

Excerpts from the April 2001 edition of Trail Talk:

FERNLEY SWALES PROJECT

By Dick Hallford

The California/Nevada chapter is working on a project to save the Femley Swales, a portion of the 40- Mile Desert emigrant trail. We are working with the BLM office in Reno and OCTA National on the preservation of these historic resources. If you would like to get involved and help, please plan to attend the activities for this Project on May 4, 5, & 6.

On May 4, from 1 :00 to 4:00 P.M. there will be a meeting with BLM at its office in Reno.

The BLM office is off East McCarran. Take 1-80 to Exit 19 in Sparks. Go south on East McCarran, turn right on Mill Street (at stop light), turn left onto Financial Blvd. (at the first intersection), then watch for the BLM/Depart ment of the Interior Office at 1340 Financial Blvd. on the left. Park in the south parking lot. If you get lost, call the BLM office (775) 861-6400 for directions.

On Saturday, May 5, the tour of the sand swales and the 40 Mile Desert will start at the truck stop in Fernley, 1-80 at Exit 48 (northside of 1-80), at 8:00 A.M. A high clearance vehicle with a CB radio is preferable. We plan to spend some time at the sand swales explaining the efforts currently underway with the BLM to save the swales.

On Sunday, May 6, there will be a work party to clean the trash from the sand swales and immediate area. We will meet at 9 AM at the Fernley truckstop (Exit 48). Bring heavy duty work gloves, lunch, snacks, drinks, sunscreen, hat, layered clothing, boots, and plenty of water.

Please phone Tom Fee at (775) 827-3724 if you have questions or if you can bring a pick-up (without camper shell) or larger work truck for hauling.

PREMIER OF THE FILM DOCUMENTARY

*Forgotten Journey:
The Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Saga*

Forgotten Journey: The Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Saga is an epic tale of courage and survival. It is also the story of builders of California.

Created by Executive Producer and western trails researcher John Krizek, and produced by Emmy Award winning Producers Kit Tyler and Miles Saunders, *Forgotten Journey* airs on KTEH in June 2001. Major funding is provided by Wells Fargo.

Information on the initial showing can be found in the article on page 3. Also, there is information on KTEH's website:

<http://www.kteh.org/ForgottenJourney.html>.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Symposium in Temecula was very successful thanks to the work of Joanne Hinchliff. The presentations were excellent and the field trip very worthwhile. Joanne deserves a great deal of credit for the effort she put in to ensure the week- end met the expectations of the attendees.

Dates to put on your calendar are May 4th and 5th when there will be a meeting in the BLM Offices in Reno the afternoon of the 4th followed by a field trip to the Fernley Swales on the 5th, and there is detail on that meeting elsewhere in this issue.

Another interesting activity is scheduled June 2nd in Santa Cruz when the Lemucchi family will be dedicating two plaques in the Evergreen Cemetery to two ancestors who crossed the plains in the 1840s. There is also more on this occasion in this issue.

Planning for the Reno 2002 Convention is proceeding apace and there is a web site that has been set to keep our membership informed <http://www.wagons-1841.com>.

A continuing problem facing all volunteer organizations is the need to replace key people who have served the organization with zeal and commitment for many years.

A case in point is the need to find someone to take over the responsibilities of the Preservation Officer. Tom Hunt, a charter member of OCTA, has stepped down from this job. Tom is recognized by everyone familiar with his work as one of the most dedicated and contributing members that our Chapter has ever had. The Preservation Officer serves as the key person in our trail preservation efforts. The job serves as a clearinghouse and a conduit for preservation needs and undertakings. This officer is the one who spearheads the main work of the chapter, identifying

problems and concerns related to trail preservation. This is a big job, and we need someone to volunteer to take up the torch of preservation that Tom is laying down. Anyone interested can contact me and also call Tom and chat with him to get a real sense of the job. We would like to fill this key role before the Convention in Casper this August. My phone (661) 665-8006; Email is BonnyBill@aol.com.

Bill Webster

CALIFORNIA TRAIL ARTICLE IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

By Tom Fee

The September 2000 issue of the National Geographic contains a wonderful article on the California Trails with a 22" x 35" map of the 1841-1869 Western Migration.

Many local libraries sell used copies of National Geographic for as little as 5 cents - 25 cents although the supplemental maps are usually missing.

