



Trail Talk

The Newsletter of the California/Nevada Chapter

Number 71

May 2006

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

WE FOUND OUR WAY TO SAN JOSE CA NV Chapter Symposium 2006

By Carol March

May 6 and 7, 2006 provided perfect weather and San Jose, California provided many interesting historic sites as members and friends of the California-Nevada Chapter of OCTA gathered for the annual Spring Symposium. Early on Saturday morning we met at the Holiday Inn Silicon Valley in South San Jose for Registration, continental breakfast and time to get acquainted before the day's programs began. Mary Mueller, chairman of the Symposium, welcomed us and filled us in on the day's activities, then off we went to the first event.

Awaiting us in the White Oak Room was a wonderful group of musicians directed by Lance Beeson and narrated by Greg P. Smestad. Known as Calicanto Associates, the music group explores California history in songs and music using an amazing array of musical instruments, everything from violin and guitar to muted trumpet, wooden song flutes, down to rattles and tiny bells. On this day they were dressed in Spanish and early California costumes to go with the narration Greg provided of the 1775-76 De Anza Colonizing Expedition to California.

Both Lance and Greg are descendants of members of De Anza's Expedition which was an added personal touch, plus much of the music played came from original scores found in the Santa Clara University archives. We were able to "hear history" as the narration followed the De Anza Trail with words and music taking us from Mexico, through southwest Arizona, into California, up the coast and through the area of San Jose where we were meeting and finally to the establishment of Mission Dolores in San Francisco.

*(R) Calicanto Associates performing in White Oak Room.
(See Symposium p. 8.)*

JOHN MARSH HISTORIC TRUST TOUR

The John Marsh Trust will host a limited number of visitors (less than 100) for a tour and walk about the John Marsh House on Saturday, June 3, 2006. Time: 11:00 am. Sharp. A box lunch will be provided after the one hour tour.

Members of the John Marsh Historic Trust will be on hand to provide information on the latest efforts to save the historic house. California Parks and Recreation Site Manager/Ranger, Craig Mattson, will provide the access and comments. RSVP to Kathleen Mero, Treasurer, John Marsh Historic Trust, at email: kmero@astound.com.

This is a thank you to the many "Friends" of John Marsh. No charge for the tour or for lunch. Limited access. You must RSVP and have your name on the admissions list to gain entry that day. No walk-ins off the street.

Note that John Marsh's Birthday is June 5. This would be a great way to celebrate. Please pass the word on to interested historians and local history buffs. See our website: www.johnmarshhouse.com for details. Participants are urged to car pool given limited parking at the house.

Carol Jensen, Board Member
John Marsh Historic Trust, Inc.



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YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WEB SITE
CA/NV CHAPTER:
<[HTTP://WWW.CANVOCTA.ORG](http://www.canvocta.org)>



National

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

PRESIDENT'S TRAIL DUST

Attracting new and young members were topics of both our February's board meeting in Carson City and National's board meeting in Phoenix last month. It's possible that the younger generation is not the joiners that our generation is, but I see it more as a matter of communication.

Technology is running rampant with a doubling every eight months and the X Generation uses that technology. We are too! I marvel how Dick Silva, Don Buck and others have adapted GPS advanced mapping techniques and this is just the beginning. What I am seeing with the Air Force with advanced Hyperspectral Imaging combining GPS, infrared and other spectrum frequency imaging mapping, advanced aerial trails mapping and recording is on our door step now.

But, back to attracting and communicating with new members. They are using the internet in communication and research in ever increasing numbers and I believe that this is a major way we

have to reach them.

Jerry Dwyer is doing a fabulous job with the web site and National has redone web site to make it more usable. We now have to use the Net to our advantage. We all use Google or one of the other search engines and others are on the way.

What most don't realize is how things get onto the search engine or more importantly, on the first page. The answer to that is a more closely guarded secret than Coca Cola's formula, but one of the answers is that we can submit items to a search engine at a small cost, items such as outings, symposiums and other activities.

Another thing is timing, it takes weeks and months for search engines to pick up an item, then move it to a front page. I firmly believe that this is the area we need to look at and focus on to attract those missing joiners. What we do is fun and important, we just need to get the word out in the right medium.

Steve Knight

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NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

A number of readers have taken offense at the way submissions are edited. If all articles were received in a timely manner, it would be possible for the staff of *Trail Talk* to abide by the rules it has set up. Following is a list of the rules and regulations to which we try very hard to adhere.

1. We try to publish an article the way the author intends for it to appear. However, abrasive or hurtful language needs to be addressed. We hope we do a decent job of making sure nobody will be insulted by any article appearing in this newsletter. We are not in the business of abusing members because their thoughts and ideas stray from the majority.
2. Ideally we would call the author to discuss any major revision of an article in an effort to reach an acceptable compromise. This goal is nearly impossible to achieve because sometimes articles are received well after the cutoff period. Then it is up to the editors to edit and hope all parties will be satisfied.
3. We correct grammatical errors.
4. We make sure the articles conforms to our standards and style.
5. The article needs to fit our allotted space. Usually for a feature article no more than two pages.
6. On occasion we need to check facts and assertions: names, dates, places, events, quotations, etc. We don't wish to change an author's point of view as much as we wish to help him make his point clear to the readers.

Most importantly, you, the author, the reader, must realize that editing is a subjective matter.

Virginia Hammerness, editor

RUTH VAILE ECKENBURG

Ruth Vaile Eckenburg passed away on Friday, January 20, 2006 in Auburn, CA at the age of 87 after a short struggle with cancer.

She was born on October 26, 1918 in Glendive, Montana to Frank Vaile and Adelaide Washington Vaile. The family left for Washington state around 1927 where her father was hired to work as carpenter foreman while building the Queets River Bridge. Her mother, Addie was the 4th great niece George Washington.

Ruth graduated from Hoquiam High School in Washington in 1936 and married Henry "Buzz" Eckenburg on Sept. 19, 1936. Buzz died in 1988 of a heart attack at the age of 73 while riding his motorcycle in an Old Timers autocross. Ruth retired from the Federal Government in 1981. She had worked at different Air Force bases when her husband's aerospace jobs moved them. She ended up at McClellan AFB then transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation in Auburn. Ruth listed living in 27 different homes since 1939. Among them were many years in Grass Valley where her children were raised and graduated from high school.

