



Trail Talk

The Newsletter of the California Nevada Chapter

Number 65

Fall 2004

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS RECEIVE NATIONAL OCTA AWARDS



OCTA Collection Committee: California State Library
Don Buck, Dick Brock, Dick Davis, Tom Hunt, and Charlie Little. Photo by Mary Mueller.

Six members of the California-Nevada Chapter received well-deserved recognition at the OCTA Awards Banquet in Vancouver on August 11.

Dave Hollecker received a National Certificate of Appreciation for his work in saving a segment of the **Beckwourth** Trail.

The members of the Western Overland Trails Collection Committee received the OCTA Distinguished Volunteer Award. Members are Dick Davis, Don Buck, Dick Brock, Tom Hunt and Charles Little. **The** Committee, as a whole, received a wood and bronze plaque and each member received a framed award.

GENOA IS IN NEVADA

By Mary Mueller

Beginning in the summer of 1848, when the Carson Trail was opened for emigrant travel. Carson Valley became one of the most important stopping places along the California Trail. After the long, arduous trek across the desert, lush Carson Valley was a haven for preparing for the final ascent over the Sierra Nevada. By 1850 a Mormon trading post was established in the center of the valley at or near what became the settlement of Genoa (pronounced geNOa).

Because of its historic importance, Genoa has been se-

lected for the next annual CA/NV Chapter symposium, to be held April 22-24, 2005 (Fri. evening through Sun. morning). No matter how you pronounce Genoa, write this date on your calendar. This should be one of our best symposiums.

Kathy Lewin and Patty Knight, co-chairpersons, have chosen motels in the Gardnerville/Minden area to minimize the driving distance to the Genoa Community Center for the main symposium events. A chapter board meeting, open to the membership, will be held Friday evening.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my ninth and final president's message to the CA/NV Chapter membership. It has been a profoundly uplifting experience being involved in the workings of the Chapter and particularly observing the generous contributions of time and talent of our members. I want to express my sincere appreciation to those who have given so much.

It has also been a great pleasure to work with members of the national OCTA leadership in conducting the business and accomplishing the goals of the organization. I think that we are truly fortunate to have such dedicated and talented people at the national level, both officers and directors. Of course, these folks

are there as a result of being elected by the membership so I applaud your choices.

The leadership of the CA/NV Chapter will be passed on to others at the upcoming Chapter Board Meeting in Sacramento on Oct. 23. The results of those choices will be announced in the next issue of *Trail Talk* and on the chapter web site. Again, I want to thank all of you for your support and ask that you continue to carry on trail preservation and outing activities supported by the Chapter and don't hesitate to avail yourselves of the opportunities to contribute and participate.

Thank you all,
Jim Allison

[Editor's Note: At the board meeting Oct. 23, Jim agreed to extend his term as president into 2005.]



You are encouraged to visit our website:

WEB SITE
CA/NV chapter:
<<http://www.canvocta.org>>

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES & LETTERS

All articles and letters should be mailed to: Editor, Virginia Hammerness
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In addition, to facilitate transfer of data to *Trail Talk* format, you may send *EMAIL, DISK, OR HARD COPY* to:
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2. Zip or floppy discs are acceptable, but require use of the US mail service.
3. Hard copies require scanning and proofing (from an original) before being transferred to *Trail Talk* format; both the Editor, Virginia, and Desktop Publisher, Norine, use hard copies in their work.

PRESERVATION NEWS

October 2004

By Leslie Fryman

The Preservation Officer has been in Turkey for a month visiting ancient cities and yes, following historic wagon ruts that are, hmmm, a bit different than those in Nevada and California. So this month's preservation news may seem a bit old, but much of it consists of large or long-term projects that OCTA is following as they gradually progress.

At the request of Bureau of Reclamation archaeologist Patrick Welch, Don Buck copied and delivered trail data on his field maps for the Nevada land exchange that OCTA has been following for some time. Inventory and evaluation of cultural resources, including trails, in the three land exchange areas near Rye Patch, Battle Mountain, and the Humboldt Sink is in the planning stages and Don's map data will assist the Bureau in developing a "sample" inventory for contractors to carry out.

In August a Trails West outing discovered that two segments of the Nobles and Lassen Trails in the Lassen National Forest had been severely bladed by logging activities, one segment apparently having been used as a log landing. In response to OCTA and Trails West requests for an explanation, Don Buck received a letter in September from Christine Hill, archaeologist for the Eagle Lake Ranger



Roman trail swales.

Photo by Leslie Fryman.

District where the damage occurred. Though apologetic, the letter indicated that USFS does not think the logging activity caused permanent damage to the trail, and that blading the trail is not "inconsistent with typical use of Class 4 Emigrant Trails throughout the forest road system at this time." Until the recent blading occurred, it is questionable whether these segments would have been classified as Class 2 or Class 4. Nevertheless, the letter stated that the USFS would attempt to restore some of the damage and loss of visual integrity along the trail, and promised, "the natural areas surrounding the trail will return in the near future."

Several concerned OCTA members are tracking proposed developments at Kirkwood Ski Resort along the Carson River Route, where Kirkwood proposes two new ski lifts, a new maintenance road, and other new facilities in view of a much-visited and very important section of the trail through Emigrant Valley. Two already-existing ski lifts pass directly over the trail itself, a cafe/ski chalet is located directly adjacent to the trail, and a Class 1 portion of the trail in Emigrant Valley was dynamited some years ago to smooth a ski slope. Input from Bill and Jeanne Watson and Frank Tortsich now has Kirkwood and the Eldorado National (See Preservation, p. 17)

DESTINATION VANCOUVER:

on the Mighty Columbia

by Carol March

August 2004 found us "on the trail" for our annual trek to the OCTA National Convention, this year held in Vancouver, Washington along the "River Trail of History." As we drove through Portland, Oregon late on a Tuesday afternoon, highway traffic ground to a near standstill as impatient drivers waited to cross the river. It reminded me of diary quotes telling of emigrants with their covered wagons and animals waiting their turn to cross the river to rejoin the trail on the other side!

Our arrival in Vancouver began five jam-packed days of new trail adventures. We were greeted by the Northwest Chapter hosts at the Red Lion at the Quay in time to visit with those who had arrived a day or two earlier. Some had attended workshops and the OCTA Board Meeting sessions while others were returning from preconvention tours to Fort Vancouver and Oregon City. Still others had enjoyed auto tours from Hermiston, near Echo, to The Dalles and on the Cowlitz River Route to Puget Sound. All agreed the tours were excellent experiences, but they hadn't anticipated the unseasonably warm weather which stayed with us all week!

That first evening we were entertained at a Re-enactors Program. Oregon Trail emigrant, Abigail Scott Duniway, was depicted in a one-act solo play by Susan Butruille, while Tom Laidlaw appeared as fur trader William Cannon, first American at Fort Vancouver. Carl Allen ended the evening singing folk music about the Columbia River. The audience joined in with well-known Woodie Guthrie songs, leaving us humming and smiling!

Wednesday the convention officially opened with close to 500 people in attendance. There was a general membership meeting in the morning and keynote speaker, Bill Lang. He spoke about "Two Trails to Oregon," noting the differences between "the wagon

people and the ship people." He said the mostly middle class, midwestern "wagon people" ended up in charge of politics while "ship people" who came largely from the East Coast ended up in charge of economics and controlling the money. He summarized by saying it was not why you came to Oregon but how you came to Oregon that was important.

