



# Trail Talk

*The Newsletter of the California/Nevada Chapter*  
Number 72 Summer 2006

**OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

## WHERE WAGONS CLIMBED — OR CRASHED!

By Howard Dugger

A sobering new definition of the word "steep" was learned by all of the OCTA members who climbed to the three passes over the Sierra near Donner summit and Truckee, California.

On July 22, 2006, D.W. McKenzie and his two sons Bob and Erin led a group of about fifteen excited OCTA members and friends to observe old Donner summit, Coldstream summit, and the downright frightening Roller pass.

*Photo: East side of Roller Pass.*  
Photos by Howard Dugger.

(See *ROLER PASS*, p. 15)



## PAT LOOMIS HONORED

Article from: *The Exchange: The Newsletter of History San Jose, Summer 2006. Pat is a Charter member of OCTA.*

When Patricia Loomis, known as Pat to everyone, joined the San Jose News as a reporter in 1943, it wasn't a typical job for a woman, despite her degree in journalism from San Jose State College. "All the men were going off to war again," Loomis said, remembering how she got her start. "I got a job right away, and I was lucky all the way. I never had the feeling that I was held back because I was a woman. I got on the paper and stayed there for forty years, even after it merged and became the San Jose Mercury News. It was the only job I ever wanted, the only job I ever had."

(See *LOOMIS*, p. 13)

## TELL US!

*Trail Talk* reflects the interests and concerns of the membership. It is up to YOU to contribute.

It does NOT matter if you have only a paragraph or two to submit. YOUR contributions are needed.

THANKS!

*Trail Talk* deadline:  
October 1, 2006

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We had a productive board meeting in Reno on July 8. Among items discussed, the board supported our chapter signing the Surprise Valley Community and Visitor Center Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This request was initiated by Chuck Dodd to further information to the public regarding the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA. Cedarville, CA wants to actively pursue development as an NCA gateway under the leadership of Susie Bunyard and this MOU is our step in supporting them.

A partial presentation about Trail Talk was given by Steve, but no decisions were made as Virginia and Norine were unable to attend. Tom Fee was appointed head of the nominating committee to find candidates to replace board members Terry Hardwicke and Curtis Grant. Curtis is termed out and even though at the last board meeting it was decided to change the by-laws to allow a third time, that item has yet to go to the voting members. Terry has decided not to run again, so we need two candidates. If you are interested, contact Tom Fee.

I just received a letter from Jay Stovall after the board meeting that he would like to resign from the board for personal reasons. I emailed the board to accept Jay's resignation and that I wanted to appoint Kathy Lewin to step in to complete Jay's term. I received a full quorum vote to support both issues. Jay we will miss you on the board. I thank you for your dedi-

cation. Kathy, welcome back to the board.

We received an update on the 2007 Symposium plans from Bob and Sherrie Evanhoe. Leave April 21-22 open next year and plan on going to Yreka, CA.

I had a great time at the Black Rock Archeological Survey. If you missed the trip, it was not as eventful as last year (no one lost or stuck) but as usual, Dave Valentine's prairie meat loaf was worth the trip. We found lots of arrowheads and a small 19th century bottle along with numerous areas that appeared to be food grinding and arrowhead knapping areas. It was HOT, a little dusty and lots of fun.

Last week Frank Tortorich held a trail clearing project on the Daggett Pass portion of highway 89. A great turnout, lots of ruts, rust stains made this a premier event. After lunch, Steve and Frank showed the group Steve's find in the area of a few years ago. A further discovery of additional artifacts keeps me from telling you what we found until a Forest Service Archeologist reviews the site. You should have been there; you never know what interesting item will surface.

See you on the trail... Have a great summer. Patty and I are headed to the Ruby Mountains near Elko along Hastings Cutoff for a week. Jim Allison is headed to St. Joe for the OCTA Convention to cover for me as I must return to work August 1.

Steve

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# CLIMBERS SHOULD BE ALL OVER THE TWIN SISTERS AGAIN

By Christopher Smith *The Associated Press,*

Reprinted from – *The Salt Lake Tribune* – Sunday, June 25, 2006

"CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE, Idaho. As one of the few climbers to scale the 600-foot-tall pair of granite spires known as the Twin Sisters, park ranger Brad Shilling describes the three-state panorama from the top as "by far the best view of the California Trail landscape you could ask for."

"From the ground, however, some visitors to the City of Rocks National Reserve in southern Idaho see things differently.

"One visitor wrote in a letter to the National Park Service that climbers roping their way up the sides of the two stone towers that served as beacons to 19th century wagon trains look like "Lycra-clad filth."

"Six years after a federal judge ruled the Park Service could legally ban sport climbing on the Twin Sisters because of its historical significance, the debate has been renewed. With the support of Idaho's congressional delegation, a national climbing organization is asking the federal agency to reconsider its 1998 ban on scaling the Sisters.

"`This is not dead by a long shot,' said Jason Keith, policy director for the Access Fund, a Colorado-based group that claims to represent 500,000 rock and mountain climbers in the United States. `We're not saying you shouldn't preserve the significance there, but there are ways you could allow limited climbing opportunities without impairing the historic values.'

"The fund sued the Park Service in an attempt to overturn the climbing ban, but in 2000, U.S. Magistrate Judge Mikel Williams dismissed the case after deciding the agency properly gave greater weight to preserving the cultural value of the Twin Sisters.

"`Admittedly, the closure was based on the somewhat intangible values of feelings and association, but there is almost no other way to judge or weigh the merit of historical or cultural resources,' Williams wrote.

"In 2004, the four members of Idaho's all-Republican congressional delegation asked Park Service Director Fran Mainella to ease the ban as part of a review of the 1998 climbing management plan. In a written response, the Pacific Northwest regional director, Jonathan Jarvis, defended the climbing ban but told the Idaho lawmakers `the need to address other

pressing planning issues at the City of Rocks has caused us to reconsider this position.' "

"Idaho's state historic preservation officer wrote to Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, and Mainella in December last year, arguing the City of Rocks Reserve was created by Congress to protect nationally recognized overland trail landmarks, not to promote climbing them.

"In January, a Park Service review team recommended a dozen revisions to the 1998 climbing management plan, but chose to keep the Twin Sisters climbing ban in place.

"Since the recommendation to keep the climbing ban in place was released, the Park Service has received dozens of critical comments from people who argue the decision is unfair to climbers. Climbing does not damage the granite, they say, and argue the view of the dual stone pinnacles is already cluttered with modern intrusions.

"Climbing is allowed under various restrictions at culturally or religiously significant rock formations in other Park Service sites such as Devil's Tower National Monument in Wyoming, Half Dome in California's Yosemite National Park, and Denali National Park in Alaska. Last month, the Park Service rewrote rules at Arches National Park in Utah to outlaw climbing on any named arch or natural bridge after a climber announced with photographs and video he had made an unassisted ascent of Delicate Arch, a signature span that adorns Utah license plates.

"The first recorded technical climb - using ropes and anchors fixed into the rock - of Twin Sisters was made in the 1962 by a small climbing club from northern Utah and members of the Lowe family. Climbing the Sisters grew in popularity for the next 25 years, with the Park Service documenting at least 22 established routes up the Twin Sisters, coined with names such as `Safer Than Sex,' `Crack-A-Jawea,'

and `Static Cling.'

"Since the closure, sport climbers are restricted to the more than 600 routes on other granite formations inside the City of Rocks Reserve."



# 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
August 19	<b><u>Mt. Stephens To Nevada City Tour</u></b> 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
Sept. 6-8 <i>Cancelled</i>	<b><u>Carson Trail Clean-up and Marking</u></b> 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.net
Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 October 7	<b><u>Truckee Trail Driving Tour</u></b> 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
	<b><u>Fernley Great Sand Swales Cleanup</u></b> The annual OCTA / BLM Cleanup of the Great Sand Swales near Fernley, Nevada will be held on Saturday, October 7. tomfee3@aol.com	Karen Giron, (775) 575-4800 karen@truckinn.com Tom Fee, (775) 827-3724

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

DATE	ACTIVITY	CONTACT/LEADER
Oct. 14	<u>Pioneer Day, New Almaden</u> —Spanish Camp, 11 am. Includes Mexican music, dancers, Mexican foods, speakers, raffle, book signing by the authors of the <i>Images of America: New Almaden</i> . An interpretive sign will be installed and dedicated. Place: Jacque Ridge on Hicks Road parking lot. Shuttles will be available. Lunch \$7 donation.	Kitty Monahan (408) 268-6541
Sept. 8-10 Nov. 4	<b><u>Trails West Activities</u></b> Nobles Trail Work Party Board Meeting	Bob Black, (541) 956-9041 Dave Hollecker, (775-322-2969)

See Web Site Activities Calendar for additional details. —



## CHAPTER SEEKS ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

Tom Fee has announced he will leave the position of Activities Coordinator when his two year commitment is up on December 31, 2006.

