



TRAIL DUST



Idaho Chapter
Oregon-California Trails Association

I-OCTA Members have Membership in National OCTA. All Dues Paid to OCTA, Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519

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ST. JOSEPH, MO, OCTA CONVENTION: WELL DONE!

EDITOR

The 24th annual convention of the Oregon-California Trails Association was very much the kind of gathering of members and visitors that most attendees look forward to enjoying. With relatively few glitches—not worth recalling—the presentations and field trips were pleasurable and informative, and the local chapter was able to share trail related and general history of the area with visitors from many other states and some foreign countries! The Saint Joe Road, a well used emigrant trail, was featured in presentations and site visits as well as the Jessie James related historical events and sites, the Pony Express story, some Lewis and Clark history, Joseph Robidoux's St. Joe city history, and other related and associated early years' historical developments. And the Ramada's *guest breakfasts* were worth getting up early to enjoy!

John Atkinson's crew of convention planners and event providers, too numerous to name and thank individually, are to be commended and long appreciated. To be sure this Editor was watching and making many notes not ever before attended to with such intensity, and other attendees were probably doing the same, for the Idaho OCTA Chapter will one day be hosting the convention! I-OCTA will have lots of assistance and sharing the implementation with others, including *some members from local neighboring historical society and others* who want to share the pleasure of offering Idaho's historical resources to visitors from around the west and the nation. Interest is growing among other groups as well!

Some important business was conducted during the convention, and there will be a report later in this paper. It is hard to choose highlights from the convention to feature here because there were so many events and activities that merit reporting and sharing. One of the highlights for I-OCTA was the presentation to the chapter of many pages of copies of Ezra Meeker's original Oregon Trail maps that he inscribed in 1910 as he crossed our state. The supportive reception of the Meeker reenactment wagon, oxen and staff all across Idaho, prior to the convention on their way to St Joe from Washington State, prompted this gift.

Dave Welch, OCTA's Preservation Officer, and Dennis Larsen who has been working on publishing Ezra's diary

and other writings discovered Meeker's old maps in storage in Washington, and have been able to copy them for study and information. The set that crossed Idaho is forty-three 11X17 inch pages, so it is a very appropriate scale for much detail. Meeker traveled back across the trail in 1906 and in 1910, and on the later trip he drew the maps as he went along on an accurate township /section informational background map! **McGill Photo**



EZRA MEEKER/RAY EGAN SHARED SOME OF HIS LIFE AND TRAIL HISTORY WITH CONVENTION ATTENDEES

The times of sharing the presentations and field trip experiences with other friend who are usually seen only each year at the convention is unparalleled as far as common interests in preservation of the old emigrant trails and historic sights. How encouraging the times of fellowship and group accomplishments are each year. Unfortunately there are limits on the pleasures, pictures,



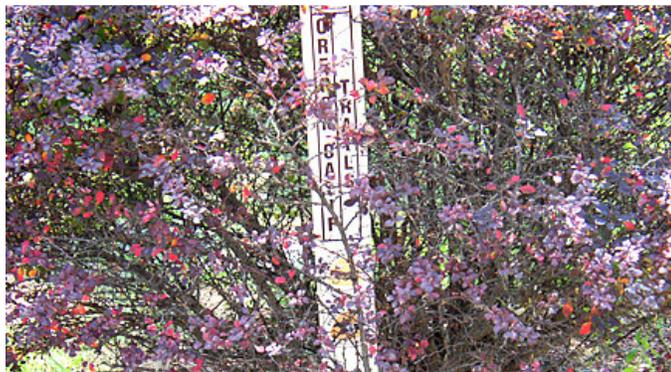
WIDE, DEEP WAGON SWALE OF THE ST. JOE EMIGRANT ROAD, STILL BECKONING NEAR FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

memories and experiences that can be widely shared with chapter members who miss the OCTA main events! How good it is when new members and members with many obligations are finally able to attend our conventions. We encourage others to plan toward involvement.



TWO WEEK OLD KEVIN WEGNER, AND GRANDMOTHER, ARLENE WEGNER. MOTHER, LISA, WAS ALSO NEARBY!

The youngest conventioner was Kevin Wegner and the oldest was surely Ezra Meeker himself, born in 1830, and first on the Oregon Trail west when he was 22 years old. The trip this summer, back east from Washington State to St. Joe by a whole entourage of Meeker wagon supporters and presenters, and the convention attendees celebrated 100 years since Ezra first went back over the Trail in 1906, and planted many stone trail monuments that still stand.



