

Spring Issue

2016



CALIFORNIA TRAIL CENTER FOUNDATION

# THE Wagon Tongue

## PREPARING FOR THE TRIP



Many of us wonder, what did it take to prepare for this trip? People had to plan for a trip that would take over four months and more than 2,000 miles; depending on which direction they travelled and the hardships of the trail. Here are two literary recommendations into emigrant trip planning:

Lansford Hastings was one of the first to write a book about the journey to Oregon and California. It was written to encourage people to move to California. His book, *Emigrants' Guide to Oregon and California*, published in 1845, states:

"In procuring supplies for this journey, the emigrant should provide himself with, at least, 200 pounds of flour, 150 pounds of bacon; ten pounds of coffee; twenty pounds of sugar; and ten pounds of salt....however, ...children as well as adults, require about twice the quantity of provisions, which they would require at home, for the same length of time...very few cooking utensils, should be taken, as they very much increase the load... Bedding, should consist of nothing more than blankets, sheets, coverlets and pillows...Many prefer mules for the saddle, ...but oxen are considered preferable to either....Good and substantial wagons should always be selected, ...in addition to which, every wagon should be supplied with extra axletrees, chains, hammers, and the like, and the different mechanics should also take a small portion of their tools,...perhaps, it would also be advisable for each emigrant to provide himself with some such goods, as a are adapted to the Indian trade,..."

In an another article from the *St. Joseph, Missouri Gazette* dated March 19, 1847 in :

### OUTFIT FOR OREGON

"Mr. Editor; Subjoined you will find a list of the principle articles necessary for an outfit to Oregon or California, which may be useful to some of your readers. It has been carefully prepared from correct information derived from intelligent persons who have made the trip.

The wagons should be new, made of thoroughly seasoned timber, and well ironed and not too heavy; with good tight beds, strong bows, and large double sheets. There should be at least four yoke of good oxen to each wagon - one yoke to be considered as extra, and to be used only in cases of emergency. Every family should have at least two good milk cows, as milk is a great luxury on the road. The amount of provisions should be as follows; to each person except infants:

200 pounds of bread stuff (flour and crackers)

100 pounds of bacon

12 pounds of coffee

12 pounds of sugar

(continued on pg. 6)



## *Docents to Deliver New Programs*

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Meet the California Trail Interpretive Center's first Docent Program graduates! After 24 hours of initial training they are on their way to presenting first grade science and literacy programs, eighth grade environmental education, fourth grade education programs, and formal interpretive programs on weekends.

Docents are volunteer interpreters who work with a team of professional interpreters and fellow docents to facilitate history and environmental education programs for schools, families, and the general public. Docents receive on-going training in California Trail history, Great Basin environment, Native American and Pioneer culture and history, and interpretation techniques. Docent backgrounds are varied. Their common link is a desire to share history and nature with children and the general public, and their willingness to work as part of a team.

The Trail Center will be looking for new Docents in the Fall of 2016. For more information call Lisa Dittman, Supervisory Park Ranger, at 775-738-1849.

## *Trails West Website*

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### *Trail Commentaries, Emigrant Trail Stories, Tales, and Investigations*

The site states,

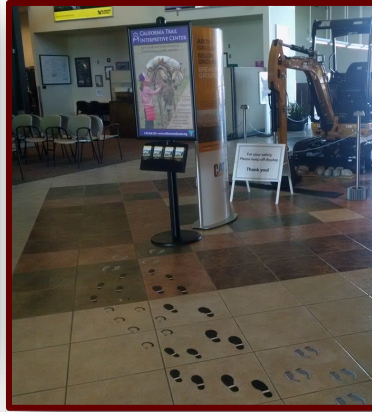
*"Enjoy some engaging stories and tales about emigrant travel on the various California Trails in the 1840's, 50's, and 60's. Also of interest will be investigative reports on emigrant trail routes and sites. These stories, tales and reports are adapted from those appearing in the various Trails West Series Guidebooks. From time to time, these stories, tales and investigations will be added to with new features. We hope you enjoy them."*

Besides the good stories and guidebooks, also included is information on the Trails West activities and schedules of events for this year and the past. They also include updates on the guidebooks. Site has a good photo tour of the Hastings Cutoff.

