

Wagon Tracks

Volume 4

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Santa Fe Trail Association

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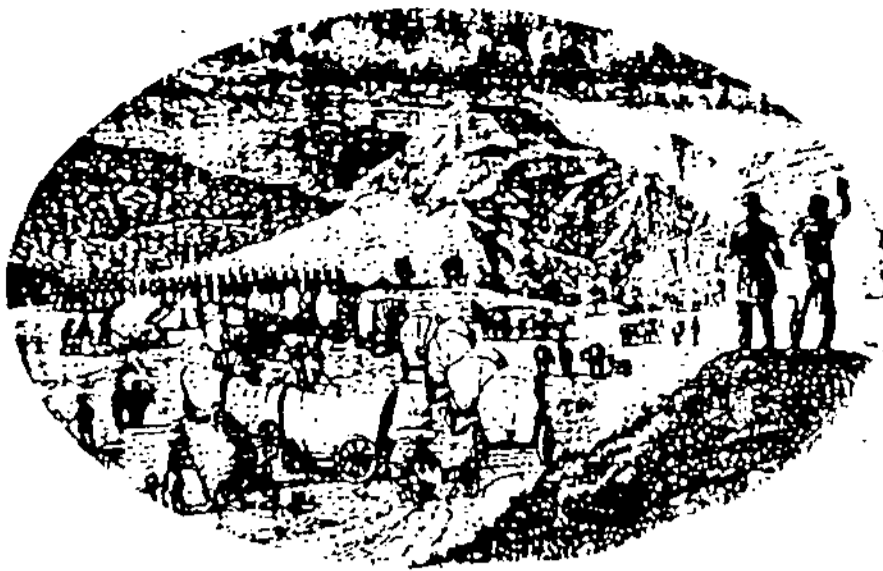


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WAGON TRACKS

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOC. NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4

FEBRUARY 1990

NUMBER 2

NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS CENTER GRAND OPENING

Dan Holt, director of the National Frontier Trails Center at Independence, MO, invites SFTA members to attend the grand opening of the Center, March 23-28, 1990. The public ribbon cutting will be at 9:30 a.m., March 24, followed by a brunch at Arrowhead Stadium, official greetings, and a keynote address. The Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) building will be dedicated at 3:00 p.m. that day.

The last three days of this celebration will be devoted to specific trails: March 26, Oregon Trail; March 27, California Trail; and March 28, Santa Fe Trail. Included on Santa Fe Trail Day will be a Mexico flag raising at 9:00 a.m., a pageant by students of Santa Fe Trail Elementary School at 10:00 a.m., featured speaker Marc Simmons will talk on "Trailblazer Kit Carson: Hero or Villain?" at 1:30 p.m., at the Truman Library, to be followed by a reception. At 7:00 p.m. on March 28, at Wm. Chrisman High School, VanAnn Moore will present her portrayal of Susan Shelby Magoffin, one of the first Anglo-American women to travel the Santa Fe Trail. Other events and special exhibits will be presented all five days.

For additional information, contact Director Dan Holt, National Frontier Trails Center, P. O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519, or call (816) 836-8300 ext. 491.

CHAPTER GUIDELINES

A new SFTA publication, setting out the guidelines for organizing a local chapter of the Association, has been printed by H. Denny Davis, Fayette, MO. Davis donated the printing of the guide which was prepared by Marc Simmons last year. To obtain a copy, contact Sec-Treas Ruth Olson, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR 3, Larned, KS 67550 (316) 285-2054. ◀

LARNED TRAIL WEEK AND RENDEZVOUS MAY 26-JUNE 3, 1990

The annual Santa Fe Trail week at Larned, KS, May 26-June 3, 1990, will include the biennial Trail Rendezvous, hosted by the Santa Fe Trail Center, May 31-June 2, 1990. The series of events will begin with a weekend of living history activities and programs at Fort Larned National Historic Site, May 26-28. The three-day Rendezvous at the end of the week will be the sixth such program since 1980. Each Rendezvous has focused on a different topic.

This year's theme is "Perceptions of the Santa Fe Trail as Portrayed by the Media—Yesterday and Today." The media played an important role in forming eastern perceptions of the people and cultures of the Trail region and the West, and today it affects perceptions of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. Speakers and topics include James Hoy and Tom Isern on folksongs, T. Lindsay Baker on contemporary Texan views of the Santa Fe trade, Ronald McCoy on western films, Timothy Zwink on illustrator and correspondent Theodore Davis, George Neavoll on the Trail and today's media, and Nancy Sherbert on photographer Alexander Gardner. There will also be field trips, guided tours of the Trail Center and Fort Larned NHS, and a buffalo dinner at Fort Larned with a special presentation by T. Lindsay Baker, "Conversations with James S. French, Buffalo Skinner, Whiskey Peddler, and Derelict."

The Trail Week will end on Sunday, June 3, with the annual Dedication Day Celebration at the Trail Center, including free admission and special activities. Each member of SFTA will receive details and registration materials for this Rendezvous. The governing board of SFTA will meet during the Rendezvous. Ruth Olson, director of the Trail Center and SFTA sec-treas, invites everyone to participate in this program. ◀

MASSACRE SITE MARKED

by Morris A. DuBois



New marker sponsored by Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter (photo by Morris A. DuBois).

This photo shows the site of a massacre and burial of 28 Mexicans along the Santa Fe Trail in Lyon County, KS, in 1844. The victims were traveling the Trail by wagon train, heading east to purchase trade goods to take back to New Mexico, when they were ambushed, robbed, and murdered by a gang of outlaws. The remains were buried by the U.S. Army.

The outlaws, as hardened a gang of cut-throats as ever went unhanged, resided in the first log house built by white men in Wabaunsee County in 1842, near the present town of Harveyville. They organized for the purpose of robbing army paymasters and Mexican caravans. They reportedly killed many people traveling the Trail between 1842 and 1844.

The site of the Mexican burials was near the crest of a mound in sight of an old cabin used as a point of observation. From there, every wagon train passing over the Santa Fe Trail to or from Independence or Fort Leavenworth could be observed, the number of wagons and men determined, and the probable value of the treasure estimated. This gravesite, located on private property, was recently enclosed and marked by Mr. and Mrs. Rusty Schwerdt. ◀

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Until the last few days being president of the Santa Fe Trail Association has been a piece of cake. That was fortunate for me since my time has been consumed by a variety of personal projects like moving into our new home, building storage in the basement and bookcases in my study, trying to level the "lawn" on good days, etc.

With the turn of the year, however, I realized that I must get on with the Association's business which in the short term meant appointing people to committees. I really intended to get at that work right after New Year's Day. A request from Leo saying he wanted to publish the list in this issue of *Wagon Tracks* really put me on the spot.

A series of telephone calls easily and quickly filled all the chairmanships while many volunteers had indicated their willingness to serve on a variety of committees. The generosity of those associated with our organization overwhelms me; no one was unwilling to serve where I asked them.

All of which convinces me even further that this organization is one of the most outstanding in country. Its members do not join merely for the fun of it, they are willing to work toward our goals. Those of you to whom I talked really warmed my heart and made my day.

The most important committee of the Association is still unstaffed, however. The nominating committee will recommend, at the meeting in Arrow Rock in the fall of 1991, those persons who they believe are the most qualified to serve as officers and members of the governing board. I hope we may have one person from each of the five states on this committee so that everyone will receive due geographical consideration. We'll announce the appointments for that committee at a later date.

Thank all of you who responded to my request so willingly. You make being president a real joy.

—Joseph W. Snell

SFTA COMMITTEES

SFTA committees required by the bylaws, to be appointed by the president with at least one member of the governing board on each:

Audit: "a committee of the governing board shall audit the treasurer's records annually."

Audit: (con't)

Mark L. Gardner, chair (CO)
Adrian Bustamante (NM)
William Y. Chalfant (KS)
Virginia Lee Fisher (MO)
Dan Sharp (OK)

Awards: to identify and propose the names of persons or organizations who have rendered exceptional service in the preservation and/or development of the Santa Fe Trail, or who have exhibited outstanding efforts toward the interpretation and public appreciation of the Trail, its resources and its history.

Marc Simmons, chair (NM)
Virginia Lee Fisher (MO)
Mark L. Gardner (CO)
Ruth Olson (KS)
Bill Pitts (OK)

Marker: to develop and propose standards for the design, selection, placement and erection of historical markers relating to the Santa Fe Trail, after standards are adopted by the governing body to research, compose, erect, and commemorate such signs.

Larry Jochims, chair (KS)
Michael Duncan (KS)
Gregory Franzwa (MO)
Jon Hunner (NM)
Jim Sherer (KS)

Membership: to promote membership in the Santa Fe Trail Association world wide.

Sylvia Mooney, chair (MO)
Paul Bentrup (KS)
William G. Buckles (CO)
David Hutchison (OK)
Mike McDonald (NM)

Program: to develop the program and local arrangements for the Association's biennial symposium and other gatherings which may be directed by the governing board.

Richard Forry, chair (MO)

Committees determined by the president:

Cooperative Agreement: to consider, comment on and make recommendations on cooperative agreements proposed by the National Park Service.

Joy Poole, chair (NM)
Sylvia Mooney (MO)
Tim Zwink (OK)

Education: to consider and propose educational programs.

Tim Zwink, chair (OK)
Virginia Lee Fisher (MO)
Karla French (KS)
Jere Krakow (CO)
Michael Montoya (NM)
Danita Ross (NM)
Dave Webb (KS)

Financial Support Policy: to propose the policy whereby the Association will consider appeals for financial support from individuals and organizations.

William Y. Chalfant, chair (KS)
William G. Buckles (CO)
Ruth Olson (KS)
Joy Poole (NM)
Marc Simmons (NM)

Historic Site Development Guidelines: to develop and propose guidelines for the use of persons or groups who wish to develop a historic site related to the Santa Fe Trail.

Martin Stein, chair (KS)
Harry C. Myers (NM)
John B. Arnold (KS)

Logo: to solicit and recommend a design for the Association's official logo.

Marc Simmons, chair (NM)
Bill Pitts (OK)

Publications: to develop the Association's publication program for consideration by the board and to provide oversight for the Association's regular and special publications.

H. Denny Davis, chair (MO)
Fern Bessire (KS)
Gregory Franzwa (MO)
Linda Johnston (VA)
Leo E. Oliva (KS)

Committee designated by the governing board.

Interpretive Centers: to consider and propose locations for National Park Service operated interpretive centers.

Gregory Franzwa, chair (MO)
Dan Sharp (OK)
Marc Simmons (NM)
John Tarabino (CO)
Edgar White (KS)

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Membership Categories

Benefactor	\$1,000
Patron	\$100/year
Institutional	\$25/year
Family	\$15/year
Individual	\$10/year

Editor: Leo E. Oliva, RR 1, Box 31, Woodston, KS 67675

President: Joseph W. Snell, 5609 Hawick, Topeka, KS 66614

Vice-President: Timothy A. Zwink, 807 N. Sunset Dr., Alva, OK 73717

Secretary-Treasurer: Ruth Olson, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR 3, Larned, KS 67550

1991 Symposium Coordinator: Richard R. Forry, 205 S. 6th St., Arrow Rock, MO 65320

Publicity Coordinator: Michael E. Pitel, Tano Rd., Rt. 4, Box 240, Santa Fe, NM 87501

JACK K. BOYER 1911-1989

With the passing of Jack Boyer of Taos, the SFTA has lost one of its distinguished members. Born in a small New Mexico mining town in 1911, he moved to Taos with his family at the age of nine. As a young man, he witnessed a disastrous fire on the town plaza which led him to help organize the Taos Volunteer Fire Department.

At the outbreak of World War II, Jack was sent to the Philippines with the New Mexico National Guard where he endured the horrors of the Bataan Death March and Japanese POW camps. Surviving that ordeal, he received a medical discharge following the war and promptly returned to Taos.

For the next 34 years he was a leader in the effort to preserve and interpret the Kit Carson home, a property of the Mason's Bent Lodge of Taos. Jack ably served as executive director of the Kit Carson Foundation, becoming recognized as an authority on Carson's life. In that capacity he was frequently consulted by researchers and the media.

The loss of Jack Boyer is keenly felt by the numerous people who appreciated his many and enduring contributions to the history of the Southwest.

—Marc Simmons

FRANKLIN OR BUST MOVING ALONG

Franklin or Bust, Inc., is requesting that members renew for 1990 and is seeking new members to help with their drive to establish a Trail interpretive center at the eastern end of the Santa Fe Trail. Several goals have been met, including the removal of all unfavorable references to the Franklin site from the SFNHT Management and Use Plan, endorsement of the site by many organizations, an appropriation by the state of Missouri to study the site, and preliminary work in securing funding for a visitor center.

FOB President H. Denny Davis invites everyone interested in this project to join the organization. Individual dues are \$10 per year, and institutional memberships are \$25. To join or renew, send your check to Franklin or Bust, Inc., c/o Bill Rudloff, Treas., P. O. Box 146, New Franklin, MO 65274. ◀

BOGGSVILLE PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

by Phil Petersen

The Boggsville Revitalization Committee has been working on plans for Boggsville since receiving grants for nearly \$100,000 from the State of Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Most of this money will be used for site planning and restoration of the 1866 Thomas O. Boggs house. A report of archaeological investigations of the historic site, conducted by the Univ. of Southern Colorado under the direction of Bill and Nancy Buckles, has just been received. This is just the beginning of archaeological research.

Site planning help has been hired through the Center for Community Development and Design of the University of Colorado to aid in developing an interpretive plan to portray the importance of early settlement along the Santa Fe Trail and the lower Arkansas valley. The residents of Boggsville were well known among Trail travelers.

Thomas R. Mann and Associates of Albuquerque have contracted to conduct aerial mapping and research photography in the area. Mann has graciously donated much of this work. The Planning Committee has met with the Division of Wildlife and Colorado Parks Department with plans to develop a walking trail which would head at Boggsville and eventually traverse 20 miles past other historic sites in the area. The first phase will be a 2.5-mile trail from Boggsville to the original gravesite of William Bent, east of Las Animas where the DAR is planning a monument.

On April 27, 1990, the Las Animas community will celebrate Santa Fe Trail Days, sponsored by the high school. This is the 56th year of this celebration. In conjunction with it, the Boggsville Committee is planning an all-day program of events at Boggsville on Saturday, April 28. Everyone is invited to attend and see the prospects for this worthy project.

