

## TRAILS HEAD HISTORY PART #4 - 1996 THROUGH 2000

### 1996

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

On **January 25**, a Trails Head Executive Committee meeting was held with Ross and **Jana Marshall, John Leamon, Mary Conrad** and **Jim Budde** present.

**Mary** had asked **Niel Johnson** and **Harold Smith** to interview the founding members to preserve the history of the chapter. Data forms will be sent to the founders and interviews will take place during 1996.

Among the schedule of events for the year, the planners discussed two treks – April 20 and in September or October. They also discussed a National Trails Day celebration June 6 at Lone Elm and the annual meeting in November.

**Treasurer Jim** reported \$1756.92 in the chapter account.

A possible OCTA convention in Kansas City in 2000 was discussed. A meeting was set for **February 10 at 9:00 a.m. at Budde's house** to consider this issue. **Jim, Mary, John** and **Ross** will head the steering committee. The first convention in 1983 was held in Independence with upwards of 200 in attendance.

**Ross** will work on the wording for the Red Bridge marker and report back.

The chapter Heritage League annual dues need to be submitted.

#### **JOINT MEETING WITH MRO**

A joint meeting of SFTA Missouri River Outfitters Chapter and Trails Head Chapter was held at the National Frontier Trails Center on **February 18**. **MRO President Anne Carter** and **Trails Head President Mary Conrad** welcomed the 26 attendees.

**Jane Mallinson**, Anne's mother, is MRO Vice President and she introduced **Pat Short**, who happens to be her sister-in-law. **Pat** talked about the research she has been doing on her house which was built in the 1840s and has housed several prominent families. The first resident was the slave overseer for Jabez Smith, who became a very prominent landowner in the Independence area and was involved in trade on various western trails. **Pat** spoke on Smith's business activities and leadership in the area until his death in 1855.

#### **CHAPTER MEETING**

On **February 22**, a Trails Head meeting with about a dozen in attendance was held at the National Frontier Trails Center at **7:00 p.m.** **Ann Reinert** spoke about "Women on the Trail" using Kenneth Holmes' eleven-volume series entitled *Covered Wagon Women* as her source.

**Ann** is a reference librarian at the Mid-Continent North Independence Public Library. Her great-grandfather arrived in Nebraska in 1863 and soon owned a mill on the Nebraska City cutoff.

After her presentation, a lively discussion about the role of 19<sup>th</sup> Century women followed.

#### **OCTA MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING**

OCTA had its Mid-year Board Meeting at the Pony Express Memorial Museum in St. Joseph on **March 22-23**.

Trails Head Chapter steering committee presented chapter proposal to host the national convention in August of 2000. The committee consists of **Jim Budde, Mary Conrad, John Leamon** and **Ross Marshall**. **Barbara Magerl** joined the committee a few weeks later.

During the mid-year OCTA board meeting OCTA approved the new Kanza Chapter whose territory will be the three counties in northern Kansas (Washington, Marshall and Pottawatomie) beginning at the Red Vermillion crossing.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Trails Head Executive Committee meeting was held **April 4** at the Marshall home.

Attendees planned to host the fourth night of the 42-day celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. **Barbara Magerl** and **Ross Marshall** planned the event.

**Ross** reported on an event scheduled for **9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 27** at Rock Crossing Park at 103<sup>rd</sup> and Pflumm in Lenexa, sponsored by the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, Kansas City Metro Surveyors Association, Lenexa Historical Society and Lenexa Parks and Recreation. This was the Flat Rock Creek crossing of the Westport Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trail. The re-enactors surveyed 20½ chains eastward from 103<sup>rd</sup> and Pflumm to the exact location on the section line on 103<sup>rd</sup> Street as surveyed by the GLO in 1855.

In 1906 a DAR monument was placed at 105<sup>th</sup> and Pflumm, which has now been moved to a park location in downtown Lenexa because of apartment construction at the site.

**Mary** reported that **Harold Smith** and **Niel Johnson** have had a planning meeting about the interviews they are planning with early Trails Head members to preserve the chapter-history. **Mary** has prepared a questionnaire for interviewees to fill out.

## **AWARDS TO TEACHERS**

In **May, 1996**, Trails Head and the Missouri River Outfitters (MRO) of Santa Fe Trail Association presented joint certificates of appreciation to three Raytown teachers for developing trail curriculum and for leadership roles in promoting spring contests recognizing the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. **MRO President Anne Mallinson** presented these certificates to the following three Raytown teachers: **Debbie Boyles, Janie Heggam, and Carolyn Wren**. These certificates carried both chapter names and the signatures of both chapter presidents, **Mallinson** and **Trails Head President Mary Conrad**.

## **175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SANTA FE TRAIL**

On **June 6, 1996**, Trails Head sponsored the fourth night of a 42-day celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. Organized by the "The 42 Days on the Trail" Committee of the Kansas Historical Society, it began on **June 3** at Harmon Park in Prairie Village and concluded at Elkhart on **July 14** in far southwestern Kansas on the trail. Since the freight wagons averaged something like 15 miles per day, there will be a daily celebration as close to 15 miles apart as possible.

**Barbara Magerl** and **Ross Marshall**, the president of the Santa Fe Trail Association, planned the Lone Elm Campground event for **June 6**, the event's fourth day in the Greater Kansas City area. **Barbara** was the emcee of the event, held on 167<sup>th</sup> Street at the Cedar Creek Bridge just east of Lone Elm Road, south of Olathe, KS.

First, **Ross Marshall** spoke on the history of the Santa Fe Trail Association, and the SFTA goal to preserve significant sites like Lone Elm. The two keynote speakers for the evening were **Craig Crease** and **Arnold Schofield**, the senior historian at the Fort Scott Historic Site. **Craig**

said that William Becknell may well have camped here in 1821 and/or 1822 on his two trips to Santa Fe. He also said that the site was called Round Grove until its name became Lone Elm in 1844 to 1853. Elm Grove is on the Westport Route about 2½ miles north of Lone Elm Campground, but these names were confused by some people even in the nineteenth century. The DAR marked this Lone Elm Campground corner with one of its monuments in 1906.

**Arnold Schofield** discussed the relationship between the Santa Fe Trail and the military roads of the time, such as the road from Ft. Leavenworth to Ft. Scott and on to Ft. Gibson, and the road from Ft. Osage south to Harmony Mission, MO and on to Springfield. He also discussed the relationship of the cattle trails with the Santa Fe Trail.

Four signs were passed around: a picture of Round Grove (later Lone Elm) in 1840 from the great journal of William Fairholme, a map of the trails in Johnson County, and excerpts from the journals of George Sibley in 1827 and D. Jagger in 1849.

Many horses and riders were seen camped west of the 1996 Lone Elm celebration group. That evening, volunteers of the Missouri River Outfitters of SFTA, directed by Roger Slusher, handled all the parking.

### **TRAILS HEAD ORAL HISTORY**

**Harold Smith**, retired Park College Library director and archivist, and **Niel Johnson**, retired archivist of Truman Library, have begun collecting the oral history of Trails Head. To date they have interviewed **Barbara Magerl**, **Barbara Bernauer** and **John Leamon**. More interviews are planned. **Harold** and **Niel** also wish to begin to collect documents and photographs involving Trails Head so that a Trails Head archive can be established. Even though Trails Head is only ten years old, now is the time to collect information and materials. **Harold** and **Niel's** efforts are to be commended.

### **AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**

On **June 28, 1996**, **Trails Head President Mary Conrad** and **Missouri River Outfitters Treasurer Glenda Sours** presented joint awards on the back porch of the Mahaffie House during a pre-Bullwhacker Days concert. These joint certificates of appreciation had the names of both chapters and the signatures of both chapter presidents, **Conrad** and **MRO President Anne Carter Mallinson**. Four Olathe teachers received certificates of appreciation for developing trail curriculum and for their leadership roles in promoting spring contests to celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. These teachers included **Bill Oakley**, **Don Everhart**, **Susie Bridson**, and **Marilyn Peterson**.

Certificates of appreciation also were given to various Olathe entities that had developed a variety of 1996 activities to recognize the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. These included the following: Friends of the Mahaffie Farmstead, Olathe School District, Olathe Historical Society, City of Olathe, and **Marlene Natoli** of Olathe Parks & Recreation.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

On **July 2, 1996** a Trails Head Executive Committee meeting was held at **Budde's** house. Those present voted to continue the Annual History Day Awards for another year - \$50 for high school and \$25 for middle school.

The chapter planners authorized up to \$200 to the committee for the Oral History Project which is underway.

They approved a \$100 donation to the Merrill J. Mattes Memorial Library. Mattes was a key founder of OCTA and as a result of his recent death, the National Frontier Trails Center will be developing a Mattes Library.

[These planners discussed plans for the 2000 OCTA Convention which will be in Kansas City.](#)

## OCTA 1996 CONVENTION HELD IN ELKO, NV AUGUST 14-17

### TRAILS HEAD TREK XVII - October 5, 1996 – Ft. Lv. Military Road in Johnson County

Ticket cost - \$18

Using the Sunset Tours 47-passenger bus that **Jim Budde** and **Ross Marshall** secured for \$400, those gathered embarked from the K-Mart Store at Antioch and Shawnee Mission Parkway in Merriam. The trek went north on I-635 and west on State Avenue under the leadership of guides **Lee** and **Dorothy Kroh** and **Ross Marshall**.

The bus went southwest on Inland Drive along the south bank of the Kansas River. The modern trekkers soon came to Douglas Avenue and could see the Grinter House on the north bank of the river. The Ft. Leavenworth Military Road Crossing was about ¼ mile east of the Grinter House.

The Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association has placed about 150 Military Road signs, all under the leadership of **Lee** and **Dorothy**, from Ft. Leavenworth to the southern boundary of Johnson County at “hard points”, the locations where the 1855 GLO survey noted the Military Road crossed section lines.

At 71<sup>st</sup> Street, the bus came to the ghost town of Morris, which is very near the Military Road. The riders disembarked and talked about the town of Morris and saw some of the remaining buildings. **Dorothy** has researched deeply the history of Morris and is planning to write a book on it.

The bus continued southwest on Holliday Drive passing through the ghost town of Holliday. The tour then retreated back to 71<sup>st</sup> and went south on Woodend Drive along the Military Road and passed the Hart’s farm, where **Dorothy** grew up as their daughter.

The trekkers continued south and east to 6611 Woodend Avenue and saw a swale in the yard, which is in the right place to be the Military Road. The bus crossed 47<sup>th</sup> Street into Johnson County and continued south and west for about a mile and came onto McAnany Street that runs southeast on the Military Road. At Nieman Road and McAnany, the bus riders saw a monument with a Military Road plaque on it.

The bus turned south on Nieman, passing by West Flanders Park where the Military Road went through going southeast.

Entering Shawnee, the trekkers stopped at the City Hall to look at all the historical markers and murals about the early days of Shawnee and the Military Road.

The participants went to 59<sup>th</sup> Terrace just east of Nieman and visited the Shawnee Indian Cemetery, which still has some nineteenth-century stones and markers of Shawnee tribal members. The bus went by Gum Springs, about ¼ mile southeast of the Shawnee City Hall and followed the Road south and west ending up at Campbell Park on Turkey Creek in Merriam for lunch.

The trek then went south on Antioch from Shawnee Mission Parkway (63<sup>rd</sup> Street) and followed the route of the Military Road, ending up at 79<sup>th</sup> and Foster in Overland Park at the Strang Barn. It was built by William Strang to service his Strang Line rail line that went from

downtown Kansas City to this area to service the people that built early twentieth-century houses on his land, resulting in Overland Park.

The bus continued south and east to 87<sup>th</sup> and Nall, following the Military Road, passing the Military Road signs as had been encountered all day. Continuing on southeast, the bus ended up at Watts Mill on 103<sup>rd</sup> Street just east of State Line Road. The tour then went south on State Line Road to 123<sup>rd</sup> Street and east a block to New Santa Fe Cemetery. The Independence Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trail went by the cemetery and intersected the Military Road about ¼ mile to the southwest on the Kansas side.

The trekkers then returned to K-Mart to their cars.

### **TREK XVIII – Original Becknell Route - Independence to Kansas border – Oct. 12, 1996**

(This was NOT a Trails Head Trek, but was led by **Polly Fowler** and her son **Eric**). This Missouri River Outfitters trek went from the Independence area through Kansas City and on to Gardner. The Missouri River Outfitters newsletter prior to this trek said that they would be following the route that William Becknell likely followed in 1821. And it did with some discrepancies. (**Ross Marshall**-went on it, but does not remember all the details.)

