

The River Road Review

Oregon-California Trail Association—Nebraska chapter

Late Summer 2007

A Day on the Oregon Trail. . . “Awesome!”

Russ Genung spent July 10th on the Oregon Trail with a dozen teenagers from the Kansas State School for the Blind. “I spent all day (and night) with them. . . went to Oak around 10:30 A.M.” he said. “With the program and kids erecting their (Indian) teepees, it was after 11:00 P.M. before I got home. It was a great day, those kids are awesome.” Russ sent the following news article written by Joy Harms and published July 18 in the *Deshler Rustler*.

Tuesday, July 10th, was an exciting day for 12 teen pioneers and 16 adults following the Oregon Trail outside of Oak, Nebraska. The teens were enjoying a Discovery Trails Program, arranged through the joint efforts of the Kansas State School for the Blind and Accessible Arts, Inc., a non-profit agency established in 1988 to champion the arts for children with disabilities and advocate access to the arts. The teen pioneers (seven boys and five girls) may be blind or have visual impairment, but that didn't deter their enthusiasm for discovering nature along the Oregon Trail.

The Discovery Trails Program engages blind teens in a lived-experience of pioneering along westward trails. Eleanor Craig, a former high school teacher and college professor who has been taking teens on extended trips on the pioneer trails since 1973, is in her tenth year of organizing trail activities with the Kansas State School of the Blind. “We organize historically accurate adventuring, camping and creative arts to facilitate



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Russ Genung, former OCTA-NE president, lives in Deshler.

teens' personal growth and to enhance their capacity for community service to schools and civic groups,” added Eleanor.

The Oregon Trail Discovery Trails group included teen pioneers from Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Tennessee. The group left Kansas City on July 6, camping at Westmoreland, Kansas; Alcove Springs, Kansas and Rock Creek Station, Nebraska before arriving in Oak on July 10th. The group traveled to Ft. Kearny, Nebraska on July 11th. The group organized and presented an evening of pioneer entertainment for the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments in Omaha the weekend of July 13 and 14, returning to Kansas City on July 15th.

The caravan of five minivans and a Penske Utility Truck loaded with camping gear, tents, food, latrine, etc., made the trek across the Oregon Trail. The teens have jobs of pitching tents, setting up the camp, serving meals, washing dishes, setting up tables and chairs for the camp, all working in pairs. With major funding from the National Park Service, federal agencies supporting Arts for Children with disabilities, Lions Club International and other agencies, Discovery Trails teens meet with artists, ranchers, historians, American Indians and hundreds of travelers and small town residents, learning much and leaving the public with a new appreciation of the capabilities of persons with disabilities. Trail teens annually create a history-through-the-arts program that they take to elementary schools and civic groups throughout the year, demonstrating to themselves and the public that they are competent contributors to their communities.

A cast of four . . . brought Cherokee living and customs to life for the teens and adults. The group camped in the Werner pasture north of Oak near the Narrows and the historic location of the Laura Ropers' capture of 1864. The Indian cast had set a 16 foot tee pee in the Oak pasture. . . . to listen to stories about Indian customs, tradition and way of life. The presenters also hosted four display stations outside of the tee pee where the teens could experience kitchen food stuff, weapons, Indian woman's work and

(cont. on page 6)

Editor's Corner

Some of you will be packing and getting ready to leave for the convention by the time this reaches you. Please take a moment to review the agenda (on the back) for the chapter meeting that will take place on Wednesday afternoon in Gering. If you want to add something to the agenda, please let Loren or Nancy know right away. In the future we will try to give you plenty of notice of the proposed agenda. For up-to-date schedules and agendas, visit: <http://incolor.inetnebr.com/cmartist/octa-ne.html>. Come to the meeting with your ideas of activities you desire and some goals for your chapter.

~Carole Meyer

Articles Needed for River Road Review

Please share your knowledge with us and send your scholarly articles, photos, trail news, and upcoming trail-related events to the editor:

Carole Meyer

1118 N. Minnesota Avenue
Hastings, NE 68901

In e-mail use **OCTA** as the subject:
cmartist@inebraska.com

The Oregon-California Trails Association—Nebraska chapter

President: Loren Pospisil

Vice President: Carole Meyer

Secretary: Nancy Petersen

Treasurer: Betty Scheinost

Newsletter Editor: Carole Meyer

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Letters to the editor are printed as space is available and may be edited.

