

# Wagon Tracks

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Article 1

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## Wagon Tracks. Volume 1, Issue 3 (May, 1987)

Santa Fe Trail Association

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# WAGON TRACKS

SANTA FE TRAIL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1

MAY 1987

NUMBER 3

## SANTA FE TRAIL BILL SIGNED MAY 8, 1987

### TRAIL STATES TO CELEBRATE MAY 15

The Santa Fe Trail Bill passed the House of Representatives on March 10 and the Senate on April 22. President Ronald Reagan, who once starred in a movie titled *The Santa Fe Trail*, signed the bill on May 8. The governors of the five Trail states have been asked by Council Publicity Coordinator Mike Pitel to declare May 15 Santa Fe Trail Day in their respective states to focus attention on the Trail and its new status.

New Mexico Cong. Bill Richardson introduced the House bill, while Kansas Senator Nancy Kassebaum introduced it in the Senate. Their colleagues from the Trail states joined in sponsorship and support. There was only token opposition in either house. The bill ensures that no lands will be added to the Trail without consent of the owners.

The law adds the Santa Fe Trail to the National Historic Trails System (the content of the act was reported in the first issue of *WT*). The impetus behind the legislation was provided by the Oregon-California Trails Association, and it was OCTA's efforts that resulted in passage of the bill. The Santa Fe Trail Council expresses gratitude to OCTA leadership for making this possible.

A new burst of enthusiasm, including better efforts to preserve, protect, and promote the historic Trail, is expected to increase awareness of and visits to Trail sites. The increase in tourism will benefit the Trail states and local communities along the route. Cong. Richardson declared, "The bill gives the Santa Fe Trail its proper place in history and will promote tourism for the states that are involved." The law marks an auspicious new beginning for the history of the Santa Fe Trail and offers additional opportunities and responsibilities for the Council. ◀

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ TRAILS CENTER TO BE AT INDEPENDENCE, MO

A National Frontier Trails Center will be constructed at Independence, MO, once the primary outfitting and jumping off point for the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails. The site of the museum, the remains of a 19th-century mill near the site of a spring used by trail travelers (known as Emigrant Spring), was dedicated March 15.

The state of Missouri has committed over \$2 million for construction, completion expected late in 1988. Plans are to locate the museum and a genealogy collection in the red brick buildings that once housed the Waggoner-Gates Milling Co. The museum will focus on the region from St. Louis to the Pacific Coast and the era from 1808 when Fort Osage was founded to 1855 when border warfare began.

A Friends of the Three Trails support group is being organized to help with the center and seeks members among all persons interested in the trails and the museum. For further information, contact Jane Mallinson, Box 8604, Sugar Creek, MO 64054.

### WATCH FOR LES VILDA

BULLETIN—Council member and modern-day mountain man Les Vilda of Wilber, NE, departed New Franklin, MO, and the Beginning of the Trail Monument on April 21 for a hike to Santa Fe. Accompanying the intrepid overlander was his donkey, Joker, who is carrying food and bedding on a packsaddle.

In 1984 Les walked from Independence to Santa Fe. As he and Joker passed Wagon Mound, their picture was taken by photographer Joan Myers. A copy later appeared in Joan's book, *Along the Santa Fe Trail*; another copy is (continued on page 2)

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ TRAIL, COUNCIL AND WT IN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS

Mike Pitel's answer in New York *Times* travel columnist Stanley Carr's column "Q & A," which appeared in the Sunday, March 15 *Times*, with a circulation of 1,553,720, included information about the Trail, Council, Hutchinson Symposium, and *Wagon Tracks*. The information has since appeared in at least 11 major newspapers, and the total circulation is 3,031,141. Several Council memberships resulted from this exposure.

Joanne Ditmer, staff writer for the *Denver Post*, produced a special feature on the Santa Fe Trail in the February 21 Saturday section of the *Post*. In addition to a map of the Trail and several illustrations, the two-page feature recounted the highlights of the Trinidad Symposium, explained how to join the Council, summarized the history of the Trail, and mentioned the Trail Bill, Hutchinson Symposium, and the Olivas' Trail Tour scheduled for August. This also generated several new memberships.

### HUTCHINSON SYMPOSIUM

The program and preregistration form for the September 24-27 Symposium at Hutchinson Community College will soon be mailed to all Council members. Earlier plans, announced last issue, to include the complete program in this issue were changed because of available space, and it will be sent directly to a long list of potential participants.

Program Coordinator Barbara Peirce is excited about the lineup of speakers and activities. Watch for details and plan now to be there in September.

A popular feature of last year's Symposium in Trinidad was the book raffle. Its purpose was to (continued on page 2)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Recently the *Albuquerque Journal* ran a full-page ad for the fashionable Goldwater's Department Store which featured women's "Santa Fe Trail clothing." It seems that full-length dresses and blouses with puff sleeves are what should be worn by the modern lass contemplating a journey over the Trail.

Such an ad can mean only one thing. The Santa Fe Trail is "hot" right now and advertisers are quick to take advantage of that fact. Of course, the Trail Bill which just passed Congress has received a good deal of press coverage, contributing to an increase in public awareness. But the on-going programs of OCTA and your own Council have helped too. Some of you noted last year in Trinidad that the time was ripe to promote the cause of the Trail, and the past few months have continued to prove you right.

As the Council has struggled to get organized, we can take pride in the successes that have been registered to date—notably a first Symposium that was enthusiastically received, and the launching of a handsome newsletter, *Wagon Tracks*, under the guiding hand of Editor Leo Oliva.

Much remains to be done in working out some of the Council's organizational kinks. But these problems will be tackled by the governing board in Hutchinson. In the meantime, everyone can help by enlisting new members for the Council. Our goal—a tall one—is to achieve a membership of 500 by the end of the year.