In the afternoon we heard three papers about the Native American Culture and the Fur Trade, beginning with R. G. Robertson's topic, "Before the Wagons Came...." He outlined the activity between 1808 when Astor started the American Trading Company and the 1830's when Americans began coming for land not beavers. He said between 1820 and 1830 over 30,000 beaver pelts had been collected! In the second presentation, Sandy McFarland and Doug Gober talked about the "Nez Perce National Trail, Past and Present" which carried major traders through the rugged Bit-

terroot Mountains. Once called "a buffalo trail" and a "trail to the salmon," it was followed by Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery. The final speaker this day was Jim Hardee who explained the "Impact of the Fur Trade on the Native Culture of the Pacific Northwest." There was overland trade for pelts with Americans as well as trade by sea with the English, Russians, French and Spanish. Indians became shrewd traders and profited from new resources and ideas, but there were also the negative aspects of disease, the alteration of the native diet and alcoholism.

That evening the Awards Banquet was held in the Red Lion Ballroom, with small noble fir trees of the Northwest gracing each place setting. Dinner featured a yummy green salad, a variety of vegetables and a choice of sirloin steak with mushrooms or planked roasted salmon. Dessert was a key lime tart. We enjoyed the fellowship at the big



Tour leaders Suzanne and Chuck Hornbuckle point to the Cowlitz Trail..

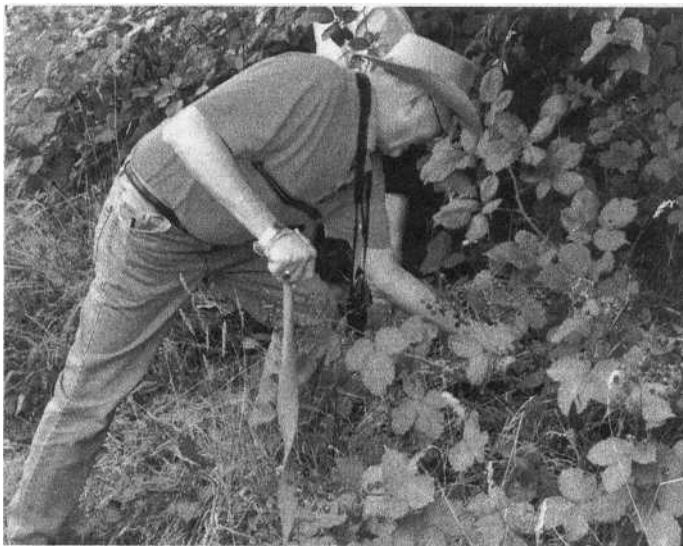
Photo by Norine Kimmy.

round tables during dinner and afterwards honored newly selected individuals for their contributions to OCTA and the trails.

Thursday there were special sessions for those who were attending the Teacher's Institute, representatives were there from the Postal Service with special commemorative stamps, and we heard papers on the Trails and Settlements. Susan Doyle began the morning with her presentation of "Forgotten Trails: Upper Columbia River Routes of the Oregon Trail, 1841 to 1851," from the western base of the Blue Mountains to the Columbia River. She commented that these trails are generally overlooked and understudied by Oregon Trail historians.

Next Weldon Rau talked about "The Columbia River Gorge and Emigrant Travel."

This gap in the Cascade Range was physically challenging, and, until the Barlow Road was built in 1846, all travel was through the Gorge. The third speaker of the morning, Dennis Larsen, told us about "Ezra Meeker's Old Oregon Trail Monument Expedition 1906-08." He was accompanied by members of the Ezra Meeker Historical Society and a replica of Meeker's wagon! To wrap up the morning session,



Dave Stone discovers berries on the Lewis and Clark tour. Photo by Carol March.



Virginia Hammerness assists flag bearer on Lewis and Clark tour. Photo by Carol March.

Jim Tompkins spoke on "Settlement Patterns of the Willamette Valley (1840-1870)," covering the eras of the Hudson Bay Company and the missions to the first American government and finally the coming of the railroads.

After a good Taco Lunch in the River Ballrooms, we heard two excellent talks on Lewis and Clark, a topic much discussed along the Columbia River as the official Lewis and Clark Bicentennial gets underway. David Nicandri spoke about "What Did Lewis and Clark Know and When Did They Know It?" He pointed out they thought they knew about the Columbia River, but earlier maps and writings misled them. From an 1792 account they thought Mt. Hood marked the end of the Columbia River, and from another published in 1801 they

mis-

took the Frasier River for the north fork of the Columbia. Their journals mention being on the Columbia River after passing the Continental Divide which also proved to be wrong.

The final paper, presented by Pat Courtney

Gold, was titled, "The Chinookan Nations Encounter the Corps of Discovery." Before Lewis and Clark arrived, as many as 55 major Indian Nations had been in the Columbia River area for thousands of years, each with its own culture, language, history and taboos — something else the Corps of Discovery misinterpreted! Salmon was the basis of the Indian culture which, dried and pounded, was a major source for trade with other tribes as well as with Europeans. Members of the Corps of Discovery didn't like salmon, preferring to eat "small, fat dogs," an insult to the Indians whose sacred food was salmon!

The afternoon sessions also included workshops. Some folks learned about the Archaeology at Fort Van-



Bob Pearce tour participant. Photo by Carol March.

(See VANCOUVER, p.20)

CHAPTER AWARDS PRESENTED IN VANCOUVER

By Tom Fee

Fran Taplin and Tom Fee of the Chapter Awards Committee presented six Certificates of Appreciation at the Vancouver, Washington OCTA Convention on August 11, 2004.

A Certificate was presented to **Mary Ann Tortorich** for her outstanding leadership and many years of service as National Convention Chair, developer of the OCTA Convention Manual, staff *neither of *Trail Talk* when Roy Stewart was editor, and a willingness to lend a helping hand.



Award recipient, Mary Ann Tortorich, between presenters Jim Allison and Tom Fee. Photo by Bev Hesse.



Jim Allison receiving certificate from Fran Taplin.
Photo by Bev. Hesse.

Jim Allison: for leadership as California-Nevada Chapter President.

Dave Hollecker: for helping to organize the Reno 2002 OCTA Convention and his work in saving a segment of the Beckwourth Trail near Reno.

Gary Kurutz: for leadership and cooperation in establishing the OCTA Western Overland Trails Collection at the California State Library in Sacramento.



Dave Hollecker given award by Tom Fee.
Photo by Bev Hesse.