Any Chapter member interested in the position is encouraged to contact Chapter President Steve Knight at (775) 882-1488 or 48sknight@charter.net.

Tom will turn over to the new Activities Coordinator a binder of information and will be happy to give advice and support. This is a relatively easy assignment that does not take a great amount of time. Get actively involved with our Chapter by making use of your talents!

## 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



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.

# FORGOTTEN CALIFORNIA - JOHN MARSH

By Norine Kimmy

Although I felt I was reasonably knowledgeable about John Marsh, I decided to read the information on the John Marsh Historical Trust website before I attended the celebration. I found not only a well-written biography of Marsh, a listing of his contributions to California, but also two provocative questions. Who Really Was John Marsh? Why Was His Stone House Important? The material was provocative, and I realized there was more to John Marsh than I had been aware.

According to Kathleen J. Mero, historian and author of *A Few Words About John Marsh, A California Founding Father*, John Marsh arrived in Alta California around late 1835 or early 1836, having traveled by way of the Santa Fe Trail. He mixed easily with people of all cultures, and, since he quickly picked up the basics of languages he encountered, he was able to communicate with the natives.

Mero has written, "John Marsh is one of our greatest early adventurers. He was a pioneer on six American frontiers, Harvard graduate, trailblazer, nation builder, first American settler in the great San Joaquin Valley, and friend of Presidents and fur traders. Marsh was a man of deeds often greater than he was. He is a lost treasure found again by Californians who want him restored to his rightful place in our early history." The website enumerated the following details about his life:

"\*Born in Salem, MA in 1799

"\*Died in Contra Costa County, CA 1856

"\*Graduated Harvard College 1823

"\*Taught first school-Minnesota.

"\*Assistant to the Indian Agent at Ft. St Anthony, MN.

"\*Studied medicine under the eye of post physician but never received official certificate due to the death of his mentor.

"\*Became a staunch supporter of the Sioux during the tribal difficulties that finally erupted into the Black Hawk War.

"\*In 1828, he rescued the wife and child of an influential Sioux chief being held captive by Morgan, war chief of the Fox tribe.

"\*Compiled the first dictionary of the Sioux language with the help of his common law wife, Marguerite. Marguerite was the beautiful daughter of a French trapper and his Wahpeton wife. John and

Marguerite produced a son, Charles.

"\*Moved to Independence, MO where he set up a general store.

"\*Moved on to Santa Fe and thence to Los Angeles as rumors of gun running to the Sioux and creditors dogged him.

"\*Practiced medicine in Los Angeles for a year to earn money to buy land. He was paid in the currency of the pueblo, hides and tallow.

"\*Arrived in San Jose in 1837 inquiring after land for sale. Purchased Los Meganos from Jose Noriega for \$500.

"\*Took possession of Los Meganos in 1838, a year before John Sutter took up his grant on the Sacramento. "\*Built a small adobe along a stream and began practicing medicine. His fees, paid in cattle, created one of the largest herds in early California.

"\*Began his letter campaign to bring American settlers to California. One, to Governor Cass of Michigan, correctly evaluated the agricultural potential of California. These letters brought the first wagon trains to California, 1000's of settlers followed.

"\*Developed Los Meganos into one of the largest ranches in the area and shipped beef and produce to the gold mines and to San Francisco.

"\*Married Abigail Tuck in 1851; daughter Alice born in 1852. Reunited with lost son Charles in 1855.

"\*Murdered on the road to Martinez, CA in 1856."

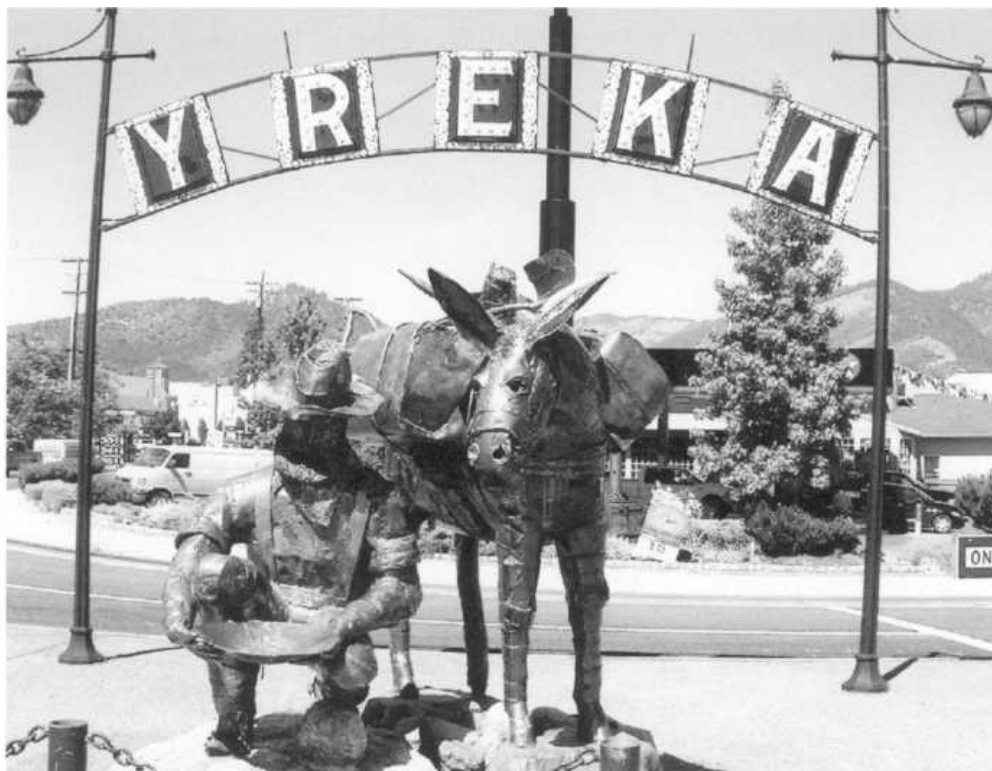


JOHN AND ABBY MARSH WITH DAUGHTER ALICE

This sketchy overview raised my curiosity about Marsh. Like-

wise, answers to the second question, "Why Was His Stone House Important?" revealed some little known facts. According to the Marsh House News, "The Stone House is acknowledge as the first American 'stone manor style' farmhouse in California. It is the symbol of both early California rancho life and the beginning of our agricultural economy." It has been considered to be the "most beautiful farm house in California" and to be the "missing link" connecting other historic California buildings.

(See MARSH p. 16.)



Historic sign and gold miner welcome visitors to Yreka, California, just off Hwy. 5, in northern California, 22 miles from the California Oregon border. Yreka was incorporated in 1857, following the discovery of gold in 1851. Photo submitted by Cherie Evanhoe.

Yreka, California will be the site of the California-Nevada Chapter Spring Symposium. The event is set for April 21, 22, 2007 at the Miners Inn Convention Center and Siskiyou County Museum.

Yreka is rich in trapping, gold mining and emigrant history. Peter Skene Ogden and the Hudson Bay Party trapped near the area in 1826. Gold was discovered in Yreka in 1851. Many Pioneer emigrants coming west for gold and land came into the area and settled here in the 1850s. The railroad came just east of Yreka in 1887, and just one year later Yreka formed its own railroad traveling just seven miles to connect with the Central Pacific line in Montague.