MARKER IN COLORFUL BUSH, MISSOURI R. CROSSING

One benefit of the conventions is meeting others with common interests, and members of other chapters who share some common trails. This can lead to cooperative efforts in carrying out our preservation and educational efforts. This Preservation Officer met Don Hartley, Preservation Officer from western Wyoming. He informed us that they were planning to mark the Lander Cutoff in the spring of 2007, and we know that trail also extends into Idaho. We are hoping to co-plan a trip where we can have members from both chapters meet and mark all the remaining areas necessary—across both states! This was one trail discussed by I-OCTA at the spring 2006 planning meeting, but that was not one trail selected for work this season. We can now plan again!

A short note about the possibility of the 2008 convention. Roger Blair, Pres. of NWOCTA from Pendleton, OR, has volunteered to co-chair and bring others for assistance if I-OCTA will consider hosting the convention in Idaho. Leaders and members of other chapters also met with Roger and our members to discuss this consideration, and several people from close-by chapters would also assist the Idaho Chapter. Some amount of information will be collected by October 7, 2006, for the I-OCTA Board and members meetings. Roger Blair and Vern Gorzitze, Pres. OCTA, will attend those meetings.



ALABAMA BROTHER AND SISTERS WHO ENJOY TRAIL DUST, JUDY SAUNDERS, JIM HERRING, MARTHA EPSY

The above three Alabamians have been encouraged to join I-OCTA, and they volunteered to assist if a convention could be planned and held in Idaho! Come on over!

Board Meeting and other Business at OCTA Convention 2006 by Bill Wilson

Travis Boley's report included the July 18th stunner that the Elko contingent was backing out of hosting the 2008 OCTA Convention. (See other story about possibility of Idaho hosting it.) Travis suggested a possibility of having it at San Bernardino, CA, but no one has been contacted yet. Also in Travis' report was a July 12 letter from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, informing Travis that his submission of the City of Rocks Reserve land acquisition with preservation of Register Rock did *not* receive a 2006 National Preservation Award. (It was one of 132 nominations, and didn't make the "cut" --- but Travis tried!)

Committee "B" (John Mark Lambertson – chair) discussed recommendations for by-laws changes that were made, with the help of *Camille Bradford* (Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter president and Colorado attorney), to bring our by-laws into conformance with Colorado law, the state where OCTA is chartered. Formal approval will be given these changes at the Board Meeting next March 2007.

Dr. Sharon Brown led presented OCTA's draft Strategic Plan, that evolved from a planning session last March at Phoenix. Formal approval will be given next March.

Candy Mouton was renewed as editor of *The News From The Plains*. Ariane Smith, [long time assistant to Bob Clark] was approved, subject to contract signing, as the new editor of *The Overland Journal*, replacing Bob.

The election imbroglio [see below] came up for discussion, and various solutions were presented (and voted down). It was finally approved to submit the question to the Membership at the annual meeting on Wednesday. [The members voted against ratifying the election because of an irregularity in the ballot, *no write in* opportunity, and because of the lack of having sufficient candidates to fill the four open board positions.] The following motion was passed at the Wednesday meeting:

Special Election Motion.

Dick Pingrey... "I move that the General Membership waves the requirement to ratify the results of the special election for board members [and] the election to be held following the 2006 convention if less than 50% of the eligible members vote. Further that the four candidates receiving the most votes be seated immediately after the votes are counted thereby filling the four vacancies created when the term of office expired for board member on Aug. 9, 2006. This waving of the requirement to certify the election results applies only to this special replacement election this year." It passed unanimously in the affirmative by the approximately 250 person audience.

The OCTA budget was adopted for 2006-2007.

The American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, was approved as a second OCTA branch Trails Library. (The main OCTA Trails Library is at Independence, MO, and the first OCTA branch Trails Library is at the California State Library in Sacramento.) **16 Aug. 2006**

Idaho Chapter's Jim McGill receives OCTA's most Prestigious Award. by Bill Wilson

At the OCTA Awards Banquet on Wednesday evening, August 9, 2006, our own chapter Preservation Officer, James W. McGill, was awarded OCTA's highest award, the Meritorious Achievement Award. It was given for his diligent efforts in researching and documenting the route of the Goodale Trail, north and west from the Boise area and on into Oregon, as well as his research in tracking down the *descendants* of Tim Goodale and his Native American wife, Jennie, [Now friends of the trail!]

Jim took his wife, Patti, along up to the speaker's stand to accept the award, noting that *she had participated in all of his research,[the field trips] and documentation on Goodale*. In his acceptance speech, Jim said: "It was one of the most exciting moments of my life." And I guarantee you'd agree if you had been sitting next to him at the banquet table (as this writer was), and noted the surprise on his face when the award was announced; Jim was almost struck senseless. It was a fitting reward for all his efforts regarding Goodale and the Goodale Trail westerly from the Boise area. (And it was also a pleasure for this Idaho Chapter writer to see someone from Idaho receive this Award.) **16 August 2006**



Editor's Note: Not only are all the accomplishments shared by Patti, but there have been so many others who have assisted on the trail, sent information in response to our searches, and found pertinent records that added much to the Goodale story--and some have helped find the marvelous remnants of the old trail. Thanks to all of you!

