1 was on a great trail! We partnered with Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA) and the Missouri Riverbend (MRO) chapter of Santa Fe trails Association (SFTA) to follow the early Santa Fe Trail from Old Franklin – across the Missouri River from Boonville – to Independence, MO. This included the Visitor's Center at Arrow Rock. Though we were able to see our intended sites, some were viewed from a distance because of the extensive flooding that has plagued our state this summer.

We had new faces at our summer picnic! This was the result of personally calling or emailing members

that I did not know and encouraging them to come. We met at Minor Park in Kansas City, MO, where Ross Marshall talked about the history of Red Bridge where the area trails crossed the Blue River. The first Red Bridge was built in 1859. That one and an 1892 one were replaced with the current Old Red Bridge in 1932 when it was dedicated by Harry Truman who was then a judge. When the new Red Bridge (which is not red) was built in 2011, the Old Red Bridge became a favorite spot for attaching love locks of which there are now over 3,500! The new traffic bridge has decorative panels with pictures and texts of individuals associated with the area as part of the Three Trails Crossing. Some of us then braved the hot afternoon sun to tour the two bridges, the swales in Minor Park, a Trail of Death marker, and other wayside exhibits.

Lila Aamodt

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

The chapter held a Spring event in April at the Loveland Museum. Ken Jessen, a noted local historian and lecturer, spoke on "Pioneer Roads in Larimer County." The presentation began with the Overland Trail, the county's first road, and traced its route and stage stations. The presentation also included over 100 illustrations of the county's pioneer roads. Rare photographs portrayed difficulties faced in their development. The event was well-attended. Sharon Danhauer, a member of the chapter board, is also a member of the Loveland Historical Society board and helped with promotion of the event in Loveland.

A Fall event will be held at the Loveland Museum on October 19. Christopher Lane, one of the officers of the Rocky Mountain Map Society, will give a presentation, "The First Comprehensive Survey of Colorado: Ferdinand V. Hayden, 1869-1876." He is the founder of Philadelphia Print Shop West in Denver and served as an appraiser of maps and prints on Antiques Roadshow for over 20 years.

The Mapping Committee continues to work with representatives of the City of Colorado Springs and the Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum on a project to create signage in the Bluestem Open Space. The signage will provide information on the Cherokee Trail that crosses the open space and the hiking trail, with



well-defined Class 1 swales. Many thanks to Bill Burr, Jeannie Mitchell and Bruce Watson for leading this project. In addition, they explored the Colorado Springs Jimmy Camp Park in an effort to identify historic locations from journals and sketches. Many thanks to Tracy De Vault for participating in this project.

Many thanks also to Richard Deisch who now lives in Arizona and continues to participate in the work of the committee.

A chapter business meeting will be held in November.

Camille Bradford

GATEWAY

On June 8, thirty members and friends of the Gateway Chapter visited sites on the western section of the St. Joe Road in Marshall and Washington Counties. The day-long bus tour traveled to the junction of the trails from Independence and St. Joseph, a journey that would have taken two weeks to reach in 1850. Another site visited was the Hollenberg Pony Express Station and visitor center. A highlight of the day was a short hike to Alcove Spring to see an unusually large amount of water falling over the falls. That area was the 1846 campsite of the ill-famed Donner Party that would later be stranded for the winter in the Sierra Mountains. A special thank you goes to OCTA member and



Fred and Betty Sawin view the mileage sign at the crossing of the Big Blue River.



Alcove Spring, just south of Marysville, Kansas, was visited and named by the members of the 1846 Donner Party. Gateway members also enjoyed the beauty of the area.

Marysville resident Charlie Weickert who scouted the rain-soaked roads and welcomed us to the area and



At the Junction of the Trails monument, the group posed as early historians did when they placed the monument in 1941.



Marysville, Kansas, is known as the Black Squirrel City. Jackie Lewin, Jerry Lewin, and Shirley Myers pose by one of the 34 statues in the town.

spent the day with the group.

Gateway Chapter members are researching the possibility of a service project to help preserve the wagon on the grounds of the St. Joseph Museums. The

group is also assisting the Whistle Creek Livestock Preserve with the erection of weather protection tents for wagons on their property.