The Research Committee is busy looking for the authentic history of the community of Boggsville. If any SFTA friends have or know of any pictures or data on Boggsville or its people, please send the information to Phil Petersen, P. O. Box 88, La Junta, CO 81050-0088. ◀

GARDNER GETS GRANT TO STUDY MERCHANTS

The Colorado Endowment for the Humanities recently awarded a research grant to SFTA board member Mark L. Gardner of Trinidad to study Colorado merchants during the Trail era. Entitled "Locomotives, Oxen and Freight: Merchants along the Santa Fe Trail in Colorado, 1870-1879," the project will focus on, but not be limited to, the forwarding and commission merchants who located at such railheads as Kit Carson, Granada, West Las Animas, La Junta, and El Moro.

Gardner hopes his project will increase awareness about the importance of the latter period of the Santa Fe Trail and shed light on the influence of the railroad and the increased business activity associated with it in southern Colorado.

The grant will fund research trips to Boston, where Gardner will examine the credit reports of R. G. Dun & Co. Collection, Albuquerque, and Denver. Gardner, director of the Baca/Bloom and Pioneer Museum in Trinidad, is currently editing the letters of Santa Fe Trail traders Edward James Glasgow and William Henry Glasgow for publication.

LAMENTABLE LOGO LOGJAM LOOSE: LOUANN'S LINES LOOK LUMINOUS

SFTA member Louann Jordan of Santa Fe, who is a talented graphics designer, has been trying her hand at producing a logo for the Association. For some time the officers and board have been hoping to come up with something suitable, but after considering several submissions from the logo committee, rejected them all.

Louann, who designed the covered wagon symbol used on last year's symposium program, has already submitted a draft of several different logos for consideration by Past President Marc Simmons and current President Joe Snell. They are leaning toward a design that has an ox yoke for its foundation. A committee of Simmons and Bill Pitts has been appointed to continue this project. As an organization, we are now more than three years old, so it is high time that we had our own logo. ◀

POSSIBLE SALE OF GREER GARSON RANCH CREATES CONTROVERSY

Greer Garson's Forked Lightning Ranch east of Santa Fe, which surrounds Pecos National Monument and contains Santa Fe Trail ruts and the historic Kozlowski Ranch and stagecoach stop, has recently been the subject of controversy because of a possible sale of the property to Jerry Crassas, an international developer. Crassas negotiated over several months for Garson's ranch and the adjoining ranch owned by her stepson, Gayle Fogelson. The negotiations came to a halt when it was learned that Crassas planned to build "Santa Fe East 2001," an 11,000-acre development including a major resort and residential center, with golf courses and an airstrip.

When the plans leaked out, there was vocal opposition from residents of the area, and Garson and Fogelson (who had not been informed by Crassas about his development plans) announced they were reconsidering the offer for their land. Garson and her late husband, E. E. Fogelson, have been active environmentalists and donated much of the land for Pecos National Monument. She is a member of the SFNHT Advisory Council. Several people, including former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall and SFTA President Joseph Snell, expressed hope that the National Park Service might purchase the ranches to prevent such developments. Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan visited Pecos Pueblo on January 3, 1990, and expressed his opposition to development of the area. He stated he would seek federal funds to help preserve the area but said the federal government could not pick up the entire cost.

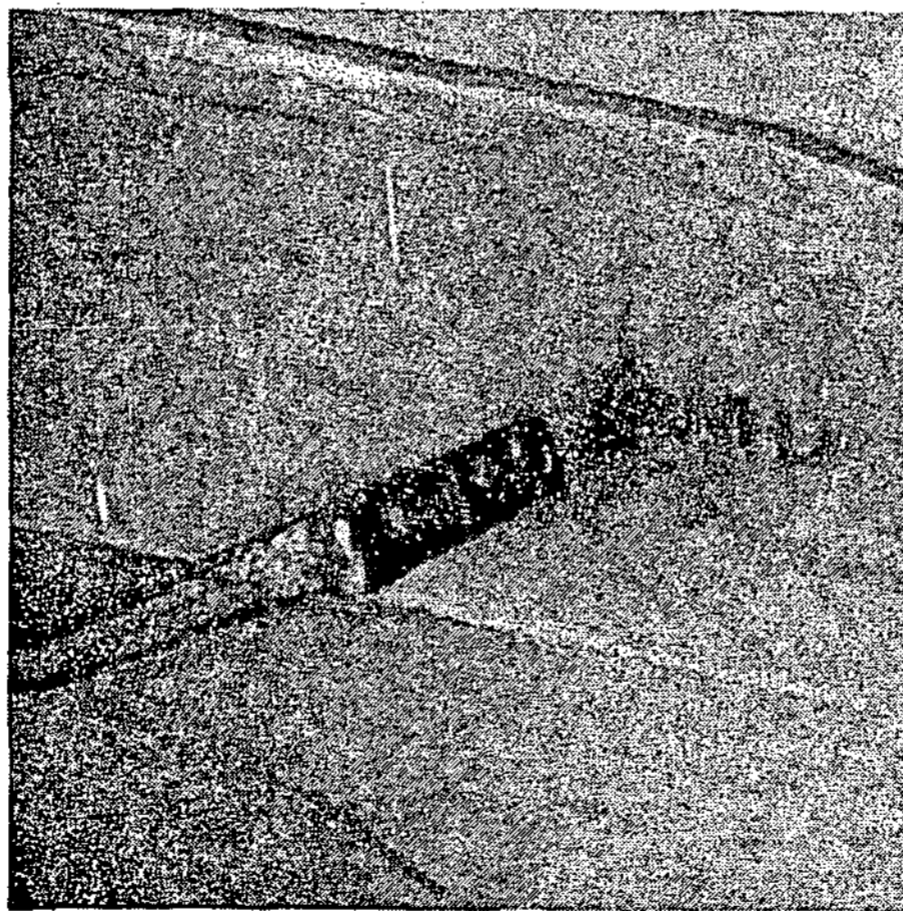
Fears that the land might be sold to Crassas decreased considerably when it became known in New Mexico that the Greek native has a long criminal record, including 48 convictions for crimes in Greece. He is wanted on a felony warrant in Florida, and is listed by the U.S. government as an "excludable" alien (meaning he is deemed undesirable and possibly subject to deportation proceedings). That information appeared to stop any further negotiations regarding sale of the ranch. For the time being, it appears that the historic Trail and Pecos Pueblo are still safe in the heart of Garson's Forked Lightning Ranch. ◀

FORT UNION ARTIFACTS

Fort Union National Monument (FUNM) Supt. Harry C. Myers recently announced the addition of three remnants of the fort's past to the monument's museum collections. Fort Union, 1851-1891, was situated on the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail in New Mexico, a few miles from the junction of the Mountain and Cimarron routes. It was closely connected with the history of the Trail. The new items, according to Myers, are some "of the most unusual artifacts that we have."

Last year an antique dealer contacted Fort Union Park Ranger T. J. Sperry and offered for sale a wooden dresser, claiming it had originally come from Fort Union. The dresser was branded "QMD" (for Quartermaster's Dept.) on the back. That was common practice of the military, but there were more than 20 other forts in the region where the dresser might have been used. The dealer loaned the dresser to FUNM for further study.

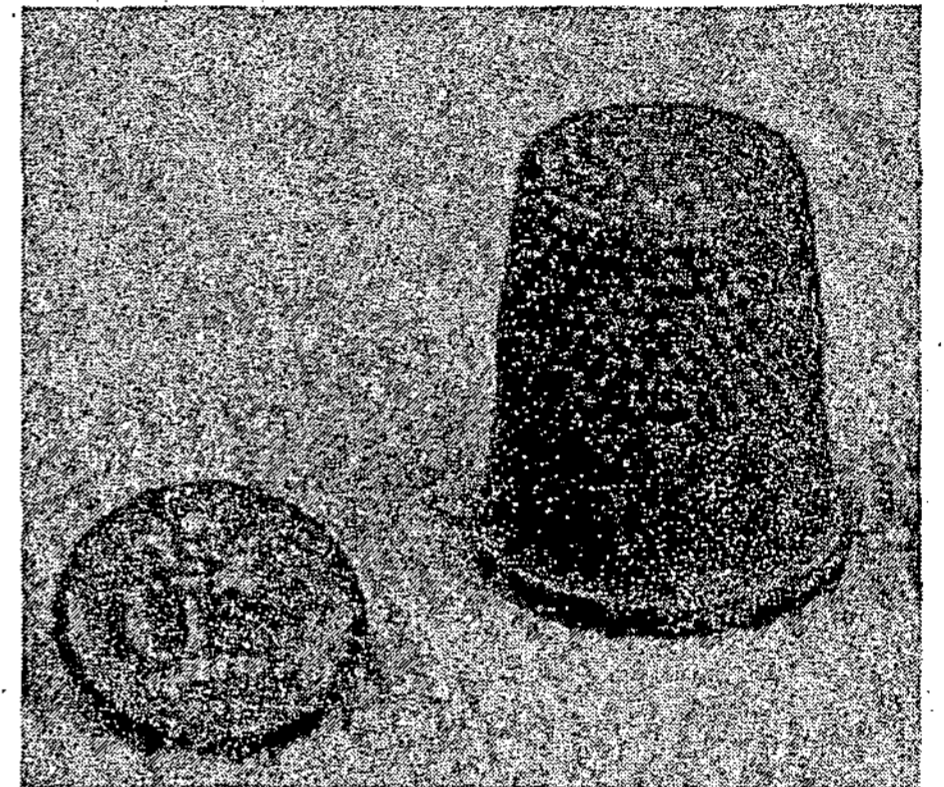
The construction techniques and brand were historically accurate but it appeared an impossible task to prove it came from Fort Union. Impossible, that is, until Sperry remembered a "QMD" branding iron recovered from the ruins of Fort Union by archaeologists in the 1960s. When the iron was pressed to the brand on the dresser, it was a perfect match. The dresser was from Fort Union, and it was purchased and prepared for display.



QMD branding iron and brand in the dresser.

The other two items, which may be the earliest dated finds at FUNM, are an officer's uniform button and a thimble, found within six inches of each other by a touring member of the Council on America's Military Past (CAMP).

Sperry identified the button as one used by the army between 1821 and 1840, noting that the military generally used up all stocks of older materials before newly-adopted ones were issued. He further speculated that the button may have belonged to a soldier of many years service, perhaps coming from an old garment or sewing kit. Perhaps the two objects had fallen through a crack in the flooring. "What is significant about this," said Sperry, "is that the button is the earliest datable military object found at Fort Union." These two items are also on display at FUNM.



Officer's button and thimble found at Fort Union.

SEARCH FOR PLAINSMEN

Early in the 20th century, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) became concerned that traces of the old Santa Fe Trail were disappearing. They proceeded to mark the route as precisely as possible. The DAR also wanted to preserve the stories of those who traveled the several trails across the plains, 1822-1880.

In 1909 the DAR asked for help from the Independence city council to develop a project to preserve the records of the plainsmen. Old plainsmen were invited to attend a reunion at the Independence Fairgrounds on September 3, 1909. There an association was formed with membership open to everyone who had traveled over the plains, including trappers, traders, emigrants, soldiers, and tourists. Each member was asked to contribute papers or sketches of their experiences and of those no longer living.

There were 250 members attending in 1909. Annual reunions were held until 1917 when only 12 persons answered the roll call. In 1916 the association gave certificates to the members, stating the name, date of birth, when they had

crossed the plains, and how many trips they had made. Some of these certificates may be in the possession of a descendant. The early records of the association were placed in the custody of the secretary, W. Z. Hickman, and have yet to be found. Some of those early adventures were published by Hickman in *History of Jackson County* (1920).

The Independence Pioneer Chapter, DAR, is now searching for descendants of those early plainsmen and any records or relics that may be available. They are planning to exhibit some of these at the dedication of the National Frontier Trails Center in March 1990. If you have any information about the old plainsmen, please contact Old Plainsmen Committee, 9717 Brook Lane, Raytown, MO 64133 or call (816) 353-4023.

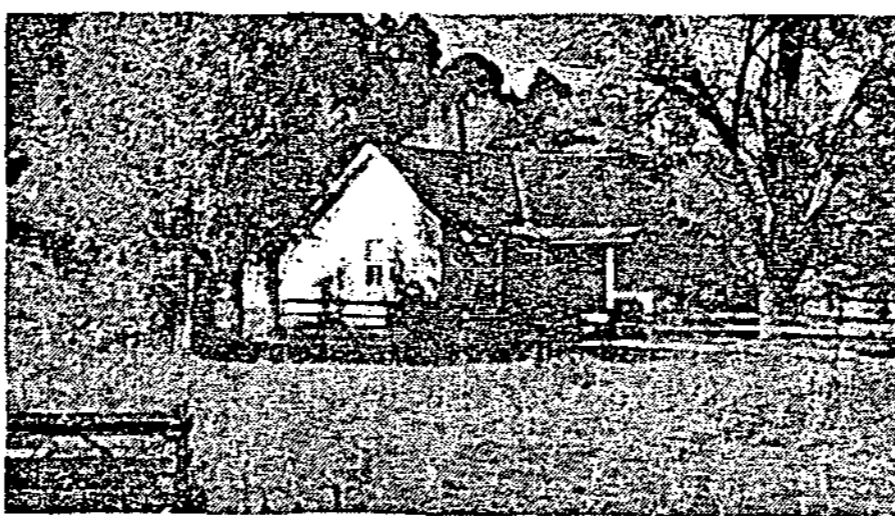
SFT BICYCLE TOUR NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Willard Chilcott, coordinator of the Santa Fe Trail Great Bicycle Trek scheduled for September and October 1990, has sent questionnaires to SFTA members residing in communities along the route. He is seeking information and volunteers. This year the riders will follow the Mountain Route from Santa Fe to New Franklin, MO. The tour has been endorsed by the Association, and everyone who is interested is encouraged to work with the tour group to make it a success. Chilcott hopes this will become an annual or semi-annual event. It is a great way to see and to promote the Trail. If you received a questionnaire and have not returned it, please do so today. If you have any questions about the trip, contact Chilcott, 885 Camino Del Este, Santa Fe, NM 87501 or call (505) 982-1282.

