

**I-OCTA Members have Membership in National OCTA. All Dues Paid OCTA, Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519**  
 XX Issue 11 December 2008 James McGill, Editor [jwmcgill@pobox.com](mailto:jwmcgill@pobox.com)  
 208 467 4853/ Cell 250 6045

**CONVENTION ECHOES—REPEATING THE FIELD TRIPS** **EDITOR**

On October 11, 2008, the Canyon County Historical Society, one of the most involved of all other groups assisting OCTA with the Nampa convention, repeated the first Owyhee County Utter Disaster field trip. This was planned to be the first of the trips to be repeated for local folks interested in the trails. The Utter II, in eastern Oregon, is planned for spring 2009, and then others will follow during the summer. Forty-six people enjoyed the day, though it was a bit cool and windy, and the Historical Society managed to get the same bus and driver that was used in August. This made the trip easier, and also benefited the Owyhee County Historical Society where the group again stopped for lunch. Many books were purchased that were related to the tour and to the history of that county. It is exciting to know that the end of the convention did not end the related interests, new members' opportunities, and a continuous spreading of the trail and emigrant information.

McGill

The cooler weather was only a slight distraction, and in some ways an improvement over the heat of August. During side tours when the air conditioning had to be turned off in August, in pleasant and without the distraction. Many follow up letters from participants indicated that the cool day was offset by the interesting and informational trip. Several people indicated that they did not want to miss the second part in the spring! That tour will be the *first Saturday in April 2009*. Call **208 467 7611** if you would like to be notified when plans are firm and sign-up is ready.

Word has come from the Malheur Country Historical Society, MCHS, in Eastern Oregon that they also did a follow-up tour of the eastern end of the Utter sites on November 8. Not much detail is known, but it appeared to be a close duplication by Tom Gray of the Utter II tour he led twice during the convention.

On November 13, 2008, Patti and Jim McGill, by invitation, visited MCHS at Ontario, OR, and presented the information which had also been given during the Nampa Convention on Goodale's Cutoff route across Oregon. That went from the Brownlee Ferry in Hells



**TOUR PARTICIPANTS VIEWED UTTER ATTACK SITES**  
 Canyon to the west and the Baker Valley, then SW to Auburn, OR. A notebook of the research, trail photos from the remnants that have been rediscovered, GLO maps of the areas and satellite photos of the trail was compiled and given to the Historical Society for their historic records. In these ways some of the records and information that was available during the convention was not finished after the week in August, but continues to be spread to more people who have interests in the emigrant trails history of the Northwest.

## *Diaries Across Idaho* Jerry Eichhorst Steamboat Spring

Emigrant diarists looked forward to seeing the springs along Bear River in the area that we now call Soda Springs. Many referred to them as a great curiosity and commented on the quality and taste of the water. Some went to great lengths describing the mineral cones from which the springs flowed. Nearby Steamboat Spring was also mentioned frequently. A chugging sound caused by the structure of the water outlet reminded emigrants of the sound of a steamboat. Today, the town of Soda Springs has grown up around the natural springs while Steamboat Spring is under the water of Alexander Reservoir.

In July of 1852, Enoch Conyers and his wagon train from Quincy, Illinois reached Soda Springs. After a short rest, they went on to Steamboat Spring where this unusual incident took place.

\*\*\* “July 22—Thursday.—We started at 7 a. m. and traveled eight miles to Soda Springs. These springs are indeed a great curiosity—hollow cones nearly three feet in diameter and four feet high are formed by the mineral water. At times these cones will be filled with water and strongly impregnated with soda; in a short time the water in the cones will disappear, leaving nothing but a reddish-colored sediment in the bottom of the cone. There are over twenty of these cones in this vicinity. A number of them are extinct. Fremont in his works gives splendid descriptions of these springs. On the right-hand side of the road is a small grove of timber and near the edge of this grove is located a clear, cold spring of water. It has no taste whatever of soda. All the other springs are strongly impregnated with soda. Many of the emigrants relish the taste of this sodawater and drink freely of it, but I cannot endure it. After remaining here for about thirty minutes we came on one mile to a point of land jutting out into the Bear River, where, a short distance from the trail on the right-hand bank of Bear River, is the famous Steamboat Spring, which can be seen from the road. One of our company, R. L. Doyle, made a wager that he could stop the flow of water from this spring by sitting on the crevice. He waited until the water began to recede, then took off his pants and seated himself on the crevice. In this position he waited for the flow. He did not have to wait very long for the flow. It came gradually at first, but increased in force every moment. Doyle soon began bobbing up and down at a fearful rate. At this stage of the fun several of the boys took hold of Doyle and tried to hold him on the crevice, but in this they failed, for the more weight they added to Doyle the more power the spring seemed to have, and

Doyle kept on bobbing up and down like a cork. Finally Doyle cried out: ‘Boys, there is no use trying to hold the devil down. It can’t be did, for the more weight you put on the more the devil churns me. I am now pounded into a beefsteak.’ ”

Source: **Diary of E. W. Conyers, A Pioneer of 1852: Now of Clatskanie, Oregon**, *Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association*, Thirty-Third Annual Reunion (1905): 468-469.