One may purchase a new copy of the September 2000 issue with map by sending \$5.00 to: National Geographic, Single Issue, P.O. Box 63001, Tampa, Florida 33663-3001.

Be sure to specify you want the September 2000 issue! For additional information, phone (800) 777-2800.

THREE TO BE ELECTED

Three Californians Will Be Up For Election To The CA/NV Board.

Chapter treasurer, Carol March of Los Altos Hills, is running for a second term. Jim Allison, of Loornis, and Bob Iverson, of Hilmar,

are seeking seats vacated by Dick Hallford and Charles Little, who is winding up his second term on the board.

JIM ALLISON Jim, US Army veteran, studied electrical engineering at the University of Nevada after graduating from Lassen High School in Susanville in 1957. He is retired after 28 years at the University of California, Berkeley, as manager of the Network Hardware Support Group, Information Systems and Technology.

"I joined OCTA in 1998 and have a strong interest in western US history, including the gold discovery and subsequent immigration, railroads, and the agricultural and technological history of California. I attended the 1999 Chico convention and went on the preconvention tour of the Nobles trail and the postconvention tour of the Henness Pass route. I also toured the 40-Mile Desert and the Lassen- Applegate trail in 2000, and helped Chuck Dodd gather information for the Black Rock Desert NCA.

"My interests in OCTA includes strong support for preservation needs and I would be pleased to help provide leadership in that area."

BOB IVERSON Bob joined OCTA in 1987 as a life member because of his long interest in the history of the American West and the preservation of it. He was born in Minnesota where he grew up and joined the U.S. Air Force in 1949. He served as an aircraft mechanic and flight engineer. After his discharge in 1953 he went to college and went to work for Boeing in Seattle. He also was a pilot with the Flying Tigers.

His interest in archeology was served during the OCTA convention in Rock Springs where he worked at the Salt Wells Stage Station site with Don Walker, archeologist with the State of Wyoming.

Bob has a good working knowledge of OCTA and the chapter, and has been supportive of chapter activities including outings, symposiums, and helping in planning the Chico Convention, where he led a bus tour on the Nobles Trail. Bob helped on the Nancy Allen grave project and has attended many of the chapter's symposiums including Temecula. His first convention was in Omaha a decade ago and he has attended all of the annual meetings since.

"I would be interested in helping with chapter archeological projects and in working to preserve the trails," Bob says. " I would like to see an effort put forth to educate our young people on the value of history and trail preservation."

CAROL MARCH Carol grew up in Sacramento and tramped through the Sierra over emigrant roads as a youngster. She earned an AB in history at Stanford University and married Hugh

March. The couple has a son and daughter. Carol was active as editor of newsletters for several organizations, taught school, played the violin in a symphony orchestra, and was secretary and book- keeper for her husband's investment business.

"Hugh and I were introduced to OCTA by Tom Hunt, and we became members in 1987. Our first convention was in Sacramento in 1991. We helped with the survey of trail markers in the Truckee-Donner area and served on the risk management committee for the Chico Convention.

"Currently I am finishing a two year term on the chapter's board of directors, serving as treasurer. In that capacity, I've computerized the financial records and annual budget, have helped revise the form for dues notices, and initiated the sustaining membership category for that form. With your support and vote I'd be honored to continue on the board for the next two years."

Your Support Needed for Reno 2002 Convention

Work Party and Bus Tour Guide Training Coming Up Soon

by Chuck Dodd, Convention Chair

This summer will be critical for preparation for our Reno 2002 convention. We need all the help we can get! We need help to clear the trail above Verdi for a bus tour hike, and we need trained tour guides.

Participating as a bus tour guide is a great way to learn more about the trail, is a great way to expand your circle of rut-nut friends, and is a great way to ensure that our convention will be a success.

Work Party:

A work party is scheduled for May 19-20, 2001, to clear fallen trees for the hike to the First Summit (Dog Valley), subject to unlikely postponement because of snow coverage. The Dog Valley hike is not feasible without clearing the fallen trees. (The trees were burned during a forest fire that occurred in 1996. The fire left traces of the trail very visible, which allowed Don Wtgins to locate it precisely. Many of the ruts that were very visible at that time are now obscured by low-growing vegetation.) Note that Bus Tour Guide training for the Dog Valley tours is scheduled to coincide with the work party, as indicated below.

Bus Tours: Don Wiggins has identified a set of wonderful bus

tours for the convention. Now we need trained tour guides.

