

THE FIFTY-NINER

Quarterly newsletter of the
Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter
Oregon-California Trails Association
January 2009

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENT:

Saturday, January 31, 2009

Convention planning meeting in Loveland

- 10:00 a.m.: Convention planning meeting in the Thomas M. McKee 4-H, Youth and Community Building, in The Ranch - Larimer County Fairgrounds and Events Complex, Loveland.
 - Lunch at Nordy's Bar-B-Que & Grill.
 - RSVP to: Ginny Blanz, purplegret@gmail.com, 970-493-3012.
 - The Ranch is located east of I-25, Exit 259. Further directions and a map of facilities within The Ranch complex are on the chapter website: www.octa-colorado.org/calendar.htm.
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New Convention logo

Many thanks to Ginny and Jerry Blanz for their design of the new convention logo.

This design now appears on the convention website and on the new convention t-shirts which will be sold at OCTA's Midwinter Historic Trails Symposium in Yuma, Arizona, January 16-18, 2009.



Convention Steering Committee



A Steering Committee was formed in December to finalize the plans for the 2009 Convention and to coordinate the activities of the various convention committees. Members of the committee are Ginny and Jerry Blanz, Winnie Burdan, Pat and Jack Fletcher, Nancy Houtz, Mary Ann Tortorich, Jane and Lee Whiteley.

The Steering Committee has assumed the responsibilities originally handled by Ernest Witucki, the former Convention Chair. Mary Ann Tortorich (left) was elected to serve as the Chair of the Steering Committee.



Welcome to our new chapter members:

- Bob and Sharon Evanhoe – Yreka, California
- Ross Marshall – Merriam, Kansas
- Barbara Netherland – Scottsbluff, Nebraska
- Ron Volk – Florissant, Missouri
- Sandra Waggoner – Zephyrhills, Florida

Happy New Year

By Mary Ann Tortorich

I am honored to have been selected by the Steering Committee to be the Chair. In the interim since the formation of the committee I have been very appreciative of the support of so many people who have offered to help and inspired others to do so.

What a great group we all have to work with in the coming months! There are a numerous places that your talents are needed on the convention committees. You do not have to be a chair of anything.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the January 31 convention planning meeting in Loveland. You do not have to be an OCTA member, nor a chapter member, to join in this activity. You and your friends who may want to help are most welcome.

The 2009 Convention Steering Committee has named itself 09SC, so when you receive an e-mail with the subject "09SC Update," you will know who is sending it.

Please contact me, or other 09SC members, with any questions or suggestions you may have and we will respond quickly.

Mary Ann Tortorich

Phone: 209-296-7242

Annamae1846@gmail.com

- Ginny Blanz: purplegret@gmail.com
- Jerry Blanz: jerry.mtman@gmail.com
- Winnie Burdan: WBurdan119@aol.com
- Jack and Pat Fletcher: jpletcher@olympus.net
- Nancy Houtz: njhoutz@comcast.net
- Lee and Jane Whiteley: leeandjanewhiteley@yahoo.com

Ginny Blanz elected Vice President of Chapter



Ginny Blanz (left) was elected Vice President of the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter at the November 8 meeting in Loveland. Ginny, who lives in Livermore, Colorado, succeeds Carolyn Luckey who has moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming.

The remaining chapter officers were reelected at the November meeting: Camille Bradford, President; Winnie Burdan, Secretary; and Tim Kelly, Treasurer.

A further welcome to Sandy Waggoner

By Camille Bradford

A further welcome to our new chapter member, Sandy Waggoner, is in order as she has volunteered to handle the major responsibility of chairing the Publications Committee. Sandy lives in Zephyrhills, Florida and is a life member of OCTA and the Santa Fe Trail Association. She is a native of Indiana, where she taught in junior high and senior high schools for 28 years.

She also held managerial positions in the retail field and became a licensed real estate broker before moving to Florida in 1995 to assist her parents. Sandy is now active in her church and recently completed her second three-year term as Chairman of the elders, state study director for the church women's group.

