

# Wagon Tracks

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Volume 17

Issue 2 *Wagon Tracks* Volume 17, Issue 2 (February 2003)

Article 1

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2003

## Wagon Tracks. Volume 17, Issue 2 (February, 2003)

Santa Fe Trail Association

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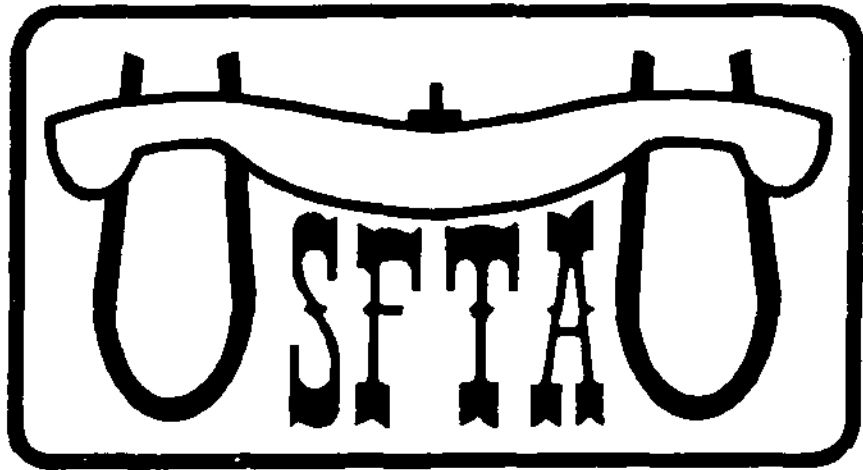
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### Recommended Citation

Santa Fe Trail Association. "Wagon Tracks. Volume 17, Issue 2 (February, 2003)." *Wagon Tracks* 17, 2 (2003).  
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# WAGON TRACKS

**SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY**

VOLUME 17

FEBRUARY 2003

NUMBER 2

## TRAIL SCULPTURE NEARS COMPLETION IN SANTA FE

by Margaret Sears

ON Oct. 28, 2002, once again a Santa Fe Trail freight wagon pulled by five mules rolled into Santa Fe, but this time aboard an 18-wheeler. Site work and installation had begun on "Journey's End," a Santa Fe Trail commemorative monument being erected at the corner of Camino Lejo and Old Santa Fe Trail. Over the two months that followed, the work would be augmented by a mule skinner aboard the sixth mule, the trail boss, a Pueblo woman, and a Hispanic boy and his dog, thus completing the dramatic scene of a mule-drawn freight wagon making its final approach into the city.

The final welding and chasing of the bronze work, along with the application of a patina and wax, will occur on site. Monument sculptor, Albuquerque artist Reynaldo Rivera, is directing installation of the 65-foot piece which was commissioned by the city of Santa Fe's art in public places program. Major funding is being provided by a Federal Highway Administration Scenic Byways

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Major portion of "Journey's End" sculpture being installed in Santa Fe (photo courtesy of Louann Jordan).

March 21-22, 2003

SFTA Board Meeting

Trinidad, CO

MAY 3, 2003

WET/DRY ROUTES CHAPTER SEMINAR & FORT LARNED OLD GUARD ANNUAL MEETING

FORT LARNED NHS

JUNE 7, 2003

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

JUNE 14-15, 2003

SIX WESTERN CHAPTERS MEETING  
SANTA FE

## SFTA BOARD MEETING TRINIDAD, CO, MARCH 21-22

THE spring board meeting will be in Trinidad, CO, March 21-22, 2003, with meetings at the Mitchell Memorial Gallery on Main St, starting at 8:30 a.m. All SFTA members are invited to attend.

Trinidad is where the first symposium met and SFTA was founded. Those attending will have an opportunity to visit the Trinidad History Museum, with Trail exhibits, in Trinidad. A field trip to Marion Russell's home and gravesite is planned for Saturday afternoon.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

THE 2003 nominating committee (Chairman Roger Slusher, Deanne Wright, and Mike Najdowski) hereby issues a call for members and chapters to submit names of candidates to be considered for nomination to fill the positions of officers and directors whose terms expire at the end of the 2003 symposium. This includes the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and nine directors (one at-large, one from each of the six Trail states, and two existing vacancies).

The bylaws specify that members of the board of directors may not serve more than two consecutive four-year terms. The president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer serve two-year terms, and except for the treasurer are limited to two consecutive terms in that office. There are no term limits for the treasurer. The current officeholders are President Hal Jackson, Vice-President Anne Mallinson, Secretary Mike Olsen, and Treasurer Ruth Olson Peters. Board members whose terms expire in 2003 are Nancy Lewis (Missouri), Richard Loudon (at-large), Dub Couch (Colorado), Helen Brown (Kansas), Faye Gaines (New Mexico), and Mike Slater (Oklahoma). All of these individuals are eligible for reelection. In addition, existing vacancies need to be filled for Colorado and Oklahoma (each is for the remaining two years of a four-year term).

All current members of the Santa Fe Trail Association are eligible to submit candidates for nomination. Chapters are also urged to submit nominations, especially for the board position(s) in their state. The bylaws charge the committee to try to nominate at least two candidates for each expired or vacant position on the board and for each office.

To be considered, each candidate must be a member in good standing,

(continued on page 3)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I am happy to report that SFTA is moving ahead in several areas. Substantial progress has been made in mapping, with much of New Mexico (except Colfax County) completed. This, with Phil Peterson's work in Colorado, means that completion is near for the western portion of the Trail. John Atkinson is now beginning efforts in Topeka for the Kansas portion. Unfortunately only one chapter in Kansas has been active in our mapping effort.

Plans are shaping up for an education workshop about the Trail this summer. Chris Day plans to bring interested teachers together in July in Colorado.

SFTA is seeking assistance from the National Park Service (NPS) to create our first Trail kiosk near Gardner, KS. This kiosk, when built, will be followed by numerous others along the Trail. Each kiosk will have multiple panels telling about the Trail, including information to direct travelers to other Trail sites. Gardner is about where the Santa Fe and Oregon-California trails forked.

*True West* magazine has an article on the SFT in its February issue. It's a nice piece and includes an informative side bar about our Association. The SFTA and the Fort Larned Old Guard (FLOG) joined together to place an advertisement in this issue too. Now *True West* has an offer for our members (see card enclosed in this issue) by which every new subscriber to their magazine by a member of SFTA will result in them contributing \$10 to SFTA.

At the time of this writing the NPS does not know what its budget will be. Nevertheless, we are applying to the NPS for funds to support a six-tenths position to facilitate SFTA projects. Joanne VanCoevern and her committee have been working hard to come up with a suitable job description. Generally, the person sought to fill the position will write grant proposals, generate fund raising, work closely with chapters, and provide technical support to our many committees.