### **ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING**

On **November 19, 1996, at 7:00 p.m.**, our annual chapter meeting was held at **Jim and Judy Budde's** house. **Jim Lee**, nominating committee chair, presented the slate and those present elected:

**President – Mary Conrad**

**Vice President – Jim Lee**

**Secretary – John Leamon**

**Treasurer – Judy Budde.**

**Tom McCutcheon**, the former secretary, resigned earlier this fall because he was moving to Wyoming.

## **1997**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

On **Tuesday evening, January 14**, a Trails Head Executive meeting was held at the **Budde** home. Those in attendance were **Jim and Judy Budde, Barbara and Howard Magerl, Ross and Jana Marshall, Jim Lee and Mary Conrad.**

Treasurer **Judy Budde** reported the bank account was \$1368.54.

**Mary** gave a report on the oral history project. **Harold Smith** and **Niel Johnson** have completed six interviews and they hope to finish the project this year.

**Barbara** reported on the book review series that has been planned. All will be held at 2:00 on Saturdays at different libraries. On **January 18**, **Niel Johnson** will review Stephen Ambrose's *Undaunted Courage* about Lewis and Clark at Trails West Library in Independence. **February 15**, **Bob Richmond** will review a book about missionaries in the Northwest at either Antioch Library or Central Resources Library in Johnson County. **March 22**, **Ann Reinert** will review a series on women and trails at Park College Library as she prepares for her new book.

**Ross** reported on his reply to **Mary Frye** at the National Park Service. Due to the lack of local sites related to the California Road in the NPS plan, **Ross** and others have been working on documenting some Westport sites and a list of a few local sites has been recommended for inclusion in the NPS plan.

**Ross Marshall** reported that he and **John Leamon** attempted to visit all trail markers along the entire route of the Santa Fe Trail, all in 1996, maybe missing one or two.

Several dates for future meetings were discussed.

Mary asked if Trails Head still wants to have a spring trek from Westport Landing to Westport as has been suggested. **Ross** suggested **John Leamon** be put in charge of planning the trek.

#### **FOUR CHAPTERS MEETING IN MARYSVILLE**

On **Sunday March 9**, the new Kanza Chapter hosted a four chapter joint meeting in Marysville, KS (Kanza, Trails Head, Gateway and Nebraska), at the Marysville National Guard Armory. **Jim Lee, Ross Marshall, Jim Budde** and **Mary Conrad** were in attendance. **Mary** donated a complete set of Trails Head *Tidings* newsletters back to the first issues in 1987, as a door prize.

#### **OCTA MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING**

When OCTA had its mid-year board meeting in Independence this spring, **President Jackie Lewin** asked Trails Head to provide an evening of entertainment, which the chapter did on **Saturday, March 22**. As a part of the schedule, **Bill Worley**, a professor of history at UMKC, gave a portrayal of Isaac McCoy, one of the early figures of Westport and Jackson County, which was well received.

#### **ANNUAL HISTORY DAY**

At the annual History Day competitions, **Barbara Magerl** and **Ross Marshall** were the judges for the four-county region on the Kansas side which was held **March 7** at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School. **Barbara** also was one of the judges on the Missouri side at Wornall House on **March 14**. The top winners proceed on to the state History Day of each state.

The Trails Head three judges were looking, of course, for writings that had to do with historic trails. There were many and the trail judges were able to find quality trail writings for the chapter rewards.

For the first time, Trails Head donated \$50 for a high school award and \$25 for a middle school award. The theme was "Tragedy and Triumph in History". Trails Head member **Mary Conrad** was the regional History Day coordinator at Shawnee Mission Northwest.

#### **ST. JOSEPH PLAQUE**

From **early 1997** into the summer, **President Mary Conrad** worked with E Clampus Vitus, an organization of Californians who are descendants of nineteenth-century California emigrants. E Clampus Vitus planned to place a plaque in Independence as a commemoration of the California Trail Sesquicentennial.

Sometime in the **summer of 1997**, the California organization decided to switch the location to St. Joseph when the California planners, in their opinion, found that more California emigrants likely went through St. Joseph than through Independence and Westport. E Clampus Vitus placed the plaque at the St. Joseph riverfront park in early 1999. **Conrad, Jim Budde, and John Leamon** attended the St. Joseph dedication as Trails Head representatives.

That plaque later was severely damaged during a flooding of the park and was not replaced.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A Trails Head Executive meeting was held at **Jim Lee's** house on **April 24**. In attendance were **Jim Lee, Ross and Jana Marshall, Harold Smith and Mary Conrad**.

**Ross** reported that **Craig Crease** has researched local trail sites that should be included as a contributor in the California National Historic Trail that was passed in 1992. **Ross** sent sites and documentation information to the National Park Service. Hopefully, these suggested sites will be included.

**Mary** said she had met with representatives of the NPS and various other groups interested in an interpretive marker at Minor Park. **Jim Budde** and **Ross** have also been working on it.

**Mary** gave a report on the Raytown Sesquicentennial Commission which is discussing a project for placing trail signs within the city limits of Raytown. **Walter Cook** represents Raytown Historical Society on the commission. **Mary** and **John Leamon** may attend the next meeting. Raytown has provided \$1000 in seed money for 20-25 signs. **Mary** said she would drop a note to **Kay Threlkeld** at NPS to let her know of this Raytown project.

**Ross** reported that he and **Barbara Magerl** are continuing to interview hotels to decide on a suitable location for the 2000 OCTA Convention. He hopes they will be able to finalize the decision in a month or two.

## TRAIL TREK XIX – April 26, 1997 – With Gateway Chapter in Independence

Gateway Chapter planned a half-day tour of Independence and invited Trails Head to join in. The afternoon began with the showing of an introductory film at the National Frontier Trails Center. This was followed by a self-guided tour of the museum.

**David Jackson**, a historian and part-time employee of the Center, gave a presentation about the history of the mill building, the development of the museum and the Merrill Mattes Library.

Part of the Trails Center building was originally a mill structure. The building was rebuilt after a fire in the 1880s. The rubble was pushed northwest of the building. This filled in a ravine and unfortunately covered a spring that emigrants and settlers had used. The mill was rebuilt in three different stages from the 1870s through the 1890s.

The Bingham-Wagoner Mill operated until lightning caused an explosion and fire in 1967. In the late 1980s, an effort to preserve the mill structure resulted in the National Frontier Trails Center being completed and opened in 1990. A theater and an exhibit hall had been added onto the remaining mill structure.

Then the group went next door to the OCTA headquarters building. **Jeanne Miller**, the director, introduced **Kathy Conway** and **Ardis Everett**, the other two employees. **Jeanne** gave a brief summary of the history of the headquarters and told what employees and volunteers do for OCTA members.

**Ross Marshall** then gave a brief overview of the history of Independence and the trails in the area. He also asked **Pauline Fowler** to join in the presentation.

Independence was platted in 1827 two years after the 1825 Treaty with the Osage Indians that gave access from the Fort Osage line to the western Missouri border. Liberty preceded it, being founded in the early 1820s. The Santa Fe Trail started in Franklin, Missouri in 1821 with the William Becknell journey to Santa Fe. This trail came by Fort Osage and swung westward near to where Independence was founded, before it turned south toward what became Blue Ridge Boulevard.

The four-car caravan then went north on Liberty Street and visited the Independence Landing site on the Missouri River. A plaque on a small monument was placed there during the first OCTA Convention, which was in Independence in 1983.

The next stop was in the parking lot just north of Main and Truman Road. Participants then took a walking tour of the Courthouse Square and looked at the Oregon and Santa Fe Trail markers plus other statues and markers.

The tour went two blocks east to the Brady Cabin which is just north of the Sermon Center where the 1983 OCTA Convention was held. A marker is there about the 1838 Trail of Death removal of some Potawatomi from Indiana to south of Osawatomie, KS.

Participants went south and west a couple of blocks to the corner of Kansas and Liberty Streets where they saw a DAR marker about the Weston Blacksmith Shop, perhaps the last of many blacksmith shops in Independence that helped make wagons for the trail traffic.

The last stop was at the Church of Christ Visitors Center near Walnut and River Boulevard, where many discussed the early Mormon history in Independence when 1200 or so Mormons came from the east in 1831 and greatly outnumbered the locals. The locals finally were able to run them out a couple of years later.

The caravan participants returned to the Trails Center to their vehicles.

### **TRAILS HEAD TREK XX – June 21, 1977 – Westport Landing to Westport**

Trails Head sponsored a bus tour from Westport Landing to Westport on **June 21**, a route which developed after John McCoy arranged for the first steamboat, the *John Hancock*, to land at the rock landing at the foot of Main Street in 1834.

He had built a trading post the year before in what he named Westport to trade with the Indians that received their annuities at about 45<sup>th</sup> and State Line Road, the location of the Ft. Leavenworth Indian Agency. The only place the Indians could buy anything was in Independence, so they made their way east on a diagonal line towards Independence. McCoy built his small building about a mile east of the state line on that trail, which is called Westport Road today.

The bus left Westport at **9:00 a.m.** and headed north to Andrew Drips Park at 16<sup>th</sup> Street about a block west of Summit Street. It was the first park in Kansas City.

Next stop was at Lewis and Clark Point at 8<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson. Participants did a walking tour of the point, read all the markers and looked down at Kaw Point, the Missouri River and the River Market area near the location of Westport Landing next to the river.

From there, the modern trekkers headed south on Grand Avenue to Penn Valley Park and had lunch there.

The trekkers walked around the Liberty Memorial and stopped at the Santa Fe Trail plaque near St. Mary's Church on Memorial Drive. Then they went east a block to the Union Cemetery and did a walking tour.

Participants also did a walking tour of Westport and got an inside tour of Kelly's Bar (built in 1850 and sold in 1854 to Albert Gallatin Boone, grandson of Daniel Boone). The tour was given by "Jersey Bob", a bartender at Kelly's. The walkers passed by the Jim Bridger building just west of it and also the locations of Daniel Yoachim's Tavern, Allan Ward's Mill and some other sites.

The tour ended at 3:00 at the Westport Shopping Center.



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On June 24, 1997, Trails Head held an Executive meeting at **Jim Lee's** House with **Jim Budde, Jim Lee, Mary Conrad** and **Ross Marshall** in attendance.

The Lone Elm marking possibilities were discussed. **Barbara Magerl** is the point person with **Mrs. Willsey**, who is now the sole owner of the property. The threat of a housing development is troubling. The **NPS Superintendent David Gaines** thinks five acres would be sufficient for a mini-park. Time will tell.

**Jim Budde** attended the Raytown meeting and suggested Raytown again use little wagon signs like the Boy Scouts put up years ago. **Walter Cook** was there also and suggested only one trail name be put on the signs – Santa Fe Trail, instead of all three names.

Those present approved a \$200 donation to KCAHTA to help with its map project. KCAHTA is hoping to print 5000 maps at a cost of \$12,000. Trails Head asked for 20 courtesy copies.

Nothing new on the Minor Park signage plan.

Submitting a list of California Trail sites to be included in the National Trail needs to be completed. **Craig Crease, John Leamon** and **Ross Marshall** will meet at **Lee Kroh's** house to complete this project by the time of this year's OCTA Convention.

**Ross** reported an agreement with Adams Mark Hotel has been signed and his committee will be meeting with nearby motels for rates also.

**Ross** proposed a convention theme and naming meeting at a neutral location in September. **Mary** will make arrangements with Plaza Public Library.

## OCTA 1997 CONVENTION HELD IN POCATELLO, IDAHO

### CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On September 6, 1997, Trails Head held a meeting on the first floor of the Plaza Library, 4801 Main Street, to advance the planning for the Greater Kansas City OCTA Convention 2000 to be held in Kansas City. Only three were present: **Jim Budde, Ross Marshall** and **Mary Conrad**.

The planning committee consists of **Chair Ross Marshall, John Leamon, Mary Conrad, Jim Budde** and **Barbara Magerl**.

Just a couple of months ago, Trails Head planners signed an agreement with Adam's Mark Hotel at I-70 and Blue Ridge Cutoff.

