

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

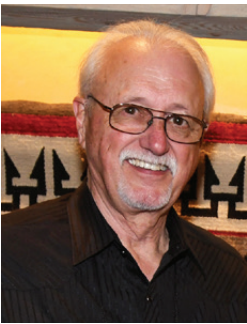
Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association



Winter 2021

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Thanksgiving and Christmas have passed, and hopefully you were able to interact with loved ones reflecting on the good times in life. With 2020 in the rearview mirror, we are looking forward with optimism. 2021 is predicted to be a year of encouraging opportunities. Vaccines are

promised this month, and hopefully, this will properly address the serious need facing our country. We all look forward to trail days and enjoyable times with OCTA members. In the meantime, while still confined to our homes, we are able to experience trail history through the newly released videos on the OCTA YouTube site. I am delighted to make room in this issue for a very special recognition. Seldom does a company or organization have long term employees. OCTA is so fortunate to have such a dedicated staff member. A big thank you is extended to all who joined in conveying appreciation to Headquarters Manager, Kathy Conway, on the occasion of her 30th employment anniversary November 15th. On behalf of the Board, Officers and members of OCTA, thank you Kathy for your dedication.

NFP Editor, Jay Lawrence, had the pleasure of visiting with Kathy on this momentous occasion.

Our conversation began with a simple question. "What things stand out to you after thirty years at OCTA headquarters?" Kathy's humble response...

"I hope you can make the article brief because I'm really not fond of going on about anything..."

Despite her reluctance to talk about herself, we had a wonderful conversation. In Kathy's words:

Well, the real highlights for me have been meeting everybody along the way. Particularly, some of the landmark figures who were the individuals that brought the trail movement to life. People like Merrill Mattes and Gregory Franzwa. They knew and influenced a huge number of people, movers and shakers, and people in the government that made this quite a movement. They were special and those times really stand out.

The presidents, of course. If I mentioned too many presidents and didn't mention them all, I would offend somebody, and I certainly wouldn't want to do that. They're all very special in their own right. That has been one part of the perks, meeting and and working with, I guess you could call them, giants. The folks who pushed the organization along. Presidents like Tom Hunt, who was instrumental in getting the COED program up and running, the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents. It was his idea to survey diaries and then have them available in a database. That was his passion.

One of the fun things for me in the last decade was participating in the In Pursuit of a Dream filming. I wasn't in the film, just behind the scenes, helping out with financing and things, finding funders and things like that. Travis was the major force on that.

Of course, there are a lot of people in the organization who are instrumental, who continue getting people excited about the trail as well as getting them to join and become a part of the the volunteer team out on the trail. Jerry Eichorst is one of those leaders. People go to his classes and then immediately

they're ready to join OCTA. So it's just being a part of of this volunteer effort. That's a highlight for me. The people are so dedicated and generous with their time and their talent. People like Bill and Jean Watson, our legislative liaisons that went to Washington DC, on their own time. That is special.

I haven't gone to all the conventions, but a highlight of one of the conventions was, back in 2007, being at Scott's Bluff at sunset. It was something that really stands out in my memory.

That's basically my job from from my desk. That's what's special to me.

What brought you into OCTA headquarters?

Well, I was, a mom with three children. The youngest one was six or seven and I was working part time downtown. The lady that managed the office, Jeanne Miller, was a friend of my mother-in-law who knew OCTA was looking for some additional help. That's how I originally made the connection. She was looking for somebody that could do some bookkeeping. I filled the bill on that, and I also had a history degree, so it was kind of a a good match for me. It just kind of evolved from part time. And then every year, my hours would increase until she retired. Then they asked me to serve as a temporary headquarters manager. Then they made it official. And so I've been there ever since in that position.

When I mentioned to Kathy that OCTA leaders I've spoken with say "she's the glue that holds our headquarters together," her response was gentle...

Oh, that's very nice. Everybody can be replaced. I do know that. When the time does come to step away I know I'll miss it. It just becomes a part of you.

On how OCTA has changed over the years...

Some of our leaders, of course, are leaving us. And there isn't that initial driving passion that was constant amongst the founders. You know, where they each had their own ideas of how things were going to run. It's become a bit more businesslike with all the various functions where everybody knows their role.

With Travis, who came on in 2003, I think the organization has become more visible and more public, namely because he's out and about. And I think we're getting more well known because of our excellent website. Travis has taken us into Facebook and Instagram and the social media. So we have a wider audience. That's been a big plus.

There has been membership shrinkage, which is

sad. By being more public, I think we will have more longevity. We will be around for a long time.

The the warmth of the people in OCTA is really exceptional. And they are very welcoming. It's something to be really valued.

Could you talk a bit about how you see OCTA's future?

I'd like to see it continue what it's doing. I would like to see us revisit the diary and journal searches in various libraries. I'm sure there are still undiscovered diaries and documents out there. The original group that put the Paper Trail project together just wore out. They did it for years. I don't think the project is finite. I think there are people out there who like to do research who wouldn't be opposed to being called upon to to pick up that work again. We could promote putting that information and that expertise together with people that have some energy to do it.

Each of the folks who have searched our database and found their ancestors are future members. It's pretty easy, you know, to make that next step of making them a member because they appreciate the history of their ancestors so much. I just think we ought to continue to promote that because it's a big educational component that fits in with our mission.

I didn't know when I started 'a hundred years ago' that I actually had a connection to the trail, but I later found out while doing some family research that one of my great, great, great aunts married into the Hudspeth family. Well, that was the Hudspeth family from the Hudspeth Cutoff, so, you know, there was a connection for me. This made my original association with OCTA doubly important and very personal.

Jeanne Miller, our former HQ Manager, found a link that she didn't even know she had. Her husband had passed and she was going through his desk, and she found a little leatherbound family diary. It was a trail diary. So sometimes, I think there's something out there that connects you to the trail history, and you didn't even know it.

If you have some family names as an OCTA member you can use Paper Trail all you want for free. Plug in a surname and see where it takes you and see if there are documents. It's fun when you find somebody either in the census or you find their story in a diary. It gets you hooked and that becomes your focus.

Have attended many conferences?

Oh, back in the nineties, I went to several. And then from 2000 to 2011, I went to every one. Since then I

kind of pick and choose. For a while we didn't have Travis, so there had to be somebody at the convention that was the the face of the national office. Since he's been here, I don't go as often.

Let's see, the last convention I attended for a couple of days was in Council Bluffs in 2017, and that was enjoyable. I especially remember being in the presence of Chimney Rock and Scotts Bluff in 2007. It was just beautiful. And the little town of Gering, they all came out. They had little kids, had a parade. It was just so memorable. There are some trail towns that just love OCTA and Gering was one of them.

Do you have big plans for the future?