The Pike Expedition Bicentennial Commission is hard at work preparing for this 2006-2007 series of events. A web site should be on the

All matters relating to *Wagon Tracks* should be directed to SFTA Editor Leo E. Oliva, PO Box 31, Woodston KS 67675.

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Headquarters of the Santa Fe Trail Association are located at the office of Treasurer Ruth Olson Peters, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR 3 Box 137, Larned KS 67550; Office Manager Linda Revello.

Telephone: (620) 285-2054

FAX: (620) 285-7491

E-Mail: <trailassn@larned.net>

Internet in February at <<http://pikebicentennial.org>>. We will be contacting state tourism and historical societies in the near future. Also we will be seeking congressional support for our efforts. All SFTA members will be proud of the Association's efforts to remember Pike and his journey that stimulated the opening of the Santa Fe Trail. Keep up with "Pike's Column" in *Wagon Tracks*; this issue features Donald Jackson's article, "Zebulon Pike's Damned Rascals." Don't miss it.

The SFTA board will meet in Trinidad, Colorado, March 21 and 22, at the Mitchell Memorial Gallery on Main Street. All SFTA members are invited and encouraged to attend. On Saturday after the board meeting we will be trekking west to visit the Marion Russell home (ruins) and the cemetery where the Russells are buried. Richard Loudon will be our guide to what is a SFT shrine—last time I was there with Richard and a group, many were asking him how they could be buried there. It really is that impressive. (The most obvious answer, of course, is you have to die, but it is not that simple.)

You will read elsewhere that our election is coming up. Please stop and think of someone who would make a contribution to our Association. There are vacancies on the board. Send your nomination to Roger Slusher or someone on his committee today.

Finally, begin planning for our 2003 Symposium in Kansas City in September. The folks in Missouri River Outfitters are hard at work preparing for this event. It should be a great one—SFTA has always had great meetings. Plan to attend.

—Hal Jackson

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### Membership Categories

Life	\$885
Benefactor	\$1,000
Patron	\$100/year
Institutional	\$40/year
Business	\$40/year
Family	\$30/year
Individual	\$25/year
Youth (18 & under)	\$15/year

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**Publicity Coordinator:** Michael E. Pitel, PO Box 31386, Santa Fe NM 87594 (505) 982-2704, <PitelTSNM@aol.com>

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<<http://www.santafetrail.org>>

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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agree in writing to serve if elected, provide a brief one-paragraph biography which includes Trail qualifications and experiences, and submit a one-paragraph statement of his or her objectives for the SFTA.

This information will be used by the nominating committee in choosing candidates. The biography and statement of objectives for each nominee will accompany the ballot sent to the membership with the May issue of *Wagon Tracks* (printed biography and statement may be edited for length).

The deadline for receiving suggested names for candidates, including all the supporting materials, is March 20, 2003. Please mail or e-mail nominations to Roger Slusher, 1421 South St, Lexington MO 64067, <rslusher@yahoo.com>.

## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The Symposium Committee seeks proposed presentations for the 2003 Symposium in the Kansas City/Independence area. Programs will be offered during the mornings of September 25, 26, and 27. Program proposals are due by April 1, 2003. A one-page summary of the topic is sufficient. The committee invites subject matter that reflects a variety of Trail issues as well as research findings that highlight the immediate Missouri/Kansas area.

Please include biographical information. Send proposals to Mary Conrad, 3900 N 55th St, Kansas City KS 66104, (913) 287-4405.

## TRUE WEST OFFER

**T**RUE West magazine featured an article about the Santa Fe Trail in the February 2003 issue. Information about the Association was included. SFTA purchased an ad in the issue, too, hoping to entice some of the 90,000 readers of the magazine to become new members.

Now *True West* has an offer for WT readers. They have provided a special subscription card, see insert in this issue, for SFTA members to sign up to receive their magazine. For every SFTA member who subscribes, using this card, *True West* will donate \$10 to SFTA. This offer continues for the coming year.

## SIX WESTERN CHAPTERS AT SANTA FE JUNE 14-15

**T**HE End of the Trail Chapter will host the 4th annual gathering of the six western chapters of SFTA on June 14-15, 2003, in Santa Fe, NM. See insert in this issue.

The tentative schedule begins with registration at the Palace of the Governors on Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m., followed by a welcome and brief overview of the weekend's schedule by Pam Najdowski. Morning activities include a talk about the Palace by Fran Levine, director of the Palace of the Governors, a tour of the archaeological dig underway behind the Palace by archaeologist Steve Post, and a tour of Trail landmarks on the Plaza and in the downtown area. After lunch, the afternoon tour will feature the best Santa Fe Trail crossings and ruts in the south side of Santa Fe, a photo stop at the new Santa Fe Trail sculpture on Museum Hill, and Apache Ridge. Following dinner, a presentation is planned on Doña Tules.

Sunday morning will start off with breakfast at 8:00 a.m., followed by a brief meeting with reports from each chapter. Tentative activities for the rest of the morning include tours of the Civil War battlefields at Apache Cañon and Glorieta Pass, with a talk by Don Alberts, historian and author. Following lunch, the afternoon tour will include Kozlowski's Trading Post, a stop at the DAR marker at San Jose, and historic sites in San Miguel del Vado with tour leader Mike Najdowski. Specific tours are subject to change.

A memorable and informal weekend is planned. SFTA members who are not members of one of the six western chapters are also welcome to attend. Final details will be forwarded to chapter presidents for distribution to chapter members at a later date. The details will include a registration form, registration and accommodations information, and the program of activities. Possible evening activities (some free of charge) will also be suggested for attendees who arrive early in Santa Fe on Friday, June 13.

For more information, contact Margaret Sears at (505) 473-3124, margsears@cybermesa.com; or 1871 Candela Street, Santa Fe NM 87505.

## AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE BY JULY 1, 2003

**A**N important part of each SFTA symposium is the presentation of awards to recognize individuals and organizations that protect, preserve, and promote the Santa Fe Trail. Awards Committee Chairman Mike Olsen is soliciting nominations for the following awards, as provided by the governing board. Nominations are welcome from individuals, chapters, or organizations.

**ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JULY 1, 2003.**

A description of each award follows below. Details of the process are: Award of Merit, Ambassador Award, Rittenhouse Award, and Heritage Preservation Award nominations should include details of why the person, organization, or group should receive the award and be no longer than one page; send the nominations to Mike Olsen, 5643 Sonnet Heights, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. Educator Awards should be sent to Chris Day, SFTA Education Committee Chair, PO Box 118, Wamego KS 66547.

The Association also sponsors the Marc Simmons Writing Award and a Scholarship Award, both of which have their own nominating conditions, as described below.

