



Trail Talk

The Newsletter of the California-Nevada Chapter
Number 62 Winter 2004

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

OCTA'S WESTERN OVERLAND TRAILS COLLECTION

By Patricia Loomis

The OCTA Western Overland Trails Collection is a must-see exhibit at the California State Library in Sacramento.

More than 100 trail enthusiasts attended the dedication and opening January 22, of the exhibit "Westward Ho! Documenting the Overland Trail." Among the guests were Fran Taplin, member of OCTA's National Board; Leslie Fryman, chapter preservation officer; chapter board members Jim Allison, Bob Iverson, Curtis Grant, Virginia Hammerness, and Kathy Lewin.

Rare books, maps, and manuscripts documenting the overland trails were displayed in glass cases at the Mead B. Kibbey Gallery.

(See Library, p. 3)



First set of books donated to State Library in 1854. Photo by Kathy Lewin

END OF THE TRAIL - TULARE LAKE BASIN

By Steve Emanuel



Rhoads Adobe

How the Tulare Lake Basin became the end of the trail for early overland pioneers will be the overriding topic at the spring symposium of the OCTA CA/NV chapter March 19-21 in Lemoore.

Located at the northern rim of Tulare Lake, which exists today only in high rainfall years, the lake and its rivers first became havens for early stockmen, some of whom were members of the Rhoads and Esrey families. They had arrived in California in October 1846, before the Donner Party became snow-bound on the east side of the Sierra. Daniel Rhoads was one of the res-

cue leaders of the Donner Party in February 1847.

Daniel was among the 13 Rhoads children who made the trek with their parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Rhoads, arriving at Johnson's Ranch in September 1846. On the same wagon train were Daniel's wife, Amanda Esrey, and her brothers John, Justin and James Esrey, all of whom eventually came to the Tulare Lake region, an area also known then as Lower Kings River. Several descendants of these families who still live in the area are planning to attend the symposium. (See Symposium, p. 10)

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OCTA WEB SITE

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope that 2004 brings good fortune and good health to everyone, and abundant opportunities to indulge in our common passion, the enjoyment, fellowship, and recreation associated with the activities of our great organization. We are looking forward to the Lemoore Symposium, the convention in Vancouver WA, and any trail tours and related activities we can participate in.

Do you have a friend or acquaintance who would enjoy being involved in this activity? Have them check out the Chapter web site, <www.canvocta.org> and the National website, <www.octa-trails.org>. Share your copies of *Trail Talk*, *News from the Plains*, and the *Overland Journal*. Tell them about our wonderful OCTA Western Overland Trails Collection at the California State Library in Sacramento. Tell them about the trail mapping, marking, and ongoing preservation efforts conducted by our Chapter and the opportunities to get involved.

One example of CA/NV's participation in trail preservation is the partnership between OCTA and the

BLM in managing and monitoring a one-mile segment of the California Trail near Fernley, Nevada, referred to as the Fernley Swales. This partnership was a result of BLM swapping a section of land to a private businessman but keeping a mile wide strip on which the Truckee route of the California Emigrant Trail and the original Central Pacific Railroad are part of an historic easement.

On December 11th and 12th, 2003, Tom Fee, Andy Quinn, Dave Palmer, Linda Sanders, and I conducted a trash cleanup and photo monitoring session on the easement. The site continues to be plagued by problems of illegal dumping and other non-permitted activities but our participation makes a big difference and confirms OCTA's commitment to trails preservation.

We will be looking for volunteers on an ongoing basis to continue this activity. Please watch for notices in *Trail Talk* and on the web site.

Again, my sincerest thanks to all who have given their time and talent to our organization.

Jim Allison, President
CA/NV Chapter, OCTA



You are encouraged to visit our websites:

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



Gary Kurutz, Curator at California State Library,
in the stacks of the OCTA Library. Photo by Kathy Lewis.

◆ **LIBRARY** (from p. 1)

A Lewis and Clark exhibit marked the beginning of the display which included diaries, letters, old maps, and documents, along with a bullet mold, powderhorn, and other trail relics.