BCCC TRAIL TRIPS AVAILABLE IN SPRING

Barton County Community College, Great Bend, KS, will sponsor two trips on the Trail for college credit. The first, Traveling the Trail: Cimarron Crossing to Bent's Fort, is offered April 7-8, 1990. The second, Traveling the Trail: Fort Osage to Withington Ranch, is scheduled for May 4-6. Both ventures will be led by David and Alice Clapsaddle and limited to an enrollment of 20. For additional information and to enroll, contact Elaine Simmons, BCCC, RR 3, Great Bend, KS 67530 or call (316) 792-2701 ext. 214. ◁

RUSSELL HOUSE



Richard and Marian Sloan Russell house at Stonewall, Colorado (photo by Robert E. Gehlbach).

SFTA member Robert Gehlbach, Mandeville, Louisiana, visited Trail-related sites after attending the Santa Fe symposium last fall. He went to Stonewall, Colorado, to see the gravesite of Marian Sloan Russell, author of *The Land of Enchantment*, a classic of Trail literature. While there, he was told that this was the Russell house, located about 150 yards north of Highway 12 across from the Picketwire General Store. Further research by Gehlbach indicates that the Russells built a new house below the stonewall in 1872.

This is where Richard and Marian Russell lived, and it is where Richard died on August 27, 1888, five days after being shot during the war that was fought over the Maxwell land grant. Widow Marian, who dictated her memoirs of life on the Trail when 90 years of age, survived until struck by an automobile in Trinidad, Colorado, on Christmas day 1936. If anyone has more information about the Russell home, please send it to WT.

MORE OVAL SIGNS

Two more of the oval markers placed on schools in 1948 have been reported. Phil Petersen, La Junta, CO, has one in his collection from the Kreybill (Gagby) School which was located approximately eight miles east of Las Animas. Petersen attended school there until 1957, when it was closed. It has been torn down, except for one room which is now at the Las Animas Museum.

Brian King, Doolittle Ranch, Watrous, NM, reports that one of the signs is at the ranch. Its origin is unknown, but it may have been placed on one of the school buildings in Watrous. King reports the sign is in "very good shape with very little or no rusting." This accounts for 18 signs. Are there more? ◁

POST OFFICE OAK

—LETTERS—

Editor:

I hope you will be able to publish the papers from the Santa Fe meeting as you did those from Hutchinson. I look forward to seeing you at the Rendezvous in Larned in May-June.

John A. Mann
3612 Cottonwood Circle
Manhattan, KS 66502

Publication of the symposium papers is dependent on the gathering of materials by the symposium committee. If the papers are available (I have requested them but received no reply), I will be glad to handle the publication or someone else can volunteer to do it. Like you, I'm waiting and hoping.

Editor

Editor:

Thanks so much for running my article on Hiram Young in the last issue. I plan to use Young as part of my dissertation work with Patricia Limerick at the University of Colorado; perhaps this exposure will smoke out some more information.

There is an error in the article that should be corrected. In paragraph six, the third sentence reads, "He employed between 50 and 60 men at his shop on his 480 acre farm six miles east of Independence in the little Blue Valley." The sentence should read, "He employed between 50 and 60 men at his shop and on his 480 acre farm. . . ." Without the "and" it appears that Young's wagon shop was located on his farm, which it was not. Young's shop was located at the present intersection of U.S. Highway 24 and Liberty Street in Independence, on the southeast corner.

Pat O'Brien
12166 W 7th Dr. #7-106
Golden, CO 80401

Editor:

I want to remind the readers of WT that the May 1990 issue of *Cobblestone* magazine for children will be devoted to the Santa Fe Trail. I hope many of the fine writers along the Trail submitted copy for it. I would like to encourage museums, historic houses, forts, etc., to place an order with the publisher for the Trail issue to sell in their bookstores. For further information, write Cobblestone Publishing, Inc., 30 Grove St., Peterborough, NH 03458. I just love *Wagon Tracks* and read

it from cover to cover as soon as I receive it.

Evelyn Bartlow
54 E. Woodbridge Lane
Kansas City, MO 64145

Editor:

In the last issue I notice that the conference on Nuevo Mexicans and the Santa Fe Trail at Las Vegas, NM, is scheduled for August 9-10, 1990. For several years, now, the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) has had its annual convention for 1990 scheduled for August 7-12 at Omaha, NE. I wonder if the meeting dates of the conference in New Mexico might be changed, to enable people to attend both events if they so desire, and have contacted Fort Union Supt. Harry Myers about this. This points up the need for a clearing house of meeting dates of historical organizations. Perhaps someone would volunteer to do this.

Robert L. Berry
Chairman 1990 OCTA Conv.
11505 Pacific St.
Omaha, NE 68154

I cannot speak for the planners of the New Mexico conference, and they may be locked into their dates too. One purpose of our "Trail Calendar" section in WT is to help prevent such conflicts. Unfortunately, the dates of OCTA's meeting have not been included, an error on my part which is corrected in this issue. Also, unfortunately, information about many events never reaches my desk so it can be included, and I'm sure any clearing house would have a similar problem. I doubt it is possible to schedule an event these days without conflicting with another meeting, but I agree it would be good to avoid as many of these as possible. Best wishes for a great OCTA convention.

Editor

Editor:

This past summer I visited Council Grove, KS, with friends from Pennsylvania. We very much enjoyed visiting the numerous historic sites in the area. One thing did disturb us though—it appears that the ancient Post Office Oak is dying! Perhaps SFTA or its Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter should look into obtaining professional help in saving the tree. Otherwise another bit of our Santa Fe Trail heritage will have been lost. At the very least acorns from this granddaddy tree can be planted on the site after its removal, thereby ensuring that

a descendant survives. Now is the time to act to preserve this important landmark.

Clark Coan
Box 442-043
Lawrence, KS 66044

Editor:

Because it is difficult for some people to attend the biennial symposiums of SFTA, could we also have yearly or semi-yearly area one-day meetings. This way we could focus on a limited part of the Trail, explain the purpose better, and visit with area members. In Kansas, for example, we might devote one day to the eastern third, another meeting to the central third, and another to the western third. For many of us, a two-hour drive is better than several hundred miles and one day is better than two or three days.

Howard & Constance Servis
3232 So. Clifton #510
Wichita, KS 67216

This sounds good, and I hope the various chapters along the Trail (and those chapters still to be formed) will consider such meetings and invite everyone who is interested to attend. These gatherings might be coordinated by an SFTA committee or through Wagon Tracks.

Editor

Editor:

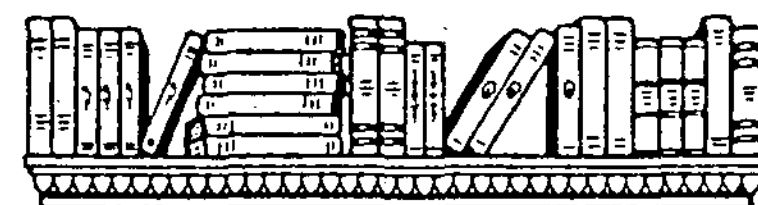
I recently ran into Marc Simmons and we were talking about history and the spell it casts on folks. I happened to mention how much I enjoy the SFTA's quarterly newsletter and always read it from cover to cover within a short time of its arrival. He said he thought it would be nice if I would drop you a line and let you know what I think of *Wagon Tracks*. So here are my thoughts. BRAVO for what I consider the best historical organization newsletter being published, and I have read a few and written a few. I look forward to the next issue.

Sherry C. Smith
P. O. Box 8340
Santa Fe, NM 87504

It is impossible to print as big a THANK YOU as we feel (although I claim this is a one-man operation, Bonita is involved, too, but not always by choice). We cannot take all the credit, however, for we depend on many people to provide information for each issue. Nevertheless, your letter will remain prominently displayed on the office wall and, when the deadline is past for delivering copy to the printer and we have gone to a round-the-

clock schedule of desperation, the computer is acting up as it only does at deadlines, the layout is a mess and nothing seems to fit, typographical errors are jumping out of hiding places we had carefully searched before, what should be civil conversation has become a shouting match, my vocabulary changes color (verifying Mark Twain's assertion that some things just cannot be done without benefit of profanity), the situation looks absolutely hopeless, and I swear only the most demented psychopath would volunteer to do this on a regular basis, then, at this point, I will read your kind letter and think only to myself with some degree of pride, "perhaps this is worth the effort." Thank you.

Editor



CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES —BOOK NOTICES—

Thomas E. Chávez, *Conflict and Acculturation: Manuel Alvarez's 1842 Memorial*. Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 1989. Pp. 90. Illus., notes, maps, bibliog., index. Cloth, \$14.95, plus \$2.00 postage. Order from Museum of New Mexico Press, P. O. Box 2087, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

This finely crafted publication makes available to scholars and the general public a significant historical document. It is the report of Manuel Alvarez, U.S. consul to Santa Fe, on the conditions in New Mexico in the 1840s, particularly in regard to the treatment of American citizens by the Mexican authorities. Consequently, it is filled with references to the Santa Fe Trail and trade and presents an overview of the tense situation created by the Texan-Santa Fe Expedition of 1841. In a broader sense, as Chávez explains, "it gives uncluttered insight into the meshing of cultures, diplomacy, and business and personal relations in a many-faceted frontier" (p. 84).

Chávez has done an excellent job of setting the historical situation in which Alvarez wrote, providing explanatory footnotes and documentation for the memorial, and selecting the many illustrations which are featured in the book, including photographs of

Washington, D.C., as it appeared when Alvarez visited that city to deliver his memorial in 1842. This book is recommended to all students of the Santa Fe Trail and the American Southwest.

—Mark L. Gardner

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Robert M. Utley, *Fort Union and the Santa Fe Trail*. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1989. Pp. 42. Illus., maps, notes, bibliog., index. Cloth, \$12.00; paper, \$7.50; add \$1.50 postage. Order from Texas Western Press, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX 79968-0633.

Originally done as a National Park Service report in 1959, this updated and revised publication makes available to the reading public an important study of the relationship of the Santa Fe Trail and Fort Union, NM. In addition to historical background and setting, Utley describes in detail the various branches of the Trail that developed in and around the military post that was established on the Mountain Route only a few miles from where it joined with the Cimarron Route. A series of additional trails were established to connect Fort Union with the Cimarron Route, including what was known as the Fort Leavenworth Road.

All routes are documented with skill and authority, based on field work, aerial photography, and historic maps and accounts. The only weakness of this welcome monograph is the fact that the detailed map of the several trails described has been printed in such small scale that it is difficult to use. The publisher could have provided sectional details or a foldout enlargement. Utley has established his niche as a master craftsman of western historical writing, and this booklet (done originally in the early part of his career and now polished by the experienced scholar he has become) will be appreciated by everyone interested in the historic routes of the Trail.

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Ray R. Kepley, *Tails Up! Ulysses*, KS: the author, 1980. Pp. 466. Illus. Order from Ray R. Kepley, RR 2, Box 128 A, Ulysses, KS 67880 (contact him for price and postage).

This fine piece of historical fiction contains the "memoirs" of Joe Reynolds on the plains of western Kansas in 1868, ending with his participation in the Battle of Beecher's Island as a member of For-

syth's Scouts. The book is based on careful geographic and historic research, with references to several branches of the Santa Fe Trail. Reynolds, called Carolyn because of his origins, tells his own story of search for a new life in the West after the Civil War. From Kansas City he worked his way on a wagon train to Fort Dodge, passing through Fort Riley, Abilene, Salina, and Fort Larned. He hunted buffalo, chased wild horses, put up hay for the army, and fought Indians. It is an interesting story, and Kepley clearly knows the land and its history. The book is nicely illustrated with drawings by Duane Blehm.

CAMP TALES

—CHAPTER REPORTS—

Cimarron Cutoff

David Hutchison, Boise City, OK, organizing president of the chapter, was re-elected president for a two-year term at the meeting in Boise City, Jan. 22, 1990. D. Ray Blakeley, Clayton, NM, was also re-elected secretary-treasurer. Mary B. Gamble, Springfield, CO, was elected vice-president. Four at-large board members were chosen: Gene Higgins, representing Morton County, KS; W. C. Wheatley, Union County, NM; Paul Bentrup, Baca County, CO; and Dan Sharp, Cimarron County, OK.

Sharp, a member of the SFNHT Trail Advisory Council, reported that the National Park Service may leave all Trail branches off the list of SFNHT. The excluded trails would include Fort Leavenworth branches, Fort Hays-Fort Dodge Road, Aubry Route, and the Granada-Fort Union Military Road. Chapter members passed a resolution to be forwarded to David M. Gaines, Chief, Branch of Trail Programs, asking that all of these branches be included in the SFNHT system.

Sharp also reported that the Cimarron Route through Oklahoma and New Mexico is being ignored by NPS for the placing of interpretive centers. Joan Walton, Boise City, who heads a committee to work for an interpretive center, said her committee had met and that Harry C. Myers, supt. of Fort Union National Monument, had attended that meeting.

Reports were given by representatives of the other counties of the chapter: Mary Gamble, Baca, CO; Ed White, Morton, KS; and Ray Blakeley, Union, NM. Joan

Walton suggested that the four counties work together to publish a Trail brochure. Hutchison appointed a committee of Walton, Stephen Hayward, Mary Gamble, and Ray Blakeley to investigate that project.

SFTA Ambassador Paul Bentrup gave a program concerning interest of Europeans in the history of the American West and especially the Santa Fe Trail. He told about three travelers from France coming to see his SFT ruts which he had donated to the Kearny County Historical Society. He displayed various photos and newspaper clippings about foreign visitors.

Dates and places for the remaining 1990 quarterly meetings of the chapter are: April 30, Clayton; July 30, Springfield; and October 29, Elkhart.

Texas Panhandle

No report received.

Wagonbed Spring

At the quarterly meeting in Hugoton, Jan. 11, members heard a letter from David Gaines, National Park Service (NPS), concerning improvements made at Wagonbed Spring. President Fern Bessire was instructed to prepare a report, with copies sent to each chapter member.

It was decided at the Oct. meeting that the site should be kept as simple as possible, given the need to protect and interpret it. This eliminated the need for a windmill and storage tank which caused concern in some quarters.

The committee on pumping installations reported that solar panels have been ordered with which to pump water from the well through underground pipe to the sunken wagon bed, causing water to well up into the bed as it must have in 1846. The panels will not be intrusive, and sandhill plums will be set around the pedestal, keeping the vegetation indigenous and minimizing the invitation to vandalism.

Paul Bentrup announced the availability of the NPS Santa Fe Trail video, and it was placed with Gladys Renfro, Hugoton museum director, for distribution as requested by civic groups before Feb. 12, when it is to be sent to Lamar, CO.

