

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association



Winter 2020

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Paradise Students Save Pioneer Trail Experience

A group of Northern California students had an experience of a lifetime reliving the ill-fated Donner Party's 1846 track across the salt flats of Utah—thanks to a student-led revival of a popular pioneer history class devastated by the catastrophic fire in Paradise, CA, last year.

The fire wiped out the treasured collection of pioneer wagons, costumes and paraphernalia owned by 2005 Disney Teacher of the Year Dave Vixie, who annually took up to 30 students at a time on one-week trips on parts of the California Trail in Nevada and California. Vixie's class traditionally was a highlight of the year for students at Paradise Adventist Academy, where he taught. The students wore period clothes, dealt with mules and wagons, camped and crossed rivers just as their peers did over a century and a half ago.

Vixie and his wife Karen barely escaped the flames last November, with some of their mules and the clothes on their backs.

As cancellation of this year's pioneer trek loomed,

student alumni of previous trips organized a "Go Fund Me" campaign. They raised \$4,000 toward the purchase of replacement wagons and equipment. With all twelve of Vixie's authentic pioneer wagons destroyed, an authentic wagon was found in Idaho and donated to the cause. Two more wagons were found in South Dakota, reconditioned and shipped to the



California Trail Center in Elko, Nevada, where the group from the Chico area picked them up en route to the salt flats of Utah.

The party of ten students—mostly seventh and eighth graders, and a larger number of parents

and teachers—joined the Hastings Cutoff—the so-called “short cut” taken by the Donner-Reed Party in September, 1846—in Skull Valley, approximately 50 miles west of Salt Lake City. Over the next week they covered 100 miles, almost all on foot, just as the pioneers did, across the rugged hills and salt flats to Donner Spring, the life-saving watering spot at the base of Pilot Peak, at the west edge of the desert.

It took “A tremendous outpouring of support” from the students and parents to make the revival of the pioneer experience possible, according to Dave Vixie.

John Krizek

A note from an appreciative parent

As a kid I had the joy of experiencing the Oregon Trail, by shooting game, and delaying coming west while grandma or a sibling or the oxen rested and hoped to recuperate rather than die. I was pretty good at hunting game. But then that was on the 1985 version of the game “The Oregon Trail” on my Macintosh computer. I never dreamed I would actually get to travel west with real wagons and mules towards home; Paradise California!

For many years, master educator Dave Vixie has made history come alive for seventh and eighth grade students in Paradise, California by taking them on a wagon trip along the Oregon Trail. This epic annual adventure was threatened when nearly all of Mr. Vixie’s wagons and 1800’s artifacts used to make the trip an authentic representation of the historic wagon trips were burned in the Camp Fire on November 8, 2018 that ravaged Paradise, California and surrounding areas. The fire burned for seventeen days and consumed 153,336 acres and destroyed 18,904 structures, 14,000 of which were homes, and worst of all the fire took away 86 lives. We wondered if the famous Vixie Wagon Trip era had died with the fire...

Which is why it was so exciting that on Sunday morning September 22, before sunrise 19 pioneers set out for an amazing journey! Our modern gas powered wagons ate up 649 miles in one day which put us on the Oregon Trail in Utah where we began our adventure experiencing the great westward expansion of the 1840’s.

We arrived to see the beautiful star lit Utah sky late Sunday night and set up camp in the dark. Somewhere around Wendover the “Magic Schoolbus” had taken us back in time! The kids awoke the 47° morning in 1846 on the Lansford Hastings cutoff before sunrise to feed and water the mules and then themselves, cooking over an open flame on cast iron skillets.

They hitched up their teams and with Wagon Master

David Vixie set off with their backs to the sun rising in the east and their fronts facing west into the great unknown promised land, California.

They consumed fifteen miles that day and camped that evening at the delicious waters of Redlum Springs. Resting their weary teams and their blistered feet, they journaled along the way noting what it was like to be a pioneer and walk for ten-plus hours a day. Whenever they stopped to eat and drink they had to unhitch and care for the mules so the teams could care for them in return and help them get ‘home’.

As the days rolled by, the hard road of the pushing and pulling wagons with ropes to help the mules up and down mountains gave way to the harder road of the rolling sand dunes of the Playa, beyond which in turn gave way to the Bonneville Salt Flats where the students experienced the incredible challenge of pushing wagons that broke through the salt crust and sank into the thick mud beneath, all the while longing for the waters of Donner Springs at the base of Pilot Peak which seemed to always remain one mirage away.



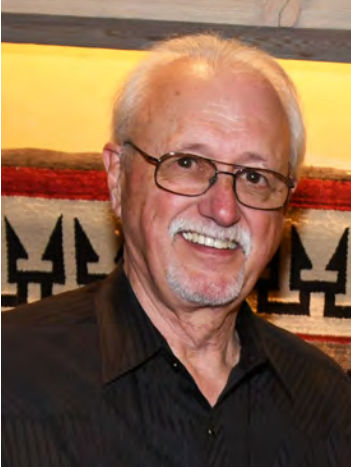
After 60 miles of walking the hard roads of the Oregon Trail, Hastings Cutoff, students arrived at Donner Springs and got to experience the relief of reaching water. All along the trip, Mr. Vixie would read journal excerpts from various pioneers who traveled before them and they didn’t have to imagine the swollen tongues desperate for water or the blistered feet because they were living the experience. The life lessons learned along the hard road of life will stay with these students forever. Student Makayla Chaffee said, “There were so many profound life lessons that Mr. Vixie taught me on the wagon trip that I will take with me forever.”

Students have set up a Go Fund Me account to help Mr. Vixie replace that which was lost and continue to provide living history for many generations to come. While enough money was raised for this trip, so many things are still needed to replace what was lost. To support this endeavor, please use this web address:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/mr-vixie-education-fund?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

Garrison Chaffee

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Looking ahead, plans are underway for the mid-year OCTA Board meeting and Symposium in Yuma, Arizona, February 21-23. Registration information is being sent out soon and you will want to make your reservation early. When OCTA last met in Yuma, in 2009, attendance exceeded seating capacity of approximately 250.

Many first-time attendees joined OCTA as a result of an excellent program and local pre-meeting publicity. Similar results are expected. The Southern Trails Chapter in concert with Travis Boley, our Association Administrator, has an excellent host of speakers and several field trips planned. Outings include tours of local landmarks and a possible monument dedication. If the chill of winter has you desiring a warm climate and seldom heard history of the winter route to the California gold fields, plan to attend the Yuma meeting. Watch for registration materials.

In conjunction with the Yuma meeting, the Strategic Planning Committee will meet to draft a preliminary 2020-2025 document. Each Chapter's input is vital to achieving a workable and successful plan. Thus, committee members will be in contact with each Chapter for input. Committee members include Dick Waugh - Chairman, John Briggs, Ginny Dissette, Pat Traffas and Lee Black.

While you have your calendar out, you will also want to block off the week of September 20, 2020. OCTA members will gather in Elko, NV for the annual OCTA Convention. Helen Hankins and her excellent team are preparing an enlightening and entertaining time for all attendees. Idaho Chapter President, Jerry Eichhorst, and company will be hosting a pre-convention tour of the California trail through Southern Idaho. You won't want to miss this tour. It is likely to sell out early.

A hearty thanks to OCTA member Gina Sifers of Bella Media Services for her outstanding contribution. She recently led the Communications and Public Relations team in a portion of the five-year planning process. Gina has assisted in linking OCTA to the social media world. Many of you already know OCTA was presented with exciting news recently. As methods of communication have evolved from the Pony Express days, to the telegraph, the internet and cell phones, OCTA now enters the social media age in a major way. With an award of approximately \$120,000 a year from Google, we are now able to broadcast our message to a global audience. Add to that tremendous capability our new YouTube opportunity and our "touch point" is unlimited! Using YouTube, work is underway to share dramatic new drone aerial footage of the Oregon trail segment that will be adversely impacted by the proposed B2H project. This is an outstanding means of alerting all interested parties of a need to support an alternative option to B2H.

In addition to featuring alerts and a call to action on YouTube, OCTA also has a dynamic educational opportunity. Many attending the Santa Fe Convention had a desire to hear all the speaker presentations. Due to the dual track method of the program, attending only half of the presentations was possible. However, convention attendees now have the capability of viewing the desired presentations, at no charge, via YouTube. Access information will be provided in E-News. For the general public and OCTA members who did not register for the convention a fee-based option for viewing will be made possible.

OCTA now has at least three new social media opportunities to attract and educate prospective new members. Word has it that several have joined recently as a result of these new methods of communication. You are encouraged to share this information with others in your community. The future is bright as — we journey down the trail together.

