



THE FIFTY-NINER

Quarterly newsletter of the
Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter
Oregon-California Trails Association
June 2010



Emigrants, Elko and THE Elephant

OCTA's 28th Annual Convention

August 10-14, 2010

Elko Convention Center

Elko, Nevada

Chapter meeting at the Convention:

Friday, August 13

3:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Register Online: www.octa-trails.org

Upcoming Chapter Event

Day trip – Cripple Creek, Colorado

Tour leaders: Berl and Pat Meyer

- **Date:** Saturday, September 11, 2010
 - **Time:** 9:00 a.m.
 - **Location:** Meet at Cripple Creek Heritage Center, 9283 South Highway 67
 - **RSVP by September 7:** Berl and Pat Meyer, kynature@bellsouth.net or 719-942-5150
 - **Cost:** No registration fee. Tour participants will pay admission fees and lunch individually.
- Tour sites with admission fees:
- Gold mine tour: \$13.50
 - Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad
 - Adults ages 13-64: \$10.75
 - Seniors 65 and over: \$9.75
 - Children ages 3-12: \$6.25
- **Website link for further information and updates:** www.octa-colorado.org/calendar.htm





WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- Lynea Beauregard – Bennett, Colorado
- Gary Dissette – Brighton, Colorado
- Harry Smith – Carlsbad, California

Preservation Committee Report

By Bruce Watson



Bruce Watson

The Cherokee Trail mapping project has gained a new member. Gary Dissette, an avid map enthusiast, will work with Rich Deisch in his efforts to map the trail from north of the metro area to the Wyoming state line.

Gary was drawn to OCTA through his interests in maps, and his enthusiasm will be mutually beneficial to both Gary and our ongoing mapping efforts.

A meeting at the state BLM headquarters has been scheduled to discuss mapping procedures and begin the acquisition of GLOs and original surveyors' notes.



Gary Dissette

OCTA Trail Mapping and Marking Chair, Dave Welch, is in the process of writing a comprehensive document detailing the use of GPS with mapping software, as it pertains to OCTA standards.

Since we are in the early mapping stages, Dave has selected our chapter to de-bug his draft and provide feedback.



Rich Deisch

Roger Hanson and I have been using these procedures, and reporting our results to Dave. He plans to have a working document available to all chapters for use with any ongoing mapping projects.

Note to our Colorado mapping folks: Dave can use our mapping hours as justification for the expense of providing mapping software.

Please forward any mapping hours to Dave Welch: welchdj@comcast.net.

Notes from the Webmaster

By Berl Meyer



I have recently taken over the job of Webmaster from Camille. If you haven't noticed, she's quite a busy person not only being the President of this fine organization, but she has been really involved with the 150th anniversary of the Pony Express, giving lectures at several recent events.

I have added the webcast of her presentation at the National Postal Museum, *The Pony Express Diamond Jubilee: Revisiting the Excitement of the 1935 Re-ride*, to the website.

Well, anyway. Here I sit being another webmaster, which I just love to do, just thinking up creative ways to bring you members back to the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter website.

If you can think of anything that you would like to see on the site, just shoot me an email at webmaster@octa-colorado.org and I will see what I can do.

I have been webmaster to a few other organizations, including Crosby Middle School in Louisville, Kentucky, the Kentucky Society of Natural History and the USS Constellation CVA/CV 64 Association. I'm still webmaster for the latter. In all, I've spent almost 20 years doing websites and have enjoyed nearly every moment of it.

I have a Master's degree in Geology from the University of Louisville and a minor in American History.

I am an avid Civil War buff and have visited nearly all the major battlefields both in the east and the west. When teaching Earth Science back in Kentucky, I infused the geology of some of the important battlefields into my lessons. I knew, because of time restraints, the social studies teachers could not, in most cases, get past early westward expansion.

I have been an OCTA member since 1984, almost a charter member, and members of the Kentucky Historical Society, The Civil War Preservation Trust and the Filson Historical Club in Louisville.

I've also travelled the entire length of the Oregon Trail during its 150th anniversary way back in 1993 and didn't get stuck in the ruts once.