You can assure interested parties that joining is easy. Basic fees of \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families should be sent to our Treasurer John Tarabino, Trinidad State Junior College, 600 Prospect, Trinidad, CO 81082. Membership in the Council provides the only means for receiving *Wagon Tracks* regularly, a periodical no true Trail buff will want to miss.

Barbara Peirce, Symposium Coordinator, has already hammered out a first-rate program for Hutchinson (September 24-27). Information about the Symposium may be found in this issue and a complete program will be sent to all Council members within a few days. Make plans now to join us in Hutchinson.

Although my feet were badly crushed in my recent auto accident, they are healing and I hope to be

able to leave my wheelchair and stand on both of them when I deliver the President's message at the opening of the Symposium. I'll look forward to presenting an up-beat report on the Santa Fe Trail Council's first year.

Until then, get busy and bring in those new members!

—Marc Simmons

## LES AND JOKER

(continued from page 1)

circulating in the Smithsonian Trail Exhibit; and the picture was widely printed in the national news media, including the *New York Review of Books*.

Les is planning to follow the Mountain Branch, reaching Trinidad in early June. There he will pause and take a summer job at a Boy Scout camp on the Spanish Peaks. In August he will resume the trip to Santa Fe where he will spend two days before turning back east on the Cimarron Cutoff. If all goes well he will reach Hutchinson in time for the Council's Symposium. Following that, he will return to New Franklin before snowfall, becoming the first person in modern times to walk the Santa Fe Trail roundtrip. Council members along the Trail should watch for the passing of Les and Joker.

## TRAIL HISTORY CREATES DEBATE IN TRINIDAD

An effort to change the name of Country Club Drive to Santa Fe Trail in Trinidad, CO, has touched off an historical dispute. The idea reportedly was an outgrowth of the Symposium there last September. The name of the street was changed from Santa Fe Avenue to County Club Drive in the 1920s.

Although Council Exec. V-P Joy Poole declared there is "documentation that indicates that it would be honest to rename Country Club Drive to Santa Fe Trail," former city mayor Dean Mabry stated the street was not the route of the historic road but had been the local red light district. He claims the name was changed to Country Club Drive because of the "odium" associated with Santa Fe Avenue. Mabry explained that pioneers he knew as a boy told him "it was the location of a lot of fancy houses of prostitution." It is amazing what sparks can fly from the rekindled interest in the Trail. Trinidad Council members are requested to inform *WT* of the outcome. ◁

## HUTCHINSON SYMPOSIUM

(continued from page 1)

raise funds for markers at neglected sites along the Trail. This initial effort brought in almost \$300.

Another raffle is planned for the Hutchinson Symposium and both new books and rare out-of-print books related to the Trail are needed as prizes. Donations can be mailed ahead of time to Sec. Ruth Olson, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR 3, Larned, KS 67550, or can be brought directly to Hutchinson. Persons willing to give time selling raffle tickets during intermissions at the Symposium, please notify Marc Simmons in advance.

For the second time the Santa Fe Trail Council will present its Awards of Merit at the Symposium to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the history and preservation of the Trail. The first eight recipients at Trinidad were noted in the first issue of *WT*. Any Council member is eligible to offer a nominee for consideration. A brief description of the individual's service to the Trail should be sent before August 15 to Exec. V-P Joy Poole, Farmington Museum, 302 No. Orchard, Farmington, NM 87401. Awards will be presented at the Council's regular business meeting in Hutchinson.



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### Membership Categories

Benefactor	\$1,000
Life	\$500
Institutional	\$100/year
Corporate	\$100/year
Patron	\$100/year
Supporting	\$50/year
Family	\$15/year
Individual	\$10/year

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## GIRL SCOUTS HIKE SOON

The Girl Scout Trail Walk to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of their organization, described in the first issue of *WT*, is scheduled for June 6-14. Evelyn Bartlow, 54 Woodbridge Lane, Kansas City, MO 64145, has just published a handsome trail guide for the Scouts, called *Discover the Santa Fe Trail*. The participants will gather at Fort Larned for a special program on June 20.

## BENT'S OLD FORT SEEKS SPANISH RE-ENACTORS

Bent's Old Fort NHS near La Junta, CO, is seeking historic re-enactors to portray the Spanish Southwest. The group, to be called "*La Gente de la Frontera*" (people of the frontier), will study the customs, crafts, clothing, and life style of the frontier Spaniards. They will be trained in research, interpretation, pioneer skills, and making clothing for living history events. For further information, contact Chief Park Ranger Bill Gwaltney, Bent's Old Fort NHS, 35110 Hwy 194 E, La Junta, CO 81050.

## CIMARRON TRAIL DAYS

The first annual Cimarron Trail Days celebration will be held May 23-25 at Cimarron, NM. Of special interest to Santa Fe Trail buffs will be a Centennial Wagon Train re-enactment by the Jicarilla Apache Indians. The three-culture celebration will devote one day to each of the three cultures that shaped Cimarron: Indian, Hispanic, and Anglo. The Old Mill Museum and historic St. James Hotel will be open. Contact Susan Zeller, Cimarron Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 604, Cimarron, NM 87714 (505) 376-2985 or 376-2614.

## TRAIL RENDEZVOUS AT NRA CENTER AT RATON

The annual Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous, June 3-7, at the National Rifle Association's Whittington Center near Raton, NM, includes a special ceremony honoring the Trail. This long weekend of camping and activities simulates the life of the mountain men. Fees are \$10 per person or \$25 per family. Contact Whittington Center Rendezvous, P. O. Box 700, Raton, NM 87740. ◀

## BOISE CITY CELEBRATES SANTA FE TRAIL DAZE

The annual Santa Fe Trail Daze celebration is June 4-7 at Boise City, OK. There are events for all ages and tastes: rodeo, stagecoach rides, country western entertainment, dances, flea market, sacred music program, parade, car show, old-time fiddling, church service, and various types of competition for kids and adults. Highlight of the four days will be a free guided bus tour on Friday, June 5, 8:00 a.m., to various places on and near the Santa Fe Trail. Advance reservations are required. Contact Chamber of Commerce, Box 1026, Boise City, OK 73933 (405) 544-3344.