Yreka is located in the most northern section of California along Highway 5, just 22 miles from the California Oregon border. The town has a current population of 7500 people and the County covers 6300 square miles which run through many small towns, agriculture, timber and mountainous areas. The Symposium will feature many speakers and trail events that highlight the history and geology of Yreka and Siskiyou County.

Planning committee includes Bob and Cherie Evanhoe and Richard and Orsola Silva. Persons interested in participating in the planning of the Symposium may call Bob or Cherie, 530-842-5563. More information about Yreka is available at <[www.YrekaChamber.com](http://www.YrekaChamber.com)>.

Registration information will be available in later editions of Trail Talk. Mark your calendar and plan to come to northern California for Springtime!

# CA NV CHAPTER OCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

## Minutes 8 July 2006

Presiding Officer: Steve Knight. Board Members present: Jim Allison, Terry Hardwicke, Dave Hollecker, Leslie Fryman, Curtis Grant; Board Member absent: Jay Stovall; Officer present: Carol March, Recording Secretary; Officer absent: Zeke Sicotte, Treasurer, Others present: Mary Mueller, Pat Loomis, Tom Fee, Hugh March, Don Buck, and Mike Bennett.

CALL TO ORDER – 2:55 P.M. at home of Terry Hardwicke, Reno, NV

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL – Steve Knight called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

ITEM 2: The Agenda was approved as distributed.

ITEM 3: MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING – The Minutes were included in the Agenda packet. Motion to approve was made by Dave Hollecker. Seconded by Jim Allison. Motion Approved unanimously. Note: Also included in the Agenda packet (page 3) was "Parliamentary Proceedings at a Glance," a synopsis of Robert's Rules of Order.

### OLD BUSINESS

ITEM 1: MEMBERSHIP/DUES REPORT, Patty Knight – 611 OCTA members live in California & Nevada with 391 paid up CA/NV Chapter members. 30 members did not renew this year, but there are 60 more total members than last year. 23 paid dues through OCTA National, helping increase. Lowering our dues to \$10 also helped the increase.

There are 103 Sustaining Members, but only 1 was paid through OCTA National. 16, who were sustaining members in 2005, paid through OCTA National and did not continue as Sustaining Members.

Problems continue with dues paid through OCTA National. Difference in the anniversary date causes confusion, and there is loss of income due to loss of Sustaining Members. We should urge members to pay their dues through the Chapter and not through National.

New CA/NV membership rosters are available. It was suggested the roster be sent out by email. Problem: 150 members have no email. Mary Ann Tortorich and Patty keep email addresses up-to-date.

ITEM 2: TREASURER'S REPORT – Zeke Sicotte (not present but report was included in Agenda packet.) Dues and Membership: There is a decrease in income from dues since 2005, mainly from reduction of dues from \$20 to \$10. This was offset by increase in amounts contributed by Sustaining Members plus new members joining through OCTA National. However, with OCTA anniversary date different from Chapter, many new members are already paid through 2007 & 2008, impacting future dues income.

San Jose Symposium: 67 people registered, a lower number than anticipated. Net loss was \$1,903, mainly due to unreturned security deposits.

the Board has committed to \$18,000 of long term Preservation projects. Most of these are in the 2006 Budget. So far only \$3,784 has been spent.

Discussion: **Beckwourth** Plaque #2 is probably not going to be done by September 30, 2006, end of Budget year. Double Hot Springs Fence may be completed by then, but presently is waiting for a letter from the BLM saying they accept responsibility and ownership. Curtis Grant noted that Budget items can be carried over to the next Budget year.

ITEM 3: REPORT/DISCUSSION OF SAN JOSE SYMPOSIUM – Mary Mueller. Income from the Symposium was \$4,680. Expenses were \$6,583. The difference was mainly due to fewer participants than first planned. Change of venues and caterers were necessary, causing forfeiting some of the deposits. Two caterers may still return some of the \$1,742 outstanding deposits.

In general, Mary was disappointed in the poor Chapter turn out for the Symposium. However, those who attended enjoyed the variety of activities and thanked Mary for her hard work.

ITEM 4: COMMITTEE INFORMATION – Jay Stovall  
ITEM 5: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – Jay Stovall (Above two OLD BUSINESS items were not reported due to Jay's absence.)

ITEM 6: PRESERVATION REPORT – Leslie Fryman Chapter Preservation Officer: In Nevada the final EIS is done for the Bureau of Reclamation's Land Exchange, involving about 45 miles of California Trail. That section needs to be evaluated and interpreted to determine if it can be developed or if it is to be conserved and how.

Sierra Pacific Power plans a transmission line near Winnemucca. It would cross the north and south side of the trail along the **Humboldt** River. The location is still in question so we can't yet tell if Class 1 or 2 trail will be impacted.

In California there are on-going problems with the Forest Service in Lassen and El Dorado National Forests – trails of concern include the Lassen, Nobles and Carson.

On the Truckee Route, Cal Trans has various road widening projects that constantly threaten the trail. Currently there is roadwork near Big Bend that needs watching.

A new museum is being built at Donner Park which is different from the original plan to upgrade the present one.

Steve Knight received a letter telling of plans to build an interpretative center in the Lake Lahontan Area in Nevada. It is an area not really on a major emigrant trail. Steve will respond and learn more about the project.

ITEM 7: There were no further reports under OLD BUSINESS.

### NEW BUSINESS

ITEM I: COMMON INTERESTS/CONCERNS WITH TRAILS WEST – Dave Hollecker. When asked to support or not support particular issues, Trails West has adopted an issue-by-issue approach. An example was supporting the Tahoe-Pyramid

Bikeway Association in getting a bike path over trail in Washoe County, NV. Success in having the trail declared a Public Road prevented other development on that section of trail/road. Now that group seeks support for a bike way over trail in Storey County where there is opposition for having it declared a Public Road. Trails West has chosen not to support this issue, but suggests our OCTA Chapter might like to become involved. Discussion pm and con followed.

Motion: Curtis Grant moved that the CA/NV Chapter Board authorize the Chapter President to investigate the issues, get information and report back to the Board. Seconded by Terry Hardwicke. Motion Passed unanimously.

ITEM 2: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (Letter Presentation From Chuck Dodd) – Chuck asked the CA NV Chapter to join with Trails West in signing up to support a Surprise Valley Visitor Center in Cedarville. Signing is largely a symbolic show of support, helping to promote trail education and preservation. There is no financial commitment implied by signing the MOU.

Motion: Leslie Fryman moved the Chapter President immediately sign the MOU document, adding we should have done it already. Seconded by Curtis Grant. Motion Passed unanimously.

Terry Hardwicke will locate the official MOU document so it can be signed for Trails West and the CA NV Chapter.

ITEM 11-2: MODEL TRAILS PRESERVATION PLAN FOR OCTA ON JOHNSON CUTOFF & RELATED TRAILS (moved forward on Agenda) – Don Buck, Jim Allison.

Jim reported the project is to identify and map the Johnson Cutoff. They have been two field trips recently through difficult terrain. Ellen Osborn who helps head up the project would like the Chapter to consider funding an expert to help with research. There was a question of who Ellen has in mind and exactly what that person would do. Leslie Fryman said she already told Ellen she would put in for a Park Service Cost Sharing grant to cover expenses of the mapping project, but the funds won't be able until 2007. Curtis Grant noted the Chapter is always willing to support any well-presented proposal that is specific about what is to be accomplished and how much it would cost, not just a general statement. Jim Allison will follow up with Ellen Osborn.

ITEM 3: CHAPTER ACTIVITIES PRESENTATION – Tom Fee. Trail Hikes Risk Management Procedures The purpose is to cut down on liability and risk on our trail trips. Tom is developing written procedures for each category: hikes, bus tours, trail tours and other outings.

Discussion of proposed Trail Hike Procedures included the suggestion that one large, blanket Procedures document could cover all kinds of outings. Tom explained the Procedures sheets would go to the leaders of the Hikes or other activity, and he felt a shorter, more specific document would be more useful and would not overwhelm possible tour leaders.

Another question arose over the wording of advising that someone on the hike should be CPR trained. The wording was changed to asking if anyone was First Aid or CPR trained.

Hugh March, of the Risk Management Committee, suggested the Board authorize and approve the concept of Risk Management and noted specifics will change over time.