For all but the Forty Mile Desert tour, Tour Guide Training will be conducted in two parts: a car-caravan (to teach the route and explain the points of interest on the route), followed by a bus tour (to refine timing and finalize stops, etc.).

The convention bus tours and the dates of **Tour Guide Training** are:

Dog Valley Segment of Truckee Trail. Includes two or three (or maybe four) short hikes: Good trails, great scenery, and good diary quotes. *Tour Guide Training: Car Caravan: May 19, 2001; Bus Run: Spring, 2002. Note work party to clear trail on May 19-20, 2001.*

Dog Valley Hike (actually on South Branch of Dog Creek, above Verdi, Nevada, which leads to Dog Valley). Includes fairly strenuous hike to 1st Summit of Dog Valley. *Note work party to clear trail on May 19-20, 2001.*

Sand Springs Station: Don Wiggins describes this as a "change of pace" tour. Some of the Simpson Trail, Grimes Point Rock Art Site, Hidden Cave archaeological site, Sand Springs Pony Express Station. *Tour Guide Training; Car Caravan; June 9-10, 2001; Bus Run; October 6, 2002.*

Forty Mile Desert: Loop to include both the Truckee River branch and the Carson River branch. *Tour Guide Training: Bus Run, October 5, 2001.*

Note that the bus runs for the Sand Springs Station tour and the Forty Mile Desert tour are scheduled for consecutive days, October 5th and 6th.

If you are interested in becoming a tour guide for our Reno 2002 Convention, please contact Chuck Dodd: (530) 993-1425 or ChuckDodd@CaliforniaTrail.org.

SUMMER TOURS STILL OPEN FOR CHAPTER MEMBERS

By Don Buck

Don't miss an opportunity to sign up for one of the following 4WD pre-convention practice tours offered this summer. These three tours are designed to attract conventioners traveling to Reno in 2002 by allowing them to link up in route to the convention at tour

rendezvous locations located along the main California Trail. As we did for the Chico Convention pre-and post- convention tours, priority will be given to our OCTA neighbors outside of California and Nevada. So the practice tours this summer are your opportunity to take any of the three pre-convention tours (with a limit of 12 vehicles per tour). All three tours are new in their coverage of trails. One of the purposes of these practice tours, aside from enjoyment, will be to workout the wrinkles so the 2002 tours will go smoothly. If you are interested in participating, please contact the tour leader soon. A brief description of the three 4WD pre-convention practice tours follows:

Fort Hall Road from the Raft River (Idaho) to the Humboldt Wells (Nevada) led by Dick Brock, Aug. 27-29,2001 (Monday - Wednesday). This 4WD tour will include two nights of dry camping and end at Wells, Nevada. There will be short to moderate hikes. After reaching Wells, Nevada, Dick Brock will take participants to easily accessible trail sites along I-80 on the two day return drive to Reno (Thursday & Friday). Contact Dick Brock for confirmation and more details. (Email dicbee@aol.com.)

Humboldt River route from the Wells to the Forty Mile Desert led by Don Buck and Dave Hopper, Sept. 12-15,2001 (Wednesday - Sunday). This 4WD tour will include four nights at motels along I-80, beginning at Wells, Nevada, and ending at Fernley, Nevada. There will be moderate to optional long hikes. Contact Don Buck for confirmation and more details. (Email trailbuck@telis.org.)

Truckee Trail from the Forty Mile Desert to the Sierra Nevada summit led by Tom Dougherty and Dick Hallford, Sept. 21-23, 2001 (Friday - Sunday). This 4WD tour will include two nights of dry camping or nearby motel accommodations. There will be short to moderate hikes. Contact Tom Dougherty for confirmation and more details. (Email catrail@gotnet.net.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, TEMECULA -March 9, 2001

Meeting called to order by President Bill Webster at 7:30 PM.
Board members present; Richard Hallford, Charles Little, Bill Rupp, and Bill Webster.

Nevada Meeting. May 4-5

Richard Hallford reported on meeting to be held in Reno and

Fernley. Friday afternoon's Reno meeting with the BLM representative to update on easement. Saturday will be a tour of 40-Mile Desert and Fernley Swales. Goal of weekend meeting is to find somebody from Reno area to take responsibility to monitor the area. There will be a clean up activity on Sunday. Tom Fee authorized to receive \$100 for clean up expenses.

