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## Oregon-California Trails Association Newsletter

Monthly E-Newsletter

March 2010

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*In Pursuit of a Dream* selected to appear at the  
Boston International Film Festival



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OCTA was notified this week that *In Pursuit of a Dream* was one of 100 movies, and one of only 26 feature films, selected to be screened at the prestigious Boston International Film Festival. OCTA's movie beat out 2,500 other movies for this honor. The showing will be at 4:30 PM on Monday, April 19 at the Loews AMC Theater, which is located right on the famed Boston Common. We expect director Bob Noll (a Boston resident) and the movie's Massachusetts-based cast members to be on hand for the Q&A session that will follow the screening. Tickets are \$10 for the general public and can be purchased in four ways:

- (1) Directly online at [www.bifilmfestival.com](http://www.bifilmfestival.com). On the schedule page choose **AMC Online Ticket Sales**
- (2) By calling **AMC/Loews Theater** at **1-888-262-4386**
- (3) By calling **BIFF** directly at **1-617-482-3900**
- (4) At the **BIFF office**, 101 Tremont St. suite 707, Boston, MA 02108, during regular business hours
- (5) At the **AMC/Loews Theater** 175 Tremont St. Boston, MA 02108

*In Pursuit of a Dream* will be screened this Thursday, March 11 at Hollywood's Raleigh Theaters at 3:30 PM as part of the International Family Film Festival. On hand for the Q&A afterward will be star teacher Dave Vixie and star student Brian Larson as well as producer/writer Candy Moulton. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 at [the festival website](#).

Also that day, the movie will show at the Midwest Theater in Scottsbluff, Nebraska on Thursday, March 11, at 7:15 PM. There is a \$2 suggested donation at the door, with all

proceeds going to OCTA. Sponsored by the North Platte Valley Museum, Scotts Bluff National Monument, and the Gering Convention & Visitors Bureau, the movie will also have a showing at 12:30 PM. Local school-children are invited to attend for free, and hundreds of students and their teachers are already registered. Appearing at both screenings will be two of the movie's stars, teachers Janet Wragge and Kim Merchant from Casper, Wyoming. For more information, visit the [Nebraska Arts website](#).

On Saturday, March 13 the movie will show as part of our Northwest Chapter's annual meeting, which will be held at the Oregon City United Methodist Church, located at 18955 South End Road. Activities will include the annual meeting, a buffet lunch, a program, and a silent auction and raffle. The meeting will convene at 10:00 AM, but Chapter President Jim Tompkins encourages you to come as early as 9:00 AM to socialize and bring in raffle items before the meeting starts. The raffle is always a great success, and there will also be a silent auction. They ask that you bundle issues of the same title of journals or magazines together. The annual business meeting will be from 10:00 AM until noon, followed by a buffet lunch. The program will be a showing of the movie and will begin at 1:00 PM.

The Northwest Chapter will have a public showing of *In Pursuit of a Dream* on April 10, again in Oregon City. The movie will be shown at the Oregon City High School and tickets are \$15. All proceeds will benefit the Clackamas County Historical Society. More details on this showing and others will appear in future issues of the e-newsletter.

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### **NBC Debuts Genealogy Show *Who Do You Think You Are?***

Last week, NBC debuted *Who Do You Think You Are?*, a program that tracks down the ancestry of celebrities. The first seven episodes will feature Susan Surandon, Brooke Shields, Spike Lee, Lisa Kudrow, Matthew Broderick, Emmitt Smith, and Sarah Jessica Parker. The first episode featured Parker, who learned that she was the descendent of a California Trail emigrant who left Ohio for California in 1849 and disappeared from family history. In [this episode](#), she learns what became of this long-lost ancestor. The part about the '49er begins about 10 minutes in, and later, she learns that she's also a descendent of a woman put to death during the Salem witch trials.

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### **Long-Time National Park Service Employee Kay Threlkeld Retires**

Kay Threlkeld, who was one of the very first employees of the Long Distance Trails Office in Salt Lake City, retired in February and is now embarking on a round-the-world year-long cruise. Many in OCTA developed lifelong relationships with Kay, and she wanted to make certain that her friends could stay in touch with her while she sails the seven seas. [Follow Kay on her](#)

[blog](#) or email her at [kay\\_threlkeld@yahoo.com](mailto:kay_threlkeld@yahoo.com).