Motion: Dave Hollecker moved approval of the Risk Management Plan. Seconded by Leslie Fryman. Motion Passed unanimously.

Liability Waiver Form for Chapter Activities The Chapter has been using a different Waiver form than the long and short forms used by OCTA National. Tom is working with OCTA President, Vem Gorzitze, to combine the forms and to be sure it is legally sound. When it is complete, we will use the same form as OCTA National.

Idea for Publicizing Our Activities to the Public Tom explained an idea given him by Allison Portello to charge a \$45 fee to non-members who want to go on a CAIN V Chapter tour. For the fee they would get the tour, a 1-year membership in OCTA and 1-year membership in the Chapter. We could publicize our outings to the general public in newspapers and to other organizations to help build our membership. The fee would be in addition to other costs of the tour such as information booklets or other supplies. Tom asked the Board to approve the concept.

Motion: Jim Allison moved the Board approve Tom's concept. Seconded by Terry Hardwicke. Motion Passed unanimously.

Activities Coordinator's Position Tom Fee originally agreed to a 2-year term and would like to turn the position over to someone else at the end of this year. He offered to take on the Chapter's Speakers' Bureau position instead. The Board needs to find a replacement for Activities Coordinator.

ITEM 4: 2007 SYMPOSIUM SITE IN YREKA – Patty Knight Sherrie and Bob Evanhoe are in charge of the symposium, to be held April 21-22, 2007. They received the Chapter Symposium Manual and are planning the event. Mary Mueller noted they need to submit information for Trail Talk and the Website and asked who is following up with Sherrie and Bob. Patty Knight said she will be in touch with them, and as Symposium Coordinator, Carol March will also be in touch with them.

ITEM 5: TRAIL TALK DISCUSSION – Steve Knight Noting that other OCTA Chapters use computer generated printing and mailing for their newsletters, Steve led a discussion of how we can bring our Chapter into 21st century technology. He talked with Editor, Virginia Hammemess, and Norine Kimmy who does the computer work for our newsletter, to see how we can help them upgrade the system currently used.

Discussion Pm and Con of hard copy newsletters vs. email newsletters followed. It was noted that if Trail Talk could be put on a CD in PDF, it could be printed mom easily and economically. There was agreement that we appreciate how hard the Trail Talk Committee works to put out our newsletter, but in the future the Chapter should make use of the available technology.

Mary Mueller has served notice that she is ready to step down as Managing Editor as of December 31st and that the Board needs to appoint someone to be in charge of mailing the newsletter. Steve will so contact Norine to see how the Chapter can help make her job easier and less time consuming.

ITEM 6: AREA GROUP MEETINGS — Jay Stovall  
ITEM 7: LITERATURE COMMITTEE — Jay Stovall  
(Above two NEW BUSINESS items not reported due to Jay's absence.)

ITEM 8: ELKO CONVENTION — no discussion at this time

ITEM 9: COMPENDIUM — Curtis Grant. It is a Chapter Document, well discussed at the General Membership meeting last fall. Its goals should be kept alive.

ITEMS 10 & 11: POLICY DISCUSSION/ACTION— Jay Stovall.  
*Plaques & Markers/budgeting For Activities* (These items were not discussed due to Jay's absence.)

ITEM 12: NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS — Terms on the Board are ending for Curtis Grant

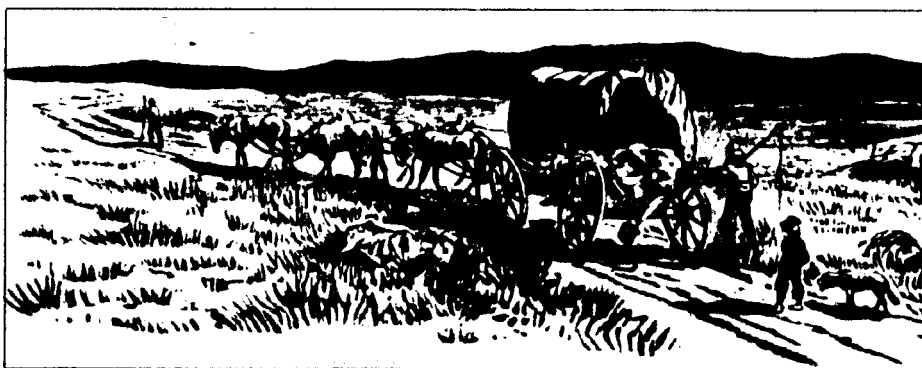
(completing his second term) and Terry Hardwicke. The Nominating Committee consists of Jay Stovall, Tom Fee and Shann Rupp.

It was noted that there was a Motion approved at the February Board Meeting to extend the Board Membership to 3 years with 3 consecutive terms possible. This Motion still needs to be approved by the General Membership.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Terry Hardwicke moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Jim Allison. Motion Passed unanimously.  
The meeting ended at 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carol March, Recording Secretary



### OH! SUCH GENEROSITY

Quote from: James Evans to Dear Brother Ellis, 27 October 1850,  
*Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Part 2, Page 2*

*.... After sunrise it grew amazingly hot — our mules poked along very slow. We passed men who said they were about to famish for water. One man who was walking did refuse to go any further and in despite [sic] of the entreaties of his two friends lay down on the sand in the hot sunshine & resolved to die, and his companions had to leave him to his fate. I felt very faint myself but rode on resolved to get as far as I could, as I judged I was not more than 6 miles from the water. Presently I met a friendly Indian; those poor savages who had during the trip shot arrows at us at night — and had killed several emigrants — had killed one man on guard insight of where I was on [the] Humboldt even they were moved with sympathy — and here came the Indian nearly naked, walking barefooted in the hot sand — with a bucket — a little tin bucket — of water for the famishing Emigrants! When we met he offered me the bucket exclaiming, "Watty, Watty, Oh! white man — watty!" I could not help shedding a tear — but refused to drink — telling him that there were men behind who were famishing for water worse than me, to carry it to them. He held up his fingers to show me that I was within 4 miles of water — and to show that it was plenty he walked as if he was wading, and then showed me how deep it came to his legs. He went on, and I afterwards learned that he came up to the famished man and after giving him two or 3 drinks of water brought up an Indian poney, put the white man on him and took him on until he came to Trucky River! Oh! Such generosity! and pray, why do not these Emigrants who are ahead have the same feelings of humanity?*

— Submitted to Overland List by Will Bagley

## PLAQUE DEDICATION - NEW ALMADEN

*{Ed Note: Due to ignorance and stubbornness on the part of some Board members, your Chapter was not allowed to cosponsor with the Argonauts Historical Society and New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Assn. the plaque which was dedicated in New Almaden on May 7, 2006, during the Symposium. The text appears below.}*

### NEW ALMADEN QUICKSILVER MINE

For generations the Ohlone Indians followed the path along the Alamitos Creek to find cinnabar in a cave in the nearby hills. They traded the mineral, used it in religious ceremonies and decorated their bodies. Elsewhere in the world, quicksilver, another name for mercury, the end product in the processing of cinnabar, was an important component in the amalgamation of gold, silver and other precious metals. The Rothschilds, an influential European banking family, owned the Almaden mines in Spain, held the monopoly on quicksilver and controlled the price for quicksilver on the world market.

In 1845 Captain Andres Castillero, a Mexican soldier, diplomat and scholar, was sent to Alta California on a mission to Sutter's Fort. The Mexican government wanted to buy out Sutter in an effort to keep out American settlers. When meetings between Castillero and Sutter failed, Castillero returned to Mission Santa Clara. It was there that he noticed the red paint in artwork in the mission church and on the bodies of the Ohlones. Recognizing the red color as probably being that of cinnabar or silver, he proceeded to test the ore and discovered that it was indeed cinnabar. Indians took him to their source. He filed a denouncement on 3,000 vara of land for all sides of the cave mouth. This is the site of the richest mine in California and the largest quicksilver mining area in the Americas. Castillero's keen observation in recognizing cinnabar ore helped break the Rothchild's monopoly of quicksilver.