Ruth learned to ride a dirt bike, received her scuba diving certificate and traveled extensively, hiking and

taking pictures of her favorite wild flowers. She belonged to the Trail Bikers Assoc., Placer County Search and Rescue, OCTA, and the California Native Plant Society. She and Buzz spent many years camping and hunting for artifacts, arrowheads, cacti and rocks.



Ruth was a creative gardener. Her Ophir garden was featured in the Sunday section of the *Auburn Journal* in May 1977 and was on the Garden Tour in June 1989. She had a special talent for displaying the many artifacts they found

She kept journals of trips, documented all their "treasures" and family heirlooms with date purchased, cost and a photo. She helped her sister document the genealogy of the Vaile and Washington families, and on her own traced the Eckenburg/Perkins families.

Survivors include her son, Richard O. Eckenburg of Nevada City, and daughter, Sandra Eckenburg DeLong of Colfax. Grandsons Scott Eckenburg of Nevada City and Dale Eckenburg of Roseville. Granddaughter, Patti Frank Wallington of Colfax. She has eight great grandchildren.

Services were held Wed., Jan. 25 in Auburn, CA.

CALIFORNIA HISTORIC TRAIL CENTER OUT FOR BID

The long awaited California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center construction project in Elko, Nevada, has been released to potential bidders.

The project began as a grass-roots effort in 1996 when a group of Elko County citizens - Paul Sawyer, Ralph Gamboa, Bob Pierce, and Dale Porter - decided they wanted a Trail Center built in the county.

Recognizing that no one entity had sufficient resources to fund such an undertaking, the local community supporters used collaboration and partnership to obtain the financial commitments needed.

The City of Elko committed \$2 million to the project; Elko County committed \$1 million of in-kind services; and the State of Nevada committed \$3 million. The Nevada Congressional Delegation led by U.S. Senator Harry Reid sponsored Senate Bill SB 2749; Congressman Jim Gibbons sponsored the companion legislation in the House. Thus far, Senator Reid has secured \$8 million in appropriations for the Trail Center project.

The 16,000-square-foot facility will be located about eight miles west of Elko off the Hunter Exit of

I-80 on 40 acres of land donated by the William Searle family. The facility will include an access road, parking, and a 20,000-square-foot interpretive plaza.

Bidding for constructing the Trail Center will be open for 45 days. It is expected that the contract will be awarded in July with construction to begin in August. Construction is estimated to take 16 to 18 months and the Trail Center is scheduled to open in August 2008.

Contractors and/or sub-contractors who are interested in bidding on the project can obtain bidding and project specifications on the internet at <www.fbo.gov> . Any business wishing to bid need to be registered with the Federal government and can do so on the internet at <www.ccr.gov> . In addition, most Small Business Offices (<www.sba.gov>) can assist companies with advice on doing business with the Federal government.

For more information contact: call David Jamie Center Manager (775) 753-0213 or Mike Brown, Elko Field Office (775) 753-0386, email: <Mike_Brown@nv.blm.gov>.

COED NEEDS HELP

By Shaun Rupp



I sure could use some help surveying and copying documents found in the Bancroft collection. The people that responded to Tom Fee's query in *Trail Talk* last year produced two responses, but neither one wanted to work. I enjoy the work, but I can't do it all.

I went to the temporary Bancroft quarters last week to read two documents on microfilm. That took up my whole day – **and** of course it's three hours travel **each** way for me. I've been developing a list of documents to be copied (if **they** allow it). What has to be done is to ask a week in advance for what you want to see when you get there. That gives them time to pull the documents and get them over to the temporary place. (Their regular building is being retrofitted and won't be ready until 2008 or 9!) So, before I left there last week, I submitted a list I wanted copied. This doesn't really work, because they want you to mark the document where to begin copying and where to end.

All I could do was indicate dates that I knew. Then they emailed me after counting pages and notified me how much I would owe. Once they receive the check or credit card, the documents are mailed. If the documents are on microfilm you can read them there, but nothing goes out on inter-loan any more. I understand from Don Buck that for anyone in the Bay Area, taking BART works well.

RAFFLE REQUEST

Dear Chapter Presidents and Fellow OCTA Members,

Our names are Calvin and Sandy Smith and we are chairpersons of the raffle for the OCTA Convention 2006 in St. Joseph, August 7-12, 2006.



We are writing to ask for your gracious assistance with the OCTA raffle through the donation of gifts. You have been so generous in the past and we are calling on your generosity once again.

Would you please make as many copies of this letter as you can and hand it to all or your members? Thank- you for helping.

Our address and e-mail address are both listed below.

Calvin and Sandra Smith
2509 Shirley Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64503

e-mail <mrcls@stjoelive.com>

I will be happy to donate a gift to the OCTA raffle in August 2006.
It will be:

Name: _____

Chapter: _____

Address: _____

I will mail it to you by JUNE 1

I will bring it with me to the convention.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2006

When signing up for specific CA/NV Chapter outings, participants may pay a minimum fee to cover expenses and to secure a reservation. This will be up to the leader. Additional fees may be charged as needed. Registrations will be conducted through the activity leader and all participants will be required to sign a liability release form prior to the activity. For detailed information, please contact the leader.

If you have an idea for a particular outing or would like to volunteer to lead an OCTA CA/NV Chapter outing, please contact Tom Fee, <TomFee3@aol.com> or phone (775) 827-3724.

