



# 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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## SPRING MEETING OF I-OCTA MEMBERS, WITH VISITORS!

EDITOR

Twenty-two members of I-OCTA and two visitors from National OCTA met in Bliss, Idaho, on April 29, 2006, for the Chapter's spring membership meeting. Vern Gorzitze, President of OCTA from Salt Lake City, and Travis Boley, Association Manager from Independence, MO, both came many miles to be involved, and to indicate for the membership the close relationship and integral part of OCTA that all chapters have in our work together. The chapters are not independent entities for together all members actually make OCTA the important association that is very involved in preservation of America's historic trails! A field trip after the meeting took members and visitors to see and share sections of the Oregon Trail near Three Island Snake River Crossing, Glens Ferry, ID, and the Oregon Trail Visitor's Center at that site.



**TRAVIS BOLEY & VERN GORZITZE AT I-OCTA MEETING**

Vern Gorzitze, who was also the Convention Chairman and head planner for the Salt Lake City National OCTA Convention in August 2006, was very encouraging about the possibility of having the same Convention in Idaho in 2010, probably in the Treasure valley! Membership in Idaho's I-OCTA comes from all across the state, and no center of population presently has a majority of members that number enough to plan and implement such a convention. However, offers were made to the chapter for some assistance from both the National Association and neighboring chapters that could make possible in Idaho this important time each year!

Some preliminary planning has already been done, looking at the possibility of having the 2010 Convention in the Nampa, ID, area. This is an easily accessible area

that would be somewhat central to field trip access to many parts of Idaho's historic trail areas—toward Mountain Home, into Owyhee County, to the west into eastern Oregon (some of the Utter Disaster sites), and also northerly to some of the remnants of the Goodale's Cutoff portion of the Oregon Trails system that has recently been discovered, toward Emmett and beyond.

Idaho possibly has more miles of the real remnants of the Oregon Trail system than any other western state! In this western part of the state these include the main Oregon Trail and the North Alternate through Elmore, Ada, and Canyon Counties, the South Alternate through Elmore and Owyhee Counties, and Goodale's Cutoff NW of Eagle through part of Ada, Gem and Payette Counties—the last two which were both once the northern Canyon County! All the historic emigration from the east, and many forms of travel and transportation for 4-5 decades followed these trails across, to and within Idaho.

The OCTA Convention has been held in both Boise and Pocatello in past years, and both were some of the largest in attendance of all conventions for the last 25 years! I-OCTA and other cooperating historical and preservation groups have much to offer members from other states, visitors and members who even come from other countries, and *all local people who do appreciate sharing in our history!* Historical presentations, field trips, and many trail related activities are always part of

the nearly week-long conventions, including pre and post-convention field trips guided by people who have much knowledge and expertise in trail history.

OCTA brochures and information are always available on-line at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org) and from I-OCTA at [www.Idahooccta.org](http://www.Idahooccta.org) or from the mailing address found at the top of page one.

McGill Photos



**SOME OFFICERS AND MEMBERS MEETING AT BLISS, ID**

Annual items of business were tended to by I-OCTA members, and plans and schedules for the current year were formulated and approved. Business reports from the chapter and from the mid-year OCTA Board meeting were approved, as well as I-OCTA's activities schedule, and other trail related activities were discussed. Some of these were the Meeker reenactment schedule, the Elderhostle trail related trips from Independence to the west, and possible historic signs to be placed, trail marking and preservation efforts and the fall business meeting plan for Fairfield, ID—Oct. 7, 06. (Minutes of the meeting are found on page three.)

### **DISAPPEARING OREGON TRAIL FOLLOW-UP**

There is important follow-up about the Oregon Trail damage that was discussed in the April issue of *Trail Dust* after discussions between members of I-OCTA, the Idaho State Historical Society, the BLM, the office of Idaho's SHPO, and a State Land Officer—as well as a revisit to the trail area on the afternoon of April 29.