Four chapter members have been appointed to SFTA committees: Paul Bentrup, Ed White, Fern Bessire, and Karla French. All expressed eagerness to serve.

(continued on page 18)

THE MIDDLE SPRING AND POINT OF ROCKS AREA ALONG THE CIMARRON RIVER

by Willard Mayberry

[Willard Mayberry, 1902-1959, a newspaper publisher who spent much of his adult life in Elkhart, Kansas, and served as executive secretary to Kansas Governor Alfred M. Landon, 1933-1937, returned to college for post-graduate work at the University of Denver, 1956-1957, during which time he wrote a research paper on this topic in a history class taught by Professor Alfred Crofts. His daughter, Jolly M. Schram of Austin, Texas, kindly provided a copy of his paper, which has been edited for publication here, and data about the Cimarron National Grassland has been brought up to date with information provided by the fine staff at Elkhart which administers the Grassland.]

The Middle Spring of the Cimarron River provided one of the vital watering holes along the Cimarron Route of the Santa Fe Trail. The Cimarron Route was the only wagon road to New Mexico during the first two decades of the commercial use of the Trail, and it carried a large part of the freight and traffic until the Civil War. Even after the Mountain Route via Bent's Fort was opened, the old route along the Cimarron River remained popular because of its shorter distance and freedom from rough and mountainous sections. In most years, however, there was less Indian resistance along the Mountain Route.

The major problem for those traveling the Cimarron Route, from the Arkansas River to the Canadian River, was a lack of reliable and frequently-spaced water sources. The stretch between the Arkansas and Cimarron rivers was often without water for a distance of more than 50 miles, and that section became known as the Cimarron Desert or the *Jornada del Muerte*. The three famous springs along the Cimarron River, commonly known as the Lower, Middle, and Upper springs, were especially important to all travelers because the river itself was often without water. The Lower Spring was later known as Wagon-bed Spring, and the Upper Spring, located south of the Cimarron River, was also called Flag Spring.

George Sibley's journal provided information about all three springs in his account of the official survey of the Trail, 1825 to



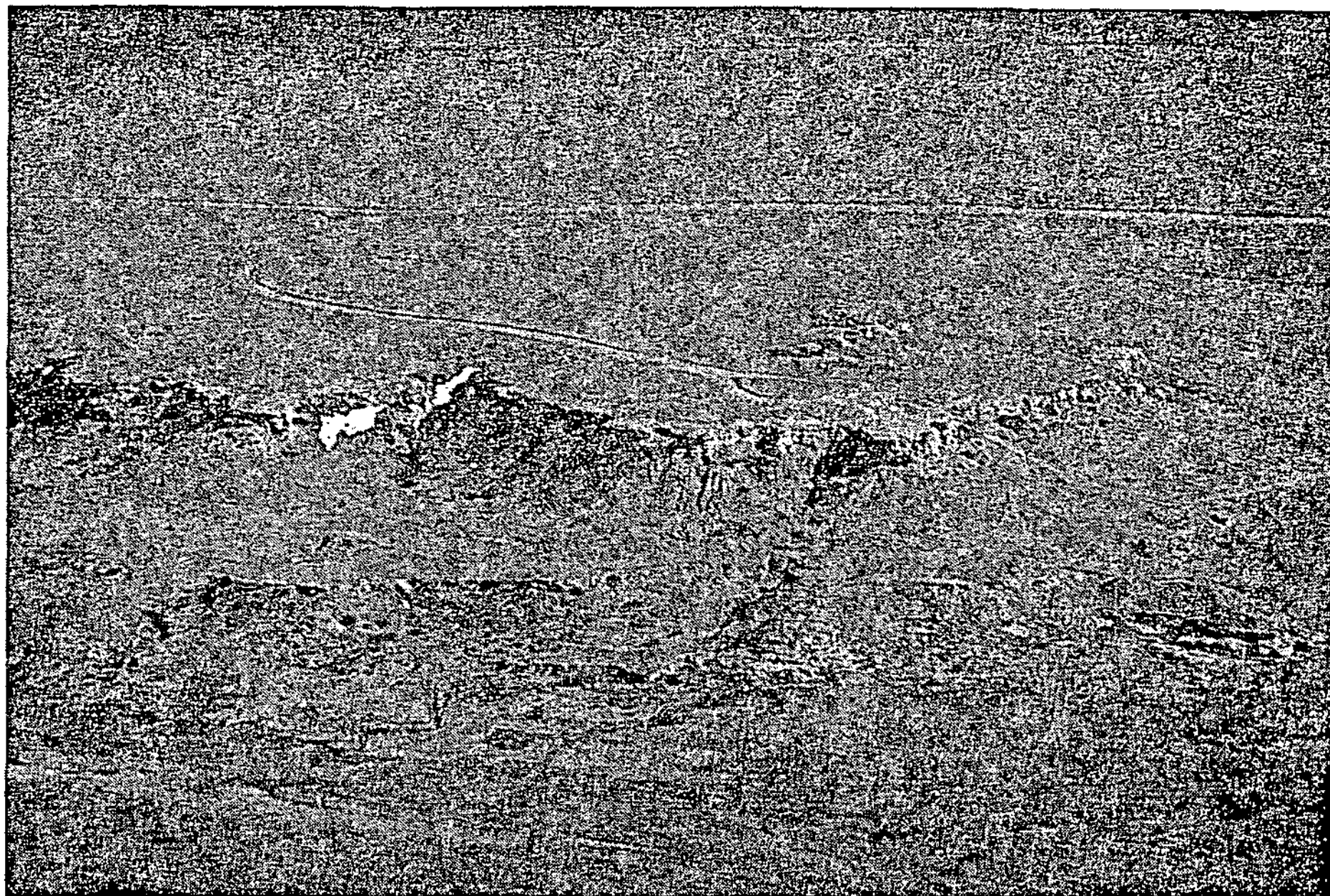
A small pool at Middle Spring near the Cimarron River (photo by Gregory M. Franzwa).

1826. Sibley described these watering places and noted how important they were to travelers. Those who missed the springs faced a high element of risk on what later became known as the Cimarron Route. Sibley's description of the Middle Spring and the nearby rocky bluff, known as Point of Rocks (sometimes called Point Rocks, one of several sites with this name along the Trail), which he visited on October 2 and 3, 1825, seem accurate even today: "I traveled up the Valley, for the purpose of noticing more particularly the character of this curious Creek [Cimarron River]. First I rode . . . 6½ M[iles] to a high rocky Bluff Point on the No[rth] side. Then . . . 3 Miles to the mouth of a brisk, running branch which enters the Creek from the North. I coursed this branch up for ab[ou]t ¾ of a Mile to a pretty good Spring, issuing from a high bank on the West Side. This, from the signs near it is a common Camping place of the Indians. . . . The valley up which I rode is about ¾ of a Mile wide generally; it is probably an Hundred feet below the common level of the Plain. . . . The Semerone meanders thro' this valley from side to side and is so extremely crooked in its course that in a distance of 6½ Miles, upon a direct line, I crossed it not less than a dozen times; and in that distance the Stream was completely lost in its dry sandy bed for several intervals of

nearly a Mile each." After spending the night of October 2 camped at Middle Spring, Sibley recorded the following day: "Started at 20 Minutes past 6—traveled on the high bench under the Hill . . . ¾ Mile to a perpendicular rocky Bluff [Point of Rocks]." Joseph C. Brown, surveyor of the team, wrote in his *Field Notes*: "Middle Spring is near a half mile from the creek, on the north of it, near a mile below a sort of rock bluff at the point of a hill. Above this middle spring the road is in the creek bottom, which in places is very sandy." (Sibley and Brown quotations are in Kate L. Gregg (ed.), *Road to Santa Fe* [Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1952], 91, 92, 258.)

The Middle Spring is located in what is now the northeast quarter of Section 7, Township 34 South, Range 42 West, in Morton County, Kansas, some six miles north and one and a half west of the town of Elkhart. The Point of Rocks bluff is less than a mile upstream and both features are on the north bank of the Cimarron, with the bluff overhanging the channel and the spring several hundred yards north of the river.

The Point of Rocks bluff has a rimrock of soft caliche and a base of somewhat harder limestone and is a striking landmark from points to the south and up and down the river. It has always helped to locate the Middle Spring, and both



Aerial view, taken from the south, of Point of Rocks over the dry streambed of the Cimarron River (photo by Gregory M. Franzwa).

sites were for many generations the campsites of Plains Indians, including Apaches, Comanches, Kiowas, and Pawnees. Many Indian artifacts, including arrow points and scrapers, have been picked up around both landmarks.

Several holes of fresh water have been known to exist up and down the Cimarron in this region, the intervals depending on rainfall for a given season. Some ten miles above Point of Rocks a permanent water hole, known among local cattlemen for much of the twentieth century as "The Boggs," existed. Some six miles above "The Boggs" another, smaller permanent spring has been found several hundred yards north of the river. While these springs were known to ranchers, no mention of them appears in Santa Fe Trail accounts. Perhaps freighters were not hunting for water so near the Middle Spring; perhaps the springs were not there in Trail days.

My family owned pasture land within a couple of miles of Middle Spring and Point of Rocks, and I examined both repeatedly over the years. My maternal grandfather's interest in them came from his own Santa Fe Trail days. There has been a deep hole of clear, cold water under the Point of Rocks, changing from year to year as flood waters change the river's channel, but no reference to this hole has been found in diaries or accounts of the Trail.

Limited amounts of water for man or beast can nearly always be obtained from the river bed by

digging a foot or more and waiting for the hole to fill. The famous explorer, Jedediah Smith, had apparently learned this fact. It is believed that Smith's search for water for his caravan in 1831 resulted in his missing the Lower Springs. Evidently striking the Cimarron somewhere below that point, Smith may have dug into the sandy bed to obtain water. While so engaged, he was surprised by a party of Comanches and killed. The exact location of Smith's death remains unknown.

Just as the Middle Spring was a reliable source of water for travelers on the Santa Fe Trail, it served well the ranchers who came into the region after the Trail was history. Ed Dean, who arrived in Morton County in 1884 as a boy and who later served as foreman of the Beaty Ranch which spread for miles around in all directions from Middle Spring, declared that the last bison killed on the Cimarron was shot by a Beaty rider as it approached Middle Spring about 1883, as he remembered it. Dean, Lee Larrabee and Burris Wright (both of Liberal and both of whom rode for the XIT Ranch of Texas), Con Johnson (for many years head of the Gross-Kelly Livestock Co. of Las Vegas), and others who knew the Cimarron in the early days have told me much of what I know about Middle Spring and Point of Rocks.

After the Santa Fe Trail, the most historical phase of the area began in 1877 when Texas ranch partners, known as Bates and Beals, pastured some of their cattle near

Point of Rocks during the summer months. The first permanent occupation came with the arrival of John W. Beaty from the upper Arkansas Valley and his construction of a cow camp on the bench above the Cimarron and just below Point of Rocks. He brought some six or eight men with him to start a new ranch headquarters, after which he turned south to the Texas panhandle to obtain the cows with which to stock this range. This expansion of the Beaty interests occurred in 1879 or 1880, some 14 years after he arrived in Colorado in 1866 at the age of 19.

John Beaty had taken several wagon loads of trading goods to the upper Arkansas over the Santa Fe Trail and, finding a place that suited his plans, had built a trading post at what was later known as Manzanola in Otero County, Colorado. Three of his brothers, James, Jasper, and Alvin, followed him soon thereafter from the family home in Carroll County, Missouri, bringing more merchandise and entering into partnership in the new community they founded. The four young men were descendants of pioneers. Their grandfather, William Beaty, a Kentucky backwoods scout and settler, had married Peggy Crockett, a sister of Davy Crockett. Their father, Harvey Beaty, had moved to Missouri in his youth and encouraged his sons to keep pace with the rapidly moving frontier.

Their interests were wide and varied, and they soon developed, in addition to a new town and a big store, a bank and an expanding cattle ranch. Most of their land during the early years was open range with title established only at a few watering points. Some of their landholdings were obtained from the Mexican grant to Ceran St. Vrain and Cornelio Vigil through an assignment to F. Aguilar, an associate of William Bent.

The Beaty brothers extended their range south along the Timpas and Purgatoire, up the Smith Fork of the latter, and down Butte Creek into what is now Baca County, Colorado. It was natural for John Beaty to scout out the Cimarron, find grass and water he liked, and establish a new ranch division headquarters at Point of Rocks. Grazing was excellent throughout the locale, and the river valley provided tall grass suitable for hay cutting.

Soon after building the headquarters camp just below Point of

Rocks, John Beaty filed a homestead entry on the quarter-section containing the buildings in early 1881. Others in his group soon filed homesteads on the quarter-section containing Middle Spring and several other nearby quarters. This was a common practice among early cattlemen, the adult members of their family and employees of proven loyalty fanned out and homesteaded the most desirable land, with water and grass being the chief criteria in choosing a location. There was little competition for such land in those days even though the homestead entry laws had been on the books for nearly two decades.

Later additions to deeded land were acquired largely by purchase of homesteads and relinquishments as many of the early settlers found it impossible to hold onto the land for even the five years required to obtain title without getting a job or assistance from the more entrenched cattlemen. The job or assistance usually led to purchase of the homestead by the cattlemen soon after the patent was issued. Land records in most counties of this region show countless quarter-sections with a mortgage dated immediately after the patent was issued with a quit-claim following mortgage registry almost in a matter of minutes.

The Beaty brothers were engaged in building other divisions of their huge and prosperous operation at the same time in Otero, Bent, Las Animas, and Prowers counties in Colorado. Their keen judgment, along with decisive and tireless efforts, made projects move forward, including trading activities, banking houses, landholdings, and cattle acquisitions. They controlled a large range, well beyond their actual ownership, in Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

Within a dozen years, the Beaty brothers had assembled more than 18,000 deeded acres around Point of Rocks and Middle Spring. This land was well blocked out, giving them actual control over several times that amount of acreage, with much of the land still belonging to the public domain. With their holdings in Colorado and other business interests, they were reportedly among the wealthiest men of the Southwest in the early 1890s.

The Beaty brothers somehow weathered the terrible blizzard of 1886 and the droughts that followed a few years later. Their

losses were considerable, of course, but they survived while many other ranchers were forced out of business. Their town of Manzanola was missed by the railroad, but they moved their interests to railroad towns. By the late 1890s, the brothers sensed another wave of homesteaders, and they were feeling the impact of barbed wire and windmills. They decided to reduce and transfer some of the holdings. Alvin and James secured thousands of acres of level prairie some 50 miles farther east where rainfall was heavier, and they prepared to break the prairie and become farmers.

