

• • • continued

you can see what a savings we make. Second class mail, though designed for magazines and newspapers, requires a rather complex postal deadline process, one which would be very difficult for OCTA to meet. Mailing second class would still be more expensive and would create more problems than the savings in time would warrant. Also, you can't beat our rock bottom "Nonprofit Org." bulk permit rate. It's the least expensive way to go and saves OCTA a lot of money, even though it takes longer to reach you.

Though both OCTA publications are mailed the same way, the OJ is not yet on a routine, quarterly schedule as is the NFP. Many of you know the journal ended up several issues behind schedule after the original editor abruptly terminated his publishing relationship with OCTA in June of 1987. At that point OCTA was in a bind, and Chuck Dodd volunteered to produce two issues while we searched for a permanent editor. Fortunately, by the spring of 1988, we convinced OCTA member Lois Daniel, a writer and editor by profession, to produce the OJ.

Only now, however, is Lois about caught up. It took her time to master the intricacies of a new publication, convert to the desk-top publishing method, develop a support staff for editorial assistance, and build up a reservoir of articles and contributors for a quality journal. About the time you are reading this news item, your last OJ issue for 1989 will have arrived (vol. 7, #4). Lois tells us that the first issue for 1990 (vol. 8, #1) will be ready by June and the second issue (#2) will be out around convention time. That means issues #3 and #4 will follow in the latter part of 1990. Thus by 1991 Lois will have the OJ back on a routine quarterly schedule.

Where can you help in this process? First, please try to keep headquarters up to date with address changes. The postal service has a variety of options with incorrect bulk-mailed items: returning the whole thing, costing OCTA \$1.00 in return postage; tearing off the cover and returning that to us for 30¢ return postage; or sending a photocopy

GATEWAY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MAKES NEW CONTACTS

Larry Bunse, Research Committee Chairman for the Gateway Chapter, wrote this article for the chapter newsletter.

The Gateway Research Committee has been working with Ron Koehler, editor of the "Hiawatha Daily World" newspaper, on a project designed to elicit information on the St. Joe Road from the northeast Kansas Public. Ron wrote an article about the trail and published it as a front page feature in the April 13 edition of his newspaper. Accompanying the article was a detailed Brown County map, showing the route of the St. Joe Road, according to present day information.

Ron began his article with a brief history of the trail through northeast Kansas, mentioning both the Brown County Historical Society and OCTA as two groups interested in locating any trail remains. Next, the article provided a likely description of the

of the cover for the same 30¢ return postage. Each return does give us your new address, but it is an expensive way to get it. We never know if you receive the item so we always send another just in case. It has to be sent first class postage.

Also, help the NFP editor by adhering to the published deadlines. Better still, don't wait until the deadline to send items, as she can begin her key-stroking of articles at any time; thus saving time after the deadline when doing the layout.

We hope you are as pleased as we are with how well our newsletter and journal have worked out. We know you'd like to receive them sooner but given the realities of editing a publication, printing it, and then leaving it to the vagaries of the postal service, we think our editors and support staff have done all they can to get OCTA's publications to you ASAP.

present day appearance of trail remnants, namely swales. Readers having any information about the trail were asked to contact the Brown County Historical Society, who would then forward such information to our chapter. The article ended with excerpts from several emigrant diaries, describing their experiences as they traveled through the county in the mid-1800's.

As of April 25, three individuals had contacted the historical society. One lady, calling from California, told of a swale in the Anderson-Lost Creek Cemetery eight miles northeast of Hiawatha. She said that as a child, she was told that this was part of the Oregon Trail. She also remembered several wooden crosses, which have disappeared, that were supposedly emigrant graves. Although this location appears to be a bit far north of where we would suspect the trail to be found from information taken from the original survey maps, it definitely deserves an investigation.

Another man called to report that he had a "map" of the trail (probably Pony Express) from Granada to Log Chain. He also said that the remains of a stage coach barn are located 1 1/2 miles east of Granada. This would be very close to the Pony Express Trail.

Another lady reported that she knows the location of the Walnut Creek Crossing several miles southwest of Hiawatha. She said that the emigrants had placed rocks on the bottom of the creek, and that the approach to the crossing from the east is still visible.

The response to the newspaper article whets the appetite, to say the least, for a field trip or two later this spring or summer. Hopefully, we will hear from more people. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a big THANKS from all Gateway members to Ron Koehler for writing and publishing the article, and to the Brown County Historical Society, specifically Melissa Wist, for assistance in collecting the information.