Among the exhibits were reminders of the Donner-Reed party tragedy and the only surviving copy of the Pony Express edition of the St. Joseph Gazette that was carried on the first Pony Express ride in 1860. Also on display was an ambrotype from around 1860 of Rock Creek Station, Nebraska, a stage and Pony Express station made famous by Wild Bill Hickok.

Tom Hunt, OCTA's first president, thanked the State Library Foundation for providing a safe and elegant place for OCTA's western trail history.

J. S. Holliday, authority on the Gold Rush, was the speaker. He said that of all the images that have shaped national and world awareness of California, those of the gold rush years have been the most persistent and influential.

The chapter's Don Buck noted *"The Collection is an important step forward in creating a trails' research repository in the far west."*



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

PRISONERS GIVEN KEY TO S. J. JAIL

By Patricia Loomis, Staff Writer

The following article ran in the San Jose News Friday, May 9, 1980 when the writer was on the editorial staff.

It was the strangest sentence ever served by county jail prisoners and it happened in San Jose.

Sunday will mark the 100th anniversary of the Mussel Slough incident in which seven men were killed in a land title dispute between San Joaquin Valley ranchers and the Southern Pacific.

Five ranchers were arrested and sentenced to eight months in the Santa Clara County Jail.

During their incarceration from late January 1881 to the following September, they were treated as respected guests by law officials and citizens. They even were given the key to the jail so they could pick up their mail, go to church and attend lodge meetings.

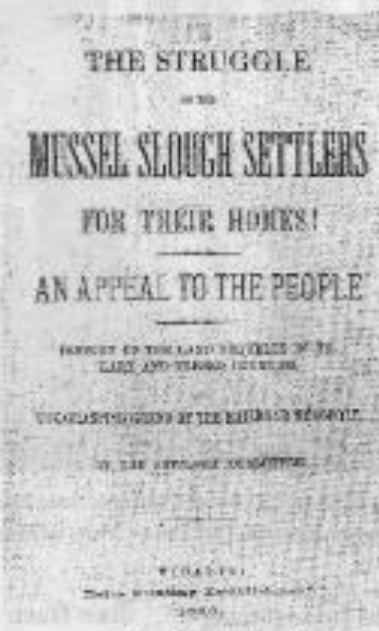
A hotel provided free breakfasts while citizens and a grocery store sent in food. Upstairs rooms in the newly built jail were fitted out to provide living quarters for the prisoners' families.

One of the five courted and eventually married the jailer's daughter.

Even 100 years later, May 11 shows up as a black day in the history of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

The Mussel Slough affair received far-reaching publicity and the railroad was characterized as a land-grabbing monster and the settlers depicted as unfortunate victims.

In planning its line through the



Pamphlet charging Southern Pacific Railroad with driving settlers from Mussel Slough.

San Joaquin Valley, the railroad obtained a federal land grant and claimed the land the settlers had occupied for years. It was when the railroad began ejecting the ranchers that the gunfight took place near Hanford. Five ranchers and two men who the railroad brought in to take over the settlers' land were killed. Several other ranchers were wounded in the shooting.

The SP had sent out pamphlets to encourage settlement, promising the ranchers would be given first crack at buying their land at prices between \$2.50 and \$5 an acre on a bare land basis without taking improvements into consideration. The railroad did not adhere to the promises and the battle was on. Mussel Slough was the major incident in a

long series, and it did not end the conflict.

Frank Norris' *"The Octopus"* tells a fictionalized version of the land contest which began in the 1870s and ended in compromise long after John J. Doyle, Wayman L. Pryor, John D. Purcell, James M. Patterson and William Braden completed their sojourn in the San Jose jailhouse.

Doyle, who had settled in the Mussel Slough area in 1871, said that while the five were in jail "a petition of 47,000 names was sent to the president. The states of California and Nevada passed resolutions in our favor, and there were numerous other petitions, etc. No one of them was listened to any more than if it had been a piece of blank brown paper."

Doyle said his case against the railroad dragged on for nine years and he had to pay \$30.60 an acre for his land.

Sympathy was decidedly with the ranchers, and the only charge on which the five men were convicted was resisting arrest.