Twenty-eight months later the discovery of gold sparked the great overland migration of people to California. Soon after arriving the miners realized they needed quicksilver to amalgamate with gold. The community of New Almaden became an integral part of the gold rush because its quicksilver was readily available and inexpensive to ship to the Mother Lode. Wagons loaded with flasks traveled to the port of Alviso where the flasks were shipped to San Francisco for worldwide distribution. This local source of quicksilver made mining lucrative for the gold miner.

By 1865, life on Mine Hill was very wild and dangerous. Criminals, including Tiburico Vasquez, were hiding out, drinking was rampant and shootings were common. In an effort to control the criminal element, mine manager Samuel F. Butterworth built a tollgate at the entrance to Hacienda Mine works at the narrows of the canyon where Almaden Road and the Almaden Way meet. The toll collector lived in the far apartment where he collected tolls and inspected wagons. The residents of Mine Hill were not allowed to bring in alcohol and guns. These residents were fined if they were caught with unacceptable goods.

Over the years, the three apartments were rented to a number of Californios. Among those living there were Berryessas and Narvaezes, descendants of members of the 1776 Anza expedition. Frank Lewis, a son-in-law of James Frazier Reed and the husband of Patty Reed of the Donner Party, was a tenant in 1866. Antonio Soto, a Mutsun Indian, lived here in 1880.

The story of New Almaden's quicksilver and of the overland pioneers' dreams of a better life will always be tied together as a rewarding and tragic human experience that helped settle the Santa Clara Valley, California and the American West.

Printed by Argonauts Historical Society  
New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association  
May 7, 2006

**MAILING NEWSLETTER**  
— **MARY MUELLER RESIGNS** —



At the Chapter Board meeting held on July 8 in Reno, Mary Mueller served notice that she is ready to step down as Managing Editor as of December 31st and that the Board needs to appoint someone to be in charge of mailing the newsletter. Mary helped to solicit articles for publication, to proof read, and to supervise the work that is required to process the newsletters for bulk rate to be delivered to the post office.

She said "the hardest part of making the decision will be closing off the part of my brain and my heart which will still be thinking of ways to help the Trail Talk team." However, after 15 years of working with the team she believes someone else will be eager to volunteer to replace her. Mary says "I will help the person who will succeed me."

— **JAY STOVALL RESIGNS** —

Dear President Steve,

For the past two months I have been considering a change. This is because of many factors. My personal health is at the foremost position of my considerations. Other factors have developed over the time I have been a board member.

I attempted to present a bit of my education on organizational dynamics in February in Carson City. The subject was far too large to carry at a very hurried and disorganized gathering. Since that time, the lines of communication have been almost nil. One can assume that the board members present had no interest in a different approach to our woes involving a declining membership and declining enthusiasm for our mission.

The By-Laws are old and in bad need of change to aid our vitality. Our Field trips have lost their zing and appeal to many members. We don't seem to value the old and the new literature, from which we attach importance in our preservation program.

I hereby tender my resignation, as Board of Director member of the California-Nevada Chapter of the Oregon California Trails Association. We will always continue as the Charter members that we are proud to be. We wish those, who follow, to care for the chapter, as we have these many years. Ezra Meeker's organization "died" because of errors of judgement. We do not wish this on this fine gathering — only good wishes and hope for the future.

Very Sincerely, Jay C. Stovall, O. D.



**DIARY QUOTES ...**

*Submitted by Shann Rupp*

*"The water runs with such fury that it cannot content itself to be quiet even after it is in the bucket."*

— Anonymous (Huntington) on the Sublette, 1854

Desirous of his friends not worrying about him, Dr. Aquila Massey wrote, tongue in cheek, to his wife to tell friends ... *"that I am just going across here a few miles for a bag of gold and will return in a few days."*

— Dr. Aquila Massey, 1849

Impression upon arriving in California ... *"A man that has red dirt on his shirt can get credit for anything, that is a proof that he is a working man.. "*

- Henry R. Wiman, 1849

[Ed. Note: On Thursday evening June 22, Pat and her contributions to the "Valley of Hearts Delight" were honored at a grand affair on the grounds of History San Jose. A multitude of Friends and colleagues attended Proceeds will benefit education programs at History San Jose.]

Loomis started writing church notices, articles based on letters from soldiers, reports on frost and weather for the farmers – whatever was needed. Eventually she was assigned to cover the police department, City Hall, and other more exciting beats. One of her favorite assignments involved being snuck into the projectionist's room at Civic Auditorium to overhear supposedly secret meetings. "They never did figure out how I did it," she chuckled.

But Loomis is best known for her much-loved weekly *Sign-*

*posts* column, which she started towards the end of her career in 1971, and continued for ten years until her retirement. "Over the years I'd write little articles about city and county anniversaries, things like that, and the paper would always run them," she said. "Eventually I said I'd like to do a weekly historical column of some kind. There were all these streets named after people who were early timers here, and I thought it would be a good idea to research those and write up the stories."

*Signposts* was a natural extension of what she had been studying for years. Loomis had always been interested in regional history, and had been taking classes and going on road trips led by historian Clyde Arbuckle since 1949. "Clyde was a really neat guy," she said. "He was very dignified but had a wonderful sense of humor. He was my mentor and a great friend, and he was probably more responsible for me becoming a historian than anyone else. When he told you that such-and-such a thing happened at a certain time, you could take his word for it. I tried to be like that when I wrote my *Signposts* columns."

Loomis retired from reporting in 1983, but continues to be just as active in her role as local historian and preservationist. "We've lost an awful lot of the old landmarks." She said, "and that's too bad. They're never going to come back. I'm concerned that there are many people in San Jose who aren't interested in the history."

For Loomis, of course, the history is what's key. "The research was more interesting than the writing," she said. "I went out and met people and loved hearing about their lives and the old days. I've had a wonderful career and a wonderful life, I wouldn't change a minute of it."



Pat Loomis is surrounded by old signs in a wrecking yard, History San Jose Collection.

# Emigrant Names 2

## Census of Overland Emigrant Documents



**Order your EN2 set now!**

Over 70,000 trail-related names from mid-nineteenth century Oregon/ California Trail journeys are in the 2 CD set of document surveys. Find full information from over 3200 documents found in libraries around the US. OCTA, with the financial sponsorship of the National Parks Service, US Dept. of Interior, has created this incomparable research tool. The COED committee volunteers have created the program to be easy to use with Windows 98 or higher systems. Not available at this time for Macintosh. The cost is 39.95 plus postage and handling. Order from the OCTA Store at 888-811-6282, or on line at:

## ALLIANCE FOR HISTORIC WYOMING

*Martin Cove: Some good news from Martin's Cove. The recent settlement of the ACLU lawsuit challenging the BLMs authority to grant a long-term lease of public lands to a religious body has paid off with much better public access signing at the Cove and should make it easier for non-LDS members to visit this site without feeling as though they are intruding. In addition, a make-shift chapel which had been placed right in the middle of the historic emigrant trail ruts (next to the old marker on the old highway) has been taken down. While the ground still bears signs of disturbance from activity at the chapel, hopefully this will diminish in the near future and leave the historic ruts to shine again.*

*Rocky Ridge: Good and bad news from Rocky Ridge. The BLM has taken down their large sign on the Hudson Atlantic City Road that pointed people to the misleading monument to the Willies Handcart Company at the beginning of the Rocky Ridge segment. The Ridge is also now closed to vehicular traffic. All that is positive. Unfortunately, however, handcart use on the portions of the Hudson Atlantic City Road closest to Sweetwater Station has created deep ruts, leaving the road much less friendly to vehicle traffic.*

• **ROLLER PASS** (from p.1)



Hike participants.  
Photos by Howard Dugger.

Some had been there before, but it was my first visit. I had read articles about the novel way in which the Emigrants had used cut logs laid flat on the ground at the top to act as "roller bearings" for the cables stretched over the summit. Livestock straining against those cables or chains going down the western slope hopefully pulled up the wagons attempting to climb up the eastern approach. But as we looked over the eastern edge I was taken aback by how steep – really steep – it actually was!

Although I am a longtime member of OCTA, I have not participated in outings and have been content to pay my annual dues and read Trail Talk and The Overland Journal at home. Like a dummy !

*I wonder how many other passive members are making the same mistake that I did? I have a new appreciation for our emigrant forbearers and for the hard-working OCTA volunteers who make these trips available.*

Roller pass – whew – awesome – STEEP! !