Those present discussed at length what will be the theme and name of the convention. Everyone all agreed it needs to mention the Missouri River because without the river and especially the bend in it, the trails would not have started here and Kansas City may not even have existed!

Planners discussed many other topics such as how many tours and where, the number of events and what day they should be held, number and kinds of workshops, possible speakers, training tour guides, script writers, publicity, registration, etc. Everyone discussed names of possible committee chairs for all the above.

**Ross** said he would start a monthly newsletter (Vol 1 - #1) that would be mailed to about a dozen of our key people plus a handful of organizations like OCTA Headquarters.

A lot of decisions still need to be made. But it was a good starting meeting.

Trails Head, especially **Jim Budde** and **Ross Marshall**, has been working on research and plans for an interpretive marker at Minor Park that has a significant Independence Route swale in it. That would be a key project to complete in time for 2000 OCTA Convention bus tours.

## KCAHTA HISTORIC FRONTIER TRAIL MAP

The fall of 1997, the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, in its second year of existence, has published a map entitled "Historic Frontier Trails Map". Essentially the work of **Lee** and **Dorothy Kroh**, founders of KCAHTA, the General Land Office surveys of 1855-56 were the key sources of the trail routes and locations.

The map is of Johnson, Wyandotte and Leavenworth Counties and shows the Independence and Westport Routes of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trails, the California Road and the Ft. Leavenworth-Ft. Scott Military Road.

The two-sided large folding map sells for \$8.50 each and is perhaps one of the most accurate trails map you will ever see.

Trails Head has donated \$200 toward it and **Ross** brought 20 copies of the new map for chapter use and gave them to **Mary** and **Jim**, to distribute and/or sell.

## TRAILS HEAD ORAL HISTORY

The Trails Head Oral History Project that **Niel Johnson** and **Harold Smith** have been working on has now been completed after two years.

The first videotape interview was by **Barbara Magerl** on **July 23, 1996**, followed by nine more by **May 29, 1997**. (**Barbara** also did a second interview in **May, 1997**.) The total cost including mileages was \$147.61, less than planners had estimated.

The other nine that were interviewed by **Niel** and **Harold** were: **Barbara Bernauer, John Leamon, Duke Sumonia, James Budde, Rich Nolf, Pauline Fowler, Dr. James Lee, Ross Marshall** and **Sylvia Mooney**.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Trails Head Executive Committee meeting was held **October 23, 1997** at **Jim** and **Judy Budde's** house. Present were **Jim** and **Judy**, **Mary Conrad**, **Jim Lee**, **Ross** and **Jana Marshall**, and **Elaine McNabney**.

The early preparations by the Steering Committee for the OCTA 2000 Convention, which was formed last year, were summarized by **Ross**, the Chair. Others on the committee, which is now called the Convention 2000 Committee are **Mary Conrad**, **Jim Budde**, **John Leamon** and **Barbara Magerl**. Convention planners have signed a contract with Adams Mark Hotel. But there is a lot left to do, so a committee meeting was scheduled for **Saturday, January 24 at 9:30 a.m.** at the Plaza Library. All chapter members are welcome to attend because everyone is going to be needed sooner or later!

Concerning the continued planning for an interpretive marker in Minor Park, a meeting has been scheduled by **Ross** and **Mary** with the Kansas City Parks and Recreation at the Swope Park office, which has been organized by **John Conoboy** of the National Park Service.

The second Convention 2000 newsletter by **Ross** (Vol.1 – #2) was mailed in October, 1997.

## ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING

The Trails Head Annual Meeting was held on **November 25 at 6:45 p.m.** at West Wyandotte Public Library on 82<sup>nd</sup> between State Avenue and Parallel.

Trails Head member **Jim Lee** was the speaker on "The Union Depot", which was the predecessor, in the West Bottoms industrial area, of the 1914 Union Station. Kansas City, in the center of the nation, was a key rail center from right after the Civil War.

The Kansas City railroads were basically built alongside the Missouri River on the flat ground and the depot was built in the West Bottoms. In 1869 a horse-drawn railroad was built to Westport. In the early 1870s a rail line was extended into Kansas City, Kansas from the depot.

The Hannibal Bridge was built in 1869 and dedicated on July 3, and Kansas City could claim to have a direct rail connection to the industrial Northeast. The Bridge was a huge asset!

The first depot was replaced with a new one in the West Bottoms in 1878. An inclined tunnel was built up to Washington Street in Kansas City, but it was too steep and was replaced with one to near Broadway.

After the disastrous flood in 1903, which damaged the depot, a new Union Station Depot was planned and completed in 1914 at Main Street and Pershing Road. It still functions today.

The nominating committee, chaired by **Jim Lee** nominated the following who were elected:

**President – Judy Budde**  
**Vice President - Jim Lee**  
**Treasurer – Jim Budde**  
**Secretary – John Leamon**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

On **December 2**, chapter planners had another Executive meeting at **Budde's** house at **7:00 p.m.** The **Budde's** and **Mary Conrad** and **Ross Marshall** were present.

Those present discussed that a review of Trails Head bylaws was probably needed on a couple of items.

**Ross** mentioned he is looking into the possibility of creating a chapter webpage.

Attendees planned calendar dates for 1998 such as an Archives tour event **February 21**, three tours and Annual Trails Head meeting **November 17**.

The chapter currently has \$1317.34 in the treasury. Trails Head has 56 paid memberships.

## **1998**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

On **January 6**, Trails Head had the first Executive Committee in 1998 at **Budde's** house. Present were **Jim** and **Judy**, **Jim Lee**, **Barbara Magerl** and **Ross Marshall**.

After discussion, those present voted to follow the policies of the new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Attendees scheduled a chapter meeting at **Jim Lee's** house **February 10 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Barbara** has arranged a tour of the National Archives on Bannister Road as a chapter event on **February 21**.

**Ross** is working on a tour to Fort Leavenworth for the spring and will report later on it. He also reminded us of the Convention 2000 Committee meeting on January 30. Ross mentioned that Trails Head members need to be submitting nominations for OCTA national awards so that some local people will get some national recognition.

Trails Head planners discussed the possibility of having a meeting at the Trails Center **April 14** and the possibility of having a National Trails Day event **June 6**.

### **MEMBER DEATHS AND SURGERIES**

On **January 25**, Trails Head member **Art Ayres** passed away. His wife **Ruth** is a former Trails Head secretary.

Last November, **Tom McCutcheon** had surgery. **John Leamon** had a benign tumor removed from behind one eye. In February, **Pauline Fowler** had triple-bypass surgery. At the end of February, **Jim Budde** returned home after over six weeks in the hospital.

### CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

The second Convention 2000 meeting was **January 30, 1998** at the Plaza Library. The meeting had a good turnout and attendees talked about the schedule of events and details of the two key tours – Westport Route and the Independence Route. Convention planners are still discussing the convention theme title. The second newsletter (Vol 2 - #1) will be forthcoming (mailed **February 7**). Good meeting!

### CHAPTER MEETING

On the morning of **February 21**, Trails Head sponsored a tour of the regional National Archives on East Bannister Road. President **Judy Budde** was absent, being at home with **Jim** who is now home from the hospital after a serious illness. **Barbara Magerl** welcomed everyone and introduced staff member **Mark Corrison**, who showed maps and charts plus archival information on Robert E. Lee, Bill Cody, Merrill Mattes and Ft. Laramie National Park Service site. Participants then took a tour of the facility. After the tour, everyone went to lunch at the Old Country Buffet on Bannister Road. About a dozen people attended the event.

### CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On **Saturday, February 28, 1998** the chapter held a Convention 2000 meeting at UMKC University Center with 8 people in attendance. Those present discussed some additional all-day bus tours, some committee chair ideas, possible speakers, and maybe securing a good room rate at the nearby Drury Inn for ~~our~~ attendees. Up to this point, 19 different people have attended convention planning meetings! Vol.2 - #2 newsletter will be out shortly.

### ANNUAL HISTORY DAY

The annual regional History Day was on **March 7** for the Kansas side (four counties) at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School and **March 14** for the Missouri side (seven counties) at Blue River Community College. At these two events, Trails Head sponsored cash awards for the best entries related to historic trails.

**Judy Budde, James Lee** and **Barbara Magerl** represented Trails Head and gave \$25 awards to Lee Heather for an exhibit entitled “Westward on the Oregon Trail” and to Meghan Dunleavy for her individual performance of “Donner Party, Tragedy in the Sierras”.

On the Missouri side, **Judy Budde** and **Barbara Magerl** presented a \$30 award to Sara Boatright for a paper entitled “Trail of Tears: The Cherokee Removal”, and a \$30 award shared by Zach Wood, Matt Bohnert and Brandon Hamilton for a group project “Independence: Jumping Off Point on the Oregon Trail”.

There were 50 entries on the Kansas side and 34 on the Missouri side, many on historic trails. Trails Head member **Mary Conrad** was the regional History Day coordinator for the event on the Kansas side.

### CHAPTER MEETING

Trails Head held a General Membership meeting on **April 14 at 7:00 p.m.** at Avila College in its Helms Room in the Theater Building. Updates were presented on History Day Awards, the Fort Leavenworth Trek, 1998 OCTA Convention at Pendleton and the OCTA 2000 Convention.

The speaker was **Jim Lee** about the early railroads in Kansas City as he did on November 25 last year at the Annual Membership meeting.

### **TRAILS HEAD TREK XXI – April 25, 1998 to Fort Leavenworth**

On Saturday, **April 25, 1998** the Sunset Tours bus (cost \$290 –ticket price \$16) left K-Mart parking lot at Shawnee Mission Parkway and I-35 at **9:00 a.m.** The bus went west on the Parkway, north on I-435 and east on Highway 32 to Grinter House, for a picture stop only.

**Ross Marshall** was the guide along with help from **Lee Kroh**.

During the day, the tour touched the Westport Route (near K-Mart), Fort Leavenworth Military Road, Fort Leavenworth routes west and north to the Blue River and Kansas River toward Fort Riley.

The trek then went north on 78<sup>th</sup> Street, followed the Military Road to Highway 7 and went north. In Leavenworth, the bus went west on Eisenhower Street and north along the Military Road to downtown Leavenworth.

At **11:00** the modern trekkers stopped at Leavenworth Landing Park and read the historic markers there and walked along the Missouri River.

Fort Leavenworth is a jewel on the map of the westward movement of the American nation. It was founded in 1827, the oldest permanent fort west of the Missouri River. And it has been in continuous service ever since.

From there the bus drove through the downtown area and north on 7<sup>th</sup> to the Fort Leavenworth entrance. The tour proceeded north a mile or so and stopped for lunch at the Buffalo Soldiers Monument.

The bus then drove north a short distance and stopped at the Fort Museum for a 30-minute tour.

The tour then went east a short distance to the river overlook. Participants de-boarded and walked ¼ mile along some historic markers and the bluff. They re-boarded the bus and went north a half-mile on Scott Avenue to the Memorial Chapel and went inside for a brief tour.

The trekkers walked east down the hill alongside the large trail swale that comes up from where the river landing used to be. After reading the markers, they re-boarded and went around and up the hill and viewed the Disciplinary Barracks, the Parade Grounds and went west on Kearny Avenue and through the cemetery on the Military Road route which leaves the modern street and goes north and west to join up with the Oregon-California Trail.

The tour ended up at Eight-Mile House. The bus jogged west shortly and returned south on new Highway 73 back to Leavenworth and on home. Participants arrived at K-Mart at **3:00 p.m.**

### **LOU SCHUMACHER PASSES**

**Lou Schumacher** passed away at his home in Kansas City on **May 12**. A public memorial was held for him at Schumacher Park on 93<sup>rd</sup> Street. In his recent years, **Lou** worked on identifying the trail routes in the southeastern area of Kansas City. He donated the land for Schumacher Park to Kansas City Parks and Recreation just a few years ago. **Lou** had received the OCTA Friend of the Trail Award in addition to a number of other awards for his trails work.

## PAULINE FOWLER PASSES

On **June 13, 1998** Trails Head member **Pauline Fowler** passed away. Funeral services were held at the RLDS Stone Church in Independence. She had spent many years researching historic trails and worked in the Courthouse archives for many years. She had received many awards for her work in historical research.

