### Excerpts from the January 2002 edition of Trail Talk:

### OCTA 's 20th

by Patricia Loomis

Reno, "The Biggest Little City," is all set to host OCTA's twentieth convention in August 14-17; it is promising to be an event to be remembered.

The setting is right -at the western end of the trails that drew thousands of emigrants from the 1840s up through the gold rush years and later.

The deserts had been conquered and the mighty Sierra loomed to the west. Beyond lay California, the "promised land" which had drawn the great migration.

The Reno convention will offer trips over the old trails, where landmarks match the diary quotes.

September 4, 1849 The long-dreaded desert had been crossed and we are all safe and well... (rested two days) green grass and beautiful, and the cattle up to their eyes in it. "

Sallie Rester

Speakers will document the history of the various routes, and a barbecue will be held at the famed National Automobile Museum in Reno.

A potential problem, which loomed when the first choice for the convention hotel was suddenly sold, has been solved with the selection of Reno's newly renovated Circus Circus. Dale Hollecker of Reno gets the credit for signing OCTA up with this hotel which has state-of-the-art facilities, free parking, and is less expensive than the other facility.

Hollecker says convention attendees will pay some \$50 LESS over a five night stay than at the Flamingo.

Among the activities planned are a hike in the Sierra, trips to the dreaded 40-mile Desert, Sand Springs Station, over the Big Trees Road, and over part of the Truckee route above Verdi.

The pre- and post-convention tours are listed elsewhere in this Trail Talk edition. One, the Applegate trail, is a post-convention 4- WD trip of three days and four nights.

Other highlights of the 20th convention include the awards banquet August 14, Author's Night August 16, and an all-day bus tour Sunday, August 18.

Trail Talk deadline March 1, 2002

### **220 OLD CARS**

One of the highlights of the convention will be the barbecue and tour of the National Automobile Museum in Reno. This is the famous collection of the late William Fisk Harrah, and includes a century of more than 200 antique and classic vehicles.

"You can see pictures in books, but to actually see the car sitting there... to see history right before you, thats the whole reason for the museum." William Fisk Harrah (1911-1978)

### **EDITORIAL STAFF**

Managing Editor - Mary Mueller Editor - Virginia Hammerness Asst. Editor - Patricia Loomis Desktop Publ. - Norine Kimmy Illustrator - Jack Clough Membership Database - Patty Knight

Submit Articles & Letters to: Virginia Hammerness 1765 Hicks Ave. San Jose, CA 95125

Chapter Membership & Dues to: Patty Knight P.O. Box 1277 Carson City, NV 89702-1277

*Trail Talk* is published quarterly by the California-Nevada Chapter of OCTA for its members. Published at 1765 Hicks Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.

#### **Chapter Board Officers:**

Bill Webster, President Steve Knight, Vice Pres. Carol March, Treasurer Beverly Webster, Secretary

Directors: Virginia Hammerness Jim Allison Bob Iverson Bill Rupp, Past Pres.

### **OCTA WEB SITE**

The national OCTA website is at <u>http://www.octa-trails.org</u>

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The year 2001 saw some interesting activities take place and progress made on many fronts for the California- Nevada Chapter of OCTA. Enumerated below:

1. The annual winter symposium was held in Temecula and it was a great success.

2. An Award Committee was inaugurated, and it presented awards at the National Convention in Casper and the Winter Symposium in Placerville.

3. The Wade/Fernley Land Swap project is underway.

4. The California/Nevada Chapter Documents Repository has been established at the California State Library and a Memorandum of Understanding signed, formalizing its existence.

5. Substantial progress is being made marking the Applegate/South ern Trail Marking Survey.

6. There was excellent Chapter representation at the National Convention, with considerably more than one hundred members in attendance.

7. The Chapter-initiated video on the Trails is successfully on its way to completion.

8. Planning is well underway for the Reno 2002 National OCTA Convention.

9. The 2002 Symposium was a great success and was well-attended. (Although a 2002 event, the bulk of the planning took place in 2001.)

A job well-done to all those who made the above come to pass. Much of the foregoing has been reported in depth at meetings and in several issues of *Trail Talk*, but I thought a summary would give members a real sense of the many important efforts underway and being accomplished by scores of people making contributions and continuing to develop the chapter as a real force in trail preservation.

At times we all hear negative comments and reports from various sources, but the energy and commitment of the chapter membership continues. I believe that harmful and unnecessary assertions are really an indictment of the naysayers who have lost the enthusiasm and dedication of so many of our steadfast chapter members. They understand that the real goals of OCTA are identification and preservation of the trails as an integral element in saving our American Heritage.

Bill Webster, President

You are encouraged to visit our websites:

# Raffle Donations are needed for OCTA'S 2002 Reno Convention

Just about anything accepted! Books, Toys, clothing, Photos, Quilts, Art Work, Wine, Jams, Nuts, etc.

please contact: Virginia Hammerness 1765 Hicks Ave, San Jose, 95125 phone:(408} 269-6068

# **OBITUARIES**

**LAURA CALLOWAY,** long time member of OCTA and one of Santa Clara County's most dedicated historians, died January 15, age 83.

She and her late husband, Henry (Hank) edited "*The Trailblazer*," the quarterly bulletin of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, for 17 years.



She was a member of the San Jose

Argonaut Historical Society and was the most senior docent of the San Jose Historical Museum. A former teacher, she gave numerous talks on California history, and she and Hank participated in several OCTA conventions.

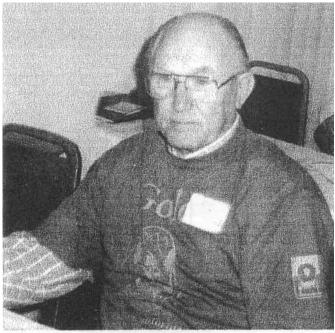


**BILL MUELLER**, 75 of San Jose, who died October 28, was a charter member of OCTA, along with his wife, Mary. He was a retired engineer for IBM, an avid fisherman and attended numerous OCTA events. He will be remembered for his smile, sense of humor, and his friendship, as well as his wholehearted support in Mary's many OCTA-related activities.

**ED SCOLES**, retired Stanford University director of housing and food services and active in the CA/NV chapter of OCTA, died November 27.

Ed helped his wife, Bernie, with the raffle and auction at the Chico convention and had planned to help with the Reno convention this summer.

Ed flew 33 anti-submarine patrols with the Navy during the Korean War, and had a 31- year career with Stanford.



He suffered a fatal heart attack while playing golf. A memorial service was held in the University's Memorial Chapel.

**BETTY C. LAARVELD**, 55, of Gold River and formerly of El Dorado died September 28. Mrs. Laarveld had a passion for history, making the preservation of cemeteries in El Dorado County among her life's work. She was a past member in several organizations, including the El Dorado Historical Society, the Oregon-California Trails Association, past sexton of the El Dorado Cemetery, the Heritage Association and the Native Daughters of the Golden West. In the 1970s she worked as a field representative for the El Dorado County Public Works Department to inventory all known burials sites in El Dorado County. Remembrances may be made to the El Dorado County Pioneer Cemeteries Commission.