The SFTA Award of Merit recognizes individuals, businesses, organizations, or groups who have made a significant contribution to the purposes of the SFTA. The SFTA board authorizes a maximum of eight of these awards per symposium. The recipient may or may not be a member of the SFTA. Past awards have been presented for recently published books, significant articles, other information; organization of special events; significant SFTA chapter projects; outstanding service to the SFTA; and others. The award consists of a recognition plaque.

The Jack D. Rittenhouse Memorial Stagecoach Award is presented to a SFTA member for extraordinary lifetime achievement in research and writing about the Trail. Previous recipients have been Leo and Bonita Oliva, Pauline Fowler, Harry C. Myers, Gregory Franzwa, and Sam Arnold. The award, co-sponsored by Ray Dewey, consists of a

recognition plaque, a Santa Fe Trail Pendleton Blanket from Dewey Trading Company, and \$250.

The Heritage Preservation Award is presented to landowners, leaseholders, or tenants of Trail ruts, remnants, structures, or sites, who have preserved and protected significant portions of the Trail or sites associated with the Trail, and provided public access. A maximum of two awards are given. The award consists of a recognition plaque.

The Paul F. Bentrup SFTA Ambassador Award is an honorary lifetime designation given to a member of the SFTA who has demonstrated exceptional promotion of the SFTA, development and dissemination of knowledge of Trail history, preservation of Trail sites or artifacts, or who has otherwise promoted an understanding of the Trail. A maximum of two awards are presented. Past recipients have been Paul Bentrup, Les Vilda, Katharine Kelley, Ralph Hathaway, David Clapsaddle, Harry C. Myers, Jesse Scott, Pat Heath, Mark L. Gardner, Virginia Lee Fisher, Helen Judd, Charles Judd, Ross Marshall, and Jane Mallinson.

The SFTA Educator Award is presented for outstanding classroom teaching. There are two categories - elementary and secondary educator. Recipients are chosen by the SFTA Education Committee and receive an engraved plaque and \$100. Each nomination packet must include: (1) a letter of nomination by someone in the SFTA who is familiar with the work of the educator; (2) a synopsis of the teacher's work (a project, unit, etc.), describing how it exemplifies creativity consistent with the Mission Statement of the SFTA; (3) a recommendation from the educator's immediate supervisor or administrator. Nominees need not be members of the SFTA, though membership is encouraged. Members of the Education Committee judge the entries, giving particular attention to the objectives, originality, methods, and depth of exposure to the Santa Fe Trail and its historical legacy.

The Marc Simmons Writing Award recognizes outstanding articles published in *Wagon Tracks* during the previous two years. For 2003 volumes 15 and 16 will be considered. There are two categories: (1) best original article about the his-



Installing Trail Boss, l to r: mule team pulling wagon, Reynaldo Rivera (sculptor), and crew installing sculpture of mounted Trail Boss (photo by Margaret Sears).

tory of the Trail based on research in primary sources; (2) best edited work of a previously unpublished Trail source such as a diary, letter, report, etc. Each award consists of a recognition plaque and \$50. A subcommittee of the Awards Committee that includes three persons who have not contributed to *Wagon Tracks* during the time period selects the recipients. All eligible articles will be considered; no nominations are necessary.

The SFTA Scholarship Award is presented for research papers about the Santa Fe Trail written by students at an institution of higher education. There are two categories - undergraduate and graduate. Nominations are by the professor in whose class the paper was written. Maximum length of papers nominated is 25 pages, double-spaced, including documentation. Each award consists of a recognition plaque, \$500, and a year's membership in SFTA. Papers selected must be submitted to *Wagon Tracks* for publication. Nominations and papers should be submitted to Mike Olsen at the address given above.

The deadline again: **ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE POST-MARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2003.**

**REMEMBER THE SFTA IN  
YOUR WILL AND BE-  
COME A MEMBER OF THE  
JOSHIAH GREGG SOCIETY**

## TRAIL SCULPTURE

(continued from page 1)

grant.

Next, 30 tons of rock will be hauled to the site, around which native landscaping will be designed by landscape architect, Richard Berkovetz. Interpretive panels will complete the park-like site. Dedication of the monument to the citizens of Santa Fe will occur in the spring.

"Sonny," as sculptor Rivera is better known, is a familiar figure to the hundreds of curious people who stop at the site. He has directed every phase of the installation, even taking time to obtain the views of these "sidewalk" engineers drawn to the activity. He has a strong feeling about the message he seeks to express in the piece.

"I wanted [people] to see the hardships of the people—that these were hardy men . . . men of steel," he said. "I wanted to make it as dramatic and strong as what the West is known for." Has he succeeded? Only the individual viewer, gazing upon the gigantic monument as it appears to move toward Santa Fe, can answer that.

A visit to this wonderful addition to monuments recognizing the historic Santa Fe Trail will be part of the six western chapters program in Santa Fe in June. This alone is an incentive to attend.

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND  
SIX WESTERN CHAPTERS MEETING  
SANTA FE, NM  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 14-15**

## ZEBULON M. PIKE EXPEDITION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

THE Zebulon M. Pike Expedition Bicentennial Commission has been organized as a project of SFTA, as outlined in the November 2002 issue of *Wagon Tracks*, p. 1. President Hal Jackson is chairman of the Commission, joined by Mike Olsen, Ramon Powers, Craig Crease, and Leo Oliva. Steven Hyslop is a consultant.

Several other SFTA members have indicated an interest in helping with some activities. Efforts will be made to work closely with the National Park Service, state historical societies, regional and local historical organizations, Indian tribes, and communities along Pike's route. Everyone is invited to participate in this project to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Expedition.

The Pike Commission hopes to involve many organizations and communities along the Pike Expedition's 1806-1807 route in various activities and public programs. Pike's command traveled from St. Louis across Missouri and Kansas, with a brief stop in Nebraska, on to Colorado, where Pike tried unsuccessfully to climb the mountain peak later named in his honor and then established a winter camp near the Rio Grande, where the party was taken prisoner by Spanish troops, and Pike's party was detained in New Mexico and Chihuahua before being returned to Missouri via Texas and Louisiana.

Along the way Pike met with several Indian tribes, and efforts will be made to involve descendants of those tribal Americans in the commemoration. Pike's trip across the plains in 1806 was preceded by an expedition of Spanish troops, commanded by Lt. Facundo Melgares, which will also be commemorated. The Commission will seek resources to help fund various projects, including research and publications, mapping and marking the route, and assisting with public programs to be scheduled at important locations along Pike's route as near as possible to the same dates (200 years later) when Pike was there. A bibliography will be published in "Pike's Column" in the next issue of *Wagon Tracks*. A special web site is now being constructed at <http://pikebicentennial.org>.