## TRAILS HEAD ORAL HISTORY

The Oral History Interviews: The series of interviews were completed **May 29** to preserve the history of Trails Head since its beginning. The list of interviewed Trails Head founding members is below:

July 23, 1996	Barbara Magerl	NFTC - Scrapped & replaced 5/11/98
July 30, 1996	Barbara Bernauer	RLDS Archives
August 6, 1996	John Leamon	Park College
Sept. 25, 1996	Jim Budde	NFTC
Sept. 26, 1996	Duke Sumonia	Phone - Denver home
October 21, 1996	Rich Nolf	Phone - St. Jo home
January 30, 1997	Pauline Fowler	NFTC
Feb. 25, 1997	James Lee	NFTC
May 19, 1997	Ross Marshall	NFTC
May 11, 1998	Barbara Magerl (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	NFTC
May 29, 1998	Sylvia Mooney	NFTC

This effort will preserve Trails Head history after all our memories are gone! Thanks to **Harold Smith** and **Niel Johnson** for coordinating this effort.

## CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On **Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m.**, Trails Head gathered at the Santa Fe Trail Pavilion in Prairie Village, Kansas to discuss Convention 2000 planning, with members sharing desserts.

## WIEDUWILT SWALE

The well-known trail swale located at 85<sup>th</sup> and Manchester was bulldozed away in **June**. It was reported by **Walter Cook**, a local historian who lives nearby, who watched it happen and tried to stop it, but could not.

The Blue Ridge Baptist Church, the owner of the property with the swale, ordered the destruction of the swale as part of the re-contouring of the site in preparation for constructing a soccer field for the Blue Ridge Christian School, located at 8524 Blue Ridge Boulevard.

Trails Head had sent a letter of concern to the church council five years ago, explaining the historic value of the trail swale as part of the Independence Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trail.

The 120-foot swale is now gone, but an extension of it across Manchester Street still exists in the backyard of a home site which is for sale. The house is no longer there, only some steps and an outdoor fireplace remain.

**Ross Marshall** has had a call from **Gwen Holt**, the daughter of the lady that used to live there, who said the land is for sale and wondered if the trails community was interested in purchasing the trail site. Trails Head needs to support the individuals and organizations trying to save the property before that swale is gone.

## CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

Vol. 2 - #3 of the Convention 2000 newsletter was published **June 29** to the entire Trails Head Chapter announcing a resumption of convention planning meetings after about four months off. Many additional chapter members have indicated their desire to be involved.

On **Saturday, July 18, 1998** attendees held a Convention 2000 planning meeting at South Library at 201 W. 75<sup>th</sup> Street. This was the first meeting since **February 28** because of some personality conflicts. But those issues have been resolved. 20 members were in attendance!

**John Leamon** is now the chair of the Trail Trek Committee. **Craig Crease** will compile the script for the Westport Route tour and **Ross Marshall** will do it for the Independence Route tour. The theme "Beyond the Wide Missouri" was selected. **Finance Committee Chair Jim Budde** is preparing a budget before the next meeting.

**Mary Conrad** will chair a Speakers Committee. Vol 2 - #4 newsletter will be out shortly.

## OCTA 1998 CONVENTION

The 1998 OCTA Convention was held in Pendleton, Oregon on **August 12-15**. Trails Head member attendees were **Carl and Irene MacDonald, Ross and Jana Marshall, Tom McCutcheon, Kendall and Elaine McNabney, Larry Melton, Kalista Lehrer, Kathy Conway, Mary Conrad, David Cole, Arnold Cole, and Jim and Judy Budde**.

Among all the activities, Trails Head had a joint meeting with Gateway and KANZA Chapters, mostly because of a shortage of space.

One piece of news was that KANZA had secured a commitment from OCTA to have the 2003 Convention in Manhattan.

Considerable discussion was had about Convention 2000 hosted by Trails Head and assurances were expressed that Gateway and also KANZA would be available to help us with registration, hospitality, raffle sales, ticket takers, tour guides, etc. They will all learn a lot about the trails in Kansas City.

At the national board meeting the day before, chapters were asked to take inventories of trail markers in their areas and provide photos of them to OCTA. Trails Head already did that a few years ago, but a few have been added.

The joint meeting worked very well and provided some inter-chapter discussions that don't take place frequently.

## CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On **Saturday, August 29, 1998**, the Convention 2000 Committee met at Plaza Library at **9:00 a.m.** 16 people were present. Even though Trails Head has a lot of planning to do before the convention, convention planners have nearly two years to do it, which is comfortable.

Everyone reviewed ideas stemming from the Pendleton, Oregon OCTA Convention, held a couple of weeks ago. Convention attendees noticed the absence of workshops and those attendees want to emphasize Welcome Night.

**Speakers Committee Chair Mary Conrad** reported her committee met recently. **Finance Committee Chair Jim Budde** presented a pro-forma budget and some information about bus company bids.

**Ross** mentioned the need for a committee to generate advertising revenue, donations, grants, etc. **Chris Combest** and **Barbara Magerl** volunteered to do that. **Barbara** is also handling

public relations. **Dick Nelson** volunteered to handle the traditional Saturday night Barbeque. **Dorothy Kroh** volunteered to handle the food catering.

The Vol 2 - #5 newsletter will be out shortly.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On **Tuesday, September 1**, a Trails Head Executive Committee meeting was held at **Budde's** house with **Jim and Judy, Mary Conrad, Barbara Magerl, Ross and Jana Marshall, and John Leamon** present. The meeting was called to order at **7:10 p.m.**

Trails Head is out of Johnson County trail maps. **Barbara** will work with Janet Campbell at the **Johnson County Museum to get more printed.**

**Mary, Ross and Jim** continue to work on the marker Trails Head is planning at Minor Park, needed before the 2000 Convention.

**Ross reported** that the California National Historic Trail and Pony Express National Historic Trail had been passed by Congress. A Comprehensive Management Plan is being put together by the National Park Service and public hearings will be scheduled in **September** and early **October**. The CMP is available at most libraries.

**Jere Krakow** of NPS will be in Kansas City on **October 17**. More information later.

**Barbara Magerl** is chairing the nominating committee with **Ona Gieschen** and **Eva Allen** as members.

## CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On Saturday **October 10, 1998 at 9:00 a.m.** the Convention 2000 Committee met at South Library with 17 in attendance.

A review was made of the recent Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous in Larned, KS. Rendezvous attendees liked the plastic name tags with colored dots for each event and meal which would eliminate having separate tickets.

**Chris Combest** distributed copies of his artwork for a logo to support Convention 2000 theme. It showed a wagon leaving a river which would depict the theme of "Beyond the Wide Missouri".

**John Leamon, Trail Trek Committee Chair**, gave a report from his committee, consisting of **Lee Kroh, Craig Crease, Eric Fowler, Joe Kyner** and **Ross Marshall**. A proposed schedule is:

### Preconvention Bus Tours

Monday – Westport to Lawrence (California Road)

Tuesday – Fort Leavenworth

### Convention Bus Tours

Thursday and Saturday - Simultaneous buses - both the Independence & Westport Routes

**John Mark Lambertson** asked how to get people to the National Frontier Trails Center. We decided to hold the Welcome Night there, which would draw attention not only to the Center, but also to OCTA Headquarters, and to pay respect to Independence for its longtime assistance to OCTA with its rent-free HQ space. Also a chance to invite Independence dignitaries.

**Judy Budde, Chair of the Registration/Hospitality Committee**, reported on the services the committee will provide such as convention registration, signs and people to direct attendees, a bulletin board, raffle table, delivering bus tour lunches and distributing various KC information. Vol 2 - #6 newsletter will be out shortly.

## PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM WORKSHOP IN KC



The Partnership for the National Trails System held a Visioning Workshop, its first one, in Kansas City on **October 29 to November 1, 1998**. Kansas City is one of the few cities that has four National Historic Trails coursing through it. Representatives of 11 of the 12 National Historic Trails met for this first workshop.

The Workshop was coordinated by **Gary Werner**, who would soon become its Executive Director of the Partnership. The facilitator for the three days was **Baird Straughan** of the Institute for Conservative Leadership. Other speakers for the workshop were **David Gaines**, NPS Long Distance Trails Superintendent from Santa Fe, and **Susan Boyle** from the NPS Denver Service Center.

As part of the workshop, **Ross Marshall**, who handled the local arrangements for the workshop, guided a bus tour of Kansas City and Independence to visit various sites of the four National Historic Trails, including the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence which interprets these trails for the public.

The meeting was very successful and plans are already in place to meet again in **1999**.

### **CONVENTION 2000 MEETING**

On **Saturday, November 7, 1998 at 9:00 a.m.** the Greater Kansas City OCTA Convention 2000 Committee met at Plaza Library with 21 in attendance. **Vern Osborne** from the Kanza Chapter and Chair of the OCTA Convention 2003 Committee to be held in Manhattan, KS, attended this meeting.

Lots of reports were given and update discussions were held on many duties.

**Judy Budde, Chair of the Registration/Hospitality Committee**, reported she has enlisted 20 people to be on her committee.

**Barbara Magerl** volunteered to be the Awards Banquet Chair, as she did in at the 1983 Convention! Convention 2000 now has 11 committees and chairs.

### **ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING**

On **November 17** the Trails Head Annual Meeting was held at the Kansas School for the Blind in Kansas City, Kansas. **Barbara Magerl**, chair of the nominating committee, presented the following officer nominations for 1999 as follows:

**President – Judy Budde**  
**Vice President – Henry Boppart**  
**Secretary – Eva Allen**  
**Treasurer – Dick Nelson**

They were elected unanimously. Other members of the nominating committee were **Eva Allen, Eric Fowler, Ona Gieschen and Jim Lee**.

**Mary Conrad** has been working with **Andrea Sharon** of NPS on graphics for the wayside exhibit for Minor Park. **Anne Mallinson** representing Missouri River Outfitters and **Nancy Henning** of Historical Society of New Santa Fe also were on the Minor Park Committee working with the NPS.

**Eleanor Craig** spoke about a special trip which followed the Oregon Trail this summer. She showed slides during her talk.

**Eleanor** works for Accessible Arts, whose office is located at the Kansas School for the Blind. That agency utilizes the expressive arts of drama, sculpture, drawing, literature and music as a way of helping students with disabilities participate in experiences available to the general population.

In the early 1970s, **Eleanor** was a high school mathematics teacher when she took two trips on the Oregon Trail with students from Loretto High School. The former math teacher has continued to be fascinated with the trail, though she had not traveled it in the last 25 years.

A number of months ago she proposed an Oregon Trail trip to the superintendent of the School for the Blind. **William Doherty** liked the idea so much, he formed a committee within a week. As a result, four Kansas teens and four adults traveled 800 miles of the trail from June 26 to July 3. They turned around at Scotts Bluff, 20 miles short of the Wyoming border, and headed home. Everyone enjoyed her slide presentation of that trip on the Oregon Trail.

## CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On Saturday, December 5, 1998 at 9:00 a.m., the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee, met at Plaza Library. 10 members were present.

Those present approved the convention logo that had been designed by committee member **Chris Combest**. He has also offered to set up a website. He has also been working on some grants. **Ross** will write a letter to **Jere Krakow**, NPS Long Distance Trails Superintendent in Salt Lake City, requesting some help. **Jere** has indicated a willingness to consider such a request.

**John Mark Lambertson** reported that the City of Independence is developing a comprehensive plan for OCTA's presence in 2000. The Wednesday night Welcome Reception should be very successful.

**Jim Budde** is planning several workshops on everything from trail mapping to the NPS Challenge Cost Share process and **Mary Conrad** has a couple of new ideas as well.

**Mary** gave a report on speakers and said that she has worked on a 'big name' speaker.

Every facet of the convention was reviewed and many plans were advanced.

The planning process for the Convention 2000 is essentially on schedule and will be accelerating in the coming months. **Ross's** Vol 3 - #1 newsletter will be out shortly.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On December 9, the Executive Committee met at **Budde's** house with **Jim and Judy, Barbara Magerl, Eva Allen, Henry Boppert and Mary Conrad** in attendance. The major agenda was to talk about the 1999 event schedule, speakers, locations, treks, etc.

## 1999

### CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On Saturday, January 9 at 9:00 a.m., the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee meeting was held at Plaza Library. 15 were present, even though it was zero degrees!

**Mary Conrad, Speakers Committee Chair**, reported that she has sent a 'call for papers' to about 50 people and groups. She has asked for responses by September 1. Her committee will meet after this meeting adjourns.

