



CROSSROADS

News of the Utah Crossroads Chapter

Oregon-California Trails Association

Vol. 25, No. 2, October 2014

Bidwell/Bartleson: Corinne to the Nevada State Line by Terry Welch

The date: June 6, 2014, the time: 4:00 p.m.; the place: Owl Springs - an important camping point for the brave members of the 1841 Bidwell/Bartleson Company. From inside our air-conditioned vehicle we knew that the outside temperature was a toasty 86 degrees. We had an array of electronic gear which informed us of how far we had come, how far to our destination, how long we had traveled, how far we needed to go, estimated time of arrival and GPS location. We could have back-tracked our wandering route with greater precision than if we had thrown out breadcrumbs.

We could not help but contrast our knowledge and confidence of the trail to that of the B/B Company. They broke off from an Oregon bound company west of Soda Springs, Idaho. This group brought the first wagons to enter the region, which included having the first females (teen-age Nancy Kelsey and her year old daughter). Their plan of travel was very simple: stay on the west side of the Bear River until you meet the Great Salt Lake, and then turn west until you meet the Mary's River.

Our trail day began in Corinne, where the B/B Company made a pivot from going south to west. They camped here on the banks of the Bear River for two days on August 19th and 20th. Twenty-seven arduous days later they crossed in to what is now Nevada. (For us, it was less than 8 hours comfortable hours.)

Even in retrospect, there is a wonder that from this group's most spartan travel circumstances, their tracks would be covered by a transcontinental railroad in less than 3 decades. It is highly unlikely any in this group would have ever seen a locomotive. Another ninety years would see

both the pioneer trail and railroad tracks covered by vehicles carrying components destined for space travel (courtesy of Thiokol/ATK).

The west side of the Promontory range brought the B/B party to their first view of the immense barren flats. They must have thought of their homes and America's fertile heartland...



First View of the Lake Near Cedar Springs

Continued next page . . .

There are 18 B/B rail markers from Soda Springs to Shibley Springs (near the Nevada state line and 10 markers from Corinne west). We visited 7 markers and found all in acceptable condition, except Monument Point which has been shot up.



Monument Point—target for shotguns

It was at Owl Springs that journalist James John recorded, "... left two wagons belonging to B. Kelsey, their oxen being worn down by fatigue." All wagons were later abandoned in eastern Nevada.

We observed that even though this route was not used by subsequent pioneer groups, the trail deserves due recognition as a part of westward pioneer movement.

Appropriately placed Carsonite markers could be added in various locations along the route. The gravel road between the Promontory Range and Locomotive Springs is well traveled by ranchers, and those who hunt and fish at the springs.

(Donner Springs was sprayed for Phragmites in October of last year. We were told that it will take 2-3 years. Another treatment will be needed before winter. The owner has given permission for the seasonal painting of the rail fence to be accomplished via a youth service project--already in process. Other grooming is also planned.)

The day was enjoyed by Ray Kelsey, Bryce Billings , Alan Thatcher and myself.

INTERNS FOLLOW THE DONNER PARTY'S PATH-KSL NEWS 7/12/14

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A group of U.S. Bureau of Land Management interns trekked three days this week across a blistering stretch of Utah desert, recreating part of the 1846 path of the ill-fated Donner Party.

The path across Utah's Great Salt Lake Desert en route to California delayed the Donner Party, leading to starvation, deaths and cannibalism when they became stranded in the Sierra Nevada later than expected.

While the trip was rough for the modern group, they were safely accompanied by bureau staff and trail guides and taking breaks for water and food.

"The idea behind this was to essentially expose a younger generation to national historic trails," bureau spokesman Chad Douglas told The Associated Press. "You

really can't get any closer to reliving history than we did."

As part of that effort to reach younger people, the group was posting messages to Twitter throughout the Monday-to-Wednesday trek. "High spirits as they summit #Hastings Pass in the Cedar Mtns. Little do they know ... the worst has yet to come," one tweet read.

The group also filmed the trip, and that footage will be compiled into a YouTube video later this year, Douglas said.

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The group covered about 35 miles of the 90 mile trail the Donner Party crossed, Douglas said. "The entire 90 miles isn't feasible without putting ourselves in the same peril as others that traversed the area," he said.