Oh, I don't know... Right now, my husband and I are finishing up and trying to move into a new home that we built over the last year and a half, and we have a new (our first) grand baby. So, those two activities are keeping us busy. One year, I tried working a limited schedule. I would work three days a week but I found that having one day a week off was okay but that second day I was twiddling my thumbs and wondering what was going on at headquarters. So I stopped that. Maybe I'll move into part time work at some point. I just don't have any real plans.

I've always looked at the position as handling the

various commerce centers we had to have. You had to have a store. You had to have membership and keep that coming. You had to help with the fundraising. I used to do a name search like the Paper Trail for people, and manage volunteers that helped with mailings and things.

So perhaps we'll go to the Elko convention. Maybe we'll drive on out to that one. The first Elko convention was a lot of fun. They had just opened the center, maybe six or ten months ahead of time. I felt we were kind of like the grand opening, and it was neat.

One of the pleasures your President has had this past year is working with Kathy Conway. No matter the subject; finances, membership, Paper Trail, Kathy has the answer. It is good for you to know the heartbeat of OCTA in the Independence, Missouri Headquarters. Thank you Kathy, for sharing with the membership. Hopefully, Kathy and her husband will be able to attend the Elko Convention so you will be able to meet her for the first time or renew your acquaintance.

Stay safe. Stay well. I am looking forward to seeing you down the trail. Happy New Year to all!

Lee Black, President

Oregon-California Trails Association

Exciting, Energetic, Entertaining, Educational

These four "e-words" are the descriptors of the upcoming 39th Annual OCTA Convention in ELKO! Mark your calendars now for September 13-16, 2021.

Great bus tours with experienced guides are planned to the scenic Ruby Valley and historic site of Fort Ruby, actual wagon ruts and the wonderful Williams Family gun museum, blacksmith and gunsmith shops near Wells, Nevada, Long Canyon near a Bidwell-Bartleson campsite, and more! Special private vehicle and van tours are planned to highlight the California Trail from Burley, Idaho to Wells, Nevada to see a prehistoric pronghorn antelope trap site. Roger Gash is leading a special tour in the Secret Pass area to address the quandary –

"The Humboldt is north....Let's Go South."

A cadre of speakers is already committed to discuss a wide range of topics from the implications of the Louisiana Purchase, to Cherokee on the Hastings Cutoff, Sara Winnemucca, Chinese Railroad Workers, and many others. Dave Vixie and his students, who plan to be coming off the Hastings Cutoff also plan to make a presentation.

The Awards Dinner will feature Basque cuisine and dancing. Western Food and special entertainment are planned for the End of Trail Dinner.

Make your hotel reservations now –

the phone numbers are at **octa-trailsorg**.

Rejoice and enjoy our non-Zoom convention. For more information, contact helenhankins@gmail.com.



Partnership for the National Trails System

Federal agency partners at the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management have named new point persons for national trails. In their positions, they will work closely with OCTA on issues important to our mission.

John Cannella, a familiar face for OCTAns, is the National Park Service's National Trails and Rivers Systems program manager, based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Most recently he was Deputy Superintendent for the NPS National Trails office (NTIR) in Santa Fe, where he helped administer nine national historic trails, including the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, Pony Express and Santa Fe.

Meanwhile, Carin Farley is the new Bureau of Land Management National Scenic and Historic Trail Program Lead and will be based in Reno, Nevada. Most recently she was Monument Manager for Kasha-Katuwe National Monument and El Malpais NCA out of the Rio Puerco Field Office in Albuquerque, NM. She previously spent more than 21 years with the National Park Service.

Planning is underway for Hike the Hill, co-sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System and the American Hiking Society. HTH will be held virtually in March 2021 due to the persisting COVID-19 pandemic. Specific dates, registration, and additional information will be announced in the coming months, so stay tuned.

Bill Martin, PNTS Liaison

Publication News



There's A Lot Goin' On

Bill Hill - Publications, Chair

Both the *News from the Plains* and the *Overland Journal* continue to proceed full steam ahead. Always looking at the "half full" or "brighter side" of things, many of us have had more time to keep up with the

articles describing the activities of all the different chapters and how they have adapted to the Covid crisis. While some of their programs have been limited in size and in the number of participants, it's encouraging to see how we all keep working on our mission. I know they are continuing. I was lucky enough to have been able to join Randy Brown-Wyoming, and Art Siverling and Jason Vlcan who have been signing and clearing brush and trail ruts.

We all look forward to reading the fine *Overland Journal* articles and enjoy the "teased approach" of the longer two part articles. All are a good read for our arm-chaired trail experience in this time of limited travel.

The year 2020 has certainly been one to remember, but one most of us would like to put aside or forget. There are, however, some OCTA programs that we still need to remember. While schooling has been challenged requiring new approaches and methods, our educational workbooks are still useful in providing activities and exercises that can be helpful.

The deadline for the drawing for a class set of books is February 1. Teachers or schools can send a postcard to OCTA with the title or subject of the set of books they would like. Only one title or subject is allowed per postcard, but more than one postcard is allowed. Specific information is on the education awards portion of the website.

Two of our other programs have deadlines in the month of April, but planning should be underway by now. Last year the Covid issue created problems and situations that resulted in a decrease in participation in both the student Western Calendar and teacher Outstanding Educator Award programs. While some problems still exist, schools and teachers have learned how to deal with them and now have experience in overcoming some of those problems. Some teachers were able to quickly adapt with new approaches and methods which allowed them to participate. Hopefully most other teachers have now done so. The theme for the student 2022 Western Calendar is "Emigrant & Indian Foods."

We are looking forward to teacher applications for the Outstanding Educator Awards. Perhaps some will include some of the innovative methods they may have developed to deal with the in and out of class day approach or the visual class approach. And, those schools have "regular" classes may reflect some of their earlier well-developed programs. Information about these other two programs is also on the website.

Bill Hill

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.

The R-Project The R-Project is a 225-mile transmission line proposed by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) that crosses the Oregon-California and Mormon National Historic Trail. When the U.S. 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 and Associates. The Oregon-California Trails Association was one of the plaintiffs. The case argues that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's choice to issue the ITP violates portions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

On Wednesday June 17th, 2020 U.S. District Court Judge William J Martinez vacated the ITP issued to NPPD and remanded the matter back to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for further review.

The appeal deadline has passed and neither the Department of Justice (DOJ) nor NPPD filed a notice of appeal of the Judge's decision. Good News. Although we have not received a status update, it is presumed that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing a new analysis required by the Court.

Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) The saga of B2H continues... The project, a 300 mile, 500 kV transmission line in Eastern Oregon crossing the Oregon National Historic Trail seven times.