When the prisoners were brought to the jail the night of January 28, jailer William Fitts had hot soup waiting for them.

Within a few days volumes of mail, telegrams and cards arrived offering sympathy for the prisoners. Newspapers across the nation and as far away as England took up their cause, and judges and legislators got into the act.

Meetings were held in Hanford, Sacramento, San Jose and other cities to raise funds to help support the families of the prisoners and to fi-

nance the battle against the railroad.

Jailers Fitts and David Ackerman got tired of running up and down the stairs delivering mail to the prisoners and they reasoned that if everybody thought they were such fine folks, they certainly wouldn't run away and might as well have the key to the jail so they could stroll down to the post office and get their own mail.

Doyle had recently married and he sent for his bride. Pryor's son came over to stay with his father, and several family members of the others also came to enjoy the spacious quarters and hospitality of Sheriff Frank Williams and his jailers. In April Charles Curtis replaced Ackerman, and he moved his family, including a daughter, Susie, into the jail. She caught the eye of the only bachelor among the five, and

William Braden began courting her.

The night before the prisoners were released they were guests at an oyster supper, and a delegation from Hanford escorted them home the next morning. They refused to travel on the railroad, and went home in wagons by way of Pacheco Pass.

The trip took several days and the travelers were met at Kingston, a crossing on the Kings River, by the Hanford Cornet Band and a large delegation of friends and neighbors. They were escorted to Hanford where some 3,000 turned out for a great celebra-



The Five Prisoners

tion, barbecue and speeches.

Nearly three months later, William Braden returned to San Jose to claim Susie as his bride on Christmas night.

KEEP THOSE RECORDS for \$\$\$

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.

We were asked to create a simple work sheet for recording year 2003 activities. The explanations and form are:

HOURS: Record 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.

Complete report of activities from Jan. 1, 2003 through Dec. 31, 2003, and send form to Bill Watson.

TRAILS VOLUNTEER TIME & EXPENSE REPORT - YEAR 2003

DATE	TRAILS ACTIVITY	VOLUNTEER HOURS	RELATED EXPENSES	MILES DRIVEN
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Send completed report to: Bill & Jeanne Watson, 18 Warford Terr, Orinda, CA 94563

THE MURDER OF PETER LASSEN AND EDWARD CLAPPER IN 1859

By Don Buck

The story began in 1849 when an Applegate Trail emigrant, by the name of James Hardin, went hunting with a fellow emigrant along the western slope of the Black Rock Range between Double Hot Springs and Mud Meadow (Soldier Meadows). Keeping their wagon train in view as they hunted, the two came upon some shiny rocks in a shallow ravine that at first glance they thought were lead that they needed for making bullets. Pocketing as much of the rock as they could, the two finally reached their train at Mud Meadow where they cast some of the "lead" into bullets that looked like silver. Others at Mud Meadow suspected Hardin had found silver but no one was willing to endure the hardships and Indian menace to return and confirm the find. Subsequently, Hardin settled on a small farm near Petaluma, California, and that's where the affair rested until 1858 when he was encouraged to organize a prospecting party to find his silver lode.

As is so often the case, Hardin had thought he could take his party right to the discovery site but spent the summer of 1858 searching to no avail. He tried again in 1859 with no better luck at finding the silver lode. Hardin's party had used Honey Lake Valley as a staging area to re-locate the silver lode. Peter Lassen — who had a cabin and gold mining claim in Honey Lake Valley — must have heard about Hardin's search. So in June 1859, Lassen set out to find Hardin's silver lode with two others, Edward Clapper and Lemerious Wyatt.