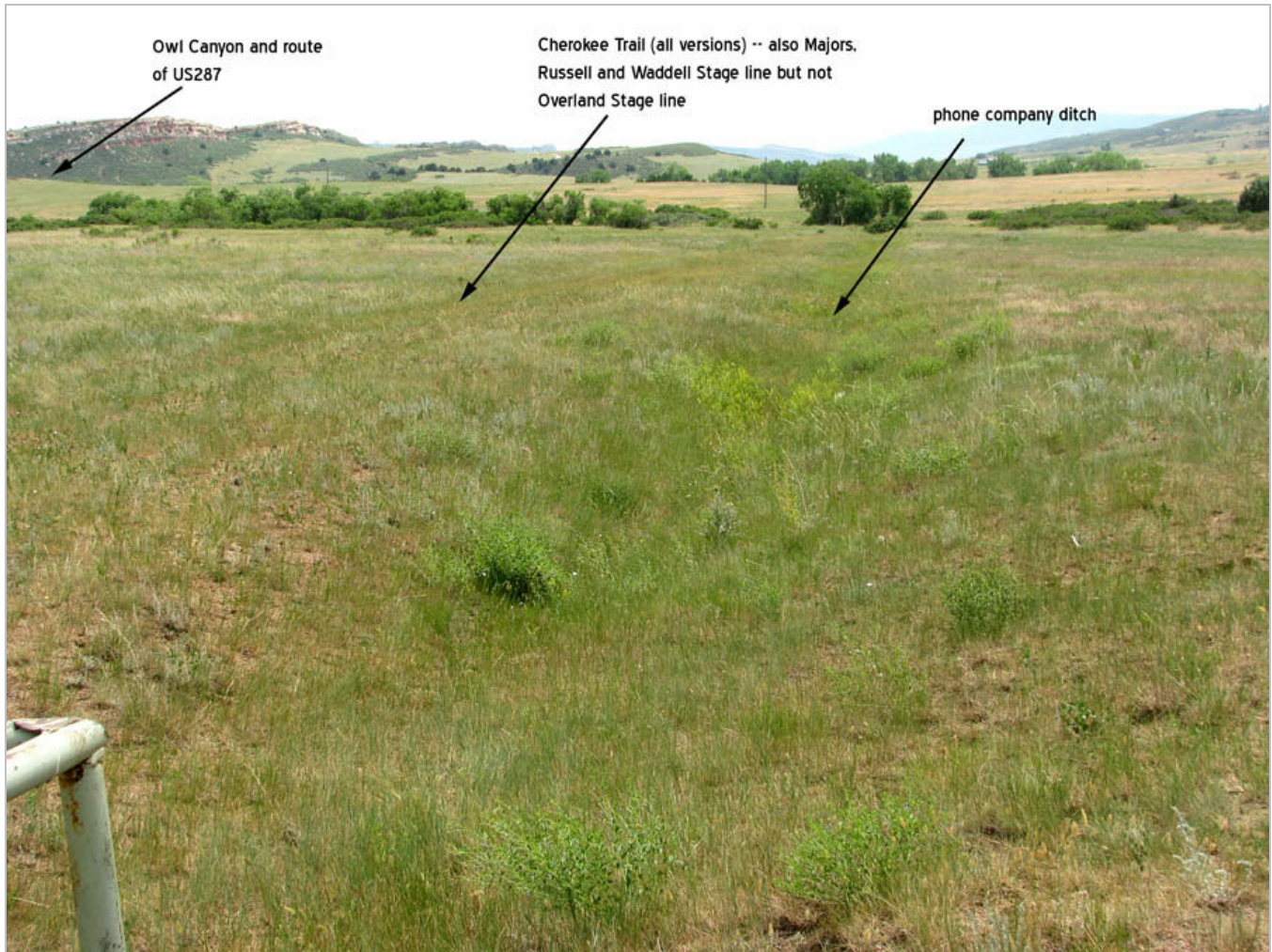
Sandy became interested in the trails through Sandy Dragoo a fellow teacher in Indiana who is also a member of OCTA. Sandy Dragoo taught English and had a class on the literature of the westward movement. Each year she would use the summer break to travel the trails and visit assorted historic spots pertaining to the development of western United States.

Sandy Waggoner says she became "hooked" on the Oregon Trail at Ash Hollow, and "the hook was set at Chimney Rock." They traveled each summer for 16 years, visiting the mountain route of the Santa Fe Trail, and the major routes of the Oregon/California Trails.

Sandy Waggoner met Mary Ann Tortorich at the 1991 OCTA convention in Sacramento and they have been friends ever since. In a recent e-mail Sandy has said: "I am here to assist. I want this convention to be great. I need to have the Registration form and booklet material to be camera ready in the OCTA office by March 23, so that means everything to be included in the packet (brief tour narratives for all proposed tours, prices for meals and tours, firmed workshops with explanations, speakers, speakers bios, housing possibilities and costs, suggestions for non-convention tours of Colorado) must be in to me by March 10, 2009. I am as near as the phone or email: 813-788-2202 or sjw6290@msn.com."

The Cherokee Trail Liveth!

By Jerry Blanz



This little bon-bon is a choice hunk of what appears to be a stretch of Class 1 swale close to a mile long. It's at N40.777086° W105.189255° elevation: 5,958' and will prove to be, if looked up, slightly west of U.S. 287 near the top of Gage Hill (which is about a mile or so south of the Forks Restaurant and the junction with CR 74E, the Red Feather Lakes road). The pipe showing in the foreground is an anti-scratching frame around a telephone tombstone to keep the dummies from knocking over the connection point – another demonstration of how the phone company does a pretty good job of carefully preventing damage to historical resources immediately adjacent to their installations (when they're aware of them).