It was discovered that the lessee of that state land, with little cooperation or direct permission by the state, had taken action and broken up many acres of the sage brush. Both variants of the 160 year old trail had been somewhat damaged, but only a few short portions almost

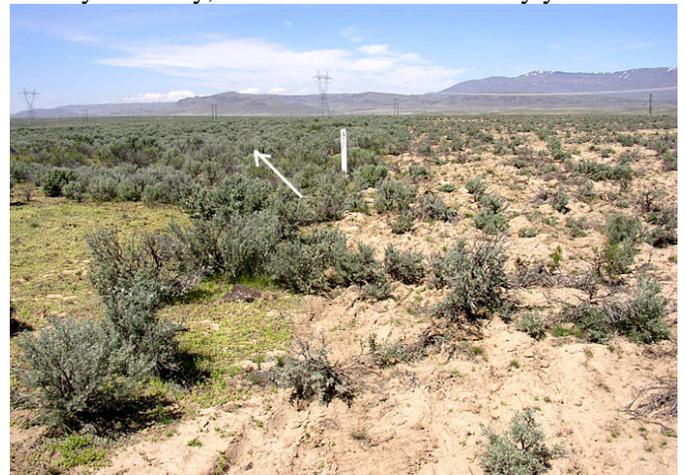
completely obliterated. After assurances through Larry Jones, Idaho State Historian, coming from the SHPO and State Land Offices that the person with the grazing permit would not be doing more to damage the trail, this I-OCTA Preservation Officer and Patty did some more important marking of parts of the trail that had been ignored on April 13. There was concern that markers would just be run over as more damage was done!

After consultation between several of those involved it was decided to drive the severely damaged trail sections, between the undamaged sections, to make continuous impressions of the trail route. In the soft disturbed soil this actually only made shallow tracks that will blend into the area as there is later plant growth. This trail will never be driven by modern vehicles!



**HEAVIER BRUSH IN SWALE MARK THE MARRED TRAIL**

Of course these are no longer real Class #1 ruts or swales, those left by the old wagons and effected only by erosion, but this is the best that can be done to keep the whole route visible. No one can ever “repair” the actual trail, preserved for all these years, once parts have been destroyed! Sadly, miles of trail are lost every year!



**THE EVIDENT CONTRAST AND TRAIL DAMAGE DONE!  
THE ARROW MARKS THE BRUSHY TRAIL ROUTE**

Markers were placed almost all in line-of-sight from one to the next, some in the open/mostly empty of brush areas, and eventually the new growth will still allow a hike along the complete historic route! The west route, fortunately, has a swale 1-2 feet deep, and the brush ripper running parallel to the route did only minor damage.

## OUR K-9 FRIEND, HANNAH, IS GONE!

Last Wednesday [April 26], I helped my K-9 partner Hannah cross the Rainbow Bridge She had been with me for almost 11 years and touched many more lives than I can even imagine. She had been to countless presentations, public events, and train-ings. She had been a member of the Civil Air Patrol, Snake River K-9 Rescue Unit, Gooding County SAR, the Idaho Chapter of the Oregon California Trail Association and Semper Vigilans K-9 Rescue and Recovery. She had saved lives, found drowning victims, located graves, and taught many about SAR and HRD K-9's. The first life she saved was my own when I was knocked unconscious at a training. She had the problems solving skills to bring the practice victim to my aid. **I will greatly miss her.**

Lynn Porter  
Semper Vigilans K-9 Rescue and Recovery

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## I-OCTA CALENDAR--CONTINUING

**May 13** Boating outing. Brownlee Reservoir, Goodale Cutoff Zig-Zag Road hike.

**June 8-10** Thousand Springs to Glenn's Ferry. Coordinated with Jeff Ross of BLM.

**July 8** Ditto Creek burn marking; lower Ditto Cr., rock writings. Jim & Wally, w/landowners.

**Aug. 9-12** National Convention, St. Joseph, MO

**Sept. 9** McTucker road/Atomic City [Goodale burn] area remarking. Jim McGill coordinate with Dick Hill of BLM.

**Sept. 23** Danskin Peak/Dixie Station to Ditto Creek (top part.) Rough bad road. Marking outing, Jim McGill will coordinate w/Dean Shaw.