Although there are several versions of what ensued, the basic outline of events had Lassen's party intending to link up with four others led by Captain Weatherlow, somewhere in the Black Rock Range. Lassen's party somehow missed the rendezvous location and ended up camping below Paiute Peak near a large boulder. In the evening, they were visited by a Paiute Indian who was part of a hunting party. By one account, Lassen gave him some ammunition, but apparently did not suspect any lurking danger. As dawn neared the next morning, April 26, 1859, a shot rang out from the ledge above, awakening Lassen and Wyatt. They tried to arouse Clapper, but the shot had entered his head and killed him. As Lassen looked above for

the assailant or assailants, a second shot hit him and he fell dead. Meanwhile, Wyatt — heavy set and ungainly — ran after his horse, with a third shot ripping through the leg of his trouser, and managed to mount with no saddle. According to his story, Wyatt then rode bareback for four days without resting or eating to bring the alarming news to the settlements in Honey Lake Valley.

A rescue party from the valley returned to the site of the ambush and buried Lassen and Clapper. Later that year, Lassen's body was exhumed by a party of his fellow Freemasons and reburied near Susanville. Although some thought that Clapper's body should have been reburied at the same time, this wasn't done. Then in May 1990, a rock hound discovered the exposed remains of a human body, due to erosion in the side of a seasonal stream bed near the large boulder. Only the upper extremities of the body were intact; most lower parts of the skeleton had been washed away earlier. Forensics later proved it was Clapper's remains. They were reburied adjacent to Peter Lassen in 1992.

A number of possibilities have been advanced on who murdered Lassen and Clapper. The immediate reaction was to blame the Paiute Indians. In a later interview, Capt. Weatherlow said he "attributed it entirely to the Pit River tribe which the whites had fought and defeated and who frequented the Black Rock Country in small bands." However, the recently appointed Indian agent, Maj. Frederick Dodge, doubted Indians were the culprits. He conferred with Chief Winnemucca and other tribal leaders, who denied any of their people were involved in the killings. Also, Lassen had very good relations with the Paiute Indians. After the ambush, the assailant(s) left the victims' clothing undisturbed and took none of the party's provisions, even leaving a small whisky barrel the party had carried — not the marks of an Indian raid. Only one item was missing — Lassen's handsome rifle. Those are the "facts" of the case.

Whoever shot Clapper and Lassen from the ledge above their camp had time to reload a muzzle loading



Site of Lassen and Clapper murder.
Now large boulder in lower right foreground and ledge
in upper center background. (Photo by Alison Parfello)

rifle and fire three times. Some thought only a good marksman could have done this, leading them to suspect a white man, but Indians were equally skilled riflemen. Could it have been a white prospector wanting to protect a claim? What about Wyatt? His detailed account of what happened that fateful morning fit well with the physical evidence of Clapper's death wound and the surrounding terrain, thereby exonerating him of any involvement in the murders, at least in the eyes of most.

Captain Weatherlow's party camped near Lassen's party the night before the ambush but supposedly knew nothing of the murders, until on their way back to Honey Lake Valley, they met the rescue party carrying the news. Besides, what motivation would Weatherlow's party have had to kill Lassen's party? Most interestingly, in 1862, Weatherlow retrieved Lassen's rifle from a slain Paiute who had purportedly killed some other prospectors. Was this true or a setup by Weatherlow to redirect any suspicion of his culpability? Intriguing as any one of these various

scenarios might be, at this late date there is little likelihood we will ever know who murdered Peter Lassen and Edward Clapper.

The story of the search for the silver lode in the Black Rock Range didn't end with the murder of Lassen and Clapper in 1859. In the next issue of *Trail Talk*, the story will be continued with the Hardin City hoax.

Today, you can drive over a 4WD road to the murder site and see the large boulder next to which Lassen's party camped, and the ledge above from which they were ambushed. In 1995 the Oregon-California Trails Association installed a metal pedestal marker at this site. For driving instructions on how to reach the murder site and other stories associated with the Applegate Trail, see the forthcoming publication by Trails West, Inc., *Emigrant Trails West: A Guide to the Applegate Trail, the South Road to Oregon*.



LET THE MUSIC BEGIN!

By Shann Rupp



Music on the trail was important to the emigrants. Imagine what a wonderful outlet singing and dancing were for the many emotions the travelers encountered during the day. Too, the music reminded them of home.