## PIKE'S COLUMN



*[This column will continue as a series in Wagon Tracks until the close of the Pike Expedition Bicentennial activities in 1807. It features documents, articles, bibliography, and notes which tell the story of Pike, his expeditions, and related topics. Submissions are solicited for this column, and suggestions are welcome. A Pike bibliography will be featured next issue. There follow two articles, one by Donald Jackson about the men who accompanied Pike to the Southwest and the other by David and Alice Clapsaddle with some corrections to information in last issue's "Pike Column" regarding the Larned connection.]*

### ZEBULON PIKE'S DAMNED RASCALS

by Donald Jackson

*[The late Donald Jackson, 1919-1987, was one of the finest documentary editors in the U.S. He prepared for publication, with careful documentation, the writings of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Zebulon Montgomery Pike, and John Charles Frémont. His edition of The Journals of Zebulon Montgomery Pike: With Letters and Related Documents, 2 vols. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1966), is the best available. Jackson spent the last decade of his life at his mountain home near Colorado Springs, where he continued to research and write.*

*Many of his papers are contained in the Donald Jackson Collection at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, including one box of Pike material and notes. He presented the following article as a talk to the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners, which they published in Occasional Papers, No. 1 (Colorado Springs: Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners, 1979), pp. 1-8. Permission to reprint this article was granted by Jackson's widow, Catherine, and by Ed Bathke, current sheriff of the Pikes Peak Posse. Special thanks are hereby extended to both for making this reprint of Jackson's informative talk possible.]*

LIVING as we do, in the neighborhood of the country's most famous mountain, most of us think we know all we need to about Zebulon Pike. He was a young army officer who came West in 1806, discovered Pike's Peak, traveled down toward Santa Fe and was captured by the Spanish, later released, and a few years later died in the War of 1812.

But the Pike expedition was not a one-man project. Others were involved, mainly enlisted army men. They trampled through the heat of the Great Plains, suffered frostbite in the mountains, and came very close to starvation. In many ways they suffered more, and struggled harder, than the men of the famous Lewis and Clark expedition.

The tourist who visits the famous arch in St. Louis, and goes through the Museum of Westward Expansion that lies below the arch, will find on the wall in a conspicuous place a roster of all the participants in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Not just Sacagawea, the famous Indian girl, and York, the black slave who was William Clark's servant, but all the people who traveled with Lewis and Clark. Why are the men of the Lewis and Clark expedition famous, and those of the Pike expedition almost unknown? If Pike were alive, he would think he had the answer. He might say to us, "I was always thought of as the poor man's Lewis and Clark. President Jefferson barely noticed me. Neither I nor my men were rewarded with gifts of land or extra pay when we returned. We all got a bad deal."

It is too bad that Pike was to die so young, as the result of a powder

magazine explosion, still not knowing that a towering mountain would bear his name and that he would be remembered, even if his men were not.

Because I have chosen to talk primarily about the personnel of the expedition, there is not going to be time to discuss the event as a geographical exploration or an incident in international relations. But let me give you a brief summary of what the expedition was and where it went.

And in the future, when I speak of Zebulon Pike, let us remain aware that he never called himself that. His full name was Zebulon Montgomery Pike, and in formal correspondence he used either that full name or the initials Z. M. On personal letters he signed himself "Monty." This was to distinguish himself from his father, also an army officer and also named Zebulon.

Pike was sent on an exploration of the upper Mississippi River in the summer of 1805, to make treaties with the Indians, purchase some of their land for military posts, and try to find the source of the river. This exploration was part of Jefferson's plan to explore the whole new Louisiana Territory, and Pike was dispatched by General James Wilkinson, commanding general of the Army, with the full knowledge of the Department of War. Returning down the Mississippi in the spring of 1806, while Lewis and Clark were making their way back from the Pacific, Lieutenant Pike was quickly given another assignment by his general. This time he was to escort a group of Osage Indians from St. Louis to their villages in what is now western Missouri, and try to make peace between the Kansas and Pawnee Indians. Then he was to follow the Arkansas River to its source, find the Red River, and follow it back down to the lower Mississippi. The expedition was only scheduled to take a few weeks, so the men were dressed in their summer uniforms. They came out from St. Louis, angled up north as far as the southern boundary of what is now Nebraska, then cut down to the Arkansas River at Great Bend, and began to follow that river westward.

When they had ascended the Arkansas as far as Pueblo, Pike set out toward what would later be called

Pikes Peak - he never called it that - with a small party, in bad November weather, and those flimsy summer uniforms. As everyone knows, they had to turn back after making a strenuous effort, without climbing the mountain. Then they wandered on up the Arkansas, left it and entered the South Park area, and upon striking the Arkansas again they believed it was the Red River. After some aimless wandering and some very intense suffering in the region between Canon City and Buena Vista, they went up the Wet Mountain Valley, over a pass into the San Luis Valley, and built a little fort on the Conejos River. As they were on the Spanish side of the disputed territorial boundary, they were picked up by a detachment of Spanish militia, taken first to Santa Fe and then to Chihuahua, where they were questioned by a very angry Spanish government. Pike and some of the men were then escorted overland across the Mexican deserts into Texas, then to the American boundary in Louisiana, returning home in 1807. Some of the men were not released until a couple of years later. This is the story briefly, and since my edition of the journals and other papers consists of about a thousand pages you will understand that I have boiled it down considerably here.

Now let's return for a moment to the comparison between Pike's undertaking and the expedition of Lewis and Clark.

Lewis and Clark's journey was planned to the last detail with the personal help of Thomas Jefferson, and all America watched its progress eagerly. Pike's expedition was originated by General Wilkinson in accordance with a basic understanding of government policy. Wilkinson himself was later to be charged with conspiracy, in company with Aaron Burr, and of accepting bribes from the Spanish government. So, although there is no evidence that Pike was involved in these intrigues, he was not in the best of company.

And a most important comparison must be made between the men who went on these two expeditions. The Lewis and Clark men were hand-picked volunteers, some recruited especially for the expedition, and motivated by the promise of double pay,

grants of land, and the distinction of being the first Americans to cross the continent. On the other hand, except for a couple of civilians, Pike's men were all simple soldiers, probably not volunteers for the expedition, who thought as Pike did that they were going to ascend the Arkansas, descend the Red River, and be home by Thanksgiving. Being no better or worse than the army men of their day, they were long on courage and sometimes short on character. Some were likely to desert, some to steal and even murder. Pike once used a phrase in a letter describing his men. He said they were perfectly capable of getting the job done, but all in all they were a set of "damned rascals." He mentions a few of these men in his journal, published in 1810, but does not present a complete roster, so some of the information on them I have obtained from old army records in Washington, Mexico City, Madrid and Seville. And because these men received no special recognition, no pensions or other unusual disbursements, even the army records are sometimes silent.

Let us do what we can to immortalize those damned rascals, some of whose names may never even have been uttered in public in the 172 years since their great trek into the Southwest.