**Oct. 7** Combined *board and general meeting* at **Fairfield Forest Service office.**

**(Some short work trips will be set with late notice as the BLM field officers can be scheduled—emailed notices as early as possible.)**

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## OREGON GOODALES CUTOFF HISTORY

The latest research that has opened up the history of the descendants of Tim and Jennie Goodale—as well as *Jennie's second family* with Jacob Highbarger—is **now available on CD or in print.** This 80 page research paper also includes a year by year history of Tim's & Jennie's many frontier involvements, Tim's starting from about the middle of the 1800s. It also includes the years from the completion of their leadership of the 1862 Goodale Wagon Train, the Brownlee Ferry years, the Netarts, Oregon years, and their separate lives after 1870.

The beginning of the research of the Oregon portion of Goodale's Cutoff with maps and satellite photos are also included. This will lead up to the field trip work on the remaining trail segments of that route, in June 2006.

The somewhat tragic later lives of Shoshoni Indian,

Jennie, and her only child by Tim, Mary Winona Goodale Highbarger Hanson, are documented with some family records graciously donated by one of Winona's granddaughters, one great-granddaughter, and one grandson. Family photos are included. **Contact Editor!**

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## I-OCTA Spring Members Meeting--Minutes

1. Call to Order: By Doug Jenson, I-OCTA President, at 10:10am at the Oxbox Restaurant. 23 members [and visitors] were in attendance including Vern Gorzitze, OCTA National President, Salt Lake City, and Travis Boley, OCTA Manager, Independence MO.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Oct. 22, 2005, I-OCTA Meeting, Mountain Home ID, minutes read by Kay Coffman, Secretary. Motion by Afton Patrick to accept minutes as read; seconded Bill Wilson—carried.

3. Reports: A. Treasurer: Bill Wilson read the treasurer's report. Bill suggested to Jim McGill, *Trail Dust* Editor, that he include the National and Chapter dues information as part of the *I-OCTA Trail Dust* newsletter heading. Jim agreed. Motion to accept report by Gil Wyllie; seconded by Peg Cristobal—carried.

B. Website: Jerry Eichhorst, Vice-President and Webmaster, offered to Jim McGill to put the third year of *Trail Dust* newsletters on the I-OCTA website.

C. Preservation: Jim McGill reported on the disappearing Hot Springs Creek trail ruts with marking and preservation efforts [and] also reported on his work with Wally Meyer on the M3 Company's development plans in the area crossed by the northern route of Goodale's Cutoff. Jim reported also that the June 8-10 marking trip of the main Oregon Trail from Thousand Springs to Glenn's Ferry, being coordinated with the BLM, is perhaps the most important marking trip in possibly aiding the BLM in completely closing the area to motorcycles. Doug reported that he was contacted by Wally Keck of the City of Rocks organization to get I-OCTA's comments, for the record, regarding closure of climbing on Twin Sisters.

4. Old Business: A. Calendar of Events: Doug asked for questions/comments on 2006 schedule.

B. Sign in Montpelier: Doug reported that Gil will follow up with Eulalie Langford on the signing of the original location of the trail marker placed by Ezra Meeker in Montpelier. I-OCTA has submitted their concerns that the sign did not adequately address the Oregon Trail and has provided suggestions for the wording of the sign. Doug asked Vern and Travis about the procedure for requesting OCTA National to pay for one third of the cost of the sign. They said to submit the request for funding and sign wording approval to OCTA thru [Trail Marking] Budget Officer Randy Brown.

C. A Motion to Change Names on Checking Account Must Go into Minutes: Gil made a motion to have the minutes record changing the name on the account from the old president to the new president, Bill seconded. Afton amended the motion to say instead of 'changing the name on the account from old president to new president,' to make a change to put names of the President and Treasurer on the account; Bill seconded. Amendment was voted on and [both] carried.

D. 2010 Convention Possibly in Boise Area: Jim McGill presented the possibility of hosting the 2010 National

OCTA Convention and will present a proposal at the fall meeting; He has been working already with local historical societies, Dave Welch, National Preservation Officer, and others. Vern [Goritz] President, hosted 2005's convention in Salt Lake City and gave encouraging tips for handling arrangements and stated that part of National and Travis' jobs are to also help with convention arrangements; Travis talked about how he assists with convention plans.