DATE	ACTIVITY	CONTACT/LEADER
June 3-4	<u>40-Mile Desert Trail Trek</u> Truckee Route from the Fernley Sand Swales to Humboldt Bar. Dry camping overnight. Sunday proceed on the Carson Route to Ragtown. High clearance vehicle and CB radio are necessary.	Geno Oliver (775) 972-6892 camelhump@juno.com
June 23-25	<u>BLM Archaeology Survey Of Black Rock</u> Third time the charm? Join BLM archaeologist Dave Valentine and CA/NV Chapter President Steve Knight in recording trail features, prehistoric artifacts and ranching remnants at Black Rock Springs on the Applegate Trail. Accommodations: None. Dry camp on site. BYO grub and LOTS of water, sunscreen. Meet in Gerlach Friday evening at 5 P.M. for caravan to Springs. CB radio, 4WD, and high clearance vehicle required. Contact:	Don Buck (408) 739-8521 trailbuck@telis.org Steve Knight (775) 882-1488 Knightsc@att.net
July 22	<u>Three Donner Passes Trail Hike (Truckee Trail)</u> Mac McKenzie is leading an exciting trail hike to Donner, Coldstream, and Roller Passes. Here is your chance to visit three routes emigrants used to get over the crest of the Sierra! It is a 4.6 mile round trip hike with approximately an 1400 foot elevation gain. Please contact Mac for a packet of important detailed information.	Mac McKenzie (916) 966-1006 deemckenzie@webtv.net
Aug. 9-12	<u>OCTA 2006 Annual Convention</u> Plan to attend OCTA's 24th Annual Convention in St. Joseph, MO. Check out the OCTA Website at <www.OCTA-trails.org> when the 2006 Convention information is available.	Chair: John Atkinson (816) 233-3924 atkinson@stj.oelive.com
August 19	<u>Mt. Stephens To Nevada City Tour</u> A fun auto tour, high clearance, 4WD drive vehicle not required! Join Jim Rose for this exciting tour. Meet at Donner Memorial State Park at 9:00 a.m (west of Truckee, off I-80), go along Yuba River to Emigrant Gap, down to Bear Valley where route turns to Nevada City following Highway 20. Pack a lunch to eat at the Big Bend Ranger Station.	Jim Rose (530) 265-3754 Priscilla Van der Pas (530) 272-5154 pvanderpas@juno.com

DATE**ACTIVITY****Sept. 6-8****Carson Trail Clean-up and Marking**

A continuation of last year's very successful outing. We will finish our work between Maiden's Grave **and** Mormon Emigrant Road. We will continue west marking and seeking to locate some problem segments. This outing will be covered on a Forest Service Volunteer agreement and limited to 20 participants. Preference will be given to last year's participants with a waiting list, if needed.

Frank Tortorich (209) 296.7242 wagonwheel @volcano.ne

Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 Truckee Trail Driving Tour

Truckee Trail Driving Tour from crest of the Sierra, west to Sacramento Valley near Johnson's Rancho. High clearance vehicle and CB radio required. Logistics for camping and/or lodging pending.

Tom Dougherty (209).368.4463
catrail@gotnet.net

October 7**Fernley Great Sand Swales Cleanup**

The annual OCTA / BLM Cleanup of the Great Sand Swales near Fernley, Nevada will be held on Saturday, October 7.

Karen Giron, (775) 575-4800
karen@truckinn.com
Tom Fee, (775) 827-3724
tomfee3@aol.com

***** ENTICING EVENTS ELSEWHERE *****

3 John Marsh House
See website: www.johnmarshhouse.com.
14 Pioneer Day, New Almaden

Kathleen Mero,
kmero@astound.com
Kitty Monahan (408) 268-6541

Trails West Activities

June 9-11 Nobles Trail Work Party,
July 8 Board Meeting
Sept. 8-10 Nobles Trail Work Party
Nov. 4 Board Meeting

Bob Black, (541) 956-9041
Dave Hollecker, (775-322-2969
Bob Black, (541) 956-9041
Dave Hollecker, (775-322-2969;

– See Web Site Activities Calendar for additional details. –

***GUIDELINES FOR - SUBMITTING ARTICLES & LETTERS***

All articles and letters (hard copies)

mail to: Editor, Virginia Hammerness
1765 Hicks Ave., San Jose, CA 95125

Also, send *email, disk, or hard copy* to:
Desktop Publisher, Norine Kimmy
<nkimmy@sbcglobal.net>



1. Email, with or without an attachment, is the quickest and requires the least modification to transfer the information to the *Trail Talk* format. Sending email with an attachment retains the formatting, (i.e. a document that has been formatted in MSWord can be opened and retains the formatting).
2. CD, 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.

• **SYMPOSIUM**, (from p.1)

If you would like to hear the Calicanto musicians, they have a website at www.calicantoassociates.com where their songbooks and CDs are available.

After a short break, we returned to the Bay Room across the way for two additional presentations. Russell Skowronek, an enthusiastic Anthropology professor from Santa Clara University, spoke on Prehistoric and Mission-era Santa Clara. His slide show complement-



ed his lively talk, showing us what Indian life was like in the Bay Area before the Spanish, Mexicans and Americans arrived. And, he pointed out that, for the most part, the California Indians did not engage in agriculture as they found plenty of fish, fowl and animals plus acorns, seeds and edible grasses for their food. Life was comparatively easy for them, but with the arrival of the Mission system, the De Anza colonization and finally the Gold Rush, their life was altered forever.

Next John Slenter, Santa Clara County Park



Interpreter from New Almaden Quicksilver Park, told us about New Almaden and the Gold Rush, using a Power Point presentation. He said Ohlone Indians first found cinnabar, the heavy red rock that contains mercury or quicksilver, and used it as body paint. However, the ore in this

red rock, sometimes called "potato ore," has been used for medical and scientific purposes, but most importantly was used to recover gold.

In 1845, a Mexican Cavalry Officer, Andres Castillero was led to the red ore by the Ohlones. He filed a claim and was granted title to the mineral deposit by the Mexican government but soon sold his shares to Barron, Forbes Company. They established mines and reduction works, and the name New Almaden was given to the area, after the large Almaden Mines in Spain. After gold was discovered in 1848, mercury mining became important to amalgamate the gold and again was important with the silver strikes in Nevada in the 1860's.

Between the 1850's and the 1890's the mines at New Almaden flourished, then it was discovered that liquid cyanide could be used instead of mercu-

ry. Afterwards, production steadily declined at New Almaden, though parts of the mines were operated until the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department purchased most of the property in 1973 and 76. Today you can visit Almaden Quicksilver County Park and the Quicksilver Mining Museum, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10:00 - 4:00.