Library Update:

Don Buck reported committee has visited various depositories of historical documents and best reception from State Library, which has a section for OCTA Western Collection and is relatively secure. Necessary now for committee to set up procedures and responsibilities for material donations. Buck will make acidfree photocopies of documents/diaries to send to library gradually.

Board will finance project.

Update on Reno Convention 2002

Convention is chapter activity and whole chapter needs to be involved. Key positions filled, need foot soldiers. Information table at Casper Convention.

COED Update

Don Buck reported. This is a two-part program: (1) genealogy, (2) emigrant trail researcher's tool. Question is whether workers I will volunteer or be paid.

Evergreen Cemetery, Santa Cruz, Plaques Dedication

June 2 dedication of 2 plaques for pioneers James Williams and Mary Patterson Williams.

Treasurer's Report

Dues increased to \$20 for 2002. Bounced checks will be handled on an individual basis.

OCTA Video

National expressed concern video will concentrate only on California, but this is not the case.

Hunt Replacement:

How will the chapter replace Tom Hunt and others who will be retiring in the near future? Iverson suggested training recruits. Buck suggested regional representatives rather than one representative.

2002 Symposium:

Open to suggestions for a 2002 location. Rupp suggested excursion train to Winnemucca.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

TEMECULA SYMPOSIUM

By Patricia Loomis

Memories of the OCTA symposium in Riverside county's Temecula in March will linger long for the 99 who made the trip. High on the memory list besides history learned, and the visits to Old Town, Warner Ranch, and the only remaining Butterfield stage station, was for many what is happening in Temecula.

This town, which began as a rancho in mission times and stayed small most of its long life, in the last 30 years has become a city of thousands -a bedroom community for Los Angeles. It is spreading across the flatland and up into the avocado and citrus groves on the hillsides, and shows no signs of slowing down.

This area is also known as "Ramona country", the setting for Helen Hunt Jackson's famous novel which has spawned five movie versions and has remained as an annual outdoor pageant in nearby Hemet.

The symposium group learned of the various trails that brought early explorers and settlers into Southern California and got a first-hand view on the all-day bus trip.

Methods of mapping were explained by three OCTA members who have been working on southern trails in New Mexico since 1995.

Don Buck, Tracy DeVault, and Rose Ann Tompkins explained finding the trails through the use of GPS (Global Positioning System), diaries, military reports, maps, aerial photographs, and surveyor's notes.

They look for rust on rocks made by iron wagon wheels, artifacts, grave sites, keeping in mind terrain over which wagons would go and availability of water for the emigrants' animals.

According to symposium chair person, Joanne Hinchliff of San Jacinto, who almost single-handedly created the Temecula Symposium, 10 of the 99 attendees came from Grass Valley and north, 45 from the San Francisco and Sacramento areas, 9 from Central California, 31 from Southern California, and 3 from Nevada and Arizona. Of the 99 total, 22 were not members of OCTA.

On a personal note, the author of this brief follow-up on the Temecula Symposium, can only hope there are other Joanne Hinchliffs out there who will raise their hand when OCTA goes looking for volunteers for symposiums and other adventures.

Thank you, Joanne!

WATERMAN ORMSBY QUOTE

"Our road lay through some delightful oak groves -a most decided improvement on the desert -while the cool, delicious springs of water were most acceptable. The stations (through these valleys of Buena Vista), Hall's Oak Grove, Aguanga, Laguna, and Temecula, are all at convenient distances, and the accommodations are excellent, and the road is lined with prosperous ranches. "

Waterman Ormsby, correspondent for the New York Herald in 1858, was the only through passenger on the first overland stage. *The Butterfield Overland Mail*, p 111.

SUNDAY FIELD TRIP - TEMECULA 3/11/01

By Virginia Hammerness

The Sunday sky may have been grey and threatening, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of two busloads of symposium attendees who, under the guidance of Joanne Hinchliff and Paul Brigandi, toured sites on the Southern Emigrant Trail and the Butterfield Overland Stage Road. Our first stop, Oak Grove, is the site of the only remaining building that was built specifically to be a Butterfield Stage station. Interesting dioramas were seen through the windows and doors of the station.

At Box Canyon we looked down the 20 foot dry fall which caused so much havoc with road building through the canyon. We walked on some of the old Southern Emigrant Trail as well as some of the lower and newer Butterfield Stage road and admired a nice wheel rut worn into decomposing rock. Further down the road we stopped to explore an adobe and a small cemetery, all that remain of Vallecito, an important watering stop on the Butterfield line. We had lunch here.