## FT. UNION FOUNDERS DAY

The 1987 celebration of Fort Union Founders Day is July 25-26, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day, at Fort Union National Monument near Watrous, NM, 28 miles north of Las Vegas (take Exit 366 off I-25 and follow SR477 to the National Monument). Featured throughout the two-day event will be tours of the first Fort Union (normally closed to the public), military re-enactments, cannon demonstrations (everything but the boom!), fashion shows, temperance rallies, craft demonstrations, historic music, talks by area historians, and more.

This annual event celebrates the founding of Fort Union on July 25, 1851, near the junction of the Mountain Branch and Cimarron Cutoff of the Santa Fe Trail. Its purpose was to protect the Trail and serve as a military supply depot for the Southwest. Fort Union was an active post until 1891.

The first fort was replaced early in the Civil War because it was susceptible to Confederate attack. The second fort was underground, in the shape of an eight-pointed star. Before the Civil War ended, construction began on the third Fort Union, an adobe post. In addition to the fort, there was a supply depot and an arsenal.

On Founders Day the fort speaks again with the rhythm of the soldiers' march and the blacksmith's hammer. Visitors have the opportunity to learn of a bygone era and get a taste of what life was like at a 19th-century fort. The site is open throughout the year. Contact Unit Manager, Fort Union National Monument, Watrous, NM 87753 (505) 425-8023. ◀

## FORT LARNED NHS SUMMER SCHEDULE

Fort Larned National Historic Site begins its expanded summer visitor activities on May 23, Memorial Day weekend, continuing through Labor Day. Saturdays and Sundays will offer intensified interpretive programs that focus on the cultural history of the post, the Trail, and frontier Kansas. Living history interpretation, period costumes, furnished historic structures, audio/visual programs, guided tours, exhibits, and talks and demonstrations will be included.

Visitors will be able to see the development of this National Park Service area in action. The reconstruction of the fort's blockhouse, the only original stone structure that did not survive to the present, is scheduled to be underway by summer. The relocation of the visitor parking lot to a less obtrusive site will help everyone better visualize the post as it appeared during its active period. The NHS seeks to present the post, active from 1859-1878, as it appeared in 1868.

Memorial Day weekend and July 4 will offer special programs designed to deepen understanding of the day-to-day lifestyles at a frontier garrison. In addition to park staff, several groups and individuals, each with a unique knowledge of certain aspects of western history, will be present to share information with the public.

Fort Larned NHS, located on the Santa Fe Trail 6 miles west of Larned, KS on Highway 156 is open daily, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is no entrance fee.

## BOOT HILL MUSEUM OPENS 40th SEASON

Boot Hill Museum at Dodge City, KS, will open its 40th summer season on May 23. In addition to the AAM-accredited museum, two special exhibits will be featured in 1987: one dealing with the 40 years the museum has been open and the other "The American West in the Popular Press." Interpretive activities include the Santa Fe Trail and Fort Dodge as well as Santa Fe Railroad and Dodge City history. Summer hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. An admission fee is charged. Contact Boot Hill Museum, Front Street, Dodge City, KS 67801 (316) 227-8188. ◀

## MAHAFFIE FARMSTEAD AND STAGECOACH STOP HISTORIC SITE

by Michael E. Duncan

[Ed. note: This is the second in a series on museums and historic sites along the Trail.]

J. B. Mahaffie, an Indiana farmer, his wife Lucinda and five children came to Olathe, KS in 1857 with two wagons, a carriage, an extra team and some cattle.

Upon arrival, he purchased three lots on which there was a one-story house. After the arrangements were completed, he set out that night to build a stable for his stock, which was completed the next night.

In 1858 he purchased 160 acres of farmland northeast of the square. He then moved his five-room, 20-by-25-foot house by wagon and oxen to the present location. By 1865 he completed a stone house which still stands. In that year Mahaffie owned the largest farm, 570 acres, and the largest livestock herd in Olathe township.

From 1863 to 1869, Mahaffie Farmstead was used as a stagecoach stop on the Santa Fe Trail. The stagecoach stop is the reason that Mahaffie House is on the National Register of Historic places and is a vital historic site to Olathe, to Kansas, and to the Santa Fe Trail.

Mahaffie Farmstead has three structures on the National Register, the home, a wood peg barn, and a stone ice house. The historic site is located on 15 acres of the original 570 acres and includes the orchard, doorway, and barn yard.

In 1980 the Mahaffie Farmstead was purchased by the City of Olathe with funds raised by local citizens, grant monies, and the balance from city funds. It is a little unusual for a city to own and operate a museum of such importance. This shows that the City of Olathe is concerned not only with its future but is also concerned about its past.

In 1982 Olathe was awarded a grant from the federal government to stabilize the buildings and repair the house. This included tie rods between east and west walls, forced air heating, electrical improvements, and a new roof.

The city received a restoration matching-grant of \$25,000 from the federal government in 1983. The house had at least two major

remodelings after the Mahaffie family sold it in 1886, and this was the first attempt at restoration to historic appearance.

Modern flooring was replaced with 1"x6" plank flooring. Modern windows were replaced with period two-pane western windows with working shutters. A window unit and a pair of shutters original to the home were found on the farm, and these items were duplicated. Three windows that were added in the present century were removed and the openings filled with stone. Other work completed at that time included installation of air-conditioning, a humidity control system, security system, lightning rods, and more.

Although the city performs most of the larger projects, it is hoped that the community will fund the development of this site through donations of time, material, and funds. That philosophy is working well. In 1982 attendance was 2,500 visitors. By 1985 it was up to 12,400.

There are several events scheduled throughout the year. The main event is "Bullwhacker Days," which is held around the 4th of July.