52 people, including Northwest OCTA Chapter member Gail Carbiener, plus the Stop B2H Coalition, an Eastern Oregon grassroots organization with 800 members, and eight organizational members, including OCTA, filed over 130 separate issues of noncompliance with the government laws and regulations, The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), who is responsible for the project analysis is unaccustomed to this level of participation in a contested case process, which is eventually decided by the Oregon Governor's appointed Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). The EFSC will meet on November 19 and 20 to hear arguments. Gail

Carbiener will be allowed 3 minutes to make his virtual presentation.

Nolin Hills Wind Energy Project This Capital Power Project is a 350 MW wind project currently under development in Umatilla County Oregon. The project is sited on approximately 45,000 acres located west of Pendleton, Oregon and under a long-term lease from a single landowner. OCTA raised concerns about the potential visual impacts from the project infrastructure. Through the efforts of Sallie Riehl, Northwest Chapter President and Gail Carbiener, Northwest Chapter Preservation Officer, an agreement was reached between OCTA and Capital Power to mitigate any direct and/or indirect effects by providing a financial sum for environmental protection, conservation and general maintenance efforts.

Gerlach Geothermal Development Project This project proposed by Ormat Technologies Inc. is located one mile north of Gerlach, Nevada in Washoe County, is in close proximity to the Nobles Trail a branch of the California National Historic Trail. OCTA has requested Consulting Party Status. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is analyzing the environmental effects of building two new power plants that would each produce 24 megawatts of electricity, an electrical substation, up to 23 total geothermal production and injection wells, approximately 4.6 miles of above-ground pipelines, access roads and an approximately 26 mile long 120 kilovolt overhead power line originating at one of the proposed power plants and terminating at the North Valley substation in the San Emidio Desert. OCTA has provided BLM maps showing the alignment of the Nobles Trail and the potential effects to the trail.

Long Canyon Mine Project This open pit mine project in northeast Nevada is mostly on public land administered by BLM. The project impacts the Hastings Cutoff of the California National Historic Trail. Mitigation discussions began in 2013 with Newmont Mining Corporation, BLM and the consulting parties, including OCTA, the NPS and the California Trail Heritage Alliance (CTHA). Part of what was thought to be agreed upon mitigation included mapping of the Hastings Cutoff, protection of the Settlers Cabin at Big Springs on the Hasting Cutoff, and the establishment of the Gravelly Ford Conservation Area to include protection of the California National Historic Trail leading to and including the Gravelly Ford Site. The protection would be through a conservation easement or similar legal instrument. In July 2019 Newmont

Mining Corporation (38.5%), and Barrick Gold Corporation (61.5%), entered into a Joint Venture forming a new company Nevada Gold Mine (NGM). On October 28th, 2019 in a meeting with BLM we were informed that BLM no longer intends to seek any mitigation for indirect effects resulting from the Long Canyon Project. BLM said they would have to wait and see if NGM would voluntarily agree to the proposed mitigation along with other issues including BLM now reviewing their Instruction Memorandum policy on Compensatory Mitigation. The Instruction Memorandum also stated that BLM was precluded in mitigating any offsite improvements which meant that the proposed Conservation Easement on the California NHT at Gravelly Ford could not be part of the discussion for Long Canyon.

Gravelly Ford Conservation Easement Given that Gravelly Ford would no longer be part of the mitigation discussion for Long Canyon, OCTA along with the CTHA began direct discussions with NGM. At this point NGM seems favorable to most of the previously discussed mitigation. As part of the ongoing discussion, on October 16 and 17, 2020, OCTA conducted a mapping project to validate the trail segments owned by NGM leading to Gravelly Ford. NGM was presented with the

findings. We will continue our effort to work with NGM to establish protection for some of the most pristine segments of the California Trail.

Pershing County Water Conservation District The PCWCD plans to decommission the hydro project at Rye Patch Dam in Pershing County, Nevada east of Lovelock, Nevada. Work would be exclusive to the dam site and not any surrounding area. The District sought input to determine if any cultural resources would be impacted as a result of the project. Segments of the California National Historic Trail are located one mile north and ¾ mile south of the dam. The District was provided maps showing the trail location.

Good of the Order Often in our discussions with individuals, companies, agencies, and others regarding threats to historic emigrant trails we look to the various enacted laws for protection. One such statute is the National Trails System Act of 1968. The Act discusses the importance of preserving High Potential Route Segments as “Those segments of trail which afford high quality recreation experience in a portion of the route having greater than average scenic values or affording an opportunity to vicariously share the experience of the original user of the historic route.”
More to come...

2020-2021 OCTA Officers

Lee Black, President

Albuquerque, NM • leebblack1@hotmail.com

Pat Traffas, Past President

Overland Park, KS • traffasp@gmail.com

Marvin Burke, Treasurer

Northglenn, CO • mdburke@msn.com

John Briggs, Vice President

Boise, ID • johnxbriggs@msn.com

Sandra Wiechert, Secretary

Lawrence, KS • wiechert@ku.edu

John Winner, Preservation Officer

Placerville, CA • swinner@dataentree.com

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 - Sallie Riehl

3455 Countryman Cir NW
Albany, OR 97321
salliek@comcast.net

Southern Trails – Mark Howe

P.O. Box 12521, El Paso, TX 79913
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

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



Last September when OCTA was forced to postpone both its annual convention and board meeting in Elko, Nevada due to COVID-19, the board adapted and held its board meeting online on Zoom. For the previous year, a select committee led the development of a new five year strategic plan

that was ultimately adopted during the course of that September Zoom board meeting.

But that new plan built on the foundation established by implementing the previous five-year plan. The first thing the committee did was to review the status of the 2015-2020 plan. Well over 90 percent of the plan was completed, with a good deal of the other ten percent in various stages of completion.

Both the previous plan and the new plan are divided into goals, objectives, and action items. The previous plan had as "Goal 2" to "preserve and promote the stories of the emigrant experience." Two of the objectives identified to achieve this goal were to "improve and expand data collection" and "raise public awareness." Fourteen different action items were created to achieve those two objections, and many of those action items centered around the development of more online resources, whether our own websites or social media pages.

In previous columns, I described many of these new websites and social media pages, including how to get the most use out of them. I won't review those again here, but please do look back at past issues for more details (past issues of News From the Plains can be found at www.octa-journals.org.) I had also mentioned that OCTA National assisted some of our chapters in past years to develop great new websites, including our Utah Crossroads and Gateway Chapters. Again, in previous columns I described many of the great assets to be found on those websites, so please do go back and look at previous columns or simply visit the chapter websites (which can all be accessed by clicking the "Regional Chapters" tab on our homepage at www.octa-trails.org.)

