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On the Cover: Ranch at Cimarron Crossing

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On The Cover:

“Ranch at Cimarron Crossing” by Craig Ridenour

“Ranch at Cimarron Crossing” was commissioned by the Santa Fe Trail Association with funding from the National Park Service for the wayside exhibit at Cimarron Crossing Park. The drawing is based on the description of the Ranch that appeared in an article “The Ranch at Cimarron Crossing”, by Louise Barry. Autumn 1973 (Vol. XXXIX, No. 3), pages 345 to 366. *Kansas Historical Quarterly*.

The entire article can be read online at www.kshs.org/p/kansas-historical-quarterly-the-ranch-at-cimarron-crossing/13237

Excerpts of the description of the Ranch used for Craig Ridenour’s drawing include:

- The site of our habitation was indeed primal.
- We were in the midst of a vast open plain, covered only with cactus on the higher ground and with grass in the river bottoms as high as a man on horseback.
- Pra[ie]-dog towns were everywhere.
- Buffalo could be seen in any direction, and for an hour at a time the river might be heard roaring in the night from the crossing of great herds, plunging through at an unchecked headlong lope.
- Wolves and pra[ie]-dogs made doleful plaint from darkness until dawn, so that all about us was open and lonely.
- It behooved us to build as rapidly as possible.
- The material used was turf and we had to go twenty miles for timber upon which to lay the roofing, consisting first of poles, then a layer of buffalo hides and gunny sacks and upon this an eight inch course of dirt or sod.

When Cimeron [ranch] was completed she consisted of

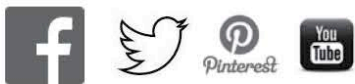
- a kaavl [corral] one hundred steps square,
- the main building -- forty by sixteen feet -- joining on the South West corner with a two story round tower -- pierced with loop holes from which we could fire our trusty carbines in any direction.
- In the North East corner of our kaavl was a stage driver’s lobby and a similar tower arose out of it,

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About the Santa Fe Trail Association

The mission of the Santa Fe Trail Association is to protect and preserve the Santa Fe Trail and to promote awareness of the historical legacy associated with it.

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Wagon Tracks, the official publication of the Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA), publishes well-researched and documented peer-reviewed articles relating to the Santa Fe Trail. Wagon Tracks is published in February, May, August and November. Deadlines are the 10th of the month prior to publication. Queries are welcome. Complete submission guidelines are posted at www.santafetrail.org. Although the entire issue of Wagon Tracks is copyrighted in the name of the Santa Fe Trail Association, copyright to the article remains in the author’s name. Articles may be edited or abridged at the editor’s discretion.

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