Perhaps we should dispose first of the two civilians, Dr. John Hamilton Robinson and Antoine Vasquez, because they have been written about before, and have received a measure of recognition from historians.

Dr. John Hamilton Robinson was a young Virginia physician who had come to St. Louis about a year before Pike's trip and tried unsuccessfully to get an appointment as an army surgeon. General Wilkinson thought highly of him and hired him as a civilian doctor to treat the soldiers in the St. Louis area. If there was anyone with Pike who might have been a party to General Wilkinson's dreams of personal gain in dealing with the Spanish, it was Dr. Robertson. He is the one who left the expedition when it was camped down near Alamosa, wandered southward to the Spanish town of Santa Fe, became a willing prisoner of the Spanish, and offered to stay and work for them, explore for them, and to provide them with information about the Americans.

His offering to remain with the Spanish is all the more puzzling when we know that he had got married just a few months before the expedition, to a young St. Louis woman from a notable family, and when he left her she was several months pregnant with their first child. Dr. Robinson was sent home by the Spanish to rejoin his wife and new baby boy. In later years he tried hard and without success to organize a band of volunteers to fight for the liberation of Mexico. The son that he had offered to abandon became a graduate of West Point.

The other civilian on the expedition was a young fur trader named Antoine Francois Vasquez. His name is a mixture of French and Spanish because his father was Spanish and his mother French. He also bore the nickname of Baronet Vasquez and is often listed by that name. Pike took him along as an interpreter to the Indians, although his English was poor. Later, when the expedition fell into Spanish hands, he was called upon to use his very poor English as an interpreter for Pike and his men in prison. After the expedition, Pike recommended Vasquez for a commission and he served during the War of 1812, fighting among other places at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. Then he went back to trading and died of cholera in 1828. He had a son whom he proudly named Anthony Pike Vasquez. This man, usually called Pike Vasquez, came to Colorado and ran a hotel called the Vasquez House in Denver during the gold rush.

We sometimes forget that some of the men who left St. Louis with Pike were never meant to go the whole distance. Pike's orders were to detach a small group, when he struck the Arkansas, and send it back down that river - which was then an unknown stretch of water. General Wilkinson's son James, a lieutenant, had come along for the purpose of leading this detachment. And on Oct. 27, 1806, he left the Pike expedition with six men: Sergeant Joseph Ballinger, and privates John Boley, Samuel Bradley, Solomon Huddleston, Freegift Stout, and John Wilson. When the detachment had almost reached the Mississippi, three of these men deserted, and one was Private John Boley. I want to

say a word about him. He had gone with Lewis and Clark in 1804 as far as North Dakota and spent the winter there, returning with a small detachment - by design - the following spring. And he was just in time, then, to join Pike on his first expedition, the trip up the Mississippi. Then in the summer of 1806 he came west with Pike as far as the Arkansas. When he deserted he was captured and sentenced to fifty lashes - which were not administered because of the hardships he had been through - and later he wound up in Pike's army unit again after the expedition. Here is a man who was on three of the most famous expeditions in western history: Lewis and Clark, and the two expeditions of Pike, and that is absolutely all we know about him.

Now we are ready to speak of that little core of army enlistees who went all the way with Pike into the West. They are thirteen in number, and I am going to discuss them in alphabetical order.

*John Brown.* Like most of the men, he had been on Pike's first expedition and had served well. But on the second trip, his courage and strength finally gave out. In the Wet Mountain Valley, when he was heard to complain that this kind of hunger, cold, and fatigue was more than a man could stand, he got into trouble. Pike sympathized with poor Brown but couldn't afford to have that kind of talk in camp, so he reprimanded him for what he called "mutinous and seditious language." After the expedition, Brown deserted the Army and later surrendered after two years. When his military service was over he lived for many years near St. Louis, dying in 1840. As he was 86 when he died, he would have been in his fifties while traveling with Pike, still a private, and who can blame him for grumbling now and then?

The next man is *Jacob Carter*, a carpenter from Columbia, Va., about 36 years old. He re-enlisted for another term in 1810 and then dropped out of our sight.

Next is *Thomas Daugherty*. Here we have his physical description, which I found on an old muster roll in the National Archives. He was five feet one, grey eyes, brown hair, light complexion, and listed himself as a

farmer from Pennsylvania. Daugherty was disabled by frostbite during that awful winter along the Sangre de Cristos, and had to be left behind for a time and later recovered. He was detained in Chihuahua for two years by the Spanish. Despite his troubles he remained an army man, receiving a discharge in 1818.

*William Gordon.* Of this man we know nothing except that he was a member of the expedition. At least we can apply to him that famous old Spanish phrase, *paso por aqui*. He passed by here.

*Jeremiah R. Jackson.* Here was one of the two corporals in the party. He had enlisted in 1805 and later a man of this name deserted at Baton Rouge in 1812. On the Pike expedition, after the stockade was built on the Conejos River, Jackson and four other men were sent back across the Sangre de Cristos to bring in the invalids who had been left behind because they could not travel. At one time, Pike had only four men with him at his stockade, the others being strung out along his trail from the Arkansas, into the Wet Mountain Valley, and so on, during that incredible winter.

And now *Henry Kennerman*. This man was a sergeant on Pike's first expedition, and when he was put in charge of camp while Pike went off on a side trip he used up most of the food supply and all of the whiskey. So Pike broke him to private but still brought him along the western trip. While the party was still in eastern Missouri, he deserted. Pike sent a messenger back with an advertisement, to be run in the newspapers along the frontier, describing Kennerman as about twenty-six years old, brown hair and grey eyes, fair complexion, probably heading for Kentucky. He was never captured, and now Pike's final and permanent party was to consist of only twelve men, not thirteen.

*William Meek* and *Theodore Miller*. Those two men must be discussed together although it takes them out of strict alphabetical order. Both had been on the first expedition and were, in fact, close buddies. Miller was one of the two privates that Pike chose to come along when he attempted to climb the Peak. The two men had gone through all that hunger and personal suffering to-

gether, and had marched together with three other men all the way back to Pueblo, from the stockade down on the Conejos to bring on the horses and men who had been left there. Meek had been promoted to sergeant. When captured they were taken to Chihuahua with the rest, and then a tragic event occurred. In the Mexican prison there was an argument, probably intensified by alcohol, and in a moment of unpremeditated violence Sergeant Meek killed Private Miller with his bayonet. There was a trial - of which we have a transcript in very difficult Spanish. At first the interpreter was Vasquez, but when he seemed to be having trouble with the language, Sergeant Meek asked for a new translator. Here was not much defense. Witnesses had seen everything and the sergeant was sentenced to a prison term. Although all the rest of Pike's men were back home by the end of 1809, Meek was held until 1820. We have no record of his sentence or where he was detained. But an article appeared in the St. Louis Enquirer, March 31, 1821, announcing his arrival at Fort Smith, Arkansas, along with some other American who had been released by order of the King of Spain.