Nothing remains of the station at San Felipe, a major stop for the Butterfield Stage, where we hiked up the low but steep Foot and Walker Pass to view the monument and Earthquake Valley. Our last stop was at Warner's Ranch where we saw the 1859 Carrillo adobe home and barn. These buildings were leased by the Butterfield company to use as a station. And so ended a fascinating

weekend in the high desert country of muted browns and greens accented by groves of dark green oaks and laced with budding sycamores and cottonwoods.

FIONA REED

Fiona Reed, 89, charter member of OCTA and trail researcher with her husband Doyle for many years, died April 1 , in San Rafael. Fiona was at the Palo Alto meeting in 1984 when the CA/ NV chapter was founded. She helped Doyle during his 9 years as chapter secretary and his term as president of the Southwest OCTA Chapter, as well as during the years Doyle served on the national board.

She and Doyle began researching and exploring old trails by car and trailer; they traveled the Butterfield Road, Santa Fe Trail, and the Mohave Route.

In 1989, Doyle and Fiona led a small group over the Hastings Cutoff which resulted in a larger OCTA group enjoying the adventure later that year. Beginning in Evanston, WY, the group traveled to Salt Lake, across Skull Valley, past Pilot Peek and Mound Springs and along the Humboldt River to a final rendezvous at the home of John and Corajean Biegler in Elko. The Reeds were leaders on many of the California Trails including Henness Pass. They were also members of Trails West. Don Buck recalls that to describe Fiona is to talk about Doyle for she was always at his side. They were both low- keyed, quiet, extremely pleasant, and always willing to help out wherever they could. As Don said, they were the ideal OCTAns.

Fiona was a native of Kansas and a 45-year resident of Davis. She was an elementary school teacher for 20 years, before retiring to follow the trails.

We will miss her and remember her faithful interest and contribution to the trails.

THE NORWEGIANS ARE COMING

By Ellen Osborn

On Saturday, June 23, 2001 at noon, the Carson Valley Historical Society will unveil a bronze, lifesize statue of Snowshoe Thompson in the Mormon State Park, Genoa.

Snowshoe earned his place in history by carrying the mail between Placerville and Genoa from 1856 to 1876, without pay from the government. The statue will sit on a large granite block sent by relatives from Snowshoe's birthplace in Norway. A party of 30 Norwegians is planning to attend the unveiling, as well as relatives from across the United States.

Events are planned for the entire weekend, including Norwegian folk dancing, living history presentations and specialty booths. Just prior to the dedication a guided tour of a segment of Snowshoe's trail will be offered.

Genoa is a little town, but I'll bet they know how to throw a good party, and this one will have an international flavor.

Snowshoe Thompson was John A. Tompson, a rancher who learned of the difficulty encountered in getting the mail across the snow-filled Sierra in winter and decided to do something about the problem.

He made himself a pair of skis such as he had used as a boy in his native Norway and began carrying the mail, a job he performed for two decades, braving blizzards over two routes -Woodfords to Placerville and Woodfords to Murphys.

He died at his ranch in Carson Valley, May 15,1876, and is buried in Genoa, a pair of skis on his tombstone.

Activities Calendar

[See [Activities](#)].

COED 2001 MID- YEAR REPORT

by Chuck Dodd & Kathy Roubal

Since the Kansas City convention, headquarters has been using an updated *Names on the Plains* program and the latest database for

answering requests for name searches. A problem with the program, caused by a lack of information about the configuration of the Trails Center computer network is Chuck's distance from Independence. Requests for name searches are submitted by requestors visiting OCTA headquarters at the Trails Center, by mail, and through the OCTA web site. Putting *Names on the Plains* on the internet to allow users to make requests in a more interactive manner is not as high on the list of COED priorities as are surveying, data entry, and completion of a distributable version of the Emigrant Trails Researcher's Tool. The term *Emigrant Trails Researcher's Tool*, is a new term, just invented (and subject to change), used to distinguish the research capability of COED from the names search capability. A report, from COED's *Emigrant Trails Researcher's Tool*, is now being prepared in response to a request from Evans-Hatch, to support their work for the park service relative to the expansion of the list of trails covered by the Historic Trails legislation. A new Data Entry program, with a good help file and tutorial, is in the testing phase and will be ready for general use by the first of May, as well as a new Data Entry Checker program. There are 2,263 documents in the COED database. We have approximately 150 documents in the survey queue, including some that have been assigned for survey for so long that they need to be reassigned. We have approximately 50 documents that have been surveyed. There are a few less than 100 documents currently awaiting data entry. There are approximately 500 documents for which surveying and data entry have been completed, but which must have a data entry quality check before they can be appended to the database. COED needs people: an Administrative Assistant, a Survey Administrator, a Data Entry Administrator, surveyors, and data entry people. Because of special needs and quality problems encountered in the past, we recommend a quiet, "personal reference" approach to recruitment rather than a general broadcast for volunteers. If the quiet approach does not turn up the needed people, we can broadcast an appeal later. We request that those in OCTA's leadership roles recommend to us people who might be willing and qualified to fill the positions we have listed. [This is the gist of a report made to the national board in February.]

