

Summer Issue

2019



CALIFORNIA TRAIL HERITAGE ALLIANCE

# The Wagon Tongue

## 150 Years of Change



This May 10, 2019, the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad was held at Promontory Point, Utah. Over 20,000 people attended this momentous event. Utah had a multitude of workshops and speakers addressing the visitors to the celebration.

For the California Trail, it marked 150 years of change. Travel across America would no longer be the same. Emigrants that had taken 4 months to travel from Nebraska to California by wagon, could now travel that same distance in 4 days and 10 hours by train. However, the quality of travel depended on their social status.

Promoters had focused on the quicker and cheaper means of transportation of supplies and the mail. It provided a vast and profitable commercial trade between the East and West. It also provided continued alliance of the Pacific Coast to the United States during the Civil War.

However, the most profound significance was the hastening of the end on the continental frontier. It provided the key to conquering the Indians and improving military presence along the Pacific Coast. With the railroad came more immigration, settlement and development of industry and agriculture.

Frederick Jackson Turner in 1893 wrote:

*“the frontier reached by the Pacific Railroad, surveyed into rectangles, guarded by the United States Army, and recruited by the daily immigrant ship, moved forward at a swifter pace and in a different way than the frontier reached by the birch canoe or the pack horse.”*

And his disciple, Frederick L. Paxson carried it further by stating:

*“The effort that finally destroyed the continental frontier differed from all earlier movements in the same direction in that it was self-conscious, deliberate, and national.”*

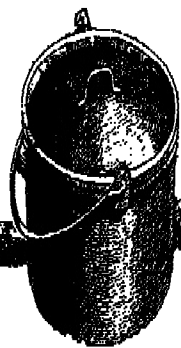


# Dutch Oven Cooking

In early May, Tom Lester (with ECVA) working with TravelNevada, offered Duane Jones an amazing opportunity. A famous chef, affiliated with a German cooking television show, wanted to film Duane Jones and the chef cooking a meal in a Dutch oven with a backdrop of a campfire and covered wagons. With the cooperation of Connie Jacobs, manager of the California Trail Interpretive Center, Duane was able to make this happen. The images taken by the photographers were uploaded almost immediately for broadcast to German TV viewers. The weather cooperated and apparently all involved with the event felt it was successful.

## Seven in a Pot

"For authenticity and that special flavor, make this stew in a cast iron pot. It will feed twelve hungry people."



5lbs. cubed beef  
2 1/2 cups coarsely chopped onions  
9 potatoes, peeled and quartered  
Dumplings

1 1/2 lbs. fresh green beans  
9 supper carrots  
6 parsnips, cut into chunks

Brown the meat in lard on a heavy fry pan and transfer to the iron pot. Fry the onions brown and put them in the pot along with bits rinsed out of the pan. Cover meat with water and bake at 300° F for 2 1/2 hours or until tender. Add the following seasoning:

4 beef cubes or 4 cups of beef stock  
2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

1/2 tsp. fresh ground pepper  
3 cloves garlic, mashed

Add 4 tbsp. flour stirred into 1/2 cup cold water and stir until thickened. Add potatoes and carrots. Make dumplings. Add 1 tsp. salt to the stew with spoonfuls of dumpling batter. Put on the lid and simmer for 20 minutes without peeking.

Dumpling batter: Break 2 eggs into a 2 cup measure and add milk to make 2 cups. Sift together 3 cups flour, 4 tsp baking powder and 1 1/2 tsp. salt. Stir the liquid into the dry ingredients.

- Eva Hansen, homesteader

# The Golden Spike

From the early days of our Nation's life,  
From the time of the first steam train,  
Farsighted men had seen the need  
Of rails from coast to coast.  
Long years of debate: What's the best route?  
Surveys of western wilds  
From northern plains to deserts south  
Four paths for the rails were known,  
But the Nation was spinning,  
Was tearing,  
Dividing,  
War!

The railroad was a national dream  
It wanted a dreamer of action.  
A man came forth who found a way  
Across the Sierra Nevada.  
The dream needed more to give it life,  
Needed money to make it move.  
Not dreamers now, but men of means  
Were found in Sacramento.  
The Four could start; that was all.  
More was needed yet.  
They sent the dreamer to the East,  
To the Capitol in Washington City.  
Out of the Chaos of Civil War  
Came the decision for the road.....

....These were the men who built the road;  
Great men, small men,  
Names known, names unknown.  
Faces in history.  
These were the men;  
Men from the East, men from the West,  
Audacious men, audacious times.

....This was the land that they had to cross  
Sierra Nevada, Rockies' slopes.  
Plains, deserts, basins.  
Land of the Indians.  
The land has little changed its face;  
Mountains as rugged, plains as wide.  
Deserts dry as a century ago.  
Only the Indians changed.

The race is on!  
The starter's gun has fired.  
Spurs dig in the racers' sides,  
They run for all or nothing.  
One prize, the far Great Basin.  
One Spur, the greed for trade.  
Another prize; The Nation's eyes  
Would fix upon the winner!  
The longer line to junction point  
Would gain the greater honor.