### WHERE IS GOFFS?

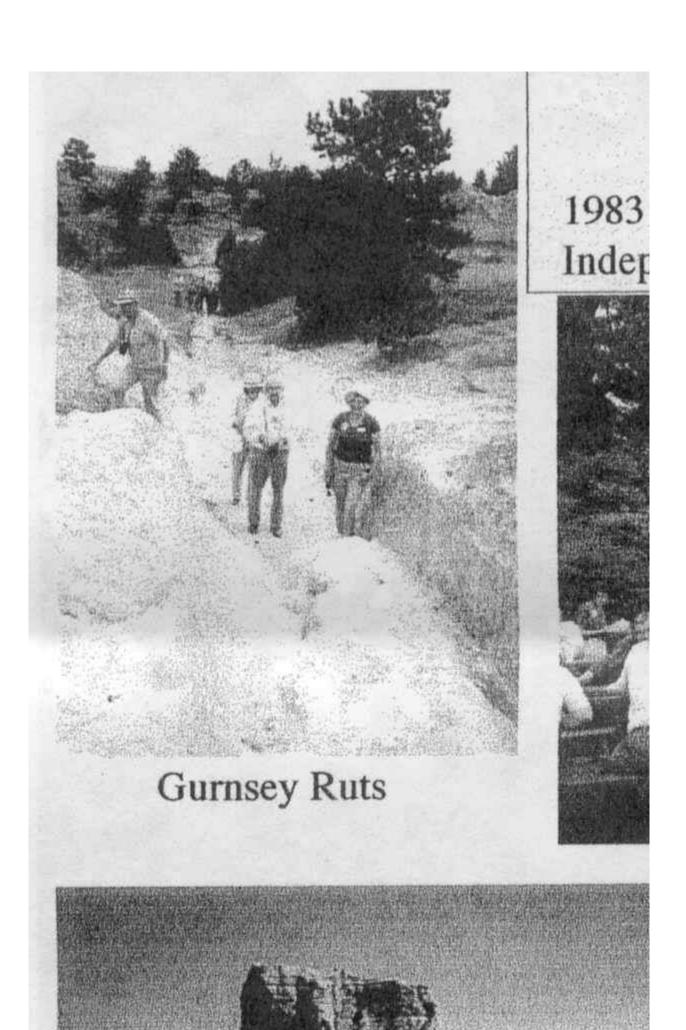
From Dennis Casebier:

Day-before-yesterday was a another red-letter day in the history of the Goffs Schoolhouse. We received notification that the Goffs Schoolhouse -west of Needles, CA.- had been listed on the

National Register of Historic Places on 11 October 2001. We can now proceed to procure a special plaque and when we get that we will schedule a ceremony. That project is now completed. A real bell-ringer for the year 2001.

# DO YOU HAVE PICTURES FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY PHOTO ALBUM?

Contributions for the album, which will be for sale at the convention in Reno, are still needed. The focus of the album is photos of people and activities from the first convention in Independence in 1983 through the Casper 2001. Interesting pictures continue to be received, however, more are needed. *Especially sought are photos to represent*: '83 Independence,MO '84 Oregon City, OR '89 Boise, ID '90 Omaha, NE '93 Baker City, OR, '94 Salt Lake, UT



Contributions should be made to: Nonne Kimmy, 1437 Piedmont Rd., San Jose, CA 95132-2431.

Please include the convention year, a description, and names of those in photo.

Call Norine at (408) 926-6952 or email <u>nkimmy@batnet.com</u> if you have questions.Although copies are preferred, if you wish your pictures returned please let us know.

#### **OCTA CONVENTIONS:**

Independence, MO 1983 Oregon City, OR 1984 Scottsbluff. NE 1985 Carson City, NV 1986 Casper, WY 1987 St. Joseph, MO 1988 Boise, ID 1989 Omaha, NE 1990 Sacramento, CA 1991 Rock Springs, WY 1992 Baker City, OR 1993 Salt Lake City, UT 1994 Grand Island, NE 1995 Elko, NV 1996 Pocatello, ID 1997 Pendleton, OR 1998 Chico, CA 1999 Kansas City, KS 2000 Casper, WY 2001 Reno, NV 2002

# HISTORY OF CA-NV CHAPTER AWARDS

by Tom Fee

The idea of a permanent CA-NV Chapter Awards Committee was developed by Tom Fee in the Spring of 2001, and he became the first Awards Committee Chair and asked Mary Mueller and Carol March to serve with him. Patty Knight volunteered to create the Certificates of Appreciation. Several months after its formation the committee became aware of four very important awards and eight Preservation Pin Awards that had been presented in the past.

**1987**: Chapter President Frank Tortorich created the first award to recognize Tom Hunt for his work in getting the CA-NV Chapter organized and for his valued contributions to the Chapter. Frank presented the plaque to Tom during the 1987 Casper Convention.

**1991:** A plaque was presented to retiring *Trail Talk* editor Roy Stewart at the 1991 Sacramento Convention by Chapter President Judy Allen to recognize Roy for his many years of dedicated work on the Chapter's newsletter, beginning in 1986.

**1994:** Chapter President John Townley initiated the idea of a senior Trail Boss Award. Jack Steed was the first recipient of this award for his work in educating people to the importance of Johnson's Ranch through his annual day field trips. This award was presented to Jack in April 1994 by President George Hesse during a mini-convention held in San Jose.

**1994:** Chapter Preservation officer Tom Hunt presented Preservation Pin Awards on April 16, 1994 during the San Jose Mini-Convention, which was also known as the Chapter's 10th Birthday Party. Recipients were: Clyde Arbuckle, Don Buck, Mary Mueller, Chuck Dodd, Dave Johnson, John Maloney, Frank and Mary Ann Tortorich.

**1995:** Jim McClain was presented a Senior Trail Boss Certificate for leading numerous tours through the Forty Mile Desert, and was presented to Jim by President George Hesse at the Auburn Symposium in February 1995.

**2001:** The Chapter's first Certificates of Appreciation were presented at the 2001 OCTA Convention in Casper, Wyoming. The recipients were Richard and Orsola Silva, George and Beverly Hesse, Doyle and Fiona Reed, Joe and Jean Ellingson, Joanne Hinchliff, and Rick Maddalena.

Thanks to the following people and publications: Mary Mueller, Frank and Mary Ann Tortorich, past issues of *Trail Talk*, and the Chapter's Ten Year History written by Gene and Eisal Brantley.



### **SYMPOSIUM NEWS**

Beautiful weather, comfortable meeting facilities, excellent speakers, good food, and many old and new friends were the order of the day at the Placerville Symposium. Some of the attendees are pictured above.

Top row (left to right): Jim Swigart and Larry Carpenter, who gave us an enthusiastic presentation about the Pony Express trail as it traverses El Dorado Co.; Ford and Ellen Osborn, our hosts and organizers of the symposium; Nancy and Zeke Sicotte.

2nd row: Dick Davis, Dale Wilson, and Jeanne Watson; Gene Brantley, who with his wife Eisal, received a Certificate of Appreciation; Anthony Belli, who talked about "Mining Camp Justice"; Bob Graham, who spoke about "Fremont's Crossing of the Sierras in the Winter of 1843-44"; Charlie and Nola Little.

3rd row: Dick Gobin, Mary Mueller, and Tom Hunt, recipient of the Chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award; Sue Selois told us about some roadhouses and cemeteries of El Dorado Co.; Mary Ann and Frank Tortorich (Frank, our Master of Ceremonies, spoke at the banquet on Captain Sutter).