**OCTA TO ERECT HISTORICAL
PLAQUES AT WILLIAMS GRAVESITE**

IN EVERGREEN CEMETERY JUNE 2,2001

By: Timothy Lemucchi, great-great-grandson of James Williams

The Williams Family grave site at the Evergreen Pioneer Cemetery in Santa Cruz has deteriorated substantially in the one hundred and fifty-odd years since the last Williams was buried there.

The casual observer now walking past the grave site would have little idea of the epic and heroic deeds of the two adults interred there.

This anonymity will change on June 2, 2001, when OCTA erects its plaques at the gravesite describing the historic exploits of California pioneers James Williams and his wife Mary Patterson Williams.

James Williams, a native of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, traveled overland to California in 1843 with his brothers. The four Williamses - James, age twenty-nine, John, age twenty-seven, Isaac, age twenty, and Squire, age nineteen - were members of the Chiles-Walker Party.

Consisting of thirty people and eight wagons the Party departed Independence, Missouri, in May 1843, by way of the north fork of the Platte River, for Fort Hall, Idaho. From there, because of a shortage of provisions, the party was split. The wagons, women, and children were guided by mountain man Joseph Walker through northern Nevada and down the eastern Sierra, arriving in California in the snow through Walker Pass on December 3, 1843.

The second group, consisting of Chiles and twelve men including the four Williamses, journeyed by horseback through uncharted territory to California via Fort Boise, Idaho, eastern Oregon, and northeastern California. After suffering Indian attacks, lack of water, and near starvation, the mounted party reached Sutter's Fort on November 10, 1843.

The Williams brothers settled at the Fort where James worked as a blacksmith and John as a tanner. The brothers joined Captain Sutter in 1845 during the conflict between Governor Micheltorena and former California officials, Juan Alvarado and Jose Castro. Upon returning to the Fort, James met the Patterson family. On August 24, 1845, James was married to Mary Patterson by United States Consul Thomas O. Larkin at the Larkin home in Monterey.

The Williams brothers and the Patterson family settled in the Santa Cruz area, where the Williamses leased a sawmill belonging to Captain Isaac Graham and Henry Naile. James and Squire purchased the 4,418 acre Arroyo de la Laguna Rancho ten miles north of Santa Cruz, where the family settled and cut timber and

farmed.

Mary died unexpectedly in childbirth with twins in 1851 and was buried at the Rancho. James died on October 9, 1858, at the age of forty-four, and was interred at the Evergreen Cemetery.

Mary Patterson Williams, a native of Jackson County, Missouri, emigrated to California with the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party of 1844. Mary, then age sixteen, came with her grandfather Isaac Hitchcock, age sixty-three, her mother Elizabeth Patterson, a widow age thirty-six, and her four teenage siblings: Isaac, Lydia, Helen Malinda, and Margaret.

When winter storms caught the emigrant party in the high Sierra Nevada, it was decided to leave the women and children with two men while the others struggled on. Snowbound, the Pattersons spent the winter in a makeshift cabin. At the end of February 1845 on the verge of starvation, they were rescued and brought down to Sutter's Fort. The Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party was the first group of pioneers to bring wagons over the Sierra Nevada Range. All the members - plus two babies born along the way - survived the arduous trek.

Before James died, he asked that Mary and the twins, who died in infancy, be reinterred beside him at Evergreen Cemetery. More than one hundred descendants of these first California pioneers - the Hitchcocks, the Pattersons, and the Williamses - reside in California and other western States.