Over the past year, OCTA National assisted our Trails Head Chapter in creating its new webpage as well (www.trailshead.org). It is, without a doubt, our most robust chapter website to date. Building on the successes of our other websites, out chapter members in the Kansas

City area added even more content, including its own interactive map of trail sites in the Kansas City area, diary quotes about each of the historic sites in the region, and well over 400 pages of historical chapter information collected and compiled by OCTA Past President Ross Marshall. There are also great videos, information on each of the markers found in Missouri and Kansas, and so much more. It will literally take a person days upon days to wade through everything stored on the Trails Head Chapter website!

The new strategic plan's overarching goal is to continue to build on all of the infrastructure that was built over the past five years. The new Goal Two now reads, "Present the stories of the emigrant experience in a manner that is inclusive of other perspectives" while the two objectives remain the same as the previous strategic plan. However, there is a brand new list of six action items to help us take these online resources to new levels.

- Make publications, diaries, and journals available through improved website for public access.
- Inventory and improve access to OCTA library collections.
- Expand availability of organizational speakers.
- Create audio visual materials.
- Develop a Social Media Plan and other outreach materials.
- Expand use of social media.

We have already made great strides over the past five years on the first action item, with much of that material now available on www.octa-journals.org. The second item here will be a bit more complex, as OCTA has several regional libraries that need to have their holdings digitized, made even more difficult because some of them are closed or restricted due to COVID-19. The third item will greatly depend on our chapters and the willingness of members to be part of a speakers bureau. We have a great many resources available for those willing to reach out and offer to speak to groups. Simply visit www.octa-trails.org/speakers-bureau/ to see all of the videos and PowerPoint presentations available to use. Service clubs, senior centers, schools, and many others are constantly looking for speakers, so reach out and educate others about us!

The fourth point above, "create audio visual materials," is an ongoing one for us. The easiest way to follow what we are doing is to subscribe to our YouTube Channel. Simply enter "Oregon-California Trails Association" in

the search bar on YouTube and click “subscribe” and you will be updated any time we upload a new video. Our marketing/PR committee, chaired by Past President Bill Martin, would welcome new members with a past in marketing and public relations to assist in continuing to develop our social media and other outreach plans, and to help us accomplish the sixth item on this list, expanding the use of social media.

We look forward to 2021 when we will once again be able to gather together for tours, talks, socializing, preservation work, mapping, marking, and other on-the-ground activities. But in the interim, feel free to look at all of the new online materials to help you create your own travel plans in the near future, and reach out to us if you want to get involved!

Travis Boley

Interstate Travels and The Trails

How fun to see thirteen states involved in our National Historic Trails. It seems to me that these existing trails through those states are an economic powerhouse that we need to nurture and encourage. My life personally is touched by the Oregon National Historic Trail because that is where I grew up, next to the Columbia River and the Willamette Valley under the shadow of Mt. Hood during the first 20 years of my life.

The Mormon Pioneer Trail of 1846-1847 seems like a short timeframe for that well-traveled trail, but we are learning more about that as part of the 1978 act that established the Oregon Trail within the Interior Department. As it turns out, I had Mormon relatives on the trail in the late 1840s, and they helped settle the Salt Lake Valley. Even my Mormon Battalion GGGGrandfather was part of the trail that season, and I have come to realize how especially important those two years really were, before the 1849 Gold Rush era. One of our favorite places is Echo Canyon in Utah where all the trails passed through. I even found a Pony Express rider named Thomas King, the son of a great aunt, rode that part of the trail as his route.

The California National Historic Trail is in the State I’ve lived in for the last 40 years of my life, and we have traveled some of those trails including Donner Pass, and walked the old train tunnel hand carved in the 1860’s. We love that Lake Tahoe area, and there are so many places where the pioneer spirit and evidence remain available to

see and feel. We enjoyed the OCTA Symposium there a few years ago and hiked and walked the trails as part of the experience. It was exhilarating and helped us be mindful of how easy we travel these days.

Through the work of the Southern Trails Chapter we are even including more States in our efforts, and with any luck we will see progress on the Butterfield Trail as part of our efforts. The world only moved at three to five miles per hour when we were walking, the wagons and stages moved only the little faster, we had the telegraph for a while before the train made a big difference in speed, and then we had the U.S. Postal System! It was all about communication and making connections. Now we come to you by Zoom and at the speed of the Internet. It all happens faster these days, but we still benefit from slowing down!

The eleven Chapters of OCTA bring together a wide variety of people from varying ages and knowledge that all care about preserving the history and encouraging the modern day generations to research their heritage and stand up for the Pioneer Spirit that helped settle the west and bring us together from Sea to Shining Sea. Do not let our efforts die with you. When you support OCTA at a National or Chapter level you truly can help leave a modern-day legacy for future generations to build upon. We give of our time, our money, and our knowledge and together we create a powerful organization. Thank you!

Melisa Shaw, CFP®

2020-2021 OCTA Board of Directors

John Briggs, Boise, ID
johnxbriggs@msn.com

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

Pat Fletcher, Sequim, WA
jpffletcher@wavecable.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

News from the Chapters

TRAILS HEAD

Our big news this quarter is the launch of our **chapter website** trailshead.org. The countless hours spent by **Ross Marshall** and **Mary Conrad** gathering and writing history and diary quotes won them both **Meritorious Achievement Awards** at our annual meeting in November. Member Gina Sifers was the site creator/designer and received an **Award of Appreciation**. Under the Welcome heading, explore the [KS and MO Trail Markers](#) featuring Ross' photography along with site explanations. When you click on a site name, it brings you to an interactive map to show the location on the trail. Under the Enjoy and Preserve heading, scroll down to [Trail Diary Excerpts](#) to read diary excerpts pertaining to Kansas City area trail sites along with Mary's research explaining the context. The Video Gallery under the Welcome tab has a variety of snapshots of area trail history, including one about the Missouri beginning of the Butterfield Overland Mail Stagecoach Route.

At our annual meeting in November, we took OCTA's suggestion to **honor long-time members** with a list of

about 20 current Trails Head members who have at least 20 years of continuous membership. They joined between the beginning of the chapter in 1986 through 1999; the list includes two out-of-state memberships. Several members who hadn't attended meetings for a number of years came to the November meeting at which masks were required because of the pandemic.

The year 2021 marks the **200th anniversary of the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail** from Old Franklin, Missouri. There will be many observations of this anniversary in the area, and Trails Head activities will take note of such plans. By then, the digitization of the 250 quadrilateral maps on which KCAHTA's founder Lee Kroh marked the Santa Fe Trail from Old Franklin, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico will be completed, and we should be able to tell you how you can access them online. They are the most detailed maps of the Santa Fe Trail available anywhere.

Meanwhile, Happy Holidays to all!