Lee Black
OCTA President

2019-2020 OCTA Board of Directors

Cecilia Bell, Silver City NM
ceciliajb@aol.com

John Briggs, Boise, ID
johnxbriggs@msn.com

Jean Coupal-Smith, Roeland Park KS
jcs1fun1@kc.rr.com

Helen Hankins, Spring Creek, NV
helenhankins@gmail.com

Duane Iles, Holton KS
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

Steve Knight, Carson City NV
1knightsc@gmail.com

Matt Mallinson, Sugar Creek MO
ms844@hotmail.com

Bill Martin, Georgetown TX
bmartinocata@gmail.com

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

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



Nearly five years ago, OCTA's Board of Directors updated its five-year strategic plan and set numerous goals and objectives with specific action plans to ensure that the organization had a clear vision on how to set itself up for the 2020s. In the past several months, OCTA staff

and the strategic planning committee have reviewed the status of this five-year plan in great detail and we are pleased to report that the vast majority of items in the plan are either complete or nearing completion.

Over the next several issues of *News from the Plains*, I plan to report on many of these accomplishments, especially in cases where those accomplishments greatly improved the value of an OCTA membership. The Board chose to especially emphasize areas that were likely to entice new members and to convince existing members to continue supporting our mission. Of particular interest to many of our members is the incredible increase of our online offerings.

At the outset of our strategic plan back in 2015, we quickly took steps to launch a new website that would largely be devoted to digitized trail diaries. OCTA's Merrill J. Mattes Library, housed at the National Frontier Trails Museum, contains hundreds upon hundreds of original trail diaries from the 19th century. When the 2015 Board reviewed the usage of this library, they realized that only about a dozen people a year were utilizing this incredible resource.

Following this evaluation, we set about building a new website at www.octa-journals.org. Today, this website contains well over 400 individual Oregon and California Trail diaries. They are transcribed and available as a PDF download. You'll find most of these listed under the "Merrill J. Mattes Collection," but we were also able to upload the collection housed at

Cave Springs in Ray-town, Missouri. You will also find transcripts from Duncan S. Campbell and some 19th century newspapers housed on the Journals website.

In addition, the website contains PDF downloads of every single issue of both the *Overland Journal* and *News from the Plains* dating back to the early 1980s. These latter two publications are available to members only, while the diary downloads are publicly available.

In addition, OCTA's educational programs committee partnered with the Independence (MO) School District to create curriculum based on the digitized diaries. Every spring, all of the district's one thousand 8th graders utilize the curriculum and diaries from the website. In addition, due to the outreach efforts of our educational programs committee, hundreds of schools around the country are now utilizing the curriculum as well. With annual appearances at various state and national social studies conferences, the committee has made great inroads into ensuring that OCTA's library is now utilized by tens of thousands of people annually instead of just a dozen.

A recent addition to the website are digitized copies of most of OCTA's previous convention books and tour guides. Also available as PDF downloads, these resources are great for those who might want to take a tour on their own long after the OCTA convention has left town.

Finally, the website has an interactive trail map embedded in it. You can drill down anywhere along the trail to find the on-the-ground resources available from the Missouri River to the West Coast.

Please do visit www.octa-journals.org and get the most value for your membership. There are a few other links to other resources available on the Journals website, so do take the time to look around a bit. Be sure to look for this column in the spring edition, where we will explain some of the other online resources that are now available after five years of intensively fulfilling the digital goals of our five-year strategic plan.

Travis Boley

2019-2020 OCTA Officers

Lee Black, President

Albuquerque, NM • leeblack1@hotmail.com

Dick Waugh, Vice President

Oroville, CA • camalobo@comcast.net

Pat Traffas, Past President

Overland Park, KS • traffasp@gmail.com

Sandra Wiechert, Secretary

Lawrence, KS • wiechert@ku.edu

Marvin Burke, Treasurer

Northglenn, CO • mdburke@msn.com

John Winner, Preservation Officer

Placerville, CA • swinner@dataentree.com

PRESERVATION



*By John Winner
National Preservation Officer*

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

As we continue to monitor the numerous activities that pose threats to the historic emigrant trails, two major transmission line projects are center stage.

The **Boardman to Hemingway** (B2H) project, a 300 mile 500kv transmission line in Eastern Oregon crossing the Oregon National Historic Trail seven times and causing both direct and indirect effects to the Oregon National Historic Trail, is now in litigation.

On November 12th, 2019, concerned citizens including the "Stop B2H Coalition" of which OCTA is a member, filed the lawsuit in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, Pendleton Division opposing the construction of the transmission line. The suit charged the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service with failure to adequately review the impact of the route Idaho Power has proposed for the B2H transmission line across five Eastern Oregon counties.

The suit addresses the federal agencies failure to adequately evaluate the need for and environmental effects of the line which would cause irreparable harm to the Oregon National Historic Trail, its historic ruts and viewshed. Additionally, the suit claims the agencies failed to adequately evaluate the environmental effect, which would cause harm to family farms, residential areas, and wildlife habitat.

The Complaint requests that the court declare and adjudge the BLM's November 17th, 2017 Record of Decision, Resource Management Plan Amendments and accompanying Final Environmental Impact Statements are unlawful. Also, request that the court declare and adjudge that the Forest Service's November 9, 2018 Record of Decision and Forest Plan Amendment and accompanying Final Environmental Impact Statement are unlawful. The Plaintiffs are also requesting the preparation of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to address deficiencies in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and to disclose and evaluate significant new information that was omitted.

The **R-Project**, a 225-mile transmission line proposed by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) that crosses the Oregon-California and Mormon National Historic Trails continues to proceed with the stipulated expedited merits briefing schedule.

When the US Fish and Wildlife service issued an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) authorizing this project to move forward, a "Petition for Review of Agency Action" was filed in the United States District Court by the law firm of Eubanks & Associates. OCTA is one of the Plaintiffs.

On August 14th, 2019 the court approved the stipulated litigation schedule proposed by the parties that allows us to bypass the need for preliminary injunctive relief and to instead moved directly to the merits of the case. Merits briefing schedule was 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.
- So far, the case is on schedule.

Long Canyon Mine Project: There seems to be a turn of events for the Long Canyon Mine Project. A brief history: This project came to my attention in 2013 as an open pit mine in Northeast Nevada proposed by Newmont Mining Company impacting the California National Historic Trail, Hastings Cutoff. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) included Big Springs a frequent emigrant stopping place on the Hastings Cutoff.

The project is mostly on public land managed by The Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Over the years we have been engaged in a series of mitigation discussions. Early on BLM determined there would be no Direct Effects since they were unable to see any visible trail remnants. Although the Hasting Cutoff trail corridor is presumed, the trail has not been mapped to OCTA's MET standards. OCTA was denied the opportunity to try to validate the actual trail location within the APE with the use of ground truthing. BLM concluded that only Indirect Effects (visual) would be subject to mitigation. Several meetings were held to discuss possible mitigation. In 2016, I submitted on behalf of OCTA several mitigation items for consideration, including, mapping to MET standards the Hastings

Cutoff emigrant trail, create Conservation Easements or similar protective provisions for emigrant trails on Newmont properties, including but not limited to Gravelly Ford, access for maintenance of trail markers and allow controlled access for guided tours to emigrant trails and historic emigrant sites. The National Park Service also submitted items of mitigation including, funding a trail corridor management plan, tours at Big Springs, an Interpretive panel at Silverzone Pass.

On December 12, 2016 BLM Provided Newmont's initial response. (1) support for OCTA's ground survey of the trail in the Goshute Valley and provide funding for OCTA's efforts. (2) Support for Google Trails Imagery for Goshute Valley trail segments. (3) Gravelly Ford site protection and marking. The trail leading to Gravelly Ford and the site was part of the Horseshoe Ranch acquired by Newmont and is now the Elko Land and Livestock Company (ELLCO). Over the course of the next year and a half, additional meetings occurred. On April 30, 2018 Newmont provided BLM their response to the proposed Indirect Effects Mitigation for the California National Historic Trail. Briefly stated, Newmont (ELLCO) would establish the Gravelly Ford Conservation Area, (GFCOA) and prepare a land encumbrance, conservation easement, or similar legal instrument to protect the GFCOA, develop imagery for a "virtual tour" from Interstate 80 to Gravelly Ford, provide access for tours and maintenance of trail markers. At Big Springs, Newmont would maintain the Settler's Cabin in a suspended state of decay.

In the meantime, BLM was preparing a Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP), a plan to implement the agreed upon mitigation. A draft copy was issued on April 5, 2019 requesting comments. Comments were provided. On June 26th, 2019 BLM transmitted a copy of the final HPTP.

So what about the turn of events... In March, 2019 it was announced that Nevada's two largest mining companies, Barrick, (61.5%) and Newmont (38.5%) would form a Joint Venture to be named Nevada Gold Mines. It became official July 1, 2019. We requested a meeting with BLM to determine the status of the mitigation. In an October 28, 2019 meeting with BLM staff we were surprised to be informed that BLM is now waiting to see if Nevada Gold Mines (Joint Venture) is willing to voluntarily agree to the proposed mitigation. Additionally, BLM is now reviewing their Instruction Memorandum Policy on Compensatory Mitigation. A whole lot more "Spirited Dialog" to come with this turn of events.