4th row: Hugh, Carol and Karen March; Tom Fee (Awards Committee Chairman), Pat Loomis, Certificate of Appreciation recipient, Jim Rose, who received a posthumous Certificate of Appreciation for Chuck Graydon, and John Krizek; Keith Davis, who spoke on the life of early California Indians, Dale Wilson, Don Buck and Curtis Grant.

Bottom row: Betty McClain, Barbara Dorr, and Jim McClain; Vilma Buck, Alison Portello and Shann Rupp; Jack and Merle Rouleau.

### AWARDS

Tom Hunt was the recipient of the first ever California-Nevada Chapter Lifetime Achievement Award at the Placerville Symposium. He was nominated for his contributions in forming and leading the California- Nevada Chapter, OCTA's first chapter to be organized. He was also recognized for outstanding service in preserving western historic trails.

Tom, second President of OCTA, was a member of OCTA's first Board of Directors and chaired the third annual national convention held in Carson City in August 1986. Tom was instrumental in organizing two of OCTA's major National Programs, Coed and Trail Mapping. For many years he was OCTA's Preservation Officer. In 1974 he authored *Ghost Trails to California*, a photo essay of the California Trail.

Recipients of Certificates of Appreciation were:

Jim Rose, who received the award for the late Chuck Graydon, one of the leaders in the preservation, education and promotion of the Truckee River on the California Trail.

Pat Loomis, for her countless hours of volunteerism and generous commitment to OCTA's goals and the CA/NV Chapter activities.

Tom Hunt, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Virginia Hammerness, for her commitment as editor of *Trail Talk* and for service on the Board of Directors.

Eisal and Gene Brantley, for their dedication in compiling the CA/NV Chapter History.



Tom Fee, Chairman of the Awards Committee presenting Tom Hunt the Chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award.



(L-R) Jim Rose, Patricia Loomis, Tom Hunt, Virginia Hammerness, Eisal and Gene Brantley

### Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Everyone can really appreciate all of work that went into the October 2001 copy of *Trail Talk* with all the issues and topics it tried to cover.

I would like to state that I support our country's Free Speech Amendment as freely used in this particular issue of *Trail Talk*. That means I support the right for the Mormons to publicize their great contributions to United States history and especially California's early history.

Mary Ann Tortorich

Dear Editor:

I have been able to spend some time following the trails and doing research during the past decade. I just returned from a trip to see all of the places my GGGrandfather lived over a period of fifteen years prior to taking the Mormon Trail to Utah in 1852.

My GGGGrandfather was murdered at Haun's Mill, two great aunts are buried in Illinois and a great uncle is buried somewhere on the trail in Nebraska. This is just one limb of my family tree. No, Mormons were not without sin and I am not writing this letter for sympathy. This letter is in response to the letter from Keith Arnold attacking the Mormons in the last *Trail Talk*.

What is up with him? He obviously is clueless about the exodus of the LDS people and the reasons for it. His comparison with Narcissa Whitman is laughable. Yes, in fact the Sun Ranch is somewhat of a holy site as many members of the church died there.

I have been taught to respect all gravesites and sites of great loss of life regardless of what religious beliefs were practiced by those that died. Next time Keith should save his criticism for something like the pipelines that have made a major impact on the trails, not a place of respect for the deceased that is being protected by the LDS church.

Keith also mentions the Mormons and their ferries. Smart people those ancestors of mine! Maybe their ferries are mentioned because they carried the most people and made the most money. And did they cut names on Independence Rock as it is stated? They surely knew how to quarry stone for the temple in SLC. Maybe that is where they got their training.

On a more serious note: Keith is off base when he says the trail history has been taken over by the Mormons. The Mormons take pride in their heritage and are willing to help protect the trails, not hurt them. Remember, Keith, if the Mormons would have been able to practice their religious beliefs, they would not have had to bury so many family members on that trail. They would have stayed in the USA and not gone to that lake full of salt and today's Mormons would not have a trail to care for.

So in the future, Keith, when you look at those signs just remember that some of us had many ancestors buried on that "Mormon" trail, aka Oregon/California Trail. We take great pride in knowing that we helped open the west, not for money but for religious freedom.

I will always wonder why Keith is so scared of the Mormons that he thinks he needs to keep his eyes wide open. We promise not to sneak up and say boo!

James W. Dayley Placerville, CA

### A NEW HOTEL!

By Chuck Dodd

We have a new convention hotel: Reno's newly renovated Circus Circus! AND room rates are even lower than they were at the Flamingo, the original convention hotel.

The hotel has recently undergone an 80 million dollar renovation, and has joined with Reno's Silver Legacy and El Dorado resorts to provide hotel, casino, dining, entertainment, and parking facilities that spread over six blocks of downtown Reno.

Circus Circus, the Silver Legacy, and the El Dorado are seamlessly connected by over-the-street second- floor promenades that will allow us access to - along with gaming areas and other attractions - 22 restaurants, all without once stepping out of doors onto a Reno street. And the hotels have cooperated to allow crosscharging so, regardless of which restaurant in which hotel you are in, you can simply charge the fare to your Circus Circus hotel room.

The hotel runs shuttles between the airport and the hotel every half hour, car rental is available at the hotel, and the ample parking just across the street is free.

We got a very good deal, thanks to the fine work of Reno resident Dave Hollecker, Convention facilities chair.

We look forward to seeing you all in Reno in August, 2002, at Circus Circus, our new convention headquarters.

# **OCTA RIDGE ROUTE TOUR**

#### by Eugene Hill

About 19 history buffs in 9 vehicles gathered at San Fernando mission parking lot at 9:00 AM. on Saturday, October 20, 2001, to start our Ridge Route tour. Our leader was John Robinson, 'sheriff' of the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners, a historical society. It was a clear, pleasant day with moderate temperatures.

OCTA members met John Robinson at the spring symposium in Temecula in February of 2001. There was much interest expressed in early trails in southern California, and this is in John's area of expertise. He was encouraged to lead this tour.

Our day started with a tour of San Fernando mission led by Monsignor Francis Weber, who is also editor of Brand Book 21 of the westerners. This mission was the seventeenth to be constructed by Padre Lasuen. This mission is in the city of Los Angeles, and was most active from 1797 to 1840.

Next we drove a few miles to Beale's Cut in San Fernando Pass. The Butterfield stages went through here in 1858. This route was used prior to the 1800s, and was improved by some heroic rock work to lower the pass some 90 feet around 1910. The new portion was used from 1910 to 1912.

We hiked about a quarter of a mile up the steep and winding canyon. Hopalong Cassidy is said to have leapt across the rock cut. The Newhall tunnel was opened after 1912, diverting the traffic away from Beale's Cut. Now there are old petroleum pipelines on the old road.

San Fernando Pass was on the inland trail from San Diego, by way of present-day San Pedro, to an area east of Oakland. It went up the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, avoiding muddy areas further to the east. It was used as a refugee route, and is known as El Camino Viejo. John C. Fremont drove 3,000 head of cattle north along this route to fulfill a government contract. The Butterfield Overland Mail used this route on its way from St. Louis to San Francisco. There was even a caravan of camels used along this route from Los Angeles to supply Fort Tejon.