Roller Pass Trails West Marker Quote:  
*"We made a roller and fastened chains together and pulled the wagons up with 12 yoke oxen on the top and the same at the bottom" — 1846".*



## CHAPTER OCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Minutes 11 February 2006 (Approved)

Presiding Officer: Steve Knight, President. Board Members present: Jim Allison, Terry Hardwicke, Dave Hollecker, Jay Stovall, and Steve Knight. Leslie Fryman joined Board at 10:15 a.m. Board Member absent: Curtis Grant. Officers present: Zeke Sicotte, Treasurer. Officers absent: Carol March, Recording Secretary. (Note: Minutes of meeting were taped in Carol's absence and sent to her for recording.) Others Present: Tom Fee, Mary Mueller, Patty Knight, Pat Loomis and other CA/NV members.

### CALL TO ORDER

9:30 am. at Silver State High School in Carson City, Nevada.

ITEM 1: Steve Knight called the meeting to order, announced a quorum of Board Members present.

ITEM 2: Approval of Agenda as distributed. Beckwourth sign project and Double Hot Springs/Black Rock Desert items were added to the agenda. Jim Allison moved to approve the agenda with additions. Terry Hardwicke seconded. Approved.

ITEM 3: Approval of the minutes from October 14, 2005 Board Meeting in Sacramento. Terry Hardwicke noted his report about Double Hot Springs fence project on which BLM is moving, heading was omitted from Minutes. Jay Stovall moved minutes be approved as amended. Seconded and approved with one abstention.

### OLD BUSINESS

ITEM 1: MEMBERSHIP / DUES REPORT, Patty Knight — Dues have been returned to \$10 but many people are still paying \$20. They are being credited with 2-years membership. There are continued problems with National OCTA taking over payment of dues, specifically very tardy reporting to the chapter of dues paid through National. The Chapter is only receiving dues payments quarterly. On the positive side, we have received 3 new memberships through National. Also, of 56 people who responded to the Chapter's free membership offer last year, 22 have become paying members this year.

(See MINUTES - Feb. 11, 2006, p. 18)

## Marsh, (from p.1)

Accompanied by Suzanne Everett, on June 3, we made our way to the east side of Mt. Diablo towards the Old Stone House. We were privileged to have sunny weather and the rolling California hills were golden in the morning sun. It was easy to visualize how the area would have looked in the days of the early settlers.



John Marsh Stone House Circa 1866  
Photo brochure *John Marsh Stone House*

When we arrived, members of the John Marsh Historic Trust were busy setting up tables, umbrellas, and displays for the event. Tours were conducted by Craig Mattson, State Superintendent of the Diablo Vista District, California Parks and Recreation Site Manager/Ranger, who gave a comprehensive presentation of the life of James Marsh and the historical significance of the area. He included information about the Native Americans, pointing out that the area had become a cultural melding of native and frontier life-styles. It was the ancestral home of local Native Ameri



Restoration is underway on the south wall. Reinforced steel rods "tie stone to stone and brick to brick". Photo by Suzanne Everett.

cans, and an ancient burial site is known to be adjacent to the property. Unfortunately, there is a strong movement to put a housing development in the area.



Craig Mattson points to restored arches and tells about other features. Photo by Norine Kimmy.

Currently not open to the public, the Stone House and the 3,500 acres of natural habitat surrounding the house will be the state's newest state park. Mattson responded to numerous questions from the audience and covered information as to the continuing plans for the repair and restoration of the historic house as well as plans for the park.



Front of Stone House. To mitigate the impact of the adjacent new housing development, orchards and vineyards will be replicated. Photo by Suzanne Everett.

After years of neglect, in part caused by restoration funds appropriated by the legislature being "blue penciled" by the governor or the state park's refusal to spend the money diverting it instead to projects with more powerful political support, at last restoration is underway at the Stone House.



Close up of brick and stone work in progress on south wall.

Photo by Norine Kimmy.

However, to continue the progress, and eventually restore the Stone House to include a museum, a Miwok village, the adobe, as well as vineyards and orchards around the house, support is still needed by The John Marsh Historic Trust. Goals for 2006 include: Opening the site to the public in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the building, preserve, protect and study the Native American archeological record, and assure access for hiking, youth groups, and equestrian use.

**JOHN MARSH HISTORIC TRUST (501 c 3)**, established in 1994, is dedicated to the preservation and protection of the John Marsh House and Property located in eastern Contra Costa County, CA. The John Marsh Stone House is architecturally *unique* representing East meets West. The Marsh site was the destination of the first and many early settlers to California.

"\*Write Your State Assembly Member, Senator And Governor To Support The John Marsh Stone House and Site preservation effort.

"\*Insist that our State Legislature appropriate the \$7 million in Proposition 40 bonds allocated to the site stabilization and structural restoration project.

"\*Urge the California State Department of Park and Recreation to effect urgently needed stabilization and earthquake retrofit.

"\*Designate the John Marsh Stone House and Site as the next manor California State Park.

\*Rename the "Hwy 4 Bypass" to the "John Marsh Parkway."

"\*Become a member and financially support the Friends of John Marsh."

Resources: <www.johnmarshhouse.com> e-mail: marsh1856@yahoo.com

**Kathleen Mero. Public Outreach**



Proposed plans by the John Marsh Trust for the new state park. Restoration of the Miwok Indian village and original orchards and vineyards are shown in their historical locations (by Gene Metz, board member)

<b>THE JOHN MARSH HISTORIC TRUST, INC.</b>	
<p><b>FRIENDS Application</b>                  P O BOX 272                  CONCORD, CA 94522                  (925) 459-2541 FAX and PHONE                  A Non-Profit Corp 501[3][c] Founded 1994                  Gifts are Tax Deductible</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Vaquero  <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Dos Vaqueros  <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Non Profit Group  <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Pioneer[s]  <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Padrone[s]  <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Alcalde[s]  <input type="checkbox"/> \$251-\$1000 Campanario[s]                 </p>
<p>                     Name _____ Phone [ ] _____                      Address _____ FAX [ ] _____                      City _____ State _____ Zip+ _____                      Today's Date _____                      E-mail _____                 </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fund Allocation [Optional]</b></p> <p>                     \$ _____ Friends Operation                      \$ _____ Stabilization Fund                      \$ _____ Matching Funds                      \$ _____ James Rolph Moore                      \$ _____ Grand Piano Fund                      \$ _____ TOTAL                 </p> <p>The John Marsh Historic Trust is a 501[3][c] non-profit organization. Gifts are tax deductible.                  *NOTE - We have no paid staff, our Board of Directors receive no compensation and pay their own expenses. If you would like a copy of our Financial Report please check the box. <input type="checkbox"/></p>

ITEM 2: *TRAIL TALK*, Mazy Mueller — Current issue is at the printer and will be ready to mail next week. Information for the following issue is due April 1st, and it will be out in May. Only hard copies of articles, notices, etc. should be sent to Editor, Virginia Hammemess. She gives edited copies to Norine Kimmy who does Desktop Publishing. Copies given to printer are camera ready. Emailed copies of information should be sent to Norine and/or Mary Mueller.

There was a good response to having "unapproved" Minutes printed in the newsletter. Tom Fee commented on the outstanding quality of *Trail Talk*. Jay Stovall questioned where back copies of Chapter minutes and newsletters are kept. Answer: Presidents pass copies along to incoming Presidents at end of each term, and Mary Mueller said she has complete record in her personal files. Discussion followed about what computer program is used to produce *Trail Talk*. Consensus was it should be done in Microsoft Word. Jim Allison volunteered to check with Norine to see what she and her Mac computer would need to use Microsoft Word. There was a motion to accept Jim's offer to investigate what Norine is using on her Mac. Seconded and passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: TREASURER'S REPORT, Zeke Sicotte — Three schedules were presented reflecting the 4-month period from beginning of this fiscal year:

Budget and Financial - Three items have changed since last report. 1) Dues were reduced from \$20 to \$10. Budgeted amount went from \$3500 to \$2500. 2) Beckwourth Plaque was added at \$1700. 3) Costs of October Member Meeting updated with net outlay at \$1372. The Budget and Financial Report does not reflect Double Hot Spring \$2800 authorized at last Board Meeting. Zeke will make correction.