Wyoming: In Wyoming the Bureau of Land

Management (BLM) has issued a notice of intent to prepare Resource Management Plan Amendments for nine BLM-Wyoming Resource Management Plans and an Associated Environmental Impact Statement. The proposed amendments would designate pipeline corridors as part of the Wyoming pipeline corridor initiative proposed by the state of Wyoming. These amendments could have direct impacts on emigrant trails. The proposed amendments are currently being monitored by Wyoming's Chapter Preservation Officers.

I-229: St. Joseph, Missouri: Consultation meetings with consulting parties are continuing as part of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Federal Highway Administration and Missouri Department of Transportation are conducting an environmental assessment for improvements to I-229 and the Double Decker bridge in St Joseph, Missouri. There are currently several historic properties and historic districts near the project. The latest scheduled meeting is December 3rd, 2019.

Again, these are only a few of the issues that are being monitored as a result of potential threats to our emigrant trails. 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...*

This Just in: B2H-EFSC

Update on the Energy Facilities Siting Council (EFSC) meeting in Pendleton in December. It was a good meeting (staying positive), the purpose

was for the EFSC Staff to present to council members the Draft Project Order, significant comments from the public and special advisory groups, such as

State Historic Preservation Council, Fish and Game, Department of Geology, ODOT, effected cities and others. The staff wanted discussion and comments from the EFSC council members, they got very few. At this meeting, no one was allowed to speak not even Idaho Power. As you know there are 25 Standards and several sub standards that Idaho Power has to meet. We got about half way. The balance will be continued until the January meeting in Hood River on January 23 & 24. Assuming they get done, the Staff then will take a couple of months to issued the Project Order, which will include all the requirements that Idaho Power will need to meet. Staff estimated the Project Order could be issued in March or April 2020.

I am very concerned about the Council. It is a seven member, Governor appointed group, that is currently down two members, that leaves 5 but one recuses

herself, leaving 4 the required quorum, with two of the four also new! They have no historical knowledge that has taken place over the last 5 years.

It is pretty obvious to me that the Chairman is in favor of the project.

In addition, the Staff made two pretty bad errors in their presentation, both concerning the Oregon Trail. I have emailed them about the mistake as I could not speak during the presentation.

Gail Carbiener

What We Give

One of the most joyous times each year, Christmas, has just passed. Christmas is usually the time when well thought out gifts are given to those special people in our lives. A time of joy for the gift giver and the receiver. Do we ask ourselves, what difference will the gift make in each life? The best gifts are those that provide lasting joy. The heirlooms of our life.

Decorations are taken down and stowed away for another year. A new year begins. This is the time when many look to the future and things hoped for. It is a time of calm, for looking forward, a time for planning.

This is the perfect time to consider what you would want to do with all the gifts life has presented you with. The assets you have accumulated will one day be given to another be it loved ones or causes important to you. It has been said two things in life are certain, death and taxes. There is a third certainty, you can not

take it, material things, with you.

As an OCTA member one of the joys you have experienced is likely the reality of knowing the paths taken by your forefathers. Perhaps your joy is knowing that the historical trails are being preserved for future generations. If preserving and sharing our rich history and heritage, an heirloom of our life, is important - you can achieve lasting joy through a gift to the OCTA Heritage Fund.

Now is the time to visit with a legal advisor to review your will or trust and include the Heritage Fund for a percentage or specific dollar amount. By all means, if you do not have either a will or trust, now is the time to prepare both. Remember what the great statesman Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

Lee Black

OCTA Chapter Presidents

CA-NV - Ken Johnston

5707 Casa Way, Klamath Falls, OR 97603
kljstn@msn.com

Colorado-Cherokee - Camille Bradford

11515 Quivas Way, Denver CO 80234
bradford@usa.net

Gateway - Jackie Lewin

4715 Amazonia, St. Joseph MO 64505
jlewin@stjoelive.com

Idaho - Jerry Eichhorst

2013 S. Trapper Cove Ave.
Boise ID 83709
jeichhotrails@gmail.com

KANZA - Duane Iles

PO Box 310, Holton, KS 66436
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

Nebraska - Harlan Seyfer

1103 Happy Hollow Ct.
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
plattsmouthhistorian@gmail.com

Northwest - Rich Herman

2112 NE 152nd St.
Vancouver, WA 98686
buddy359@comcast.net

Southern Trails - Mark Howe

P.O. Box 12521, El Paso, TX 79113
Mlhowe1@hotmail.com

Trails Head - Lila Aamodt

5938 Reeds Rd #202
Mission KS 66202
lilaamodt@gmail.com

Utah Crossroads - Steve Allison

4040 W Kirkwall Circle
South Jordan UT 84009
sallison9999@gmail.com

Wyoming - Tom Rea

1756 S. Chestnut
Casper, WY 82601
tomrea72@gmail.com

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(A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit)
P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051
Phone: (816) 252-2276 • Fax: (816) 836-0989
Email: octa@indepmo.org

Jay Lawrence, Editor

530 Ohio Avenue, Long Beach CA 90814
Phone: (562) 760-1999

Spring Issue Deadline: February 25, 2020

Send materials to: jaylawrenceocta@gmail.com

Publication News



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

We're on track and the trains didn't even slow down. Our transition to our new editors is now complete. Jay Lawrence, our new editor for *News from the Plains* has settled in and the publication is

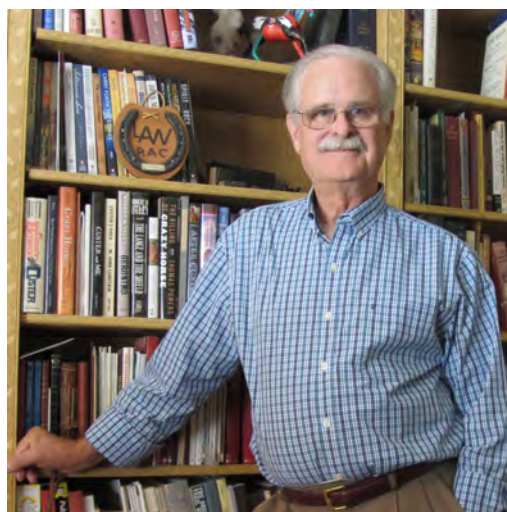
running smoothly. For those members who were not able to attend the convention, you probably have not

had an opportunity to meet Jay. Well, here is a photo of Jay so you will know him when you see him. Bob Clark, our new *Overland Journal* editor now has his first edition out of the station and on time. Note the color additions! Bob was also at the convention, so for



Jay Lawrence (on the right)

those who missed it, here is his photo, so you will also recognize him when you see him.



Bob Clark

Every year OCTA holds a raffle for a class set of our educational activity book publications. The deadline for entering is February 1. Please encourage teachers in your school

districts to participate by mailing a postcard, listing the name of the desired book, to headquarters. Specific instructions about entering this raffle can be found on OCTA's website under "Educational Resources."

We are once again encouraging library memberships so our *Overland Journal* gets more circulation. The previous donor has again pledged to match any membership. Please consider sponsoring a library.

We are also soliciting new themes/topics for our future student calendar. Please send us your suggestions. Please contact us about any concerns or suggestions you have about any of our publications.

Bill Hill

Partnership for the National Trails System

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) will gather in Washington, D.C., the week of February 8-13 for its annual Hike The Hill event co-sponsored with the American Hiking Alliance.

In addition to meetings of the Partnership Board of Directors and Trail Leaders Council on Saturday, February 8, representatives will be meeting with representatives of federal agency partners, including the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and others.

Individual members of the Partnership will also be scheduling meetings with elected official and staff during the week.

On Sunday, February 9, there will be a special reception honoring Gary Werner, who is retiring after more than two decades as the PNTS executive director.

Later in the year, plans are underway for a pair of National Trails Workshops, one at Ghost Ranch in New

Mexico on May 18-20 sponsored by the Continental Divide Trails Alliance and a second October 26-30 sponsored by the Overmountain Victory Trail either in North Carolina or South Carolina. A full schedule for the workshops is expected to be announced in January. Both will be national workshops and not specific to either historic or scenic trails.

In other news, PNTS has learned of the pending retirements of Rita Hennessy of the National Park Service and Deb Salt of the Bureau of Land Management. Both have been primary supporters, liaisons and great friends for the Partnership within their agencies. Werner described their departures as "a great loss" for the trails community. Hennessy planned to retire December, 2019, while Salt will retire in January, 2020.