Meeker Re-Enactment Visit to Boise, July 27, 2006 by Bill Wilson

The Meeker Centennial Re-Enactment team rolled into Boise on Wednesday, and camped on the grounds of the Borah Post Office (the same place Meeker camped in 1906). Thursday morning, July 27th, they took the wagon down to the street in front of the Idaho Historical Museum, and unloaded it from its covered trailer. Then Dixon Ford, of Sandy, UT, owner of the oxen, hitched Thor and Zeus to the wagon. At 9:30 A.M., led by a group of school children (and Boise motorcycle police) and some OCTA members, they paraded north up Capitol Blvd. to the Capital building. There they parked the 100 year old Meeker wagon in front of the Statehouse, and moved the oxen back to the shade where they'd camped that night before.

Bill Wilson Photo



THE EZRA MEEKER WAGON ON THE STREET IN BOISE

At 11:00, actor Ray Egan as Ezra Meeker [photo, p. 1], put on a show at the Egyptian Theater, followed by a slide presentation by Meeker scholar, Dennis Larson, about the 1906 Meeker trip. At noon there was a catered chuck wagon barbecue in Capitol Park. OCTA Preservation Officer Dave Welch, and his wife Wendy, in period costume were traveling with the Meeker team. Besides Bill Wilson, I-OCTA members Larry Jones and Wally Meyer came for lunch and to view the celebration.

At 2:15 a ceremony was held near the Meeker Monument on Statehouse grounds, to bury a new Time Capsule under that monument. Various dignitaries spoke, including a great great granddaughter of Meeker (she and her brother were in attendance). Governor Risch's wife handed out awards to the 13 children whose suggestions for inclusions in the Time Capsule were chosen. Then Governor Risch and Mayor Bieter filled the new stainless steel Time Capsule, screwed on the lid, and lowered it into its repository in the new base for the Meeker Monument. Those of you who want to find out what was placed in the Time Capsule will have to wait around until 2106. [Thanks for all of Bill's writings!]

BURNED GOODALE PRESERVATION

Another Idaho burn, north of Emmett, slightly singed a few of the new carsonite posts that had recently been installed on the Goodale North route, and only one needed to be replaced. It had been installed on a crossing of a branch of Rock Creek near heavy foliage and was

burned enough to need replacing. Surprisingly, one post that had been *planted in heavy sage brush* at the top of the grade north of Sucker Creek (next photo) and which post was featured in a photo in the *last issue of Trail Dust* (fourth page) with this writer's two grandchildren beside it was unburned and only the decals melted!



MEG DAVIS OF GEM CO. HIS. SOCIETY & AMY LINVILLE --BEHIND--BOTH NEAR UNBURNED, BRUSH-FREE POST

The huge August fire west of Ola, ID, had burned west to Big Flat Road, and along for about 2 miles where the Goodale 1863 variant follows the eastern road side. New swale sections were found, including a crossing where rocks were worn smooth by ancient wagon wheels! First-time trail visitor and high school teacher, Amy Linville was very impressed. Her experiences soon led to her voluntary question, "How do I join your trails association?" Aren't we always happy to hear this?



ROCKY-FLAT CROSSING, VIEW TOWARD ROCK CREEK

This August 18 trip began by getting permission from Christeen Mitchell to place a carsonite post on about 200 yards of pristine ruts across a sage brush patch on private land as the trail once began the ascent from the Van Dussen Ranch to Sucker Creek crossing. Christeen and her father, Jim Mitchell, will now be including on the *Trail Dust* mailing list! Amy Linville consented to drive her first carsonite marker on the previously unmarked private property, sage-lined swale (photo below).

Several new markers were placed and the new "1863 Variant" decals were added to existing markers. About 200 more yards of original ruts were also marked across the tilted flat south of Willow Creek, discovered during the last trip to the area. The work finished/distinguished



AMY RESTS AFTER FIRST BIG TRAIL MARKING DUTY!

this earliest miner/emigrant trail across an area that has four different era roads still in existence. One large stone was also discovered near some newly-found ruts with a deep, three-foot axle groove along its side surface!

City of Rocks Concerns and Reactions

Doug Jenson, Pres. I-OCTA

Over the course of the past few months, several of the major newspapers in Idaho have carried articles about the climbing situation at the City of Rocks. The rock climbers, through the Access Fund, are making a concerted effort to reverse the climbing ban on the Twin Sisters formation.