An automobile road was constructed along the ridges between 1912 and 1915 and ran from Castaic to Gorman, a distance of about 30 miles. A concrete road was constructed in 1919 and was only 20 feet wide, with about 600 curves. Between 1925 and 1933 many curves were eased, and the new portions paved with asphalt. But the original concrete road is in better condition in most places than the newer road. Highway 99 opened in 1933, diverting most of the traffic from this difficult road that had inadequate capacity when it was opened. A portion of the original Ridge Route was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

We visited the site of Tumble Inn near the summit, at about 4,100 feet. There was a concrete reservoir that had been used for road construction. The concrete was still in excellent shape. All the water for the concrete road construction had to be hauled up the mountain.

We stopped for lunch at the site of Sandberg's Summit Hotel, near Pine Canyon road where it intersects with the Ridge Route. This day, as in years past, it would have been good to have a reservation. When we arrived the parking area was filled with hunters camping there. So we had our lunch in the hotel garage area under large oak trees. The hotel burned down in 1961.

Highway 99 was constructed parallel to the Ridge Route but down in the valleys. Later, Interstate Highway 5 was constructed using modern equipment in the same areas. In places, all three roads still exist and can be seen from the old road.

This old Ridge Route road is kept open and in passable repair because it provides utility and petroleum companies access to power lines, oil wells, tanks and pipelines in the area.

About 3:00 in the afternoon we reached Gorman Post road, and took it west to Gorman, and then on past Frazier Park. We passed several sag ponds on the San Andreas fault as we continued on the path of El Camino Viejo. There is a monument to the old road at the intersection of Mil Potrero and Cuddy Valley road. The old road continued down San Emiglio canyon, a rough and steep place. The only access to this canyon today is by ranch roads to the

lower portions. The old road originally continued on up the west side of San Joaquin Valley from this point, somewhat along the route of highway 33.

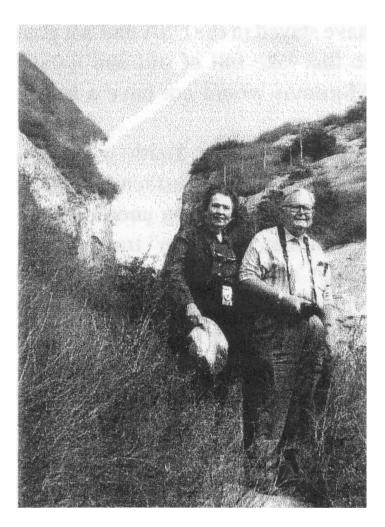
We did not tour Fort Tejon but used the additional time to better explore the portion of the Old Road in the Cuddy Valley area.

We bade John farewell and returned home by many routes.



John Robinson's Ridge Route travelers took their lunch break at Sandberg's Resort, a oncepopular destination. The group included: Claire & Bill Stone, Bob Ibsen, Elaine & Gene Hill, Jeanne & Jim Murray, John Robinson, Pat & Wally Williams, Art and Anne Cobery, Lois Clark, Shann & Bill Rupp, and Roy Acker.

Photo by Shann Rupp.



Shann Rupp & Bob Ibsen at Beal's Cut.

Photo by Shann Rupp

# **POST -CONVENTION TOUR**

### "Layers of Transportation History" Tour:

Convention chair Chuck Dodd at the Placerville Symposium revealed a plan for the "Sunday after the convention" bus tour, calling it: "Layers of Transportation."

According to Chuck Dodd, it will cover the Donner Pass corridor between Big Bend (at the Big Bend USFS ranger station off of I-80, near Rainbow Lodge) and Reno.

We will look at the layers of transportation that have occurred in that corridor since the Indians first used it: the emigrant road, the Dutch Flat- Truckee Toll Road, the Central Pacific Railroad, the Lincoln Highway, old Highway 40, and the modern I-80.

One of the main points of focus will be in the Donner Pass area along old Highway 40 where we will have an optional, extremely difficult hike where the emigrants took wagons over the granite of the Sierra Nevada. We will also offer a less strenuous hike on the Dutch Flat Road, Lincoln Highway, and CPRR.

For those w ho do not want to tackle the above hikes, we will offer a casual walk and a fairly moderate hike up the "back side" to meet the survivors of the difficult hike.

The other main point of focus will be in the Big Bend area where we will look at rust marks left by emigrant wagon wheels, a remnant of the Dutch Flat Road, and remains of the Lincoln Highway, all along old Highway 40.

It will be a fun tour, and it will be limited to one bus.

We will offer the "Layers of . Transportation" history tour on a first-come, first-served basis with people living in California and Nevada given equal opportunity.

Then, a couple of weeks after the convention, tentatively on September 7, we will offer the tour a second time, just for you convention volunteers.

Unfortunately, though, we will have to ask you to cover the costs of the September 7th tour. Note, too, that the September 7th date is tentative at this point. We have to make sure we have a bus available to us before we can make that date firm.

### RECORDING TRAILS VOLUNTEER TIME EXPENSES By Bill Watson

Annual reports of volunteer Hours, Miles and Expenses help OCTA obtain Congressional dollars to support the Federal Agencies that manage and administer our trails plus Challenge - Cost-Share dollars and Land & Water Conservation Grants to support chapter and national trail preservation projects.

OCTA and each of the other volunteer trails groups in 2001 submitted contributions to the Partnership for the National Trails system that were included in a report given to Senators and

Representatives and their Appropriations committees during Trails Advocacy Week in early March. This annual Partnership report also requests supplemental funding for Fiscal Year 2003 projects which begin in October 2002.

At the request of OCTA and the Partnership, Congress doubled the budget for the NPS Salt Lake City Long Distance Trails Office in Fiscal Year 2002. That funding level became the base for their 2003 budget to continue implementation of the Four Trails Comprehensive Management Plan. In our fiscal year 2002 request, OCTA reported that our members had contributed just over \$1 million in hours, mileage and expenses during year 2000.

In 2002, for the first time, the BLM broke out its budget by trail. OCTA and the Partnership supported its 2002 trails funding request. We also obtained additional trails funding in 2002 for the Forest Service. However, that Agency does not break out its budget by trail so we cannot track its results.

OCTA's recently completed 2001 report had a very short fuse and lots of help from the chapters, national officers, directors, and committee chairs. That report to Congress will show OCTA members volunteered time, mileage and expenses valued at \$1 million during 2001. CA/NV Chapter & COED volunteers contributed 9434 hours, 21,979 miles & expenses of \$19,214 for a total value of \$157,300 to our trails. Many thanks to each and every one of you.

We were asked to create a simple work sheet for recording year 2002 activities. The explanations and form are:

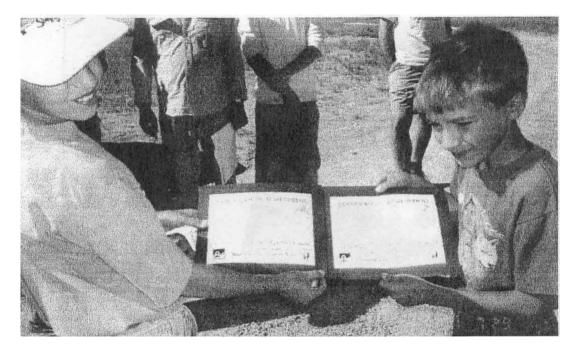
HOURS: Record trails activities hours including planning, travel and activity time for attending conventions, symposiums, trail treks, etc. Record actual or estimated hours spent on these activities which may exceed 8 hours a day.