[The above *diary information* is the beginning of one regular series that Jerry Eichhorst will be providing for *Trail Dust*. A growing collection of diary information, which his research has provided, will be shared with readers in each issue. Go to the IOCTA web site to see many things that Jerry posts.-- [www.IdahoOCTA.org](http://www.IdahoOCTA.org) ]

Peg Cristobal Photo



**JERRY EICHHORST, ELAINE McNABNEY VOLUNTEER AWARD--AFTON PATRICK, OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR**



**LARRY JONES-AWARD OF MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT**

### OCTA Membership Notes

Duane Iles

We continue to slowly gain members. In October we picked up a net gain of one for a total of 1636 memberships. In this time of organizations having difficulty in maintaining their numbers, we are holding on. To do

all the great things and be the leader in trail preservation we need to grow.

Don't forget the Gold Rush recruiting contest. You get a \$5 reward for each new membership or renewal redeemable at the OCTA store. You still have time to get a new recruit and be eligible for the drawing for tours and free convention registration to be awarded at the mid-year meeting in Yuma. Let us all try and give one gift membership to a relative, friend or deserving person for Christmas. Just Think! If everyone gave one gift membership, we would have over Three Thousand Members!

Wear an OCTA patch on your hat or jacket. Volunteer to give a program at one of your clubs or organizations and pass out membership brochures. As we have holiday meetings and get-together events at our chapters, bring a friend along. Don't forget those new members!! Get them involved and feeling like they have always been a member. If we don't involve our new recruits, we are missing out on talent and help, as well as maybe losing a valuable new member.

If anyone has an idea to bring in recruits or ways to keep people involved, send me a note. Duane

---

## **LETTERS AND NOTES**

**Dear Mr. McGill,** I believe Lesley Fryman may have forwarded you information regarding the Sunstone pipeline project. I am the cultural resource manager on this project. I would like to speak with you regarding your availability to attend a BLM trail friend visit on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> [the meeting date **will be reset**] to be held at Big Hill/West Sheep Creek Hill to discuss the project and the trails through this area. I would also like to speak with you about any additional areas of concern and answer any questions you may have regarding the project. Is there any way I could get your phone number to speak with you? Attached is a map of the project. I am working on getting 1:100,000 scale maps as well. I appreciate your help and assistance. Sincerely, **Heidi [Guy Hays]**

*[Copy forwarded to Jerry Eichhorst and others.]*

**Heidi:** I am of course very interested in the impact of this pipeline and appreciate the opportunity to assist. However, I don't have the luxury of taking off during the week as I have a full-time job so I am not able to join you on November 13th. I saw on the large scale map that the route would cross the North Alternate Oregon Trail east of Bliss and the main Oregon Trail northeast of Mountain Home. Hopefully I can assist you with those areas. I look forward to working with you. **Jerry Eichhorst IOCTA VP**

On the IOCTA website there is a reference to a grave at the top of Big Hill. Does anyone know the location of the grave? I want to make sure that the pipeline is avoiding marked, known graves. **Heidi**

Yes, I found the grave several years ago when Jim, Doug and I were exploring Big Hill. I can locate it on a detailed map or satellite photo. Hope you liked the web site. **Jerry Eichhorst (webmaster)**

**Heidi:** I finally was able to figure out where the section of map that you sent was located. Attached is a Google Earth satellite photo image with the route of the pipeline marked, the Oregon Trail marked by the yellow push pins, and the grave indicated. It looks like the pipeline will be about 1/2 mile to the west of the gravesite. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks, **Jerry**

I COULD PROBABLY ATTEND THIS MEETING. I HOPE LYLE WILL GO ALSO, SINCE I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE WHERE THE TRAIL CAME OVER BIG HILL... **Del Mangum**

