



The Wagon Tongue

"And a Good Time Was Had by All"

It all began in 2017 – our bid to hold the 2020 CCHA Convention was accepted. We had lots of energy, enthusiasm, ideas, and plans!



The Convention was held in September 2021 and was a great success by all accounts. The high caliber of the speakers, the expertise and talent of the activity station presenters, the knowledge and preparation of the tour guides, navigators and hosts – it all worked together and made our convention an unforgettable event.

Nearly one hundred individuals were involved in making this a successful convention – local volunteers and planners, CA NW Chapter members who pitched in, speakers, activity station presenters, tour leaders and support personnel, registration,



deck people and many more. A special thanks to Thomas Jones for his extraordinary work in lining up a second bus company after Coach USA backed out, and for doing such a great job with the food and entertainment.



The topics provided a very broad and wonderful perspective of trail history. They included the California Trail Highlights and the Handwreck in North – So Let's Go South private vehicle tours, bus tours to Lamelle and Long Canyons, and the Gravelly Ford, Fort Ruby and Gona and Reno tours. The van tour to the Ancient Handcuff Trail was also a big hit. Presenters at the activity stations shared a lot of information about crafts (wood making, willow weaving, pioneer clothing and cooking, edible plants, ethnobotany, Shoshone bead and buckskin work, and prairie rabbit for basket construction). Other stations included spinning and weaving wool, and the transformation of flax to linen yarn and heavy woolen fabric and detailed work with needles.



Speakers shared perspectives on westward migration, Landlord Hastings, John Stahlbauer, Sarah Winchester, and stories of the Shoshone and Cherokee peoples on or near the Hastings Cutoff. The history of Fort Ruby, the Mormon Battalion, teaching trail history and the modern Fortine Hope trail run were other attractions.

Students of Fort Verde, from the Paradise Seventh Day Adventist Academy sharing their real life experience of six days on the trail was a special highlight.

All these wonderful events were possible because of the willingness of our local planning team (which included the Johnsons from Kansas Falls) to be adaptable and flexible through four years of challenge and change. Our



many sponsors, especially Kearns Gold (Bald Mountain), Nevada Homestead, the California Trail Heritage Alliance, the Elko Convention Center and the Elko County Recreation Board, and Fossilized Reserve was also an important part of our success!

Yes, a good time was had by all!