At noon the Bay Room was transformed with large round tables and starched white table cloths added and we lined up for a buffet lunch. There were two salads from which to choose plus sandwiches with all the fixin's — meats and cheeses, sliced tomatoes and good pickles, ice tea to drink and big cookies for dessert!



John Slenter and trou group enter San Cristobel Mine.

From 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon, we had tours for which we had signed up ahead of time. Some folks went to Mission Santa Clara where they met with Russell Skowronek for a walking tour. Another group met at Casa Grande Quicksilver Museum in New Almaden for either a van tour of the Quicksilver Park or a guided hiking tour. Others chose a self guided tour of the Peralta Adobe, the oldest structure in San Jose, or San Jose Museum Park where 27 original and replica homes and landmarks are featured. However, about half of us gathered at the Oak Hill Memorial Park for "*A Walk Through the Past*" led by Pat Loomis and Virginia Hammerness.



Pat had prepared a special walking tour booklet for us with the help of Virginia, Barbara Don and Carole Bruch. Each page had a photo of a gravestone, often a picture or drawing of the person and a short bi-



Tom Hunt, Fran Taplin, Alison Portello, Sallie and Jim Riehl at Oak Hill Memorial Park. Photo by Kathy Buob.

ography, plus it included a map showing the location of early settlers' graves. We divided into two walking groups and set off across the wide green lawns. Pat's helpers had marked the graves we were visiting with yellow and red flags, so she and Virginia could easily guide us from one site to the next.

We saw the graves of Dr. John Townsend of the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy party and Moses Shellenberger, the lad from that party who spent the winter of 1844-45 alone in the Sierras. We visited the grave of Anna Maria Bascom who came to California in 1849 and later became known as "Grandma Bascom" for housing and feeding California's first legislators. And along with other Donner Party survivors' graves, we saw the granite stone of William Eddy who helped lead 7 of the "Forlorn Hope" group to safety. With the help of Pat's booklet and the talks she and Virginia gave at each site, we had an interesting and informative afternoon!



William Eddy's granite stone. Photo by Kathy Buob.

At 5:30 we again changed venues and found our way to another part of San Jose to the Three Flames Restaurant for a social time and dinner. With lots of notes to compare from our afternoon's adventures, we visited with old friends and made new ones! Dinner was served at three long tables complete with linen napkins and big pitchers of ice water. We enjoyed a nice green salad followed by the various choices of entrees. Some of us had tender sirloin beef tips with mushrooms while others enjoyed fish dishes. Coffee was served with yummy cake for dessert.

Fran Taplin, Awards Committee Chairman, presented awards to members who have donated their time and talents to the Chapter. Many of the recipients were not able to be there, but Hugh March was there and received an award for work



Fran Taplin reading award presented to Dave Stone.

he has done on the Risk Management Committee.

Other recipients of certificates of appreciation were: Herman Zittel, Mapping Historic Overland Trails; Anne-Louise Bennett, Chair of Awards



Hugh March received certificate of appreciation.

Committee; Jim McClain for leading trail tours on 40-Mile Desert; Dave Palmer for contribution to the Fernley Swales Sand Dune System Photomonitoring Program; and Dave Stone for his work developing the chapter's Risk Management Program.

Tom Dougherty was selected for The Senior Trail Boss award, while the Life Time Achievement Award was given to Mary Anne and Frank Tortorich for their many years leading and participating in OCTA activities. Unfortunately, they had a conflict with another event and were unable to be present to receive their award, but a letter of appreciation from Frank was read by Tom Fee.

Before the evening ended, Steve Knight, President of the California-Nevada Chapter, thanked Mary for all the work she did making this Symposium a resounding success and a round of applause indicated we all agreed!

(See more Symposium pictures on p. 21.)



A Brief History of Medicine

Submitted by Gerri Osborn

- 5000 BC: *This mixture of roots and leaves will cure you.*
- 2000 BC: *Roots don't work.
If you're sick, sacrifice a goat.*
- 50 AD: *Sacrifice is for pagans!
If you want to get well, you must pray!*
- 1000 AD: *Prayer is just superstition.
Some blood-letting will do you good.*
- 1870 AD: *Blood-letting weakens the patient.
This potion will fix you up.*
- 1920 AD: *Potions are pure quackery.
Here, swallow this pill.*
- 1950 AD: *Pills don't work.
Now we have antibiotics.*
- 2000 AD: *Antibiotics can cause more harm than good.
Here eat these roots and leaves.*



Sacrifice a goat, swallow some pills, eat some roots and leaves

... just KEEP WELL!



SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Many members have chosen sustaining membership thus far in 2006 In addition, some have donated an additional amount. We are pleased to publicize their names and to thank them for such generosity to further OCTA's goals in the California-Nevada Chapter.

Almond, Anthony
 Augustine, Lynn
 Barger, Clarence
 Bieber, William
 Buob, Kathy & Gary
 Christianson, Robert
 Davis, Jr., W.N.
 Drucker, Fred & Jackie
 Fores, Richard

Los Gatos, CA
 Saratoga, CA
 Old Station, CA
 Hillsborough, CA
 San Jose, CA
 Palo Alto, CA
 Sacramento, CA
 Reno, NV
 Gold Run, CA

Hodges, Ed & Ramona
 Johnson, Lois
 Larmore, Steve & Cheryl
 Lyon, Mary Lou
 Martin, Helen
 Riges, Harlan
 Spangler, Nita
 Turner, Jeanne
 Turner, Linda

San Jose, CA
 Santa Maria, CA
 Alamo, CA
 Cupertino, CA
 Vacaville, CA
 Thousand Oaks, CA
 Redwood City, CA
 Monterey, CA
 Carmel Valley, CA



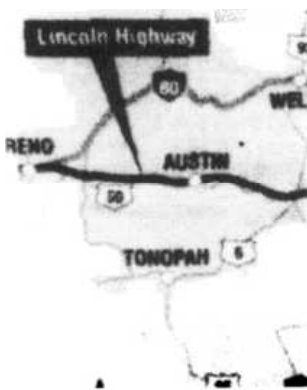
Geno Oliver, director of the Nevada chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association, unveils the new red, white, and blue Lincoln Highway sign Friday during a ceremony at the Mogul rest stop. The Boy Scouts have been involved in placing historical markers along the high-way nationwide since 1928.