Jackie Lewin

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

Having returned from Santa Fe and attending the outstanding national OCTA Convention there, the CA/NV OCTA members are primarily focused on planning for the 2020 national convention that we are hosting in Elko, Nevada. Helen Hankins and Duane Jones are diligently working toward providing another outstanding convention with great tours and presentations. On September 26, they will be doing a preliminary bus trip to assure quality tours to historic areas.

Jon and Janet Nowlin continue to be our representatives working on the Fernley Swales and are planning a September 28 Public Land cleanup at the swales, and are placing Carsonite markers in areas damaged by OHV use.

Dee Owens led several successful projects on the Eldorado National Forest, and more are planned for the future. Upcoming fuel reduction projects planned throughout the forest could possibly impact

the emigrant trails. Verification of the mapped trails emphasizes the importance of preservation. Verifying the route of the Pony Express was a goal for early this summer.

Bill Holmes has contacted the owners of the property where the Johnson Ranch and Camp Far West were located, and efforts are being made to open the area to visitation and interpretation. Remember that the Johnson Ranch was the end of the trail into California and is historically very significant.

Other fieldwork and outings were planned for the Beckwourth Trail this summer, where we planned to install interpretive panels funded by the USFS.

Frank Tortorich was one of four recipients of this year's California Image Award given by Native Daughters of the Golden West for his many years of research, teaching, writing, and preserving the History of the California Emigrant Trail.

Ken Johnston

WYOMING

There is a lot to report from Wyoming this summer, beginning with three trails treks so far completed out of five planned, news of a proposed new road across state land near Casper that would cut through some dramatic swales, and likely future collaborations among the LDS Church, public lands agencies and OCTA over ways to improve the visitor experience around Martin's Cove and Devil's Gate.

The were events sponsored and organized by staff at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center and led by longtime Wyoming OCTA Preservation Officer Randy Brown. All drew nice crowds – two dozen or more people. On the first, June 22, we followed the Oregon/California/Mormon trail along the south side of the North Platte River from Fort Laramie to a spot east of Glendo, Wyoming, with stops at the Mary Homsley grave, Mexican Hill and Porter's Rock, named for Brigham Young's bodyguard, Porter Rockwell. The second trek took us from La Prele Creek west of Douglas, Wyoming and the 1843 grave of Joel Hembree, earliest known grave on the Oregon Trail, then past Mary Kelly's grave and several more to the Quintina Snodderly grave east of Casper. The third trek, the longest and most dramatic, began at Scotts Bluff National Monument and wound west through Robidoux pass to a cluster of sites near the Nebraska-Wyoming line, including big swales at the place where Brule Sioux warriors attacked a mail coach in November 1864 to avenge the death at the Grattan fight that year of their chief, Conquering Bear. All these sites have stories, and Randy was able to tell them all. We look forward to a fourth trek Aug. 31 over McKinstry Ridge on the Child's Cutoff north of the river later this month, and to a hike September 28th through Emigrant Gap west of Casper. For more information, contact Jason Vlcan at the Trails Center at (307) 261-7783 Jason_Vlcan@blm.gov.

Also this summer we've begun monitoring a proposal by the town of Evansville, Wyoming, just east of Casper, to build a new road on the north side of the North Platte. This will purportedly to guarantee access for emergency vehicles to the part of the town north of its

railroad tracks, should passage through the town ever be blocked by a train. The road would cross a section of Wyoming state land that includes dramatic swales. The soil there is sandy; wagon wheels left deep impressions on the landscape. Reshaw's Bridge, the main North Platte crossing in the early 1850s, crossed the river here. On the north end of the bridge there was a blacksmith shop and other buildings. A road could also disrupt any chance of ever completing any systematic archeology on the site. One source has told us construction could begin as early as this fall, but officials at the State Lands Office seem to think the proposal isn't that far along, and will most likely be complicated by the existence of a lot of oil and gas pipelines nearby. We'll see.

The LDS Church's Mormon Handcart Visitor's Center near Devil's gate, about an hour's drive west of Casper,

was established more than 25 years ago to tell the story of the handcart disaster of 1856, when many members of the Martin Handcart Company camped and died nearby. At the same time, a BLM-

administered highway rest area overlooks the church site and offers sweeping views up the Sweetwater Valley along with interpretive signs telling more stories of the hundreds of thousands of emigrants, traders and freighters who passed the spot during the peak trail years.