MILES: Record vehicle miles driven planning and participating in trail activities similar to those reported to the IRS as OCTA contributions.

EXPENSES: Record planning, travel and activity expenses including lodging, air fare, materials & supplies, etc. Congress also gives us credit for trail related food and meal expenses.

# **APPPLEGATE ''TRAIL BLAZERS''**

Chuck Dodd came up with a splendid idea last year on the Applegate Trail trip. He awarded certificates of achievement to five first-time members of the Black Rock-High Rock Canyon adventure.



These included three eager young fellows - Wes and Eric Otto, sons of Ed and Kathy Otto, and Adam Chagon, grandson of Fred Osterhagen.

Also receiving the certificates were Will Portello and Mike Moody.



getting award from Chuck Dodd.

Adam Chagon

Photos courtesy of Mary Mueller.

### **INTERPRETIVE CENTER**

Progress on the California Trail Interpretive Center to be built at the Hunter exit on Highway I-80 in Nevada was reported at a recent Crossroads' Chapter meeting.

Paul Sawyer of Elko said the project will include satellite sites and kiosks in Wells, Hot Hole, South Fork canyon overlook, and other selected sites on the Hastings Cutoff-California trail.

Development costs for the center are estimated at \$18 million.

Will Bagley has been asked to serve as trail historian for the project.

# **DONNER BACKSIDE SAVED**

The nearly 2,000-acre Schallenberger Ridge was purchased in October by the National Trust for Public Land. This ensures that this scenic backdrop to Donner Lake will never be developed.

It also extends public lands from Truckee to Donner Summit, including 750-acre site, purchased earlier, which covers a part of the Emigrant Trail trashed by extensive logging. Shallenberger was a member of the Stephens-Townsend- Murphy party of 1844 which brought the first wagons over Donner Pass.

### **SARAH'S STATUE**

Sarah Winnemucca will be honored with a statue in the National Stauary Hall in Washington, D.C..

The Nevada Women's History Project which initiated the project, reports the bill to allow Sarah's statue has been passed and the Project has been assigned the task of providing support to a Nevada Committee who will choose a sculptor and oversee construction.

The Nevada Women's History Project has the responsibility to raise \$150,000 for the statue. Of the 97 statues at the Capitol, only six are women.

Sarah Winnemucca, granddaughter of Paiute Chief Winnemucca, wrote a book about her struggle for justice for her people. She started a school for Native Americans which became a model for later schools. She also served as



interpreter and negotiator between her people and the Army.

Sarah was the first woman to have a Nevada state historic monument erected in her honor.

chased in October by the M tional Trust for Public Land. Th ensures that this securic backdor	HOW YOU CAN HELP	built at the Hunder exit on High- way I 80 in Nevada was reported at a recent Crossreader (Croster -
	the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project are ent onations will not be used for administrative e	
Please	fill out the form below and include it with you	ur donation to:
Name:	Nevada Women's History Project 770 Smithridge Drive, Ste. 300 Reno, NV 89502	and facets in Walls. Not Hole, South Forkcarron eventook, and other selected sites on the
Mailing Address:		Development costs for the costs are set to the
Phone:		
E-Mail:	A second analysis and	Will Depicy has been asked
Amount of Donation \$		

# PRE- AND POST-CONVENTION TOURS FOR THE RENO CONVENTION

#### The Fort Hall Road from the Raft River to Humboldt Wells

Aug. 10-12 (two nights and three days) Tour leader Dick Brock High clearance 4WD vehicles and CB radio required. 10 vehicle limit ( excluding tour leader vehicles ). Dry camping both nights. \$15 materials fee.

#### **The Humbug Tour from the Wells to the Bar** Aug. 10-13 (three nights and four days )

Aug. 10-13 (three nights and four days ) Tour leaders Don Buck and Dave Hopper High clearance 4 WD vehicles and CB radio required. 10 vehicle limit ( excluding tour leader vehicles). Motel accommodations all three nights. \$10 materials fee.

#### <u>The Eastside Trail from Lassen Meadows to Ragtown</u> Aug. 11-12 ( one night and two days)

Aug. 11-12 ( one night and two days) Tour leader Geno Oliver High clearance 4WD vehicles and CB radio required. 10 vehicle limit ( excluding tour leader vehicles) Motel accomodation in Lovelock. \$10 materials fee.

#### The Truckee Trail from the Sink to the Sierra Nevada Summit

Aug. 11-14 (two nights and three days) Tour leader Tom Dougherty High clearance 4 WD vehicles and CB radio required. 10 vehicle limit ( excluding tour leader vehicles) Motel/Hotel accommodations in Reno.

#### The Big Tree Road from Hope Valley to Border Ruffian Pass

Aug. 12 (one day emphasis on hiking) Tour Leader Frank Tortorich No restrictions on vehicles. Up to 30 participants. \$5 materials fee.

#### The Applegate Trail from Lassen Meadows to Goose Lake

Aug. 19-22 (three nights and four days)
Tour Leader Alison Portello
High clearance 4WD vehicles and CB radio required.
10 vehicle limit (excluding tour leader vehicles)
Dry camping three nights.
\$10 materials fee.

### JOHN MARSH HOUSE MOST ENDANGERED?

By Kathleen J. Mero

The once beautiful stone house of Dr. John Marsh in Contra Costa County, California is receiving a dubious honor. It has been nominated for the list of "11 Most Endangered Historic Places".

This "honor" list is compiled annually by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Members of the John Marsh Historic Trust, Inc decided to nominate their American Treasure for this list, and then just close their eyes, cross fingers and hope.

The Marsh House continues to deteriorate while California wrestles with its many other problems. History and historic preservation generally reside pretty low on the priority list in the Golden State, but a bond issue on the ballot for the March election may bring some hope and relief.

As loyal OCTA members know, the Marsh Ranch was the first terminus of the California Trail. It was at the site of the Marsh adobe that the tired and cranky members of the Bidwell-Bartleson party arrived in November of 1841.

The Stone House was built in 1856 by Dr. Marsh for his lovely wife Abby. Sadly, Abby died before her dream home was completed.

Her untimely death left the doctor in a state of deep sadness and depression. When the house was finished sometime in August of 1856, he moved his few precious books, his writing table and bed into the front parlor of the great mansion.

On a hot dry day in September he set out for San Fransisco to pay the bills now due on completion of the construction. Before he reached the evening steamer he was struck down by three vaqueros, two of whom had worked for him rounding up cattle on the morning of the day they murdered him.

The House, once called the most beautiful farm house in California, sheltered the family of Marsh's only son, Charles, for several years. When Charles' half -sister Alice, the daughter of John and Abby Marsh, finally reached the age of majority the two heirs sold the house and the ranch land around it.

That sale brought to an end one of the most remarkable stories of a Californian who should be a household word but instead languishes in the cobwebbed closet of history.

If his house is selected by the selections committee it will mean nationwide publicity. It will draw the attention of many sources who are in a position to help save this piece of California history before it is too late.

#### If you would like to second the nomination, simply write a nice short letter to:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation Office of Communications 1785 Massachusetts Ave NW Washington. DC 20036 or Fax it to [202] 588-6299

Use your letterhead if you are writing for a business or organization. If your chapter of OCTA will consider a letter supporting the nomination so much the better!