In 1897 Henry Boyce, a successful and experienced cattleman, came through Colorado looking for land and met the Beaty brothers at Manzanola. He inspected several of their ranch properties, took a fancy to the Point of Rocks division, and purchased the 18,000 deeded acres with 12,000 head of cattle in one big package deal. Boyce also obtained the famous brands of the Beaty spread, the Double O and JO, along with the land and cattle, according to Ed Dean who lived in Morton County until his death in 1950. Alvin Beaty moved to Lakin before the ranch was sold, bought banks at Lakin and Syracuse, and assembled another ranch in Kearny and Grant counties.

The big ranch made money under the new ownership, although the country began to fill with another wave of homesteaders and problems of interfering fences, strayed and seized cattle and resultant arguments, and the general nuisance of changing times and conditions. Intent on resolving some of these problems, Boyce continued to buy out homesteaders and increase his deeded holdings in both Morton and Baca counties, and he owned more than 100,000 acres toward the end of his stay in the area.

Boyce was also buying ranch land in Arizona and land and city property in California, which led to almost continuous travel between his fields of activity. The Point of Rocks ranch was about 75 miles from the nearest railroad. Boyce, therefore, was willing to sell the Point of Rocks property when approached by buyers of the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company, a subsidiary of the Santa Fe Railroad, in 1907. He sold the Morton County part of his ranch and several thousand acres in Colorado. Boyce and his heirs

retained holdings in Baca County, Colorado, until 1941, when they sold more than 50,000 acres at an average price of \$2.00 per acre to R. B. Holt, a Walsh, Colorado, banker. In the 1950s Holt's son, Bowers Holt, held much of that land and was one of the biggest landowners in the region.

The Santa Fe was preparing to build a branch rail line into the area, and through its land company, sold most of its purchases in the region in small tracts and created Elkhart, the temporary railhead, through townlot sales. The grassy area of the Point of Rocks ranch hung on the market for several years after the town was built. Henry Boyce had understood that the new land-seekers who came with the railroad would dislocate the cattle industry for several years, and other cattlemen were reluctant to take on the reduced ranch with much of its more level land already converted into small grain farms with an uncertain future.

The historic Middle Spring and Point of Rocks, along with 20 sections of land, were leased to Sam King and associates of Hutchinson, Kansas. They restocked the pastures and continued in business for several years. Nature struck hard at the ranch in 1914 when a flash flood developed from heavy downpours upstream. A 10- to 12-foot rise of water swept down the Cimarron Valley on May 1 of that year, whipping out across the rich hay meadows and striking the ranch buildings and corrals on the low bench of the north bank directly beneath the Point of Rocks bluff.

The water hurled the ranch house from its foundation, carried it down stream, and drowned the two young children of Perry Brite, who then was operating foreman of the ranch. Ranchers and farmers combed the valley for days before finding the bodies of Madge (age 11) and Merle (age 4) and burying them nearby where the gravesite may still be seen on the Cimarron National Grassland.

The flood also resulted in deep deposits of river sand on what had been rich meadows. Hay harvesting was over for some 60 to 80 miles up and down the Cimarron, and the loss to ranches was immeasurable. Eventually grasses were re-established along the valley sufficient for grazing, but they did not recover for good hay cutting.

The loss of the hay meadows

hurt not only Sam King but subsequent leaseholders, and the ranch suffered other setbacks. Eventually Foster Elliott, a third generation cattleman, bought the ranch with a heavy mortgage on it in favor of the Interstate Land and Cattle Company of Kansas City, Missouri. Elliott bought several other properties nearby, all with heavy encumbrance. Factors leading to his early loss through foreclosure are not important to this story, but by the time cattle prices broke and drought struck in 1933, the grace period had elapsed and the Interstate Company took possession of the ranch under foreclosure. By that time, however, most of the land in Morton County had been plowed and planted to small grain crops, setting the scene for the disaster of the "Dirty Thirties."

There were no buyers for the ranch during the desperate years of the Dust Bowl, when property owners were fighting just to hold onto their own land rather than seek new investments. The grass was so poor because of the dry weather and blowing dust and sand that the Missouri bankers never even tried to lease out the Point of Rocks ranch. According to the Soil Conservation Service, Morton County suffered the most damage to its soil of any county in the Dust Bowl, with over 78% of the total acres seriously eroded by the hundreds of dust storms.

The farm program of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration declared Morton and Baca counties submarginal and sent Resettlement Administration land buyers into the area to purchase much of the available land for the average price of \$4.00 per acre. Many farmers and ranchers sold their land or their equities to the Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, which by 1939 had acquired almost 107,000 acres. Under the purchase plan authorized by Congress (the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act), the Soil Conservation Service set up the Land Utilization Project, which took title to the surface with all mineral rights remaining with the vendor. This became important a few years later when huge natural gas and petroleum reserves were found on the government lands. Eventually more than 400 oil/gas facilities and approximately 300 miles of pipeline were located on the Cimarron National Grassland.

The Land Utilization Project employed Worker Progress Administration crews to build terraces,

establish ponds, and plant grasses over the 108,175 acres in Morton and a small part of Stevens counties, mostly up and down the Cimarron valley and centering in the Middle Spring area. An earthen dam was constructed below the spring to create a large reservoir, since only a small pool had theretofore existed.

At the end of World War II, in 1945, the Land Utilization Project pronounced the grass pastures again ready for grazing and entered into a lease with a newly-formed Morton County Grazing Association. Only resident cattle breeders and raisers could belong to the association, and each was given a permit for summer pasture much like forest permits. The permits gave the members the right to summer range for a specified number of cattle, depending upon the rainfall in a given season.

In 1954 the Land Utilization Project's big pasture was transferred from the Soil Conservation Service to the Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and made part of the San Isabel Forest, with headquarters at Pueblo, Colorado. When strangers were told that the range was part of the San Isabel Forest, they searched the horizon for the trees, even though cottonwoods and willows had grown along the river channel. In 1960 the Land Utilization Project became the Cimarron National Grassland, still a part of the Forest Service. Presently the Forest Service allows the 120 members of the Morton County Grazing Association to pasture 5,000 head of cattle for six months on the Cimarron National Grassland. The Forest Service and three range riders from the Association maintain almost 500 miles of fence and 125 windmills.

Ruts of the Santa Fe Trail are visible across the Cimarron National Grassland, and Middle Spring and the Point of Rocks look much as they did in Trail days. There is also an abundance of wildlife in the area and hunting and fishing are permitted. A self-guided auto tour of the Grassland is available. Camping and hiking are permitted, with no reservations required at present. For further information about the Trail and hiking in the area, see Stephen and Martha Hayward, *Walks and Rambles on the Cimarron National Grassland—Santa Fe Trail Edition*, reviewed in last issue of WT. For additional information about the Grassland, contact Cimarron National Grassland, P. O.

Box J, Elkhart, KS 67950, telephone (316) 697-4621.

Another incident connected with Point of Rocks is of historical interest. In 1941 many communities in Kansas celebrated the 400th anniversary of the coming of Coronado to the region. Like other towns, Elkhart planned a gala time with a big parade and program. Singularly enough, on a Sunday afternoon in May, some six weeks prior to the fiesta, Elkhart's bank president, George L. Hayward, and his son Jack, were walking up the dry bed of the Cimarron, hunting arrow points and scrapers. They had success in the vicinity of Middle Spring and Point of Rocks. Just below the bluff of the Point, the banker called his son's attention to an exposed limestone ledge that had recently been washed clear by flood waters. Just above the streambed, perhaps 20 inches in length, appeared a carved signature and the date of 1541. Close study by the Haywards recalled a similar signature facsimile on the frontispiece photo of Paul Jones's recently-published book about Coronado's trip, *Coronado and Quivira*.

Excited by their find, they hurried back to town to get a copy of the book, called me and several other friends, and we all drove out to the Point for an examination. Dr. F. H. Buckmaster, Elkhart's physician, made another trip to town and brought back plaster of Paris and made a quick matrix cast. The inscription was also photographed.

In the days that followed, several college archaeologists and historians visited the scene along with Paul Jones and other Coronado fans and students. Newspapers in Wichita, Denver, Kansas City, and numerous small towns printed much about the discovery. It appeared to be old, but the timeliness of the finding and the absence of any other cut or engraving made many doubt its authenticity. A short time later, for reasons unknown, the rock was either removed or destroyed.

The Haywards, whose standing in the community and veracity were unquestioned, suddenly found themselves objects of suspicion. Regarded by many as perpetrators of a hoax inspired by city pride, they swore by their Methodist Bibles that their find was pure and valid without an iota of fraud, but heads still shook and savants still argued. And there the matter still stands. ◁

JEDEDIAH SMITH'S LAST JOURNEY

by Virginia Lee Fisher

[Ed. note: This is the tenth in a series on merchants and personalities on the Santa Fe Trail. Virginia Lee Fisher, Arrow Rock, MO, is a member of the SFTA board of directors and the SFNHT Advisory Council.]

Jedediah Strong Smith is best known as one of William H. Ashley's men engaged in the fur trade. However, Smith's last venture was on the Santa Fe Trail in 1831. Born in 1799 in New York, Smith, with his parents, was in Ohio by 1817. In 1822, the young man traveled to St. Louis where he responded to Ashley's notice in the *Missouri Gazette and Public Advertiser* for "Enterprising Young Men . . . to ascend the Missouri River to its source . . . for one, two or three years."

On May 8, 1822, Jedediah was on board the keelboat *Enterprize*, heading up the Missouri and listed as a hunter on Ashley's expedition. Late in May, near Lexington, Missouri, the boat capsized. The crew sent word to St. Louis and waited for a new cargo as they camped along the river trail earlier traveled by Paul and Pierre Mallet in 1739, Pedro Vial in 1792, and Lewis and Clark in 1804 and 1806. (Morgan, 1953).

By mid-June Ashley himself arrived with a new cargo of supplies. Continuing up the Missouri and the Platte, Smith began a saga of eight years of adventures in fur trapping, trading, and exploring new country. His travels extended west and north to the mouth of the Columbia River and south along the coast of California, and included most of the territory in between.

Jedediah Strong Smith, referred to by his peers as "Old Jed" or "Mr. Smith" was a unique figure among the rowdy mountain men. Smith was quiet, literate, never used tobacco and seldom indulged in spirits. He joined Ashley's men with his Bible, notebooks, and a rifle. His religion was personal, not imposed on his companions, but respected. A mountain man could have said, as poet John Neihardt wrote:

I can see him there—
The way his wide-set eyes turned
ed slits of blue
When he was thinking; how his
brown hair grew
In waves that broke like surf
about his ears.
I knew him longest in his hardest
years.



Jedediah Smith, a posthumous sketch by a friend, courtesy of *The Pacific Historian*.

And seldom did he fail to keep it
trim
And shave—as though he felt
God's eye on him,
No matter what the hardship or
the weather.
I see the way his straight brows
grew together,
And knitted at a run of scurvy
talk;
The nose that made you think
about a hawk;
The lean six feet of man-stuff,
shouldered wide,
Too busy with a dream that grew
inside
For laughter. He was seeing all
the white
Map westward as a page on
which to write. . . .
(Neihardt, 1949).

In August 1830 Smith left the Rendezvous site on the Wind River to return to St. Louis. In April of that year Sublette had left St. Louis for Wind River with eighty-one men on mules, ten wagons drawn by five mules each, two dearborns, twelve head of cattle, and one milk cow. The party followed the Boonslick and Santa Fe Trails and apparently stopped in Lexington, Missouri, from April 25 to May 5. The ledger of the Aull Brothers there lists entries to the account of Smith, Jackson and Sublette: whiskey, sugar, deerskin and socks \$26; socks, letter paper and comb, etc \$6.24; keg, 5 gal tar \$5.88; Russian sheeting, thread, buckets, silk handkerchief, lead \$19.20; waggon whip, trunk, flour, shaving boxes, razor, soap, pipes, bells, salt, etc \$36.01; 20 blankets, coffee, 30 yards R. duck, soap, etc \$50.95. (Aull, James and Robert, 1830-31).

Leaving Lexington, Sublette's

party continued on the Santa Fe Trail and turned northwest near present Gardner, Kansas, and continued on to the Rendezvous at Wind River. These were the first wagons to travel to the mountain country over what later became a part of the Oregon Trail. (Morgan, 1953).

Jedediah Smith and his company left the Wind River Rendezvous on August 4, 1830, with the ten wagons loaded with furs, to return to Missouri. So did two of the cattle and the milk cow, who has justly earned her place in history. Following the same route as Sublette's westward trip in April, they apparently stopped in Lexington. The Aull Journal lists entries from October 1 through October 18 of around \$900 to settle accounts.

They probably ferried the Missouri in the Arrow Rock/Boonslick area and continued on the north side of the river. While Smith had been gone, the outposts of trade for the Trail travelers had shifted to western Missouri. Independence had become a bustling community, Cantonment Leavenworth had been established, and Missouri's capital was in Jefferson City. Franklin, made famous by Becknell, had gone under to the River, and many of its citizens had pushed westward.

Columbia, a growing town, had become home for Franklin's newspaper, the *Missouri Intelligencer*. Smith's arrival there on October 9 was duly noted with a guess that the party's furs were worth \$150,000 and this report: "The cavalcade extended a considerable distance . . . a considerable number of large and substantial waggons, loaded with the fruits of their toils, accompanied them, exclusive of the pack horses and mules, of which there were a great number. We should judge there were about fifty individuals. These hardy and sun-burnt mountaineers . . . exhibited great demonstrations of satisfaction, at their near approach to their families and homes." The *St. Louis Beacon* of October 11 reported the return and dealt with the importance of taking wagons northwest to the Southern Pass which could open the way for wagon travel to the mouth of the Columbia River.

Jedediah planned to settle in St. Louis, a town of 6,000 people, write a book, and map his travels

in the West. He bought a house there and engaged two Negro servants to establish his home. His younger brothers, Peter, Austin, and Ira, joined him. By January of 1831, Jedediah decided to travel to Santa Fe, possibly to Chihuahua, and extend his knowledge of the Southwest and also provide adventure, business, and travel experience for Peter and Austin. Samuel Parkman, who had traveled with Smith, spent the winter in St. Louis to assist in writing and preparing maps. In addition Smith set about learning Spanish.