Bill Martin

Yuma Symposium Registration Page

February 21-23, 2020 - Yuma, Arizona

The Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) and the Southern Trails Chapter of OCTA present the Yuma Symposium, from Friday, February 21 to Sunday, February 23. The Shiloh Inn (1550 S. Castle Dome Ave.) in Yuma, Arizona is symposium HQ. The symposium will focus on Yuma and its role as the primary crossing of the Colorado River and will include looks at the American Indian, Spanish, Mexican, and U.S. eras, including local tribes, the Coronado Expedition, Spanish missions, Juan Bautista de Anza, the Mormon Battalion, 49ers on the Southern Route, the Butterfield Stage, military presence, and the Old Spanish Trail Highway, among others.

The Shiloh Inn at 1550 S. Castle Dome Ave. is our host hotel. It is located at the intersection of I-8 and US 95. OCTA has a room block with single kings and double queens available. Rates are \$99 per night and include breakfast. Call the hotel at (928) 782-9511 and ask for the OCTA room block. Reservations must be made by January 19 to receive the discounted rate.

If you go on the tours, bring hats and windbreakers. Though we fully expect sunny skies and 70 degree temperatures, weather in southwest Arizona and southern California can be unpredictable in February.

AGENDA

Thursday, February 20, 2020

09:00 AM - 05:00 PM: OCTA strategic planning session at the Shiloh Inn

05:00 PM - 07:00 PM: Registration table open at the Shiloh Inn

Friday, February 21, 2020

08:00 AM - 04:00 PM: OCTA board meeting at the Shiloh Inn

08:00 AM - 09:00 AM: Registration table open at the Shiloh Inn

09:00 AM - 04:00 PM: Pre-symposium tours of the Territorial Prison and Quartermasters Depot (depart hotel at 8:30 AM for first tour)

12:00 PM - 05:00 PM: Registration table open at the Shiloh Inn

05:00 PM - 07:00 PM: Dinner on your own

07:00 PM - 09:00 PM: Opening reception at the Sanguinetti House with entertainment by award-winning American Indian musician Steve Rushingwind

Saturday, February 22, 2020

08:00 AM - 04:00 PM: Speakers at the Shiloh Inn (lunch will be served by the Angry Crab Shack at noon)

- Dr. Carlos Herrera: Juan Bautista de Anza
- Doug Hocking: Terror on the Santa Fe Trail: Kit Carson and the Jicarilla Apache
- Harry Hewitt: *El Deseo de Cubrir Honor Nacional*: The Mexican Boundary Surveyors Reach the Confluence of the Rio Colorado and the Rio Gila (Yuma) in 1849 and 1851
- William MacKinnon: 'Yo Mismo' - Aboard the Butterfield Mail/William Allen Wallace and His Extraordinary Cross-Country Travels, 1850-1860
- Bill Heidner: Fort Yuma: The Need for a Fort and the Strategic and Cultural Significance of Yuma Crossing
- Tom Jonas: Tracing the Southern 49er Trail from Yuma Across the Imperial Desert to Warner's Ranch in CA
- John Krizek: Freightage on the Ehrenburg Road - The Adventuresome Legacy of Transportation from the Colorado River to the Interior of Arizona During Territorial Days

04:00 PM - 05:00 PM: Southern Trails Chapter Meeting

06:00 PM - 08:30 PM: No-Host Bar, Dinner by the Angry Crab Shack, and Keynote Address by Tina Clark, Historian and Archaeologist for the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area

Sunday, February 23, 2020

08:00 AM - 03:00 PM: Bus Tour of Yuma and Imperial County, California. Stops include: Mormon Battalion Monument, Fort Yuma/*Mision Puerto de Purisima Concepcion*, *Mision San Pedro y San Pablo de Bicuñer* and cemetery, 1776 Anza Campsites, 1540 Alarcon (Coronado) Monument, 1849 Camp Salvation, and Pioneers Museum in Imperial

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration: _____ 3 Digit Code: _____

Symposium Registration (Includes Friday night reception/concert
Member (**per person**) plus lunch and dinner on Saturday) \$100.00 x ____ = _____

Symposium Registration: (Includes Friday night reception/concert
Non-member (per person) plus lunch and dinner on Saturday) \$165.00 x 1 = \$165

Symposium Registration (Includes Friday night reception/concert
Non-member (couple) plus lunch and dinner on Saturday) \$280.00 x 1 = \$280

Options for dietary restrictions (such as vegetarian or gluten-free) are available. Meals provided by the Angry Crab Shack. Please contact us at (816) 252-2276 or octa@octa-trails.org to reserve these options.

***Note for non-members: Your extra fee will be applied toward a membership in the Oregon-California Trails Association (which includes four issues of the scholarly *Overland Journal*, a digital subscription to our quarterly newsletter *News From the Plains*, free online access to all back issues of *Overland Journal* dating back to 1983 and *News From the Plains* dating back to 1982, as well as free access to our Paper Trail website, an index of over 2,000 original trail diaries that serves as an amazing genealogy and research tool). You will also receive a membership in our Southern Trails Chapter, which includes their newsletter as well as invites to future chapter speakers, tours, symposia, and other gatherings along the Southern Route to California.**

Symposium Registration: Educator (includes Friday night and both meals on Saturday) \$80.00 x ____ = _____

Symposium Registration: Student (includes Friday night and both meals on Saturday) \$60.00 x ____ = _____

Optional Tours:

02/21/2020 (Friday), 9 AM - 5 PM: Tour of Yuma Territorial Prison (9 AM) \$ 8.00 x ____ = _____
Tour of Quartermasters Depot (1:30 PM) \$ 8.00 x ____ = _____
Or, both tours can be taken for a reduced rate: \$15.00 x ____ = _____

02/23/2020 (Sunday), 8 AM - 5 PM: Tour of Yuma and
Imperial County, California \$65.00 x ____ = _____

TOTAL \$ _____



Oregon-California Trails Association

Register online at www.octa-trails.org

Call (816) 252-2276 to register over the phone

Or, mail checks to: OCTA, 524 S. Osage St., Independence, MO 64050

News from the Chapters

SOUTHERN TRAILS

An Excellent Santa Fe Conference in September

The Oregon California Trails Association helps sponsor some amazing conferences that the local chapters help organize. It's a treat to be "on the trail" in a variety of locations and learn history firsthand. We've attended many of them through the years, and I'd just like to reflect on the September conference in Santa Fe New Mexico.

It's fun to learn history firsthand by seeing places where history was made, even when it was long ago. With the conferences, there is always a chance to hear great speakers who provide us with perspective as well as the facts and figures, and the outings are amazing and well thought out. A field trip to Fort Union to hear stories and get a better appreciation for how large and vast America was in 1847 – and trying to understand how supplies were received and shipped out again in the years prior to the railroad is nothing short of amazing. We forget how far technology has brought us in the last 200 years.

We were able to appreciate the stories of the old El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, the royal road of the Interior, that ran from Mexico City to Santa Fe in the late 1600 -1700's and the importance of the Forts, Missions and Pueblo's. It never ceases to amaze me that people walked so many miles, and the speed of the world really was between three and five miles an hour.

The trip to Taos was a chance to see the lovely

Rio Grande Gorge and the very old community of the Pueblo. Our guide said her ancestors had been there since the beginning of time. It's a lovely story, and local people still work to keep their community vital and alive. It's like stepping back in time, and the chance to see new adobe used to keep up the old buildings as crafts people continue to work on them all the time.

El Rancho de las Golondrinas was an exciting visit too, and the chance to live in the past, even for just a few hours was exciting. Their grounds included the old church, residences, tinsmith, blacksmith, farming, kitchen knowledge, and the old schoolhouse and water wheel too. Everyone needs to see how hard it was to keep people fed before we had refrigeration and canning! As we watched the woman spinning wool, we were reminded of how much work it was just to make clothes for people.

We would like to thank OCTA for all the hard work involved in putting on a conference and remind everyone how lucky we are to have access to such great information and passionate people. America is great because of the people who came before us and kept working to move our country forward. We must continue to

study the past and help preserve it too. Education is much more fun when you can get out there and see it and interact with it.

Melissa Shaw Jones



Help Wanted - Desert Tracks Editor

Our editor for the Southern Trails Desert Tracks newsletter is retiring after the upcoming issue. If you would be interested in the position, please contact Cecilia Bell at ceciliajb@aol.com

KANZA

KANZA held its annual meeting on November 16 at the Wagon Wheel, a frequent meeting place in Marysville that is a business member of OCTA. Guests from our partners at the Pony Express museum/stable came. After the usual business, we elected our officers for the next two years. Duane Iles will be president, Charles Weichert will be vice-president, Alicia Keegan as secretary, Arleta Martin as treasurer/membership. Directors will be Pat Keegan, Carolyn Iles, and Laura Musil. We discussed plans for the coming year. In April we will have a tour of the trail over most of our territory to check out the status of carsonite markers that we have placed and the trail. We are considering an event to celebrate Earth Day, possibly with some of our partners.

We will celebrate National Trails Day in June with

our partners at Alcove Spring Park. It was planned last year, but rained out. The day will include morning trail walks, runs, or bikes on the park trails. There will be a wildflower and nature walk, reenactors, wagon rides in the new Alcove Spring covered wagon, music, a catered lunch, and much more.