**Mr. Mangum,** The BLM – Pocatello Field Office archaeologist, Amy Lapp, will attend, a representative of the project proponent, an engineer, and I (archaeologist representing the project) will attend. Members of OCTA and other historic trails groups are invited to attend. If you know of anyone who may be interested in attending, please let me know. This field visit will take a look to see if the proposed project will impact the trails in this area (both physically and the viewshed). At this time I do not believe the project will cross any existing ruts but we will verify that with a field visit. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions. I would love to meet with you and other OCTA members and visit the Big Hill area! Sincerely, **Heidi**

**Jim,** Being somewhat familiar with the work of Frederick Lander I've done some pondering! Lander's job, unless I'm mistaken, was to use existing emigrant roads when logical or to use variants. When obvious, Lander would also deviate when it was practical. One of his many achievements was expanding the waterhole at Rabbithole Springs on the Applegate Trail. That route was known by many names, including the Southern Road to Oregon. Anyone using the Applegate, Lassen or either the 1852 or 1856 Nobles route relied on Rabbithole Springs much earlier when Jessie Applegate or whoever realized the life-saving importance of that site. Without Rabbithole, it is doubtful, if not impossible for emigrants or later freight and stage traffic to have crossed this piece of now, nowhere, NV.

Many times I camped at Rabbithole in years past. To this day it is still in the middle of nowhere and the silence of it's isolation is deafening. There is nothing there other than a small pond surrounded by willows in the desolation of the desert. A few crumbling rock walls of a tiny structure indicate that some folks of European descent had been there before. As desolate and isolated as it remains today, it offers more in a sense than it did to the emigrants. Lander dug out the spring and made it more welcome. It became a destination for many. Nobody today goes to Rabbithole Springs unless they know where they are going or are totally lost.

What does this have to do with Idaho and what we are calling the Ross Creek Cutoff? Part of Lander's job was not only to expand waterholes and redefine trails, but to build bridges across any watercourse that would otherwise impede traffic. It may well be that the "bridge" noted by Hotchkiss was built by Lander after the closure of Fort Hall, in 1856, but before the official opening of the Lander Road in 1858/59.

My best to all, **Joe [King]**

**LETTER TO NPS, REPLY BY CHUCK MILLIKEN**

**Lillie Lancaster**, Hailey, Idaho

I am the photo editor of Sun Valley Magazine in Hailey, Idaho. We are running a history section in an upcoming magazine that outlines the California Trail - especially the section in Idaho. I am looking for any information available - maps, images, etc. If you can help me or direct me to the correct person - I would greatly appreciate it as I want this piece to be stellar. Thanks so much for your time - **Lillie**

**Hello Lillie**, Thank you for inquiring about the California National Historic Trail. We do have a partial series of auto tour route interpretive guides and a brochure and map of the entire trail that we will mail to your address within the next one to two business days. The interpretive guides are a work in progress and currently include only the eastern half of the trail from Missouri through Wyoming. The interpretive guide and regional map are also available as an adobe PDF document that can be downloaded from the trail web site link above. Click on the links to the Auto Tour Route Interpretive Guides from the trail web site.

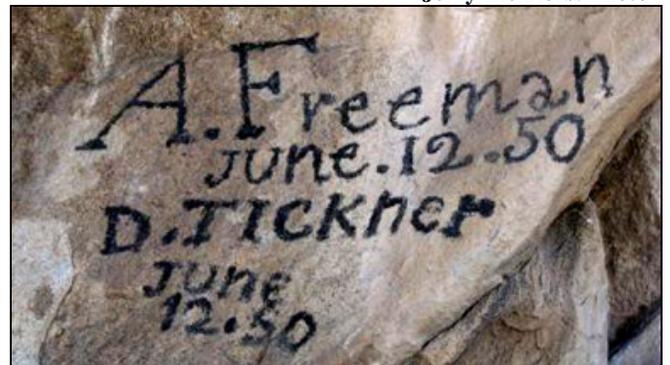
The NPS has some images of the California NHT in southern Idaho, mostly from the City of Rocks National Reserve at Almo, Idaho. There are some segments of the original trail that still exist across southern Idaho. City of Rocks is probably the best location to still see the original trail. Other locations are on private lands. If you have some idea what images you might be look-

ing for, I will see what I can round up for you. These images would be public domain, courtesy of the National Park Service.