Toward the Summit from East and West  
The rails reached forth to meet.  
Between the builders on the plains  
Loomed Promontory's bulk.  
No easy job that eastern face,  
Yet twice the job was done.  
Not from need, not only greed,  
A race for racing's sake.  
Stone to blast, ravines to fill,  
Trestles to complete.  
Ten miles for five to climb the slope,  
The final sprint was on....

...They joined the rails from East and West.  
They drove the Golden Spike.  
They marked the day with wine and cheers,  
And then they signaled "Done."  
A railroad built in record time.  
The builders justly proud.  
They bound the land with bands of iron,  
Began the frontier's end.

They drove the Spike and then they left.  
The armies marched away.  
A town grew up, a sickly thing,  
Of gamblers, bars, and "doves."  
For half a year the changing point,  
And then it slowly died.



Poem from the Golden Spike Handbook  
National Park Service



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CTHA Board Meetings

\*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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July 2019	No Board Meeting
August 22, 2019	CTHA Board Mtg.
Sept 2-5, 2019	OCTA Convention, Santa Fe NM

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*Plan to attend California Trail Days in 2020!*

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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)

<http://www.californiatrailcenter.org/>

[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/](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_programs/blm_special_areas/)

## TRAIL CENTER ACTIVITIES

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July 21, 2019 - 2:00 pm

### Junior Ranger Program: Pioneer Art Walk

Join Volunteer Susanne Reese for a guided tour of the Trail Center. Kids will have the opportunity to dress up like pioneers, explore a wagon, build miniature log cabins and learn about history through the Center's beautiful, brilliant murals.

July 24, 2019 - 7:00 pm

### Summer Evening Program: Women's Voices from the Emigrant Trails.

Join Doris Dwyer with a fresh perspective on what life was like along the emigrant trails. Taken from contemporary women's diaries, journals, and reminiscences, these literary excerpts have been specially selected to shed new light on both the ordinary, everyday experiences that the women underwent, as well as some extraordinary, and exceptional happenings.

July 27, 2019 - 10:00 am

### A Bone at Every Step: Desert Crossings of the California Trail

Join Ranger Jordan Thomas on discussing how the emigrants managed to cross the Forty Mile Desert, Black Rock Desert, and Utah Salt Flats on their journey to California.

July 21, 2019 - 2:00 pm

### Junior Ranger Program: Serpents in the Sage: Snakes of the Great Basin

Join Southern Nevada Conservancy interpreter, Becky Stanton and learn how snakes use adaptations to survive in the high desert.

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Contact Ranger Greg Feathers at [gfeathers@blm.gov](mailto:gfeathers@blm.gov) or 775-738-1849 for more information.





## Hot Hole Project



The attractive safety fence has been installed at the Elko Hot Hole. A few small panels need to be added. The area has also been graded and “millings” have been spread on the surface around the Hot Hole. Work is continuing on the NV-Oxbow pole/sign by a local welder. Kevin Lee and Duane Jones deserve the credit for the wonderful progress on this project to date.

Keith Heyer Meldahl notes in his book, *A Hard Road West*, :

“The Humboldt River at Elko, Nevada. The steam comes from a hot spring on the riverbank. This spring flowed more powerfully in emigrant days and was a famous landmark. Forty-niner Wakeman Bryarly described the water as:

*‘boiling hot & sent off steam and heat from its surface, which [was] as hot as the scape pipe of an engine. Even after it ran into the river, it foamed &*

*hissed as cold water poured into hot and sent off steam for 80 yds. Below, and extended half over the river.’*

Many emigrants bathed and washed their clothes here in the spring-warmed river. The ledge and the lumpy, white slope consist of travertine deposits precipitated by the hot water.”



### Core Members:

Tamara Baker

Bailey Billington-Benson

Leah Brady

Marlene Goddard

Walt Goddard

Helen Hankins

Duane Jones

Kevin Lee

## CTHA Board of Directors

### At-Large Members

Chuck Briggs

Lisa Dinwiddie

Paul Dinwiddie

Grafton Miller

Jacqueline Lucero

Larry Schmidt

Frank Tortorich

John Winner

### Newsletter

Editor: Leah Brady

Contributors:

Helen Hankins



## Andy Hart Leaves Southern Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for Australia

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Andy Hart, Executive Director of the Southern Nevada Conservancy, will be leaving sometime in 2019 to join his wife in Western Australia where she has accepted a position. Andy has held the Executive Director position for the last four years. Throughout this period he has been a strong advocate for and a supporter of the California Trail Interpretive Center. He has also been a strong partner for the CTHA. Andy's willingness to consider new options and ideas, and to support a wide range of activities at the CTIC including Trail Days, exhibit design and repair, staff support and many other things, has been valued and appreciated by all. He has epitomized leadership and professionalism in all of his endeavors. He will be greatly missed by many.