At this point all branches of the trail narrowed into one through low hills at Rattlesnake Pass. There, on state land, lies the 1847 grave of young Frederick Fulkerson, signed with an OCTA interpretive plaque. There are a number of emigrant inscriptions on rocks right next to the road as well.

Jenny Lund of the LDS Church History Department has organized a meeting at Martin's Cove next week so that representatives of the church, the BLM, the state, the Pony Express Association and OCTA can begin working on some kind of centrally thought-out way to help visitors understand the connections among these sites, and how all these stories intertwined. It's an ambitious goal—stay tuned for further reports.

Tom Rea



OCTA/NHTIC trek at La Prele/Little Boxelder divide Vlcan photo July 2019



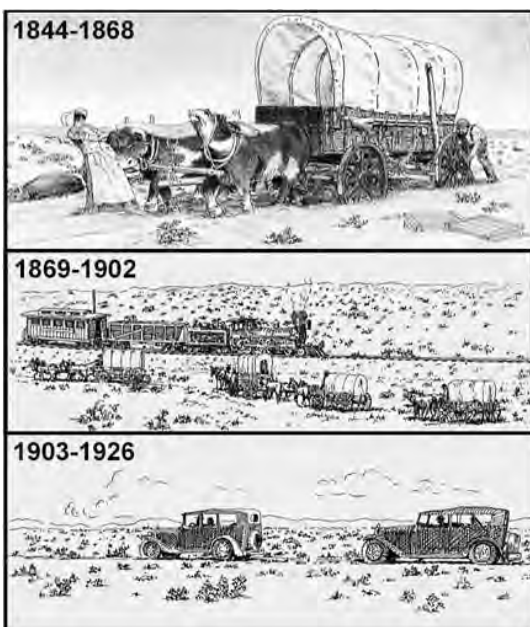
CROSSROADS

We have had a varied assortment of activities this year. This includes some individual achievements. Messages from Terry Welch, past president, have detailed some activities.

First and foremost was the 150th anniversary of the completion of the railroad, which eclipsed everything else.

After that, Crossroads participated at Eli Anderson's "wagon farm" with activities that included the National Freight Wagon gathering wherein there was a four-day event that explored trails in northern Utah and from Soda Springs, Idaho, across northern Utah to include the Bartleson-Bidwell trails and the Salt Lake Cut-Off. Good presentations were made visiting such sites as Hampton Ford and Kelton (railroad ghost town).

Terry also made mention of a recent visit to Simpsons Spring and how the wild horses are still out there. It appears Simpsons Spring was first called Pleasant Spring until after Simpson's 1859 survey and expedition to Genoa, Nevada, creating the Central Overland and Pony Express Trails and



the Chorpenings Mail Route and eventually the Lincoln Highway and later US-50 across Nevada. Thanks, Terry and Hope Welch, for this story.

Jesse Petersen headed up a group on August 14 to place a tee-rail post at Dead Man's Cave (Garfield, Utah) to mark a trail and trail camp site. Archeological digs were made early in the 20th Century which found evidence of human occupation 10,000 years ago. It is on Kennecott property now.

OTHER NEWS –

Our own Will Bagley has received another award for writing. He was awarded the "Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Contributions to Western History." Congratulations, Will!

We have not had a field trip this year due to unforeseen circumstances. One hazard is the dry grass that is everywhere. Perhaps this fall.

Our annual Fort Douglas dinner meeting will be on September 19. Looking forward to that.

Lavon Rimmasch for Oscar Olson

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REMEMBRANCES

Patrick John Surrena
October 17, 1949 - July 23, 2019

“Save the Trail.”

Keep it simple, impactful, and memorable.

That was the mantra of Pat Surrena, OCTA's former marketing committee chairman (from 2013 to 2015) and board member (from 2010 to 2013). An acknowledged career marketing professional – as well as a veteran mountain man re-enactor – Pat became interested in trail history due to his love of mountain man re-enacting, causing him to join OCTA and the Colorado/Cherokee Trail chapter. He became increasingly active in OCTA partially as a result of the convention in Loveland, Colorado in 2009.