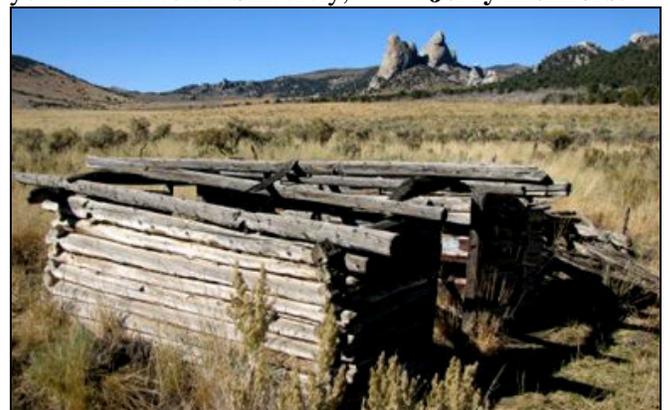
I will also copy your inquiry to the Oregon-California Trails Association, Idaho Chapter. These folks will be a great resource for the local trail history. One of the best contacts will be Jim McGill who can be contacted at: [jwmcgill@cablone.net](mailto:jwmcgill@cablone.net) You will also find a wealth of information on the trail web site, especially once you access the history and the Links & Resources areas of the site. There you will also find links to other web sites that have additional information about the trail.

Your special interest in the national historic trails program is greatly appreciated. If we may be of further service, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

**Chuck Milliken** [Info forwarded to others]  
**Jerry Eichhorst Photo**



**Lillie:** I will be happy to help you in any way that I can. City of Rocks has some very good ruts as well as many inscriptions *written on the rocks by the emigrants in axle grease*. I was just there a month ago and visited some of those as well as the *old Kelton Road stage station* which is on the Salt Lake Road which joined the California Trail just west of the preserve. I am including a picture of the stage station with Twin Sisters in the background. In addition, I have compiled a large number of diaries from the routes across Idaho and may be able to assist you with some diary quotes if you are interested. Sincerely, **Jerry Eichhorst**



**TWIN SISTERS BEHIND KELTON RD. STAGE STATION**

## **THE APPLGATE TRAIL Albany, OR.**

At 2:00 pm on Sunday, January 11, 2009 Leta Neiderheiser will discuss The Applegate Trail - South Road to Oregon at the Lakeside Center of the Mennonite Village in Albany. Leta is the great-great granddaughter of the prominent pioneer Jesse Applegate. She grew up in the Drain-Yoncall area where Jesse Applegate moved in 1849. Leta spent twenty years teaching in the Rocklin, California school system, and she and her husband moved back to Oregon in 2001. She serves on the Oregon Historic Trail Advisory Council, the Oregon Historic Trails Fund Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Oregon-California Trails Association. Leta has written and published a book, *Annie's Story*, that chronicles the day-to-day life of Anna McKirdy Lovelace, a great-granddaughter of Jesse Applegate. The inspiring story gives the reader a birds-eye view of early twentieth century rural life in western Oregon as Annie's family struggled to maintain their lifestyle on her grandfather Applegate's donation land claim in the Hayhurst Valley. Leta has also written a book, *Jesse Applegate, A Dialog with Destiny*, that is awaiting publication. Neiderheiser is one of the "talking heads" shown on the CD/video *A South Road To Oregon . . . The History of the Applegate Trail* produced by Southern Oregon Public Television. Copies of *Annie's Story* will be available for purchase.

This Linn County Historical Society sponsored program is free and open to the public. **Glenn**  
[glennharrison@cmug.com](mailto:glennharrison@cmug.com)

---

## **All Trails Lead to Yuma**

### **OCTA's Midwinter Historic Trails Symposium January 16-18, 2009**

The registration deadline to attend OCTA's Midwinter Historic Trails Symposium at Yuma, Arizona's Shilo Inn from January 16-18, 2009 is fast approaching. In order to avoid the late-registration fee, be sure to register by December 15. Great speakers and tours are planned, and OCTA's midyear board meeting will precede the festivities. Make your plans to attend now!

Paper registrations were included in a special four-page insert in the last issue of *News From the Plains*, but you can also register online now at the [Yuma Registration Page](#). If you're already pre-registered, be sure not to pay the registration fee again. Space at the symposium will be limited, and tour spots will be even more limited. There are still 17 spots left on the Southern Trails tour along the Gila River and the 10 AM boat tour of the Colorado River has 13 available openings. The 8 AM boat tour has ample room left, with 23 holes remaining to be filled. If you're pre-

registered, you are guaranteed a spot on one of the tours. A few folks who pre-registered still have not completed their registration, so be sure to drop by our online link to finish signing up for the tours and meals of your choice. Don't delay! Register immediately to ensure your spot at the symposium and on the tour of your choice!