To continue with the roster:

*Hugh Menaugh.* A man of whom we have little information, except that he was left behind, alone, during the crossing of the Sangre de Cristos, with a deposit of supplies. He was sent for after the stockade was built and he was able to travel.

*John Montjoy.* What we know of him postdates the expedition. He was still attached to Pike's command in 1808 when he was convicted of drunkenness and sentenced to twenty-five lashes. But Pike intervened for him, saying in the court-martial record that "in consequence of the dangers and hardships to which the prisoner has been lately exposed, the infliction of the stripes is hereby postponed until further orders." Punishments were indeed cruel in those days, for men in the army, easing up only when the War of 1812 approached and recruitments were faltering.

*Alexander Roy.* He was on both expeditions, and the only other thing we know is that he was left behind in Mexico, when Pike was escorted

home, and did not get back until 1809.

*Patrick Smith.* When Pike left Pueblo to set out across the Sangre de Cristos, he had established a small base in which he left some horses and men. Smith was one of these, later to be sent for. During Sergeant Meek's trial he testified that he had tried to intervene and prevent the murder. He also swore that Meek and Miller had argued in Santa Fe, and he thought they had been angry with one another since then.

*John Sparks.* Private Sparks was so badly injured from frostbite that he was left along the trail, in the snow, with food and the promise that he would be sent for. He was recovered, but not until he and two of his companions, also left behind, suffered the loss of several toes from freezing.

John Sparks with his missing toes is a fitting person with which to conclude this roster of the Pike expedition. We have seen these soldiers engaged in a great enterprise, with much personal suffering, only to return home and receive no special attention, no grants of land, no lasting fame. Most of them simply dropped out of sight.

Perhaps it is time that people of the West, maybe even the members of the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners, find a way recognize these men with a bronze plaque or a stone marker. There is no stone cliff like the famous one at El Morro, in New Mexico, upon which they inscribed their names like other travelers in the Southwest. But someone needs to say of them.

*Paso por aqui.*

Zebulon Pike's men passed this way.

#### **A roster of Zebulon Montgomery Pike's Southwestern Expedition**

Lt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike  
Lt. James B. Wilkinson\*  
Dr. John H. Robinson  
Antoine Francois Vasquez  
Sergeant Joseph Ballinger\*  
Corporal Jeremiah R. Jackson  
Corporal William E. Meek  
John Boley\*  
Samuel Bradley\*  
John Brown

Jacob Carter  
Thomas Daugherty  
William Gordon  
Solomon Huddleston\*  
Henry Kennerman  
Hugh Menaugh  
Theodore Miller  
John Mountjoy  
Alexander Roy  
Patrick Smith  
John Sparks  
Freegift Stout\*  
John Wilson\*

\*Returned down the Arkansas in October, 1806

### **LARNED'S LINKS TO PIKE**

by David and Alice Clapsaddle

*[The Clapsaddles of Larned are active in the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter, and David is a frequent contributor to WT. The following article was written in response to information published in "Pike's Column" in the November 2002 issue, quoting a lengthy footnote from Kansas Historical Collections, VII. A review of early Larned newspapers and files of the First Presbyterian Church of that town found data to be at odds with some of the information in the previous article, especially with regard to the chronology of the Charles Sturdevant family's arrival in Olathe and later Larned, KS. Also in error was the place of Charles Sturdevant's death. He died, according to church and public records at Larned, not at Olathe as described in the previous issue. Special thanks to David and Alice for these corrections.]*

**CITIZENS** of Larned have reason to celebrate the upcoming bicentennial of the Pike Expedition. The first is geographical. On October 28, 1806, Pike's men camped at the confluence of the Pawnee and Arkansas rivers. That location was about 500 yards southeast of the U.S. Highway 56 bridge at the south edge of present Larned. The same site became the well-documented Pawnee Fork crossing of the Santa Fe Trail. The crossing is commemorated by an interpretive marker placed near the bridge by the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter of SFTA.

The second reason has to do with a niece of Zebulon M. Pike, who was an early-day resident of Larned, Sarah

Wardell Sturdevant. She was born April 9, 1812, in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, two months prior to the inception of the War of 1812. Ironically, Pike, promoted to the rank of brigadier general, was killed during that war on April 27, 1813, at Toronto, Canada, one year and 18 days following Sarah's birth. Sarah recalled that, at age 13, she met the Marquis de Lafayette during his 1824-1825 tour of the United States.

She married the Reverend Charles Sturdevant on May 24, 1835. Her life with the Presbyterian minister was anything but commonplace. His ministry took the family to congregations in Indiana, Ohio, and Mississippi before he served as an agent of the Board of Domestic Missions for his denomination. Later he was superintendent of a female seminary at Springfield, Ohio, for six years. Subsequently, he was president of a female college at Indianapolis, Indiana, for four years. In 1865 the Sturdevants moved to Independence, Missouri, thence to Olathe, Kansas.

The exact date the Sturdevants moved to the infant town of Larned remains moot, but they were included in the 1875 census of Pawnee County. The reason for the move was that their daughter, Matilda Jane, had moved to Larned in 1873 when her husband W. R. Adams assumed the presidency of the Larned Town Company, succeeding Samuel J. Crawford, the former governor of Kansas.

Reverend Sturdevant served as supply minister of Larned's First Presbyterian Church during 1880-1881. He died July 31, 1886, and in the words of his obituary, he was "buried in the Larned cemetery, which overlooks the broad Arkansas River with its green islands and yellow sand-bars."

Mrs. Sturdevant died on April 9, 1909, the 97th anniversary of her birth. Three years earlier, she had been invited to attend the centennial celebration of the Pike Expedition conducted at Colorado Springs, Colorado, within the shadow of the mountain which bears the name of Pike. Unfortunately, she was unable to participate in the event. She also was buried in the Larned Cemetery.

The Sturdevants produced three children, Matilda, Clara, and Char-



Sarah Sturdevant is seated at left. Others identified are Sarah's granddaughter Claribel Adams (standing left), and daughters Clara Byrne (standing center), and Matilda Adams (standing right). The man is W. R. Adams. The woman seated and child are unidentified, except as daughter and granddaughter of the Adams'.

les, all residents of Larned. Matilda and her husband, W. R. Adams, had six children: Peter, Ernest, Charles, Sarah, Claribel, and Edna. Clara and her husband Thomas Byrne had three children: Charles, Larry, and Mabel. Charles had one daughter, Wardell. Thus the Larned lineage of Zebulon Pike is long: a niece, two grand nieces and a grand nephew, five great-grand nephews and five great-grand nieces.