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### **Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter President Camille Bradford to Speak at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.**

Camille Bradford, President of the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter, will be speaking at the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC on Saturday, April 10 in connection with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Pony Express. The topic of Camille's presentation is: *The Pony Express Diamond Jubilee: Revisiting the Excitement of the 1935 Re-ride*. The following information about her presentation appears on the Museum's website:

During the Great Depression, the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Pony Express captivated public attention. Boy Scouts carried mail along the trail route and presented it to President Roosevelt, who said "This is something fine to add to my stamp collection." This lecture includes photographs and film clips from the Howard R. Driggs Archive at Southern Utah University that capture the excitement of the historic rerun. Driggs, a historian, was president of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association, which sponsored the Diamond Jubilee. Today's speaker Camille Bradford, an attorney in Denver, Colorado, is the stepdaughter of Howard R. Driggs and founder of the Howard R. Driggs Memorial Foundation. After the talk, explore the *Pony Express: Romance vs. Reality* exhibition!

This presentation will be on a live webcast, beginning at noon Eastern time on April 10. Information on how to access the webcast is on the [museum website](#) (scroll down to April 10).

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### **Pulitzer-Prize Winning Author Dr. Daniel Walker Howe to Speak at Southern Utah University's Howard R. Driggs Memorial Lecture Series**

The Howard R. Driggs Memorial Foundation, established by Cherokee-Colorado Trail Chapter President Camille Bradford, is a sponsor of the Howard R. Driggs Memorial Lecture Series at Southern Utah University. The first lecture was given last year by Michael Leavitt, former Governor of Utah and member of the Cabinet of President George W. Bush.

This year's lecture will take place on the SUU campus in Cedar City, Utah on March 24 and will be given by Dr. Daniel Walker Howe who won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize in History for his book, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*. The topic of Dr. Howe's lecture is: *The Communications Revolution in 19th Century America and Its Consequences*.

This lecture will be on a live webcast beginning at 7:00 PM (MT) on March 24. Further information on the lecture and how to access the webcast is on the [SUU website](#).

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### **Help the Discovery Trails Program Win a \$50,000 Grant From Pepsi**

Many of you are familiar with the incredible work Eleanor Craig of Kansas City, Kansas does with the Discovery Trails Program. For many years, she's been taking blind teenagers out on our nation's historic trails, and was recognized by the White House for her efforts last year. The

program is in the running for a \$50,000 grant from Pepsi. Helping them win could never be easier.

Here's what to do:

1. Go to <http://refresheverything.com>
2. Using the search spot in the upper right corner, search for "blind teens"
3. The Discovery Trails Program is probably the first on the list under "get blind teens together with Indians..."
4. Click on the "Vote For This Idea" button on the right--the first day you do this, you will be asked to create an ID; after the first day, you will be asked to sign in.
5. Once you sign in, don't forget to cast your vote! After your vote registers, the right hand column suggests ways to send the info to lists on your Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Thank you for voting and getting every person you have ever met to vote too! Planning for the 2010 Discovery Trails trek, with its focus on Indian youth and the teens in the Discovery Trails Program, is well underway.

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### **Registration Materials for Elko, Nevada Convention Coming Soon**

Jan Petersen and the planning committee for the 2010 Elko convention are hard at work finalizing the details for OCTA's 28th Annual Convention. Set for Wednesday, August 11 through Saturday, August 14, the convention's headquarters will be at the Elko Convention Center, located at 700 Moren Way. The nearby Red Lion Hotel will be the convention hotel, and reservations can be made by contacting them at 775-738-2111.

Pre-convention tours are being planned from the west out of California and from the east out of Utah. The National Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10, and the popular Author's Night & Reception will be held that night. The General Membership Meeting will kick off the convention on Wednesday morning at 9 AM, and Keynote Speaker Don Hardesty from the University of Nevada-Reno will begin at 10:30 AM. Speakers and workshops will follow that afternoon. Workshops this year include digital photography, historic firearms, site stewardship, mapping, food on the trail, and trail dress. OCTA's annual Awards Dinner will close out day one of the convention.