After the meeting, Charlie Weichert gave a program about the Santa Fe convention. He also discussed work being done on the national historic register listed Pony Express barn. Later we took a tour of the building to see the work being done and learn more of the history of the site. We partner with several historical organizations, especially the Pony Express Assn. and the Alcove Spring Preservation Association.

Duane Iles



VP Charlie Weichert and the Alcove Spring covered wagon in the Marysville Christmas Parade and members at the KANZA annual meeting. Photos by Tom Parker.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

The California-Nevada Chapter held its fall Directors Board meeting on November 6 in Loomis, California. Seated at the board were: Ken Johnston, chapter president; Steve Shaw, vice president; Dave Smythe and Marlene Smith-Barenzini, directors. The two main objectives were to pass our budget for next year, and to plan the Spring Symposium.

Phyllis Smith, chapter treasurer, guided us through the process of passing our annual budget for 2019-2020. She assured us we are in good financial standing. The board discussed moving our savings into a bank offering higher interest. Jon and Janet Nowlin offered to research places offering higher rates.

The Nowlins are our membership chairs, and reported that our chapter is holding steady at just under 400 persons.

Jon also coordinated the Fernley Swales cleanup again this year on Sept. 22 and reported that there was less trash this year than in years past. A new firm has

purchased the area and will be building an industrial park along the sides of the swales, which will inevitably have some visual impact, but the project should result in less dumping and off-road-vehicle damage in the future.

A new route from the Fernley Swales to the Truckee River, going more directly north, has been identified. It is planned to be our 2020 Spring Survey with Trails West and the BLM archaeologists the second week of June.

Bill Holmes is working with the owners of the Johnson Ranch and Camp Far West sites and with the Wheatland Historical Society in trying to preserve the history and make it available to people in the future.

Several fun, work, and exploratory trips are in planning stages for next year:

- Dick Waugh has rescheduled a Beckwourth Trail work party for June.
- Dick also wants to lead a full moon campout

on the 40 Mile Desert on August 3, 2020 for an opportunity to experience something the emigrants of 1849 and 1850 may have experienced. We will camp out on the desert, or some may choose to motel it in town, then in the morning of the 4th, we'll drive to Double Wells and do some repair work before it gets hot.

- We will have a work party and campout at Bridge Creek on the Nobles Emigrant Trail to repair fencing around the Nancy Allen gravesite June 17 & 18.
- Dee Owens will lead a trip on the Grizzly Flat Cutoff, date to be announced.
- Campout and metal detection survey at Peter Lassen's Rancho Bosquejo in October, date to be announced. Trip leaders, Dave Freeman and Ken Johnston.

Check our website for dates and details at: canvocta.org.

Our Spring Symposium will be held at the Gaia Hotel and Spa in Anderson, California. It is a modern facility with reasonable rates and is located on the Nobles Emigrant Trail just west of where the trail made use of a ferry to cross the Sacramento River.

The Nobles Emigrant Trail will be a feature of the symposium with a presentation about the trail. It was a short, direct route from the Black Rock Desert to Shasta City, west of Redding, California. Shasta City became a boomtown after Pierson B. Reading discovered gold on Clear Creek in 1848, shortly after James Marshall made the first gold discovery at Sutter's Mill.

William Nobles discovered the trail in 1851. He

received \$2,000 from the businessmen of Shasta for showing them the route, which became a major packing and freight route in the late 1850's and early 1860's. It was much shorter and more direct than the Lassen Trail, and it avoided the steep rugged ascents of the Truckee and Mormon-Carson routes. The trail has a wealth of mystery, Indian massacres, Army forts, murders, events, and intrigues.

It is also believed to be the route taken by Mary

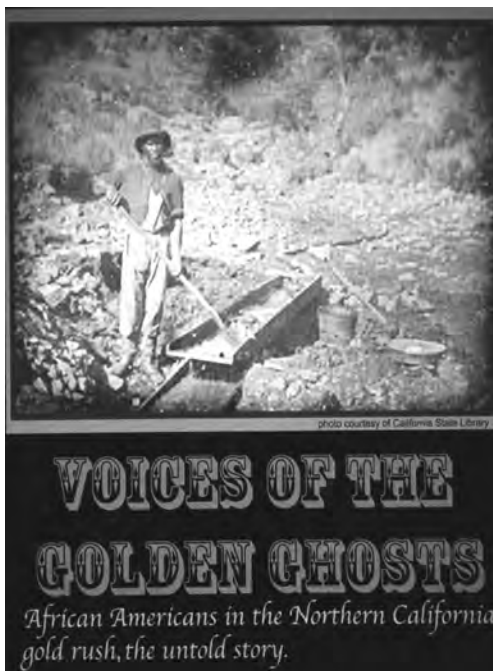
Brown, widow of John Brown after he was hung for his involvement in the pre-Civil-War-raid on the Harper's Ferry Armory. Mary came to California over the Nobles Trail then owned and lived in a house in Red Bluff after leaving the East to escape political fallout over her husband's involvement.

Another focus and highlight of the symposium will be presentations and living history enactments by Voices of the Golden Ghosts, a group dedicated to reviving the history of African Americans who played a significant role in the Gold Rush of 1849, but whose stories have been lost to history. They will provide

presentations and living history enactments of African Americans activities in Northern California during the Gold Rush. For more information about "Voices," Google Voices of the Golden Ghosts, Mark Oliver for more information.

For CA/NV OCTA Spring Symposium information contact me: Ken Johnston phone: 541-883-7671 email: kljstn@msn.com.

Ken Johnston



NEBRASKA



The Nebraska Chapter of OCTA has a new president. Harlan Seyfer retired in 2010 and lives in Plattsmouth, Nebraska. He now pursues his interest in the history the Platte-Missouri River Confluence region, including the trails passing through it.

At the 2017 OCTA Convention in Council Bluffs, Harlan conducted a daylong tour of "feeder trails" in eastern

Nebraska. In addition to also speaking at the Council Bluffs meeting, he has presented several papers at history conferences, notably the Missouri Valley and Northern Great Plains History Conferences. Harlan has written articles for Nebraska History Magazine, published by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

He eagerly looks forward to working with his fellow Nebraska OCTA members to document and preserve the Great Platte River Road in all of its manifestations.

Harlan Seyfer

IDAHO

Another year has come and gone so fast. The older I get, the faster the years go by. We had a number of good outings this year, from City of Rocks in May, to the North Alternate in June, to Jeffreys-Goodale Cutoff in August. My thanks to all who came out and joined us through the year. We are already planning activities for next year.

I recently had the opportunity to join Mike Edwards, Ada County Parks and Waterways Open Space and Trails Coordinator, on a visit of a short section of Oregon Trail ruts I had never seen before a few miles southeast of Boise. Mike spoke at our fall chapter meeting about plans to improve the Ada County Oregon Trail Recreation Area off Highway 21.

We walked the area and found pristine Oregon Trail ruts and a double rut of the Kelton Road. All were Class 1 ruts, undoubtedly because the area had been enclosed by a fence many years ago. The area within the fence appears to have never been driven on. The Oregon Trail ruts are about 550 feet in length. The Kelton Road ruts are about 750 feet in length and extend a short distance north of the fence. Off-road vehicles have destroyed most other original ruts in the area. The land is owned by Ada County and is southeast of Boise, about one mile southeast

from the parking area of the Ada County Oregon Trail Recreation Area and four miles northwest of Bonneville Point.

Mike wants to preserve the fenced area and turn it into an Oregon Trail walking area. The Idaho chapter fully supports the idea and will help in any way we can. We discussed ideas for how to preserve the area, keep vehicles of all types off the ruts, yet encourage people

to walk the area and enjoy the ruts.

I am excited about the prospect of preserving these short sections of ruts so close to Boise and having the Idaho chapter involved in making an area to educate people on the early roads. I can imagine school field trips of students to the area to walk in the ruts as they study the Oregon Trail in fourth grade. Ideas such as walking paths, interpretive signs, parking area, fencing, restrooms, handicapped access, etc, will need to be worked out in the future.

This is just the initial discussion stage, but I am thrilled Mike wants to preserve the area and IOCTA will be involved in the process. It will be interesting to watch this project move forward over the next couple of years.

Have a happy holiday season and come join us in the spring.

Jerry Eichhorst



Double ruts going through the fence at the north end of the Kelton Road area



More Oregon Trail ruts in the area



NORTHWEST

Four enthusiastic rut-walkers - Robin Baker - Theresa Fisher - Steve Bingold - and - Jennie Miller - met at the Zigzag Ranger station on July 20, 2019 for a hike on Laurel Hill. This part of the Barlow Road is on the west side of Mount Hood and is steep and rugged. The walkers were tracing where the trail had gone and using several old maps to chart their way. All in all, they hiked about 4 miles – half of it through light brush and blowdown – but not too difficult. They are planning a return trip to this section in 2020.