SACRAMENTO JEEPERS DEDICATE MEMORIAL TO ED DUNKLEY

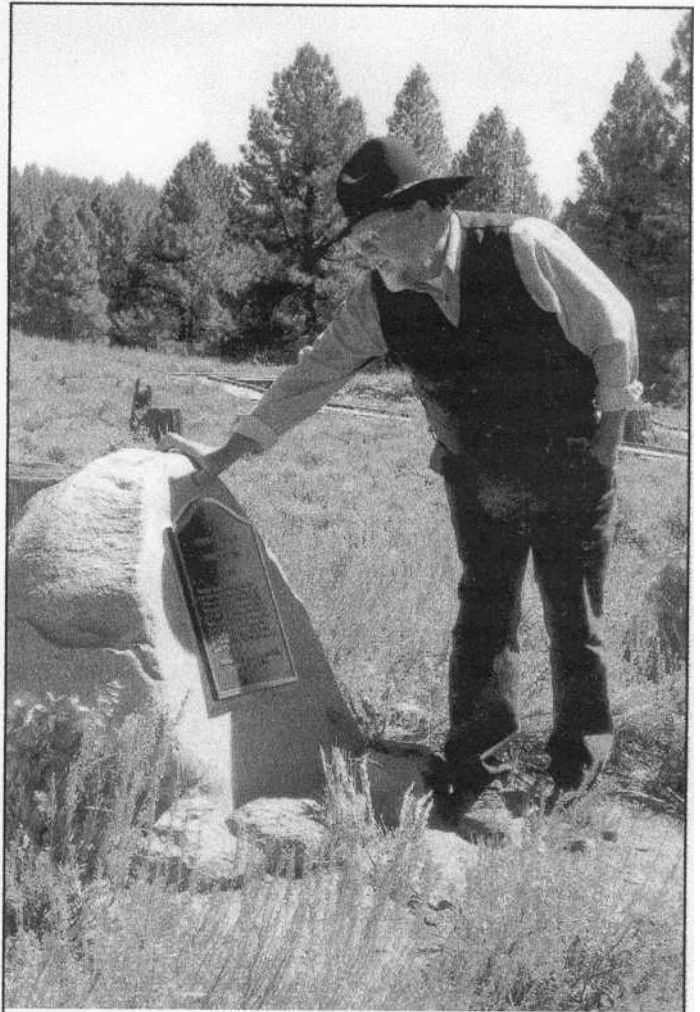
About 100 long time friends of Ed Dunkley, gathered at the Kyburz Flat Interpretive area in Northern California for the dedication of a permanent memorial to Ed who died in 2001. The attendees included family, fellow jeepers, and fellow OCTA members.



WarnerAnderson served as MC. He and Louie Hicks unveiled the large boulder and plaque. Then Warner introduced several folks who spoke and told stories of their adventures with Ed. The boulder and plaque were placed with permission of the US Forest Service.

The plaque reads: *Through his passion for knowledge about trails used in the western movement in Nevada and California, he was instrumental in re-defining this, The Henness Pass, and other routes long forgotten but to a few. The hours of research and travel on deck/end trails paid off as now you can travel these old routes and imagine the endless wagon trains full of gold seekers and people looking for a new life in the west. Ed was truly a man of the past who looked to the future. Dedicated by the Sacramento Jeepers on this the 28th day of August, 2004.*

After the dedication, the attendees enjoyed refreshments in a nearby clearing. It was noted that Ed recently had been inducted into the Off-Road Motorsports Hall of Fame located in Reno, NV.



Warner Anderson reads the inscription on "Ed's Rock."
Photo contributed by Adrienne Hicks

DIARY QUOTES ...

William Cartier Moss, 1861.

Submitted by Shann Rupp



– "Passed Prairie Creek with the water so high it would come into the wagons. Every man takes a sack of flour, a roll of blankets, or what not and wades the creek with his load upon his back or on his head; then back for more till all is piled up on the bank. The wagons are brought across and reloaded, ...Now the teams are doubled and we prod along through mud and mire – a perfect lake of it for miles. Horses give out; children cry; both men and women worn out with hunger, fatigue and anxiety. Oh, this is going to California!"

– At one point on the Simpson Route, Moss wrote: "Here we saw a lot of cows! genuine cows! How we craved a drink of milk and a slice of fresh, golden butter! I tell you we just loved those cows and wanted to tell them so but we ate more rusty bacon, drank our coffee from the same old tin cup, finished with a couple of dodgers and settled at a stage station,.... "

MAKE MY DAY

By Mary Mueller

At least three people read my article about signs and plaques in the summer issue of *TrailTalk* for they contacted me. I want to tell all you readers that made my day!

Paul Sawyer of Elko barely had time to read the newsletter when he called me to confirm that the Auto Tour markers for the California Trail are on all the major highways in northern Nevada and what is more, Nevada Department of Transportation is installing the signs on secondary roads. Paul is a longtime OCTA member and one of the most active.

R. Hamm of Nevada City sent a postcard to thank me for the list of OCTA plaques in the summer issue and reminded me I forgot the OMEGA marker on Highway 20. We cannot claim OCTA for that handsome stone monument for it was installed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. I hope his interest in Nevada City area will include marking the beautiful swales at the same rest area. In fact, the trail is visible on both sides of the highway. If anyone knows Mr. Hamm, please tell him to contact me. I wrote a note of thanks, and it was returned for the need of a suitable number.

Juanita Larimore of Santa Rosa, OCTA member, had lunch with me at one of the convention luncheons in Vancouver and from that encounter she sent me an email to let me know she has done the research of Lovina Graves, Donner party survivor. In fact, she is a close friend of Marilyn Kramer, who is the great granddaughter of Lovina.

After many emails and a long phone call we made arrangements for Pat Loomis and me to attend the Caymus Chapter, DAR in Calistoga. The meeting was held at the Bear Flag B & B, which was the home of Lovina Graves Cyrus. The property and the home were sold several years ago. Marilyn was the luncheon speaker and told about her ancestors, and afterwards

the four women visited the grave sites in Calistoga Cemetery.

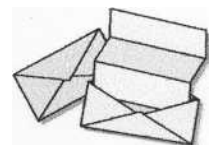
It was good of Frank Tortorich to read the article *Signs and Plaques*; he reminded me that I had overlooked the marker on the Carson Trail. Not only that one, I missed two others. They are:

1996 At the intersection of Greenley and Mono streets in Sonora, a marker was dedicated to the Sonora Emigrant Trail Terminus by OCTA and E Clampus Vitus Matuca Chapter. The dedication was the culmination of a weekend spent at Sonora's historic Opera Hall listening to talks which included the descriptions of the tribulations and triumphs on the trail to Tuolumne county.

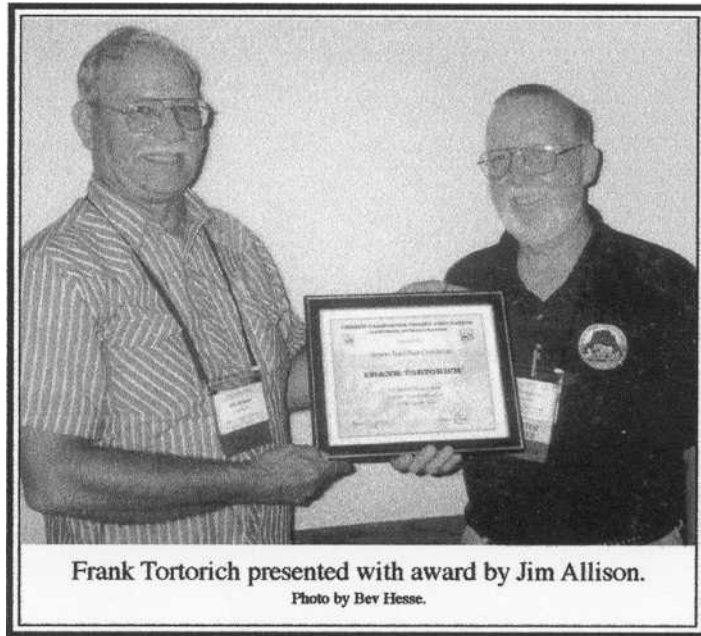
1997 The grave of Lucinda Parker Duncan was marked by Randy Brown and Elko OCTA members Bob Pearce and Tony Primeaux in June. A dedication ceremony later that summer was attended by many Duncan family descendants. The marker, placed at the foot of the tall cross, is about three miles east of Beowawe, NV.

2000 On July 23, California-Nevada Chapter OCTA members, led by Frank Tortorich, placed a plaque commemorating the Carson River Emigrant Route on a section of the trail close to Highway 88 in Hope Valley. The text of the plaque traces the history of the emigrants through Hope Valley from the Mormon Battalion in 1848 to the 50,000 people who crossed in 1850. The plaque was a joint project funded by OCTA and the California Department of Fish and Game.