Letters to the Editor

Convention Issues Raised

I am a first year member of the OCTA board. I read your editorial in the *River Road Review* and picked up negative vibes. I have been looking at ways to improve the convention and change basic problems. In my opinion one of the biggest is the time of year. In any event, I have asked Vern to have it on the agenda for the board meeting in Gering. . .

With Travis' survey and other board opinions, perhaps we can improve the conventions and make it more attractive to the general membership. I think most problems can be put under the general headings of cost and timing.

With budget deficits, declining convention participation and membership drops; everything will have to be on the table if we are to reverse the trend. Some of the things I have seen and heard, as well as my opinions are:

1. Cost of the convention: I think there are many folks who do not go because of the cost of it. Motels, gas and tour buses are always more expensive between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Meals are pretty pricey. Tours: At around \$60 per person per tour, a husband and wife will drop a lot of money. Perhaps offer some driving convoy tours and people take care of their own meals.

2. Timing of the convention: August is the hottest time of the year along a huge portion of the trail. Many people cannot tolerate the heat.

3. Locations of conventions: Perhaps something new. Distance to sites is going to affect attendance in this day and age of high gas prices.

If we are to make improvements, everything will have to be on the table—no sacred cows, except the fact that we cannot make everyone happy. The good of the organization will have to be put number one.

. . . it is distasteful making the focus of the convention about making money. As a member of the board, charged with balancing a

budget, I understand how this feeling could have emerged over the years. However, I think it can be done in a way to make it less obvious and expensive. I think we can raise money better in other ways, primarily by solving the membership problem.

. . . It appears to me that we have an uphill battle attracting families with school age children. I have been calling members from Kansas that have not renewed their membership and the biggest reason is lack of time. Since schools have decided to approach their role as occupying children as much of the day and year as possible, it is becoming more and more difficult for young people to be involved in other worthwhile programs: OCTA, Scouts, 4-H, etc.

One group I think we need to focus on more than we are, geezer boomers. That is me! Those of us former baby boomers. I was the charter class—1946! We are retiring in rapidly growing numbers! And, we are not retiring to rocking chairs and the idiot tube. We are getting involved in many facets of society. OCTA needs to get busy right now at the beginning and get its share. These are energetic people, healthy, many with a disposable income and time to devote.

The mid-week hiatus is a problem. If you do not do a tour, what do you do. But, if there were programs, people might not be able to take a tour they would like. We do need to fine tune the event. . .another aspect of the cost of the convention. It is difficult to justify the huge cost of going if your spouse does not share your interest.

~Duane Iles

Trail Information Enjoyed

Just a quick note to thank you once again for a very informative newsletter. You certainly provided sufficient information for Dorene and me to complete the trek.

I also liked your column on Trail Events in the Area. Three weeks

State Heritage Tree is Designated at the Narrows

taken from the Deshler Rustler, May 30, 2007

ago we took a 2-day trek with the Utah Chapter over the Old Spanish Trail. The leader was quite informative. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate so we had our own parting of the ways. We started in Price, UT and finished at a Mormon Battalion Battlefield. Strangely, no one mentioned this. We were North of St. George when we disbursed. We all had CB radios and that was a very nice feature. The leader could stand in the mist and we sat in our cars and listened.

~ Marvin and Dorene Burke

Battle of Bluewater Correction

Noted in the interesting article on Signal Bluff was 1854 for the so-called Battle of Bluewater. The attack on the Sichangu (Brule) led by Chief Little Thunder who had not been where Grattan's foolish attack of friendly Sichangu got him and 30 others killed was in 1855 rather than '54, a small error. The so-called Grattan massacre started as an attack on the Sichangu near Ft. Laramie, August 17, 1854, (Conquering Bear was killed and then the Indians responded) and the unprovoked attack of Harney on the Sichangu on the Blue Water was September 3, 1855.

I used to conduct a U.S. Western History class from Northeastern Junior College, Sterling, Colorado. We traveled the trails, canoed the North Platte and the Calamus and Niobrara, and had much fun. Most of the students were teachers. I also worked at Ash Hollow State Historical Park after retirement from NJC and I knew Mattes and Henderson.