Four new Oregon National Historic Trail signs were placed along the Barlow Road on Mt. Hood in Oregon on Sunday, Aug. 4th. NWOCTA members Rich Herman and Henry Pittock, OCTA Western Region Representative Sharon Brown, and US Forest Service Manager Matt Ramich installed signs at Tollgate, Laurel Hill, Barlow Pass, and near Pioneer Woman's grave.

Our Chapter's long-time Mapping and Marking Chairman, Henry Pittock has finished his tenure, and he took several of us on a walking tour of the Barlow Trail as his final official trip on Sept 21, 2019. The trail crosses a large section of the private Davis ranch and was marked with Carsonite stakes in 2010. We were pleased that the markers are in good shape, and happy that we were walking where the emigrants traveled so long ago. The weather was beautiful, and we managed to cover the whole section by lunch time. The owner of the ranch enjoys showing people the trail. He takes

school children and other groups across this section of the Barlow each year. The new Chairman for Mapping and Marking is Drew Harvey, and we are looking forward to more trail adventures under his guidance.

In 1906 Ezra Meeker placed a rock monument at Lower Ladd Canyon, six miles South of La Grande, OR. Meeker dedicated the monument on April 11, 1906. The audience at the site included 25 children from Ladd Canyon School, about 4 miles away. The monument stayed at this location until the 1920's and then disappeared. Years later, Ronnie Allen, who lives in La Grande, began searching for it and eventually found it in 2017 in a yard in south La Grande. The owners of the property had placed it among flowers. Allen purchased it and donated it to the Oregon Trail interpretive center near Baker City, where it is now displayed.

Allen wanted it to be placed at its original location, so he made a replica in stone and located it in the same location as the original. The site is part of Oregon's Department of Fish Wildlife's Ladd Marsh Wildlife area. Allen also made an interpretive sign for the site. NWOCTA members visited the site after their meeting on Sep. 28th in La Grande and Allen described his years long search for the monument. The members of NWOCTA presented Allen with a plaque to honor his endeavor.

Sallie Riehl

TRAILS HEAD

Many of our members have been enjoying an exhibit of Daguerreotypes from the Gold Rush era at our Nelson-Atkins Museum. Daguerreotypes were the go-to photo medium from its inception in 1839 until made obsolete about 1855 when ambrotypes replaced them. America was flooded with portraits such that today the rarest find – and usually the most expensive – is an exterior scene. Thus this collection of photos not only includes portraits of men with the tools of their trade – shovel and pan – but also street views of gold towns and mining technology including rockers, long toms, and sluices. Daguerreotypes are small and full of incredible detail revealed with a magnifying glass.

The art work of two students in our area is included in OCTA's 2020 calendar of "Wild Creatures Encountered by Indians & Emigrants." Trails Head presented them with certificates for their winning participation.

For many years, our members have enjoyed bus tours to see the many trail markers — wayside exhibits, kiosks, posts – that mark the trails in our area. We now realize that markers age and need attention whether simple cleaning with a spray bottle of water and paper towel or getting put on a list for repair or replacement. Thus we are beginning to organize volunteer Marker Monitors who we hope will check a few assigned markers twice a year.

We look forward to a December Holiday Lunch with Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA) and the Missouri River Outfitters (MRO) chapter of Santa Fe Trails Association (SFTA). It is an occasion for fellowship and sharing stories of our year's activities.

Lila Aamodt

GATEWAY

Gateway Chapter took part in monthly activities in the late summer and fall. Several members attended the OCTA Convention. Those attending for the first time were Fred and Betty Sawin, Jerry and Sandra Mogg, and Diane and Bob Waddell. Diane brought her daughter and grand-daughter with her. Some of you may have seen 10-year-old Meredith on the bus tours. It should be noted that she was the youngest person at the convention!



Meredith Fite, 10-year-old and youngest attendee on the field trips at the Santa Fe Convention, with her family.



On October 1, 28 members and friends attended a Gateway program to hear Greg Hatten speak on "Where Wild Rivers Meet Historic Trails." Hatten, who builds his own wooden boats to run the wild rivers of the West, is also passionate about historic trails as they intersect with rivers. His storytelling style of presentation was entertaining, historical and educational.

On October 13, Gateway joined the Doniphan County Historical Society as they dedicated a monument at Bellemont Landing on the Missouri River. Pete Duncan was the speaker.



Lauren Manning

The Annual Membership Meeting, attended by 22, was held on November 17 at the San Jose Steak House. OCTA Intern Lauren Manning presented a program about her work in identifying sites of historical significance to emigration years in St Joseph. Board members for 2020 will be:

- Jackie Lewin, President
- Carole McClellan, Vice-President
- Sandy Smith, Secretary
- Fred Sawin, Treasurer
- Past President, Corky Smith

- Program Committee Chair, Bill Leppert
- Communications Committee Chair, Carole McClellan
- Nominating Committee Chair, Dave Berger
- Preservation Committee Chair, Lauren Manning assisted by Corky Smith
- At Large Board Members
Mary Conrad, Dr. Bob Corder, Shirley Myers
Jerry Mogg, Diane Waddell
- Liaison to Whistle Creek Livestock Preserve
Pioneer Camp, Cindy Weaver
- Liaison to City of St. Joseph Trails Committee,
Lauren Manning

Gateway is awaiting the report from the National Park Service regarding the outcome of last year's charrette regarding trail interpretation in St. Joseph. Gateway is also writing letters to encourage the completion of the designation of St. Joseph as a part of the Oregon National Historic Trail. This proposal was part of the Public Lands Omnibus Act of 2009. The NPS study is complete and the bill is setting in the Department of Interior. Gateway is encouraging Missouri and Kansas Senators to move this project along.

Jackie Lewin



Gateway members gather for the November Annual Meeting.

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

We had a great turnout for Chris Lane's presentation on October 19, "The First Comprehensive Survey of Colorado: Ferdinand V. Hayden, 1869-1876." Many thanks to Curt Cochran, a member of the Loveland Historical Society, for the article below which appears in the society's November-December 2019 newsletter.

Chapter Board: The board met on November 2 and has begun planning several events for next year. We welcomed Tim Kelly back to the board. Tim served as Treasurer in the early years of the chapter.

Board members, 2019-20:

- President: Camille Bradford
- Treasurer: Peggy Watson
- E-newsletter: Berl Meyer
- Mapping Co-chairs: Bruce Watson and Richard Deisch
- Board members at large: Sharon Danhauer and Tim Kelly

Mapping Committee

By Bruce Watson

The Colorado Chapter's Mapping Committee has several areas that remain unmapped. One area is in northern Colorado in Larimer County. We've had recent new memberships, including two who indicated an avid interest in mapping. Consequently, on November 9, a full day of training was conducted for these two new members, David May and Ethan Gannett. The training delved into the technicalities of mapping historic trails, and both appear eager to proceed. Our chapter has provided Terrain Navigator Pro mapping software and OCTA's MET Manual (Mapping Emigrant Trails) for both, as they are such promising new participating chapter members. If participation in any mapping activities sounds interesting, by all means contact me and I'll get you started. bgwatson@comcast.net.



The F. V. Hayden Survey of Colorado

by Curt Cochran

Local history enthusiasts were given a special treat October 19, when the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association sponsored a

presentation at the Loveland Museum of the 1869-1876 Hayden Survey of Colorado. The presentation was given by Mr. Christopher Lane of Denver and expert and dealer of antique maps.

Ms. Camille Q. Bradford of Denver and president of the chapter, introduced the talk and the speaker to a large museum crowd of map enthusiasts from Loveland and the surrounding area. Camille is familiar to local audiences, having arranged for a number of other presentations of behalf of the Oregon-California Trails Association.

Mr. Lane being a dealer in antique maps, was quite familiar with the subjects and had fine collections of photos of the survey teams and the maps produced. He noted that as Colorado became a state in 1876, it was the best surveyed of any of the states at that time. The surveys sponsored by the U. S. government took seven years to complete and the details of the Hayden Survey were published in a book in 1877 titled "Atlas of Colorado", which is now an antique and difficult to find. The book was produced by F. V. Hayden who led a survey team along with three other teams wandering over Colorado during this seven year period. The other survey teams were led by Powell, King, and Wheeler.

Each survey team had as many as thirty members and all their associated equipment as well as mules to carry it all. There was some duplication of effort as Mr. Lane noted that the Hayden and King parties encountered each other in South Western Colorado and not being able to decide who had the responsibility, they both surveyed the same area in South Park.