**Dick Nelson, Chair of the Barbeque Committee**, has considered all the possibilities for the Saturday night Barbeque and recommended convention planners select the Arabia Steamboat Museum. Most every attendee would probably like to visit the Arabia and the museum is not open on Saturday night, so convention attendees we could have it all to themselves ourselves. Since the convention will have upwards of a half-dozen buses, planners will need to alternate tour groups, eating groups, gift shop visiting and strolling the Westport Landing area.

**Nelson** and his committee of **Eva Allen and Jim Budde** will present a cost summary so that the Convention 2000 Committee can approve it at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00. **Ross's** Vol. 3 - #2 newsletter will be out shortly.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

On **Saturday, January 23, 1998 at 1:00**, an Executive Committee planning meeting was held again at **Budde's** house, with **Jim and Judy, Eva Allen, Dick Nelson and Ross Marshall** in attendance.

The calendar for 1999 was reviewed again as well as the need for nominations for OCTA Board of Directors and national awards.

The good news was that the 85<sup>th</sup> and Manchester site, with the swale, now has a plan to preserve it. The Kansas City 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legacy Fund (in honor of 2000 being the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kansas City's official incorporation as City of Kansas) has granted the Cave Spring Interpretive Center at 8701 E. Gregory Blvd. \$10,000 toward the purchase of the site.

**Gwen Holt**, daughter of the deceased owner, has agreed to sell the site at a price of \$15,000. Cave Spring has agreed to purchase the site, and maintain it, if the additional \$5000 can be raised by **June 1**.

Those present set the date of **Saturday, May 1** for a bus tour from Westport Landing to St. Joseph. Dick Nelson will secure the bus and Dick will handle the ticket purchases.

## **TRAILS HEAD WEBSITE**

Trails Head will have a website as a result of Trails Head member **Chris Combest** creating a webpage. It now has five pages on the Convention 2000 plus a page on Trails Head in general. **Chris** is chair of the Convention 2000 Revenues Committee.

## **CONVENTION 2000 MEETING**

On **Saturday, February 6, 1999** the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee met at **9:00 a.m.** at Trails West Library in Independence. 21 people were in attendance. Everyone welcomed **OCTA HQ Manager Kathy Conway**, who attended convention planning for the first time.

A few minutes were taken to discuss the impact this convention will have on historic trails in the community as we conduct research, raise people's vision and receive much publicity and support. Everyone felt the excitement building!

**Speakers Committee Chair Mary Conrad** reported that she hasn't been able to secure a nationally known keynote speaker yet. But it is still early.

**Trail Trek Chair John Leamon** reported that his committee met on **January 23** and an all-day river landings tour beginning at Fort Osage and ending in St. Joseph was discussed and a full dry run will be conducted next Saturday. That would be the fifth all-day bus tour for the convention. John will have a completed tour schedule to present and the trek planners can begin to secure tour guides.

The Trek Committee will also prepare a detailed comprehensive tour guide book for all convention attendees.

**Barbeque Committee Chair Dick Nelson** and members **Eva Allen, Jim Budde and Ross Marshall** met and reviewed costs. A decision was made that the ticket ought to include both the Arabia tour and barbeque. A recent anonymous \$2000 donation was made, and with a ticket

price of \$22.00, the convention should have a good profit margin. **Dick** will continue to finalize the agreement with Arabia.

**Chair of Welcome Night John Mark Lambertson** reported that the Independence Mayor will be at Trails Center to welcome everyone. Everyone will be able to visit the entire site, as well as the Bingham-Waggoner House, refreshment tent, OCTA Headquarters, see the film “West”, etc.

Vol. 3 - #2 newsletter will be sent out.

## CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On **Saturday, March 20, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.**, the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee met at UMKC Nichols Library. Attending were 19 people that included an old friend **David Clapsaddle** from Larned, KS, a leader in the Santa Fe Trail Association.

Everyone affirmed the fact that the convention registration packet needs to be completed by early January next year, with all details about tours, speakers, activities, events, etc.

Those present voted to approve **Barbeque Committee Chair Dick Nelson’s** plan to enter into a contract with the Arabia for the Barbeque and Tour on Saturday night. The ticket price of \$22.00 should be okay, but that can be reviewed later.

**Trek Committee Chair John Leamon** was not present, but **Ross** distributed copies of John’s draft showing the schedule of all the tours for the week, with one or two tours each of the five days. He also announced that **John** has 23 committed volunteer tour guides, as well as several others still considering, who will be trained by **Ross** and also **Craig Crease** on many dry runs in the spring of 2000. Very good!

Chris Combest announced that the website is now ‘online’ at [www.trailshead.org](http://www.trailshead.org). It will stay online after the convention.

Registration and Hospitality Chair Judy Budde and Public Relations Chair Barbara Magerl will be spearheading the Convention 2000 promotion at the 2019 Convention in Chico, California.

Vol. 3 - #3 newsletter out soon.

## CHAPTER MEETING

On **March 30** at the Plaza Library, **Jennie Chinn**, Director of the Education/Outreach Division of the Kansas State Historical Society, spoke to Trails Head about education and historic trails.

New Kansas social studies standards, if adopted, would expect fourth grade students to:

1. Know of experiences of an explorer in Kansas before statehood, such as Lewis and Clark, Pike or Long.
2. Be able to compare and contrast the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails.
3. Know of different cultural groups on the Santa Fe and Oregon-California trails.
4. Know of the many hardships encountered on the Oregon-California trails.

And by the end of eighth grade, students will be expected to:

1. Be able to use diaries and journals of overlanders.
2. Be able to compare and contrast the views of the Kansas frontier held by the Indians and those held by the U.S. military.
3. Be able to describe the role of buffalo soldiers in the Kansas frontier and describe their impact on American Indian peoples.

**Jennie** thinks many teachers will be receptive to local, state and national organizations which will be able to provide appropriate resources.

## **OREGON TRAIL WAGON TRAIN**

Six covered wagons, each drawn by one team of the 10-team herd of horses, passed through Kansas City under the leadership of a modern-day pioneer **Morris Carter** and a crew of nine. They had left St. Charles, Missouri about two weeks earlier, embarking on their 2500 mile five-month journey on the California Trail.

They arrived here on **Thursday, April 1, 1999** and stopped that afternoon at the National Frontier Trails Center. On **Friday**, they will stop for lunch at the Rice-Tremonti House and will camp at Schumacher Park on both **Friday** and **Saturday** nights.

A breakfast for the wagon train was held at **8:30 a.m.** that was attended by a large crowd.

They departed **Sunday morning** and camped that night at Heritage Park at 168<sup>th</sup> and Pflumm Road in Olathe.

**Carter**, who provides historic expeditions from his home base in Wyoming, led a similar trek in 1993 to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oregon Trail.

## **CHAPTER MEETING**

On **Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.**, Trails Head sponsored a talk by **Kelly Kindscher** at the Shawnee Indian Mission at 53<sup>rd</sup> and Mission Road. **Kelly** is an assistant scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey at the University of Kansas.

His subject was the wide range of plants, flora and fauna used by Native Americans, trail travelers and traders during the Westward Movement. He reviewed in detail about 20 different plants, flowers, etc.

## **TRAILS HEAD TREK XX111 – May 1, 1999 – Kansas City to St. Joseph**

At **9:00 a.m.**, the bus (ticket price \$18) left the Downtown Airport parking lot. **Ross Marshall** was the guide, aided by **John Leamon**. Some of this tour will be used next year at the OCTA 2000 Convention.

The main theme of the tour was to visit the various Missouri River Landings from Kansas City to St. Joseph used by the four National Historic Trails that passed through the Kansas City area, that is, the Santa Fe, Oregon, California and Lewis and Clark. In St. Joseph the tour will cover the Pony Express National Historic Trail and also the St. Jo Road which is part of the California National Historic Trail.

Landings that the trek visited were the Chouteau, Westport Landing, Kaw Point, Parkville, Weston, Atchison, St. Joseph and various Lewis and Clark campsite locations.

The bus went south from the airport across the Broadway Bridge to Westport Landing, south up to Lewis and Clark Point, then across the Lewis and Clark Bridge to Kaw Point. Then north across the Fairfax Bridge and over to Parkville and its landing site.

The tour proceeded northwest along the Missouri River on Highway 45, through Beverly and over to Weston and down to its landing. Continuing north on 45, the trekkers crossed the river to Atchison and toured the ATSF Visitor's Center Museum, and also the River Landing. Participants had sack lunches at the Independence Creek site.

The modern trekkers continued north on 45 and arrived at the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph for a tour and visited the Riverfront Ferry Crossing and the new trail markers there. They also visited the Robidoux trading site and several other sites in St. Joseph.

The bus returned to the Downtown Airport at **4:00 p.m.**

## **CONVENTION 2000 AND CHAPTER MEETING**

On **May 11 at 7:00 p.m.**, Trails Head had a combined General meeting and Convention 2000 meeting in More Hall at St. Thomas More Church on Holmes Road and Santa Fe Trail Street. **President Judy Budde** conducted the meeting. **Judy** announced that Trails Head Chapter had received \$4000 from KC150 Foundation fund to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Kansas City. The funding is for the replacement of the Santa Fe Trail plaque and monument north of the former St. Mary's Hospital and the printing of more Johnson County trail maps. These two projects were what the chapter requested in the application.

Those present voted to donate \$200 to Cave Spring Interpretive Center toward the purchase of the 85<sup>th</sup> and Manchester site. The National Park Service has committed to certify the site as a Certified Site on the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails.

**Barbara Magerl** then showed slides from many national OCTA Conventions. This history certainly showed why so many Trails Head members find the trails intriguing!

The last part of the meeting was conducted by Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee Chair **Ross Marshall** to continue to plan the details of the convention. 16 people were present.

**Speakers Committee Chair Mary Conrad** reported that she has a list of nine speakers who have already indicated interest. Not bad for this early.

**Trek Committee Chair John Leamon** distributed copies of his revised tour schedule showing a Truman walking tour led by **Niel Johnson**, who does a great Truman likeness presentation.

**Barbeque Committee Chair Dick Nelson** reported a final agreement has been reached verbally with Arabia as was reviewed at the last convention meeting and contract papers will be signed off soon.

**Chris Combest** was not present but many Trails Head members will be submitting names and sponsorship items to him for inclusion onto the website.

**Barbara Magerl** reported that convention T-shirts will be ordered soon to be sold at the Chico Convention. Also, food arrangements and Awards Banquet costs are being finalized with Adams Mark Hotel by **Barbara, Jim Budde and Ross**.

**Workshops Committee Chair Jim Budde** reported that six workshops are being considered for the Wednesday afternoon schedule. Vol. 3 - #4 newsletter will be sent out.

## **TRAILS HEAD TREK XXIV –June 19, 1999 – Westport Landing to Gardner**

On **Saturday, June 19**, the bus left the Westport Shopping Center at **8:30 a.m.**, guided by **Craig Crease** and aided by **Ross Marshall**, and headed north on Southwest Trafficway to 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main near the Missouri River and Westport Landing. Participants walked down the Main Street Cut to the Landing and returned.

The bus left the riverfront and headed south along the Westport Route of the trail on Grand to 12<sup>th</sup> Street on the high ground and then crossed back and forth on Main and Grand heading south along the “gully”, which was a creek in those days. The tour went by Union Station and up the hill on Kessler and stopped at the Pioneer Mother sculpture and also at the St. Mary's DAR Santa Fe Trail plaque and monument.

Then the trek headed south on Main and Broadway to Westport. Bus riders unloaded at 40<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania and did a walking tour of the sculptures, trail map and other markers at the

Pioneer Park site. They then walked west through Westport on Westport Road past Kelly's Tavern and Bridger's store, then north on Mill Street to the parking area to re-board the bus.

The tour headed west on Westport Road following the North Branch of the Westport Route and ended at Shawnee Indian Mission. The bus parked and participants had a brief tour of the East Building Museum. They re-boarded and went north and west ending up at 49<sup>th</sup> and Nall near where the Shawnee Baptist Mission existed 150 years ago.

The bus headed west and south, ending up at 57<sup>th</sup> and Riggs where the Westport to Lawrence Road (also called the California Road) departed westward from the North Branch of Westport Route. The trek went west on Johnson Drive and jogged south by the original site of the Shawnee Quaker Mission about 61<sup>st</sup> and Hemlock. The trekkers stopped at a nearby park site for sack lunches.