Lila Aamodt

NORTHWEST

We had our Fall Leadership Meeting on October 24, 2020 by Zoom. Discussions were held about Spring 2021 outings and how they could be conducted to be safe against the Covid virus. Dick Waugh mentioned that his chapter members had been able to hold several outings by observing the mask and distancing rules by traveling in separate vehicles and planning carefully. Our Vice President, Rich Herman will be planning a trip to the Umatilla Bombing Range and Wells Spring in March or April. Other members are planning an outing to Emigrant Springs after the snow is gone. We do have hope that we will be able to be more active this next year.

Gail Carbiener applied for a matching grant from the Oregon Community Fund for \$1200 to purchase ten more T-Rails to mark areas along the trail in Eastern and Northern Oregon. His application was accepted, and he has also contacted the person who engraved the plates for us for this year's markers. The person is willing to do more plates for us. Sharon Brown will be our liaison with the National Park Service through December of this year. We are also pleased to announce

that the Chapter now has 320 members. Chuck Hornbuckle (Membership Chair) has been sending letters to people from our area who have joined OCTA but not a chapter.

Several of our members assisted in a project about the history of the emigrants' travel along the Columbia River. Our members agreed to read the project's document for accuracy. The Columbia River Story is now accessible through the National Park Service. It's title is *Overlanders in the Columbia Gorge 1840-1870; a Narrative history*. You can reach it online <https://www.nps.gov/oreg/learn/historyculture/research.htm>. We are sending this out to our membership.

There is a new project in the works through NPS that will gather information about the first winter and year of the overlanders in Oregon and Washington territory. Researchers will be investigating reactions and activities of overlanders upon arrival... and how and where they dispersed to settle after reaching the Willamette Valley in the years 1841-1869. I am sure that NPS will keep us informed about this project.

Sallie Riehl

CROSSROADS

In spite of all the difficulties of 2020 we have had a moderately successful year. No work projects were planned, but the officers planned three field trips that were successful (to say the least). They were not off-road and in-depth, but we had good participation with lots of old members as well as many new faces. There were over thirty on each trip.

On September 22, we visited sites through Echo Canyon to the communities of Echo, Henefer, and Coalville. The second trip the following Saturday took us from Henefer through East Canyon, Mormon Flat, Big and Little Mountains, Emigration Canyon and into Salt Lake City. The third trip on October 10 went from Salt Lake City to near Lake Point where cooperation between UDOT and contractors has facilitated a new space for our and DUP markers along an I-80 exit near Saltair. We then continued into Lake Point where a T-Post marking the Hastings Road is near "big development" and appeared threatened, but the

community and developers have cooperated to create a small park to preserve the marker. Good news there!! It was placed there in the year 2000.

With no fall membership meetings it has been proposed that all officers will stay on by acclamation for two more years. Steve Allison, President; Connie Bauer, Vice President; Joyce Marsing, Secretary; and Drew Wanosik, Treasurer. Thanks for stepping up. Without meetings, it is hard to keep things organized. Some spring work trips are being discussed about T-Rails marking the SL-LA road in southern Utah. This is also the Spanish Trail. It will take some planning and cooperation for this to happen.

Also, Victor Heath and myself are still planning on working on an OCTA/Crossroads photo timeline for next year. I hope we can put this together. We have photos from 1994. Stay tuned.

A. Oscar Olson

IDAHO

Our fall chapter meeting was held as a Zoom meeting on Saturday, October 10. The meeting turned out fine but I missed seeing everyone in person.

Congratulations go to chapter Vice President John Briggs who has stepped up to be the national OCTA Vice-President and will become national President in a year. He will be the first person from Idaho to be national President of OCTA.

John's promotion required shuffling and adjusting of positions and people with the following slate being elected or agreeing to serve in appointed positions:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • President | Jerry Eichhorst |
| • Vice-President East | Don Wind |
| • Vice-President West | Paul Dinwiddie |
| • Secretary | Dave Price |
| • Treasurer | Dan Dunne |
| • Board of Directors (Central Idaho) | Betty and Pedro Celaya |
| • Preservation Officer East | Don Wind |
| • Preservation Officer West | Dave Price |
| • Trail Dust Editor | Nancy Briggs |
| • Webmaster | Jerry Eichhorst |

It was agreed by the leadership team before the meeting that the Historian position was no longer needed in today's digital world.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has agreed to serve the chapter. It requires the assistance of everyone to keep the chapter growing and running smoothly.

One of the outcomes of the meeting was an impromptu trip to Fort Boise a few days later to show several Boise area members the site. In anticipation of the trip, I reached out the manager of the Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area (FBWMA) which controls the site and talked with him about the possibility of creating a couple of interpretive signs for the site. He is agreeable to the concept and will present the idea to his management. It is hoped that the project can be developed and installed with no cost to the FBWMA through grants and help from national OCTA and the NPS Trails Office.

I hope that all of you have a great fall and winter. Stay safe and hopefully we'll be back out on the trails in the spring. Merry Christmas.

Jerry Eichhorst

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

As 2020 ends, and we consider how it has affected our lives and also our plans and hopes for OCTA events, we realize that even the near future may be impacted by the virus. However, we have re-registered for 2021 at the Gaia Hotel and Spa in Anderson for our Spring Symposium which we had to postpone, and we hope we don't have to further postpone it. The same is hoped for the Annual national convention is Elko in September.

On June 17 and 18 we had a work party/campout at Bridge Creek on Nobles Emigrant Trail to repair fencing around the Nancy Allen gravesite. A small group met: Dick Waugh, Herman Zittel of CA/NV OCTA, Dan Murray, and Jake Martin, an archaeologist from the USFS in Susanville, and myself, to do repair work on a fence surrounding the Nancy Allen Grave. Nancy Allen died in 1857 and was buried beside the trail. OCTA and Trails West markers are installed beside the grave, but cattle had damaged the fence we had to repair.

We had scheduled a chapter board meeting to be held in Fallon the first of September in conjunction with a campout during a full moon on the 40 Mile Desert to experience what the emigrants may have encountered in 1849 and '50, but due to extensive wildfires and smoke reducing visibility in the area, we had to cancel that meeting too. So on September 1, we held our chapter board meeting electronically by ZOOM. The chapter membership and financial report are both sound. We continue to be optimistic that the chapter will be able to resume meetings and activities in the future.

Bill Holmes has reported progress on the Johnson Ranch and Camp Far West military site, which are registered as National Historic Places. Work is being done to get access and interpretive signs for it, and some repair work has been completed on the cemetery there.

On September 26, CA/NV OCTA held a Fernley Swales cleanup in partnership with the Carson City Bureau of Land Management, Fernley Rotary Club, and the Fernley Chapter of Desert Pigs (a service group dedicated to cleaning up the desert).

Just a mile north of Fernley, the Fernley Swales (1844-1868) are the ONLY example of deep sand swales left by emigrant wagons on the California Trail. The Central Pacific Railroad grade (1868-1902) runs parallel to the trail. This historic area attracts tourism to the community and brings history to life!