The Hayden Survey team did accurate altitude measurements along the railroad tracks coming into Denver as well as altitudes on all the mountains. To facilitate their measurements on the mountains that they climbed, they often built stone mounds to steady their instruments. Some of those mounds are still there and finding them is considered a significant prize for present day hikers. The Hayden survey was known to have been in the local area in 1873 and it was a speculation by the English Writer Isabella Bird that she found a discarded pair of overshoes from the Hayden Party which she used to climb Longs Peak in 1873. The Hayden survey team had climbed Longs Peak earlier that summer.

The Hayden Party has 36 names listed as members in the Wikipedia summary. Most of the names are immortalized as the name of a mountain, a canyon, a rock formation, or other geological feature of Colorado.

Mr. Lane noted that they did name things after themselves but didn't go as far as to name some feature after one of their favorite mules. Hayden's name was given to the town of Hayden as well as the valley that encloses it. One member was the photographer William Henry Jackson who took a large number of photographs of Colorado. Some of the photographs were included in Hayden's book on Colorado and 130 years later many

were printed in the book by John Fielder "Colorado 1870 – 2000" in which Fielder tried to take the same picture as Jackson 130 years later. This book published by the Colorado Historical Society is a nice tribute to both photographers as well as the magnificent scenery of Colorado and the Hayden Survey.

A chapter business meeting was held in November.

Camille Bradford

CROSSROADS

We've had an uptick in activities lately, and though one trip was postponed, the rest were successful.

Late in September a small group went west to the Donner Springs and Bidwell Pass areas near Wendover to set two "T" posts near those sites. It rained, I understand, but they were successful. Jesse Petersen, Vic Heath, and Bryce Billings attended.

In October a small group went north to explore some possible detours that the Hensley Salt Lake Cut-Off could have taken. The conclusion has not yet been decided. Gar Elison headed this up with Terry Welch, Bryce Billings and myself. Joining us was Eli Anderson from the Tremonton area. Many possibilities were explored

and discussed with some on private property. As we concluded the day we tried to see if we could locate the "Boise Ford of 1853" on the Bear River. It, too, is on private property, but the gate was open and we went into the Bear River Bottoms to locate it. Bryce Billings had a GPS and we knew there was a "T" post there. We did locate it and found that the stone with "Boise Ford 1853" on it is still there. We had heard it had been



Boise Ford on Bear River, Boxelder County, UT October, 2019

stolen. Happy day! This was a crossing used during the Salt Lake Cut-Off days to the City of Rocks California Trail in Idaho.

We had a fall membership meeting on November 7th at Fort Douglas. The speaker was Ron Bateman discussing his book on the history of Wendover, Utah/Nevada. He covered trail history days as well

as railroad and salt mining, and, of course, the history of the Wendover Army/Air Force training during WWII. Wendover played an important role in training for B-29 bombing during the last days of WWII. The discussion also covered car racing on the Salt Flats beginning in its earliest days; also, highway building and the

Victory Highway. A very interesting evening. He had books for sale, too. We had about fifteen in attendance.

Also, late news. Laura Mulder, widow of trail enthusiast, Al Mulder, passed away November 1, 2019. There will be no service. We miss both of them. She was 97. Al died in 2014.

Until next time –

A. Oscar Olson for Utah Crossroads

WYOMING

Here in Wyoming we are watching a new proposal from the state's pipeline authority and from the University of Wyoming's Enhanced Oil Recovery office for establishment of a statewide network of declared pipeline corridors to connect industrial sources of carbon dioxide with old oil fields. In those fields, CO₂ can be used for getting otherwise unrecoverable oil out of the ground; the process is called enhanced oil recovery (EOR). Most of these corridors already contain other oil and natural-gas pipelines. Currently, five oilfields in Wyoming are using CO₂ for EOR, with the CO₂ coming

from two so-called gas-sweetening plants, one at Shute Creek near Opal in western Wyoming, and one at Lost Cabin near the center of the state.

In response to pressure from the state, the Bureau of Land Management announced that it has begun work on a new Environmental Impact Statement to review nine existing Resource Management Plans in field offices around the state in order to designate the new corridors for the CO₂-EOR lines.

"The good news is that the vast majority of these proposals either follow existing right-of-way approvals

or existing pipelines,” Wyoming OCTA Vice President Julia Stuble notes. “On BLM lands administered from the Lander Field Office, that’s particularly true, there isn’t deviation from the planned ROWs as it affects the trails corridor. In the Rock Springs Field Office, there’s one corridor that crosses the Big Sandy area and into the Jack Morrow Hills...”

The BLM accepted public comments on the new proposal for the month ending December 16. Because the proposal won’t approve actual pipelines, just a series of rights-of-way, OCTA chose not to comment at this time. There will be more opportunities for public comment once the EIS is drafted, and again when specific pipelines are proposed. We need to keep watching the situation closely, however.

And for a look at how pipeline companies do, sometimes, do the right thing when new lines cross historic trails, longtime Wyoming OCTA preservation officer Randy Brown and President Tom Rea spent a day in the field in early December with Shane Rosenthal, an archeologist with Buffalo, Wyoming-based Absaroka Energy and Environmental Solutions. Rosenthal’s firm contracted to do cultural and environmental permitting for the Bridger Pipeline Company, scheduled to start work on a new line in January bringing natural gas from sources in eastern Wyoming to the big tank farm and distribution facilities on the south side of the North Platte River near Guernsey, Wyoming—right near one

of the main branches of the Oregon/California/Mormon Trail.

Using Google Earth, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office maps and other sources, Anderson had carefully researched trail swales and routes both north and south of the river. At this point, the Child’s

Cutoff runs north of the river while the main branch of the trail, with legs from higher ground down to the river, runs along the south side. The sites are a few miles from Register Cliff and the famed trail ruts in solid rock.

Randy, with his decades of knowledge of the trails, was able to locate some legs that Rosenthal had not yet discovered and also to confirm the non-existence of trail in some places Rosenthal had expected to find it. The pipeline company will carefully bore under the trail segments it crosses. Rosenthal will flag and fence off sections of the trail that might otherwise be subject to damage

by the construction, and will monitor the situation as the construction continues. None of those measures are required by law, as the trail in this area crosses only private land state land, where in both cases there are no laws or regulations to protect it. But company officials, Rosenthal said, know there are plenty of people in Wyoming who do care about the trails, nevertheless.

“If there has to be a pipeline anywhere near the trail, the methods this outfit uses are ideal.” says Brown.

Tom Rea



Shane Rosenthal and Randy Brown at Child’s Cutoff. December 2019

The Joy of Giving

We feel more Thankful this time of year, and all the hardworking people at OCTA earn an extra dose of “Thanks” this time of year.

We volunteer our time and effort to help preserve the trails, and help others find them too. There is more interest in genealogy and ancestry these days as everyone tests their DNA to find out where they came from and who they are related to! It’s a fun adventure that can lead you down a path you may never have found otherwise. Who were your pioneer ancestors alive in 1850? The Census of 1850 is available to find out how old they were and who else was in their household, with ages and job titles.

America is made up of immigrants that worked together in this land of opportunity. At times we have to look at our own history to see it in a new light.

History tends to be told by the winners, and some of our darker chapters don’t always include behavior we want to be proud of today. It’s still important to get out there and learn about it, with critical thinking and your own observation skills. It is Freedom of Choice, and Freedom of Religion that was intended to be the foundation of America. We weren’t going to be a Monarchy. It didn’t matter who your father was, in America everyone had a chance to be successful.

So, we say thank you for giving your time, your talent, your money and your interest. Together we all make OCTA stronger, and we cross many states with our trails. We can open minds and open hearts as we give of ourselves and share the modern-day trails with others.

Melissa Shaw, CFP®

REMEMBRANCES

Laura J. Mulder



Laura passed away November 1, 2019, at the age of 97. She was born September 18, 1922 in Salt Lake City, Utah to Oscar and Brita Brandstorm Johanson.

She graduated from East High School and later met Albert Mulder Jr, and they married September 9, 1946. Al & Laura built their home

in Murray, Utah where they lived since 1954. Together they raised five daughters. Laura is survived by her daughters Susan (Ken) Scott, Katherine Soder, Virginia Clark, Bonnie (Daniel) Johnson and Penny (Dann) Tackett, ten grandsons and 18 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Albert Mulder Jr, her brother Lars Johanson and sister Britta Johanson.

Al and Laura were very involved original members of Crossroads chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association from day one. Laura remained active in OCTA until health problems got in her way the last few years. Laura volunteered for eleven years at the genealogy library in Salt Lake City. Other work efforts were at the Salt Lake Intermountain Clinic, Sperry-Rand and Stevens & Wallis book bindery where she met her husband, Al Mulder.

Allen L. Wiechert



Allen L. Wiechert, 81, died October 29, 2019, at Overland Regional Medical Center, due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident Sunday, October 27. Immediate family members were with him as his life concluded.

Allen was born October 25, 1938 to Norman H. and Serena Steinke Wiechert in Independence KS where he attended grade and high school. Allen attended Kansas State University, graduating with a B.A. in Architecture, 1962. While at K-State he met Sandra Swanson, a Wichita native. The couple married August 19, 1961, and recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary.