Mahaffie Historic Site is always looking for volunteers in several different categories, such as tour guides, gardeners, carpenters, helpers with special events, etc. For further information, call (913) 782-6792 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or write P. O. Box 768, Olathe, KS 66061.

Mahaffie Farmstead is located at 1100 Old Kansas City Rd., northeast of Olathe. Tours are available. There is a gift shop, and civic and private groups are welcome to use the stagecoach dining room for meetings and special events. Advance reservations are required. The staff at Mahaffie Farmstead hopes you will become a regular visitor and supporter.

## POOLE TO FARMINGTON GARDNER TO TRINIDAD

Council Exec. V-P Joy Poole left her position with the Colorado Historical Society at Trinidad, including administration of the Baca & Bloom houses and Pioneer Museum, in February to become director of the Farmington Museum in Farmington, NM. Council board member Mark L. Gardner will assume Poole's former position at Trinidad in mid-May. We wish them both the best in their new positions. ◁

## POST OFFICE OAK —LETTERS—

Editor:

Congratulations to you and all those who contributed to the February issue of *Wagon Tracks*. The November issue was great; this last issue is almost a history book!

The response to the Santa Fe Trail Council is very encouraging. Those early trail associations had a rough time and did not survive. The present environment is much more favorable. The general public is now much more receptive and has greater appreciation for the colorful trail history that was largely ignored in the past. We also have lots of active members who are communicating and getting things done. There are a lot of "shakers and movers" in our organization.

The Rice County Historical Society's Coronado-Quivira Museum at Lyons, KS recently held a reception and open house to celebrate the opening of the basement exhibits. The upper level contains artifacts dating from prehistoric times to the coming of the first white settlers, including, of course, artifacts from the Trail and from Coronado's visit. The newly opened lower level represents Rice County as of 1902. We hope many of those attending the Hutchinson Symposium will be able to visit our museum.

Ralph Hathaway  
RR 1, Box 28  
Chase, KS 67524

Editor:

I was pleased to see the fine article by Mark Gardner on trader Malcolm Conn in the last issue of *WT*. A series sketching the lives of some of the lesser known merchants will be most welcome.

From this article I note two points of interest in Council Grove that should be added to the next edition of my guide, *Following the Santa Fe Trail*. One is Conn's grave in Greenwood Cemetery, and the other is his "Stone Store" at Main and Neosho streets.

Marc Simmons  
419 Monroe NE #11  
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Marc Simmons:

While visiting the Fort Union National Monument, I saw several items on display which whetted my interest—to wit, ox shoes and cannon balls. The particular attraction of these items stems from

my finding some of these nearby home, south and west of Capulin, NM. The cannon balls are of different sizes, but do appear to be genuine articles. There is no mistaking the ox shoes.

I inquired of the personnel at Fort Union about a possible branch of the Santa Fe Trail going through this area and was told I should contact you. There does appear to be distinct wagon ruts passing through to the north of Horseshoe Mesa, about one mile south of the Raton-Clayton highway, just inside the Colfax County line. Could it be there was a spur of the Trail going through here?

Michael Hobbs  
P. O. Box 1146  
Raton, NM 87740

Simmons replies:

*Indeed, there was a branch of the Santa Fe Trail in the region you describe. It is little known, but Hobart Stocking in his book The Road to Santa Fe gives a short account and a map. He calls it the Two Buttes Cutoff, but maps of the period often designate it simply as the Fort Leavenworth Road. This cutoff was used only during the 1870s. It led from the vicinity of Kit Carson, CO southwest past the Two Buttes to Trinchera Pass on the state line, then swung around Capulin Mountain before dropping down to the Rock Crossing of the Canadian where it united with the Cimarron Cutoff. Much of the Trail is visible from the air in the vicinity of Capulin, but no one in recent years has traced the entire route on the ground.*



### CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES —BOOK NOTICES—

Mary B. and Leo E. Gamble, *Santa Fe Trail Markers in Colorado*. Spearville, KS: Spearville News, 1987. Pp. 55. Map, illus. Paper, \$6.50 (plus \$1.00 postage). Order from authors at 333 Kansas St., Springfield, CO 81073.

In the first decade of this century the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) undertook the first program to mark the Santa Fe Trail. In all of the Trail states except Oklahoma they installed a series of handsome granite monuments to commemorate the pass-

ing of the Santa Fe pioneers. These monuments remain as significant points of interest along the modern Trail.

Unfortunately, many of them are difficult to find today. Some have been moved from their original sites, while others have become lost in a tangle of weeds and brush.

All of the 36 markers in Colorado have been searched out by the authors of this handy little book. They have provided a photograph of each together with carefully detailed road directions. A brief history of the Trail is included and an account of the marking program in Colorado. Everyone who delights in following today's Santa Fe Trail will surely want a copy of the Gamble's book.

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Katharine B. Kelley, *Along the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County, Kansas: A Brief History of the Seven DAR Marker Sites and Town Sites Along the Route of the Trail in Douglas County, Kansas*. Baldwin City, KS: Katharine B. Kelley, 1987. Pp. 44. Maps, illus., appendix, bibliog. Paper, \$2.00 (includes postage). Order from the author, Box 43, Baldwin City, KS 66006.

Kelley was one of the recipients of an Award of Merit at Trinidad for her work, with the late Amelia J. Betts (to whose memory this little book is dedicated), in restoring the DAR markers in Douglas County and erecting new, more informative markers at those seven locations. That remarkable project was completed by Kelley in 1986. Kelley is also a life member of the Council and one of the finest boosters any organization could hope to have.

With detailed maps, clear photographs, and carefully chosen words, Kelley tells the story of the Trail and the marked sites in her home county. She includes information on post offices, towns, and stage and mail service on the Trail. There is a tribute to Amelia Betts by Marc Simmons.

This labor of love belongs in the baggage of everyone who travels the Trail in Douglas County. It would be ideal if someone as informed and dedicated as Kelley could be found in every county through which the Trail passed to prepare a similar booklet.