Faced with a trend of flat and declining annual membership numbers due to societal factors beyond OCTA's control, Pat urged OCTA to invest in a direct mail and advertising campaign. This campaign modestly and briefly reversed that trend but could not be sustained due to budgetary constraints.

The “Save the Trail” theme was one result of that campaign. The mailing lists Pat assembled, coupled with a poignant essay by long-time OCTA member Will Bagley, became an effective weapon in the battle to save the Hastings Cutoff in Utah from a proposed potash mine.

Under Pat's direction, the first professional survey of OCTA's membership was conducted. The results helped focus efforts on potential sources of membership and support. Health issues forced Pat to step aside from his leadership of OCTA's marketing efforts. His counsel and expertise have been missed. – *written by OCTA Marketing/PR Chair and Past President John Krizek, who worked closely with Pat on these initiatives and others.*

From his official obituary:

On October 17th, 1949 Patrick John Surrena began his extraordinary life. He was welcomed into life by his parents, Clarence Tobin and Julia Rosemary Surrena in Oak Park, Illinois. He would later be joined by 3 sisters and a brother, Suzanne, Sheila, Mary, and Matthew. His family moved from Chicago, Illinois to Thornton, Colorado, and finally settled in Euclid, Ohio. He graduated from St. Joseph's High School in 1967. His love for Colorado as a little boy would bring him back in 1990.

Patrick made the decision in 1969 to follow in his father's footsteps and join the United States Navy. He

was trained at boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Station. He went on to become a Communication Technician, and went through the Navy Seal SERE training. Pat flew missions out to Da Nang in Viet Nam and spied on the enemy in unarmed aircraft. He had a top secret clearance and would serve in the air, on land, and the sea. He received an air medal for meritorious

achievement along with other medals and his unit received the equivalent of a Bronze Star.

Pat married Eileen Mary Kraft on September 25, 1971. They lived in Rota, Spain until 1972 when Pat finished his military career. They lived in Euclid, Ohio where their two beautiful daughters were born, Erin Kathleen and Katherine (Katie) Suzanne. They moved to Dallas, Texas in 1980 and were blessed with the birth of another beautiful daughter, Patricia Elaine. Pat went on to work in the Marketing and Advertising field and through the years

worked at Diamond Shamrock Corp., Padgett Printing, Hanson Brothers Printing, and G.A. Wright.

Pat and Eileen have 5 wonderful grandchildren, Alexander (Zander), Elexa, Kaiya, Aidan, and Tobin. All of them have his spirit of adventure, love of photography, love of flying, sense of humor, kind spirit, and the love of the outdoors.

Pat was a devoted family man, photographer, historian, mountain man, Aeronaut (hot air balloon pilot), writer, author, drummer, proud Irishman, ham radio operator, and advertising and marketing guru. He was a proud, and founding member, of the Viet Nam Veterans Chapter #1106, and a lifetime member of the VFW. Pat belonged to the American Mountain Men Association #1449, and loved his mountain man brothers, and recreating the history of the Trappers. He loved the outdoors, camping and the beauty of the mountains. His maternal grandfather, John Jiran, shared his love of photography with Pat and he never stopped taking pictures. He leaves a legacy of beautiful photographs of his travels throughout Colorado, the USA, and the world.

In the early hours of July 23rd, 2019, Patrick departed from his incredible life and is now watching over his family and the mountains he loved to photograph.



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
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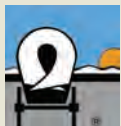
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Call for Papers

**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

Awards Deadline is June 1, 2020

Nominations are due June 1 for the annual OCTA awards to be presented at the 2020 Convention scheduled in September in Elko, Nevada. Awards exclusively for OCTA members include the Greg Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award, OCTA's highest honor, and the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award. Non-members are eligible for Distinguished Service Awards and Friends of the Trail Awards.

Awards nomination forms can be found on the OCTA website by visiting www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms.

Questions about the awards process should be addressed to Awards Committee Chair at AudreyLynnElder@gmail.com

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Outstanding Educator of the Year
Preservation Updates ■ Chapter News
Call for Papers - 2020 Elko NV Convention



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