These are the connections we need to interest you in telling us about your ancestors or to suggest a person or a place. Maybe we can do research for you. I may have the very person to ask!



FRANK TORTORICH RECEIVES SENIOR TRAIL BOSS AWARD



President Jim Allison presented the Senior Trail Boss Award to Frank Tortorich for his outstanding efforts over many years leading tours and protecting and preserving the Carson Trail.

Frank has worked with Forest Service personnel and others over a long period of time, establishing cooperative working relationships which facilitated protection and preservation of the Carson Trail. Frank has taken a leadership position in marking the Carson Trail, protecting and preserving the trail, and educating many people about the trail via tours and lectures.

Outgoing Awards Chair Tom Fee, who

believes in tradition, wished to reestablish a tradition of Awarding a Senior Trail Boss Certificate to a dedicated chapter member who spends much time and effort in preserving and protecting a particular trail and/or leading many tours along a particular emigrant trail. The recipient is chosen by the Chapter President *and* the award is presented by the President.

This tradition was initiated by Past President John Townley. During George Hesse's presidency, Jack Steed received the first certificate in April 1994, and Jim McClain received the second certificate in February 1995.



Barbara Dorr & Beverly Hesse



Virginia Stanton & Bennie Scoles



APRIL 22-24, 2005

Mark your calendars! This promises to be one of the best symposiums ever! We have a variety of speakers and entertainment guaranteed to interest everyone!

We have contacted some motels in the Gardnerville/Minden area which have agreed to block off rooms for OCTA and offer a special room rate – the Carson Valley Inn Motor Lodge & RV Park (adjacent to the casino) and also the Minden Inn Best Western. There are other inns available in the greater Carson Valley/Alpine Co. area at a slightly higher cost.

Our main symposium event will be held in the Genoa Community Center in the heart of Genoa. Other highlights include: a private tour of the Genoa County Courthouse Museum, Mormon Station Nevada State Park, and a visit to the cemetery where Snowshoe Thompson and his family are buried (descendants still live in the area).

An exciting line up of **speakers includes:**

- **Frank Tortorich** (Historian Extraordinaire!) will give a talk on Snowshoe Thompson: How did he get his name? Did you know he delivered mail for 20 years and never got paid by the US government?

- **Billy Wright**, a local Snowshoe Thompson expert and author, will be on hand to add to our knowledge of the area!

- **Leslie Fryman** will have a presentation on the early trading post pioneers Nickolas and Rebekah Ambrose. Dutch Nick's, as their wayside station at New Empire (between Dayton and Genoa) was known, is one of the early settlements in the territory. Its history before and after the Comstock Era is a classic story of a rags-to-riches Nevada boomtown.

- **Don Buck** is in the process of organizing two discussion sessions that focus on historic Genoa. One will be on the question of which settlement, Dayton or Genoa, was the first in Nevada. Several Nevada historians have weighed in with answers to this question.

The second session will be on the question of where the first Mormon Station of 1850 was located – a mile north of Genoa or at the present replica of Mormon Station, right in Genoa. Recently, this question has generated quite a bit of local enthusiasm. Because of the number of historians involved, we'll try to organize these two sessions in a more open, forum type presentation, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. They both should be quite lively. The audience will have an opportunity to see and hear how historians marshal their evidence and draw their conclusions.

- A unique **chautauqua performance.**
- **Special guests** include members of the Washoe Tribe.
- **Genoa mayor** and **Markleeville Museum director**
- Fabulous Superb **lunch!**
Dinner at a surprise location.

- **Sunday:** a private tour of **Markleeville Museum.**
- Other **landmarks beckon** beyond the Genoa area and beyond the **Weekend!**

Make it an event you won 't forget!

Details on registration, room rates, deadlines, schedules, maps and general information will be in the winter issue of *Trail Talk*, and individual packets will be mailed to each member in February.

GENOA HISTORY:

Genoa became a permanent settlement in 1851 and in 1854 was included in Carson County, Utah Territory. Nevada Territory was organized in 1861 and Genoa was named the county seat of newly established Douglas County. Nevada's statehood was declared October 31, 1864.

MORMON STATION:

This early log cabin settlement has had a variety of names – named after the current owner at that time. But, one thing was the same – the need to provide supplies to weary pioneers traveling west and east. The old station burned down in 1910 and a new replica was built in 1947.

PONY EXPRESS:

The Pony Express pioneer mail carrying system began operations April 3, 1860, and operated for 18 months between St. Joseph, MO and Sacramento, CA. Nevada had 34 stations; one of which was located at Genoa.

GENOA COURTHOUSE MUSEUM:

The Douglas County Courthouse was built in 1865 and later served as an elementary school until 1956 when Genoa was consolidated with the Minden/Garderville school district. The Courthouse has been restored and serves as a reservoir of historical information and artifacts of the area.

MARKLEEVILLE:

Named for Jacob Marklee, an enterprising man who came to the area in 1861 and set up a lumber mill. His house was on the site where the courthouse is today. Markleeville is the county seat for Alpine County.

This rugged and beautiful county is the least populated in the state, boasts no stop lights or strip malls. But it does have some of the most awesome natural land in California – about 95% is on government land owned by the forest service. Many outdoor activities are available throughout the year: hiking, fishing, skiing or enjoying the many historic sites in the area – old mining towns and ruins.

The Alpine County Museum is historically rich in artifacts and archival information. Webster School, built in 1882, was used until the 1940's. The old jailhouse was moved there from down by the courthouse. Down the road about 2 miles is Grover Hot Springs. Open all year, it is as welcome a respite for travelers now as it was 140 years ago.

CARSON CITY:

Much can be said for Carson City, the state capital. Available are tours of Victorian Homes, the Nevada State Museum, the Courthouse, and the state archives. Interestingly, Mark Twain/Sam Clemens lived in Carson City with his brother, Orion, as did timber magnate D. L. Bliss, and the famous Washoe basket weaver Dat-So-La-Lee.

GARDNERVILLE/MINDEN:

There's a lot of Nevada history here, too. Visit the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center while you're there.



National

OCTA WEB SITE

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

WAGON DEDICATION Sutter's Fort

Dedication of the newly built emigrant wagon at Sutter's Fort was held August 22 in ceremonies attended by OCTA members, history buffs, and visitors from Pennsylvania Amish country as well as tourists from England, Germany, and Japan.

It was built by the Hansen Wheel and Wagon Shop in Letcher, South Dakota from plans drawn by Dick Davis and his son a number of years ago to accompany an article Dick wrote. A grant of \$20,000 and lots of people working together made the wagon a reality. Dick shared his dream of building the wagon and gave Frank Tortorich credit for making it happen. The same wagon built in 1846 would have cost \$120.

The men from Pennsylvania Amish country asked if they could inspect the wagon, explaining they always look at every wagon they find in museums and on display. After checking out the wagon, including intently examining underneath, they exclaimed, "We finally found one that was built correctly!"



Sylvestor (Frank), Anna Mae (Mary Ann) with the wagon.

Frank and Mary Ann Tortorich dressed in period costume for the living history at Sutter's Fort, performed their now famous "Anna Mae and Sylvestor Hale" emigrant skit.

Coming Soon:

Forgotten Journey — on DVD, with a special Educational Supplement

The award-winning documentary *Forgotten Journey: the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Saga*—which tells the story of the first pioneer wagon party over the Sierra—will soon be available on DVD, along with an Educational Supplement to enhance its value for educators and other trail buffs, according to CA/NV chapter member and producer John Krizek.