[www.emigrantrailswest.org](http://www.emigrantrailswest.org)



## *Elko Airport Display*



On March 16, 2016, the California Interpretative Trail Center manager, Mark Jackson joined the City of Elko mayor, Chris Johnson, in unveiling a new display at the airport facility. Visitors at the Elko Airport will be welcomed with a display case showing a map, a brief written history of western migration and other pieces of art based on the old west.

The display will encourage visitors to Elko to also visit the California Interpretative Trail Center during their stay in our community. While many of the visitors to the Trail Center are local and I-80 travelers, the airport display will focus on those visitors that arrive by plane and may not know about the Trail Center.

This is just one of the many ways of marketing that the Trail Foundation is utilizing to help increase visitation to the Trail Center.



## *Pork and Beans*

This is a recipe from *the Farmers and Emigrant Complete Guide of 1849*.

“Take one quart of dried beans, and after picking them over, put into a vessel and cover them over with soft water. This should be done the night before they are wanted for use. Set them in the corner of the fire-place, or where they will be warm, and let them remain over night. In the morning change the water, and let them heat gradually, but not boil, until they are perfectly swollen. Then take one pound of pork, (that which has some lean is generally preferred) gash the rind, and after skimming out the beans from the water, put with the beans and boil until soft, in water sufficient to cover them. Then take out the beans and put into a pan, laying the pork in the centre with the rind above the surface. Bake from one to three hours.”

(On the trail, this recipe would be cooked when the travelers stayed in one place for a couple days.)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CTCF Board Meetings

April 21, 2016

May 19, 2016

June 3, 2016

\*All California Trail Center Foundation Board meetings are held at the California Trail Interpretive Center and begin at 6:00 p.m.

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June 4-5, 2016 Trail Days

At CTIC

August 4-5, 2016

Western Heritage Festival

In Elko, NV

August 2-7, 2016—OCTA Convention

In Ft. Hall, Idaho

## CA-NV OCTA

c/o Herman Zittel  
1245 N Bunyon Rd  
Susanville CA 96130-3149

You can reach Herman at [\(530\) 252-1243](tel:5302521243) if you have further questions.

## CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER OF OCTA

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### Chapter Meeting and Symposium- 2016

The California Nevada Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association will hold its annual general membership meeting and Spring Symposium in Susanville, California on April 29, 30, and May 1, 2016. The Chapter Board of Directors will meet at the Diamond Mountain Hotel and Casino on Friday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, followed by a hospitality reception-/no host bar from 5:00-6:30 PM. Dinner will be on your own Friday evening.

The Saturday symposium will take place at the Monsignor Moran Hall in Susanville. It will start off with a chapter general membership meeting and speakers. Saturday evening will include a barbeque dinner at the same location. Sunday morning will include an auto tour of spots on the Lassen and Nobles Trails, lunch (provided), and a visit to Peter Lassen's Grave. An alternative field trip will be arranged if weather conditions prevent us from accessing the trail sites.

Diamond Mountain Hotel & Casino has a room rate of \$80 for us. Mention you are with the California-Nevada Chapter of OCTA to receive the special rate. Reservations must be made before midnight April 14th to receive the reduced rate. CA-NV reservations will also include an \$8.00 breakfast voucher. You can reach the hotel at [\(877\) 319-8514](tel:8773198514). Their address is 900 Skyline Road, Susanville, CA 96130.

Your registration includes:

- Friday: reception and no host bar at the Diamond Mountain Hotel and Casino
- Saturday: continental breakfast symposium speakers lunch, no host bar, barbeque dinner, awards, and silent auction at Monsignor Moran Hall
- Sunday: continental Breakfast, tour on the Lassen and Nobles Trails, lunch., and a visit to Peter Lassen's grave. Carpooling will be required on the field trip.