~Darrell Wood

Chapter Dues

Send your chapter dues of \$10 directly to our treasurer:

Betty Scheinost
2760 36th Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601-2342

The Bur Oak tree growing into a bank that overlooks the historical Narrows near Oak, Nebraska, was recently designated as a Nebraska Heritage Tree. Members of the Nebraska Community Forestry Council have estimated the tree's age could be between 200 and 300 years. In the course of those years the tree has been a silent witness to a unique part of our nation's history.

The tree is located 150 feet from the site of the capture of three Eubanks family members and Laura Roper in 1864 near the Narrows on the Oregon Trail.

Because hunting grounds were being possessed by settlers and soldiers, the Cheyenne, Sioux, and Arapahoe made concerted attacks along the Oregon Trail. In this attack, Mrs. Eubanks, two of her children and Laura Roper, a visiting neighbor were captured on the afternoon of August 7th. After council with the Indians, Laura and Mrs. Eubanks' three-year-old daughter Isabelle were released on September 11th at Fort Lyons, Colorado. In May, 1865, Sioux chiefs Two Face and Blackfoot brought a demented Mrs. Eubanks and her infant son in to Fort Laramie. On May 16 both Indians were hung at the fort for alleged abuse of the captives. It is believed that Isabelle Eubanks was never reunited with her mother.

The Bur Oak tree has seen not only this tragic event, but the movement of Indians and settlers along the Oregon Trail as well as countless changes of life styles.

The Little Blue River flows along the edge of the half section of prairie which has been owned by Earl Werner for the past 60 years. The land is much the way it was nearly 150 years ago when settlers passed through with their covered wagons bound for the west coast. At this particular place along the



courtesy Deshler Rustler

Earl Werner stands in the shade of the Bur Oak tree at the Narrows. The tree measures 13 feet, 10 inches in circumference at its base just above the gnarled exposed roots.

Oregon Trail rough draws and steep hillsides made the going difficult for wagons and easier passage was along a strip of land close to the Little Blue River which came to be called the Narrows.

. . . Evidence of the trail of traveling wagons is still easily seen as you gaze over the rolling grassland. The Werners have erected a stone to mark the site of the Indian attack and Laura's capture.

The half section of prairie is planted to warm season grasses which are harvested with a single cutting near the end of the growing season. . . the soil is highly erodible and caring for it in this manner has preserved it in much the same condition it was 150 years ago. The course of the river has changed over the years and the Bur Oak tree is further from the river than it was in its "younger" days. . . .

Walking through the pasture, seeing the same hills and draws early pioneers saw is possible because of the way the Werners care for the pasture. That care has preserved an important part of our state's history and a remarkable tree that has taken its place in Nebraska lore as well.

Ruminations: Potential Projects, Treks and the Like

conducted by Steve Meyer—simply because nobody else is doing it

Preservation: a list of stuff that OCTA-NE members have noted that may be worthy of attention (or at least a moment of silence).

1. Ruts (not noted on Franzwa's *Oregon Trail Maps*, p. 25). In this case a couple of miles north of the Narrows not far from the Little Blue. In T4N, R6W. Just north of the dot representing Little Blue Station is an Oregon Trail marker, and there appear to be ruts in the pasture directly north that extend for a quarter-mile or so. These parallel the fence bordering the west side of Sec. 25, and seem to cross the county road about where Greg indicates on his map. Has anybody else spotted them?

2. Ruts and swales? Just north of where Nebr. 14 crosses the Little Blue a few miles west of Edgar is a large historical marker (like the one that was stolen from California Hill). When the light is just right and the grass is cropped, there appear to be a number of parallel trail remnants on the east side of the highway.

3. Swales (noted in our article *Between the Little Blue and the Platte* in a previous issue of RRR).

4. Ruts (we think) 6 miles south of Hastings along US 281 (noted in the above article). There is nothing on the convenient OT highway marker to call attention to them.

5. Ruts about a quarter-mile southeast of Dinner Station (or Clarke's Ranche) about 7 miles southwest of Hastings. (Franzwa Maps, p. 27). The property is marked and already on the list of National Historic sites, but the ruts are not marked. These are pretty well-defined and on the east side of the county road, just north of the field lane.