The group hiked at night sometimes, with daytime temperatures reaching nearly 100 degrees.

"You could see the heat waves all over the ground, mirages off in the distance," intern Hannah Cowan told KSL-TV (<http://bit.ly/U6WncD>). "The mountains looked like they were floating."

Michael Knight, another intern, said the trip was mentally taxing because it "just straight, flat and monotonous."

The group followed trail markers to stay on the path, and while they took steps to stay

safe, Douglas said the group tried to keep the trek as authentic as possible.

"We don't want to be too rough on our interns. But they did hike large sections of the trail and we tried to stick to the time frame that the immigrants actually had as well," Douglas told KSL.

By Wednesday evening, the interns were tired and dirty but glad for the experience.

"The fact that we can get interns out there and have them experience that firsthand I think is really important," Douglas said, "and shows that we can also have fun while we're doing it and get them excited about the great outdoors."

Story shared by:
Linda Turner
OCTA Crossroads PR
Salt Lake City, Utah

Crossroads Chapter Activities:

August 16, 2014 –

Following are a few words about the participation of local students in the OCTA Calendar Project sponsored by National under the supervision of Bill Hill, Education Publications Chairman.

YOUNG ARTISTS ARE ASKED TO STEP FORWARD

Each year the Oregon-California Trails Association produces a special western calendar based on a particular theme. The calendar is created using original artwork of elementary students. Prizes are awarded to each child whose artwork is selected.

As you know OCTA is dedicated to the study, preservation, interpretation, appreciation and enjoyment of the western

trails. This is one of the education projects. **It integrates history and art.** Hopefully it will increase the student's interest in learning about the West, an important part of our history.

- Calendar runs from January-December 2016.
- Theme this year was – Plants Along the Trails – Edible, Medicinal, and Dangerous.
- Prizes – Each student whose artwork is selected receives a calendar and a check for \$50.00. The school also receives a calendar. Additional copies will be available for purchase from the OCTA Book Store.
- Specification are set forth and must be followed i.e. size and originality. Students need to create the artwork in the classroom.

The artwork is sent to headquarters and forwarded to the education committee. Fourteen items are selected that best reflect the aspects of the selected theme.

For almost two decades my wife Ilene (“Mrs. G”) has contacted local schools, explained the program and asked for their participation and later made follow up calls by visiting the schools with instructional materials and display items. There has been almost yearly Utah success and several local schools have had their young artists recognized more than once.

Some educators have even made this Calendar program part of their yearly Utah History curriculum.

Part 2:

YOUNG ARTISTS HAVE STEPPED FORWARD

The results are in. This year students from several area schools will, again, be honored by having their artwork displayed on the pages and cover of the 1915 Calendar.

The schools generally have a special assembly to present the awards and recognize efforts made by students and teachers.

This is a very rewarding project, but it does not happen unless school contacts are made. It is a great opportunity for Crossroads parents to visit the elementary schools their children or grandchildren attend and get them interested. OCTA is more than chapter meetings and field trips; it offers members the opportunity to get involved in many diverse areas, according to interest, ability, time and energy.

Bill Hill has announced the theme for the 2016 contest along with detailed contest information. Theme will center around: **“Emigrant and Indian Children’s Toys and Games”**.

If anyone in the Chapter is interested they are welcome to contact OCTA

Headquarters:

octa@indepmo.org

888-811-6282

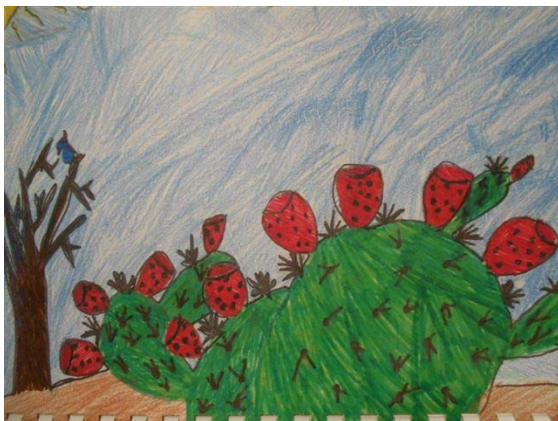
816-836-0189 (fax)

Or to;

Mrs. G

ileneg@q.com

Vern /Ilene Gorzitze



Sample Calendar Art



Chapter Activities Con't.