William Ashley arranged with the State Department for passports for Smith and Sublette for travel into Mexican territory. Peter and Austin were to go on the journey, as well as Samuel Parkman as clerk and young Jonathan Trumbull Warner who was heading west for his health. By this time Smith was closing out his interests in the partnership of Smith, Jackson and Sublette, but the latter two continued in partnership.

By April 10, the group was ready to leave St. Louis. It included some eighty men and twenty-two mule-drawn wagons. In addition, they carried a six-pound cannon ingeniously mounted on the rear wheels of one of the wagons so it could be disengaged and put to use in case of attack. Traveling overland on the Boonslick Trail, crossing the Missouri near Arrow Rock, they followed the Santa Fe Trail to Lexington, arriving around April 20. Goods for their trip were shipped by steamboat from St. Louis, but purchases were also made from the Aull Brothers establishment located on the Trail at the east end of present South Street, then the site of the Lafayette County Court House. A tavern now stands on what was then the Aull property.

James and Robert Aull had established their mercantile establishment in the mid-twenties and became leaders in merchandising and banking during the years before the Civil War. When Jedediah passed through in 1831 they operated from Liberty, northwest of Lexington, and shortly after had stores in Richmond and Independence as well as the store in Lexington. Steamboats came upriver in the 1820s, and the Aull's had warehouses on the riverfront north of the present Missouri River bridge. Jack's Ferry, which operated in the time of the Aull Brothers, was south of the warehouses. (Atherton, 1971).

The entries in the Aull ledger at the end of April, 1831, shed light on the times of the Trail travelers. Omitting non-specific entries, such as "sundries," they include for Jackson and Sublette, "letter paper 94c, inks 25c, tea 38c, socks & pr of bridges [sic] 25c, tar and bridles \$7.50." On April 29, "sugar & lard \$6.25, spurs & canteen \$1." Smith's account began April 23: "Storage of goods \$5, 9 gals tar & keg \$7, keg 75c & book 25c; to Liberty store for 3 mules @40, 35, 30, 3 yds calico @.37½c, 6 bridles @ 62½c, T(?) chains \$1.75, blankets \$6.50. April 29: globe(?) \$7.90, 20# sugar \$5.00, pair of himes (hames?) 50c. From Liberty store 2 mules \$80; salt & vest \$4.25, 4 blank books \$1." Other items reflect settling of accounts with or for William Ashley, and Smith, Jackson & Sublette.

Another set of entries should be noted. Thomas Fitzpatrick, one of Smith's most colorful companions in the fur trade, returned two months late to make arrangements for merchandise to go to the fur traders in Cache Valley. Accounts of Fitzpatrick's return are confused, but the Aull records suggest he arrived in Lexington from the west about April 27, before Smith left for Santa Fe. He joined the Smith party to travel to New Mexico. He was in Lexington long enough to visit the Aull's where he purchased saddle bags, lock and book for \$5.25, "cassette [sic] and strings \$3.19," merchandise and making of vest, coat and pantaloons (\$6) to total \$70, hat & shirt \$4, and silk buttons 88 cents. His purchases contrast with those of Smith, whose major indulgence seemed to be blank notebooks. (Aull, 1831; Morgan, 1953; Barry, 1972).

The Aull entries end on April 29. The next day Smith drafted a new will, the essential portions of which stated: "1st It is my will and desire that my accounts be settled and that any debts be paid. 2nd It is my express will and desire that my revered father Jedediah Smith receive from my property annually during his life the sum of two hundred dollars. 3rd After the arrangement of my affairs it is my will and desire that all my property real and personal saving the legacy to my father be divided in equal parts to my brothers and sisters whose names are as follows. Ralph Smith. Austin Smith. Peter Smith. Ira G Smith. Benj GP Smith. Nelson J Smith. Sally Jones. Betsey

Davis. Eunice Simonds. 4th In the division of my property it is my wish that the balance of the account against my brother Ralph Smith be evidenced as an advance made to him and of course deducted from his share. Lastly, I do hereby constitute and appoint my particular and confidential friend William H Ashley Executor on this my last will and testament." The will was witnessed by Samuel Parker and Johnathan T. Warner. (Missouri Historical Society).

By May 4 Smith and the caravan were camped at the Big Blue east of Independence. Smith owned 11 wagons; Jackson and Sublette had 10. They followed the Trail westward and passed Council Grove. On Pawnee Fork, May 19, Jackson and Sublette's clerk, E. S. Minter, was killed by Pawnee Indians while hunting antelope. (Barry, 1972).

A few days later the caravan crossed the Arkansas River, and by May 27 the party was traveling "La Jornada" and in dire straits. It was a particularly dry season, and they were out of water. Smith and Fitzpatrick left the party and headed south to search for water. They separated, and Smith's companions never saw him again. Later, Mexicans who traded with Comanches brought Jedediah's pistol and rifle into Santa Fe, where Jedediah's brother, Austin, purchased them.

From the traders, Austin Smith obtained an account of his brother's death, which he communicated to their father: "Your Son Jedediah was killed on the Semerone the 27th of May on his way to Santa Fe by the Curmanch Indians, his party was in distress for water, and he had gone alone in search of the above river which he found, when he was attacked by fifteen or twenty of them—they succeeded in alarming his animal not daring to fire on him so long as they kept face to face, so soon as his horse turned they fired, and wounded him in the shoulder he then fired his gun, and killed their head chief it is supposed they then *rushed* upon him, and despatched him." The exact location of Smith's death is unknown, although it is believed to have been downstream from Lower Spring. (Barry, 1972.)

His death on the Trail is commemorated with a memorial plaque, one of three markers near Lower or Wagonbed Spring, on the highway south of Ulysses, Kansas. (Simmons, 1984). The marker reads:

In commemoration of
JEDEDIAH STRONG SMITH
 1798 [embossed horseman] 1831
 A great plainsman
 who was killed near
 this spot by Comanche Indians
 erected by
 the 4-H Clubs of Grant County
 from funds secured as
 winner of first place in the
 historical pageant at the
Southwest Free Fair at Dodge City
1937

For Jedediah Strong Smith there had been "one more rendezvous to keep . . . and only silence waited after all." (Niehardt, 1949).

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HOOF PRINTS
—TRAIL TIDBITS—

SFTA board member William G. Buckles, Pueblo, CO, has contacted the Mined Land Reclamation Board of Colorado, requesting that gravel quarrying operations near the Santa Fe Trail in Colorado be halted where they are endangering Trail remains.

Three of Gregory Franzwa's recent books on the Trail were favorably reviewed in *Gateway Heritage* (Winter 1989), with the declaration that "Maps of the Santa Fe Trail is the core of Franzwa's work."

SFTA member Gerald Faust, Las Animas, CO, operator of Bent's Fort Inn which has a coupon for

\$5.00 off a room in each issue of *WT*, was recently named citizen of the year in Bent County. Congratulations Jerry!

The bodacious Ambassador Paul "Dirty Shirt" Bentrup, who is always working on the Trail, has been sending postcards with a cowboy "likeness" on the front with the notation, in Bentrup's hand, "The Fastest Tongue in the West."

Ambassador Katharine Kelley, known as the "bird lady" of Baldwin City, expressed regret at not being able to attend the symposium and appreciation for the award. She keeps busy banding birds and giving slide programs. During the December bird count, Baldwin City had 68 species and over 10,000 individual birds. Kelley is participating in the nationwide Feeder Watch Project.

The annual meeting of the Santa Fe Trail Historical Society, Baldwin City, Feb. 4, features a business meeting, election of officers, and a program on Dwight D. Eisenhower. This is the 100th anniversary of Ike's birth, and all of Kansas is celebrating from now until October 14.

Cong. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) is introducing legislation to purchase the Glorieta battlefield and develop it as a national historic site. A similar bill was introduced two years ago and died in committee. Bingaman expects more support this time.

Las Animas, CO, DAR plans to place a marker at the original site of William Bent's grave have been temporarily tabled by the Las Animas city council while the council decides whether or not a road is likely to be built through the site in the future.

Fort Larned NHS has published a handsome new visitor guide brochure, printed through the courtesy of the Larned banks. It, naturally, contains information about the Santa Fe Trail. The Fort Larned Old Guard is preparing cassette tapes for a self-guided tour of the historic post.

A nice article about National Geographic photographer Bruce Dale's visit to Rice County, KS, appeared in the Nov. 10 *Lyons Daily News*. Dale was especially interested in Ambassador Ralph

Hathaway's excellent Trail ruts, and it is hoped a picture of Ralph's Ruts will appear in the article planned by National Geographic for early 1991. Bruce and Joyce Dale reported a real appreciation of the hospitality extended to them by folks along the Trail.

Bruce Dale and Ambassador Ralph Hathaway measured the circumference of the famous Marker Cottonwood at the Trail crossing of the Little Arkansas River in Rice County, KS. At a point two feet above the ground, they measured the tree which stood there in Trail days as 28 feet 8 inches around.

The New Mexico Santa Fe Trail brochure, described last issue, was recipient of an award by the New Mexico Governor's Conference on Tourism. Jane Maas, the New York advertising executive who was keynote speaker at the conference, declared it "far and away the best brochure . . . in the state." Congratulations to all involved.

Marc Simmons recently wrote in his newspaper column about the New Mexico Trail brochure and explained how readers could obtain a copy. He also noted that SFTA has a nice brochure and told how to obtain that. Sec-Treas Ruth Olson reports that a good many requests came in and she wonders what the recipients thought when they found out it is a membership brochure, something Simmons conveniently didn't mention. It will be interesting to see how many join SFTA.

Ambassador Les Vilda has been selected to participate in a major historical re-enactment ride in 1990, involving 17 men and 75 horses. They will follow the trail from Gardner, KS, to the Wyoming Centennial Rendezvous at Jackson Hole, carrying a supply of trade goods. After a week at the rendezvous, they will load a pack string with one ton of furs and retrace their steps to St. Louis, MO. Congratulations Les! Please send reports to *WT*.

Dennis Farney, a reporter for *Wall Street Journal*, was recently in Trinidad, CO, doing research for an article which will focus on Trinidad and the 1990 census. While there, Farney toured the Baca and Bloom houses and

received a brief introduction to the Santa Fe Trail in Colorado. Watch for his article in a future issue of the *Journal*.

Katie Davis Gardner recently changed jobs. She was assistant curator of material culture at the Colorado History Museum in Denver, and now she is curator and assistant director at the Colorado Springs Museum. Congratulations Katie!

The Fall 1989 Friends of Arrow Rock (MO) Newsletter contains an article by Jean Hamilton on "Evidence of the Santa Fe Trail in Saline County." Mrs. Hamilton was recipient of an SFTA Award at the Santa Fe symposium last fall. She is the author of a fine history of Arrow Rock, *Where Wheels Started West*.

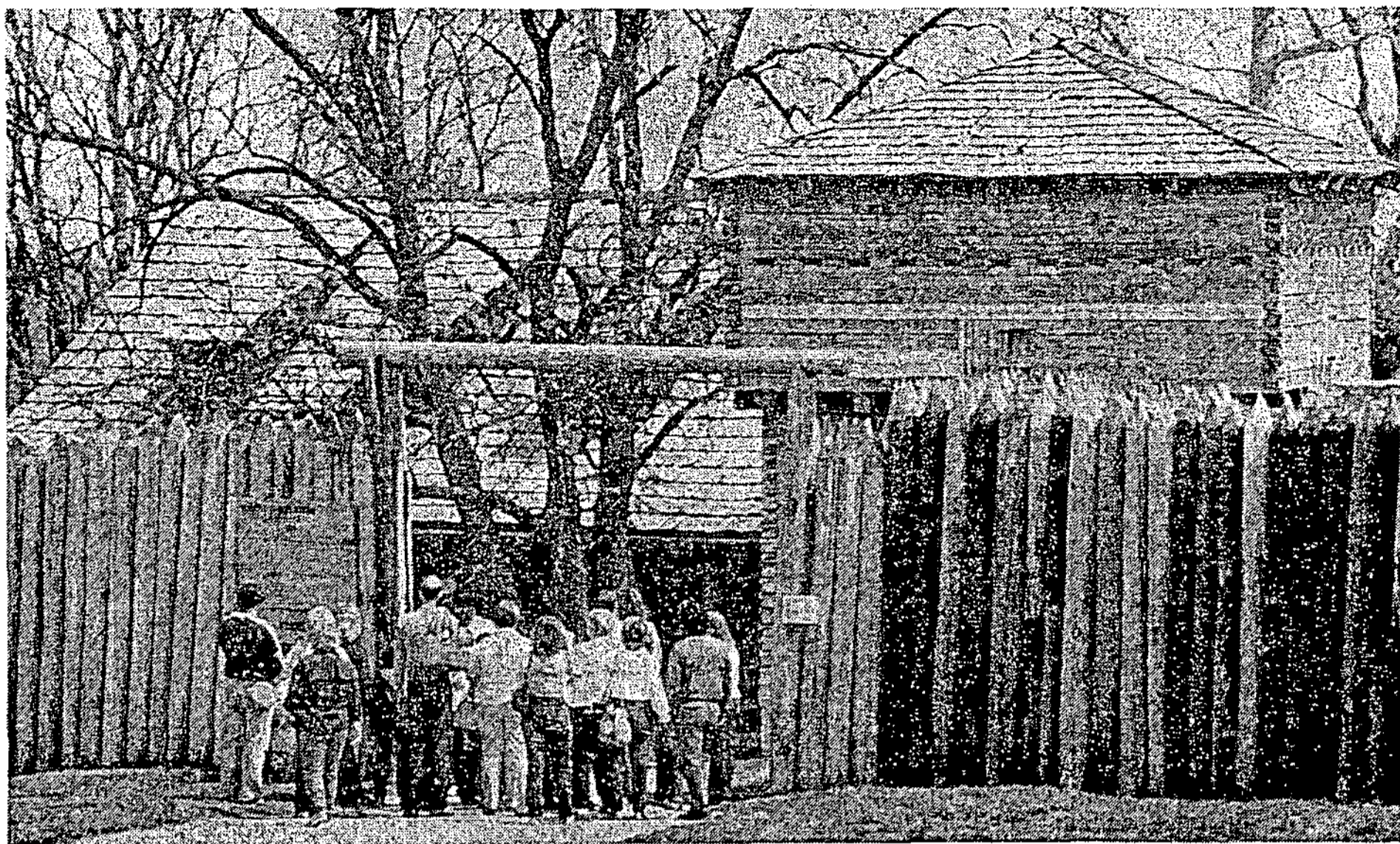
SFTA members Aaron and Ethel Armstrong, Roswell, NM, presented a slide program in December at the Roswell Museum and Art Center on "Following the Santa Fe Trail in the 1980s." The Armstrongs, retired teachers, presented a slide program on the Trail at the Santa Fe symposium.

