

Membership Survey Included! - January 17, 2019

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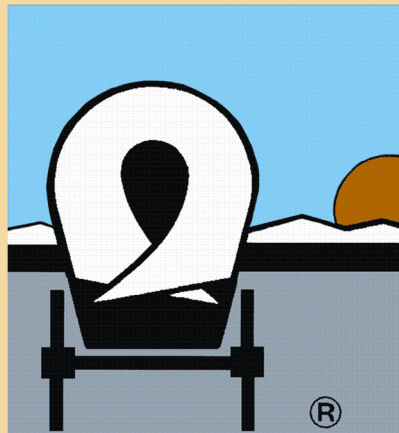
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## Please Take a Few Minutes to Complete Our [Membership Survey](#)

OCTA is a member-based association, and it is vital that we are responsive to the needs and views of all members. Effective organizations create results, and to be fully effective, nonprofits must exhibit strengths in five core organizational areas: leadership, decision making and structure, people, work processes and systems, and culture. All five elements must be strong to create a highly effective and sustainable organization. Your participation in [this survey](#) is vital to aid and strengthen our Association. Please take about five minutes to complete [our survey](#) and help guide our path forward. [The survey](#) will close on January 31. Thank you for your commitment to OCTA!

## Mapping and Marking Committee Seeks Input on Training

The National Park Service has offered to provide support for mapping training this year. The training is to be provided to those either currently involved or desiring to become involved in mapping the emigrant trails. The purpose of this message is to identify those interested in the training and topics of interest. At this point we have identified the following general topics:

1. How to organize and conduct a mapping project
2. Identifying and documenting emigrant trails including trail classification
3. Use of Terrain Navigator Pro and a GPS for mapping and research

The first two will draw heavily from the [Mapping Emigrant Trails Manual](#).

What other, or more specific topics are you interested in?

Please respond to Dave Welch ([welchdj@comcast.net](mailto:welchdj@comcast.net))

) and identify where you live so we can pick the most convenient location(s). The time-frame is March through October. Please indicate your preferences.

## **Stop B2H Coalition: Report to the Oregon-California Trails Association 4th Quarter 2018**

At the close of the 3rd quarter, the State of Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) announced the next step in their review and siting process (aka permitting) for the Boardman to Hemingway transmission project. This step was not a public hearing; rather they held "information meetings" in all five counties that B2H is proposed to cross, to notify the public and advising agencies that the Idaho Power application for a site certificate is "complete." With a completed application, the state will begin its evaluation, which is expected to take 1-2 years. We anticipate the next and very important step--public hearings--to happen in 2019.

Stop B2H took advantage of these meetings to energize our outreach, fundraising, and coalition building activities. STOP was present all four nights during the week-long series of meetings. We tabled with our literature, asked questions and networked with concerned citizens and landowners. Our campaign's "sign on" list is now at 350 individuals and 8 member organizations. See many Facebook posts ([@stopb2h](#)). We also had four letters to the editor, a [press release](#) and received coverage in the [Ontario paper](#), [Baker paper](#), [Union paper](#), and others.

After the public meetings where approximately 200 people throughout the region turned out, STOP held an organizational & public meeting in La Grande with 30 people and created two additional working groups. Two "house parties" informing people about B2H and the state process were also held: one in an affected neighborhood in La Grande; and another in Pine City, Morrow County with affected rancher and farmer families.

The working groups are currently developing a web site; power point presentation (B2H 101); a direct mailing to landowners; and a brief training for citizens wanting to research the application in preparation for the EFSC public hearings. The training includes tips for

filing testimony/challenges. Stop will offer 1:1 technical assistance for any individual or group upon request; as well as, posting action alerts and talking points at the appropriate times on Facebook and to our mailing list in the hopes of increasing citizen engagement.

The #Giving Tuesday fundraising effort and year-end fund appeal, seemed to spark interest and a sense of urgency among many supporters too. It was a very successful campaign and we experienced a sense of affirmation for our efforts. The fundraising campaign also enabled us to streamline internal systems, including transition to a new Quicken bookkeeping system. Finally, it should be mentioned that we are awaiting final payment from Facebook and have not encumbered all of the revenue from #Giving Tuesday in this report.

