

# OCTA NATIONAL CONVENTIONS SPONSORED BY TRAILS HEAD



*1983 (before Trails Head was formed)*

Independence, MO; Barbara Magerl, of Overland Park, chaired  
before Trails Head Chapter was formed

August 18-21, 1983, 1st OCTA convention

Headquartered at Roger T. Sermon Convention Center, on Noland Rd. in Independence, MO The OCTA founders wanted to hold the first OCTA convention in Independence, Missouri. Gregory Franzwa, one of those founders, convinced Barbara Magerl, then president of the Heritage League of Greater Kansas City, to be the organizer of that first convention.

The convention began with an evening reception at the then newly restored Bingham-Waggoner House. Eighteen speakers gave talks in one-and-a-half days of lectures and at a luncheon. The evening banquet was at the Adams Mark Hotel. One tour was an afternoon trek that extended into the evening, and another tour spanned a full day.

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After half a day of talks, the local bus tour began at Wayne City Landing for the dedication of a marker. The tour then followed the Independence Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California trails through Independence, and proceeded to Cave Spring Interpretive Center, to the Red Bridge swales, and to New Santa Fe. The trekkers then proceeded north on State Line Road and jogged west to Shawnee Indian Mission for a picnic on the lawn. The Harris-Kearney House in Westport was the next stop. Then conventioners could walk around Westport shops for the evening. On the last day of the convention, a nine-hour bus tour followed the Oregon-California trail to sites in north-central Kansas, first for a picnic lunch in the area of Red Vermillion Crossing, the Big Elm, and Vieux Cemetery, before moving on to Alcove Spring.

A promotional article titled “The First Annual OCTA Convention: INDEPENDENCE HO!”, by Gregory Franzwa, can be accessed in the OCTA publication, *Overland Journal*, July 1983 (Volume 1, Number 1), pp. 24-29.