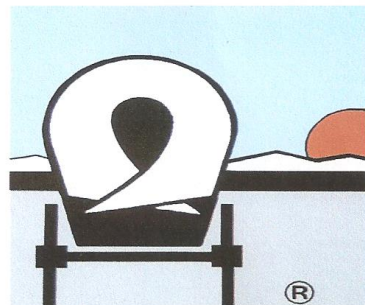
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## Elko OCTA 2020 Convention

The planning team continues their excellent progress in planning for the 2020 Oregon-California Trails Convention in September 2020. Recent efforts have focused on planning the primary bus tours. In late May, members of the planning team met with the local private bus company, COACH USA, to go over initial routes to sites in Ruby Valley, in the Wells-Osino area, to the Long Canyon Mine, and to Lamoille Canyon. Coach USA representatives were familiar with most of the travel routes. A fieldtrip on the refined routes using an actual bus will be scheduled later this fall. In its' most recent meeting the planning team refined proposed stops on each of the routes to maximize opportunities for discussion of a wide range of topics and to minimize duplication between stops on the various routes. Future efforts of the planning team will focus on pre-convention marketing at the Santa Fe Convention, sponsorships, development of a draft budget, and other detailed. Plans are still jelling with regard to telling the Native American part of the story.

37th OCTA National Convention  
September 18-24, 2020

*Through the Lens of History -  
Preserving the Past—Focusing on the Future  
Elko Nevada*



# CALIFORNIA TRAIL

## HERITAGE ALLIANCE



### On The Trail – The President’s Message -

Bike Path – There has been no progress with NDOT this year. In May, the CTHA, and at least three other individuals/organizations wrote letters to Ms. Sondra Rosenberg, NDOT Assistant Director, Planning, letting NDOT that we are still interested in and supportive of the project. (Others who supported the path included Larry Hyslop, Dan Broockmann, and the Elko Bike Club.) It is on the list of projects to be done in Elko County but is currently not assigned a high priority. We will continue to encourage NDOT to work on this.

Grants – All documentation for grants from 2018 due on June 30 were submitted on time to TravelNevada. These were for social media, Trail Days, billboards, and the NV Magazine and NV Visitors Guide. Documentation supporting expenditures for the infrastructure grant for the Hot Hole fencing and the manufacture of the NV-Oxbow Interpretive sign were also submitted by June 30. CTHA was also awarded grants in June 2019 for billboards, social media, and the NV Magazine and Visitors Guide. The work of Duane Jones and Marlene Goddard in the tracking and management of these accounts is greatly appreciated. We anticipate requesting another infrastructure grant in 2020 to finish the site interpretation.

Marketing Study – Duane Jones chaired a meeting with CTIC personnel to discuss implementation of the marketing plan developed by RAD, Inc. Responsibility for various action items were agreed to. CTHA is responsible for gathering information about ECVA electronic and paper calendars and about ECVA and Chamber of Commerce electronic signs. We also agreed to find out about advertising in movie theaters. Duane Jones has spearheaded this entire effort to review and enhance how we market the CTIC and the results are helpful. Efforts of TC staff to collect survey information and to make recommendations about marketing efforts have been a very important part of the process.

MET Mapping – All required reports were submitted to the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for MET mapping projects completed in 2018. ARPA permits for both agencies are still current this year. Helen has signed and mailed the Special Use Permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for this year’s work. The leadership and technical expertise Kevin Lee brought to the mapping efforts in 2018 were valued by all field participants and by the agencies.

New Board Members and Election of Officers – Two new members were voted onto the CTHA Board. They were Chuck Briggs and Lisa Dinwidde (of Lamoille). Chuck is a retired social studies teacher. Lisa is a retired nurse with a background in working with and leading community organizations. Helen Hankins and Duane Jones were re-elected to their respective positions of President and Vice-President. We look forward to their engagement with the work of the Alliance.

Website Upgrade – SiteSmart, a Las Vegas company, has been working with CTHA for about two months to create a new, professional, and current website for the Alliance. The CTHA has acquired the domains previously registered to James Engdahl. The work that Jim did in hosting and managing our website for a number of years is greatly appreciated. Work done by Krys Munzing in this regard is also acknowledged and valued. The new site is developed in WordPress. Trained CTHA members will be able to update photos and text on the site when it is completed. CTHA board members had the opportunity to provide input and comments on three occasions. Final approval to complete the project was given to SiteSmart on July 10, 2019.

- Helen Hankins, President



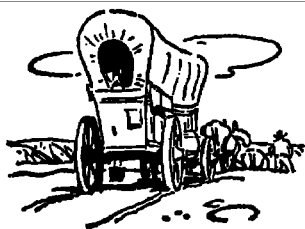


P.O. Box 1778  
Elko, Nevada 89803

Phone: 775.340.2031

Email: ctcfl849@gmail.com

[www.californiatrailheritagealliance.org](http://www.californiatrailheritagealliance.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 Supporter membership levels & above.

Level	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 Heritage Alliance, P.O. Box 1778, Elko NV 89803**

## DONOR WALL

IN ADDITION TO BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL HERITAGE ALLIANCE, INDIVIDUALS OR BUSINESSES MAY ALSO MAKE A DONATION TO THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL HERITAGE ALLIANCE 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 HERITAGE ALLIANCE P.O. Box 1778, ELKO, NEVADA 89803

775.340.2031 ❖ ctcfl849@gmail.com ❖ [www.californiatrailheritagealliance.org](http://www.californiatrailheritagealliance.org)