Ed Otto Donation

The first transfer of materials to the Utah Division of State History occurred in late August. I went with Doug Misner and Melissa Coy to pick up the donation from Kent Malan's home and moved all the boxes to the Rio Grande Building. This is a collection of 350 plus journals and published accounts or other sources of the western emigrant accounts. Melissa will start with the cataloging and work to get the collection available as soon as possible.

Melissa Coy will be the person directly working on the materials Utah Crossroads will continue to transfer to them for preservation. Anyone of us who has materials can take them to the south end at the reference desk and they will have you fill out a donation form on behalf of the Chapter for the materials you donate.

They will sort items for duplicates and generally not keep more than one copy of the newsletters, issue of the Overland Journal, News of the Plains and maybe other items. However issues with articles specific to Utah may have more than one copy kept as they see fit. There may be digitizing of items to reduce space requirement and having extra copies to accomplish this helps as an issue would then not be unavailable should a patron seek to use it.

I will continue to serve as the liaison with them after I leave as President of the Chapter. This will provide continuity and help them have a contact person when they ask for volunteer help with some of the materials.

Please plan on a board meeting at 5:00 p.m. on the 5th at the BBQ. We will hold it in the

small room which has been turned into a theater. The same place we met last year on the east side of the large open room where the dinner will be. I met yesterday with Sue at the Military Museum and reviewed the set up for the BBQ, all is in place. The remodeling looks great as far as they have progressed.

Gar Elison
801-850-8014

Partnership for the National Trails System - Historic Trails Workshop in Salt Lake City, October 27 - 30th

Workshop "early bird" cost for full participation: \$260 (by Oct 3rd). A \$50 fee will be added to registrations after October 3rd.

This year's National Historic Trails Workshop themes:

SOCIAL MEDIA - How to use Social Media to fundraise; develop interest, support and membership; and how to use it to support preservation efforts

PRESERVATION - How to partner with national and local land trusts and agencies; how to preserve critical sites and segments in areas of energy development; how to develop trail corridors for preservation and recreation.

CAPACITY BUILDING - How to build membership, strengthen the volunteer base, recruit leadership, and develop partnering relationships.

Mobile Workshops on the Preservation Track

-Half-day on Tuesday afternoon to Echo Canyon

-Full day on Wednesday to Pilot Valley that was until recently threatened by potash mining.

NHT WORKSHOP LOCATION

Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, newly renovated,
downtown near LDS Temple

- Free airport shuttle and \$5/day hotel parking.
- Free meeting room space
- Room rate will be the federal per diem rate - \$103+tax.
- Lots of restaurants nearby, "user-friendly location".

Salt Lake Plaza Hotel
122 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**Monday, October 27**

- 5 PM: Registration Opens
- 6:00 - 8:00 PM Opening Reception (Dinner included in meal package).

Tuesday, October 28

- 8:00 - 8:30 AM Welcome
- 8:30 - 11:45 AM Half-Day Session:
TECHNOLOGY & YOUTH INVOLVEMENT
- 8:30 - 9:30 AM PREMIER - New BLM Film on Hastings Cutoff Trek. Commentary by Trail Interns, Michael Knight, et. al.
- 9:30 - 10:15 AM Presentation on use of Social Media & Trail Mapping - Ron Hall.
- 10:15 - 10:30 AM Morning Break
- 10:30 - 11:45 AM Panel of Trail Apprentices - OSNHT and OCTA Interns, Nez Perce Tribal Youth, others.
- 12:15 - 5:30 PM: Bus tour through Echo Canyon (California, Mormon Pioneer, Pony Express NHT corridor). Bag Lunch included. (Note: Registration for mobile workshop itemized separately. Cost: \$25).
- 6:30 - 7:30 PM Dinner (Included in meal package).
- 7:30 - 8:30 PM Report from PNTS on Critical Issues & Discussion - Gary Werner.
- 7 PM: - Suggestion - Tour of LDS Church History library is available.

Wednesday, October 29

- 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM Load vans for mobile workshop.
- 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM: Bus tour to Pilot Valley & Hastings Cutoff. Bag Lunch included. (Note: Registration for mobile workshop itemized separately. Cost: \$40).
- 6:00 - 7:30 PM Dinner on your own.
- 7:30 PM: - Federal Trail Administrators and Managers Discussion.