Sincerely,  
Travis Boley, Association Manager

---

## **Rediscovered Frontiersman: Timothy Goodale** By James W. McGill

Timothy Goodale (1810-1869), and the Oregon Trail cutoff that bears his name, loom large in the history of the West and overland travel. James W. McGill has rescued the man and his work in this thoroughly researched, comprehensive account of a remarkable western frontiersman, his Indian wife, and the trail he pioneered—a *legacy important to Idaho and Oregon*.

Goodale left his boyhood home in Potsdam, New York, in 1830 at age nineteen, seeking adventure and a new life in the West. Beginning as a fur trapper and trader throughout the West, he learned the routes of the Indians and shared their lives. He associated and worked with Kit Carson, John C. Frémont, Frederick Lander, and many other notable westerners.

*Rediscovered Frontiersman* tells of Goodale's nearly 40 years adventurous tale until his tragic death in 1869, and the sad after-story of his Lemhi Shoshone wife, Jennie, including *present descendants* from Goodale's youngest daughter, Mary Winona. At various times he was an explorer, mountain man, hunter, cattle and sheep drover, emigrant and military guide, surveyor, road builder, trading post operator, ferryman, Indian-emigrant relations mediator, U.S. mail carrier, and Indian representative to the U.S. government.

The opening of the Goodale Cutoff in 1862, a mining/emigrant trail to the goldfields in the mountains of Eastern Oregon and the Boise Basin in Idaho (roads with extensive/variable uses for many decades), is recounted in detail. Detailed maps illuminate that story.

A handsome volume of 272 pages, 7 x 10 inches, profusely illustrated with photographs and maps of the Goodale Cutoff. **(Available Winter 2008-09)**

Available in paperback @ \$24.95, (\$19.96) or collector's edition in hardcover (limited to 50 signed/numbered copies) @ \$65.00. (\$52) **Until December 31, 2008, a 20% discount will apply.**

**Oregon-California Trails Association**  
P.O. Box 1019 Independence, MO 64051-0519  
Or Call Toll Free: (888) 811-6282 or (816)-252-2276

---

**I-OCTA OFFICERS AND STAFF**

**Doug Jenson** - President [jensondd@ida.net](mailto:jensondd@ida.net)

**Lyle Lambert** Vice-Pres. 208 681 0562

**Jerry Eichhorst** Vice-Pres. [jeichho@mail.com](mailto:jeichho@mail.com)

**William Wilson** – Treasurer & Membership Chair  
[ma\\_bill@msn.com](mailto:ma_bill@msn.com)

**Kay Coffman** - Secretary [minikatz2@aol.com](mailto:minikatz2@aol.com)

**James McGill**-Preservation [jwmcgill@pobox.com](mailto:jwmcgill@pobox.com)

**Jerry Eichhorst** - Webmaster [IdahoOCTA.org](http://IdahoOCTA.org)

**Peg Cristobal** – Historian (see below)

**Wendy Miller**–Lib. [info@canyoncountyhistory.com](mailto:info@canyoncountyhistory.com)

**Board of Directors**

**Peg Cristobal** [crispp@mindspring.com](mailto:crispp@mindspring.com)

**Dell Mangum** [target@cbyteusa.net](mailto:target@cbyteusa.net)

**Suzi Pengilly** [suzi.pengilly@ishs.idaho.gov](mailto:suzi.pengilly@ishs.idaho.gov)

**Amy Ballard** [acdbmars@hotmail.com](mailto:acdbmars@hotmail.com)

**Fred Dykes** [fdykes@prodigy.net](mailto:fdykes@prodigy.net)

---

**CONVENTION RELATED CD**

A convention related CD is ready with **two files of the note-book color photos, maps, GLO Survey plats, and satellite photos** that were included and available as part of **Tours B and C**. The photos and other aids follow many of the trail swales and remnants along the two tour routes, which were not available to be seen on the bus tours. The area maps and satellite photos of the same trail segments offer much information that could not be made available without off-road visits. The photos, etc, that were shown during Jim McGill's presentation on the *Goodale Cutoff in Oregon* are also included in a file on the CD. The CD is available for \$8.00, including postage and shipping. Request from:  
**Jim McGill, 305 Melba Drive,**  
**208 467 4853 Nampa, ID, 83686**

---

**NEW TO I-OCTA AND/OR OCTA**

**Fred Hallberg**, Nampa

**JAMES W. MCGILL, EDITOR**  
**IDAHO CHAPTER OF OCTA**  
**305 MELBA DRIVE**  
**NAMPA, IDAHO 83686**