E. 2006 Convention in St. Joseph MO: Doug asked for a show of hands on who plans on going to the convention in August and got a good response.

5. New Business: A. Elderhostel: Doug discussed who will be the local tour guides on the bus for the Idaho routes and the schedules. Travis discussed details about the Elderhostel tours and other tours that are being worked on with other groups. The Stricker site has been invited to participate.

B. Meeker Reenactment: Doug discussed the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ezra Meeker's reverse marking of the trail and the Idaho schedule which is Boise on 7/22; Glenns Ferry/Three Island Crossing, 7/28; Pocatello/Ft. Hall, 7/29; and Soda Springs, 7/30. A program will be presented on the arrival evenings, which includes Dave Welch [& others] in period clothing. Vern said that a time capsule will be buried in Boise.

[Side business] Wally asked Travis the status of the bill in Congress [S. B. 54] to study the traditional trails; He replied that it passed the Senate unanimously, but doesn't look favorable for passing the House because of opposition from a California representative who is head of the Resources Committee. Doug asked Marion Posey Wilson, Friends of Stricker Director, about the status of the Stricker site after a fire, and she said it was only a little cheat-grass fire that didn't do any structural damage. Peg Cristobal asked for it to be recorded in the minutes that I-OCTA donated some money in 1991 to Strickers for [the cemetery] fence.

C. National Board Meeting Report: Bill Wilson reported on the meeting he attended in Phoenix in March in which five preliminary goals were identified to guide OCTA for the next decade. Bill read the goals from page 1 of Vol. XX, No. 2, Spring 2006, *News From the Plains*. Bill covered motions that were carried and that are found on page 20 of the newsletter. There was some discussion of the continued need for the membership roster being published as a book. It is noteworthy that it was agreed that our chapter will be referred to as the Idaho Chapter in all official correspondence, reports, and references.

D. Other Business: Wally discussed the Goodale's Cutoff portion of the trail that was burned off last summer; Jim will continue follow-up with the current ranch manager to get permission to do work on the trail. \*Jim McGill asked that responses please be sent to encourage and support *Trail Dust*; that volunteer hours and expenses from last year be turned in for inclusion in *Trail Dust*. [He requested] that a time be set [by Doug and Lyle] to finish the work on the Lander Trail, and that arrangements be made to mark the Fort Hall Trail. We report all time and expenses to show Congress how OCTA matches their appropriations; so far we're matching on a ratio of 14 to 1! The form for reporting [volunteer time and] expenses is on the web site and Doug has a supply also.

Closing the Meeting: Motion to adjourn by Afton; seconded

by Bill; adjourned by Doug. Afternoon Trip to Three Island Crossing: Trip to start at the Visitor Center, led by [Afton Patrick]. **Kay Coffman, Sec., April 29, 2006 Bliss, Idaho** [Minutes abbreviated by **Editor-complete copy can be obtained from the Secretary.**]

Dave Welch (and all others):

I went to the Meeker Monument time capsule opening today [in Boise]. THEY DIDN'T FIND IT! Probably is deeper in the concrete base, or under it. After the speakers were done, they lifted the monument off its base--- but the time capsule wasn't between the monument and its base. Nice outing anyway, with lots of school kids there to participate. Ezra Meeker's *great great grandson* came all the way from homes in Paris and Italy. Excellent speaker, and humorous! **Bill Wilson Photo**



**EZRA MEEKER'S G-G-GRANDSON (R) BOISE, MAY 9, 2006**  
Lt. Governor Risch promised they'd lift out the base later and make a careful search for the time capsule. Several weeks ago they found something that seemed to indicate it was there, using ground penetrating radar. I guess we'll find out in the next week or so. **Bill Wilson**

## **I-OCTA OFFICERS AND STAFF**

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**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 & Jane Wyllie** - - Historians (below)  
**William Wilson** - - Membership Chair (above)  
**Wendy Miller** - Library Chair - -  
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## **Board of Directors**

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**VIEW OF ROAD CANYON (ONCE SPRING CANYON) WHERE THE GOODALE TRAIN BEGAN THE OREGON ROAD**

## **1<sup>ST</sup> ZIGZAG ROAD TRIP REWARDING!**

On May 13, 2006, five I-OCTA members took the first bold steps in seeking the beginning of Goodale's Cutoff route across Oregon, the Zigzag road up the steep river bank from the prior Brownlee Ferry site! Jerry Eichhorst was the most important person in the group because no one wanted to swim all the way across Brownlee Reservoir in order to climb the 1.5+ mile steep road. Jerry's boat was just right to accommodate the 5 participants. His day also included catching nearly 25 Bass!