• • • • •

Norma Gene Butterbaugh Young, *Not a Stoplight in the County*. Boise City, OK: Boise City News

Consultants, 1986. Pp. 52. Maps, illus. Paper, \$7.25 (includes postage). Order from the author, P. O. Box 1146, Boise City, OK 73933.

This brief history of Cimarron County, OK, of which Boise City is the county seat, includes maps showing the route of the Cimarron Cutoff and the Aubry Route of the Trail through the county. There are sections about the Trail, Mormon Battalion (one of the recent Mormon Battalion markers is located on the courthouse square), Camp Nichols, and McNees Crossing in nearby New Mexico.

Other Trail sites in the county include Upper Spring (known as Flag Spring) and Cold Spring where there is an inscription rock. Because most Trail sites are on private property, Young cautions readers to secure permission before visiting any of the Trail locations. This informative booklet, which includes a self-guided driving tour of the area with directions and mileages between points, is an ideal guide for those pursuing the Trail in the region (one map shows the Trail from southwestern Kansas into northeastern New Mexico) and, especially, for those fortunate enough to attend the annual Santa Fe Trail Daze celebration at Boise City which includes a bus tour to many places identified by Young. (Ed. note: see article on Trail Daze on p. 3 of this issue.)

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Leo E. and Bonita M. Oliva, *Santa Fe Trail Trivia*. Enlarged edition. Woodston: Western Books, 1987. Pp. iv + 56. Map, bibliog. Paper, \$2.95 (includes postage). Order from Western Books, P. O. Box 1, Woodston, KS 67675 (quantity discounts available).

This booklet contains over 500 questions and answers about the history of the Trail. The authors explain that the material is not considered trivial, but the popular format was adopted to encourage users to learn more about the famous route, the people who traveled it, and what remains to be seen today. The range of questions will challenge scholars, informed buffs, and anyone interested in the Trail.

This publication encourages readers to join the Santa Fe Trail Council and includes a membership application form. The booklet may be an informative and enjoyable pastime while traveling, especially for those driving along the Trail.

## MARIANO JOSÉ CHAVES: MERCHANT ON THE TRAIL

by David A. Sandoval

[Ed. note: This is the second in a series on merchants and the Santa Fe trade.]

In May 1840 a small spring caravan began the trek to Santa Fe. Mariano José Chaves traveled with his brother don José Chaves y Castillo, José Agustín Escudero, Antonio Jacquez, Jesús Palacios, and Chihuahua magnate J. Calistro Porras across Kansas via the Cimarron Cutoff and reached Santa Fe in July. In August of that year don Mariano transported goods to Durango. He often marketed his wares along the southern spur of the multifaceted Santa Fe trading system. His periodic buying trips to the United States obviously made a distinct impression as he reportedly counseled his son, José Francisco Chávez in 1843, "The heretics are going to over-run all this country, go and learn their language and come back prepared to defend your people." His experiences in the trading system had convinced him of the need for a defense.

Mariano José Chaves (b. Dec. 8, 1808) was the son of politically prominent Francisco Xavier Chaves and Ana María Álvarez del Castillo. His father was the first governor of Mexico's New Mexico (July 5, 1822), and don Mariano was periodically called upon to assume executive duties. He was acting governor from May to July 1835, served as second in command under General Manuel Armijo during the 1837 insurrection, was inspector of the Rural Militia in February 1840, and served as interim governor in January 1844 (as *primer vocal* he was selected but very quickly resigned the responsibilities).

Marriage to Dolores Perea reinforced familial connections with other prominent *nuevomexicano* merchants trading in and with the United States. Confusion remains because Mariano José often traveled with his brothers, José Chaves y Castillo and Antonio José, and American newspapers had difficulty reporting the activities of three brothers who traded and worked together and who all had the name "José." José Chaves y Castillo married Manuela Armijo, and Antonio José Chaves married Barbara Armijo and became known as "José David" through Matthew Field. Another brother, Tomas Chaves,

was also a merchant most often involved in the southern route from Santa Fe and later became an attorney in Chihuahua. Tomas Chaves married a niece of the Bishop of Durango and perhaps this is why he established himself in the south. After "José David" was murdered on the Trail in Kansas in 1843, Barbara Armijo de Chaves continued her husband's trade through the assistance of brother-in-law José Chaves y Castillo.

Mariano also traveled with his brothers-in-law on his visits to the eastern United States. Juana Chaves married merchant Juan Cristóbal Armijo, María Francisca married merchant Antonio José Otero, Merced married merchant Juan Otero, Dolores married merchant José Leandro Perea, Barbara married merchant Juan Gutiérrez, and Manuela Antonia married merchant José María Gutiérrez. Manuela Antonia Chaves de Gutiérrez later achieved fame as the widowed "Sister Dolores."

With the death of "José David" the journey in 1843 via Independence to St. Louis, and subsequently to New York must have been a rather somber affair. Mexican merchants Miguel Otero, Nestor Armijo, Felipe Chávez, Juan Perea, and José Gutiérrez accompanied José Chaves y Castillo, José Leandro Perea, and don Mariano to the United States. The Pereas, don Mariano, and José Chaves y Castillo took *nuevomexicano* children, Joaquín Perea, Francisco Perea, and José Francisco Chaves, to St. Louis to enroll them in school and reportedly later to New York where their education continued. Francisco Perea later recalled that his uncle don Mariano was a "very impulsive man and a leading citizen of Valencia County," who nominated Manuel Armijo to resist the 1837 insurrection. It was after the death of his brother that don Mariano counseled his son to prepare himself for the defense of his native land.

American newspapers recorded the wealth of the "principal men" who reached St. Louis on May 17, 1843. John Pravis (José Chaves), James Floris (Santiago Flores), J. Olaro (Otero), M. Sandrue (Mateo Sandoval) with others reportedly brought sixteen bales and twelve boxes of silver as well as fifty packs of furs. They had an estimated 250 to 300 thousand dollars to invest in their buying trip to the United States.