Music was made with whatever instruments had been brought along on the journey. Those who attempted to haul pianos soon found out they were too heavy and took too much space in the wagon, so they became part of the litter along the trail. However, Pardon Dexter Tiffany found two girls "playing on a melodion. It is in fact an organ & looks like a piano. They sang us many songs & we passed the evening very agreeably until 12 o'clock..."

That sounds like a very late hour, considering how early they had to roll out each morning. Violins, or fiddles, are mentioned most often, but we read of flutes, harmonicas and accordions.

It was more common for the emigrants to enjoy their music on the trail toward the beginning of the journey, before weariness and discouragement set in. Jacob S. Hayden pointed out that in spite of the difficulties in crossing 12 large rivers one day, they also had a great deal of fun. "When anyone of the company would become disheartened we would bring out the violin to cheer him up and it performed its part admirably in that particular."



Upon his arrival on Sept. 13, 1852 in Placerville, Henry Anable strolled about after dinner "to see the sights, the gambling rooms were brilliantly lighted ready for business, as I passed one, the largest in the place, a bank of darky musicians were tuning up and the familiar words 'Im bound to run all night Im bound to run all day', accompanied with much music as only darky bands can get up, greeted my ears."

Some diarists speak in general terms about the music, but a few have shared song titles with their readers. In 1863, Joseph Kennedy not only "sang 'The Flowers I Saw in the Wildwood'," but apparently was requested to copy it for "the girls."

David J. Bailey (1865) wrote an honest appraisal of himself and his co-musicians. One evening his group thought a little music would liven things up. "One of the teamsters was the owner of an old third rate violin, and I was the owner of an old wheezy, squeaky

accordion. We were not accomplished musicians, but we managed to give the company all the music they wanted, at least we were so informed several times.

"The Money Musk, The Girl I Left Behind Me, Old Folks at Home, and Daniel Tucker were our principal stock in hand. Occasionally, we managed to dig up something even more inspiring, which made their bosoms swell with pride and patriotism, namely, The Star Spangled Banner and Away Down in Dixie. The lovely strains we discoursed were not always appreciated, I think, for the reason that we were sometimes asked to desist.

"One, Robert Schilling, belonging to the freight department of the train, was the owner of a mighty fine 'fog horn' voice, and had a real mania for song, and when my friend with the fiddle and myself were not entertaining the camp he would open up on Annie Laurie or A Home By the Deep, Deep Sea.

"The old blacksmith in the crowd was heard to remark that he would rather be mixed up with the Arapahoes than be annoyed by these idiotic players and singers in 'this here corral.'"

There were others who didn't always appreciate the music, but the captain of Samantha Jane Emmons' (1866) train had a more practical reason for not wanting the music. She explained: "the Captain of our train did not like to have musical instruments played in the evening as the sound would carry too far and might attract the attention of passing Indians."

Then there was the unfortunate fellow on the Southern Route who became superstitious about his violin. After the long trek through Texas, Mexico, and Arizona – and surviving many troubles with the Indians, and the terrible crossing of the Colorado and being past what they thought was the worst of the heavy desert sands in southern California, Isaac Duval saw a man in his party stop and unpack his equipment. Duval wrote: "When I reached him he had everything scattered all over the ground. I ventured to ask him what the trouble was and then he picked up a box containing his violin. He had carried it with him throughout the entire journey and many a weary hour had been passed away listening to his music. He opened the box and carefully placed the violin on the ground and be-

fore I could realize what he was going to do he jumped upon it with both feet smashing it to pieces saying: 'now we will have better luck, that fiddle has been the cause of all our troubles.' I helped him repack his mule. I thought that he was sick or possibly was beginning to break under the rigors of the journey. Finally, he opened up and told me that while the violin had given him a great deal of pleasure, he honestly believed, after a great deal of thought, that it had been the cause of all our troubles and that now his mind was relieved. The destruction of the violin seemed to make a new man of him." This represented a sacrifice of something very special to this man and so we have to salute this man's action, which he thought he was doing for the sake of the rest of the party.