Signs recognize Lincoln Highway's past

Honoring a part of American history, officials unveiled commemorative signs celebrating the remarking of the Lincoln Highway at the Mogul rest stop on Friday.

"Men and women have since trenched through these miles for many reasons," said Jim Bonar, president of the Nevada chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association. "It started with the Indians, continued with the 'Forty Niners' (people headed to California in the 1849 gold rush) then became Highway 40, and now it's known as I-80." The signs pay tribute to one of the nation's first transcontinental routes.

"Today we mark an important part of our past



even as we move forward," Kent Cooper, assistant director for the Nevada Bureau of Transportation, said Friday. Geno Oliver, director of the highway association said more markers will be placed along the stretches of the highway in Nevada and across the nation.

Henry Joy, the president of Packard Motor Car Co., proposed the name of the highway was a tribute to

Men and women have since trenched through these miles for many reasons. It started with the Indians, continued with the 'Forty Niners' (people headed to California in the 1849 gold rush) then became highway 40, and now it's known as I-80. '

JIM BONAR President of the Nevada chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association.

President Abraham Lincoln. later Interstate 80, and Laid out by a group of business men who called them selves the Lincoln Highway Association in 1913, the Lincoln Highway was the first funded by local and state taxes to build sections of road and improve existing ones that connected the route as a transcontinental rock road across the United States.

the Pioneer route through Carson City along US 50 and across the Sierra. Since 1928, the Boy Scouts have been involved in placing historical markers along the highway nationwide.

"I never new about the Lincoln Highway," said Kyle Martinez, a 13-year-old Boy Scout who attended Friday's local ceremony. "It means a lot to know that we've been here since then."

TRAIL TALK IS THE LIVING HISTORY OF THE CHAPTER

Mary Mueller

It is inevitable that the Chapter Board will have to search for new people to staff the newsletter in the near future. Since Tom Fee has suggested and urged me to write the manual for how to do a newsletter I think this is a way to begin. It is all done by volunteers. Surely it will be helpful to give a manual when new people are sought to fill vacancies. I believe it may be good for the general membership to understand a little of how *Trail Talk* is produced since 1986. You may have skills and talents you could contribute or you may know someone who would be a perfect match for *Trail Talk*.

Roy Stewart was the producer of the Chapter's first newsletter and he named it *Trail Talk*. He volunteered to do the work and the newly created board approved him at the 1986 OCTA Convention held in Carson City. Roy was a "one-man editor, copy editor, keyboarder, desktop publisher, and proofreader." He sent the camera-ready copy to Frank Tortorich who arranged for the printing in Jackson. The printed copies were shipped back to San Jose. Roy recruited OCTA members from the San Jose area to meet at his home to fold newsletters and affix the mailing labels. The labels were created from the roster maintained by Doyle Reed of Davis, and the labels were printed by Gene Hartzell, of San Jose. The procedure for bulk rate mailing was supervised by Roy. He mailed the newsletters in the Morgan Hill post office where the Chapter Permit for bulk rate had been paid. Without the fine work from Roy and the volunteers for the final mail preparation, the newsletter could not have been delivered to the members.

Until a new editor could be found, the 1991 Fall newsletter was published by Chuck Dodd, Tahoe City, and typist/keyboarder Mary Ann Tortorich of Jackson. At a retreat for the board in October, President Judy Allen turned to her board to find a replacement editor. Board member, Virginia Hammerness, offered to be the editor. She was and still is the editor for the New Almaden Quicksilver Association newsletter and she has been an editor of published books.

Pat Loomis and Mary Mueller volunteered to help Virginia. The first newsletter in January 1992 had

only a few pages with the help of a keyboarder from the Quicksilver Association. Soon after, Virginia found a volunteer desktop publisher, OCTA member Steve Novotny, a teacher at San Jose High School. He hoped his students would learn something about history in the articles by keyboarding and at the same time improve their skills. When Steve needed to give up the job, he assisted Norine Kimmy, OCTA volunteer, for two more issues. Then Norine was named Desktop Publisher and has served nearly 10 years. The printing was done at The Copy Shop in San Jose, until the business was sold a few years ago. A former employee of Copy Shop has been printing the newsletter at his business, AWAY Printing in Gustine since then. He delivers the folded, stapled newsletters four times a year to my home. I handle the mail room tasks with the occasional help of OCTA members Bud and Helen Hansen and Elaine Hill of San Jose. The mailing permit was moved in 1992 from Morgan Hill to New Almaden post office.

In December 1991, Chuck Dodd, a publisher and OCTA member, wrote to Mary Ann Tortorich, Judy Allen, and me describing the tasks that are needed to produce a fine newsletter. We informally agreed with Chuck's tasks. When you may read the descriptions, you will realize that four people in San Jose and Patty Knight in Carson City are responsible for the newsletter. We labeled them Managing Editor, Editor, Assistant Editor, Desktop Publisher, and Membership Database.

In Chuck's 1991 letter, the tasks are named and described:

Copy editing tasks —The copy editor edits the articles submitted for the newsletter to ensure they are clear and understandable and that they conform to the standard rules of English.

Keyboarder tasks —That person takes the typed or handwritten material and, with a computer, keys it in a computer file.

Desktop publisher — Takes the computer file to Pre-print production with computer, software, and laser

printer to set-up the pages of the newsletter ready for the printer.

Proofreading tasks — The proofreader(s) reviews the copy to ensure that no typographical errors have entered into our otherwise perfect text.

Mailroom tasks – Covers everything from the return of the newsletter from the printer to the plopping of the newsletter on the counter at the post office.