Several members of the Idaho chapter have contacted me, asking what OCTA is doing, on either a national or local level, to counter this threat. We have indeed done some things, but I have been remiss in not informing the chapter on our actions.

Near the end of April, Wally Kuck, the superintendent of the City of Rocks National Reserve, contacted me regarding the climbing plan. He went to some effort to track me down at work, but finally reached me in person. He informed me that they were accepting comments from the public related to revisions to the climbing plan, and that he had received numerous comments from the climbers, but nothing from the trails organizations. Inasmuch as the comment period was closing that day, would I care to submit something?

I submitted comments, via e-mail, on behalf of our chapter as well as the national OCTA organization. The next day I received a long e-mail showing all the comments. We are on record as opposing changes to the climbing plan as far as the Twin Sisters formation is concerned.

It was my distinct impression that Mr. Kuck basically doesn't want to allow climbing on Twin Sisters, but needed something on the record to support that position.

On another front, the climbers appear to be working with our elected representatives to force a change to the climbing plan via legislative action. At the convention in St. Joseph last week I visited with Bill Watson, OCTA's

legislative liaison on the matter, and he has some ideas on approaches we might pursue. I will be communicating with him and will pass along specific actions for us as individuals who are concerned with trail preservation.

LARRY JONES RETIRED!

Larry Jones, Idaho State Historian and first President of I-OCTA retired on August 1st! One of his last big projects was working for many months on the Lewis-Clark project that celebrated 150 years, which occupied him extensively. We are hoping that he will now find more time to assist with the I-OCTA trail work and pleasurable outings ahead!

A retirement celebration will allow others to show their appreciation for his devotion and 35 years of accomplishments, at the recently new Idaho History Center, 2205 Old Pen Rd., Boise, Aug. 28, 2006, from 4-6 PM.

SEPTEMBER I-OCTA ACTIVITIES

I-OCTA members and visitors will travel to the **Arco, ID, area for the Saturday, Sept. 9**, checking of the burned area across the Jeffrey-Goodale SE of Big Southern Butte. There will also be an effort to add the "McTucker Road" decals to the northern route of the old emigrant and stage road from Blackfoot to Big Butte. A few new markers will be placed on previous unmarked segments of that trail. Meeting time is **9:00 AM, on that Saturday** in the parking lot of the **D-K Motel**, east side of Arco. **1 800 231 0134** for reservations.

On **September 23, at 9:00 AM**, all interested field-trip participants will meet at the **AJ Restaurant back parking lot, Mountain Home, ID**. They will follow the Jeffrey-Goodale from Dixie Creek Station to the west and to the top of upper Ditto Creek drainage—where a prior trip on October 9, 2004, allowed *Lyle Lambert to wash out the inside of his mini-van's engine in a stream!* Norma Dart, local I-OCTA friend, has obtained permission from ranchers to cross their private lands.

Arrangements are being made to *GIS a segment of the Oregon Trail* in the area of Canyon Creek Station, north of Mt. Home, on **Sept. 30**. **Visitors** are welcome—anyone not directly involved but who would like to see the process. (**Immigrant Road E of the station**—at the trail crossing, **9:30 AM**.)

There will be other last-minute, email announced day-trips during Aug., Sept, and Oct. (or by phone if you have an interest and send your number to this editor by phone or mail), some on the Goodale Cutoff north of Boise and other trails' segments where needed. We must *plan with the BLM for some of the trail areas*

The "Goodale's Cutoff North" across Idaho, 2005, and "Goodale's Cutoff in Oregon" with the Goodale family history are both still available, on CD or print.

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Goodale North Day Trip, August 30, 2006

The last *Wednesday of August* has been set aside as a probable field trip up the Goodale Cutoff north of Emmett, ID, for all who would like to attend. There will be only short hikes off of the road for those who choose to do so, mostly riding Fourmile Road beyond the pass above Fourmile Creek following the trail. Email or call for a planned meeting time and place jwmcgill@pobox.com – 208 467 4853.

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Lois Fairfield Photo, Nebraska



EARLY OCTA BAND MEMBERS TUNED UP IN ST. JOSEPH WITH ESTHER KREEK ON HER HAMMERED DULCIMER

Plan for October 7, 2006, at Fairfield, ID, fall I-OCTA Board Meeting & Membership Meeting. Possible Jeffrey Goodale field trip in afternoon, back toward Mountain Home on the trail over Castle Rocks pass.

(All photos not attributed to other photographers are taken by the Editor and wife, Patti.)

Anyone who would like to share Trail Dust with others, Historical Society members, etc., please send or have their email sent to the Editor. We are proud to share Idaho's Trails with others who are interested-----potential OCTA members!