The bus departed and headed south and then back east a little to head south on Santa Fe following the Westport Route by Milburn Golf Course, then west on 71<sup>st</sup> and south on Antioch to 83<sup>rd</sup> and Grant to Comanche Park (now Sapling Grove Park) where the 1841 Bidwell-Bartleson Party left as the first wagon train to California.

From there, the tour went south and a little west to Strang Park at 88<sup>th</sup> Terrace and Farley. The next stop was at 9202 Barton at a Santa Fe Trail marker where the southbound branch of the Military Road joins the Westport Route. The tour then went past the Legler Barn original site at 95<sup>th</sup> and Quivira. It is now moved north to 87<sup>th</sup> Street and is a museum.

The bus next stopped at Flat Rock Creek Crossing Park at 103<sup>rd</sup> and Hauser St. where the Westport Route crossed the creek.

The trek went southwest and got onto Kansas City Road toward Olathe, passing Mahaffie Farmstead and Stagecoach Stop. The bus then went west on Santa Fe and south on Cherry and stopped at Courthouse Square to read the markers.

The tour went south and west to go west on Highway 56 and past Elm Grove Campground at Cedar Creek where the Westport Route crossed. The bus continued on west and south on Highway 56 to Gardner, and went by the DAR and Old Settlers monuments on Elm Street in Gardner. The trek proceeded southwest on 56 a mile or so to Gardner Junction Park. The Independence and Westport Routes joined about ¼ mile north of the park, heading west. Trekkers stopped and read the marker.

The bus went back to Gardner and east on 175<sup>th</sup> Street, north on Lone Elm Road and east on 167<sup>th</sup> to Lone Elm Park, which was a heavily used campground on the Independence Route. After stopping at the park, the participants re-boarded and went east on 167<sup>th</sup>, north on Hwy. 169 and northeast on I-35.

The bus went east on 75<sup>th</sup> Street and south on Delmar to Harmon Park where the riders de-boarded and saw the swale there on the South Branch of the Westport Route.

From there the bus went east on 75<sup>th</sup> and north on State Line Road, turning east at 67<sup>th</sup> Terrace. Then north on Wornall Road past Wornall House, then north through the Plaza to Westport and the shopping center where the modern trekkers departed from, arriving at 4:00 p.m.

Most of this tour will be a part of the tours for the OCTA Convention 2000 next year.

## **CONVENTION 2000 MEETING**

On Saturday, June 26, 1999 at 10:00 a.m., Trails Head held the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee meeting at Cedar Roe Library with 12 people present.

**Speakers Committee Chair Mary Conrad** reported ten speakers have indicated an interest and she expects a few more before the September deadline.

**Trail Trek Committee Chair John Leamon** distributed updated lists and information about all the tours being planned. Over the past year, Trails Head has done Trek XXI, XXIII, XXIV and XXV which cover four of the tour routes. Convention trek planners will do a dry run or two on the California Road so that they can train the guides.

Training tour guides is a several step process for next spring, involving learning guide techniques, understanding an overview of the trail involved, learning the script furnished by **Craig Crease** and **Ross**, and then doing a guided training tour or two with **Craig** or **Ross**.

**Sponsorship/Webpage Committee Chair Christ Combest** reported that his committee has met twice recently and has established six different levels of sponsorship: WAGONMASTER at \$5000, down to EXPLORER at \$100.

He has added pages of information onto the website and will continue, including registration information. He has also made one of his employees, **Lisa Johnson**, available to us, who is not only an internet expert, but also skilled in marketing and a delight to work with.

**Awards Banquet Chair Barbara Magerl** has met with Adams Mark, which went well, and she will continue to finalize food costs.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10. Vol. 3 - #5 newsletter will be distributed.

On **Saturday, July 24, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.**, the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee met at South Library in Waldo with 18 people present.

**Chris Combest** distributed copies of the current webpage, which has been greatly updated since the last meeting. The committee met last week and reviewed people and institutions in the Kansas City community that would be potential donors. Committee members called a potential donor and it was fruitful!

Both **Lisa Johnson** and **Craig Crease** have been in contact with local TV people about doing some programming about historic trails. The committee will be meeting again this Tuesday.

**Jim Budde** has sent out requests to a half-dozen bus companies for proposals.

**Judy Budde** has purchased a supply of 72 T-shirts to sell in Chico with the Convention 2000 theme and logo on them and is scheduling her volunteers to man the 1999 convention table.

**John Mark Lambertson** reports a number of people will be at the Welcome Night in costume.

**Barbara Magerl** will be meeting at Adams Mark Hotel next week to finish food negotiations.

**Workshops Chair Jim Budde** reported that most of the workshops are firmed up.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30. Newsletter Vol.3 - #6 will be out soon.

## **OCTA 1999 CONVENTION**

The OCTA Convention 1999 was held in Chico, California **August 11-15**. The weather was perfect and about 600 attended. Attending from Trails Head were **Eva Allen, Kathy and Jim Conway, Ross and Jana Marshall, Arnold Cole, Don Popejoy, Carl and Irene MacDonald and Jim and Judy Budde**.

Trails Head had an information booth for the Convention 2000 manned by **Judy Budde, Eva Allen and Jana Marshall**. They almost ran out of the "Beyond the Wide Missouri" T-shirts, having sold over 60! Judy will buy many more for Convention 2000.

In **August**, the Cave Spring Association announced that it has raised the \$15,000 to purchase the land at 85<sup>th</sup> and Manchester and save the swale. **Gwen Holt**, the daughter of the owner who has passed away, is the owner and seller of the land.



The Kansas City 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legacy Fund awarded \$10,000 toward the purchase and the rest was provided by donors. The fundraising effort for the remaining \$5000 was headed by **Sylvia Mooney**, the founder of the Cave Spring Association; **Barbara Magerl**, a key person in the founding of Trails Head Chapter; **Jodie Smith**, president of Cave Spring Association; **Susan Walsh**, director of the Cave Spring Association; and **Walter Cook**, trails historian and president of the Blue Prairie Foundation. Cave Spring hopes to place an interpretive marker at the site.

### CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On Saturday, August 21 at 10:00 a.m., the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee met at South Library in Waldo. 14 people were present including **Shirley Coupal's** friend **Pat Traffas**, past Regent of the Kansas DAR, a good friend of **Ross Marshall**, and a genuine "rut nut" that has now moved into this area. She is also now a new member of OCTA and Trails Head Chapter. Welcome **Pat!**

Those present spent a little time reviewing experiences at the Chico Convention a week ago and a couple of ideas for Convention 2000 came from it. **Eva Allen, the Buddes, the Conways and Marshalls** were the Trails Head attendees.

The promotion of Convention 2000 was very effective, with Trails Head information table, handouts, and just personal enthusiasm to everyone about Convention 2000 plans.

**Speakers Committee Chair Mary Conrad** reported that several abstracts have been received and more will be coming in before September 1.

**Trail Trek Committee Chair John Leamon** said the committee plans to have one general book distributed to every registrant and a separate booklet for each of the five tours that would include maps, lotsa diary quotes, and bios of famous people that passed through Kansas City area. The general book would include biographies of famous trails people and a lot of Kansas City area history. The writing must start right away although it will not be printed until just before the convention.

**Dick Nelson** said he has been negotiating with Masterpiece Barbeque.

**Barbara Magerl, Jim Budde and Ross Marshall** met with the staff at Adams Mark Hotel and worked out a deal on the cost of the Wednesday and Friday luncheons. This convention committee will need to work with an outside vendor on the box lunches for the tours. Newsletter Vol. 3 - #7 out soon.

### CHAPTER MEETING

On **September 16 at 7:00 p.m.**, Trails Head held a fall joint meeting with Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center and Missouri River Outfitters SFTA Chapter.

The speaker was **Kevin Phillips**, a former tour guide at the Steamboat Arabia Museum. **Kevin** has attended numerous Trails Head events and is now the chair of the Acquisitions and Collections Committee for the Friends.

His talk focused on boating on the Missouri River during five different periods of American history. During the post-Revolutionary War era (1790-1899), only three types of boats were prevalent. The canoe and ferry boat were used both in the East and in the West, but the canal boat was confined largely to the eastern region.

In the Louisiana Purchase era (1803-1817) boats varied in size from the canoe to large keel boats. Regardless of size, manual labor was required whenever one of these boats went upstream.

During the early steamboat era (1820-1840) this changed. Nonetheless, the early steamboats were not very efficient,

It all changed with the golden age of riverboats (1840-1860), when the wheel house was placed on top of the boats so navigators could see more easily.

Even though riverboats became larger and more efficient, river travel after the Civil War began to decline during the 1865-1890 period. This decline was brought on by the expansion of railroad lines into the West and railroad bridges were built across the Mississippi River.

After the program, **President Judy Budde** conducted a short business meeting for Trails Head. **Treasurer Dick Nelson** reported \$4545.36 in the chapter account, which included the recently received \$4000 from KC150.

### CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On **Saturday, September 18, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.**, the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee met at Plaza Library. 16 were present.

**Speakers Committee Chair Mary Conrad** reported nine speakers have committed to speak. Two or three others are good possibilities. The convention schedule will need nine or ten total.

**Trail Trek Committee Chair John Leamon** distributed information sheets and sign-up sheets that will be sent to all those that are considering being tour guides. In addition, he distributed guidelines and suggestions for those that will be writing the articles for the various tour booklets.

**Niel Johnson** will begin finalizing his ideas for his Truman walking tour on Monday and Tuesday at the convention.

**Jim Budde** was not present but he is collecting quotations from bus companies. He and **Judy** are checking on various suppliers for the box lunches.

**Dick Nelson** said he has received a competitive price from Masterpiece Barbeque for the Arabia event.

**Jim Budde** and **Ross** will meet soon and begin to finalize pricing for the events.

Newsletter Vol. 3 – #8 out soon.

### TOWN OF KANSAS MEETING

On **September 28**, the City of Kansas City, Missouri held an informational meeting for interested parties to learn of the latest plans for the development of the Town of Kansas Archeological Park. After delineating the proposals as they now stand, the developers asked for comments.

Trail interests were represented by **John Mark Lambertson, Craig Crease, Lee Kroh, Dorothy Kroh, Ross Marshall and Mary Conrad**, as well as **David Gaines** from the Santa Fe National Park Service office. **Gaines** was also representing **Jere Krakow** of the NPS Salt Lake City office.

Another meeting is scheduled for **October 25**. At that meeting, anyone is welcome to make comments. The time and place of the meeting is not yet set.

In late 1999, **Ross Marshall** wrote a letter to the city asking for the proposed pedestrian bridge to be placed somewhere other than Main Street because that street was the location of the route of the trail coming from the landing. That letter was printed in the chapter newsletter as an example for other chapter members to use when sending letters of concern.

### TRAILS HEAD TREK XXV – October 16, 1999 – Independence to Lone Elm

On **Saturday October 16**, the 28-passenger bus (cost of \$397) with 18 passengers (tickets were \$16 each, which fell \$109 short of the expenses), left from Independence. **Ross Marshall** was the guide.

The trek left Adams Mark Hotel, the site of the upcoming Convention 2000 meetings, at **8:30 a.m.** and went west on I-70, turning north on I-435, and east on 23<sup>rd</sup> St. The bus went north on Sterling, east on Truman Road, north on Main, west on Oak one block and north on Liberty to the Independence Square.

The tour went north on Liberty, west on Kentucky and north on River Boulevard and arrived at Independence Landing at **9:10**. Participants spent 20 minutes there and left at **9:35**.

The bus went south on River Boulevard along the Independence Route, east on Waldo past Truman's boyhood home and south on Delaware past the Truman Home, east on Maple to the Square, north on Liberty and parked in the parking lot, arriving at **9:35**.

After a brief walking tour around the Courthouse, the modern trekkers left at **10:00** and went south to the National Frontier Trails Museum, arriving at **10:10** for a bathroom stop. The bus left at **10:30** and went south on Pleasant Street and continued south on McCoy turning into Santa Fe Park. Participants viewed the swale on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and went on west and south on Chrysler. The tour went over Highway 40 and south on Blue Ridge Boulevard.

The trek went west on 63<sup>rd</sup> in Raytown and south on Elm Street and west on 66<sup>th</sup> Terrace, stopping briefly at Rice-Tremonti House at **11:00**.