The price is \$65 for CA/NV Chapter members and \$75 for non-members. Please make checks payable to CA-NV OCTA. (Send to Herman Zittel)





## CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETATIVE CENTER STAFF

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Hello Friends,

After six months on the job, I finally have my feet underneath me enough to have a cogent discussion with you about the Trail Center and our current and future activities. We have had a substantial amount of change over the last six months, and I suspect that as we continue to develop and refine our programs and facility we may modify other components as well. As you probably know, the Trail Center receives funding through a variety of sources. We have flexibility in some of these sources and others are much less flexible. What this means for us at the Trail Center is that we may occasionally lose the ability to perform a certain type of program while gaining the ability to do other types of programs. Unfortunately, this can influence our staffing level, but we are working to ensure that our core functions are not only covered but continue to thrive and grow.

As we have developed unique ways to address the challenges we have encountered, I would like for you to understand how encouraged I am about the future of the Trail Center. Let me give you a few examples of our recent accomplishments so you can also share my enthusiasm.

1) Our volunteer program is flourishing. Last year volunteers donated over 5,000 hours of time to the Trail Center valued at approximately \$115,000. Wow! This year we are on track to exceed last year's hours. Special thanks to all of you who volunteer your time at and for the Trail Center. We appreciate you and cannot do it without you!

2) We have developed a docent program. This spring we trained six people to serve as docents who will help with providing interpretive and educational programs both on and off site.

3) Attendance at our weekend interpretive programs has been excellent. Over 70 people attended Joe Doucette's Birds of Prey program, and over 50 visitors attended Jeff William's Historic Guns of the West program even during inclement weather. Our upcoming programs are exciting and unique, and I have no doubt these programs will enhance the appreciation of our visitors for the special cultural and historical resources in northern Nevada.

4) We are strengthening our relationships with our local schools. This year, with the help of our docents and the Great

Basin Institute, we are conducting several educational programs for 1st and 8th graders in Elko. These programs include both a classroom and field study component that will be conducted at the Trail Center.

5) We are increasing our marketing efforts. I am happy to announce that we have hired a marketing coordinator who is working to help us achieve our visitation goals. With the help of the Foundation, we are updating our ads in current markets and also researching for new and unique ways to reach an ever-widening audience. Have you checked us out on Facebook?

6) Last but not least, we are planning a grand opening ceremony during Trail Days for the Western Emigrant Trails Collection. We have hired a librarian who is working to establish both a physical and online library collection that is accessible to our visitors. We are very excited about the new research and reading library so please attend the ceremony and help us celebrate. You might even find something interesting to read from our rare collections.

In closing I would like to leave you with a task and a thought. The task is to please thank Lisa and Alex for their hard work and dedication the next time you see them at the Trail Center. The aforementioned list of accomplishments would not have been possible without their efforts to make the Trail Center a resounding success. The final thought is this: Have you ever undertaken a journey without knowing how the journey will end? Have you had faith enough to risk everything for an unknown reward? Have you overcome struggles, obstacles, and sorrow? I imagine that all of us have, and because of these risks, struggles, and rewards, we treasure the life we live today. We value those people who helped lead us to the life we live today. Just as the emigrants understood how a shared commitment to survival was absolutely necessary, we understand that success is based on the strength of our partnerships. Thank you for being a strong partner – we are a success because of you!