Tours will be held on Thursday, August 12 and Saturday, August 14. Bus tours are planned for Wells/Ruby Valley, Gravelly Ford/Humboldt Highroad, the Newmont Mine, and Turcarora, with hiking tours planned from Lamoille Canyon to Island Lake and along the Greenhorn Cutoff. Tours of downtown Elko and 1,000 Springs are planned for Saturday only.

Friday, August 13 will feature more excellent speakers and the John Sparks Chautauqua that night at the Great Basin College Amphitheater. After the tours conclude on Saturday, the convention will close with a night at the newest BLM California Trail Center located just west of town. Entertainer Marilee Wright and Senator Harry Reid are the night's special invited guests.

If you're an OCTA member, watch for registration materials in your mailbox next month. If

you're not a member and would like to receive materials, email us at [octa@octa-trails.org](mailto:octa@octa-trails.org) to have your name added to the mailing list. We'll also be alerting you via our e-newsletter when the online registration is launched.

See you in Elko!

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## **GOODALE'S CUTOFF AND TIM GOODALE HISTORY WORKSHOP**

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Baker, OR, June 18-20,  
2010: Goodale wagon train's 1862 hand-built trail, up Road Canyon from  
Brownlee, Oregon

This trail tour-workshop will focus upon the western-most, last 55 miles of Goodale's Cutoff, from a ferry site on the Snake River at Brownlee, Oregon, to the Baker Valley and the mining town of Auburn, Oregon. The route, a cutoff connector of the Oregon Trail system which began at a Boise River site that became Boise, Idaho, was a new built trail by Tim's slow moving wagon train of about 70 wagons in, the fall of 1862. The Oregon portion of the trail became a two-way connector for several years from Oregon Trail alternates and mining roads in Idaho to a main Oregon Trail junction with that trail under the southern side of Flagstaff Hill, Oregon, site of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. That center is the location of the June workshop. Tim's first road became the main route from the Eagle and Pine Valleys to the Baker Valley, across Oregon.

Schedule: Friday through Sunday

Friday, June 18 - Private vehicle tour, Brownlee west

Friday, self lunches and water for tour-ten vehicle limit.

Saturday, June 19 - 8:00-Noon, van tour of Ruckles Creek

On Saturday, box lunches and water supplied with the tour fee. The overall workshop fee will give access to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center for self-tours at any time during the three days.

12:40-5:00 PM - Workshop/presentations

7:00 PM - Supper at the wagon park

Sunday, June 20 - 8:00-Noon Presentations

Speakers: Fred Dykes, Will Bagley, Jack & Pat Fletcher, Dave Welch, Jere Krakow, and Jim McGill.

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New Tim Goodale books available through [OCTA](#) for only \$24.95.

For more information, contact Jim McGill at 208 467 4853 or [jwmcgill@cablone.net](mailto:jwmcgill@cablone.net).

The workshop includes a one-day tour of the eastern-most part of the trail, a half-day van tour of the Ruckles Creek area swales, and two half-days of Goodale trail information/history. OCTA scholars will present on various topics.

- 1) Early Goodale trail research and discoveries,
- 2) Tim Goodale in Colorado,
- 3) Tim's work with the military and ranching at South Pass,
- 4)

finding and mapping the cutoff route across Oregon, 5) the present NPS study of Goodales Cutoff and 6) a two-hour trail preservation workshop. A trail visit and voluntary partial hike during the Saturday Ruckles Creek Van tour could help prepare participants for the preservation workshop and trail remnant swales, and trail identification and classification.

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## Special Offer!

From now through the end of March, we are pleased to offer two of our more popular titles for a significant discount. "Graves and Sites on the Oregon and California Trails" by Randy Brown and Reg Duffin normally retails for \$17.95, but we're offering it for \$5 through March 31. We're also offering the paperback version of Randy Brown's "Historic Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails," which normally retails for \$29.95, for only \$10. To take advantage of this incredible offer, simply call us toll free at (888) 811-6282. This offer is valid for phone orders only.

**Offer Expires: March 31, 2010**

Oregon-California Trails Association, 524 S. Osage St., Independence, MO 64050

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