Joseph Frauel (1854) gives a marvelous description of the excitement brought about in the anticipation of entertainment one evening shortly after their jump-off. "...some prepared to dance. Adolphus is in the tent, fixing up his dry, cracked flute. He is trying to see if he has not forgotten what he never knew and for lack of sense wants to show off. Haloo, somebody is playing a flute in the other tent! In a moment we had the crowd besieging our tent and demanding that Adolphus, the flute player, come out and play. They would not be driven away. We were all mixed up in the mad whirl and could not help ourselves. 'Adolphus, you have to play whatever you can.' After a while they pulled



Adolphus out of the tent. 'We must have a dance tonight. Everybody get ready! Adolphus, play a quadrille (something like a worn-out American polka). Adolphus played and we all danced hilariously until nine o'clock that night.' Note, the parenthetical phrase is Frauel's. And what humor he inserted by suggesting that Adolphus perhaps had "forgotten what he never knew."

"Usually things went fairly smooth, but it was always a strain on everyone." wrote Alexander McSwain (1854.) "As the boys used to sing:

And it's fourteen long miles in fifteen days,
If we don't stop for the cattle to graze
Over the mountains and over the hill,
And always something to give you a thrill

We always are ready both day and night,
We're ready to run or ready to fight
Not very pleasant to a peaceful mind,
Or to make a heart that was very kind.



Traveling at the rate of a mile a day,
Going to the Pacific far away,
With a feeling that when we reach its shore,
We'll make it our home and roam no more."

McSwain doesn't mention to what tune they sang those words, but it sounds as though the words were written on the trail, after getting some trail experience.



THERE IS REASON TO CELEBRATE!

On February 4, Dave Hollecker notified trail enthusiasts that the last known segment of the Beckwourth Trail in Nevada might be put on the auction block as excess county property. Included in the 3.3 acre parcel is a portion of the first paved Nevada highway circa 1923, the Three Flags Highway which stretched from Canada to Mexico.

Many trail nuts and history buffs emailed or telephoned the Commissioners to voice their concerns over the possible destruction of such an historically important site. Their actions, obviously, did not go unheeded!

Three cheers for the Washoe County Com-

missioners who, by unanimous vote on February 10, removed the parcel from the surplus property list!

Hopefully one day a small museum will be built to interpret the site and tell the story of Jim Beckwourth, born in 1798 to Sir Jennings Beckwith and a Virginia slave. He was a fur trader, an Army scout, a mountain man, a Crow Indian chief, and a rancher who died in 1866, among the Crow in Montana.

Ah, what great things can be accomplished when like-minded individuals pull together, putting aside differences and egos!

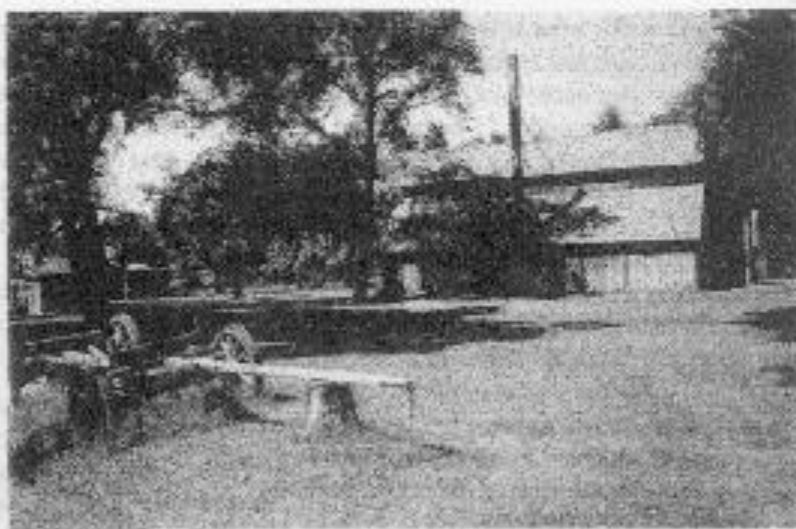
◆ SYMPOSIUM (from p. 1.)

Among the speakers: **Bernie Rhoades** of Edgewood, Washington will speak on what drove the Rhoads, the Esreys and others to make the arduous trip in the first place. He is a family historian and happens to be OCTA's national secretary.