Finally, he added another task, *Managing Editor* with a description:

The *Managing Editor* is the team leader. The M.E. makes it all happen, on time. The M.E. makes sure different contributors to the newsletter know the schedules and requirements and have their contribution in on time. The M.E. seeks out contributors to cover certain events or activities important for the organization to cover. The M.E. makes sure the copy editor, the typist, the desktop publisher, and proofreader are aware of the schedule (and the inevitable schedule problems) and are not going to be on vacation or in the hospital when their tasks must be done. The Managing Editor pushes everybody to keep things happening and develops "work around" solutions when problems arise.

The Managing Editor requires good communication skills and good people skills. Communication is most

important in this team, particularly since team members are likely to be widely separated physically.

In February 2000, I wrote in a memo about *Trail Talk* for the *Steps In The Publication For Trail Talk*.

Since that time, each category has nearly doubled as we have added more articles and pictures. Recent issues of *Trail Talk* has varied from 18 to 22 pages, and once in awhile it has been 26 pages.

Volunteer hours per quarter:

Managing Editor	5-10 hours
Editors	10-15 hours
Desktop Publisher	80-100 hours
Mailroom	5-10 hours
Membership Database	unknown

The work is creative, vexing, frustrating, and rewarding when the newsletter is finally released to the readers. I re-read the whole newsletter when my copy is delivered by my local postman.

Trail Talk can be read on the Website developed by Jerry Dwyer, Web Master. See <www.canvocta.org>.

In addition, many articles in *Trail Talk* can be read on E-News which is a resource maintained by Mary Ann Tortorich for members who have email addresses.

EZRA MEEKER



OCTA and the Ezra Meeker Historical Society are marking the centennial of Meeker's 1906 rerun along the Oregon Trail. The celebration begins in July 6th in Tacoma, WA, and arrives in St. Joseph for the beginning of the convention August 7th.

Aug. 6	Alcove
Springs KS	
Aug. 7	
Arrive St. Joseph, MO	Aug. 8-12

OLDER `N DIRT! !

"Hey Dad," one of my kids asked the other day, "What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?"

"We didn't have fast food when I was growing up," I informed him. "All the food was slow."

"C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?"

"It was a place called `at home,' I explained. "Grandma cooked every day and when Grandpa got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it."

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table. But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it:

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card. In their later years they had something called a revolving charge card. The card was good only at Sears Roebuck. Or maybe it was Sears AND Roebuck. Either way, there is no Roebuck anymore. Maybe he died.

My parents never drove me to soccer practice. This was mostly because we never had heard of soccer. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow). We didn't have a television in our house until I was 11, but my grandparents had one before that. It was, of course, black and white, but they bought a piece of colored plastic to cover the screen. The top third was blue, like the sky, and the bottom third was green, like grass. The middle third was red. It was perfect for programs that had scenes of fire trucks riding across someone's lawn on a sunny day. Some people had a lens taped to the front of the TV to make the picture look larger.

I was 13 before I tasted my first pizza, it was called "pizza pie." When I bit into it, I burned the roof of my mouth and the cheese slid off, swung down, plastered itself against my chin and burned that, too. It's still the best pizza I ever had.

We didn't have a car until I was 15. Before that,

the only car in our family was my grandfather's Ford. He called it a "machine."

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone in the house was in the living room and it was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home. But milk was.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers. I delivered a newspaper, six days a week. It cost 7 cents a paper, of which I got to keep 2 cents. I had to get up at 4 AM every morning. On Saturday, I had to collect the 42 cents from my customers. My favorite customers were the ones who gave me 50 cents and told me to keep the change. My least favorite customers were the ones who seemed to never be home on collection day.

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies. Touching someone else's tongue with yours was called French kissing and they didn't do that in movies. I don't know what they did in French movies. French movies were dirty and we weren't allowed to see them.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

MEMORIES from a friend:

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to "sprinkle" clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old.

How many do you remember?
Head lights dimmer switches on the floor.
Ignition switches on the dashboard.

Heaters mounted on the inside of the fire wall.
 Real ice boxes.
 Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards.
 Soldering irons you heat on a gas burner.
 Using hand signals for cars without turn signals.

Older Than Dirt Quiz: Count all the ones that you remember not the ones you were told about Ratings at the bottom.

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles
5. Coffee shops or diners with tableside juke boxes
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines
8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P.F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
11. Telephone numbers with a word prefix (OLive-6933)
12. Peashooters

13. Howdy Doody
14. 45 RPM records
15. S&H Green Stamps
- 16 Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with lever
18. Mimeograph paper
- 19 Blue flashbulb
20. Packards
21. Roller skate keys
22. Cork popguns
23. Drive-ins
24. Studebakers
25. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered 0-5 = You're still young
 If you remembered 6-10 = You are getting older
 If you remembered 11-15 = Don't tell your age,
 If you remembered 16-25 = You're older than dirt!

I might be older than dirt but those memories are the best part of my life.

Don't forget to pass this along .. !!
 Especially to all your really OLD friends....

PLAQUE DEDICATION

Kitty Monahan, President Quicksilver Association, and Mary Mueller prepare plaque for the dedication. (R) Kitty and Virginia Hammerness, editor of Quicksilver Newsletter, unveil the plaque which describes the connection between New Almaden Mines and the Gold Rush of California.



Bev Hesse, President Argonauts Historical Society.

350 Lassen County Third Graders Celebrate Isaac Roop Day

By Cherie & Bob Evanhoe

When we answered Janet Corey's appeal from Susanville for someone from CA/NV chapter to represent the emigrant trails during Isaac Roop Day, we had no inkling of the scope of the celebration.

We also didn't feel quite prepared for such an undertaking. (Cherie immediately sought about for a period dress, and Bob apologized for not even having a beard!) We were to staff a station in the city park (site of Roop's still-standing trading post) in front of a large banner showing the emigrant routes from Independence to California. Especially featured were the Lassen and Nobles trails which are so relevant to Susanville and Lassen County.



Cherie and Bob Evanhoe in front of banner showing emigrant routes to California.