Additional activities, "in a nutshell" this past quarter included:

- Meeting with Jessica Keys, Senator Jeff Merkley's new EO representative
- Attending Idaho Power's kick-off 2019 Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) meeting; the monthly IRP advisory meetings in Boise since September; and a micro-grid conference
- Meeting and consultation with transmission expert, Steve Knudsen
- Meeting and reviewing questions with our attorney; his legal opinions in reply; and working on legal strategies
- Published a [Summer Wrap Up](#) newsletter; an [Action Alert](#) and a [Fall Update](#) with briefings on the State/EFSC Informational Meetings
- Attended EFSC meetings (observing processes and tracking the pending rulemaking litigation) and participation in State Senator Olson's legislative oversight task force of the Department of Energy (ODOE) and the Energy Facilities Siting Council (EFSC)
- Preparation for litigation in local Circuit Court regarding EFSC ruling; but then it was determined to be poor timing (legal advice is to wait.)

**Register Now for the "Truman & the Trails"  
Symposium - March 14 to 16, 2019  
Independence, Missouri**



*OCTA President Pat Traffas met recently with General MacArthur and President Truman. There's a rumor that Harry himself may make an appearance at our symposium.*

The Oregon-California Trails Association and the Trails Head Chapter of OCTA present the "[Truman and the Trails Symposium](#)" from Thursday, March 14 to Saturday, March 16. The National Frontier Trails Museum (318 W. Pacific St.) in Independence, MO is symposium HQ. The symposium will focus on Independence and its role as a starting point for the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe Trails as well as Harry S Truman's family ties to the trails and his later role in developing heritage opportunities along them.

The Drury Inn at 20300 E. 42nd Street is our host hotel. It is at the southeast corner of I-70 and Little Blue Parkway. OCTA has a room block with single kings and double queens available. Rates are \$95 per night and include hot breakfast, dinner, and drinks in the evening. Call the hotel at (816) 795-9393 and ask for the OCTA room block or book online [on their website](#). Reservations must be made by February 13 to receive the discounted rate.

The board meeting will be held at the Drury Inn in Independence during the day on Thursday, March 14, with all other activities taking place at the National Frontier Trails Museum unless otherwise noted in the registration materials.

If you go on the tours, bring hats and windbreakers. Though we fully expect sunny skies and 70 degree temperatures, Missouri weather can be unpredictable in March.

Register for the symposium [online](#) or look for the registration form in the new issue of *News From the Plains*.

## R-Project Power Line Update for Sutherland, Nebraska



The contact for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for the R-Project (power line) that could affect the trail corridor near Sutherland, Nebraska is now:

Drue DeBerry  
[Drue\\_deberry@fws.gov](mailto:Drue_deberry@fws.gov)  
303-236-4774  
Denver office

Gene Tacey of our Nebraska Chapter recommends that we all contact him and express our views about the Project another time. The process has not been completed and he needs to have input from as many people as possible.

Issues to keep in mind:

- Burying beetle and pristine land of the sandhills.
- Flyway for sandhills crane and whooping crane.
- Swans, Bald Eagle nesting, migratory ducks and geese, and Birdwood Trail & Creek ecosystem/artifacts 10,000 years old.

- Duck and geese flyway
- Cultural significance of Oregon/California/Mormon Pioneer Trail ruts
- Historic one lane bridge
- Duck, geese and migratory waterfowl sanctuary along the South Platte river.

## **Password for the *Overland Journal* Website Has Changed**

If you are receiving this email, you are a member in good standing with OCTA. As part of your membership, you get access to all back issues of the *Overland Journal*, 1983 to present. We are looking toward possibly reconfiguring the website so that each user will be able to create their own username and password that would expire on the date of their membership expiration and only renew when the membership is renewed. In the interim, we will periodically change the password. Make note that the new password is "Bidwell1841" and you will need to enter it to view back issues of *Overland Journal* at [www.octa-journals.org](http://www.octa-journals.org). Thank you for being a member of OCTA and enjoy this newer benefit of membership.



### **George Edwin Billings 1927 - 2019**

George Billings, the brother of longtime OCTA Crossroads Chapter stalwart Bryce Billings, has passed away. Most recently, George was a fixture on both T-Rail marker work parties and field trips.

George Edwin Billings was born February 17, 1927 in Delta, Utah, to Gerald Oraian and Anna Wilcox Billings. He was the fifth of eleven children. He graduated from Delta High School in 1945 and was immediately drafted into the Army, and honorably discharged in 1947. Later in 1947 he served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Western Canadian Mission. He was a student at BYU and active in the Delta Phi Chorus. He moved to Salt Lake City and worked at Salt Lake Hardware, the Salt Lake Post Office, construction in Duchesne County, a downtown music store, and a Sugarhouse paint store.