Zeke questioned under what budget categories the various Preservation Project should go. Some are under Projects, others fall into the Mapping and Marking category, plus Preservation has a separate budget amount. With the addition of the Double Hot Spring project, the Budget will reflect Net Loss for the year of \$7200; however, it is hard to get a clear picture after only 4-months of the next 8-months of activity.

Cash Activity Comparison - This schedule gives a clearer picture of the cash activity for the last 4 months period. Compared with last year's budget, our dues income is down as expected and our expenses for preservation and other projects is up as requested by the membership. Zeke pointed out the Chapter is beginning to make up for lack of trail activity for the last few years. There still are ample funds in the Chapter Checking Account and in CDs for expenditures.

Leslie Fryman suggested the Mapping and Marking category should be part of the Preservation category in the budget and that special projects that fall within those categories should appear there also. Projects that have nothing to do with Preservation would still appear under a separate category.

Terry Hardwicke moved and Jay Stovall seconded accepting Leslie's proposal to combine Mapping and Marking and special

projects under Preservation. Zeke said he would be able to show the various components separately. Motion passed unanimously. The budget will be amended to show the amounts of all these items under one heading.

Reviewing the amount budgeted and approved for the Beckwourth Plaque, the question arose about how much the Board had approved at the August 17, 2005 meeting in Salt Lake City. Minutes of that meeting incorrectly showed \$300 approved when it should have reflected \$1700. Jim Allison moved the amount approved for the Beckwourth Plaque at the August Board Meeting be revised from \$300 to \$1700. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Dues Analysis (information from written report) Dues rate reduction and related issues with National about collection of dues has caused a difficult transition period. There has been an increase of 54 members as of January 31st, from 224 to 278. Of those, 42 have paid at \$20 so are paid through 2007. The number of Sustaining Members has held steady. Final figures for 2005 was \$6,170 paid by 308 members. As of January 31, 2006 \$4,480 from 224 had been received. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

ITEM 4: COMMITTEES INFORMATION, Jay Stovall — The Board received CDs of the Northwest Chapter's Policy and Procedures Handbook which can be used as guideline. Jay found copies of our Chapter's list of Committees from year 2000 and from old Board Meeting Minutes. The goal is to create a procedures manual for each committee.

Starting from a list of old Committees, the following were discussed: Preservation (now includes Compliance & Law, Contacts with Government, Mapping & Maps and Projects) — Leslie Fryman, Chairman; Libraries/Collections — Dick Davis, Chairman; Tours and Outings/Activities — Tom Fee, Chairman; COED — Shaun Rupp, Chairman; and Genealogy — Carol March, Chairman, Web Site — Jerry Dwyer, Web Master, Membership — Patty Knight, Chairman; Awards — Fran Taplin, Chairman.

Additional Committees discussed were: Speakers/PR, Legislation, Risk Management — Dave Stone and Hugh March, Consultants, and Convention/Symposiums — Carol March, Consultant. Audit (one person) and Nominating Committees fall under the President's responsibilities. Jay explained, "We are only investigating these committees and approving the basic, overall idea to have them or not" Next will be getting procedures down on paper in a manual. Discussion followed on how to combine the committees. Each Committee needs a chairman and clear-cut statements of purpose.

ITEM 5: POLICES AND PROCEDURES DEVELOPMENT/BYLAWS, Jay Stovall — Copies of our Chapter's By Laws and also Northwest Chapter's By Laws were distributed. One of major differences — NW Chapter includes Treasurer and Secretary as voting members of Board. Jay noted our Board is "skinny" and also the President is elected from within the Board. He said that is not the way most Board of Directors work. Dave Hollecker said many other organizations have the same troubles getting people to volunteer to be on the Board and to hold positions on the Boards. Times have changed, maybe we need to rethink how we operate and think carefully about what the members want. Discussion fol

allowed on ways to get the public interested in joining OCTA and ways to redirect our efforts to get our existing members involved.

**ADJOURNED for lunch-RECONVENE** at 1:15 p.m ITEM 6: PROGRESS REPORT for SAN JOSE SYMPOSIUM, Mary Mueller – All planning is done and speakers are lined up. Information will appear in *Trail Talk*. The registration packet will go out first class mail on March 15th Mary has worked closely with the Treasurer on the Symposium budget and keeping costs within reason. If attendees sign up for all of the events, the total price will be \$80. There are a variety of activities available, some with limited spaces available. Dues paying members will get first chance at those spaces. After the registration packets are out, the Web Site will carry the Symposium information.

ITEM 7: PRESERVATION REPORT, Leslie Fryman – An OCTA National Preservation Workshop for the California/Nevada Chapter was well attended and very successful. Don Buck went over the MET Manual on mapping the Trails. Johnson's Cutoff Trail, a major branch trail in California, still needs to be mapped. A team of volunteers was put together at the workshop and has already had two meetings. Ford and Ellen Osborn coordinating that team. A compliance/review project currently being monitored is the Kirkwood Ski Resort expansion. There are some ski runs being put in within site of the trail, but there will not be any direct effect on the trail. An old, ugly restaurant right next to the trail is being removed and a new one built much farther from the trail.

We are continuing the clean up and photo monitoring of the Fernley swales, an annual project. Last fall's photo monitoring was postponed and will now occur next week. The clean up and photo monitoring for 2006 will take place the first weekend in October.

ITEM 8: BECKWOURTH SIGN, Dave Hollecker (Tape needed turning. Information about sign not available for transcription.) The cost of the sign was \$1692, just under the \$1700 budgeted.

ITEM 9: DOUBLE HOT SPRINGS, Terry Hardwicke –The replacement of fencing at Double Hot Springs is expected to occur late this spring. Chapter is to provide workmanship and lumber. BLM is the owner and is responsible for the site upkeep. Project date will be advertised in the newsletter and on the Web Site and will involve removing old bathed wire and putting up fence posts and fencing. We already budgeted \$2800 for the project which should be more than adequate.

ITEM 10: BINDERS AND ACTIVITIES, Tom Fee –Awards Committee members each got revised binders which are complete procedures manuals. Each time a Committee member retires, the binder is to go to the new person.

Tom has been involved with the Fernley Swales clean up for a number of years. He turned his responsibilities over to a Karen Giron who is connected with the Tmckinn company. Tom developed a simple procedures manual to help her know what to do. 3 copies were made: one for the chairman, one for the BLM and one for Tom's files. A BLM book gives all of the information on the development of the Fernley Swale project, with complete information on how to do the photo monitoring. Tom made a complete copy of it for the Chapter. The pages needed for information out in the field are all laminated.

The Activities Coordinator Binder is now divided in two sections. Activities Coordinator Information (including ideas developed in the Chapter Compendium) and an Activities Calendar - past, present and future activities and ideas. Tom went over activities already planned for the months ahead, including one for the Black Rock Springs survey and a hiking tour on Donner Summit. In the future we will try to put together some bus tours for those who don't drive. (Note: other activities were discussed at the end of today's meeting.)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

ITEM 1 – Approval of \$115 for current Board Meeting – Jay Stovall moved the Board approve \$115 for today's Board Meeting and expenses. Jim Allison seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 2: DISCUSSION OF 2007 SYMPOSIUM SITE, Patty Knight & Mary Mueller – Patty reported that Sharon and Bob Evanhoe volunteered to put on a Symposium next year in Yreka. They are waiting for Board approval. Patty Knight will help them, and Carol March will provide the procedures manual to them.

ITEM 3: DISCUSSION of March 17-19 OCTA NATIONAL BOARD MEETING In PHOENIX – Steve and Patty Knight will attend. Patty will talk to the Membership Committee. The hope is to get the dues money to the Chapter more quickly.

ITEM 4: BLACK ROCK INFORMATION from Chuck Dodd, Terry Hardwicke –BLM workshop is planned for April 29th and 30th to implement the MCA Management Plan. They are looking for participants. Immigrant trails run right through the MCA, so this is an opportunity for OCTA to interface with the BLM. Leslie Fryman will attend. Tom Fee will get the information into Trail Talk and to the Web Site. May 20th there is also a Black Rock rendezvous. We are urged to attend. It includes workshops, a barbecue and camp out. Terry passed out a Volunteer Project brochure for the MCA for 2006. It includes activities planned for the Black Rock for this year. Some of these activities should also go on our calendars.