The Educational Supplement includes 11 chapters of text and illustrations in an easy-to-use CD format. The chapters correspond to sections within the film. Also included is reference to a new teachers guide, posted on the *Forgotten Journey* web site <www.thecaliforniatrail.com>. The Guide, designed to assist teachers in using the film as a classroom tool, may also be found by adding /GoWest to the above address, <www.thecaliforniatrail.com/GoWest>

The new DVD/Educational Supplement combination will be made available through an upcoming OCTA catalogue. Meanwhile chapter members who want to place orders can do so by going to the above web site, or calling John at (866) 288-3908.

Forgotten Journey has been available in the VHS format since it was introduced and broadcast on PBS stations throughout the country in 2001, and through several catalogues and trail centers, including OCTA.

ELKO TRAIL CENTER UPDATE

By Lyndia Carter

*Editor's Note: The following article appeared in "Crossroads" – the newsletter of the Utah Crossroads Chapter.**

At Crossroads' September 11 meeting, Dave Jamiel, Trails Project Manager, gave an update on the California Trail Center being planned for Elko. With the land exchange now completed, the site is under federal ownership and BLM supervision, so construction will begin soon. The design phase is nearly finished. Dave described some of the dioramas and exhibits planned for the Center. Many graphics and journal quotes will make the nineteenth century trail experience come alive for modern travelers. Viewscapes will include the South Fork of the Humboldt, as well as the Humboldt River. Both indoor and outdoor space will "represent" the journey west. The interior will

contain eight thousand square feet of exhibit space. The visitor will move through rooms that depict the jumping off experience, the Platte River and Rocky Mountain zones, the difficulties crossing the Great Basin (this is the largest area in the Center and will also explain desert life and resources and acquaint the visitor with Native American cultures in the Great Basin), the rigorous trek over the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and life at the end of the trail and the impact of emigration. A final area will have a preservation emphasis and will show what is and can be done to save the trail for future generations. Dave Jamiel's cutoff overview and the Center preview were both excellent!

** For an update on the most recent development at the Elko Trail Center see fall issue of NFP.*

Lewis and Clark Trail Maps

A Cartographic Reconstruction, Volume III

Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean, and Further Columbia, Marias, and Yellowstone Explorations (Washington/Oregon/Idaho/Montana) – Outbound in 1805; Return 1806

Martin Plamondon II

After crossing the Bitterroot Range and canoeing down the cataract-filled Snake River, the Corps of Discovery finally reached the long-sought Columbia River in the Autumn of 1805. *Volume III* continues the cartographic reconstruction of the explorers' trek as they set out from the Snake-Columbia junction, October 18, 1805, on the final leg of their journey to the sea.

Of special interest in this volume are the many excerpts from the expedition diaries. This careful cartographic reconstruction is a captivating and never-seen-before record of the American West.

For more information, or to order directly from WSU Press, please call 800-354-7360.

AWARDS COMMITTEE HAS NEW MEMBER

By Anne-Louise Bennett

Awards Committee Chair Anne-Louise Bennett is very pleased to announce that Virginia Hammerness has been named to the Chapter Awards Committee to fill the vacancy left when Tom Fee's term ended on August 31.

Virginia is a long time member of OCTA and the California-Nevada Chapter. She has served our Chapter as editor of *Trail Talk* for 52 issues, beginning with issue number 14 in January 1992! Virginia has just ended her second stint on the California-Nevada Chapter Board of Directors. Virginia also served on the Board in 1991-1993 and was Chapter Vice-president in 1993 and 1994. She was Raffle Committee Chairman at the 2002 Reno Convention.

Virginia is a fourth generation Californian whose grandfather, A.P. Giannini founded Bank of Italy/Bank of America in October 1904. She is an

accomplished horse woman and an unaccomplished fisherman – it's walking the streams that's the draw.

Virginia is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Giannini Family Foundation, on the Board of Directors of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Assn., and active and passive in several history oriented groups.

The California-Nevada Chapter is grateful for the many hours of service Tom devoted to the Awards Committee. Tom came up with the idea of a CA/NV Chapter Awards Committee, contacted Mary Mueller and Carol March and asked them to be on the first committee. Together they developed the Awards Committee Charter and the procedures they follow. Tom also developed a 10-section Awards Committee binder which each committee member has for reference.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

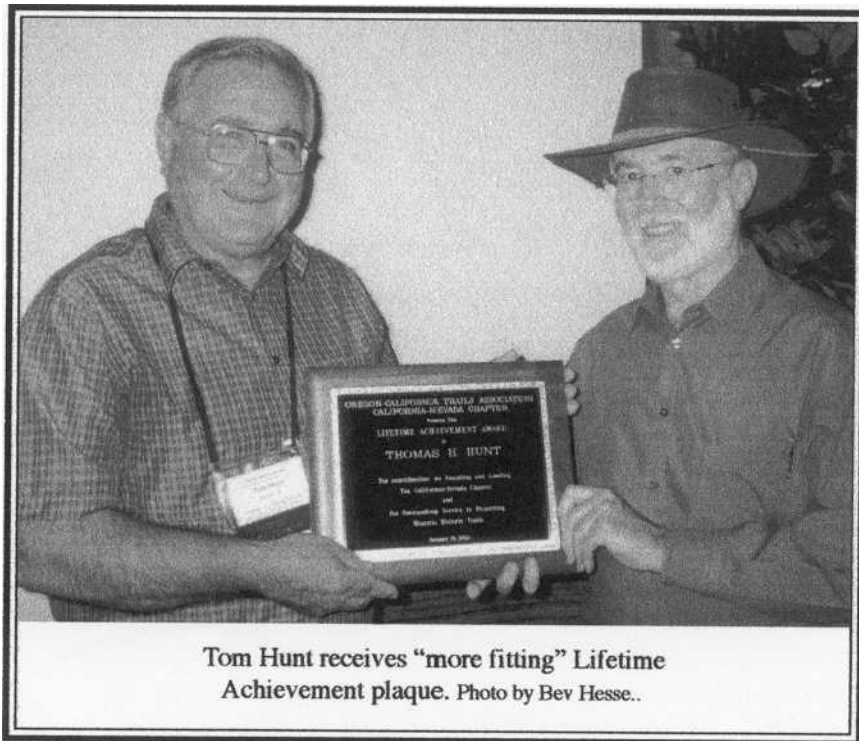
By Tom Fee

Your Awards Committee is calling on members of the California-Nevada Chapter to nominate deserving people for two categories of awards. One is the Lifetime Achievement Award (plaque) for outstanding service by a Chapter member regarding trails preservation and/or outstanding service to the chapter. This award is presented once a year, usually at the chapter symposium. The second category is Certificates of Appreciation awarded to five or six people twice a year. One presentation is at the chapter meeting at the OCTA Convention. The other is at the chapter meeting at the symposium. Chapter members and nonmembers are eligible. These Certificates of Appreciation are to honor people who have contributed to the chapter and/or to emigrant trail protection and preservation.

Each nomination should include a thorough description of why the nominee deserves to be honored. Please send your nominations to Anne-Louise Bennett, CA-NV Awards Chair, 3655 Cashill Blvd., Reno, Nevada 89509-7401 or email [Anne-Louise at <cambennett@charter.net>](mailto:Anne-Louise at cambennett@charter.net)

In order for the Awards Committee to complete the selection process and to have time to prepare the plaque and certificates in time for the April Genoa Symposium, we need your nomination by March 1, 2005.