The Sturdevant home remains in good repair at 1120 Toles in Larned, as does the Adams home at 207 East 16th Street. The latter home originally occupied the northeast corner of the intersection at 14th Street and Broadway, the present site of the Subway.

Incidentally, Larned's first wedding uniting Emma Post and Daniel Bright was conducted on September 15, 1873, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Adams. At that time, the Adams family resided in the former sutler's mess house, which had been moved from Fort Larned into the new town in April 1872. The structure, which became known as the "little red house," served as Larned's first residence, post office, saloon, school, church, and court room.

It has been reconstructed at 2nd and State streets and is available for tours. Interested parties may contact the Larned Chamber of Commerce for details. Interestingly, Larned's first bride was the grandmother of

Norman Grove who built the house now occupied by David and Alice Clapsaddle, proprietors of the Little Red House and writers of this article. Larned does have many links to Zebulon Pike.

## SANTA FE TRAIL RADIO PLAY

KUNM radio station in Albuquerque will record a live performance about the "Santa Fe Trail's Wagon Years," and the public is invited. Whether you see this show as a historical drama, musical, or even documentary, you will enjoy the recording of *Rolling On*, by Richard Bodner: the story of the Santa Fe Trail across the wagon years, as told through the journals & songs of actual travelers. Admission is free.

This production, one of four winners in KUNM's Radio Play Script Contest for 2002, will be offered free to the public at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, in the South Broadway Cultural Center, 1025 Broadway SE, Albuquerque. No reservations will be taken, but please arrive promptly (doors will open by 7:30 p.m.). This and the other winning radio plays will be broadcast on KUNM during the spring months of 2003.

The production is sponsored by the City of Albuquerque's Urban Enhancement Trust Fund and KUNM. For more information, contact Rachel Kaub, (505) 277-4516 or <art@unm.edu>.

## RATTLESNAKES ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

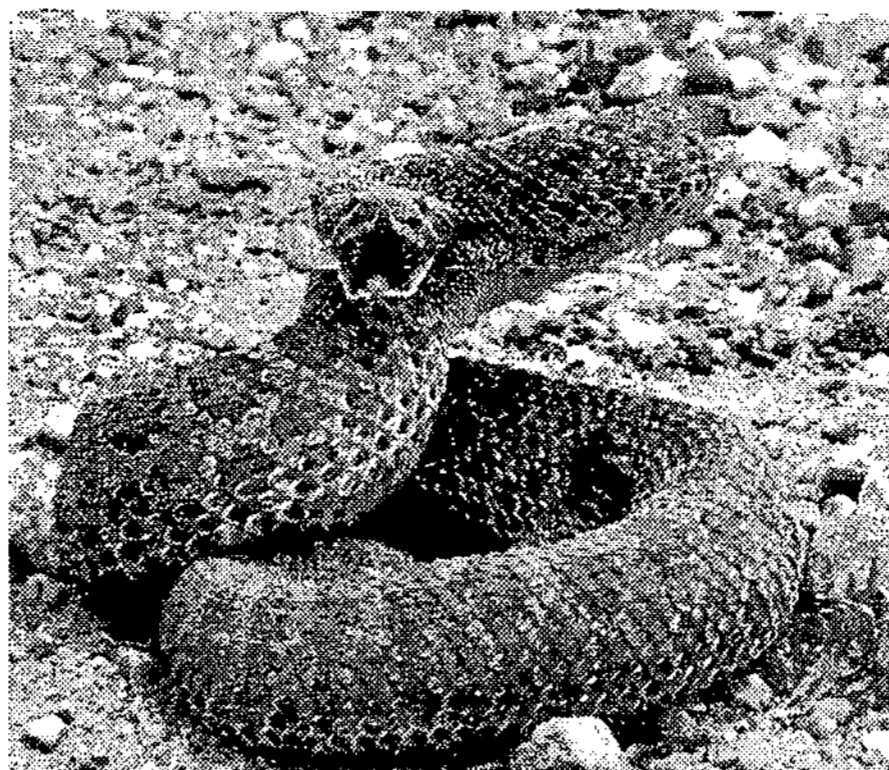
by Phyllis S. Morgan

[This is third in a series about wildlife on the Trail by SFTA member Phyllis Morgan, Albuquerque. She extends sincere thanks to Bob Myers, biologist, herpetologist, and director of the American International Rattlesnake Museum, located in Albuquerque's Old Town at 202 San Felipe NW, for sharing his knowledge and providing other assistance during the research for this article. The Rattlesnake Museum has the largest collection of different species of live rattlesnakes in the world. Next topic in this series will be prairie dogs.]

**RATTLESNAKES** are the subject of a huge body of lore, myth, superstitions, and misconceptions that have been formed and handed down over millennia. Profound fear of these snakes and misconceptions about their behavior commonly existed among Santa Fe Trail travelers. Many people following the routes of the Trail were encountering these reptiles for the first time. Misunderstanding and confusion about rattlesnakes are still common among the general public today.

Found only in the Western Hemisphere, rattlesnakes are pit vipers belonging to the large family *Viperidae*. They are not true vipers, which do not occur in the New World. The term "pit" comes from a sense organ that is visible externally as a facial pit, located below and back of the nostril. There are two genera, *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus*, in their subfamily *Crotalinae*. All species are venomous and have rattles. The genus *Crotalus* is comprised of the most species and the largest and most dangerous rattlesnakes, with ranges covering larger territory.<sup>1</sup>

The ranges of five species of rattlesnakes occur in the five states through which the Santa Fe Trail crossed: (1) the Prairie rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis viridis*)—central and western Kansas, Oklahoma Panhandle, eastern Colorado, and practically all of New Mexico; (2) the Western Diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*)—parts of northern and western Oklahoma and New Mexico; (3) the Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus horridus*)—eastern Kansas and Missouri; (4) the



**Rattlesnake** (photo courtesy Harry C. Myers).

Desert Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus edwardsi*)—southwestern Kansas, Oklahoma Panhandle, southeastern Colorado, and eastern New Mexico; and (5) the Western Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus tergeminus*)—southwestern, central, and eastern Kansas, the Oklahoma Panhandle, and southeastern Colorado.<sup>2</sup>

The crucial characteristic distinguishing rattlesnakes from all other snakes, even from other pit vipers, is their rattle. Composed of loosely articulated, interlocking horny rings at the end of the tail, the rattle produces a distinct sound when vibrated. No other kind of snake has a rattle. Other snakes may have similar markings, be venomous, may coil and even vibrate their tails, but they are not rattlesnakes unless they have a rattle.

Such similarities among snakes caused confusion among Trail travelers, who would often kill any snake they came upon in their travels. The late J. Frank Dobie, celebrated author and collector of lore of the Southwest, commented in his popular book *Rattlesnakes*: "The pioneer tradition towards the creatures of the earth was to kill them rather than to study them."<sup>3</sup> Today, people continue to kill snakes because they resemble rattlesnakes, although they are harmless and, like rattlesnakes, provide a valuable service for humankind by keeping disease-carrying rodent populations under control.