Last year Congress appropriated funds for planning and development of several interpretive centers connected with western trails, including Lewis & Clark Trail centers in Illinois, Nebraska, and Montana; and an interpretive center at Council Bluffs, Iowa, which will feature the Lewis & Clark, Mormon Pioneer, and Oregon-California historic trails. Last summer the Bureau of Land Management built a new cabin on Alaska's Iditarod Trail.

Several years ago the governor of Oregon established an Oregon Trail Advisory Council, which recently issued a report with 11 recommendations, including a 150th anniversary celebration of the opening of the Oregon Trail in 1993, development of trail visitor centers across the state, completion of highway signing and marking the trail, establishing a conservation and development fund, and recognizing that historical accuracy in trail interpretation and protection of the resource are of utmost importance. It would be great if Santa Fe Trail states would do something similar. A copy of the Oregon report may be obtained from Kathy Maurich, NPS regional trails coordinator, (206) 442-5366. ◀

FORT OSAGE, MISSOURI

by Joseph L. Cartwright



Entrance to Fort Osage, with blockhouse at right and factor's house in background.

[Ed. note: This is the thirteenth in a series on museums and historic sites along the Trail. Joseph L. Cartwright is administrator of Fort Osage, owned and operated by the Heritage Programs and Museums division of Jackson County Parks and Recreation, Independence, Missouri. Everyone attending the opening of the National Frontier Trails Center in March is invited to visit Fort Osage.]

Found the river to be completely defended and situation elegant, this situation I had examined in the year 1804 and was delighted with it and am equally so now."

This was William Clark's response to the site on his arrival in September 1808 to supervise the building of Fort Osage. Significant as a fur-trading post and one of the first military outposts in the trans-Mississippi West, the fort also has associations with the Lewis and Clark expedition and the later career of William Clark. The explorers noted in their journal that the site on the south bank of the Missouri River overlooking a river bend would be an ideal one for a fort and a fur-trading post. As they traveled westward, Lewis and Clark had been instructed to tell the Indians that, when they returned, the government would establish stores of goods among them to exchange for their peltries. With the return of the explorers in 1806, their report of the good fur trade possibilities up the Missouri led to the establishment of Fort Osage.

By September 5, 1808, two parties had arrived at the site to establish the most western fort in the United States and to build a government trading house for the Indians. One party, led by Brig. Gen. William Clark, consisted of 80 St. Charles Dragoons, mounted militia, who volunteered services to General Clark. The other group was comprised of 81 First U.S. Infantrymen, assigned for garrison duty at the fort under the command of Capt. Eli B. Clemson. Along with Captain Clemson and his infantrymen traveled George Champlin Sibley, who had been appointed to the position of government factor, responsible for directing the Fort Osage trading house. The new factor brought \$14,000 worth of goods to stock the trade room of the factory building.

Beyond the Mississippi River border, Fort Osage was the first U.S. government installation in the Louisiana Territory and was the extreme western outpost of American government for twenty years. Sometimes called Fort Clark, Fort Osage housed the largest factory building and was one of the most successful of the 28 government trade factories. The United States Factory System, established by Congress in 1795, sought to win the good will of Indians by supplying them with goods from official trading posts (owned and operated by the government), strengthen military policy, promote peace on the frontier, prevent exploitation of the

Indians by private traders, and offset British and Spanish influence over the many western tribes.

The commodities available for the Indians included blankets, shirts, jewelry (including arm bands, ear bobs, nose wheels, brooches, and crosses), vermilion, looking glasses, kitchen utensils, groceries (including salt, pepper, flour, raisins, carrots, tea, coffee, sugar, and spices), tobacco, and pipes. Guns and ammunition were always in demand. Almost any merchandise the Indians desired could be purchased or traded for, except playing cards and whiskey. In return, a great variety of furs, peltries, and dressed skins were brought in to trade. Muskrat, beaver, mink, and otter were among the most valuable.

The Fort Osage Factory was one of the most successful in the entire system because it operated consistently at a profit while most of the other factories were not profitable. All of them, whether they turned a profit for the government or not, were powerful competition to the private fur traders. Their opposition to this strong competition, especially from the government, resulted in a successful lobby effort in Congress, and the factory system was abandoned in 1822.

Except for a brief time during the War of 1812, the military post and fur-trade factory at Fort Osage were active from 1808 until 1822. After that time Fort Osage served as a government storehouse and a stopping point for Santa Fe Trail traders. It was reported that the first wagons to travel to Santa Fe under the leadership of Becknell on his second trading trip to New Mexico, a party of 21 men with three wagons, left from Fort Osage in May 1822. Fort Osage was officially closed in 1827, the year that Cantonment Leavenworth was established farther up the Missouri River.

Although the first successful trading party from Missouri to Santa Fe was led by William Becknell in 1821, and he and other traders made additional trips thereafter, the Santa Fe Trail was not surveyed until 1825. Because of the efforts of Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton for more government assistance to the developing trade with northern Mexico, an official survey was authorized by Congress. President John Quincy Adams appointed George C. Sibley, former



Living-history infantryman of 1812 with blockhouse in background.

factor of Fort Osage, as commissioner for the federal survey of the Santa Fe Trail. That survey began at the boundary of the Fort Osage reserve in 1825, and all distances of the survey were measured from that point. Thus, 110 Mile Creek and 142 Mile Creek on the Trail indicate that those streams were that many miles from the point where the survey began at Fort Osage.

Fort Osage has been carefully reconstructed on its original site and has been designated a National Historic Landmark because of its significance in the fur trade. The reconstruction of a portion of the original buildings includes five blockhouses, officers' quarters, barracks, blacksmith shop, interpreters' cabins, and the factory building which served as trade center and residence for Factor Sibley. The site also includes a grand view of the Missouri River, a visitor center with a museum and gift shop, a cemetery dating from 1809, and a Santa Fe Trail marker.

Illuminating living history at Fort Osage in 1812, Fort Osage is open to the general public from April 15 through November 15, 9:00 to 5:00 every day except Wednesday, the day reserved for special group tours. Special events are scheduled during the year, and these are listed in the Trail Calendar section of this issue of *WT*. During the winter months, November 15 to April 15, the fort is open only on weekends

from 9:00-5:00. Admission is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for youth, and children under five are admitted free. Visitors can reach Fort Osage, located 14 miles northeast of Independence, by taking US 24 east to Buckner, Missouri, turning north on Route 20-E (Buckner Tarsney Road) through Sibley, Missouri, following the signs. For further information, contact Heritage Programs and Museums, Jackson County Parks and Recreation, Independence Square Courthouse, Suite 205, Independence, MO 64050 or call (816) 881-4431.

COUNCIL TROVE —DOCUMENTS—

TRAIL TRIP, 1867

Marc Simmons located this Trail account by John W. Moore in the Dawson Scrapbooks (Vol. 3, "Trails & Forts," p. 19) at the Colorado Historical Society in Denver. The information appeared in the *Denver Great Divide*, March 6, 1916, and the newspaper included the introduction to the story.

John W. Moore, pioneer, soldier, citizen, and in 1885 mayor of Kansas City, was born in Jackson county [MO] in 1840. His early life was spent on his father's farm near Hickman's Mill. At the age of 21, he took a wagon-train of corn supplies across the plains to Fort Lyon. During the Civil war he served as captain in the Confederate army.

After the war, he returned to his life of adventure, taking wagon-trains across the plains all during the years when the prairie was infested with hostile Indians. The last train that left Westport was under his leadership. In later years he became successful in the grain business and was at one time president of the board of trade. Read his story of "The Santa Fe Trail Days."

About April 15, 1867, Amberson Hays and I loaded our train with merchandise for W. H. Moore, who owned the sutler's store at Fort Union. While loading we established camp at Westport opposite the residence of George W. Briant, now the Boys' home. We did our buying in Kansas City from the forwarding and commission house of Charles E. Carney at First street and Broadway.

Early on the morning of May 15 we started our trip. The roads were good and we made fine headway. At first the grass was short, but we found it much better after we reached Council Grove. We moved on to Lost Springs and Cottonwood creek and at the Little Arkansas found the best grass yet. We camped at Walnut Creek, Pawnee Fork,

Cow Creek and had a successful trip as far as Fort Dodge.

We camped for the night at Fort Dodge, and just after breakfast as we were just hitching up our teams, suddenly, like a whirlwind, up dashed the Kiowa chief, Satanta, and about twenty of his braves.

Bedaubed with paint and bedecked with feathers, yelling shrill defiance, they rode up to the entrance of the corral. Three or four half-naked savages jumped into the mess wagon and began throwing out sides of bacon and sacks of flour.

I protested with the most violent gestures I could command. But the braves stolidly sat their horses and watched their companions emptying the mess wagon, and Satanta, a short, bullet-headed, courageous, wily hater of the whites, regarded me contemptuously.

I gave the order to my men to get their guns and come forward. They advanced in quick time, rifles leveled. I again motioned to the savages to put the supplies into the wagon. They obeyed sullenly and rode away, grunting angrily and making insulting gestures.

Satanta alone seemed quite unconcerned and well satisfied with the adventure.

This did not seem a very formidable kind of a raid. But my suspicions were aroused. It was Satanta's (White Bear) custom to ride into a camp, sometimes alone and sometimes accompanied by a few braves, and inform himself as to equipment and possible booty. He was a great fighter and bitterly opposed to civilization.

He would pretend friendship only to get rifles and horses from the government. On one occasion, when government agents were assembled to talk to the chiefs of the various tribes, Satanta said: "I would willingly take hold of that part of the white man's road which is represented by the breech-loading rifles; but I don't like the corn rations—they make my teeth hurt."

He had wonderful oratorical powers, and was justly called "the Orator of the Plains." At a council held by General Hancock and his staff with the chiefs of the Kiowas and Arapahoes, Satanta made such an affecting address that General Hancock presented him with the uniform coat, sash and hat of a major general.

Within a few days Satanta attacked the post at which the council was held, arrayed in his new uniform. Colonel Inman gives a good character sketch of this chief:

"He also owned an ambulance, a team of mules and a set of harness, the last stolen, maybe, from some caravan he raided on the trail. In that ambulance, with an Indian driver, the wily chief traveled, wrapped in a savage dig-

nity that was truly laughable. In his village, too, he assumed a great deal of style.

"He was very courteous to his white guests. He had a carpet on the floor of his lodge, on which they were to sit. He had three large boards, twenty inches wide and three feet long, ornamented with brass tacks driven all around the edges, which he used for tables. He also had a French horn, which he blew vigorously when meals were ready."

I knew we were in danger from hostile Indians, but we were traveling fast, and I did not believe in interfering with the men having a little relaxation and music in the evenings. One of them had a violin and the others would gather around and sing old songs. "Joe Bowers" the song of the '49ers, was a great favorite.

We soon reached the Cimarron crossing of the Arkansas river. Early the next morning we commenced crossing the river. We doubled the teams, making sixteen mules to each wagon, and sometimes put on the third team. Because of quicksand in the channel of the river, we had six drivers to each wagon to lash the mules and keep them moving. But even at that it took the entire day to make the crossing. We had to give the mules a short rest on the other side, and then moved about four miles up the river before camping for the night.

Early the next morning we broke camp and started for Cimarron springs, about sixty-five miles from the river. It had rained and the roads were heavy. The trip took us three days and our mules were so jaded that we camped at Cimarron springs two days.

From Cimarron springs to Cedar creek the roads were in fine condition and we made good time. We camped at Rabbit Ear and found plenty of grass and water. We stopped at the Rio Colorado for breakfast, and our next camp was Santa Clara springs.

We were making about twenty-three miles a day and the men were in fine spirits. In a few days we arrived at Fort Union and delivered our goods.

We were ready for the return trip when Major Shoemaker rode in and told us to wait further orders. The Kiowa Indians had broken out and had taken nearly all the cavalry horses from Fort Dodge. We were kept waiting seven days. We had fast mule teams and were well armed, and finally persuaded the officers to let us pull out ahead.

We arrived safely at Cimarron springs and camped there over night. The next morning, about a mile and half from the springs, we were crossing a dry creek when suddenly on top of the hill ahead of us appeared about 200 Indians in full battle array. They were well

mounted on cavalry horses and presented a brilliant spectacle with their war bonnets on their heads and their bodies daubed with paint.

They carried spears with pennants, and were armed with a bow and a quiver full of arrows, tomahawks, and, thanks to the government, Spencer rifles and Colt's revolvers.

They were on to us in a few minutes. I bunched the wagons as quickly as possible. The men were well armed and had thirty shots each. We had plenty of ammunition. The Indians made charge after charge. The men waited till they were close and aimed carefully, wounding Indians and horses in each charge. It was a running fight till we could bunch the wagons.

The Indians charged into our loose mules and tried to stampede them. An old Mexican riding the bell mare rang the bell and the mules bunched more closely. The Mexican was wounded, but kept on ringing the bell.

Finally the men realized we would have to fight to the death. The Indians made another charge and we met them from wagons nearly hand to hand. Eight or ten braves fell and the rest withdrew, carrying their dead with them. Immediately after the fight we straightened out our teams and each man saw that he had his gun and pistols loaded and in good working order.

I remained on the scene of the battle until the train was fully a mile away. The Indians were within full view, but they seemed to have had enough. We felt ready to thank the government for furnishing old Satanta and his braves with horses and ammunition. If they had had their own well-trained Indian ponies, I believe they would have massacred all of us. As it was, they could not manage their horses and their shots went wild.

We traveled the rest of the day and all night and until 8 o'clock the next morning, when we reached the Arkansas river. While the mules grazed and rested, I rode into the river to find a good crossing.

The horses had to swim a channel of ten or fifteen feet to a sandbar, and then swim another channel. The wagonbeds were chained down, and we crossed without loss. We had two loads of wool and for two weeks we had to take it out of the sacks every day and spread it out to dry.

During the afternoon we came upon a camp of Mexicans, who had been attacked by a band of Indians, several of their number killed, and all their oxen and mules stampeded; we left them part of our supplies and promised to send them an armed escort.