6. RIP the few swales still visible (with a lot of imagination) at the Haile Grave. There's a cornfield now on its north side.

Frolic: ideas for future chapter treks. Nobody is our official Recreation Director so suggestions are always in order.

Education: some of these ideas (???) might also generate a few memberships and some bucks cause OCTA is soon to be in deep kimchee—I'm just happy I didn't decide to run for the Board a couple of years ago.

1. We might suggest that OCTA-HQ consider the possibility of buying the rights to Bill Hill's trail-related workbook for elementary students and making it available for download by educators. I'd feel better if some of our own professional educators like Greg Nelson or Mary Beth Kerns got a look at it and gave us their opinions. I think 4th graders already have a lot of stuff to learn - I'm not certain we'll really

make a big difference considering how little they are likely to remember about the emigration after just a few years, but it would certainly generate goodwill among educators.

2. Get the *Overland Journal* into the libraries of every accredited four-year degree-granting college and

university within the state (I think there are about 13 or so), and in the public libraries of our larger towns and cities (Omaha, Lincoln, Bellvue, Grand Island, Kearney, Hastings, North Platte, Columbus, Fremont, Norfolk, Beatrice, Alliance, Chadron, Scottsbluff, Gering, Ogallala, McCook, Holdrege, Crete, Nebraska City, Falls City, and South Sioux—and maybe some selected smaller places like Broken Bow and Valentine and Ord). If OCTA-HQ would give us a deal at the printing cost (like 18 bucks a year—the OJ only—no newsletter, nothing else except maybe our catalog listing our back issues, microfilm or CD-ROM scans or whatever we archive them in, cause somebody might think it valuable enough that they would want every issue to date) could probably do this with the bucks we already have (or will have) in our coffers. It would make the *Journal* available to about 800-thousand Nebraskans. I don't think we'd get very many regular memberships but probably a few, and maybe three-quarters or so of the libraries would consider it good enough to renew their subscriptions at something more reasonable than \$300 a year—like maybe \$39-43?. If HQ would slip a *Call For Papers* or a *Call For Manuscripts* or a *Call For Ideas* in with each issue these might make their way to bulletin boards and even attract some new writing talent. This is the kinda thing that OCTA shoulda done nationwide a long time ago, but maybe, like me, they (the movers and shakers) never thought of it. Anyway if the other chapters picked up on this, we could pretty well saturate major libraries within the trail states within a year. If the price is right we can probably do this with what we have in the sock now (plus maybe what the Convention contingent is willing to donate) and still leave a prudent reserve in the bank (like maybe \$500—enough to keep printing the RRR for a year at any rate).



There is now a cornfield in the swale of the Oregon Trail northwest of the Susan Haile grave.

3. Suggest to OCTA-HQ that F. Travis Boley make a pilgrimage to DC to whine at the Smithsonian and National Geographic (and anybody else who publishes a prestigious *slick*) about giving us enough of a *grant* so that we can have a discrete little institutional ad in every issue. It doesn't have to be fancy:

The Overland Journal
Oregon-California Trails Association's
scholarly quarterly
Since 1983 (or whatever)
Devoted to the history and preservation of
America's Western Emigrant Trails
\$45/year, library subscriptions available
OCTA, PO Box (whatever the hell it is),
Independence, MO
e-mail: OJ at weneedtheexposure.net

We can't afford much in the way of this kind of advertising—about all we can offer is to print a nice little note to the effect that OJ is supported in part by grants from the National Geographic Society and Smithsonian. It wouldn't really cost them very much and it would do us a whole lotta good.

Sheer Insanity: (credit for this bit of whimsy actually goes to Bill Petersen who told me about the Great Meridian Race from Galveston to Winnipeg c. 1906 or so, and embarrassed me because I had not only never heard of it, but I even missed the commemorative marker in Hebron! Duh and double-duh! But somehow it just seems natural to link OCTA-NE and automobiles.