Allen is survived by his wife Sandra, his children Kirstin Novak (Gerry) Overland Park, Brendan Wiechert (Debbie), Spokane WA, and son-in-law David Alden (Dianna) Wichita Falls TX; six grandchildren

Ainsley and Addison Novak, Emma and Calen Wiechert, and Alexa and Nadia Alden. Extended family includes Michelle and Peter Hindman, children John and Maggie of Lawrence, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins throughout the US. He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant sister, and his beloved daughter Megan Wiechert Alden, age 40, in 2011.

Barbara Robb Kabel



Barbara Robb Kabel, 84, of State College PA, died Thursday, 24 October 2019 at Foxdale Village. Born 9 December 1934 in Wichita KS, she was the daughter of Newell S. Robb and Agnes M. Bardson Robb. She married Robert Lynn Kabel, on 8 June 1958 in Seattle, who survives at home.

She is survived by two children, Joseph Robb Kabel and his wife Tamara Kilber Kabel of Ruston WA and Douglas Alan Kabel and his wife Laura Perry Kabel of Camas WA; six grandchildren, Carson Martin Kabel of Stanwood WA, Joseph Robert Kabel of Berkeley CA, Nicholas Alan Kabel of Olympia WA, Hannah Kabel Williams (Stockton) of Logan UT, Sophia Joelle Kabel of Ruston WA, and Rachel Lynn Kabel of Pocatello ID. Barbara was preceded in death by her sister, Eleanor Robb, and her parents.

Barbara and Bob became active in the Oregon California Trails Association (OCTA) in 1993. At one point, a massive database of trail diaries was at risk of being destroyed. They worked for years to resuscitate it, eventually creating searchable software that enables access to the immigrant diaries. For their achievement, they received the OCTA Distinguished Volunteer Award in 2003.

She enjoyed an adult lifetime of genealogical research, tracing her and Bob's four lines back to the original US immigrant and often much farther. For 18 years, she and a colleague published a newsletter, Robb Relatives. Together they published a book "William Robbe (1692-1769) and Some of His Descendants".

Barbara died of a rare progressive brain disease, cortico basilar ganglionic degeneration (cbgd). She has donated her brain for research at the University of Washington Medical Center, where neurologists had correctly diagnosed her ailment.

38th Annual OCTA Convention • Elko, Nevada • September 19-23, 2020

Got the winter blues? Plan now to escape to Elko Nevada for the 2020 OCTA Convention! There are many new attractions including new exhibits at the Trail Center, the Williams Family Gun Museum, a recently excavated Fort Ruby, and more. Walk in the steps of the emigrants as you experience the actual ruts from



38th Annual Oregon-California Trail Convention
Elko, NV • September 19-23, 2020



"Through the Lens of History – Preserving the Past – Focusing on the Future"

KEY DATES

Friday – September 18, 2020	Pre-Convention Tours and Day Hike <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lamoille Canyon- "California Trail Highlights" (Day 1)- Day Hike of the Greenhorn Cutoff
Saturday – September 19, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- OCTA National Board Meeting- Trail Days and- "California Trail Highlights" (Day 2)- Welcome Reception at the California Trail Center
Sunday – September 20, 2020	Bus Tours <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fort Ruby and Ruby Valley- Wells/Osino and Williams Family Gun Museum- Long Canyon Mine Project- Gravelly Ford Private Vehicle Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none">- "The Humboldt is North of Us...So Let's Go South"
Monday – September 21, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Opening Session- Speakers- Awards Dinner at the Elko Convention Center
Tuesday – September 22, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Repeat of Sunday tours- Reception at Great Basin College Library
Wednesday – September 23, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Speakers- Activity Stations- Period Clothing Contest- End of Trail Dinner at the Elko Convention Center
Thursday, September 24, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- MET Mapping Workshop

Confirmed bus tours include:

Bus tours to Lamoille Canyon, Wells/Osino and Williams Family Gun Museum, Blacksmith shop and Gunsmith shop, Fort Ruby and Ruby Valley, Long Canyon and Gravelly Ford

Private vehicle tours

- "The Humboldt River is north of us...so let's go south" – led by Roger Gash
- "California Trail Highlights – City of Rocks to Goose Creek" – led by Jerry Eichhorst and Paul Dinwiddie (2 day tour)

Make Your Room Reservations Now for the Best Value!

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NAME OF BLOCK - OCTA Oregon California Trail Convention 2020

the wagons of years gone by on the tours. Enjoy Trail Days with activity stations re-enactors and more at the California Trail Center. And don't forget to get gussied up for the Period clothing contest at the End of the Trail Dinner. For more information visit www.octa-trails.org for updates about the convention.

NEW ATTRACTIONS SINCE THE 2010 CONVENTION

Fort Ruby, Ruby Valley, Nevada



In Ruby Valley, just east of Overland Pass, are the remains of Fort Ruby. The Fort (1862-9) was built by the U.S. Army in the "wilderness of eastern Nevada." to protect the overland mail coaches, Pony Express and emigrant trail. Excavated jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after 2002, the site now boasts about ½ mile of interpretive trail with eleven interpretive panels and a reconstructed spring house.

The Williams Family Gun Museum, Blacksmith Shop and Gunsmith Shop

More than 1200 firearms – many that were guns that were used to settle the American West – make up the extraordinary collection of Jeff Williams and his family. The museum boasts examples of almost every type of fire arm from the Revolutionary War to the present. There are many other historical artifacts in the museum in addition to the amazing array of weapons. Immediately adjacent to the gun museum, Jeff has constructed a period-correct 19th century blacksmith shop, with an antique trip hammer, and gunsmith shop.



California Trail Days at the California Trail Interpretive Center



During Trail Days on Saturday September 19, 2020, you can refresh your recollections or learn the stories of the pioneers who endured the 2,000-mile trek to California.

Between 1841 and 1869 over 250,000 people sold their belongings, packed up wagons and set out over-land for California.

Some were seeking land. Others were searching for gold. Still others sought adventure. Some went for reasons we may never know.

Enjoy Native American programs, visit with fur trappers and watch black powder demonstrations. Our young visitors will enjoy Jr. Ranger activities throughout the camp. California Trail Days is a pioneer reenactment event for the whole family.



Lamoille Canyon



Learn about the natural history, geology, and tips on photography in the beautiful Ruby Mountains located southeast of Elko, NV. Regionally known photographer and geologist Susan Elliott and naturalist Larry Hyslop will lead a never-to-be-forgotten bus tour of the Canyon with stops for a short nature walk and photography. The glaciated and geologically varied "Rubies" are a true treasure in Northern Nevada's desert environment.

www.octa-trails.org/octa-events/38th-annual-octa-convention-elko-nevada-september-19-23-2020/

A Reminder for Ezra Meeker Life Members

If you are an **Ezra Meeker Life Member** of OCTA and a member of one or more regional chapters, your chapter dues renew on January 1, 2020.

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

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

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

Welcome New Ezra Meeker Life Member

Mary Conrad

Welcome New Members

Sherrill Beck
Sisters, OR
Andrea Bell
Novato, CA
Patty Burke
Boise, ID
Nena Close
Bend, OR
Nick Coates
San Antonio, TX
Kenny Davis
Mena, AR
Oli Devaud
Pocatello, ID
Doug Dinwiddie
Pinos Altos, NM
Susan Dragoo
Norman, OK
John Eger
El Paso, TX
Steven Fleming
Lake Almanor, CA
Larry Francell
Fort Davis, TX
Ethan Gannett
Fort Collins, CO
Kelly Graves
Long Beach, CA
Ron Grove
Sacramento, CA
Brooke Hanna
Plymouth, MN

Mark Headley
Berkeley, CA
Kevin Henson
Midland, MI
Carlos Herrera, PhD
Calexico, CA
Linda Jack
Grass Valley, CA
Douglas Johns
Albuquerque, NM
Tom Jonas
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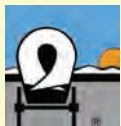
Thank You!

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:

Margaret Bowen
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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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For \$50 a year, OCTA Business Sponsors receive a listing on the OCTA website and in *News From the Plains*, a window decal, a framed wall certificate and an OCTA trail map. To learn more, contact OCTA headquarters at (816) 252-2276. Current business sponsors include:

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OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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In this issue:

Students Back on the Trail with Dave Vixie
Partnership for the National Trails System
2020 Yuma Symposium Registration
2020 Elko NV Convention



NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

The **National Frontier Trails Museum** in Independence, Missouri brings the pioneer experience on the trails to life. The only museum in the nation certified to interpret the Lewis & Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon, California and Mormon Pioneer trails, the National Frontier Trails Museum offers:

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Pack your provisions, circle the wagons and saddle up for a visit to the **National Frontier Trails Museum** where the West welcomes you, the journey begins and your adventure awaits.

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