TOM HUNT RECEIVES A MORE APPROPRIATE LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT PLAQUE



At the end of the Chapter Awards presentations, outgoing Awards Committee Chair Tom Fee explained that there was only one thing he regretted during the three years he was on the Awards Committee. In searching for a plaque for Tom Hunt, the first recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, the committee had difficulty finding a trophy store that carried a good selection of plaques. Tom finally found Things Remembered in a Reno mall. The largest and most attractive plaque was 8" x 10" in size. This plaque was presented to Tom Hunt at the Placerville Symposium in January 2002.

Many months later Tom Fee found a Trophy Store in Sparks that had a huge selection of plaques and a beautiful 10

1/2" x 13" wood plaque with a black brass plate and gold trim border. This type of plaque was later presented to Dick Davis, Mary Mueller, and Shann and Bill Rupp. Fee has always felt our chapter's founder and first recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award should have received the second, more fitting plaque.

Fee arranged for the more appropriate plaque to be engraved with the same wording as the first plaque. It was presented to a surprised Tom Hunt at the end of the Awards Presentation in Vancouver on August 11. Chapter funds were not utilized because Fee found a benefactor living in Reno. Now Tom Fee can retire from the Awards Committee in peace.

MAIDEN'S GRAVE THE REST OF THE STORY

By Joyce Everett

Two plaques on emigrant graves near Tragedy Springs on Highway 88 were dedicated last month.

On October 4, 2004, two buses filled with members of the Amador Historical Society and the Amador County Sesquicentennial Committee made their way from Jackson to the Maiden's Grave at the roadside of Highway 88 on the Carson River Route near Tragedy Springs for the dedication.

Awaiting their arrival were Marilyn Meyer of the Amador Ranger District-Eldorado National Forest, Don Herman, US Forest Service volunteer and Trails West member, and CA/NV Chapter of OCTA members including Charles and Mary Anne Convis, Norine Kimmy, Jim Allison and Joyce Everett.

Frank Tortorich, OCTA representative, was master of ceremonies and gave a brief background on the historical significance of the two plaques.

The so-called Maiden's Grave is on Highway 88,



Robert Saracino, Frank Tortorich, and Buck Buckley, during dedication at the Maiden's Grave roadside stop.

Photo by Norine Kimmy.

but an entry in William Edmondson's diary discloses that it was the burial place of emigrant Allen Melton who died during the night of October 3, 1850.

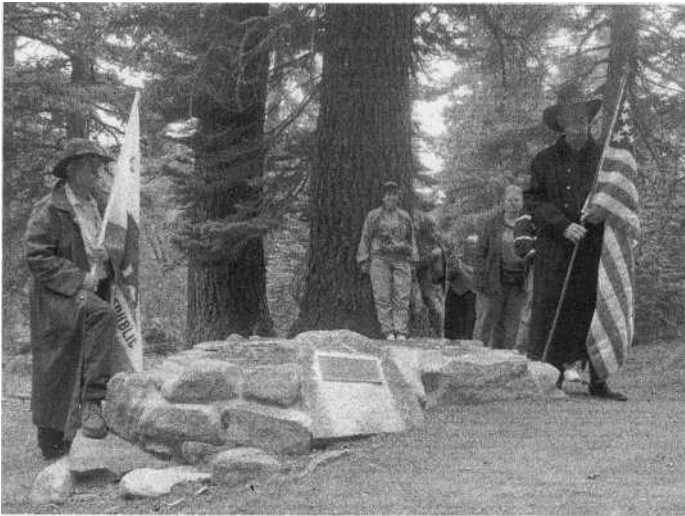


View of attendees assembled to hear Frank's explanation at the "real" Maiden's Grave. Photo by Norine Kimmy.

Two miles east of Melton's grave is the "real" Maiden's Grave, the resting place of a young girl named Rachel who also had died in the 1850s while traveling to California. She had been buried near a large tree in the Tragedy Springs meadow. Years later her mother returned and attempted unsuccessfully to locate her daughter's grave.

Some time later well intended residents incorrectly identified the Allen Melton grave as the "Maiden's". Years later Rachael 's grave was located in the meadow on property now belonging to the Bachich family; they were thanked for their on-going support of Rachael's grave site.

Now, plaques at the two locations explain the confusing facts.



Grave at Tragedy Springs, color guard and some attendees.

Photo by Norine Kimmy.

After our picnic lunch in the meadow, we went to Tragedy Spring. There the Color Guard marked the start of the short ceremony. Frank gave a brief history of the opening of the trail and discovery of the grave of the three Mormons scouts who had been murdered while endeavoring to find a route east from Sutter's fort to Salt Lake City.

◆ **PRESERVATION** (from p. 3.)

Forest promising that no further direct damage will occur to the trail, and that proposed indirect or visual effects will be mitigated adequately. A list of possible mitigation measures include ski lifts that "lay down" to be less visible in summer, interpretive exhibits on the trail, a treatment plan to guide the USFS in protecting threatened portions of the trail and repairing damage in the vicinity of Carson Pass and Kirkwood, and "auto-tour" trail signs installed along Highway 88. USFS would require that Kirkwood follow through on the accepted mitigation or their special use permit could be revoked. OCTA members will continue to work with Kirkwood as these measures are decided.

Archaeologist Gary Bowyer of Carson City BLM has indicated that the upcoming Fernley Sand Swales monitoring and trash removal outing would also be an appropriate time for OCTA and BLM to discuss ongoing and additional measures for protecting and interpreting the swales. The BLM will likely request that OCTA participate in these measures with volunteer effort and chapter funds. Previous suggestions to prevent trash dumping in the swales and to increase public awareness of the historic trail range from chain link fencing to school programs.

The Preservation Officer's winter plans are to draft a summary of preservation policies and procedures to include in the CA/NV Chapter policy manual being compiled by Mary Mueller, and to assist national Preservation Officer Dave Welch in developing a "traveling" preservation workshop for use in training those interested in preservation in all chapters.

*Genoa Symposium - April 22-24, 2005
An event you won't forget!*



A DONNER PARTY SURVIVOR'S DESCENDANT'S STORY

By Marilyn Sherwood Kramer

Foreword: Last September Mary Mueller and Pat Loomis traveled to Calistoga to attend a meeting of the Daughters of the America Revolution to hear a talk by Marilyn Sherwood Kramer, descendant of Lavina Graves of the Donner Party.

Mary and Pat visited the Sharpsteen Museum in Calistoga to view the permanent John and Lovina Graves Cyrus exhibit. The highlights of the Graves/Cyrus exhibit are the bookcase brought across the plains by the Cyrus family which traveled just ahead of the Donner Party and a kettle brought overland by the Graves family.

Following is Marilyn's story.



Pat Loomis, Juanita Larimore, and Marilyn Kramer at Calistoga Pioneer Cemetery. Photo by Mary Mueller

My story begins in 1846 in Marshall County, Illinois when Franklin Ward Graves and his wife, Elizabeth Cooper Graves, decided to sell their 500 acres of farm land and emigrate to California. This Graves family is the connection to my membership in this wonderful Caymus Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Franklin Ward Graves was a son of Zenas Graves who was a fifer during the War of 1776.

Franklin and his wife Elizabeth had 11 children, two of whom died during infancy. The remaining nine journeyed with their parents into the land of expected prosperity and unexpected death.