This view is looking straight south and the trail is heading roughly straight toward the center of the photo and a rendezvous with the Bonner Springs stage station. The station is a bit beyond the far strip of trees and at the far right edge of the picture. I haven't had the opportunity yet to map the lower end of this valley where the Verschlugener Glade Reservoir project threatens to drown a choice portion of our beloved Cherokee Trail, but I've done a quick reconnaissance at several easily accessible points where the ridge can be penetrated and it looks very promising for either Class 1 or 2 trail segments.

On another subject, I would like to strongly recommend Jesse Peterson's new book on Captain Simpson's 1859 expedition to establish what became the Pony Express Trail from Camp Floyd to Sacramento. I got mine at the book room from Jesse in Nampa and have subsequently plotted all his data. His maps and description are the best I have encountered, without any blockages where the description creates geographical impossibilities. Five stars to Jesse for a tough job well and carefully done!

Anyhow, the photo above should provide a pleasant uplift in the midst of the wretched world in which we find ourselves these days. Up with faint swales!

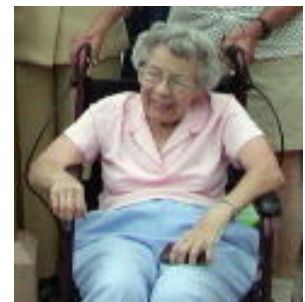
Volunteer hour and expense reports

Reminder: Bill and Jeanne Watson need to receive the reports of volunteer hours and expenses by January 15. If you have not already done so, please send them to Bruce Watson as soon as possible so that he can process them in time to meet the deadline: bgwatson@comcast.net. Phone: 303-400-9502.

Congratulations to Roger Hanson and Clarice Crowle.



Congratulations to our chapter member Roger Hanson (left) who has become the new President of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society.



As reported in *The Quill*, the CCVHS newsletter, Clarice Crowle (right) recently received the first Howard C. Raynesford Lifetime Achievement Award from the Smoky Hill Trail Association. The award was presented in October 2008 at the SHTA annual meeting

in Salina, Kansas in recognition of her "significant contributions to the preservation, protection and promotion of the Smoky Hill Trail, especially starting the efforts to name it a National Historic Trail." Clarice is a member of our chapter and was a founder and past President of CCVHS.

Colorado Historical Society – Exhibit and Symposium on the history of Denver



The Colorado Historical Society opened its new exhibit, *Imagine a Great City: Denver at 150*, on November 21. Chapter members Lee and Jane Whiteley (left) participated in the opening events and held a book-signing.

CHS is also planning a two-day symposium on the history of Denver, to be held on February 27 and 28. Advance registration is required. Tickets are \$30 for members and students, and \$45 for non-members.

www.coloradohistory.org

Nominees sought for OCTA's Board of Directors

By Vern Gorzitze

In accordance with the OCTA Bylaws, the Nominating and Leadership Committee is now accepting nominations for the Board of Directors. Each year, the terms of four of the twelve Directors expire. In 2009 the terms expire for Robert Clark, Duane Iles, Lethene Parks and David Vixie, several of whom are eligible to run for reelection should they desire to do so.

It is very important to have representation from all areas of our membership. It is not just a privilege to run for the Board of Directors, but somewhat of a duty. The activities and dealings of the board impact the entire membership and collectively they (the membership) should have a voice. It takes a little effort from all within OCTA to make a well-balanced and smooth running machine.

When someone agrees to become a candidate, the process is relatively easy and does not require much time to complete. Following is a short outline of the requirements:

1. A brief statement (about 100 words) on the goals you would like to see OCTA accomplish.
2. A brief resume of your activities and participation in the affairs of OCTA.
3. Written endorsement from three OCTA members.
4. A statement of willingness to serve if elected.
5. A passport type photo of a quality suitable for reproduction and printing. Digital is best form.

Trail-related activities are a key consideration for all nominees, but nomination of persons with service on other association boards, or with management and financial expertise, is encouraged. Experience as an educator, historian (amateur or professional), researcher should be noted. A demonstrated interest in all Western trails and trail-related history is more important than single trail or event expertise. To assist the committee, submissions of a resume for each nominee is encouraged. Elected Board members are expected to attend all Board meetings. A minimum of two Board meetings are held each year, one at the national convention and the other at a Board-designated, or a chapter-sponsored site. The Association may reimburse some travel expenses connected with duties of the Board.

The deadline for receiving nominations is April 1, 2009. Nominations should be mailed to:

Vern Gorzitze
3026 Metropolitan Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84109-2238

If you have any questions, please contact me at 801-484-9623 or by e-mail to: vergor@viawest.net.

Committee members:

Vern Gorzitze, Chair ♦ Roger Blair, Chapter President ♦ Mary Ann Tortorich, Member at Large

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