Do you folks know what a rally is? (Sometimes spelled Rallye). Back in my youth when I knew a lot of blonde girls (always named Linda) who liked sports cars (and always drank Vodka martinis) this was popular with a lot of people. Mostly, they were TD (time-distance rallies), not speed trials. The idea is to put a bunch of drivers and navigators on the road for a Saturday drive along uncommon routes with diabolical instructions to find the thus-and-such marker and turn left and drive at exactly 38 mph for 12.5 minutes until you see a blonde named Linda waving a checkered cat or

something. You get the idea? It would take a lot of planning, probably a year or more to bring it off, but. . . It would probably generate some pretty easy publicity (especially if we don't try too hard to be Serious Guardians of America's Trail Legacy), but just let people who like to go for drives and play car games have a fun time following some segments of the Trail in Nebraska. The country roads between Fairbury and Fort Kearny, for example; or maybe a loop along the Ox Bow from Nebraska City to Columbus and then along the Loup Forks and back to Omaha. What we (as a chapter) would do is provide people at the start and finish and intermediate check-points to do the things that rally officials do. If people have questions about the trail (and we would almost certainly work instructions in regarding OT markers or visible ruts or swales) we can answer them before we send them back on the road. Every car (or vehicle—somebody will probably bring a Harley Trike) will get a commemorative dash plaque (fairly cheap in quantity) and each driver and each navigator would get some sort of hero-patch (also fairly cheap) they could sew or pin on their windbreakers. In the morning we'd get participants to sign waivers, show their driving permits and proof of insurance while providing coffee, juice and sweet rolls and general instructions. They are on their own for lunch. At the finish line we would throw a party—maybe a catered sit-down meal (say Chicken Kiev or steak—something good but not necessarily gourmet) and award some trophies or really impressive looking plaques to those who score the fewest penalty points, get lost the most often, have the most unique vehicle—again, I'm sure you get the point. All of it low-key. If it's the kinda situation where people are probably gonna remain overnight before returning home, we might throw another continental breakfast and give them a quick and fun look at the trail they just drove and a little info about OCTA. But no hard sell. We can have

serious fun with a little history (and we can carefully price things so we earn a few bucks for our next project or party or whatever the hell we wanna do as a chapter). Maybe we'd draw fifty or a hundred cars—who knows? The World Herald and Independent and Kearney Hub and Scottsbluff papers would probably pick up on it without much prodding if we start letting it be known early enough. Spring or autumn would be ideal times for it—probably the fall (cause you can listen to the Husker game while driving). Yeah, the logistics are daunting, but. . .

Parting Shots Regarding the Convention: it looks from here like it will be a good one. The program looks first-rate and better balanced than the OCTA budget. At this point it really doesn't make a whole helluva lota difference how it came to be held here—because I think everybody who attends is in for a good time. There are still some people who remember the last convention that was held in Nebraska—when was that? Ten years ago? In Grand Island they are still talking about the evening that a casually but neatly dressed couple, then in the bloom of their golden years, strode into an establishment on South Locust Street, seated themselves at a table and motioned for service. “Just a couple of burgers and Heinekens, please—we're a bit pressed for time.”

The young lady looked at them for a moment, and then nodded in understanding. “Why you folks must be from that Oregon Trail convention across the street.” The couple, smiling, nodded in agreement. “And you,” she said, inclining her head toward the distinguished gentleman, “must be on the Board of Directors.”

“My dear young lady, how clever of you! But how on earth could you possibly know that I am on the Board?”

“Oh, that's easy, sir. This is a furniture store.”

Happy Trails. . .

Teens (cont. from page 1)

horse and animal gear. The teens anxiously handled the items and asked questions of the presenters.

... Eleanor Craig, Coordinator, summed up the trails program best when she said, "Teens who come back from the trail trip say they have been changed dramatically by their adventures. They tell us they are more confident, feel stronger physically and socially and are very much more inclined to try new adventures. Then these youth go out to tell about their Trails Program adventure, they are awesome!"

Online Resources

Nebraska chapter of The Oregon-California Trail Association:

<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/cmartist/octa-ne.html>

The Oregon-California Trail Assn.:

<http://www.octa-trails.org>

OCTA, Kanza Chapter:

<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/kanza/>

OCTA, Colorado-Cherokee Chapter:

<http://www.octa-colorado.org/>

OCTA, Idaho Chapter:

<http://www.idahocta.org/>

OCTA, Trails Head Chapter:

<http://www.trailshead.org/>

OCTA, Northwest Chapter:

<http://www.octa-trails.org/chapters/northwest/>

OCTA, Southwest Chapter:

<http://members.cox.net/htompkins2/SWOCTA.htm>

OCTA, California-Nevada Chapter:

<http://www.canvocta.org/>

OCTA, Crossroads Chapter:

<http://www.utahcrossroads.org>

OCTA, Gateway Chapter:

http://www.stjomo.com/new_OCTA_2006.htm

More Confessions . . .