In 1846, Franklin was 60 years old and Elizabeth was 46. At this time: Sarah was 21, Mary Anna was 19, William Cooper was 17, Eleanor (also known as "Ellen") was 13, Lovina was 11, Nancy was 8, Jonathan was 6, Franklin Ward, Jr. was 4, and Elizabeth, Jr. (as she was known) was a nursing infant.

After hearing stories and reading articles in various publications, Franklin and Elizabeth decided to journey to California in search of a milder climate and rich soil for farming. They sold their 500 acres for \$1500 with which they purchased 3 covered wagons, oxen, and provisions. They also brought with them

several head of cattle and a few horses.

Sarah Graves, the eldest of the children, had not planned to travel West, but changed her mind, married her fiance, Jay Fosdick, and they joined her family. Franklin hired John Snyder to drive one of the wagons; Franklin drove a wagon, and Jay Fosdick drove the third wagon.

On April 12, 1846, they departed from Marshall Co., Illinois, traveling to New Boston where they crossed the Mississippi River, crossed Iowa and reached St. Joseph, MO which was a jumping off point for California/Oregon-bound travelers and where one could purchase final provisions. St. Joseph was also where the emigrants could join up with a "wagon train" for better protection from the Indians and other trail miseries.

On May 25, 1846, the Graves family departed St. Joseph, traveling with the "Smith Company." They were commencing a journey that would lead them into the pages of history. Reason P. Tucker was also in this Company and he will appear later in the story.

On August 27th, the Graves family overtook the Donner Party as they were getting ready to take

the Hastings Cutoff through the Wasatch Mountains above Salt Lake City. While at Ft. Bridger, the Graves family was persuaded to try Hastings Cutoff as it would save them 300 miles. At this point, the Graves family became a part of the Donner Party.

Through numerous unfortunate incidents, the Donner Party was the last wagon train on the trail. It was critical for them to be over the Sierras before the first snowfall which normally arrived in November. However, due to the mishaps during their passage through the Great Salt Lake area, the Humboldt River and Truckee Meadows, they did not reach the Truckee Lake (Donner Lake) area until October 28 at which time the snow arrived a month early.

Trapped by the snow several attempts were made to cross over the pass. On the 16th of December, 15 people left camp on snowshoes made by Franklin Graves. Included in the group were Franklin Ward Graves, daughters Mary Anna and Sarah, and Sarah's husband Jay Fosdick. Elizabeth remained at the cabin with the other seven children.

This group was known as the "Snowshoe Party" and/or "Forlorn Hope." Mary Anna and Sarah were the only Graves family members to survive this escape attempt. They were rescued soon after January 18, 1847 by men who were staying in the area of Johnson's Ranch and who had crossed the Sierra prior to the first snowfall. Among these men were Reason Tucker and M.D. Ritchie's son. The surviving members of the "Snowshoe Party" were approximately 18 miles from Johnson Ranch.

William, Eleanor and Lovina Graves were among the survivors of the First Relief Party lead by Reason Tucker. Most of the relief parties lost some of the "rescued" due to their emaciated conditions.

Mrs. Graves, Nancy, Jonathan, Franklin, Jr. and Baby Elizabeth departed with the Second Relief Party, lead by James F. Reed. However, before leaving the Truckee Lake area, Mrs. Graves buried a bag of gold and silver coins. These coins had previously been hidden within the Graves' wagon. The coins were later found by a prospector and returned to the Graves family. These coins are known as the "Donner Dollars." They were later distributed among Graves descendants. I don't know how many there arebut I have one!

It should be noted that Mrs. Graves and Franklin, Jr. died on the trail and that the two youngest children survived until shortly after reaching Sutter's Fort. The six orphaned Graves children were: Sarah, Mary Anna, William, Eleanor, Lovina, and Nancy. They remained at Sutter's Fort for a few months, recuperating from their ordeal.

Reason Tucker knew the Graves family from the plains prior to their joining the Donner Party at Hastings Cutoff. Reason Tucker elected to take the Ft. Hall road from Fort Bridger. Tucker and his party's journey had been full of dangers and difficulties, and upon reaching Johnson's Ranch on October 25, 1846, they decided to remain there for the winter. Johnson's Ranch was the first settlement after coming over the Sierras. The next settlement was Sutter's Fort in the area now known as Sacramento.

I have to go back just a bit to bring in another family. Enoch Cyrus and his family were traveling in a wagon train ahead of the Donner Party. They departed St. Joseph, MO April 16, 1846, 5 weeks ahead of the Graves family, arriving in California October 18, 1846. The Cyrus party did not have the problems of the Donner Party and consequently was over Donner Pass before the first snow of the season which caught the Donner Party at Truckee Lake.

Enoch Cyrus and his family stayed on George Yount's property for two years. In the Spring of 1849, Enoch moved his family into a newly constructed log cabin on what is now known as "Cyrus Creek" near present Petrified Forest Road and Highway 128. It is family history that Enoch and some of his sons were also involved in one or more of the relief parties.

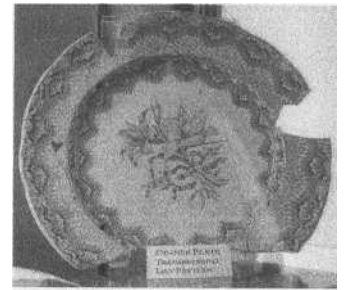
(See DONNER, p.22.)



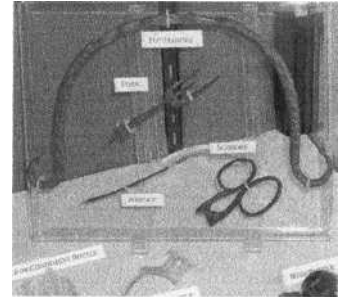
Donner Dollar (front and back)
Photo courtesy of Marilyn Kramer.



Explaining archeological dig at Fort Vancouver, Ranger points out the foundation (left) and the sifter (behind ranger). All photos by



Items recovered include lily pattern dinner plate, (below) pot handle, fork, needle, scissors and bottles.



◆ **VANCOUVER** (from p. 5.)

couver, some about pioneer music, while others discovered new ways of teaching history with 3-D objects or attended a session on interpretive media planning. The day concluded with a lasagna dinner at the riverside before Mary Ross and the Trail Band entertained in the evening.

Friday and Saturday saw us up and out early as bus tours whisked us off in various directions. Our group followed the Lewis and Clark Trail on the Lower Columbia, visiting places the Corps of Discovery camped in the fall of 1805 as they pushed to the Pacific Ocean. We went along the north side of the Columbia to the ocean at Long Beach, then crossed the river to visit reconstructed Fort Clatsop where the Expedition wintered over. Other groups followed the Columbia Gorge from The Dalles to Fort Vancouver either by bus or on a hiking tour. They viewed the place where the Oregon Trail dropped down from the Columbia Plateau to the Columbia River, and the hiking group walked on a pristine section of the Oregon Trail.

On the second day our bus tour followed the Barlow Road: Final Link of the Oregon Trail, while another group followed this same route but included hikes to the top of the Laurel Hill chutes, Devils Half Acre and to the Pioneer Woman's Grave. The bus tour

group also walked along the Barlow Road a short distance and visited the Pioneer grave. We drove on Mt. Hood to Timberline Lodge where we had a won



Hikers on the Barlow Road.
Photo by Carol March.



Pat Loomis and Barbara Dorr relax.

Photo by Virginia Hammerness

derful lunch with a view of wildflowers and the snowy mountain. Both of the Barlow Road tours ended at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City, the "de facto terminus of the trail" for thousands of emigrants. One other tour went to the Emigrant Destination: the Willamette Valley where rich, free Donation Lands beckoned Oregon Trail emigrants. All tour participants received an excellent tours booklet outlining the places we visited and describing their importance.