You carry a lot of weight in the world of western history.

The Trust has also created a very nice video featuring the house and its history.

For more up to date news on the Marsh House or how to get the video, visit their new revised website at: <u>johnmarshhouse.com</u>.

### DEATHS AND GRAVES ON THE APPLEGATE.LASSEN TRAIL By Milt Otto

[Editor's note: This is the third of three installments of Milt's article following his extensive research of diaries and graves along the trail marked by Trails West, Inc., of which Milt is a member.]

#### PART III Grave Markers

There is hardly anything left of the grave markers today. The elements, decay and possibly fire have destroyed them. The inscriptions in the diaries are the only evidence we have of the graves in 1849. There is one stone remaining (although broken) on the Applegate Trail for Susan Coon. It is near Trails West marker A-5. She died in 1860; therefore, this grave is not included in this 1849 list.

The occasional headboard, tailboard, or other boards removed from wagons were used as grave markers on the Applegate-Lassen trail. Several of these type markers were recorded when the graves were noted.

On October 31, J. G. Bruff procured a tailboard of a wagon and scratched and painted on it an inscription of the names of the male members of the Alford family and the hired hand Joseph Cameron who were killed by a falling oak tree during a storm. It was a lengthy inscription listing all of the names of the victims and the circumstances of the accident.

That inscribed tail board has long since disappeared but the grave site is now marked again. In 1977, Trails West placed a simple inscribed tombstone type marker in the ground near the site of the fatal oak tree. In 1988, OCTA placed one of their typical descriptive markers there.

Occasionally a small cluster of rocks may be seen near an emigrant camping area or in the vicinity of the trail which would indicate a possible grave. Two of the graves are hidden in the road where the wagons and cattle ran over them. This was to hide them from the Indians in the area. Although a grave at Vya (A-24) is completely obscured, Charles Hinman gave measurements to where it was placed in reference to the spring which could lead to its location.

#### Massacres

There are three alleged massacre sites on the Applegate-Lassen Trail but there is no reliable documentation to substantiate that any such carnage happened.

The first site is at the Massacre Ranch (A-22). A large group of rocks near there is supposed to be a mass grave of the victims. Some of the rocks, incidently weighed several hundred pounds. It was determined to be a military site identified by Mike Bilbo (BLM).

The next site of an alleged massacre which never occurred is at Fandango Valley (A-29). At this point the emigrants were running low on provisions. They had to travel over two hundred miles to reach Lassen's ranch. A few of the companies dissolved, abandoned, their wagons and equipment. They packed the bare necessities on their animals and travelled to Lassen's Ranch. With the valley strewn with wagons and refuse, it gave the appearance of a massacre.

The third site is near Clark Valley (L-19). Here there is not much more than a rumor that a massacre happened. There was a large camp of several hundred Indians seen by the emigrants ten or twelve miles northeast of the site (about six miles east of the Lassen Trail), which may have been the reason for that rumor.

Disregarding the longer mileage on a relatively new route, the emigrants overcame all of the obstacles and arrived at Lassen's Ranch with fewer deaths then one would expect. There possibly could have been a bigger loss of life if it were not for several relief parties that were sent out to their aid.

It will be a real challenge to find any of the graves listed. One favorable aspect is the region for the most part is rather remote. A few small towns dot the landscape on the Applegate-Lassen Trail. Agriculture has decimated some of it and logging has destroyed areas in the forested mountains. Cattle grazing on certain segments has trampled the earth and may have scattered any rocks that were used on the graves.

However, anyone standing near one of the Trails West markers can view the general area along the trail and imagine the emigrants from a wagon train with a burial taking place. With perseverance and a little bit of luck, some one may locate a grave of one of the unfortunate ones who was left as James Toiles stated: "to decay in the wilderness."

### MINUTES CALIFORNIA/NEVADA CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

Best Western Placerville Inn, Placerville, California

Friday, January 17, 2002 -

The meeting was called to order by acting president Bill Rupp at 8 pm. Board members in attendance were Virginia Hammerness, Bob Iverson, Jim Allison, Carol March, and Steve Knight. President Bill Webster was not present.

1. Carol March reviewed the budget. Budget was accepted, and it was noted there is room for many special projects.

2. Dick Davis reported on the progress in establishing the "OR-CA Trails Association Western Overland Trails Collection." This special collection will be housed at the California State Library, Special Collection Division on "N" Street in Sacramento. In the future a computerized catalog of the collection will be available on the web.

3. Larry Fitz reported that the video being prepared in conjunction with John Krizek is progressing. It will be an informational video on trails today and ocrA. The interviews have covered Hope Valley, Beckworth Trail, City of Rocks, South Pass. It was recommended several short videos be prepared.

4. A report on the Reno 2002 convention was given. Chuck Dodd indicated that the new convention hotel will be Circus Circus which has recently been renovated; 80% of the rooms will be non-smoking. Virginia Hammerness, raffle chairman, is accepting contributions for the Raffle. Norine Kimmy reported on the progress of the 20th Convention Photo Album; photos of the conventions before 1995 are still needed. This special project of CA/NV chapter will be a pictorial album of the previous conventions. (Sales will benefit our chapter).

5. Revision of COED's software was discussed by Chuck Dodd. There will be two important components: *Emigrant Trail Researcher's Tool* and *Names on the Plains*. A training video was suggested to acquaint Data Entry personnel with the procedures.

6. A resolution has been presented to the board requesting that a statement be made indicating the board's disapproval of personal attacks. No action was taken.

7. The Awards Committee report was given by Tom Fee. A motion was made and passed that the Awards Committee agenda be accepted. All board members will be given binders to retain pertinent papers which will be passed on to successive board members at the conclusion of their terms.

8. Volunteer Time -Bill Watson discussed the importance of recording volunteer time. He is completing a report on the volunteer time of CA/NV chapter members, and will submit an article for *Trail Talk*.

9. Frank Tortorich gave information on the GPS (Global Positioning System) and GIS (Global Information System) being used to map the trails. Frank will be involved with a pilot program mapping the long distance trails.

10. Issues, which will be discussed tomorrow at the Chapter Business Meeting include:

- 1. The need for an ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR.
- 2. A volunteer to become our chapter's PRESERVATION officer.

3. The location of the 2003 symposium. (The offer of Tom Hunt and Fran Taplin to host the symposium in Eureka was accepted.)

- 4. New officers will be needed for the Chapter Board.
- 5. Nominations are needed for the National Board.

11. After discussion of the loss of continuity caused by term limits of OCTA's officers, the difficulty of re-establishing contacts, and the benefit of having a permanent mailing address, a motion was made and passed by the board to look into establishing a permanent PO Box. The meeting was closed by presiding officer Bill Rupp to be resumed Saturday under the chairmanship of Steve Knight.

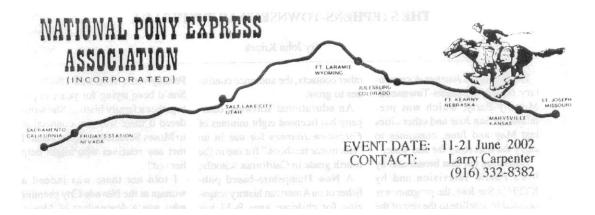
#### Saturday, January 18, 2002 -

Upon resumption of the meeting Steve Knight, chairman of the nominating committee, indicated that<u>one</u> replacement will be needed on the chapter board because Bill Webster goes off this year.