- Marc Jackson, Trail Center Manager

California Trail Center  
3900 East Idaho Street  
Elko, NV, 89801  
Office: 775-738-1849



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## KEY LINKS

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[www.facebook.com/pages/California-Trail-Center-Foundation/157116030992463](https://www.facebook.com/pages/California-Trail-Center-Foundation/157116030992463)

[www.emigranttrailswest.org](http://www.emigranttrailswest.org)

[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)

[www.appl.org](http://www.appl.org)

[www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\\_field\\_office/blm\\_programs/blm\\_special\\_areas/california\\_trail\\_historic.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_programs/blm_special_areas/california_trail_historic.html)



## Preparing for the Trip

(continued from page 1)

Each family should also take the following articles in proportions to the number as follows:

From 1 to 5 pounds tea

From 10 to 50 pounds rice

From 1/2 to 2 bushels beans

From 1/2 to 2 bushels dried fruit

From 1/2 to 5 pounds saleratus

From 5 to 50 pounds soap

Cheese, dried pumpkins, onions and a small portion of corn meal may be taken by those who desire them. The latter article, however, does not keep well.

No furniture should be taken, and as few cooking utensils as are indispensably needed. Every family ought to have a sufficient supply of clothing for at least one year after their arrival, as everything of that kind is high in those countries. Some few cattle should be driven for beef, but much loose stock will be a great annoyance. Some medicines should also be found in every family, the kind and quantity may be determined by consulting the family physician.

I would suggest to each family the propriety of taking a small sheet-iron cooking stove with fixtures, as the wind and rain often times renders it almost impossible to cook without them, they are light and cost but little. All the foregoing articles may be purchased on good terms in this place. -Kay Conn"

Making a choice on what to take was a significant life decision. While most emigrants may have planned carefully or did not want to leave their possessions at home; many times, a valuable or personal item was discarded along the roadside as they tried to lighten the load or had to continue on horseback or foot. Sometimes, even good planning did not prepare some of them for the hardships that they would encounter on their trip.

A heartfelt reminder of the hardships experienced was noted by Lucius Fairchild, who wrote about a scene in the Forty-mile desert:

"lined with dead cattle, horses & mules with piles of provisions burned & whole wagons left for want of cattle to pull them through."

## CTCF Board of Directors

### Core Members:

Kerry Aguirre

John Collett

Jonathan Foster

Walt Goddard

Coralee Griswold

Helen Hankins

Duane Jones

Krys Munzing

Jeff Williams

### At-Large Members

Blaine Benedict

Leah Brady

Larry Hyslop

Larry Schmidt

Christina Sullivan

Frank Tortorich

Kerry Tuckett

John Winner

### Newsletter

Editor: Leah Brady

Contributors:

Helen Hankins

Mark Wilson

Marc Jackson

Lisa Dittman



## We Are Making Tracks!

Bikes, lights, books, trails and more – there are a lot of things happening – thanks to the dedication of our wonderful board members – here is an update:

Library – The BLM library intern (Craig) met with Blaine Benedict, Don Buck and John Winner at the California State Library to view the Overland Trail Collection and to discuss ideas relative to the “Western Emigrant Trails Collection” housed at the California Trail Interpretive Center. A subsequent meeting was held at the Trail Center with Helen Hankins, Duane Jones and key BLM staff. The Trail Center will move forward with the purchase of some books recommended by Don Buck. Craig is continuing to work on cataloging the existing collection and on short term plans for public use of some of the collection.

Architectural Feasibility Study – The California Trail Center Foundation has contracted with Jack Errecart to complete an architectural feasibility study of adding a room to the existing facility to house the library. The study is expected to be completed in early summer.

Interpretive Plaza Lighting – The Elko District BLM Office has submitted all information for the interpretive plaza lighting contract to the BLM State Office in Reno. The project has been assigned to a contracting officer.

Highway Signage – Kerry Aguirre and Jeff Williams have been working with Jon Griggs and Maggie Creek Ranch about billboards along I-80 both east and west-bound. Bids have been requested from a sign company to construct the billboards.

Marketing – Two 30-selevision ads were developed by Troy Edler for KVIE, a public television station in California. The first ad will begin airing April 16, 2016 and will promote the California Trail Interpretive Center and Trail Days (June 4-5). The second ad will begin airing June 4 and will promote the California Trail Interpretive Center and the Western Heritage Festival (August 4-7).