Gary Franklin, Cambridge, ID, member, who has been researching the Goodale Train for longer than any other man alive, took the hike. Lynn Porter of "Hannah" fame (letter printed on page 3), and I-OCTA's newest board member, also accompanied this Editor and Patti. Much of the old trail was trod upon by participants, still found paralleling the somewhat later cut/graded road higher on the western side of the canyon.



**FOILAGE GROWS IN A ONCE VIABLE GOODALE ROAD**

Plant growth has obscured some of the trail and the LATER, higher road-graded materials has covered parts of it, but good sections of swales and rock-lined old emigrant wagon road are very much in evidence! Of course the appearance up through most of the canyon shows the work of some emigrants' construction in order to allow passage to the top in the narrow and flowing-creek bottom. This is probably the first viewing of the old road for many decades by people who understood

what it meant to some emigrant travel, miners' access to rich discoveries, great freight wagons, and cattle drives.

Photos and information will be added to the growing body of information now verifying the importance of this 1862 Cutoff, some included in the new 2006 Paper now being offered to interested trail history folks.



**TOP OF THE CANYON—THE GOODALE ROAD BUILDERS MADE ACCESS BY CLEARING ROCKS FROM 2 LEDGES**

(A carsonite marker was used only temporarily for photo purposes. NW-OCTA will place permanent markers only after accurate mapping of this route, done during and after the June 23-25 joint NW-OCTA and I-OCTA working field trip. All Rut-Nuts welcomed!)

As things stand now, we will meet in Halfway, OR, at the parking lot of the **Halfway Motel**, at 9:00 a.m., on **June 23**. That Motel is available at 1 541-742-5722, or [hlfmotel@pinetel.com](mailto:hlfmotel@pinetel.com). This Motel has an **RV camper/trailer park** available! There is also a **Hillside Bed & Breakfast**, 208-785-3389, [info@hellscanyonb-b.com](mailto:info@hellscanyonb-b.com)  
Patti and this Editor will be there on Thursday afternoon.

**Report from Doug Jenson—OCTA's total volunteer hours for 2005 was 59053, worth \$1,041, 694! I-OCTA members offered 13264 mi. travel, \$5451 gas and other expenses, and volunteered 2028 hours! The time alone was worth about \$35,774. Will we offer more this year?**

## STRICKER STATION REPORT

The new interpretive center is being built at the Stricker Station site, SE of Twin Falls. Marian Posey sent this report: "The small *white and green building* in the foreground is the present restrooms, so you can see the relative sizes. The *store is on the left hand* distance of the first image. The Center will have professionally designed interpretive exhibits. Marian Posey Photo



The Center is being built with DOT grant funds. Milan Kovach at the Idaho State Historical Society can provide more information." We will update the progress of the building project and further developments.

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**June 8-10, 2006** Oregon Trail mapping, marking and *hiking or driving parts of the remaining trail for the pleasure* of seeing and sharing the emigrant experience. Activities can be various, chosen by the participant, during three days from Thousand Springs to Glenn's Ferry. We will **meet at the ranch of Allen Thompson** at 9:00 AM on June 8. **Take Exit 125 from Interstate 84, "Paradise Valley," 3 miles east of the Glens Ferry Snake River crossing.** Follow the road crossing over the freeway, to the south for about one mile straight, and Allen's ranch can be seen against the ridge or foothills.

**Redford Motel** is one available motel—**208 366 2421**—for anyone staying during one or more nights. Lunches will be carried, with drinks, to have available wherever we are upon the trail. The Kelton road also crosses the area, and will be marked in our preservation efforts.

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