While don Mariano's reputation

had been forged through service to country, family, and region, his legacy has included the reported remarks to his son concerning defense of country and these comments by Josiah Gregg: "Don Mariano Chávez . . . gentleman of very amiable character, such as is rarely to be met with in that unfortunate land. It is asserted that he furnished a considerable quantity of provisions, blankets, etc., to Col. Cooke's division of Texan prisoners."

Mariano José Chaves died in 1845 and his widow married Dr. Henry Connelly who conducted his business from don Mariano's estate in Los Padillas as well as from his home at Peralta in Valencia County. Susan Magoffin visited the widow (Dolores Perea) in November 1846 and vividly described don Mariano's home. "The house is very large . . . well furnished with handsome Brussels carpet, crimson worsted curtains with gilded-rings and cornices, white marble slab pier tables, hair and crimson worsted chairs, candelabra, and . . . framed pictures and large looking glasses." Susan reported that in one of the rooms were "eight to ten gilt framed mirrors all about the wall." Dona Dolores continued the reputation she had acquired from compassion and hospitality when she aided the Texan prisoners in 1841. The furnishings undoubtedly were brought to the "tabernacles of clay" from the land of the "heretics" via the Santa Fe Trail.

### COUNCIL TROVE —DOCUMENTS— MEASURING UP

Mark L. Gardner found this rare table of Trail era measurements and their definitions in the Westport *Border Star*, December 31, 1858 (p. 1, col. 2). These terms to describe volume and weight of goods shipped were well known to the merchants and freighters but are now all but forgotten.

A firkin of butter	56 lbs
A sack of coals	224 lbs
A truss of straw	36 lbs
A stave of hemp	32 lbs
A sack of flour	98 lbs
A quintal	100 lbs
A piggot of steel	120 lbs
A truss of hay	55 lbs
A kilderkin	18 gal
A hogshead	54 gal
A barrel	36 gal
A puncheon	84 gal
A bash	80 bus

• • • • •

## GLASGOW LETTER, 1846

In 1984 a set of historic letters came to light at the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis. The letters, on temporary loan from a private party, were written by Edward James and William Henry Glasgow, brothers who were following the Santa Fe Trail as merchants with the annual trading caravan of 1846. That was the year the war with Mexico began and the Army of the West was sent over the Trail to conquer the American Southwest.

Possibly the most important Santa Fe Trail-related documents to surface in recent years, the letters are now the proud possession of New Mexico postal collector Wade Shipley. Mark L. Gardner is currently working with Mr. Shipley toward the goal of publishing the letters in their entirety. Mr. Shipley kindly gave Mark permission to publish one of these letters in *Wagon Tracks*.

That letter, printed below, was written by William H. Glasgow while encamped at Pawnee Fork, near present-day Larned, KS. It was written to his sister in St. Louis. The explanatory footnotes are Mark's. (*Watch for a biography of the Glasgow brothers in a future issue of WT.*)

Pawnee Fork 9 July '46

Miss Mary Susan Glasgow

My Dear Susan

Since your note in Ellen's<sup>1</sup> letter, which I replied to from Independence, I have not heard from home. I will make myself think that you are all well until I hear something to the contrary. I am, however, anxious to hear from Susan Ferguson and Mr. McPherson.<sup>2</sup>

We are all here in a jumble about 400 men, 150 waggons [*sic*] and 900 head of oxen and mules. The Indians have all decamped; thinking, I doubt not, that we have come out to overhaul them for killing Mr. Bent's cook, who was killed about 1 mile from this place.<sup>3</sup>

We are encamped upon the bank of Pawnee Creek about 5 miles above where it empties into the Arkansas. We feast every day upon green Buffalo [*sic*] tongues, hump ribs, Buffalo Sausages, marrow bones, fish and beans. The officers of Dragoons<sup>4</sup> are within half a mile of us and we are either in their camp or they in ours every day. They are as clever a set of lads as ever was. We arrived here on the 4th and had a grand blow out at the Dragoon camp and another at our own the next day. Since then we have been quite rational and amuse ourselves spinning yarns, hunting and fishing.

Mr. Fe<sup>5</sup> is here and is a perfect

specimen of laziness. He has a horse and mule but is so poor a horseman that he can do nothing with them. He has gone out hunting several times and, fearing to shoot off his horse or mule, got down, when the animal invariably has left him to foot it 3 or 4 miles into camp. The first buffaloe hunt he took, his mule took fright at them and ran into camp with him, without his being able to stop him. He says he tried to get a pistol out of his holster to shoot her in the head but she kept jumping so that he could not get it out.

The Genl.<sup>6</sup> is in good health and spirits, and if he does not get tired soon, will, I think, return entirely restored to health.

I would not be surprised to see Miss Jos[ephine] Magoffin any day, as a Gent left Independence when I was there for St. Louis with the consent of her Father to accomp[any] her.<sup>7</sup> His intention is to return to Chihua<sup>a</sup> this fall. I have not yet called upon Mrs. Magoffin<sup>8</sup> as she is encamped upon the other side of the creek and about 4 miles from this place. We are going over this evening or tomorrow.

Tell Cush B. that her name must possess some particular powers as my mare (Lucretia) is as quiet as a lamb and as playful as a kitten with me, and has invariably run off with every other man in camp who has attempted to ride her. It may be because no one ever goes near her to feed, stake and water her except myself, and I manage her when in the saddle more by speaking to her than by the bridle.

We are all busy jerking buffaloe meat and around our camp is to be seen upon all sides frameworks of willow brush loaded with meat drying. How long we will remain here is yet a mystery, not more than 2 weeks longer I hope.

2 companies of volunteers have just come up and we have had a meeting of all the traders at our camp. (they have just left) as well as Capt Moore of the Dragoons, who has given us all permission to go to Bent's Fort. He is going with us with 400 men. There is 500 more within 3 or 4 days march of us. We will go to Bent's and wait for the ending of the war. Col. Kearney<sup>9</sup> [*sic*] will catch up with us in about 12 days.