INTERPRETIVE CENTER AT ELKO, NEVADA

By Don Buck

The proposed National Historic California Trails Interpretive Center located in Elko County, Nevada, is entering its final design stage in the ongoing planning process. At the end of the last Congressional session a vital funding bill sponsored by Senator Harry Reid and Congressman Jim Gibbons of Nevada was passed and signed into law by the President. This Act provided Federal funding of \$12 million for the design and development of the trail center and designated the Bureau of Land Management as the owner and administrator of the center. Added to the \$6 million that the Elko sponsors had raised previously through local and state funding, they now have \$18 million "in the bank" with which to

complete the planning, design, and construction of the trails interpretive center.

That's mighty good news and a tribute to the Elko folks, spearheaded by Paul Sawyer, who put their sights on this goal back in the early to mid-1990's. Bob Pearce of Elko reports that the Elko based California Trail Advisory Board then solicited extensive I public input, which resulted in shifting the design focus to a more cost-effective and functional plan. The current thinking is to locate the interpretive trail center in or adjacent to the Elko city park area near the existing Northeastern Nevada Museum. Here the infrastructure costs would be minimized and the mutual attraction of the trail center and museum would draw tourists into the city. In addition to the trail center in Elko, this plan envisions at least four "satellite sites" along 1-80, east and west of Elko, that would be located at or near significant trail segments and readily accessible by automobiles. These "satellite sites" would not be staffed but would have interpretive materials for viewing. Also, they would have the advantage of directing visitors to Elko where the staffed interpretive center would be located. It's a very interesting concept that could lead to other cities along 1-80 in Nevada sponsoring additional satellite trail interpretive sites.

EDWARD DUNKLEY

As *Trail Talk* went to press, we learned of the death of Ed Dunkley, long time member of OCTA and Trails West, Inc. Ed of Orangedale, died suddenly April 5. He was a founder of the High Rock Trekkers and Sacramento Jeepers and had served as president of both organizations. Ed was the northern California representative for the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs which keeps tabs on federal and state government plans to curtail off-road travel. He started narrated guided tours over historic trails for jeep people, according to Warner Anderson of Auburn, Ed's "righthand man" on the treks. Ed and Wanen remapped the Henness Pass Trail, and, in conjunction with the Chico convention, Ed led a 4WD tour. He was a member of the Federal Aviation Administration's red team which investigates major air accidents. On April 29, from 1-4 PM, a memorial service will be held at the Capitol City Mountain Goats clubhouse, 13333 White Rock Rd, Sacramento. For more information call Warner

Anderson at (530) 878-8833.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Carol March, Treasurer

The CA/NV Chapter of OCTA continues to be healthy financially. At the Board Meeting last fall, we discussed our goal of building reserves so we can afford to fund important trail projects. Ways to meet that goal were presented, and several decisions made.

First, we have put annual dues on a January 1st schedule for everyone. Thanks to you, the members of the CA/NV Chapter, dues payments have come in quickly and timely, with only a few reminder notices needed as a follow-up.

The result is a more accurate view, early in the year, of how we are meeting the dues portion of our annual budget. Only one follow-up notice is sent, so if you haven't already responded, please send in your \$10 for individual or family membership soon so you won't miss future issues of *Trail Talk* or announcements of coming events!

Second, we revised the way dues are paid. In the past a dues notice was only printed in *Trail Talk* which sometimes left members confused as to when they should pay, and sometimes the notice was missed entirely.

Instead, we now mail separate dues notices to all members annually, and part of that notice includes spaces to choose categories of payment. This small change has been very successful.

We especially thank the generous participation of many members who paid their dues at the Sustaining Membership level this year!

Third, the Board approved updating our dues structure to bring it in line with current costs. Starting next January 2002, individual and family memberships (dues) will be \$20.

The main reason for this rise in membership dues is to ensure continued funding of the Chapter's activities. An example of a trail activity was fencing the Nancy Allen grave and placing a bronze marker there last fall. Another activity which keeps all of us informed of the Chapter's trail projects and upcoming activities is, of course, the quarterly *Trail Talk*. Printing costs and postage costs continue to go up, so we need to be able to meet those expenses.

Finally, I would especially like to thank Patty Knight, our Membership Co-Ordinator, who sends out the notices, receives

your checks in the mail, forwards the checks to the Treasurer, prepares the labels for <i>Trail Talk</i> , and keeps our Membership List in good order! It is a huge job, and she does it efficiently and cheerfully!!	