Cherie contacted Marley Shurtleff of Northwest Chapter who put her in touch with Marge Hardy in Oregon City. Marge, curator of McLoughlin House there, is also an excellent seamstress who quickly turned out a full length dress, underskirt, "pinny" and bonnet, all in authentic 1850s style and fabrics. She also found a hat for Bob who was now well on his way to becoming more appropriately hirsute.

This day-long celebration begins with groups of students walking to various historic sites in Susanville. Presentations at these sites include displays and

speeches by persons interested and informed of local history, including Isaac Roop himself

After lunch, the students trek to the Memorial Park below Roops Fort, the site of emigrant encampments on Paiute Creek. There they visit several stations staffed by volunteers. These include a covered wagon, frontiersmen, cowboy roping, bartering tables, old time barbering, period refreshments such as sarsaparilla, and the emigrant trails display.

Most of the students carried a Trails Workbook which challenged them to find answers and solutions to questions and tasks as they visited the various exhibits. At each station they received a stamp signifying attendance. Teachers, instructional assistants and parents moved the students along and encouraged questions as historical information was presented

The workbooks contained an unlabeled map showing the emigrant trails. At our station their task was to identify three trails: Lassen, Nobles and California. We explained the significance of each of these trails. It was especially intriguing to show them where the Lassen and Nobles trails crossed, and where those on the Nobles Trail going northwest briefly passed those on the Lassen Trail going southeast!

Although the day, March 10, was quite cold and windy, over 350 third graders turned out, many in period dress.

We learned a few things ourselves, such as finding out which approaches worked and which did not. Bob had the idea that he could bury nickels (old oxen shoes) and pennies (beer can tabs), and then using a metal detector work with the kids to show them how we selectively locate the old trails. Upon detecting the first coin, there was a mob of kids on their hands and knees on the muddy ground, and no longer any room to swing the detector. If you visit the park, take along a detector; there are still about 25 nickels and 50 pennies buried there!

The success of the program is due to Janet and a dedicated group of volunteers who bring this activity to fruition each year. By doing so, and becoming a part of the presentation, they insure that the children of Lassen County learn about the history of their area. (California students study local history in third grade.)

Cherie was able to provide curriculum materials to teachers and parents as well as NPS Trail maps and OCTA information pamphlets. These had been supplied by Kathy Conway and staff at national headquarters.

Isaac Roop was born on March 13, 1822, in Ohio. In 1852 he was operating a hotel and store with his brother Ephraim in Shasta City. He was also the acting postmaster. It was during this time that William Nobles appeared and showed the citizens a new and better route from the Humboldt River to their city. This trail



Isaac Roop

went through Honey Lake Valley. In 1853 Mr. Roop

lost his hotel and store, including the post office, to fire. In 1854 the brothers settled in Honey Lake Valley and opened a trading post on the Nobles Trail. Mr. Roop named his new settlement after his daughter Susan.

Janet and her husband Alan have created a wonderful web site for the Lassen County Office of Education with several links, one being a slide show of the March 10 celebration. Go to <www.lassencoe.org/IsaacRoopDay.htm>to view this site and the slide show.



OCTA
24th Annual Convention
St. Joseph, MO
August 13-16

Additional Information available:

www.OCTA-Trails.org

www.utahcrossroads.org



St. Joe is the muddiest nastiest border ruffian town on the earth. It offends the eye ear and nose; with foul sights, sounds, and smells, and in fact every sense made to minister to enjoyment, is here only a avenue to pain, and is the object of foul outrage.
... Joseph Camp, 1859

The Belle of St. Joe: While waiting for the grass to grow west of the Missouri, Lewis Beers stayed at Widow Jackson's. One wonders why anyone stayed with her and how they managed to commence their journey in a healthy condition. From St. Joseph, he wrote:

"She is a woman well off in the world as far [as] property can make one well off. But she is so avaricious and stingy that she does not enjoy life at all. She is one of the most filthy women about her person and house that I ever saw in my life. She has two or three geese and twice as many hens settling in her kitchen, and whole brood of fowls roost on the beams overhead. there is no flooring, the bare ground serving the purpose. A large chimney is in one end that has not been cleaned out for years, and she has to stand a foot deep in the ashes when she goes to cook. She has to assist her now a girl called Lizzie, about 'sweet sixteen'. She is a perfect match for the old woman. In the first place she is an ill [?] from, a perfect tub, but for this she is not altogether to blame. She is slovenly and dirty in her dress and person; she never combs her hair nor washes her face or hands. she wears a kind of a slip that comes two or three inches below her knees, her feet and legs bare with the exception of scales of dirt that resemble a black-snake more than a lady's ankle. Her dress is never hooked or pinned behind. She wears no skirts and generally has about a half a yard of her chemise torn and hanging down behind as black as the ground she stands upon. Yet for all of this she is held up by Mrs. Jackson as a perfect model of neatness and virtue."



To top all the foregoing, Beers says the girl is a Methodist minister's daughter!

... Lewis Beers, 1852

As for the food at the Widow Jackson's, Beers had this to say:

"We have had hominy for nineteen meals in succession, warmed over every time till it is as black as coal, and there is enough left for as many more meals if the hogs do not get more than their share. I have been in the house some of late and every little while I can hear the old widows shrill voice calling out to Lizzie to drive the hogs out of the hominy. And will just get to sleep again, 'Lizzie' haul that chicken out of the corn cake batter; and again, 'Lizzie' that colt that's got the distemper is drinking out of the water bucket."



... Lewis Beers, 1852

Food fare on the plains must have seemed like heaven to Beers after his stay in St. Joseph!



I am pleased to provide this laugh for you. ...

"Aug. 4th Stopped at the doner Cabins for dinner at 2"

... A. S. Davis, 1853

NATIONAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS NEEDED

By Donna Fisher, Awards Chair

The success of OCTA is due to the many dedicated volunteers who work to improve and strengthen the organization, preserve existing trail ruts and historic resources, and educate the public about OCTA and America's historic trails. OCTA's awards program is a small way to recognize and thank these individuals for their dedication.