ITEM 5 TRAILS WEST COORDINATION and Posting of Activities, Dave Hollecker – Important to coordinate Trails West and OCTA Chapter events so we don't overlap. They advertise our activities, and we put theirs on our calendars.

ITEM 8: DISCUSSION & Board APPROVAL OF ELKO site, 2008 OCTA Convention – Letter from OCTA National announced Elko as the national convention in 2008. It is being headed by Ralph Kantiel of the BLM who is in charge of the California Trails Center development. In conversation with Leslie Fryman, he did not appear to welcome help from the Chapter in running the convention.

There was a motion and second for the Board to approve the 2008 National OCTA convention in Elko. Mary Mueller suggested we send a letter to National saying the Board accepts that convention and asks what we can do to help. The first motion was amended by Dave Hollecker, adding the words, "no commitment of funds is given at this time." The amendment was seconded by Jay Stovall. The first motion was defeated. The amended motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 9: OUTING TO JOHN MARSH PARK –There was a suggestion from Carol March that Tom Fee work with Bob Shel-

enberger to set up a Chapter outing to the John Marsh Park. Steve Knight will make the contacts.

ITEM 10: STORE KEEPER JOB — Kathy Lewin, Carol March and others have been storing Chapter supplies. There is need for someone to consolidate these supplies, keep an inventory and make them available at Chapter meetings. Leslie Fryman will write an article to advertise in Trail Talk to find someone willing to store and care for Chapter materials. Jim Allison volunteered to identify Chapter property and who currently holds it.

ITEM 11: MODEL TRAILS PRESERVATION PLAN for OCTA Johnson Cutoff and Related Trails — Materials in Board packet were from Don Buck regarding Mapping and Marking projects that still need doing. Leslie Fryman said this was largely materials handed out at the Preservation Workshop. It was suggested the information be on the Chapter Web Site so members can be aware of projects in progress and ones still needing attention.

ITEM 13: HERITAGE GRANT DISCUSSION, Steve Knight — OCTA National forwarded information from the National Park Service about grants available for "heritage preservations assistance programs for saving America's treasures." The NPS administers the grants which are part of the National Endowment for the Arts. It is a dollar-for-dollar matching program. Some of our Preservation programs may qualify, especially for mapping programs. Leslie Fryman and Dave Hollecker were given copies of the information.

ITEM 12: NOMINATING COMMITTEE for NEW BOARD MEMBERS— Jim Allison prepared a chart of Board Members' terms. Terry Hardwicke's term is up in Aug. ; he is eligible for a second term. Curtis Grant's term is also up, and he is already serving his second term. There is an unusual situation at present since two Board Members were chosen to fill terms of members who resigned.

Discussion ensued regarding a By Law change to increase the term limit to additional years. The thought was that good Board Members who were willing to stay active could then serve additional time for the Chapter. Terry Hardwicke made a motion that the By Laws be changed to 3 -years, limited to 3-consecutive terms. This would be a 9-year total. Leslie Fryman seconded the motion. It was noted that any By Laws change must be presented to the General Membership for a vote. The change would be announced at the meeting during the Symposium this spring and by mail. Vote would occur at the General Membership meeting in August at the convention. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee is headed by the Vice President, Jay Stovall, and two others. Shann Rupp was suggested and will be contacted. At least one person on the committee must not be a Board Member. Tom Fee agreed to serve.

Items 6 & 7: AREA GROUP MEETINGS and LITERATURE COMMITTEE — Jay Stovall presented an idea for OCTA members in California and Nevada to have small Group Meetings in between Symposiums and Conventions. Meetings could be held in homes, churches, parks or restaurants and would help members to become better acquainted. Long-time members could share information/expertise with newer members, and new members would have the chance to ask questions on various subjects. There could be speakers or discussions about a particular book or diary. Jay noted "the continuity to build togetherness in OCTA is too far apart." Small meetings would be a more personal approach. Discussion favorable to the idea followed.

Another thought Jay shared to get new ideas going would be to form a Literature Committee. It would gather information and could provide information to *Trail Talk*. Another possible duty of a Literature Committee would be to design a New Member Kit to be given to all new members. Patty Knight noted new members are already sent a variety of materials. A Literature Committee could promote use of trail books in various libraries — California State Library, Bancroft Library, etc. It would be an outlet for members who aren't able to be out on the trails any longer but still want to be involved in trails materials and ideas. Jay said his suggestions were another way for OCTA to get people together and to share information.

One suggestion was putting research ideas and literature considerations on our Activities Calendar for people who cannot go out and walk the trails but want to be involved. Further discussion centered around other activities at a trail site that can occur that do not require long walks/hikes. A gathering at Alder Creek, for members and open to the public, some time this summer or early next fall was proposed. It could include a barbecue, some talks about the site and a time for people to get acquainted. No immediate action was taken.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at one minute after 4:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol March, Recording Secretary

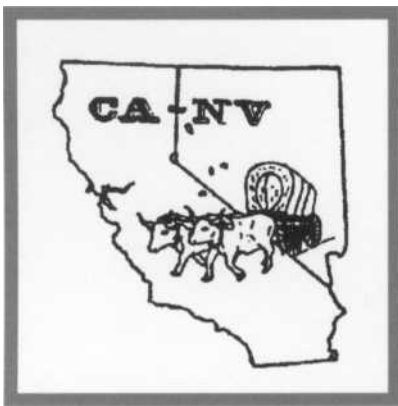
### **MULES SHARED SHELTER**

#### *From My Folks Came in a Covered Wagon*

*My father, his brother and two neighbors left Missouri to take government claims near what is now Ness City, Kansas. They staked out adjoining claims and all worked together to get one sod house built before winter caught them.*

*They had just completed the house when a big blizzard swooped down. They brought all eight head of mules in with them to keep them from freezing. They took off the wagon box and put it between mules and men to keep from being kicked to death. They ate and slept that way for three days until the storm blew itself out. They had to scoop snow as high as the door to get out.*

— Mrs Elda Whitney, Sheridan, MO.



# MEMBERSHIP FEES REDUCED TO ONLY \$10.00

Your membership in the  
California-Nevada Chapter of the  
Oregon California Trails Association  
has been **REDUCED**

Recently the members, with support of the board, elected to REDUCE yearly membership fees to only \$10 in an effort to encourage a larger membership base. With this kind of reduction it is imperative that every member renew. EVERYONE'S DUES ARE PAYABLE PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 2006 FOR THE 2007 YEAR.

*Please take a moment, fill out the form below, include your check and send it off.*

*Individual or family membership* ..... **\$10.00**  
*\* Sustaining membership* ..... **\$35.00 and above**

(This is a contribution which includes your membership fee)

\* Payments to OCTA are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Make your check PAYABLE TO – OCTA CA/NV and MAIL TO:**

**PATTY KNIGHT      PO BOX 1277      Carson City, NV 89702-1277**

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + four \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to renew my membership as:  Individual/Family Membership \$10.00  
 Sustaining Member (Donation includes membership fees) \$35.00

Signature (Sustaining Members only) \_\_\_\_\_

*As a sustaining member I give my permission for my name to appear in Trail Talk, listed as a sustaining member.*

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: I request that my information NOT be included in the Membership Roster. \_\_\_\_\_

(signed)

**THANK YOU! Your membership donation is needed and appreciated!!!**

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER OREGON-  
CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION 1765  
HICKS AVE.  
SAN JOSE, CA 95125

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## **TRAIL TALK DEADLINES**

FOR SUBMITTING  
ARTICLES

OCTOBER. 1

JANUARY 1

APRIL 1

JULY 1

## **WHAT'S INSIDE:**

WHERE WAGONS CLIMBED P 1

PAT LOOMIS HONORED P 1

CITY OF ROCKS P 3

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR P 4

FORGOTTEN CALIFORNIAN P 6

YREKA SYMPOSIUM P 7

**TRAIL TALK DEADLINE - OCTOBER 1, 2006**