The bus left at **11:05** and went south on Blue Ridge Blvd, stopping at Cave Spring Park at **11:15**. After a museum walking tour, the modern trekkers had sack lunches in the adjoining shelter, leaving at **12:15**.

The tour went south on Blue Ridge and through the Blue Ridge Bible Church parking lot, stopping on 85<sup>th</sup> and Manchester at the swale. The bus left at **12:30** to go south on Oldham Road and south on Santa Fe Road and west on 93<sup>rd</sup> past Schumacher Park, which is now a Kansas City park, donated by Lou Schumacher.

The trek went west on Bannister past I-435 and south on Parkwood, a winding road, and south at 98<sup>th</sup> on Grandview and over I-435. West on Red Bridge Road to Minor Park, arriving at 12:55.

After viewing the swales, the bus riders ~~w~~ left at 1:20, going south on Holmes Road and west on Santa Fe Trail, arriving at New Santa Fe parking lot at 1:30.

The bus left at **1:45**, headed west on Santa Fe Trail and south on State Line Road, west on 135<sup>th</sup> and south on Metcalf. West on 151<sup>st</sup>, south on Black Bob, west on 159<sup>th</sup>, south on Ridgeview and west on 167<sup>th</sup> to Lone Elm Road

**2:10** – Arrived at Lone Elm corner to inspect the marker.

**2:30** – North on Lone Elm Road and east on 159<sup>th</sup>, and north on Hwy. 7/169. Then the bus went north on I-35, east on I-435, north on I-435 and east on I-70

**3:10** – Arrived at Adams Mark Hotel

## **CONVENTION 2000 MEETING**

On **Saturday, October 23 at 10:00 a.m.** the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee met at Plaza Library. 17 were present including special guest **OCTA President David Welch**.

**Speakers Committee Chair Mary Conrad** has six speakers confirmed so far: **Mark Kelly, Craig Crease, Alan Perry, Robert Manley, John Mark Lambertson, and Arnold Schofield**. Four others will be confirmed shortly; **Rodney Staab, Loren Horton, Michael Tate and Harmon Mothershead**, which are an impressive array of speakers,

**Trail Trek Committee Chair John Leamon** has had several offers to write articles for the various tour booklets, but needs more. And all drafts need to be submitted by January 15.

15 people have sent back the sign-up sheet to be tour guides, but he needs many more.

**Jim Budde** has received five bids from bus companies and he is reviewing them.

Newsletter Vol. 3 - #9 out soon.

### **ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING**

The Trails Head Annual Meeting was held **November 16, 1999 at 6:30 p.m.** at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church at 318 E. 55<sup>th</sup> Street, KCMO.

Trails Head had a pot luck dinner with the chapter furnishing the meat and everyone else bringing a favorite dish to share.

**Among other things, the nominating committee chaired by Bill Bullard with members Judy Budde, Ona Gieschen, Barbara Magerl and Peggy Smith** presented their nominations and they were elected:

**President – Bill Bullard**

**Vice President – Dick Nelson**

**Secretary – Eva Allen**

**Treasurer – Jim Budde**

### **CONVENTION 2000 MEETING**

On **Saturday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m.**, a Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee meeting was held at Plaza Library. 23 were present!

**Speakers Committee Chair Mary Conrad** announced that all ten speakers are confirmed! The speakers list is finalized and ready to be inserted in the registration packet.

**Trail Trek Committee Chair John Leamon** said all the topics for the tour books are assigned and a couple have been turned in. **January 15** is the deadline for all to be submitted. He has about 20 tour guides signed up, but needs more.

**John Mark Lambertson** and **Ross** met and have reviewed all the plans for the Welcome Night on Wednesday. The buses will begin to run from Adams Mark before **5:00 p.m.** The Mayor of Kansas City will appear at the Adams Mark Hotel that morning.

**Sponsorship Committee Chair Chris Combest** reported that two meetings have been held. **Lisa Johnson** handed out some sheets for attendees to write the names of prospective sponsors and those present gave them back to her. The effort to contact sponsors will begin in January.

**Transportation Committee Chair Jim Budde** reported that the committee has entered into negotiations with Sunset Tours, Inc to provide the bus service needs. The committee is reviewing Sunset's contract papers. A risk management plan is needed and **Bill Bullard** is writing it. **Craig Crease, Pete Cuppage and Joe Kyner** will be asked to assist.

**Dorothy Kroh** is writing and assembling the registration packet and reported the rough draft is prepared. Nearly every committee will need to have information prepared in final form for it by mid-January. It goes to press in February.

**Publicity Committee Chair Barbara Magerl** reported that convention information has been sent for the next issue of the *OCTA-News From the Plains*. A much larger spread will be developed by **March 1** for the April issue.

**Jim Budde** and **Ross Marshall** have met and updated the expense and revenue budgets. It is obvious that Trails Head will need to pursue the sponsorship prospects to have a financially successful convention. Newsletter Vol. 3 - #10 will follow.

A brief Trails Head Chapter meeting followed and was held at **11:30 a.m.**

## **RICE-TREMONTI HOME**

In 1987, the Friends of Rice-Tremonti Home, at 66<sup>th</sup> Terrace and Blue Ridge Boulevard, was formed to preserve the 1844 farmhouse. The Friends needed to raise a substantial amount of funds to purchase and to repair the historic home.

In 1999, the Missouri Department of Transportation had committed \$309,000 to complete the acquisition of the property. The City of Raytown has now taken over ownership of the historic site, while the Friends continue to operate the home.

## **SCHUMACHER PARK**

On **December 15**, a Hickman Mills social studies curricular meeting was held beside Schumacher Park for the purpose of developing support for participation by the Hickman Mills School District, owners of the Marion Park land, for the Blue Ridge Corridor Plan. **Mary Conrad** was the Trails Head member invited to the meeting.

The plan would connect 87<sup>th</sup> and Blue Ridge Boulevard to Marion Park, just south of Bannister Road and west of I-435.

**Steve Rhoades**, a private landscape architect, and **Jim O'Shea** with KC Parks and Recreation spoke to the group about landscaping, developing a walking trail and interpretive markers.

Then **John Conoboy**, of the NPS National Trails office in Santa Fe, explained how management of the historic trails had been legislated so as to make it unnecessary for NPS to purchase trail land. The NPS would be willing to provide funding to the school district if the school district would support the plan.

Attendees were encouraged to send letters to the school district seeking its support for the development plan of Marion Park.

**Mary Conrad** sent a good letter to the Hickman Mills School District seeking its support. Chapter members were encouraged to send other letters using **Conrad's** as an example.

## **2000**

### **CONVENTION 2000 MEETING**

On **Saturday, January 15, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.**, the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee meeting was held at Plaza Library. 22 were present.

The meeting focused on status of submission of information from each committee to **Dorothy Kroh, Chair of the Registration Booklet Committee**. Since the last meeting, this committee which includes **Jim Budde** and **Ross Marshall** has met twice and developed a rough plan for the 16 pages.

The target for mailing this booklet to all OCTA members is March 1. Allowing two weeks for the printer, the final copy-ready draft needs to be in the printer's hands by **February 11**. **Chris Combest** has very generously offered to prepare the digital copy-ready draft for the print, so all final information needs to be in his hands by **January 28**, which is only two weeks from today. So **Dorothy** must have all the required information from everyone in the next week or so.

**Speakers Committee Chair Mary Conrad** reported that the committee has designated **Craig Crease** as the keynote speaker. **Bob Richmond**, former Administrator of Kansas State Historical Society and Past President of American Association of State and Local History Organizations, will be the **Moderator**.

**Trail Trek Committee Chair John Leamon** has about 20 tour guides, but needs more.

**Jim Budde** has finalized eight workshops, mostly for Wednesday.

**Chris Combest** announced that first sponsorship contacts will be made in the next few days. Either **Ross Marshall** or **Jim Budde** will accompany individuals making personal calls on corporate individuals to provide a resource of OCTA knowledge.

In December, a very generous letter was received from **Jere Krakow**, NPS Superintendent in Santa Fe, in answer to **Ross's** letter of a few months ago, offering to help sponsor some selected cost items up to the amount of \$4000. This is yet another chapter in the long-standing public-private partnership between National Park Service and OCTA.

**Judy Budde** reported that the raffle, headed by **Eva Allen**, will consist of both a raffle and a silent auction, a format which was successful last year in Chico. Members of Trails Head need to donate many items! Also, another supply of Convention 2000 T-shirts has been ordered.

**Publicity Chair Barbara Magerl** is preparing a general press release for the end of January. She and **Ross** will work on the insert in the next *News From the Plains* in April, the key issue for the convention.

**Bookroom Chair Ardis Everett** reports that most of the usual booksellers are planning to come. A follow-up mailing will be made also to local booksellers and publishers.

**Peggy Smith** reported that Westport Historical Society is funding the making of a copy of the Spalding Westport Plat Map for display in the convention bookroom that Trails Head wanted so much.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35. Newsletter Vol. 4 - #1 will follow.

## CHAPTER MEETING

The first Trails Head meeting in 2000 was **Tuesday evening, February 8**, at Westport Library. **Pete Cuppage**, a local resident who has researched the history of Lewis and Clark extensively, gave an overview of their journey.

He covered the period preceding the 1803 Louisiana Purchase when Meriwether Lewis was preparing for the journey President Jefferson had planned before the Purchase had even materialized. **Pete** covered the first leg of the journey from Pittsburgh on August 31, 1803 to St. Louis for the winter.

He then reviewed the journey's progress as it progressed over the next two years until the expedition reached the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of the Columbia River.

## CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On **Saturday, February 19, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.**, the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee met at South (Waldo) Library with 19 people present.

As of last Monday, all the information and basic layout for the 16 pages of registration form information was submitted by **Registration Booklet Chair Dorothy Kroh** to **Lisa Johnson** and **Bob Hoyes** at **Chris Combest's Multi-Services Company**. **Jim Budde** and **Ross Marshall** will meet with them Monday and review the first draft that has been printed off. 3000 copies will be printed off and mailed in early March, on schedule. **Jim** has been working with the printer to produce a rough draft of the three-part registration form itself to insert into the booklet.

**Trail Trek Committee Chair John Leamon** now has 28 volunteer guides registered. Every tour guide will be asked to attend at least one of the training sessions on Saturday, **March 25 at 10:00 a.m.** at Plaza Library or Tuesday, **March 28 at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Joseph Museum, and go on at least two dry runs, which will be held at **8:00 a.m.** each Saturday from **April 15 to June 17** (10 Saturdays). **Craig Crease** and **Ross Marshall** will be the leaders at the classes and the dry runs.

**John** said that **Elaine McNabney** has volunteered to assist in editing the articles for the Convention Tour Booklet and the five Trail Trek books.

**Sponsorship Committee Chair Chris Combest** reported that several corporate contacts have been made and the sponsorship results are encouraging. The following are the categories:

I. Wagonmaster	\$5000	IV. Bullwhacker	\$500
II. Trail Guide	\$2500	V. Explorer	\$250
III. Outrider	\$1000	VI. Mountain Man	\$100

**Raffle Chair Eva Allen** is sending a letter to OCTA Chapter Presidents and other leaders to solicit donations which she needs by **June 1**.

**Public Relations Chair Barbara Magerl** and **Ross** have sent a release to *Pathways* at Partnership for the National Trails System and are developing information for the next issue of *News From the Plains*.

All other arrangements are proceeding on schedule. Newsletter Vol 4 - #2 will be sent soon.

## ANNUAL HISTORY DAY

On **March 4**, for the Kansas Regional History Day at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, **Barbara Magerl**, as judge, awarded three awards:

- Junior exhibit "A Turning Point in History: The Opening of the Oregon Trail" by Ellen Stolle, of Mission Valley Middle School.
- Senior exhibit "Tears of the Cherokee" by Natalie Taulbee of Summer Academy.
- Senior paper "A New Stage in American History – Stagecoaches" by Anna Holt of Shawnee Mission West.

**Barbara** also selected Anna Holt for the \$25 prize from Trails Head.

The next week **Jeanne Miller, Bill Bullard and Barbara** went to Truman Library in Independence to judge western history entries in the Missouri Regional History Day. No entries were deemed of sufficient merit to warrant an award.

Thanks also go to the three Trails Head member who volunteered as regular judges: **Eva Allen, Jeanne McGuire and Rodney Staab**. Also, Trails Head member **Diane Hinshaw** volunteered at the registration table. Trails Head member **Mary Conrad** was overall coordinator of the History Day on the Kansas side.