It will come as no surprise to my three loyal readers that I am a history addict. In fact I usually anticipate the arrival of OCTA's scholarly quarterly, the *Overland Journal*, much as I do a box of my favorite cigars. My long-suffering wife, your dedicated Editor, claims that I actually sigh and moan in anticipation. I sincerely deny this, but she is entitled to her opinion. Her reality is not necessarily mine.

At any rate, when the postman slipped that fat, pre-convention issue through our mail slot a couple of weeks ago I was ready! Humming *Eine Kleine Nacht Oxen* under my breath, I promptly ripped the mailing cover from its moorings, trotted out back [*tottered is more accurate—Ed.*] to my three-car, early-garage-sale study (where a man is free to enjoy the intellectual pleasures of life) pausing just long enough to guillotine the end of an EMS wrapped Maria Mancini and grab a cup of freshly brewed coffee (very strong and shaken, not stirred).

There, in my favorite \$7.95 Adirondack-style green-plastic chair I began to flip the pages, and my addiction took over and in a matter of minutes I was totally out of control. I was no longer humming Mozart. Instead I was tapping an angry drum line on my \$1.49 genuine heavy-weight K-Mart non-crystal 1972 glass ashtray and growling *My Back Hurts, My Pits Stink, and I Don't Love OCTA* in imitation of that little-known Kountry Porn classic (well, alright, maybe it was Kinky Friedman and the TJBs who recorded it originally—we're talking poetic license here!). Footnotes! Where are the footnotes? Where is that dry, dull history, the very meat of our prestigious scholarly-quarterly *devoted to the history and preservation of America's Emigrant Trails*?

I felt cheated, humiliated, abused. It was as though somebody had ripped the centerfold out of *Playboy* or stolen the prize from my box of Cracker Jacks.

I readjusted my trifocals and tried again. The editor's notes? Who cares? Hammond? There he is! Maybe you should bring your elephant to the next convention, Andy. Now that would bring the ten-year-olds out in droves!

Mister Mattes? Well, okay. It's an old piece, it's not his best work, but he's about as close to a patron saint as this little band of sinners is likely to get. So there's a little nostalgia value there, maybe. I can accept that. But the reprint of a 1930 speech by the dead leader (may he rest in peace) of an equally dead historical association? I thought we were preserving the history of the Trail—not embalming it. Rip!

Ghosts of equally dead ancestors? Where's my Ouija board? Rip!

Candy Moulton. Hmmm. The lady can write—she has the knack. That would be a great piece in *Smithsonian* or *Western Heritage*. Too bad we don't have a Sunday supplement. Rip!

Welch on preservation. Put it in *News from the Plains*. Ditto for Krakow.

Ahhhh. Trivial pursuit! Finding and mapping ruts out in South Pass! Good stuff, Ms. Franzwa!

Oh, gawwwwwwwwd! Here's our President again with another sincere homily and unattributed quotes. Rip. Stow it in the newsletter, Vern.

So, what do we have left? A birthday card shower in print! And paid for by a couple of handfuls of seasoned OCTA veterans! Well, I guess we needed the money to pay for the extra pages. What can I say? I think it looked tacky. If I were a librarian seeing the *Overland Journal* for the first time, I think I might be inclined to think twice before I put it out with the other scholarly periodicals. I can only hope the next issue will be better, because it looks to me like when we mix *OJ* and *NFP* its more like CRAP than it is alphabet soup.