As we continue the Corona virus downtime, it seems timely for Swale Buffs and Rut Nuts to remember the emigrants on the trails who also experienced a world-wide pandemic of cholera that followed them up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Independence, and on out over the trails to Oregon and California. Historian George Groh wrote, "Gold Rush was to cholera like wind to fire." It is believed to have killed between 6,000 and 12,000 emigrants between 1849 and 1855, and their deaths are recorded in journals and marked as graves along the trails. The number of deaths on the trail are difficult to determine, but it is estimated that up to 5,000 died in 1849. Deaths in 1850 appear to have been even higher, and historian Merrill Mattes estimated that there were up to four graves per mile along the Platte River route.

Kimbal Webster was west of the Big Blue River when he wrote in his journal on June 10, 1849, "That very much dreaded scourge, the Asiatic cholera, is making such a sad havoc among the Californians that almost every camp-ground is converted into a burial-ground, and at many places twelve or fifteen graves may be seen in a row."

President Polk, possibly the most famous victim of cholera, died in Tennessee on June 15, 1849. Many Indian tribes were affected by the outbreak.

Cholera was caused by a bacterium rather than a virus, as is Covid-19. It was spread by unsanitary conditions and feces, which contaminated water. Doctors of the time didn't understand the cause, and common treatments involved blood-letting and purging, which further weakened the victims. Some doctors prescribed calomel, a drug which contained mercury. Numerous people died from mercury poisoning or suffered other side effects from the drug. Face masks probably wouldn't have helped, but hand washing, good hygiene, and just boiling all water would have saved lives.

Hopefully, a vaccine, face masks, social distancing, and a nationally unified scientific plan to contain the pandemic will succeed, and we will then be able to resume the Trails and Swales outings and activities we have enjoyed in the past.

Until a solution is reached, stay safe, stay healthy, and look forward to more outings and events with California-Nevada OCTA.

Ken Johnston

SOUTHERN TRAILS

The Southern Trails Chapter (STC) has been busy, even when not getting out in the field to explore, document and preserve. As of now, many conferences have been canceled at which STC would have had an information and membership table, but we are looking forward to 2021 to get information to all! Unfortunately, we will NOT be having a Spring meeting for STC as of November. Hopefully, this may change for a late Spring meeting, if possible.

Recapping what we have been doing in the STC from the last NFTP Newsletter. However, our Facebook page has been extremely active with daily announcements on Today in History posts, by our Facebook Manager, Jan Iwashita. The Facebook link is at "Southern Trails Chapter of OCTA." Our webpage is also a good source of information, which can be found on the OCTA main website and at our website, <http://southern-trails.org/>.

The STC leadership has a monthly meeting the first week of each month and many emails in between to keep us abreast of activities and our sanity during the pandemic. Please feel free to contact us for any information which can be found at our website.

September was a good month with our STC Annual Report submitted to National. Our bank account is doing well, but still need more members to join so we can continue to print two issues of Desert Tracks. We also need people to contribute as we are using Adobe InDesign for our journal. Please contact Dan Judkins or Dr. Dave Miller (Editors) for articles to submit for our next issue in January 2021. As part of the licensing costs for this program we had to allocate funds for it. If you would like to contribute for this or a computer fund, also contact our Treasurer Melissa Shaw. This helps in not using membership funds so we can contribute to have more pages and two issues a year for Desert Tracks.

The Silver City, New Mexico "Army of the West" sign is complete and installed. We are still hoping for a ceremony, but may occur this Spring. We are hoping to join with the Continental Divide Trail group's spring opening celebration in Silver City. This will be a "Real" dedication of the "Army of the West" sign. A photo of this was in the last News from the Plains. No dedication date is set, as of now. We also discussed more smaller signs where Kearney and Mormon Battalions intersect the Continental Divide Trail.

By the beginning of October, we started to look forward to more activities in the future. Our monthly conference call had special guests OCTA National Presi-

dent Lee Black and Preservation Chair John Winner. Our membership is about 125 and growing. One of the most important points is getting new members, so continue to post on Facebook or tell friends to join OCTA and STC and then you get Desert Tracks, to boot! We have received many positive comments for the stories and editorial skills, so please continue to support.

Recently, STC Vice President Cecilia Bell has made several presentations to local Silver City groups on the Silver City sign, OCTA and STC. Cecilia is also handling our Membership with emails, letters, phone calls and visits, if possible. We also voted to contribute to National OCTA for Kathy Conway's 30 years of service with a donation from our general fund. President Lee Black discussed the Annual Meeting and how we came out positive in budget due to the generous donations of the membership. Discussion on our Western Regional Representative position that will soon be open and how STC will help in cost sharing for this. We tabled this request until the next meeting due to needing more information on duties and this person's location. We also were informed of upcoming filming of stories in the STC and emigrant stories. Unfortunately, National Board of Directors lost Cecilia Bell due to the maximum amount of times on the OCTA board, but she is now serving as Collections Committee manager for OCTA and also continuing as VP for STC. Well done on your service Cecilia.

John Winner, National Preservation Committee Chair discussed how STC does not have a Preservation Officer or two due to our area we cover. STC President Mark Howe will help on this but we ask our membership to help step in on this for local areas or states of the STC. In Unfinished Business: Arizona State Marker and the fence around it is still in the works as they have the fence in the Prescott Valley and need to coordinate with the landowner and the Navajo Group for installation.

Sadly, it was learned that Will Bagley had a stroke and we're all disappointed to learn he's not well and in a care facility. Bill Martin shared his location as Legacy Village in Taylorsville, Utah.

As for meetings, 2021 will be here soon. We are checking dates for something in the Temecula, California area. Also, the Santa Fe Trail Society 200-year celebration is in La Junta, Colorado this September 23-26, 2021. National OCTA is Elko, Nevada from September 13-16, 2021.

By November, we are slowly moving into Winter camps just like the emigrants, slowing down for the win-

ter into our respective homes. We are looking good on renewals and the Silver City sign is still receiving comments. Our bank account has been growing and still are looking for donations to help on software and hardware costs so we can continue to publish Desert Tracks. From last month's business on the Western Regional Representative, we still need some information on the duties. This was again tabled until next meeting in January. As for STC being involved in the history of our many states, Dan Judkins (Co-editor of Desert Tracks), spent half a day with Travis Boley (National) on filming locations in southern Arizona for the YouTube channel of OCTA. They filmed around Picacho Peak, Tucson Presidio, "A" Mountain, Tubac, the Santa Cruz River Valley and Yuma areas. They covered sites for the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition, the 49ers, and the Mormon Battalion.