Take care and I'll hope to see some of you September 11 when Pat and I will be leading a small jaunt up to Cripple Creek. Anything special that you would like to see on this trip, please opine by email.

Old Namaqua Bridge over the Big Thompson

By Susan Kniebes



Bill Meirath, from the Loveland Historical Society, kindly sent me these photos showing the remains of the old bridge over the Big Thompson River at Namaqua, which would be where the Overland Trail and the Cherokee Trails came together to cross the Big Thompson--at least during the times of the year when the water was high enough to need a bridge.

If you attended the bus tour at last August's OCTA Conference that included Namaqua and the Medina Cemetery(ies), you'll recall sitting in the chairs under the huge old cottonwood trees on the edge of what used to be the old town of Namaqua. The bridge crossed the Big Thompson right there.

Bill's comments concerning the photos follow:

"I'm sending pictures of the Medina Crossing in Namaqua since OCTA members want to know the location of the Cherokee-Overland Trail in the Namaqua area. I think these photos show the exact location of the crossing."



Recent events:

Locating Your Ancestors Underground

Many thanks to Duane Kniebes for his interesting presentation at the Loveland Museum/Gallery on May 8, *Locating Your Ancestors Underground*. The presentation was followed by a demonstration of dowsing at Lakeside Cemetery in Loveland.



Above left: Jeannie Mitchell and Duane Kniebes. Above right: Duane Kniebes demonstrates dowsing over the grave of H.L.W. Peterson, at which an OCTA marker was dedicated at last year's national convention in Loveland. Below: Group at Lakeside Cemetery. > Photos by Jane Leche and Camille Bradford

Santa Fe Trail Trek

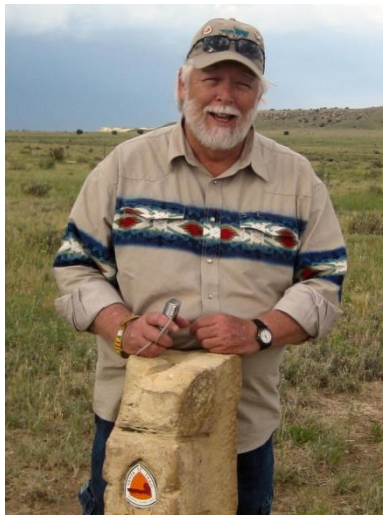


Many thanks to Berl and Pat Meyer (left) for organizing the Santa Fe Trail trek, June 11-13. A group of 12 participated in the trek from Lamar, Colorado to Santa Fe, New Mexico, with overnight stops in Trinidad, Colorado and Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Below are just a few of the pictures Berl has posted on the chapter website of the sites visited on the trek.



Above left: Beginning of the trek at the Madonna of the Trail Monument in Lamar, Colorado. Back row: Pat and Eileen Surrena, Camille Bradford, Bruce and Peggy Watson, Judy and David Tisch, Phil Bradford, Ginny and Gary Dissette. Front row: Pat and Berl Meyer. Above right: Santa Fe Trail parade, Cimarron, New Mexico. Below left and right: Fort Union, New Mexico. > Photos by Berl Meyer.



Santa Fe Trail Trek continued

Above left: Phil Bradford, Gary Dissette, Pat Meyer and Eileen Surrena at Fort Union.
Above right: Pat Surrena on the Trail.

Below left and center: Underground kiva at Pecos National Historic Site.
Below right: Ruins at this site.

> Photos by Camille Bradford.



Cherokee Trail Traveler – 1853 Article in March issue

Emerson Shipe, who wrote the interesting article about his great-grandparents in the March issue, sent a message with this correction:

“I have found an incorrect (my mistake) reference to the Batesville Historical Museum as the location of the Neill Tannery Ledger. The correct name of the museum is the Old Independence Regional Museum (website is www.oirm.org), which is located in Batesville, Arkansas. The ledger is titled ‘Neil Dickinson Tannery Business Ledger 1837-1856’ and is listed under Research-Miscellaneous Records. This may seem a minor error but I wanted to correct it.”

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