

Nature Notes

by
Patricia Clark-Gray
The Oregon Trail

"Oregon! The very word evoked visions of paradise. Towering trees. Lush valleys with rich soil. Land of unlimited opportunity. Between 1840 and 1869 those visions lured over 500,000 pioneers west to fulfill their dreams and a nation's destiny. Their 2,000-mile route is known today as the Oregon Trail"

From the National Park brochure title Oregon Trail

I have always been fascinated about with the Oregon Trail and the immigration of pioneers. I also had just finished reading A Sudden Country: A Novel by Karen Fisher, a fictional story about a family traveling to the Oregon Territory. Karen was inspired to write her book



because her ancestors did travel on the Oregon Trail. We were traveling to South Dakota to visit Mount Rushmore so we adjusted our travels to visit any fort, museum or historic site associated with the Oregon Trail. Even though we were traveling and camping out in our Roadtrek, I tried to imagine what their experience was like. As we traveled we drove through areas that are not developed and remain similar to when the pioneers traveled through in their wagons. I could imagine their hardships, but many of the areas they traveled through had beautiful landscapes.

One of the photos included with this article shows the ruts made by the thousands of wagons as they crossed from Missouri to the Oregon Territory. Another photo shows the names of the pioneer's names that they carved into rocks that are now known as Register rocks. We stopped at two locations on our travels. Another photo shows the bison with a map. We were so lucky to see bison at Custer State Park and Yellowstone National Park. But the bison or buffalo and the relationship of the local Indians to the bison contributed to tension between the pioneers and the Indians.

During the first decade of Oregon Trail travel, relationships were generally cooperative. The Indians provided fresh meat and guided travelers across river. But as the streams of wagons increased in 1849 as a result of the California gold strikes, tensions grew. The emigrants killed the bison that the tribes needed for sustenance. In-

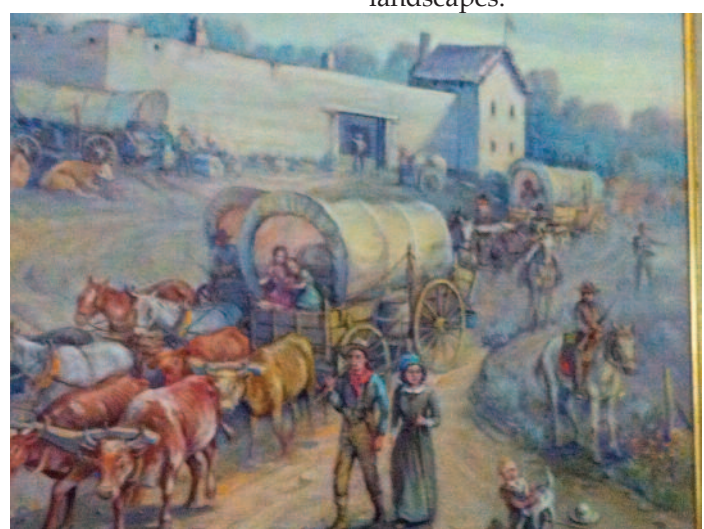


dian resistance began and the military were used to force most tribes onto reservations. To me, this was the sad chapter of the Oregon Trail.

But for the 500,000 pioneers who reached the west they

were able to fulfill their dreams and our nation's destiny. These pioneers contributed greatly to the areas they settled and I admire their willingness to deal with the hardships of the Oregon Trail to seek a better life.

I encourage you to learn more about the Oregon Trail by visiting the National Park Service website (www.nps.gov/oreg.) and reading books on the Oregon Trail. The Oregon-California Trails Association also has a website that you can visit (www.octa-trails.org).



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Diva's BEAUTY STUDIO
Diva's is Donating

We are really excited to help this Holiday Season in any way we can, Diva's raised almost \$1,000 in October that was donated to Susan G. Komen for the Cure, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Let's get the ball rolling for November!

We have a couple Raffle prizes available this month to raise money for the Monterey County Food Bank.

#1 Joico Gift Set, valued at \$85.00
#2 Glo Minerals set, valued at \$40.00
Raffle Tickets are available at the salon:
2 for \$5 • 5 for \$10 • 10 for \$20

You do not need to be present to win and all proceeds will be donated to the Monterey County Food Bank!
We are excepting all food and cash donations through November!
Let's help everyone have a happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season!

HEROES' OPEN II

Please Join Us For
The Heroes Tea and Silent Auction
in support of The Heroes Open II benefiting Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation

Meet the CCVCF Board of Directors and Members of The Citizen's Action Committee.
Learn more about the cemetery project, the progress being made and how you can help.

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Owners Kyoji & Kiyoko Michioka

WELCOME NEW CHAMBER MEMBER! Michi Japanese Restaurant – After several years in Tokyo, New York and Los Angeles working as an emerging sushi chef during sushi's enormous boom in popularity, Kyoji Michioka "Michi" moved to Salinas where he had relatives and could settle down. There he met and married Kiyoko, and they opened their first Japanese restaurant. The business continued to be successful with a large and loyal clientele. In 2006, they discovered a restaurant space in Marina and decided to move their establishment due to the easy access, plenty of parking and friendly, small-

town environment. Mr. & Mrs. Michioka are happy in Marina – he as a skilled sushi cook and she working in the kitchen and doing the bookwork. Michi Japanese Restaurant serves a large variety of Japanese food, specializing in sushi, teriyaki, tempura and tonkatsu. Also on the menu are deep fried squid, spare ribs, miso soup, several brands of Japanese beer and sake. They have established a fine reputation for serving authentic Japanese cuisine using only the freshest ingredients at reasonable prices. Michi is open daily at 3114 Del Monte Boulevard, Marina (831) 384-6665.