Friday evening we were on our own to explore Vancouver's dining places. We chose a great Thai restaurant a few blocks from the hotel, while others walked along the waterfront parkway to seafood or Mexican food restaurants. We returned to enjoy Authors' Night in the Book Room and to listen to the

OCTA band.

The final night of the Convention took us to nearby Fort Vancouver and Pearson Field for a buffet-style BBQ and evening program. The Fort had been the headquarters of the Hudson Bay Company in its heyday and an important destination for many emigrants. Here we were some 150+ years later, revisiting it. We



Bagpipe band.

Photo by Virginia Hammerness.

also were able to see the display of old airplanes at the Pearson Air Museum and watched as OCTA President Richard Pingrey took off in his antique plane and circled the field! His flight along with a golden sunset were the icing on the cake of another super OCTA convention.

Now we hope to see each of you in Salt Lake City next August when the Utah Crossroads Chapter will welcome us!



Costumed attendees at to BBQ. Photo by Norine Kirrmy.

◆ **DONNER** (from p. 19.)

Tracking Lovina from the time of her rescue in 1847 until 1855 when she married, has been quite an adventure. There are a number of inconsistencies among the various writings of family members. It appears that no one in the Graves family kept a journal while on the trail.

The Graves girls spent weeks and sometimes months in the homes of various families, both in the San Jose area and in the Napa Valley. Sometimes Nancy and Lovina lived with their older married sisters. Their brother William went back East soon after the ordeal. Within a couple of years, he returned to California, living in Napa Valley as a blacksmith. He moved to Lake County for a period of time. He also lived in Healdsburg and Santa Rosa during his lifetime.

Sometime in the late spring or early summer of 1848, Lovina traveled by horseback from the Upper Napa Valley to Yount's Ranch. On her arrival there, she was helped off her horse by John Cyrus, Enoch's fourth son. She was 14 and he was 17 at the time.

From the time John and Lovina met in 1848,



Lovina Graves Cyrus.



John Cyrus

they became friends. John courted her whenever she was in the Napa Valley. Remember, she traveled up and down the valley, living with family and friends, going to school along the way. Lovina Graves and John Cyrus were married June 5, 1855 in San Juan Bautista, San Benito County, California. Her sister, Mary Anna Graves who had married Tom

Clark in 1852, lived in the area.

John and Lovina lived with Enoch Cyrus and his family near Cyrus Creek at Calistoga. By the time John and Lovina had four children, the cabin was overflowing with family members, so John built a home just north of the original log home. The new home was completed in 1867.

Lovina and John Cyrus had seven children, five of whom survived to adulthood. Their oldest daughter, Mary Anna Cyrus, married Seth Pease Sherwood in Elk Grove, California on June 4, 1884. They lived on the property in the John Cyrus home. There was Cyrus land on both sides of Highway 128. They continued to live in the family home until it was destroyed by fire in March 1932. A new home was immediately built on the same foundation.

John and Lovina were married 37 years. John died at age 60 in 1891 and Lovina died at age 72 in 1906..... three months after the San Francisco earthquake. Both are buried at the Calistoga Pioneer Cemetery.

Seth and Mary Anna Sherwood had five children. Of these 5 children, J. Milton Sherwood stayed on the Cyrus/Sherwood property. He married Ruth Frazier in January, 1935 in Berkeley, California and they made their home in the rebuilt Cyrus/Sherwood house. In 1941, a fourth generation was welcomed into the home with the birth of.....me, Marilyn Ruth Sherwood. My parents continued to live in the house until 1985 when they sold the property and moved to Santa Rosa. My parents sold the property to the Dinsmores who remodeled the house, developing it into a bed and breakfast business called, "The Wishing Well."

Our DAR Chapter Regent Marjorie McNay and her husband Dennis bought "The Wishing Well" in 1998 and have extensively remodeled and renamed "my" old house, the "Bear Flag Inn."

I have in my possession deeds dating from 1860 to 1868, recording land that John Cyrus purchased from Henry Fowler & William Hargrave (partners) and Samuel Brannan. These deeds account for 411 acres. Remember, at the time the Graves family settled in

the Upper Napa Valley, there was no Calistoga, St. Helena, Yountville, or even a Napa City. Sam Brannan didn't arrive on the scene until around 1852. Calistoga was founded in 1859 by Sam Brannan and was incorporated in 1885. The last bit of land where this house stands had been in the family approximately 118 years before it was sold to the Dinsmores.

My great-grandmother Lovina was a very quiet and reserved woman. I am told that she never talked about the Donner Party ordeal. Most of the accounts attributed to the Graves were given by her brother and sisters.

Around 1900, however, she did discuss some parts of the story with her granddaughter, Edna Sherwood, my aunt. Aunt Edna, then 15 years old, wrote a letter to the San Francisco Chronicle describing her grandmother's "memoirs." The newspaper published the account.

An interesting side note: Peter Storm, who allegedly designed, or helped to design, the Bear Flag flown during the Bear Flag Rebellion of 1846, boarded for many years with the Cyrus/Sherwood families, hence the name of this house now, the Bear Flag Inn.

My family's claim to fame is in the fact that the six orphaned children did survive and they went on to have families and live productive lives. Those



Graves cooking pot at Sharpsteen Museum.
Photos courtesy of Marilyn Kramer.

pioneer days were extremely difficult, but they had determination and faith, and a will to live beyond belief.

I wish to extend my appreciation to CA/NV OCTA member Juanita Larimore for genealogical and background research and for her supportive efforts on my behalf in the preparation for this talk.

DIARY QUOTES ... JOHN B. HAAS, 1853. Submitted by Shann Rupp



– Picture this! ... *"the squall could not have lasted more than ten minutes, but it was some storm while it lasted! Luckily our wagon covers were made of stout new canvass and well secured. Only one was blown off and went sailing through the air, like the phantom ship of the Flying Dutchman."*

– Devil's Gate.... *"the river passes through the Devils Gate, between perpendicular cliffs. If he had anything to do with that gateway he must have had a big contract splitting that immense mountain of rock in two, and why he did not run the river around it – a far easier job – is hard to conceive. In spite of him, never was a stream more appropriately named. Clear, refreshing, cool Sweetwater."*

John Haas' opinions about the trail:

– The Platte: *"That river is never to be relied on. It changes frequently its channels, for it has so many"*

– Ft. Kearney: *"If ever there had been anything constructed by human hands, which merited the name of Fort, less than that contrivance, it has never yet been discovered. It consisted of a very steep roof,....the grass on it was very green and thrifty. Whether the garrison sprinkled it, I know not. It would have made a very nice lawn if it had been flattened out and mown."*

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OUTING — near Fernley, Nevada

Sat. Nov. 20, 2004, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

The Deep Sand Swales immediately north of Fernley, Nevada (a few yards south of the Central Pacific Railroad Bed) is the **ONLY** example of deep sand swales on the entire California Trail! No deep sand swales exist on the Oregon Trail.

Fernley Community Leaders, the BLM, and members of the CA/NV Chapter are organizing a cleanup party to remove trash dumped in and near the swales. We are inviting you to help out!

For directions and other information see: <<http://www.canvocta.org>>. Should you have any questions, phone Tom Fee at (775) 827-3724 or email

<TomFee3@aol.com> @aol.com.

TRAIL TALK dEAdLINE - JAN. 1, 2005