There are 2 Mexicans with us, one a nephew of Gov. [Manuel] Armijo and Don Peo Sambrano [?], both frightened to death and thinking the army is going to eat Mexico and the Mexicans. We read a paper cont[ainin]g an account of the seizure [*sic*] of Elguia's goods in N. York but think it impossible that our government could be guilty of so mean an action.<sup>10</sup> If it should prove true, George Doan may be in a bad way notwithstanding his English passport.<sup>11</sup>

We hope to have a great deal of

sport hunting at Bent's Fort, as the mountains are full of Deer, Turkeys and Bear, and if we are detained there until Col. K. takes possession of New Mexico, we may have plenty of time.

Some of the volunteers that came up today are pretty sick of their "pleasure trip." They would now be content if they could get off to dis-pence with all the glory and laurels they expect to win, but they are in for it and will have to see the end of it. When Major M. L. Clark<sup>12</sup> comes up with us I shall expect to receive letters from you all. Until the ports on the Mexican Gulf are opened, by Ft. Leavenworth is the most speedy route that letters can reach us, as there will be express-es going continually between that place and Col. Kearney's army until their return.

Give my love to all my sweet-hearts and tell them I think of them particularly when standing guard at night watching for Indians.

Remember me to all my relations at home and tell them that I should be glad to hear from any and all of them at any time. Kiss Ellen's brats for me and tell her we are making a man of her *maypole* as fast as may be. Give my love to Ma, Pa, Miss Patsy, Laura, Ellen, the negroes and *the babies*, and believe me ever your affectionate Bro.

W<sup>m</sup> H.

Remember me also to Miss "Coons"

### NOTES

1. Eleanor Glasgow Clark, sister of William H. Glasgow and wife of George Rogers Hancock Clark. Mary Susan Glasgow later married a half brother of G. R. H. Clark, Jefferson Kearny Clark. Both J. K. and G. R. H. Clark were sons of William Clark of Lewis and Clark fame.
2. Possibly William H. McPherson, St. Louis lawyer and business man. J. Thomas Scharf, *History of St. Louis City and County* (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts & Co., 1883), II, 1490.
3. The unidentified cook was probably killed by Comanches in the latter part of May. He was accompanying the Missouri-bound Bent, St. Vrain & Co. train of 22 wagons. Louise Barry, *The Beginning of the West* (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1972), 589.
4. The dragoons, an advance detachment of General Stephen Watts Kearny's "Army of the West," had been sent to Pawnee Fork under command of Captain Benjamin D. Moore. Their orders were to capture the trains of Manuel Armijo and Albert Speyer, which were suspected of carrying arms and ammunition to the Mexicans. Although the dragoons were too late to capture the above trains, all other southern-bound merchants were ordered to wait at Pawnee Fork until the rest of the army could catch up. Leo E. Oliva, *Soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967), 64-65.
5. Mr. Fe (or Fay), an Italian, was one of a number of men who accompanied the Glasgows as far as Bent's Fort for reasons of health and sport. On the return trip, Fe got himself into a bit of trouble when he became separated from the main party and "stopped to shoot a wolf, and suddenly found himself beset by two Cheyennes. They menaced, but did not injure him, as he was well armed." Dale Morgan, ed., *Overland in 1846: Diaries and Letters of the California-Oregon Trail* (Georgetown, CA: The Talisman Press, 1963), 652-653.
6. "The General" was the nickname for George Rogers Hancock Clark, brother-in-law of the Glasgow brothers. G. R. H. Clark, like Mr. Fe, accompanied the Glasgows for only a



- portion of the journey.
7. Josephine and her sister Ursula, daughters of merchant James W. Magoffin, were living at the Visitation Convent in St. Louis. However, there is no evidence that Josephine made the trip down the Trail that year. Perhaps James Magoffin's plans for his daughter were interrupted by the Mexican War and his "secret mission" from President James K. Polk. William E. Connelley, *Doniphan's Expedition* (Kansas City: Bryant & Douglas Book and Stationery Co., 1907), 138-139.
  8. Susan Shelby Magoffin, wife of merchant Samuel Magoffin, James's brother. See *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846-1847*, Stella Drumm, ed. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1926).
  9. Kearny was commissioned a brigadier general on June 30, 1846.
  10. The author is probably referring to Chihuahua merchant Francisco Elguea. An account of the incident described, however, could not be found. If Elguea's goods were seized, they were not held long, as he arrived in Chihuahua with the other merchants in 1847. George Rutledge Gibson, *Journal of a Soldier Under Kearny and Doniphan, 1846-1847*, Ralph P. Bieber, ed. (Glendale, CA: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1935), 327-328.
  11. Since a state of war then existed between Mexico and the U. S., some merchants believed those with foreign passports would be free to go into Mexican territory unmolested. Although Doan was the son of a St. Louis merchant, his partner, James Josiah Webb, explained in his reminiscences that Doan "was born and lived a few years of his early life in one of the British West Indies, and got a British passport from the consul at New Orleans." James Josiah Webb, *Adventures in the Santa Fe Trade, 1844-1847*, Ralph P. Bieber, ed. (Glendale, CA: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1931), 175.
  12. Meriwether Lewis Clark, commander of the Battalion of Missouri Light Artillery, was another son of William Clark. Connelley, *Doniphan's Expedition*, 570-573.

## HELP WANTED

I have located an inscription on a rock along the Purgatory which may be an emblem or a map, perhaps a treasure map. I will send a photo or drawing of the inscription to anyone who might be able to help. I am seeking the name and address of relatives of Myrtle Houseman (Trinidad, CO) or Grace, Angelina or Emanuel Lopat (Aurora, CO). I'm also seeking people in PA who had relatives on way home from CA gold fields, wintered in Santa Fe, and disappeared next spring on the Santa Fe Trail north of Raton Pass.