We traveled rapidly and reached Fort Dodge without further incident, taking the river route from

there, as grass and water were more plentiful. Before coming to Ash creek, we spied a small herd of buffalo and I quickly changed horses, mounting my fleet hunter.

Riding into the midst of the herd, I drove them back toward the camp and, taking careful aim, shot several of their number, while the rest of the herd went on peacefully grazing. The men came out with their knives to cut off the edible portions and carried them back into camp.

The feast of fresh meat lasted for several days and was greatly appreciated, as it was the first we had had during the trip. After a few day's travel, we reached Walnut creek, where we heard of an Indian attack the day before, but with no lives lost. From Walnut creek to Fort Harker we made a good finish to our trip on a new road. And a lively finish it was as on the divide between the Arkansas and the Smoky rivers we ran into an immense lair of rattlesnakes that must have extended a mile.

The reptiles were sunning themselves after a shower and lay at full length, sometimes crowded closely together, their sluggish bodies crossing each other and gleaming in the sun. We would shoot several before the rest would disperse, scuttling away over the warm sand with nothing but an ominous rattle and a sinuous motion on the green prairie to trace their course.

At Fort Harker we reloaded with government stores for Fort Larned.

HELP WANTED

The Independence Pioneer Chapter DAR is seeking descendants of any person who crossed the plains, 1822-1880, on the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon trails. They also would like to obtain copies of journals, stories, or relics relating to experiences of these travelers. These collections will be part of a display to be shown during the dedication of the National Frontier Trails Museum in March.

Old Plainsmen Committee
9717 Brook Lane
Raytown, MO 64133
(816) 353-4023

I am seeking information about events scheduled along the Trail next year to include in our 1991 Santa Fe Trail Calendar. Please send date, name of event, location, and a brief description to me by March 15, 1990. Thank you.

Les Vilda
RR 2, Box 13
Wilber, NE 68465

We are seeking the location of the gravesite of a relative who died on the Trail. John Burland was a private in Co. K, Newby's Illinois Infantry, during the Mexican War. His war record states that he was "killed in an affray on the march at Rock Corral, N.M. Aug. 15/48." Family records state that John Burland was killed coming home from the Mexican War and buried along the old Santa Fe Trail. Does anyone know of Newby's whereabouts on Aug. 15, 1848? We realize there were several rock corrals along the Trail and also that the last campsite before arriving at Santa Fe was known as Rock Corral. Any information sent will be greatly appreciated.

Mable and Irv Sutton
30475 Gale Rd.
Pueblo, CO 81006

As part of a research grant, I am seeking information about merchants who operated along the Trail at various railhead towns in Colorado during the 1870s. I am particularly interested in the following firms: Chick, Browne & Co.; Browne & Manzanares; Otero, Sel-lar & Co.; Prowers & Hough; Kilberg, Bartels & Co.; Bartels Brothers & Co.; M. Wise & Co.; H. Biernbaum & Co.; Thatcher Brothers & Co.; and Jaffa Brothers. I am looking for old invoices, account ledgers, letters, newspaper ads, and photographs. Any and all information will be greatly appreciated.

Mark L. Gardner
P. O. Box 472
Trinidad, CO 81082

As a Hispanic, professional translator, and Spanish teacher, I am very much interested in the Trail. I am seeking stories about the Trail that I can translate into Spanish to be used in my Spanish classes and in a Spanish-language publication. I also operate Casa Elena, which encourages the learning of the Spanish language and promotes understanding of Hispanic culture. I am trying to collect names of Hispanic artists and artisans in Kansas and any help will be most appreciated. Casa Elena will publish a guide listing the artists and artisans to help promote Hispanic arts and crafts. Thank you for any help you can give.

Elena S. Metzger
Casa Elena
RR 1, Box 276
Council Grove, KS 67846

CHAPTER REPORTS

(continued from page 7)

Officers re-elected for 1990 were Pres. Fern Bessire, Sec. Marjorie Persinger, Treas. Karla French, and Program Chairman Maryruth Greenwood. Ron French was elected vice-president, replacing Terry Anderson who asked not to be re-elected.

A brief paper was read, comparing the account of events of Jedediah Smith's life and death written by his great-nephew, Ezra D. Smith, 85 years after the event, and the account of the same events written by his brother, Austin Smith, four months after his death. The next meeting will be April 12 in Ulysses.

Heart of the Flint Hills

No report received.

End of the Trail

The End of the Trail Chapter at Santa Fe held its third meeting Jan. 13. The constitution reflects the flavor of the chapter, and the officers are Jon Hunner, alcalde; Mike McDonald, alcalde segundo; and Bill and Marge Knightley as tesorero. The escribano and bastanero remain to be filled, and Hunner and McDonald are performing those duties until someone is found to accept them. The chapter has 11 individual and 11 family memberships.

At the Jan. meeting Mike Pitel gave a wonderful presentation on his survey last summer of the existing Trail-ruts within the Santa Fe city limits. At the next meeting, planned for mid-March, Janet Lecompte will present a lecture on Raton Pass. The exact date for that meeting is not set, but interested parties may contact Alcalde Hunner (505) 983-4499 for the exact date, time, and location.

The chapter is planning several field trips when the weather is warmer, one with Mike Pitel so he can show what he uncovered and another to La Bajada south of Santa Fe where the Chihuahua Trail came off the Santa Fe plateau.

Hunner says, "We have an exciting chapter forming up here and with all the people and places around Santa Fe, I feel we will have informative meetings and valuable outreach programs to the community." Anyone visiting the Santa Fe area may contact Hunner to find out about meetings, where visitors will always be welcome.

Fort Union Area

No report received.

NEW SFTA MEMBERS

This list includes new memberships received since the roster went to press on January 1 up to January 29, when total membership stood at 1035. Those received after this printing will appear in the next issue. If there is an error in this information, please send corrections to the editor. We thank you for your support.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Fort Larned National Historic Site, RR 3, Larned, KS 67550
- South Howard County Historical Society, RR 2, Box 174, New Franklin, MO 65274
- U. S. Forest Service, Jim Hollenback, P. O. Box 817, La Junta, CO 81050
- U. S. Forest Service, Charles Richmond, P. O. Box 127, Springfield, CO 81073

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

- Dean & Alice Jensen, 1705 Enterprise Ave., Woodward, OK 73801
- Maurice & Evaline Kenworthy, 319 Vigil, Las Animas, CO 81054
- Louis & Maura Larocca, 1005 Briarcliff Dr., Arlington, TX 76012
- John D. McDowell, 809 Hampden Ct., Midland, MI 48640
- John, Linda & Andrea Milburn, HCO1, Box 44, Rolla, KS 67954
- M/M Henry Moser, RR 1, Franklin, MO 65250
- Patrick & Jacky Sollo, 1970 Tincup Ct., Boulder, CO 80303
- Bob & Kay Tierney, 7244 So. Sundown Circle, Littleton, CO 80120
- Joanne and Greg Van Coevern, 4773 N. Wasserman Way, Salina, KS 67401
- David and Janice von Riesen, 321 Ridge Dr., Manhattan, KS 66502

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Sara R. Alt, 13166 W. 30th Dr., Golden, CO 80401
- Nancy K. Applegate, P. O. Box 9275, Santa Fe, NM 87504
- Lynn A. Boltano, Box 633, Cimarron, KS 67835
- Bob Conard, RR 2, Box 140, Montezuma, KS 67867
- Roger L. Duba, 2802 Las Gallinas Ave., San Rafael, CA 94903
- Jan Garcia, 1857 8th St. #101, Las Vegas, NM 87701
- Deborah Garvey, 23 Garden Park Circle NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107
- Judy K. Griffin, 3922 Drumm, Independence, MO 64055
- J. C. "Helsh" Hoelscher, RR 4, Box 8, Union, MO 63084
- Sandra A. Jensen, 822 College, Alva, OK 73717
- Teddy Keller, 63 Plaza de la Noche NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109
- Warren Malott, P. O. Box 1585, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

- Elena Metzger, RR 1, Box 276, Council Grove, KS 66846
- Lana J. Milburn, 2957 Camino Piedra Lumbre, Santa Fe, NM 87505
- Margaret Oros, 913 Madeline Lane, Lawrence, KS 66049
- Ruth Privitt, P. O. Box 66, New Franklin, MO 65274
- John Stansfield, Box 588, Monument, CO 80132
- Helen Marie Sturgeon, 110 N. Main, Hugoton, KS 67951
- Dennis Vandermur, P. O. Box 202, Cimarron, NM 87714
- Michael Vice, Rt. 1, Box 55-V, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

All matters relating to *Wagon Tracks* should be addressed to the editor:

Leo E. Oliva
RR 1, Box 31
Woodston, KS 67675
(913) 994-6253

All inquiries regarding membership should be directed to the secretary-treasurer:

Ruth Olson
Santa Fe Trail Center
RR 3
Larned, KS 67550
(316) 285-2054

ALL BACK ISSUES STILL AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Wagon Tracks* are available for \$1.00 each, post-paid. Presently copies of all issues are on hand but supplies of a few are very limited.

Bookstores and historic sites interested in stocking issues for customers will receive a substantial discount on bulk orders of ten or more copies. Large quantity orders are requested before an issue is printed so the additional copies can be run. Please order from the editor, RR 1, Box 31, Woodston, KS 67675.

TRAIL CALENDAR

Everyone is invited to send notices for this section; provide location, date(s), time(s) and activity. Remember this is a quarterly. The next issue should appear in May, so send information for June and later to arrive by April 20. Thank you.

March 23-28, 1990: Grand Opening of National Frontier Trails Center, Independence, MO; contact Director Dan Holt, NFTC, City of Independence, P. O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519 (816) 836-8300 ext. 491.

March 28, 1990: Santa Fe Trail Day, National Frontier Trails Center, with address by Marc Simmons and portrayal of Susan S. Magoffin by VanAnn Moore (see contact above).

April 7-8, 1990: Traveling the Trail: Cimarron Crossing to Bent's Old Fort, two-day tour, contact Elaine Simmons, BCCC, RR 3, Great Bend, KS 67530 (316) 792-2701 ext. 214.

April 21-22, 1990: Sheep Shearing and Spinning, Fort Osage, MO.

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(See Robertson letter, WT, Nov. '89)

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304 South Fourth Street
Raton, New Mexico 87740
Questions: Call (505) 445-9456

April 27, 1990: Santa Fe Trail Days, Las Animas, CO.

April 28, 1990: Boggsville Celebration, Las Animas, CO.

May 4-6, 1990: Traveling the Trail: Fort Osage to Withington Ranch, three-day tour, contact Elaine Simmons, BCCC, RR 3, Great Bend, KS 67530 (316) 792-2701 ext. 214.

May 5, 1990: Fort Larned Old Guard annual meeting and program, Fort Larned NHS. Contact SFTA Pres. Joe Snell, 5609 Hawick, Topeka, KS 66614.

May 19-20, 1990: Spring Flint Knap-In, Fort Osage, MO, one of the largest exhibitions of flint knapping in the nation.

May 26-June 2, 1990: Santa Fe Trail Days, Fort Larned NHS, a week of special programs. Contact Supt., Fort Larned NHS, RR 3, Larned, KS 67550 (316) 285-6911.

May 31-June 2, 1990: Biennial Rendezvous, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR 3, Larned, KS 67550.

June 3, 1990: Dedication Day Celebration, free admission, Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, KS.

June 9-10, 1990: Santa Fe Trail Festival, Trinidad, CO.

June 16-17, 1990: 11th Annual River Days Celebration, Fort Osage, MO.

June 23, 1990: Santa Fe Trail—The Early Years, Fort Union National Monument, Watrous, NM 87753, includes symposium under canvas, historic trail meal, trail ruts.

July 4, 1990: Independence Day Celebration, Fort Osage, MO.

July 4, 1990: Independence Day Celebration, Fort Larned NHS.

July 28-29, 1990: Soldiering on the Santa Fe Trail, Fort Union Nation-

al Monument, Watrous, NM 87753, includes demonstrations, speakers, historic band concert, army-style lunch.

Aug. 7-12, 1990: Oregon-California Trails Association annual convention, Omaha, NE, contact Bob Berry, 11505 Pacific St., Omaha, NE 68154 (402) 333-3522.

Aug. 10-11, 1990: Trail conference on "Nuevo Mexicans and the Santa Fe Trail," hosted by Highlands University at Las Vegas, NM, and Fort Union National Monument. Contact Supt. Harry C. Myers, Fort Union National Monument, Watrous, NM 87753.

Aug. 18, 1990: Childrens Day at Fort Osage, MO.

Aug. 25, 1990: National Park Service Day, with special programs and free admission, Fort Larned NHS.

Aug. 25, 1990: An evening at Fort Union, a candlelight tour of the largest military post along the Santa Fe Trail; reservations required and accepted after June 1. (505) 425-8025.

Sept. 1-3, 1990: Military living-history encampment, Fort Larned NHS.

Sept. 15, 1990: Candlelight Tour, Fort Larned NHS (reservations required).

Nov. 3, 1990: The Seneca, a primitive obstacle course and skills contest, Fort Osage, MO.

Dec. 1-2, 1990: Frontier Winter Open House, Fort Osage, MO.

Dec. 8, 1990: Christmas Open House, Fort Larned NHS.

Sept. 26-30, 1991: Santa Fe Trail Symposium, Arrow Rock, MO. Contact Coordinator Richard R. Forry, 205 S. 6th St., Arrow Rock, MO 65320. ◁

FROM THE EDITOR

Bonita and I recently spent a few days in some of the archives and libraries of Colorado and New Mexico, a most rewarding experience. We were searching for material on Fort Union but kept an eye out for all Trail-related materials. The professional staffs at the following institutions were especially helpful and courteous, deserving of more recognition than they usually receive: Western History Collection at Denver Public Library, Colorado History Society Library, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, History Library at the Palace of the Governors, and Special Collections Library at the University of New Mexico.

While in Santa Fe we enjoyed a beautiful snow and the generous hospitality of some very special SFTA friends, Marc Simmons and Mary Jean and Edward Cook. We had a hurried but pleasant stop at Fort Union.

As soon as this issue is in the mail, we will travel to Washington, D.C., to continue research at the National Archives. For this reason, the editorial office of *WT* will be closed for several weeks. Please continue to send items for the next issue, but do not expect a response to inquiries until we return. In case of an emergency, leave a message on our phone recorder. We try to check it at least once a week.

Happy trails!

—Leo E. Oliva

Wagon Tracks
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