Donna Crowe of Newman also is a family historian and will relate highlights of letters written by the Rhoads and the Esreys which shed light on early times around Tulare Lake. Her talk is entitled *The Rhoads-Esrey Letters 1846-1873, Letters of Lemoore Pioneers Including Daniel Rhoads' Own Account of the Rescue of the Donner Party.*

Robert B. Hansen, a biology instructor at the College of the Sequoias, Visalia, is a recognized authority on the wildlife and natural history of Tulare Lake and the Tulare Lake Basin. He will touch on what surprises the basin held for the newcomers of the 1850s and 1860s.

Dr. William Preston is a professor of geography at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He is the author of *Vanishing Landscapes: A Background History of the Tulare Lake Basin.* Historical geography of the



Jack's Barn
Photo by Mary Mueller.

San Joaquin Valley is one of his specialties.

Lalo Franco, cultural resource monitor at the Santa Rosa Rancheria of the Tachi-Yokuts Tribe, south of Lemoore, has a unique perspective on the early stockmen and farmers. Many of his village ancestors were forcibly removed from the area by some of the early stockmen.

Claudia Muder is a local historian who lives in nearby Riverdale. She has spoken on the Mussel Slough Tragedy, an event which spotlighted conflict between

the farmers and the railroad and ushered in a new era of California politics.

Opening remarks will be made by **Joe Neves**, chairman of the county board of supervisors. He also is president of the host organization for the symposium, the Lower Kings River Historical Society.

The **Rhoads family cemetery** and the nearby **Rhoads adobe** will be visited during the event. And there will be a barbecue held at Jack Stone's barn with entertainment by **Bob Iversen** and his California Old Time Fiddlers.

ARLENE TOWNE

We regret to inform the friends of Arlene Towne that she passed away in December. A memorial service is planned for later this year.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 1998

For information on trips contact the leader. **TO RESERVE SPACE:** mail a check to the leader for \$5 per person payable to OCTA, CA/NV CHAPTER. As a requirement of our insurance carrier, you will have to sign a waiver either on the day of the activity or beforehand. Please consult your leader.

Truckee Trail Tour

June 26 - 27, 2004

Leader: Tom Dougherty

Follow the Truckee Trail from the Humboldt Bar to the crest of the Sierra Nevada. Choice of motel accommodations or camping. Limited to 10 vehicles (4WD), moderate hiking, CB required. Some highlights of the tour are Humboldt Bar, 40 Mile Desert, Sand Swales, Truckee Meadows, Dog Valley and Stephens Pass.

Contact Tom Dougherty, 23525 N. Sowles Rd., Acampo, CA 95220
209.368.4463 or email <catrail2@yahoo.com>

Big Tree Tour

July 18 - 20, 2004

Leaders: Frank Tortorich and Jim Carman

This is a three-day drive/hike tour using car-shuttles and car-pooling. The first day will be a drive/hike tour from Murphys to Hermit Valley (Rte 4). That same day we will travel over Ebbetts Pass, via Routes 4, 89, and 88 to Hope Valley. We will spend the night in the Hope Valley area either camping or staying in motels – your choice. The second day will be a drive/hike tour through Hope, Faith, and Charity Valleys. A buffet dinner is planned at Sorensen's Resort for that evening. The third day is optional. It will be a more rigorous hike, but not all uphill, along the Big Tree Road from Blue Lakes to Hermit Valley. We depart to provide shuttles from Hermit Valley back to Blue Lakes to the vehicles. For a sign up form, cost, and details:

Contact: Frank Tortorich 209.296.7242 <wagonwheel@volcano.net>
or Jim Carman 510.526.5546 <carman@haas.berkeley.edu>

Carson Pass Trail Clearing and Tour

September 9 - 10, 2004

Leaders: Frank and Mary Ann Tortorich, Ford and Ellen Osborn,
John and Nancy Rolston, Jim and Carol Carman

This outing will be both fun and work. The first day will be clearing trail from Caples Lake to Kirkwood ski area. This will be in the wilderness and only hand tools will be allowed. We will work under a volunteer agreement with the Forest Service and they will provide most of the tools. We will be working on a segment of trail not seen on most of our OCTA tours. Day Two will be a Hike from Carson Pass to Caples Lake about five miles. Some have seen parts of this tour before but we have never led it all the way through. We will have some great views both days.