Any treasure story along the Trail from Point of Rock (Middle Spring), KS to Point of Rock, NM will be checked out and, if found, you will get your share. Any help will be appreciated. I plan to attend the Hutchinson Symposium.

Ike Osteen  
380 Kansas  
Springfield, CO 81073

## URGENT SECOND PLEA

To all museums along the Trail: The response to my request in the last *WT* has been less than expected, and the message is here repeated.

I am designing a set of bro-

chures for the SFTC Council on museums along the Trail. Whether you're large or small, please send me two or three paragraphs on your institution, to be included in this set of brochures. If you have brochures, please send some with your information. The purpose of this project is to compile a complete guide to museums for those explorers who travel the Trail. Your assistance is appreciated; please tell others who may not receive our newsletter.

Michael E. Duncan  
Mahaffie Historic Site  
P. O. Box 768  
Olathe, KS 66061

## NEW SFTC MEMBERS

This list includes memberships received since the last issue up to May 1, when total memberships stood at 308; 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. Corrections are needed for the membership roster to be printed later this year. If you know of people who may be interested in the Council and are not on this list, please urge them to join. We thank you for your support.

### INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Arrow Rock State Hist. Site, Arrow Rock, MO 65320
- Denver Public Library, Acquisitions/Serials, 3840 York St. Unit I, Denver, CO 80205-3536
- Fort Larned Historical Society, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR 3, Larned, KS 67550
- Stevens County Gas & Historical Museum, 905 S. Adams, P. O. Box 87, Hugoton, KS 67951

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All inquiries regarding membership should be directed to the secretary:

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

**BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE**

Every membership is to receive all issues of *Wagon Tracks* printed during the year. If you have not received all three issues, contact the editor. Additional copies of back issues may be purchased from the editor for a cost of \$1.00 per copy postpaid. ◀

## 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 August, so send information for September and later. Thank you.

**May 15, 1987:** Santa Fe Trail Day in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

**May 23-25, 1987:** Cimarron Trail Days, Cimarron, NM (see item on p. 3).

**June 3-7, 1987:** Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous at the National Rifle Association's Whittington Center, Raton, NM (see item on p. 3).

**June 4-7, 1987:** Santa Fe Trail Daze, Boise City, OK (see item on p. 3).

**June 5-7, 1987:** Rails & Trails Days. Parade, dinner dance in old AT&SFRR Roundhouse, guided ranch tours. Las Vegas/San Miguel Co. Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 148, Las Vegas, NM 87701 (505) 425-8631.

**June 6, 1987:** Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, KS, Spring meeting of Kansas State Historical Society, featuring speakers, tours of the galleries, and a field trip to local Trail sites, to be followed by evening activities at Fort Larned NHS. Open to the public.

**June 7, 1987:** Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, KS, Dedication Day, celebrating anniversary of opening of the Trail Center, with open house, free admission to galleries, and living history portrayals. Open to the public.

**June 7-14, 1987:** Girl Scout Trail Walk (see item on p. 3).

**June 20-21, 1987:** Battle of Glorieta Pass Re-enactment, encampment, battlefield tours, refresh-

ments, book sales, souvenirs; free admission. Santa Fe C&VB, P. O. Box 909, Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 984-6760 or (800) 528-5369.

**June 28-July 27, 1987:** Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, NM, Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition—"The Santa Fe Trail: Photographs by Joan Myers."

**July 4, 1987:** Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, KS, Fourth of July Celebration, featuring barbecued buffalo lunch, live folk music under "big top" tent, living history, and special programs. Open to the public.

**July 25-26:** Fort Union, NM, Founders Day Celebration, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. See story on p. 3.

**Aug. 3-6, 1987:** Workshop on early Kansas, including the Santa Fe Trail, one hour of college credit available. Contact Betty Brad-dock, Director, Kansas Heritage Center, P. O. Box 1275, Dodge City, KS 67801.

**Aug. 7-8, 1987:** Bent's Old Fort NHS, 35110 Hwy 194 E, La Junta, CO 81050, Bent Descendants Celebration. For further information, contact Craig Moore at above address.

**Aug. 7-16, 1987:** Santa Fe Trail Tour from Fort Osage, MO, to Santa Fe, NM. Contact Leo E. Oliva, Heritage Tours, P. O. Box 1, Woodston, KS 67675.

**Sept. 2-Oct. 1, 1987:** Hutchinson Public Library, Hutchinson, KS, Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition—"The Santa Fe Trail: Photographs by Joan Myers."

**Sept. 4-7, 1987:** Annual Santa-Cal-i-Gon Celebration. Independence Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 147, Independence, MO 64051.

**Sept. 5-7, 1987:** Santa Fe Trail Re-enactment, Arrow Rock State Historic Site, Arrow Rock, MO 65320.

**Sept. 24-27, 1987:** Santa Fe Trail Symposium. Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, KS.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Many exciting things are happening along the Trail. Get involved, participate, urge others to join. The inclusion of our Trail in the National Trails System, thanks to the determined efforts of OCTA and Trail state senators and representatives, is the beginning of greater things to come. The quick response of Trail state governors to a request to declare May 15 Santa Fe Trail Day is another sign of new awareness.

Girl Scouts will be hiking the route next month. Approximately 60 fifth and sixth graders from Wamego, KS will travel and camp along the Trail in August. Barton County Community College at Great Bend, KS offered a credit tour of a portion of the road early in May. Hutchinson Community College will offer credit for studying Trail history at the September Symposium. There are still a few seats left on our August tour with credit available from Fort Hays State University.

In addition, there are surely many things happening that have not reached this isolated editor's desk. If the Council and *WT* are to fulfill their purposes, everyone will have to provide information. There was, by the way, more material than room in this issue, but those items will remain in the hopper for later use. Deadline for the next newsletter is July 1.

Happy trails!

—Leo E. Oliva

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