Also discussed was the need for more representation on the National Board. Currently, CA/NV chapter has 2 members: Frank Tortorich and Fran Taplin. We are the biggest chapter.

The need for a Trails Preservation officer is urgent to coordinate with SHIPPO and other agencies. We need someone who will be able to respond to or to direct someone to respond to local issues pertaining to the trail BEFORE damage occurs.

Bill Webster presented a resolution regarding personal attacks; it was moved to table it until Bill could discuss it. The meeting was adjourned.



# THE PONY EXPRESS TO RIDE EAST IN JUNE 2002

Pony Express riders will carry mail between Old Sacramento, California, and St. Joseph, Missouri, June 11-21, 2002. The route will be over the Pony Express National Historic Trail and conducted by the National Pony Express Association.

The Re-Ride of the famed trail will be a 10-day, non-stop event by over 500 riders and horses. The 1,966 mile route will be through eight states - across California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas to Missouri.

The event will commemorate the 142nd Anniversary of the founding of the Pony Express by Russell, Majors and Waddell. The owners hoped to win a federal mail contract over the Central Route. Mail was carried over it for 18 months to prove it passable year around. In the end, they were not awarded the contract, but created a legend that lives today.

Today, Pony Express history is preserved on the Pony Express National Historic Trail, administered by the National Park Service, and in museums, pony rider monuments, books, movies and the annual recreation by the NPEA.

Riders will relay Commemorative Letters in a mochila - pony express style. The cachets, honoring Pony Express history, will denote they were carried by Pony Express, and the first class postage will bear a special US Postal Service cancellation. Available to the public, the cost will be \$5.00 - the same as in 1860!

Historical sites and museums will hold special welcome celebrations. Chamber offices are asked to place the dates of the event on their community calendars.

To receive a Ride Schedule, Ride Letter Application, or schedule a community celebration, contact: National Pony Express Association, P.O. Box 236, Pollock Pines,CA 95726. The NPEA's Web site <u>www.xphomestation.com</u> has additional information and will have real time coverage of the Re-Ride.

# FORGOTTEN JOURNEY: THE STEPHENS-TOWNSEND-MURPHY SAGA

By John Krizek

*The Forgotten Journey* documentary on the Stephens- Townsend- Murphy Party, which was premiered in San Jose and other cities last May and June, continues to carry the trail story far and wide.

Following the first broadcasts by Iowa Public Television and by KTEH in San Jose, the program was beamed by satellite to the rest of the PBS world in July. According the NETA (National Educational Television) satellite people, this program "tied for first" among July feeds with a program on women's breast cancer.

It has been broadcast by more than two dozen stations around the country, as far east as Brooklyn, NY, and Nashville, TN, but mostly throughout the west. KTEH and other stations, including KQED in San Francisco, have re-broadcast the program several times.

I've filled hundreds of orders for the video from individuals, schools, libraries, and resellers such as museum stores. It's available at History San Jose, the Society of California Pioneers in San Francisco, the Sutter's Fort store in Sacramento, and the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. It is listed in the OCTA catalogue. Through the broadcasts, a very active web site <u>www.thecaliforniatrail.com</u> and other contacts, the audience continues to grow.

An educational software company has licensed eight minutes of *Forgotten Journey* for use in an "electronic textbook" for use in the fourth grade in California schools; A New Hampshire-based publisher of an American history magazine for children ages 9-14 has asked me to serve as a consulting editor for a special issue on the California Trail in November this year.

A national library journal, which is a primary buying guide for libraries, is planning to review *Forgotten Journey* in a February issue.

Like ripples on a pond, the story keeps going.

The big challenge that remains is to package the video for school distribution, with lesson plans to help teachers use it at various grade levels. I've had several calls from parents of fourth graders, for example, wanting the program to share with their schools.

The hunger that's out there for the story of the trails and the westward emigration is certainly encouraging.

One side story deserves telling. I was contacted last summer by a woman in Sioux City, Iowa, who saw the program on TV. In her mother's family there were Schallenbergers who came from Pennsylvania in the mid-1800's. - She'd been trying for years to put together a family history. She wondered if there was any connection to Moses Schallenberger, and had I met any relatives who might help her out?

I told her there was indeed a woman at the Nevada City premier who was a descendant of Moses Schallenberger but I had lost her card.

As luck would have it, the woman in Nevada City, who had the whole family geneology, called a week later about a video order. I told her of the woman in Iowa, and I put them in touch by mail.

A few weeks later I got a note from the woman in Iowa. She was so excited she could hardly write. She had just received the family history package from the woman in Nevada City. There was indeed a connection.

A neat story. It was also neat that there were descendants of the two babies born along the trail - Ellen Independence Miller, and Elizabeth Yuba Murphy - at the premiers.

Anyone wishing to order the video can go to the web site listed above, or call the toll-free number: 866-288-3908.

Stay tuned for further details!

JOHN KRIZEK \* EXECUTIVE PRODUCER \* P.O. Box 2456 TOLUCA LAKE, CA 91610-0456 (818) 785-0498 FAX(818) 785-0537 JKRIZEIK@AOL.COM

### LIST OF GRAVES ON THE APPLEGATE-LASSEN TRAIL 1849

#### Marker Graves: Applegate Trail \* Diarist - Date note

A-l. Mary Jane McIelland. \* Bruff, Sept9. Sedgely, August 25.

A-5. Grave dug up by Indians, \* Ramsay, Aug. 13.

- A-9. N. De Morst \* Austin, Sep. 20. Bruff, Sep. 19. Middleton, Sept 23.
- A-15. Job Denham. \* Gray, Aug. 24.
- A-15, Robert Bond. \* Bruff, Sep. 22, Gray, Aug. 25.
- A-15A. John Chancellor. \* Bruff, Sep. 22, Austin, Sept 22.
- A-16. H. G. Bentley. \* Austin, Sep. 25, Bruff, Sep. 25.
- A-16. Garetson. (Grave in road) \* Farnharn, Aug. 26, Hittle, Aug. 26.
- A-18. C.F. Woodin. \* Austin Sep. 28, Lord, Sep 22, Middleton Sep. 2.
- Nevins, Sep, 2. Tolles, Sep. 12, Pond, Sep. 2.
- A-22. Dan Wheeler. \* Middleton, Oct 4.
- A-24. A Cache. \* Middleton., Oct. 7.
- A-24. Jackman (Grave in road) \* Benson, Sep. 1, Hinman, Sep. I.
- A-26. W. Lugo. \* Bruff, Oct 1.
- A-27. John Bell, \* Bruff, Oct 1, Lord, Sep. 28, Tiffany, Sep. 23, Middleton, Oct 9, Austin, Oct 1.
- A-28. John A. Davidson. (Dawson) \* Austin, Oct3, Middleton, Oct 10 Bruff, Oct 3.
- A-28. M. Booker. \* Middleton, Oct 10.
- A-28. Name obliterated, \* Bruff, Oct 1.
- A-28. John W. Fisher. \* Sedgely, Sep. I.
- A-31. E. H. Hartsfield. \* Bruff, Oct 4.
- A-33. J.B.Spencer(Spence). \* Bruff,Oct.4,Austin,Oct.4.