The BLM Marketing Intern Paul Gregory developed an ad for the Virgin Holidays website and submitted it to them April 1, 2016. Duane Jones and Helen Hankins made contact with Greg Fine (NCOT) and are working on including of the Waysides on the TraveleNevada.com website and in a related phone app.

Adopt-A-Tail Initiative – The Foundation is taking the lead on setting up an Adopt-A-Trail program in partnership with the BLM. The first meeting was held on March 31 with 9 attendees. Information has been requested from the BLM and the NPS and another meeting will be scheduled in the next two or three weeks. The requested information includes a study on trail segments, information on past trail stewards and information on a Cooperative Management Agreement.

Bike Trail from the California Trail Center to Elko – The draft Elko County Bicycle Plan has been released. It includes a provision for a bike route from Carlin to West Elko. The County Commission is expected to take up the issue at their meeting on April 20. I will attend the meeting and support the commission adopting the Plan.

Newsletter – Leah continues wonderful work on the Wagon Tongue – our Newsletter. Articles are always welcome.

Tax Filing – Coralee Griswold prepared Form 990 EZ and related documents for our Foundation. Based on an approved request to file 3 months after our due date, our forms will be submitted prior to mid-May.

Treasurer/Secretary Work – Special thanks goes to Coralee Griswold and Krys Munzing for their behind-the-scenes work in keeping track of our finances and the business of our Foundation.

Thank you all for the good work you are doing on behalf of the California Trail Center Foundation and the California Trail Interpretive Center.

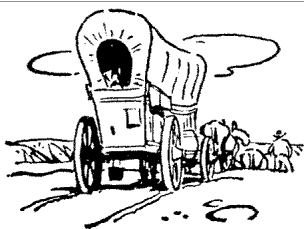
*-Helen Hankins, President*



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[www.trailcenterfoundation.org](http://www.trailcenterfoundation.org)



## Join Today! - Membership Application

Join your friends and neighbors and become a supporter of the California Trail Interpretive Center! Every membership supports the California Trail Interpretive Center and Trail preservation. When you join other enthusiasts to become a member, or renew your membership, you directly support interpretation, education, and special events at the California Trail Interpretive Center, and help preserve the Trail and its history for the benefit of current and future generations.

Annual Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

All members receive the informative electronic newsletter, electronic updates about special events and activities and a 10% discount at the California Trail Interpretive Center store. Invitations to one or more special events are extended to the membership levels above the Nancy Kelsey level.

Level	Lucinda Duncan	Nancy Kelsey	Virginia Reed	Elizabeth Townsend	Sarah Winnemucca
	Individual	Family	Supporter	Partner	Lifetime
Special Events)			1	2	3
Cost	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$200

\*Special Events may include presentations, workshops, tours, exhibit previews or other activities. Individuals who choose to make a donation equal to or greater than \$250 will receive recognition, if desired, on the Donor Wall in the California Trail Interpretive Center

PAYMENT: \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to: **California Trail Center Foundation, 530 Idaho St., Elko NV 89801**

## DONOR WALL

IN ADDITION TO BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL CENTER FOUNDATION, INDIVIDUALS OR BUSINESSES MAY ALSO MAKE A DONATION TO THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL CENTER FOUNDATION. FOR THOSE DONATIONS GREATER THAN \$250.00, THE DONOR CAN CHOOSE TO BE PUBLICLY RECOGNIZED ON THE DONOR WALL AT THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER. RECOGNITION LEVELS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

### CALIFORNIA TRAIL CENTER DONOR WALL RECOGNITION LEVELS

<u>LEVEL NAME</u>	<u>DONATION AMOUNT</u>
Pioneer	\$250.00 to \$499.99
Trail Blazer	\$500.00 to \$2,499.99
Wagon Master	\$2,500.00 to \$4,999.99
Empire Building	\$5,000.00 or Greater

## CONTACT US!

CALIFORNIA TRAIL CENTER FOUNDATION 421 COURT STREET, ELKO, NEVADA 89801

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