Your help is needed in this process. You are the ones who recognize and nominate deserving individuals or organizations for their untiring efforts and many hours of service. Deadline for submission of nominations is June 1. Following are the awards categories:

Meritorious Achievement Award – the highest award OCTA can give to recognize long-term and significant contributions to OCTA. Only members can qualify for Meritorious Achievement.

Distinguished Volunteer Award – bestowed on OCTA members who contribute significantly to achieving OCTA goals and projects. Only OCTA members can qualify for Distinguished Volunteer.

Distinguished Service Award – granted to organizations, businesses, government agencies, individuals, or others who contribute or participate in furthering OCTA's programs directly or provide substantial support in a non-affiliated way to trail preservation and education.

Friend of the Trail Award – presented to groups, individuals, or organizations that have direct ties to lands over which historic trails pass. Neither property ownership nor current residence on trail property is required, but emphasis is placed on preservation of trail remnants, education of the public about their historic resources, and allowing responsible public access to the historic resources.

National Certificates of Appreciation – presented to individuals and organizations that have made a particular effort in achieving a short-term OCTA goal. These certificates are for efforts of national scope; more regional or local efforts should be recognized by appropriate chapters.

Young OCTAN Award – presented to children and youth between the ages of six and 21 who have demonstrated particular interest in OCTA and the history and/or preservation of historic emigrant trails. The nominee will have demonstrated this interest by an activity in the field or via a school or class project in such a manner that is considered outstanding and far above the typical field or school project. The project may also be an outstanding personal endeavor undertaken on the nominee's own initiative. An entire class or group of school-aged children may be nominated as one aggregated nominee. Qualifying standards would include participation in OCTA meetings, outings, and/or work projects over an extended period. OCTA membership is not a requirement.

Deadline for submission of nominations is June 1, 2006. Awards will be presented at the annual meeting in St. Joseph, MO. If you have questions, please contact me. You may send, fax or email your nominations to the following addresses.

Donna Fisher, 740 W 47, Casper, WY 82601,
email: dfishrl@bresnan.net

Phone: 307.265.6890
Fax: 307.472.4331

CA/NV Chapter website <http://www.canvocta.org>

WHO GOES TO PHOENIX BESIDES SNOW BIRDS, BASEBALL GROUPIES, AND GOLFERS?

By Mary Mueller

OCTA's mid-year board meeting was held in Phoenix in March at the Grace Inn Convention Center where the large group with national board directors, chapter presidents, and OCTA members worked all day on Friday at the Long Range Planning Retreat.

The group was led by facilitator, Sharon Brown, Interpretive Specialist, Ft. Vancouver National Historical Site. After the group was instructed to meet in smaller groups to come up with the purpose of OCTA, she visited each group to help them stay on target. Many of us were better at coming up with ideas, (which she called tools, tasks and activities) but not the purpose, so "keep working on the purpose." Board member, David Vixie of California, was the recorder and presenter in the group I attended. After lunch, Sharon took all of the ideas from the groups and with the members participating, she assigned ideas to the responsibility of the chapter, or to national. She will submit the report of the long range plans for study before the board meets in August at the St. Joseph convention.

I attended the board meeting on Saturday to hear the discussion and decisions for OCTA and to enjoy the Mexican Buffet luncheon held in a tent on the conference grounds. In the evening we returned to the "tent" to hear Don Garate, Chief of Interpretation/Historian at Tumacacori National Historical Park. He has nearly 20 years of experience in presenting "first person" living history, or Chautauqua, to vastly diverse audiences. He arrived in the military uniform of the famous Spanish soldier, explorer, and colonizer, Juan Bautista de Anza. Some OCTA members engaged Don while he was portraying Anza to the delight of the audience as well as Captain Anza. This was a stunning bit of theater to please and to educate the audience about the life and times of the man before the expeditions.

Saturday afternoon, I participated at a meeting of the Southwest Chapter in the home of Reba Wells Grandrud who led the small group in talking about the

future of the chapter. The discussion ensued from a loss of members, a lack of support by OCTA for the southern trails, and the request SW-OCTA has had -- would the chapter plan for a convention in Arizona or New Mexico? Some felt a convention could be held in Arizona if OCTA would change the date from August to a time in the spring.

Reba talked about joining with other agencies -- such as the Anza Society, the Old Spanish Trail Association, and the California/Nevada Chapter -- to help sponsor meetings on the southern trails to provide "new blood" and keep members involved. Linda Rushton, Arizona rep for the Anza Society and a tour leader (TourAz4Fun), provided ideas with much enthusiasm and declared she would join OCTA and the chapter and help organize some tours. The Patterson's of the Anza Society and new members of SW-OCTA agreed to help Linda. Reba is a good role model for "partnering." She sent publicity to all Arizona trail groups to support the CA/NV Spring Symposium being held in San Jose on the Anza Trail.

Present were three members of the Southwest Chapter who had become charter members when the chapter began in 1989. They started the symposium as an activity to involve members who presented their own research and read their papers. The California/Nevada Chapter adopted the symposium, modified the format, and then planned sites around the state to present the yearly activity. The meeting in San Jose is the fifteenth spring symposium. By the way, other SW OCTA members who were present have been attending OCTA board meetings since the early '80s..

It is good to attend a national board meeting and to be reminded of the dedication of volunteers who agreed to be nominated and were chosen by the members to do the work of OCTA. It is also good to attend a meeting in another chapter, one you have long supported with dues but have rarely seen its members except at conventions.



Sallie & Jim Riehl



Shann Rupp



Case Grande, New Almaden

New Almaden cottage of Mike Boullard with



Bob & Cherie Evanhoe



Casa Grande

Photos by
Kathy Buob.



Rotary furnace, Jaques Ridge

Oak Hill
Memorial Park



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FOR SUBMITTING
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APRIL 1

JULY 1

WHAT'S INSIDE:

SAN JOSE SYMPOSIUM	P 1
EDITORIS NOTE	P 3
COED NEEDS HELP	P 5
ACTIVITIES CALENDAR	P 6
PLAQUE DEDICATION	P 1 5
NATIONAL AWARDS	P 1 9

TRAIL TALK DEADLINE - JULY 1, 2006