## CHAPTER MEETING

On the **evening of March 16**, Trails Head met at the Antioch Branch of the Johnson County Public Library to hear **President Bill Bullard** talk about explorers Zebulon Pike, Charles Fremont and Stephen Long. He entitled the presentation "The Keystone Kops Go West", due to the many blunders by each of these famous explorers!

He reviewed the times that Pike was lost or at least confused about where he was or which way he should go. Pike called the plains the "American Sahara". He and his party were arrested by Spanish troops and taken to Mexico.

In 1819, Long was sent to find the source of the Mississippi River. His conclusions were wrong and he named the west the "The Great American Desert".

Fremont explored much of the west and was called "The Pathfinder", which may not have been accurate. He did become the governor of the new territory of California, but was dishonorably discharged from the U.S. Military.

## CONVENTION 2000 MEETING

On **Saturday March 18, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.**, at Plaza Library, the **LAST** general meeting of the Greater Kansas City Convention 2000 Committee was held! 14 were present.

The registration booklets were delivered to OCTA Headquarters yesterday. More than 2500 will be in the mail by March 24. Much appreciation to **Dorothy Kroh, Chris Combest, Lisa Johnson and Bob Hoyes** for their hard work and expertise!

**John Leamon** reported he now has 41 tour guides signed up! The first training class will be next Saturday at Plaza Library.

The bulk of the articles are finished for the main Convention booklet. This has been a large project and thanks go to **John Leamon** for collecting the articles and to **Elaine McNabney** for her digital expertise.

**Chris Combest** announced that \$2000 is already in from sponsors. Many more contacts will be made.

**Convention Chair Ross Marshall** reported that since the tour guide dry run training starts **April 15** for the next 10 Saturdays, which he will be leading with **Craig Crease**, Trails Head will not have any more Convention general meetings. All the committees have done a super job and everything is on schedule. Everyone has done a super job, the Convention 2000 Committee had 25 general meetings and attendance has always been excellent. **Ross** expressed his sincere appreciation to everyone! Register as soon as possible!

## MINOR PARK AND NEW SANTA FE WAYSIDES DEDICATION

On **Tuesday April 11**, dedications of new wayside exhibits at Minor Park and at New Santa Fe were held. One immediately followed the other. The speakers were **Bob Lewellen**, President of Kansas City Parks and Recreation; **John Conoboy** of National Park Service in Santa Fe; and **Ross Marshall**.

NPS, in cooperation with the Kansas City Parks and Recreation, furnished these markers which feature both traders and emigrants on the trail. The illustrations were painted by **Charles Goslin** and a map shows the Santa Fe, Oregon and California trails.

The Historical Society of New Santa Fe organized the events.

## LEWIS AND CLARK POINT

On April 26, a Lewis and Clark sculpture 18 feet high, was dedicated at Clark's Point in Case Park at 8<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson. The **sculptor Eugene Daub** titled the piece "Corps of Discovery", which included Lewis, Clark, Sacagawea, York and the dog Seaman.

Lewis and Clark stopped at this site on their return from the West in 1806.

At the dedication, remarks were given by **Bob Lewellen**, President of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners; **Emanuel Cleaver**, former Mayor of Kansas City; **Kay Barnes**, the current KC Mayor; and **Mel Carnahan**, the Governor of Missouri.

After these remarks, **Stephen Ambrose** presented some of the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This sculpture is one of the many projects funded by the KC150 grants.

## KCAHTA TRAIL MARKERS

About three years ago, Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association completed marking the Ft. Leavenworth-Ft. Scott Military Road. 138 signs, each brown with a white colored sketch of an ox-drawn wagon and the phrase "Military Road", were placed along modern roadways where the Military Road crossed the roads. **Lee Kroh**, the markers chair for KCAHTA, did the research to



pinpoint these locations through the use of Kansas Territorial Rectangular Land Survey maps and field notes which were executed in 1855-56 by the General Land Office surveys.

KCAHTA received a KC150 grant to also mark the Independence Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trails in Johnson County. The Westwood Neighborhood Association received a similar grant to enable KCAHTA to mark the Westport Route with similar signs, which are similar to the Military Road signs, with a different route title.

Since KCAHTA had some money left over from the Independence Route grant, KC150 approved use of the remaining funds for marking across Johnson County the California Road (Westport to Lawrence trail).

Over 350 signs are now in place! **Craig Crease, Dorothy and Lee Kroh, and Ross Marshall** are Trails Head members who have been quite active in the KCAHTA marking projects.

## CHAPTER MEETING

At the Plaza Library at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 2, 2000** Trails Head Chapter held a meeting. 17 members and guests were present. Guests were **Jim Donovan**, president of the Friends of the Shawnee Indian Mission and a Westwood City Councilman, and **Jan Regan**, a member of Historic Kansas City Foundation.

The program presenter was **Elaine McNabney** as "Little Elaine on the Trail". She had not presented this program for several years. When she had finished, everyone all stood and gave her a rousing ovation!

**Ross Marshall** gave a brief update on the Convention 2000 planning progress, and expressed great satisfaction with all those that participated and led in setting up the convention. And also Ross expressed appreciation for the number and dedication of the trail guides being trained for the tours.

The meeting adjourned about **8:15** with members sharing punch and cookies before vacating the premises by **8:30** as requested by the library.

## WIEDUWILT PARK

The 85<sup>th</sup> and Manchester site has been designated as a Certified Site on the trail by the National Park Service. The *Kansas City Star* published this article on **May 23, 2000** and said that **John Conoboy** of NPS credited **Walter Cook**, a local trails historian, with helping to secure the official certification.

The NPS and Cave Spring Association, owner of the site, now hope to cooperate in the development of interpretive markers for the new certified site.

## CHAPTER MEETING

On the evening of **June 21**, Trails Head had a general business meeting in the shelter alongside the Cave Spring Interpretive Center at Blue Ridge Boulevard and Gregory. **Sylvia Mooney** arranged for a campfire which produced hot dogs for everyone.

After the meal, many attendees walked with **Sylvia Mooney** and **Walter Cook** to look at the DAR Santa Fe Trail marker nearby at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and they could look a block or so east to where the Barnes house once stood. Jesse Barnes was a nineteenth-century owner of the whole acreage of area on both sides of the Blue Ridge.

In the business meeting that followed, a discussion was held about a Barnes marker for Barnes Place, an inn and tavern of the 1840s. When attendees voted to proceed with it, **President Bill Bullard** appointed a committee consisting of **Mary Conrad, Shirley Coupal, Sylvia Mooney**

and **Pat Traffas** to develop text material for the marker. He also appointed **Jim Budde, Mary Conrad and Dick Nelson** to consider the arrangements for the placement of the marker.

### OCTA CONVENTION 2000 HELD **AUGUST 7-12** HELD IN KANSAS CITY

The following are some Convention 2000 summary notes in **Ross Marshall's Vol. 4 - #4** newsletter published **August 15**.

The final registration was **385** which did not count some of the tour guides and speakers who were not formally registered for the convention itself. That is the highest registration for any OCTA convention at the eastern end of the trails!

The net revenue made on the convention was **\$28,532, which was \$74.11 per registrant, the highest of any OCTA convention thus far!**

The **Adam's Mark Hotel** worked out very well and the staff was very attentive to OCTA needs.

Convention 2000 had **17 bus tours, which is an unusually ambitious number**. All made it safely, and in general, they made it back ahead of schedule and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves.

The speakers did very well, especially the two that were Trails Head Chapter members **Craig Crease** and **John Mark Lambertson**. **Nancy Lewis** and **Anne Mallinson** portrayed the 'Petticoat Pioneers' Thursday night to an overflow crowd!

The Friday night Awards Banquet turned out very well. But the **home run for the week was the Saturday night Barbeque at the Arabia**. Everything went great and on time!

Great thanks goes to Trails Head various committee chairs **Mary Conrad, Judy Budde, John Leamon, Barbara Magerl, Chris Combest, John Mark Lambertson, Dorothy Kroh, Jim Budde, Dick Nelson, Elaine McNabney, Eva Allen, Peggy Smith, Ardis Everett** and so many others that helped on all the tasks behind the scenes!

And thanks to all the tour guides, some of whom were not members of Trails Head, but members of other trails groups.

And special thanks to Convention 2000 sponsors who enabled Trails Head to raise nearly **\$10,000!**

Nearly five years ago, Trails Head members wondered if they could do it. But this maybe was one of the best conventions Ross Marshall had ever attended!

### **THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**

One of the great trail leaders of Trails Head for many years was **John Leamon**, who received the Meritorious Achievement Award at the 2000 convention. Unfortunately, he passed away soon afterwards in 2001.

The *Kansas City Star* ran a front page story about John's award with a big picture of him.

**Craig Crease** also won that award. **John Mark Lambertson** won the Distinguished Service Award.

National Certificates of Appreciation were received by **Cave Spring Association, Friends of Rice-Tremonti Home, Walter Cook, Westport Historical Society, Kansas City Parks and Recreation, City of Westwood, Tom Laidlaw, Charles Goslin, Gail Carbiener, Trails Head Chapter and Ross Marshall**.

On **Wednesday afternoon, August 9**, during the Convention 2000, Trails Head held a meeting as did most other chapters, which is customary at OCTA conventions. About a dozen attended.

**Roger Slusher** announced that the 2003 SFTA Symposium will be held in Independence.

Various mentions were made of local sites that trail enthusiasts continue to preserve but need more signage. Continued research, particularly in diaries, would be beneficial.

**Ross Marshall** introduced **Gary Werner** of the Partnership for the National Trails System, who was attending the 2000 convention. PNTS is a national advocacy group for both National Scenic and Historic Trails that was founded about a decade ago, but just got organized in 1997. **Ross** currently serves as the Partnership's secretary. Both OCTA and SFTA are members of this Partnership.

Gary spoke about national issues concerning trails and how the Partnership leads partnering efforts with each of the trails, the National Park Service, Congress and federal agencies especially in WDC. Representatives from all the trails go to WDC every February to call on congressional representatives, the agencies, etc. **Ross** represents SFTA, being its immediate past president, on the Partnership.

### **CHILDREN OF THE TRAILS SCULPTURE**

On **September 7**, the Children of the Trails Sculpture and Fountain was dedicated. It stands in the courtyard near Santa Fe and Cherry Streets in Olathe, KS near the Johnson County Courthouse. The sculptor was **Kwan Wu**, who does a lot of statues in the Kansas City area.

### **JOINT CHAPTER MEETING**

On **Thursday evening, September 21, 2000** at National Frontier Trails Center, a joint meeting of Trails Head, Friends of the Trails Center and SFTA Missouri River Outfitters Chapter was held. **Mary Conrad** was the speaker about Oxford School in Overland Park, KS.

The school, located on the northwest corner of 135<sup>th</sup> and Mission, is just a few yards south of the Independence Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trail. It is a one-room school which was built in the 1870s after trail traffic was essentially over. It closed in the mid-1950s, but was re-used as a Baptist Church for many years.

The Leawood Historic Commission asked the Kansas City Archeological Society to help lead some archeological investigations. KCAS member and professional archaeologist Bert Wetherill volunteered to supervise Oxford surveys and excavations which extended over three-plus years. KCAS volunteers, including Trails Head members **Mary Conrad** and **Jeanne McGuire**, as well as Boy Scouts, a metal detecting club, and an anthropology class of Johnson County Community College assisted Wetherill. Nothing of great consequence had been found at the time of **Conrad's** 2000 talk. By the time KCAS had completed work at the site in early 2003, some late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century artifacts had been recovered.

The LHC hopes to move the building, possibly to a park that is being developed a mile or so south of the site. The school was moved south to the proposed Ironwoods Park on March 1, 2003.

### **ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING**

The Trails Head Chapter-Annual Meeting was held on **Tuesday evening November 28, 2000** at **Jim and Judy Budde's** house. About 20 enjoyed a potluck dinner, followed by the meeting.

Some discussion was had about the potential Cave Spring marker that Trails Head members have been discussing. Those attending voted, dividedly, to put it at the spring and cave and not near the DAR marker.

They elected the following officers for 2001:

**President – Bill Bullard**

**Vice President – Dick Nelson**

**Secretary – Elaine McNabney**

**Treasurer – Jim Budde**