It was discussed that we might not have the Spring Symposium and elections will be covered by mail and email. We ask for those who would like to run for Officers or other positions, to contact any of the Officers. When we are ready for this, it will be announced to the membership.

As we grow in membership and consider the large area STC covers, we are looking to see where STC ends in Southern California with the CA-NV Chapter. In the future, we will have to split due to the large area we cover. Our next meeting will be the first week of January, please feel free to be a guest on our calls, your voice and membership is what keeps STC active and moving ahead.

In conclusion, many thanks to our leadership and members (YOU!) for donations to STC, OCTA and keeping the memory of the trails alive!! *Mark Howe*

KANZA

KANZA has once again had to circle the wagons and cancel our annual meeting to protect our members against the viral invasion. As the cavalry in the form of a vaccine arrives, perhaps next year will return us to a bit of normalcy.

There are some potential projects that we could do in the Spring, some of which would involve limited or minimal social contact. We need to do a survey of the trails conditions, including the signs and markers in place. Hopefully we can do a celebration of National Trails Day that we have had to cancel for the last two years; last year because of flooding and this year because of the virus.

KANZA works with our fellow trail group, the Alcove Spring Preservation Association (ASPA). Basically we all belong to both organizations. Recently a stone

building owned by ASPS in Blue Rapids was named to the Register of Historic Kansas Places, the state's official list of historically and culturally significant properties worthy of preservation. It is perhaps the oldest surviving building in Blue Rapids. Once restored, it will serve as Alcove's office as well as the Alcove Spring Archives and Research Library. The library received a tremendous GIFT this month when Michael Tate gave his research material to the Library. Professor Tate is on the faculty of the University of Nebraska Omaha. He is the author of *Indians and Emigrants, The Frontier Army in the Settlement of the West*, and the four volume *The Great Medicine Road*. Professor Tate's collection joins material of John G. Ellenbecker, noted area historian.

Duane Iles

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

The Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter held three Zoom events during the Fall. We were pleased by the interest and participation of OCTA members in these events and express our appreciation to the speakers for their excellent presentations:

- September: Ken Jessen – Frontier Colorado Gunfights
- October: Jack and Pat Fletcher, Bruce Watson – History and Mapping of the Cherokee Trail
- November: Jeff Broome and David Welch – Indian Raids and Massacres

Our next event will be on Saturday, January 23. This event is a special presentation on the [Virginia Dale Stage Station](#) and Jack Slade, its renowned superintendent. Colorado historian Ken Jessen will present his new video which includes a virtual tour of the station and a discussion of its history and restoration over the years. Dan Rottenberg, an historian in Philadelphia, will talk about the legends and legacy of Jack Slade. Dan is the author of [Death of a Gunfighter: The Quest for Jack Slade, the West's Most Elusive Legend](#).

Camille Bradford

Thank You!

Thanks to the many donors who support OCTA's preservation work through gifts to our annual fund drive and memorial gifts to those who have passed. Recent gifts include:

Eva Allen	Rick and Jani Frey	Mortimer "Morty" Paulus
Ron and Dee Anderson	Randell and Mary Jane Guyer	Carolyn Priest
Jim and Carol Barr	William Harlan	William and Carol Quist
Bob and Jean Bennett	Glenn and Carol Harrison	Susan Radke-Sproull
Dave and Linda Berger	Dr. E. Scott Hendricks	Thomas and Barbara Rea
Roger P. Blair, M.D.	Julian and Diane Holt	James and Sallie Riehl
Catherine J. Blair-Green	Howdy and Katrina Hoover	Judith Roy
Rochelle Brannian and Family	Chuck Hornbuckle	Warren Schmidgall
George Carruthers	Richard Houck	Nancy Sciotte
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Ms. Susan Christ	Janet Kanter	William D. Smith
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Craig Davenport	Dennis M. Larsen	Linda Turner
Lynn and Doug Davis	Eric A. Lauha	Sara Van Wig
Brian L. Dukleth	William and Connie Leppert	Mike Vermillion
Clark Fenton	Catherine MacMillan	Cam Wade
Marshall A. Fey	Kathryn Miles	Dr. Mark Wilson
Barbara Flynn	Frank Norris	Joan Young
	Northwest OCTA Chapter	

Welcome New Members

Star Morales Auburn, WA	Lori Patotzka Clearlake, CA,	Richard Lapham Madison Heights, MI
Brent & Susan Downing Fairpoint, NY	Edward Reimer Federal Way, WA	Dan Elliott Quincy, CA
Rudy Jeseritz Osseo, WI	Christopher Puma Chandler, AZ	Will Haslam Colorado Springs, CO
Allen Hull Durham, CA	Matthew Couch Portland, OR	Kristina Younger Bremerton, WA
Laura Barraclough Hamden, CT	Leah Brady Elko, NV	David Woodbury Woodbury Historical Tours
Stephanie Miller Warrenton, OR	Shana Hennessey Mountain Home, ID	Palo Alto, CA
	Jim Boyd Alcester, SD	James Spires Huntington Beach, CA

REMEMBRANCES



Ormond (Ormie) Snook Lamson

Ormie passed peacefully on July 9 at her home in Walnut Creek. She lived a very full life (Jan 1920—July 2020). She was born in Oakland and raised in the Rockridge area. She was the eldest child, only daughter of Charles Wade Snook and Ruth A. Snook. Her father was a Superior Court Judge for Alameda County appointed by then California Governor Earl Warren. She attended UC Berkeley, was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1942. Her parents and Lamson in-laws all graduated from Berkeley.

She met her husband, Dr. Baldwin G. Lamson, at UC Berkeley. They married in Rochester, New York in December 1942. He was in Medical School and the U.S. Navy at the time. The war years took them to many locations in the United States, some easier than others. The family eventually settled for 52 years in Encino, California, when Dr. Baldwin became a member of the initial faculty at UCLA Medical School. There she raised her four children and created a home where the neighborhood played often. She became a leader in the UCLA Medical School Auxiliary, including a stint as President.

With an optimistic and happy perspective, the mountains were a special influence. She especially enjoyed her time and friends in the Donner Summit area. The Community was a natural fit as early summer years in the Tahoe Park area were spent hiking and swimming. She enjoyed mule pack trips and back packing with her family in the wider Sierra Nevada.

A descendant of a California pioneer family, her great grandfather arrived in San Francisco from New

York City, July 2, 1849. Her great grandmother made the overland journey to Portland and arrived by ship in San Francisco in 1852. She and her husband were very involved with the Oregon-California Trail Association beginning in 1986 while in their 70s, exploring for many years original trail routes that opened the western United States, chasing history and the routes of their ancestors. They also traveled extensively, most notable international journeys included early USSR and China opening, Panama Canal, Peru, and Argentina.