Thursday, October 30

- 8:00 AM - Noon: Preservation track speakers on Mobile Workshops & break-out sessions.
- 8:00 - 8:45 AM Capacity Building - Partnering - OCTA Crossroads Chapter.
- 8:45 - 9:45 AM Capacity Building - Marketing Trails. Governors Outdoor Recreation & Tourism (Brad Peterson) & "Lewis & Clark Country" - Mark Weekley, NPS - Anza & Camino Real International.
- 9:45 - 10:00 AM Morning Break
- 10:00 - 11:00 AM Update on Federal Land Management Policies & Plans Bureau of Land Management (Craig Bromley - Lander RMP), US Forest Service, National Park Service (Lee Kreutzer), Federal Highway Administration.
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Preservation of National Historic Trail Scenery (Kevin Rowe - Environmental Planning Group).
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch on your own
- 1:00 - 2:15 PM Preservation of National Historic Trail Setting (Jeremy Call - Logan Simpson Design, David Welch - OCTA - Oregon Trail Survey Project in Oregon).
- 2:15 - 3:15 PM Preservation of National Historic Trail Cultural Resources (Christopher Merritt - Utah SHPO).
- 3:15 - 3:30 PM Afternoon Break
- 3:30 - 5:00 PM Capacity Building - LDS Church - Trekking & Site Preservation.
- 5:00 - 6:00 PM LDS Church - History Library, Donner-Reed Party Artifacts Display.
- 6:30 - 7:30 PM Dinner (included with meal package).

- 7:30 PM Workshop Wrap-Up Discussion.

More details about the Historic Trails Workshop Schedule and activities at the PNTS website, www.pnts.org.

Upcoming Events & Workdays:

The activities planned for the remainder of this year are:

October 11th: Fall Field trip on Old Spanish Trail from Parowan, Utah to Fish Lake led by Leo Lyman. Additional details to come later.

Late October a “die hard” trip from the California border to Mountain Meadows on the Salt Lake Cutoff. Much of this is also on the Spanish Trail. This is a three day, two nights (hotel) and will cost around \$200 per

person with mileage, meals, and hotel expenses.

It is not an official chapter tour as it is so expensive and many said they could not go for three days. But, about ten people want to do this trip after the temperature cool down. Those interested must eMail Gar Elison to be kept current on details and actual schedule for this extended exploration trip. garelison@gmail.com

Nov 13th: Fall chapter meeting at the Salt Lake County Commission Chambers 7:00 p.m. 2100 South State St. Salt Lake City, Utah in the North Building of the County office complex.

Volunteer Activity Report:

Coordinator: Nila Eldredge
nila@trailbuff.com
 801-870-4765

Donations of time, talent, funds, and equipment to volunteer organizations like ours make what we do possible. Many have been generous, and we thank them. OCTA is a 501c3 so be wise and utilize the tax laws and your favorite financial advisor in making the most of your tax-deductible donations. We remind you to consider making any final donations you may find needful before the end of the year to simplify our Crossroads paperwork and meet the end of 2014 year IRS requirements. Because of tax law, Crossroads does not appraise the value of equipment you may be or have donated.

Those who want to further help our Crossroads program can earmark funds for the purchase of

plaques to go on our many T-markers. In 2014 we will probably need to raise a little more money, volunteer labor and transportation to purchase additional plaques and place the many markers we have in the works.

Besides making the various donations, each of us should also be reporting those donations. Please send Nila Eldredge at: (nila@trailbuff.com) the hours, miles and dollar amounts you may have spent assisting Crossroads trails programs during 2014. Each year we compile those figures for OCTA. That report is used in various ways to directly assist our efforts in identifying and preserving historic trail.

Scheduled Events

- **October 11th, 2014** – Old Spanish Trail Field Trip.
- **Week of October 27th 2014** – PNTS Workshop at the **Salt Lake Plaza Hotel**
- **November 13th, 2014** – Chapter meeting & lecture, County Building on State Street. 7:00 pm.
- **September 20 – 26th 2015**, **OCTA – 33rd Nat'l** Convention, South Lake Tahoe, CA

Utah Crossroads Chapter

Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA)

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