Wherever he lived he sang in ward choirs. He belonged to the Utah Oratorio Society for many years, especially enjoying their Jerusalem trips and singing in Handel's "Messiah" yearly.

He is survived by two sisters and three brothers: Arlene Billings, Wanda Barker, Terah (Joye) Billings, Fenton (Jackie) Billings, Bryce (Marylyn) Billings, and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, January 19, 2019, 11:00 a.m. at the Wasatch Ward, 1750 South 1500 East, Salt Lake City. A viewing will be prior to services, 10 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Interment at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 East 10600 South, Sandy. For condolences, please visit [www.LarkinCares.com](http://www.LarkinCares.com).

## **Russell Allen Genung** **1938 - 1919**

Russell Allen Genung of Deshler, NE the son of David and Olive (Gardiner) Genung was born May 26, 1938 in North Platte, NE. He departed this life Sunday, January 6, 2019 at Blue Valley Lutheran Nursing Home in Hebron, NE at the age of 80 years. He was baptized at the Presbyterian Church in Nelson, Ne and confirmed July 17, 2005 at St Peter Lutheran Church in Deshler by Pastor Kurt VanFossan.

Russ attended grade school in Oak, NE and graduated from Nelson High School with the class of 1956.

He furthered his education attending Fairbury Junior College in Fairbury, NE at the Teachers College at Kearney. He taught at Wood River High School for one year before deciding to go into the construction business.

He entered the United States Army November 8, 1956 and was honorably discharged November 30, 1958.

Russ married Janet Crossland June 3, 1968. This union was blessed with three children. He worked as a pharmaceutical representative for Blue Cross Serum from 1971 to 1980. He then went to work for Fort Dodge Laboratories until his retirement.

After retirement, Russ did volunteer work at Mary Lanning Hospital, Children's Advocacy Center, Kansas State School for the Blind, National Wildlife Refuges in Santa Ana and Anahuac, TX, Hidalgo County, TX. At the refuges he built observation piers, banding geese and maintenance. He volunteered at the Nuckolls County Historical Society and was a lifelong member serving as secretary. Russ was a member of the **Nebraska Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association, serving as president**, Nebraska Historical Society, Audubon Nebraska and Izaak Walton League. **He was also active in marking the Oregon, California, Pony Express, Mormon Pioneer, and various other historical trails in Nebraska and Kansas.**

On April 5, 2003 he married Donna Dondlinger at St. Peter Church with Pastor Duane



Fahr officiating. They made their home in Deshler. They enjoyed spending their winters in Texas, camping, fishing, traveling, and playing cards. His high light was a trip to Abu Dhabi to visit his son and family and Texas visiting his daughter, and watching his granddaughter's ice skating competitions, and traveling to Pennsylvania to attend Russ's grandson's wedding. Most of all spending time with his blended family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Janet Mumma and husband Chuck sister-in-law Donnis Genung.

He is survived by his wife Donna of Deshler, sons; Brian Genung and wife Ingela of Seattle, WA, David Genung and wife Andrea of Warren, PA, Todd Dondlinger and wife Nancy of Lincoln, NE, Russell Dondlinger and wife Jo of Rowlette, TX, daughters; Linda Svoboda and husband Tim of Grand Prairie, TX, Robin Falleur and husband Chris of Fort Smith, AR, and Rita Dondlinger of Lincoln, NE, grandchildren Matt Genung and wife Samantha, Natalie and Morgan Genung, Ella Svoboda, Lizzie Weisenfels and husband Joe, Tyler and Jake Falleur, Charlene and Taylor Dondlinger, great-grandchildren; Blake and Layla Genung and Laney Weisenfels, sister Gwen Johnson and husband Gayle of Davenport, NE, brother Gene Genung of Superior, NE, sisters-in-law Verna Brandt and husband Lester of Friend, NE, Norma Walker of Winfield, AL, Lila Honeycutt of Haven, KS, nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services were Saturday, January 12, 2019 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Deshler at 10:30AM. Officiant Brian Francik, organist Anita Harms, "Amazing Grace", and "How Great Thou Art", recorded selection "Come Home, Come Home Its Supper Time", memorials in care of the family. Condolences may be left at [www.krollfh.com](http://www.krollfh.com). Casket bearers; Matt Genung, Taylor Dondlinger, Russell Dondlinger, Todd Dondlinger, Chris Falleur, and Tim Svoboda. Burial will be in Deshler City Cemetery with military honors by Thayer County American Legion Posts. Kroll Funeral Home of Deshler is in charge of arrangements.

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

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