#### Marker Graves: Lassen Trail \* Diarist - Date note

- L-4. Mr. Eastman. Austin, Oct 6, \* Bruff, Oct 6, Lord, Oct 5, Root. Oct. 1 .
- L-8. Dug up by Wolves. " \* Austin, Oct 11, Bruff, Oct. 7, Bates, Oct 6.
- L-10. Isaac Lane. Austin, Oct 7, Doyle, Sep. 23, Tolles, Sep. 23.
- L-10. J. Butler. \* Murphy, Sep. 28.
- L-12. Clayton Reeve. \* Middleton, Oct 18, Root, Oct 17.
- L-12. Sam Mcfarlin (Jim). \* Bruff, Oct. 9, Austin, Oct 7.
- L-14. Dug up by wolves. \* Oct 19.
- L-21. B. W. Buckner. \* Austin, Oct 10, Bruff, Oct 10.
- L-27. Allen Mclane. \* Austin, Oct 12, Bruff, Oct 12.
- L-27. Johnson. \* Austin, Oct. 12.
- L-27. John Hensley. \* Bruff, Oct 12, Murphy, Oct. 5, Lord, Oct. 13.
- L-27. Two other graves. \* Bruff, Oct 12.
- L-29. Abner Needham. Austin, Oct 13, Bruff, Oct. 13.
- L-29. P.W. Prewitt. \* Austin, Oct 13 Bruff, Oct. 13, Tiffany, Oct. 3.
- L-29. Joel Lock. \* Austin, Oct 13, Bruff, Oct 13, Kellog, Oct
- L-29. David Meyers. \* Austin, Oct. 13, Bruff, Oct 13.
- L-29. 5 or 6 graves. \* Batchelder, Oct 3.
- L-29. Three fresh graves. \* Castleman, Oct 7.
- L-29. 4 graves. \* Middleton, Oct 22.
- L-311. Bartholomew Flaherty. \* Austin, Oct. 14, Bruff, Oct 14.
- L-32. Man shot accidently. \* Kellog, Oct. 14.
- L-33. S. M. Thompson. \* Bruff, Oct 14.
- L-35. J. M. Smiley. \* Bruit, Oct 14, Swain, Oct 4.
- L-39. Lewis (obliterated). \* Austin, Oct. 15, Bruff, Oct. 15.
- L-39. James Young. \* Austin, Oct 15, Bruit, Oct 15.

- L-39. No inscription. \* Austin, Oct. 15, Bruit, Oct 15, Tolles, Oct 5.
- L-41. 5Om yards off trail. \* Bruit. Oct 16.
- L-43. James lYler. Austin, Oct. 16, \* Bruff, Oct 16,
- L-43. A. J. McDaniel. \* Austin, Oct. 16, \* Bruit, Oct 16.
- L-43. Dr. W. A. Freeman. \* Austin Oct 16, Bruit, Oct 16.
- L-44. W. Brown. Bruff, Oct 18. \* Austin, Oct 18.
- L-48. Two fresh gmves. \* Middleton, Oct 27.
- L-55. Ormond Alford. \* Bruff, Oct 31.
- L-55. William Alford. \* Bruff, Oct 31.
- L-55. Lorenzo D. Alford. \* Bruff, Oct 31.
- L-55. John W. Cameron. \* Bruff, Oct. 31.
- L-56. William Lambkin. \* Bruit, Jan. 2, 1850
- L-60. Capt. Warners man. \* Minges, Sep. 9. Hittle, Sept23. (Dug, up by a bear).

### **DIARY QUOTES FOR JAN ISSUE - 2002**

A C. Dickinson (1852) wasn't a very happy camper. When trying to get across the Missouri: \* "No chance to get across this muddy turbid nasty Boiling mad River for some days" \* ...if I Ever travel it again I will stay at hom If I don't dam me"

He gave a warning to others who might follow: "dont keep a careless or sleepy man in your train if you have any such shoot them at once or you are all lost sooner or later"

Upon seeing yet another range of mountains that looked very high as he came to the Humboldt: "Great God when will we be past them all"

" Every camp and before you get to the Sink of this River you will wish the Devil had all of you

\*\* He spoke of walking all the time: "Oh how I wished I was dead and forgotton so I could rest"

\*\*\* Upon his arrival he wrote: "...you may amuse yourselves at home about being tired and the hardships of crossing the Plains but I hope you will never be so unfortunate as to be compelled to walk 30 hours with soap suds for drink over the most barren and desolate country on Gods footstool surrounded on all sides dead mens Bones Bleaching in the Sand breathing the impure air from thousands of dead animals and to reflect that all this loss of Life is from Starvation and thirst with [ the] awful thought it may be your turn next"

### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Alice Box Akins \*Hollywood, CA Edward & Pat Freudenburg \*Sun Valley, CA Bob & Gail Bengard \*Janesville, CA George & Bev Hesse \*San Jose, CA Richard B. Fores \*Gold Run, CA Marshall & Debbie Hockett \*San Diego, CA Joann & LeRoy Jackson \*Waukegan, Ill. Anne & Rick Trussell \*Sacramento, CA Hugh & Carol March \*Los Altos Hills, CA Dr. Jay & Leo Stovall \*Grass Valley, CA James Delehanty \*Burlingame, CA Harold Drake \*San Carlos, CA Barbara A. Kelly \*Hillsborough, CA Barbara Bane \*Redwood City, CA James Frank \*Buena Park. CA Linda & Larry Lacey \*Kirkwood, CA Thomas Hunt \*Eureka, CA Ruth V. Eckenburg \*Auburn, CA Mariam G. Gram \*Hillsborough, CA Herbert "Pete" & Lois Hunn \*Clarksburg, CA Cheryl & Gill Hoffman \*Richland, CA Jim & Peggy Scanlan \*Lancaster, CA Judy Allen \*Ione, CA Bill & Shann Rupp \*Jamestown, CA Elmer & Betty Eberhardt \*Eureka, CA Jil & Jack Stark\* Claremont, CA Mrs. John Cahill \*San Rafael, CA Don & Vilma Buck \*Sunnyvale, CA Betty Barry Deal \*Alameda, CA Olive Donaldson \*Redding, CA Joanne Hinchliff \*San Jacinto, CA Tom Fee \*Reno, NV Gerald & Marilyn Mosher \*Hayward, CA Thelma Bowser Tate \*Santa Barbara, CA Paul Fuller \*Sacramento, CA Steve Graham \*Reno, NV Robert Iverson \*Hilmar, CA Weston & Eleanor Briggs \*Newcastle, CA Julian Adams \*Berkeley, CA Kathleen & Gary Buob \*San Jose, CA

Gladys A. Riggle \*Saratoga, CA Steve & Cheryl Larmore \*Alamo, CA

#### ACTIVITIES

A volunteer is needed to help Mary Mueller develop the *Trail Talk* calendar for outings, tours, and activities in 2002. We need fresh ideas and suggestions from the members or requests for a favorite activity you have missed.

Contact Mary at (408) 268-7389 e-mail: <u>wrmmem74@aol.com</u> or mail to: 1112 Silver Oak Ct. San Jose, CA 95120

### Trail Talk Activities Trail Photos Chapter Info

### Links Home

### Send questions regarding the CA-NV Chapter to:

Jerry Dwyer webmaster@canvocta.org