Contact person: Mary Ann Tortorich 209.296.7242 email: <wagonwheel@volcano.net>

DIARY QUOTES ...



– "For venison we gave him an old white shirt, the long tail of which, flying in the wind, excited his mirth and tickled his fancy exceedingly." (He managed to effect a swap with an Indian.)

– Wm. Smedley, 1862 (p 20).

– "Left the river and crossed the ... Desert, one of the stoniest roads we have been over. In some places, the horses could not find a place for his foot without stepping on a stone." (Carson Trail. Marker CR-28).

– George Bonniwell, Aug 5, 1850

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING, OCT. 25, 2003

The CA/NV Chapter Board of Directors held its Fall meeting in Modesto, CA at the Modesto Bee building on October 25, 2003. All members were present as well as our new member elect, Kathy Lewin. Also present were Treasurer Zeke Sicotte and Recording Secretary Joyce Everett. Non-Board Members present were Barbara Abeyta, Patty Knight, Hugh March, and Beverly Webster. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by President Jim Allison. Upon motion of Carol March, the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Officer's Reports:

Treasurer Zeke Sicotte gave his annual report which included a proposed budget for 2003-2004. He noted that there were substantial increases in our account balances due partly to income from dues and lack of spending on projects. The budget and report were accepted by motion and approval of the board.

The Preservation Officer's report was given by Jim Allison as the Preservation Officer, Leslie Fryman, was not able to attend.

Reports of Committees:

Patty Knight gave her report on membership. Our chapter is losing about 50 members per year, although there are about 400 national OCTA members residing in California and Nevada who do not have chapter membership. A number of ways to correct this were discussed, one of which is to get more information out on the web site. A motion was made and approved to increase the web site budget from \$100 to \$600.

Election of Board Members:

The election of members to the Board of Directors was carried out by acclamation of the board, in accordance with the chapter by-laws. Jim Allison and Bob

Iverson were re-elected for their second two year terms and Kathy Lewin was elected for her first two-year term. This was done on a motion and passed by the board. Carol March, outgoing member after having served two terms, was sincerely thanked for her immense contributions to the chapter.

Lemoore Symposium:

Based on expected expenses, the registration/meal fee for the symposium was set at \$40. A motion was made and approved to donate \$150 to the California Old Time Fiddlers who will be providing entertainment at the dinner and \$150 to the Kings River Historic Society for their contributions to the symposium.

Chapter Committees Review:

A revised list of actual and proposed committees was handed out. It indicated that the outings, projects, and activities committees would be combined into one.

A motion was made and passed that the Chapter invite Brandon Baker, a young student who did a class project on Oregon Trail history, and his family to the symposium as guests of the Chapter. Also, the Chapter will sponsor them with complementary memberships to National OCTA and the CA/NV chapter.

Carol brought up the Genealogy Convention being held in Sacramento on May 19-22. A motion was made and passed that the chapter pay for a table at the convention to display and sell chapter materials.

Adjournment:

Our appreciation was expressed to Curtis Grant for arranging the meeting room and providing lunch. Our next board meeting will be at the Lemoore Symposium on Friday March 19th at 7:00 pm.

At 2:15 pm. a motion was made and passed to adjourn the board meeting.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS



Thelma Brown
Esol Bradley
Mrs. John Cabell
Robert L. Christiansen
Dick & Cindy Clover
W. N. Davis, Jr.
Hazel & Betty Therhardt
Bob & Sharon Erwin

Susan Barber
Schustopol
Sam Rafael
Palo Alto
Sunnyvale
Sacramento
Eureka
Yuba

Curtis R. & Nancy R. Grant
Margaret Keckley
Mary Mueller
Jim & Peggy Scanlon
Tom Sank
Fran Tiplin
David G. Way

Modesto
Grass Valley
San Jose
Lancaster
Davisville
Eureka
Sutter Creek