After 62 years of marriage, her husband passed in 2004 at age 88. At that time, she returned to the Bay Area.

She lived through many significant periods of history: post World War I, the Great Depression; World War II, Korean War and much more. As a result, she had a strong interest in world events. Reading was a passion and she enjoyed bridge with friends.

She was a very calm mother with a ready welcoming smile, keen intellect, sense of humor and always encouraging. At 100, she was on her iPad connecting with her wider family. She understood, nurtured, navigated four different children and her husband. When asked how do you adjust to life's challenges and setbacks, she replied "I live in the room I am in, quietly reflecting on the past."

Ormie is survived by her four children, all of California: Ann Lamson Williams, Loomis; B.G. Lamson Jr., Granite Bay; Wade Lamson, Lafayette and Stephen Lamson, Pleasanton; as well as by five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. A celebration of Life gathering will be held in 2021.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Award Nominations – June 1

Budget Development – Budget Request – May 23 (Per OCTA Procedural Manual)

News from the Plains material – Spring issue: February 25; Summer issue: May 25; Fall issue: August 25; Winter issue: November 25

Nominating and Leadership – Announcement of election and number of vacancies on the Board of Directors: November 25 News from the Plains Deadline; Bio and ballot: April 1

Outstanding Educator Award Application – March 31

Calendar Art for Western Calendar – April 15

National Park Service Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) – October 1

Volunteer data (Hours, Expenses, Mileage) to Partnership – Report hours on the website at <https://www.octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer>. They can be reported as they are accumulated. If you track your hours on the paper form (available at <https://www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms/>), please report them to HQ by December 31.

Overland Journal – Spring issue to membership: approximately May 20; Summer issue to membership: approximately August 20; Fall issue to membership: approximately November 20; Winter issue to membership: approximately February 20

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, 2021.

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.

What Is Your Greatest Talent?

Each of us has at least one skill that we truly enjoy exercising. OCTA Leadership is seeking to identify those with skills that would benefit the furtherance of the OCTA mission.

We have 26 Standing Committees. If you are not currently serving on the national level this is your opportunity. There will be a place for you. Please consider where you could best help.

For a listing of Committees go to the OCTA website, octa-trails.org. Under the Members tab select **OCTA Leadership**

Manual, Strategic Plan & Organization Chart, then select **Leadership Manual March 2018**. You will find Committee descriptions beginning on page 60.

Special needs currently include Audit, Collections/Libraries, Education Outreach, Fundraising, History & Archives, Marketing and Membership Committees.

Please contact Pat Traffas at

traffasp@gmail.com

with questions or to share you interest in helping OCTA further our mission. Thank you for sharing your talent. We need you!

Thanks to Our Business Sponsors

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:

Blue Mountain Diagnostic Imaging

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octa-volunteer](http://octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer)

OCTA Seeks To Fill Western Regional Representative Position

For the past several years, retired National Park Service veteran Sharon Brown has ably filled our Western Regional Representative position. She has now decided to retire a second time as of December 31, so the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) is now seeking an able replacement. OCTA will be accepting applications and resumes through Friday, December 18. We hope to fill the position by early January.

The primary function is to assist the OCTA President, Association Manager, and Chapter Members and Volunteers in carrying out organization functions. The five western OCTA chapters (Northwest, California-Nevada, Idaho, Utah Crossroads, and Southern Trails) may receive priority attention. We are seeking an individual who lives generally in the western United States who has a home office with an internet-connected computer and phone. Some travel may be required.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Promote OCTA's Mission by assisting OCTA

Chapter Members and Volunteers:

- a) Support efforts to increase public awareness of the trails, including but not limited to making public speaking engagements with service clubs, government organizations, historic/archaeological societies, and others
- b) Serve as a liaison with OCTA National, the National Park Service (NPS), other governmental agencies, and other trail and historical organizations.
- c) Assist with educational research and seek to develop MOUs with universities and other historical and/or archaeological societies
- d) Assist chapters, members, and volunteers with promotions and projects, outreach, and establishing priorities, especially with signing and site development, app development, and programs to attract people to trail sites
- e) Attend chapter meetings and events upon invitation

- f) Participate in chapter president conference calls
 - g) Assist chapters, members, and volunteers to identify and develop chapter leadership
2. Assist OCTA Chapters, members, and volunteers with:
- a) identifying and promoting projects for trail protection and development
 - b) identifying funding opportunities to accomplish protection and development of the trails, including trail interpretive and preservation projects.
3. Assist the OCTA Association Manager in sustaining and growing membership.
4. Assist OCTA Association Manager in liaison with NPS National Trails Office - Santa Fe.
5. Serve as OCTA's clearinghouse and information center for trail preservation and development activities by and in OCTA Chapters, including, but not limited to, a calendar of events, assisting chapters with promotional material, and encouraging chapters to have a presence at related events.
6. Assist in developing annual Task Agreements with NPS National Trails Office - Santa Fe Cooperative Agreement.
7. Assist in the review, revision, and execution of OCTA's Strategic Plan.

The Scope of Work is primarily to assist the Association Manager in carrying out OCTA's functions including, but not limited to the Duties and Responsibilities as described in this agreement. The Western Regional Representative (WRR) is expected to devote an equivalent of 26-27 hours per week over the course of the 39 week contract. The position pays \$23.85/hour, not to exceed 1,040 hours. The term of contract will run through September 30, 2021, and may possibly be renewed, subject to approval by the OCTA Board of Directors. This position is as an independent contractor and not an employee of OCTA.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume by Friday, December 18 to John Winner and Travis Boley at swinner@dataentree.com and tboley@indepmo.org.

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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Email: octa@indepmo.org

Jay Lawrence, Editor
530 Ohio Avenue, Long Beach CA 90814
Phone: (562) 760-1999
Spring 2021 Issue Deadline: February 25, 2021
Send materials to: jaylawrenceocta@gmail.com

Awards Deadline is June 1, 2021

Nominations are due June 1 for the annual OCTA awards to be presented at the 2021 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

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.



2021 OCTA CONVENTION

ELKONV
SEPTEMBER 13-16



BUS TOURS

Long Canyon

Fort Ruby (including site tour) and Ruby Valley

Wells/Osino area (including Gun Museum)

Gravelly Ford



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Trail Days at the

California Trail Interpretive Center

Basque Dancers and Cowboy Poetry



**FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS
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www.octa-trails.org



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1019
Independence MO 64051

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NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

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

- A unique collection of original artifacts and special exhibits
- Firsthand written accounts, travel diaries and journals
- Interactive displays, audio guides and gallery walks
- Children's programs and activities
- A robust research library
- A gift store with the region's largest selection of trails books and merchandise

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

318 W. Pacific • Independence, MO 64050 • www.FrontierTrailsMuseum.org