2007 Fall OCTA-NE Trail Trek and Meeting

Saturday, September 29 in Council Bluffs/Omaha

Proposed Schedule (subject to changes)

Join us at any point on the proposed schedule

Friday:

- Pre-trek trip following the Mormon Trail in Iowa (on your own—bring your copy of Franzwa's *California Trail* maps)

Saturday:

- meet at 9:00 A.M. at the **Western Historic Trails Center** on 24th St. south of I-80 (exit 1B) in Council Bluffs
- tour Mormon Trail sites in and around Council Bluffs (map will be provided that day)
- 12:00 NOON – lunch and brief meeting at Jim's Grill, 8424 N 30th St, Omaha (order from the menu)
- meet at 2:00 P.M. at the **Mormon Trail Visitor Center**, 3215 State St. in Florence (north Omaha)
- tour Mormon Trail sites in and around Omaha (map will be provided that day)
- 5:00 P.M.— supper and debriefing in Fremont (place to be announced)



Sunday:

- Post-trek trip home via the Mormon Trail west from Omaha (on your own—bring your copy of Franzwa's *California Trail* maps)

Important Notice

To keep members informed and to save postage expense, all future activities and meeting information including time, place, and agenda will be emailed to members. Send your email address to Carole (cmartist@inebraska.com) to get these notices. Info is also published online. If you do not have email or web access let Carole know (1118 N Minnesota Ave, Hastings, NE 68901) that you need this information mailed to you.

<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/cmartist/octa-ne.html>

Trail Events in the Area

Gateway Chapter:

Bus Trip to Arrow Rock, Missouri

Saturday, September 29

This is a Santa Fe Trail site and a Missouri historic site. Bus and lunch included.

For more information contact Bill Leppert: memphis@stjoelive.com

NWOCTA Chapter:

Fall Program

Whidbey Island, Ebey's Landing Historic Reserve, Coupeville, WA

Fri. - Sun., September 7-9, 2007

Saturday program includes:

Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve by Mark Preiss

The 1854 Oregon Trail Journey of the Ebey Family to Whidbey Island by Susan Badger Doyle

Terry Family History: Overland and Settlement by Joanne Engle Brown

Isaac N. Ebey: Northwest Pioneer by Murray L. Carroll

The Creation of Ebey Reserve: Why & How by Reed Jarvis

Auto Tour of the Ebey Cemetery by Roger M. Sherman

For reservations contact: Joyce Bolerjack at 425-454-7118 or jjbolerjack@comcast.net

Pony Express Convention

St. Joseph, Missouri

Fri.-Sun., September 13-16

contact: Ken and Arleta Martin arleta@bluevalley.net

Oregon Trail Museum Dedication

Odell, Nebraska

Sunday, September, 30

contact: Ken and Arleta Martin arleta@bluevalley.net

Western Historic Trails Center:

10th Anniversary

3434 Richard Downing Avenue
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

Sunday, August 12

5:00 P.M. Presentation by Gregory Franzwa and 6:30 P.M. Dinner
call 712-366-4900

Agenda for August 8 Chapter Meeting in Gering

The following is the proposed agenda for the chapter meeting to be held at 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 8 during the convention at the Gering Civic Center located at 1050 M Street. If you are interested in serving on the bylaws committee, or if you want to add a topic to the agenda, notify Loren immediately by phone to (308) 586-2581 or e-mail to chimrock@scottsbluff.net.

1. Bylaws

Committee and chair, chapter name, elections, structure of organization, duties of officers, structure of business meetings.

Loren's comment: I think much of this can be done with email. We can start with the sample in the OCTA bylaws. It can be rewritten, rebuilt or thrown out and start from scratch.

2. Preservation

Committee, Bill Petersen, chair.

Loren's comment: I like Bill Petersen's concept of seeking out land owners and building alliances and relationships with them with a strong eye towards their needs as land stewards and taxpayers. We will also need volunteers strategically scattered along the trail to check out threats and strengthen alliances.

3. Future Business Meetings

Loren's comment: There is a "reasonable expectation" that chapter business will be addressed and handled at chapter meetings. Yet, we as fair people, are shy about a small number of attendees making earth shattering decisions for a larger group unable to attend. I have a solution. List agenda items with secretary at least a week before meeting. Secretary should email agenda items to members at least a week prior to the meeting. With the exception of emergencies,

other business will be out of order. This is the same way many towns operate. This allows people unable to attend to know what is going on before the meeting starts and thus avoids surprises. Meeting attendees, armed with input from absent members, will be comfortable in bringing issues to a vote.

It is important that we allow input via email from those unable to attend.

4. Goals for the Future

- Bylaws (immediate goal)
- Active Preservation
- Future activities to include marking
- Future activities to include mapping
- Trail Symposium in Lexington
- Educational Outreach

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