Marc Simmons, premier scholar of the Santa Fe Trail and the "father" of the Santa Fe Trail Association, commented in one of his articles: "Rattle-

snakes are not among my favorite creatures in this Southwestern homeland. But I'll be the first to admit that they add something of interest to the region."<sup>4</sup> In his cowpunching days, Simmons drove cattle through thick vegetation, often hearing their rattles, but seldom seeing them. "They would be on my mind, and sometimes when I had bedded down by the campfire I dreamed that a snake had crawled under my saddle, which I was using as a pillow. I'd wake suddenly and come flying out of the blankets. Then I would make a search to be sure that Mr. Serpent was not sharing my bed."<sup>5</sup>

Many Trail travelers, no doubt, awoke abruptly during the night or in the early morning in the same manner as Simmons, wondering if a rattlesnake had curled up in their blankets to keep warm. A few diaries and journals contain remarks about rattlesnakes being found much too close for comfort. For instance, Frank S. Edwards, a Missouri Mounted Volunteer who marched the length of the Santa Fe and Chihuahua Trails with Colonel Alexander W. Doniphan during the Mexican-American War, wrote in his book *A Campaign in New Mexico with Colonel Doniphan* (1847): "It was, by no means, an unusual occurrence for us, after a heavy dew, to kill in the morning within a quarter of a mile of camp more than twenty rattlesnakes, which, having come out to imbibe the dew, had become benumbed by the cool night air and, so, were an easy prey. Our Major awoke one morning with one of these reptiles coiled up against his leg, it having nestled there for warmth. He dared not stir until a servant came and removed the intruder."<sup>6</sup> Unfortunately, information was not provided by Edwards concerning how the servant, probably a slave, was able to accomplish the task.

Drovers, mule-skinners, cowboys, and others on the Trail and throughout the Southwest used to encircle their blankets with a prickly hair rope laid on the ground, in the belief that snakes would not cross such a rope because the scratchy bristles tickled the snakes' bellies. Simmons has commented on this once-popular

practice: "I never put much faith in that old superstition. And besides, my up-to-date catch rope was made of smooth nylon, so it would not have been much use as a snake shield."<sup>7</sup>

The "Father of the Santa Fe Trail," William Becknell, noted the abundance of rattlesnakes during the inaugural journey that formally opened this great road of commerce. On September 1, 1821, Becknell and his small company of men started out from Franklin, Missouri, on this historic expedition, and on September 24, he recorded that they had reached the Arkansas River and the world of the buffalo and the rattlesnake, "of which there are vast numbers here."<sup>8</sup>

In 1825, George Champlin Sibley, the leader of the United States government survey of the Santa Fe Trail, wrote in his journal on August 18: "The immense plain in which we now are, and through which the Arkansas flows, is almost an uninterrupted level as far as the eye can [s]ee to the South and West . . . there is not a single Tree anywhere to be seen on its banks. Our road this evening lay over some tolerably rough sandy ground, in which Rattle Snakes are very numerous."<sup>9</sup> He noted on the following day: "One of the Mules bit by a Rattle Snake this evening. These snakes are very numerous & troublesome here."<sup>10</sup>

John W. Moore, pioneer and soldier, was among the multitude of travelers who followed the Trail after Becknell and Sibley and recorded their observations concerning the numbers of rattlesnakes along the way, in particular along the course of the Arkansas River. In his account, "The Santa Fe Trail Days," Moore described his first trip in 1867 at the age of 21 across the prairies and plains to Fort Lyon: "We made a good finish to our trip. . . . And a lively finish it was, as on the divide between the Arkansas and the Smoky [Smoky Hill] 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."<sup>11</sup> Moore made many trips along the Trail, delivering government stores to forts. He became mayor of Kansas City in 1885 after the Trail passed into history.

In his book *Commerce of the Prairies* (1844), Josiah Gregg told of seeing countless rattlesnakes during his trips over the Trail: "Rattlesnakes are proverbially abundant upon all these prairies, and as there is seldom to be found either stick or stone with which to kill them, one hears almost a constant popping of rifles or pistols among the vanguard, to clear the route of these disagreeable occupants, lest they should bite our animals. As we were toiling up through the sandy hillocks which border the southern banks of the Arkansas, the day being exceedingly warm, we came upon a perfect den of these reptiles. I will not say 'thousands,' though this perhaps were nearer the truth—but hundreds at least were coiled or crawling in every direction. They were no sooner discovered than we were upon them with guns and pistols, determined to let none of them escape."<sup>12</sup>

Gregg related how the confusion caused by "the snake fracas" was worsened when a young wild mustang broke into their midst, and was further compounded by an ensuing skirmish between two mules in the area, one attempting to chastise the intruding colt and the other mule attempting to defend it. The reader can imagine the frenzy and noise deriving from such a scene, which Gregg described as "a capital scene of confusion." To restore order, the colt was shot and killed. The company pitched camp that evening opposite the "celebrated 'Caches,' a place where some of the earliest adventurers had been compelled to conceal their merchandise."<sup>13</sup> One can imagine the lively conversations concerning the "fracas" that must have occurred that evening, and for many days and evenings to come.

Gregg added: ". . . scores of them [rattlesnakes] are sometimes killed in the course of a day's travel; yet they seem remarkably harmless, for I have never witnessed an instance of a man's being bitten, though they have been known to crawl even into the beds of travellers. Mules are

sometimes bitten by them, yet very rarely, though they must daily walk over considerable numbers."<sup>14</sup>

Susan Shelby Magoffin made very few comments in her diary concerning rattlesnakes, although she did refer to Gregg's "fracas" when writing at Big Coon Creek while "nooning" on July 13, 1846: ". . . we also had a rattle-snake fracas. There were not hundreds killed tho', as Mr. Gregg had to do to keep his animals from suffering, but some two or three were killed in the road by our carriage driver, and these were quite enough to make me sick."<sup>15</sup> Earlier at Cottonwood Creek campground, Susan wrote: "I am no friend to bugs, worms, or snakes. . . . These things [a particular bug she detested], snakes and mosquitoes are the only disagreeable parts of my prairie life."<sup>16</sup>

Alexander Majors, a well-known name connected to the freighting and mercantile firm of Russell, Majors & Waddell, formed in 1854, spoke at a meeting of "old plainsmen" in Independence, Missouri, in 1909. In regard to rattlesnakes biting animals, Majors stated: ". . . the rattlesnakes on that road [Santa Fe Trail] in the beginning of the travel were a great annoyance, often biting the mules and oxen when they were grazing. At first, mules were used altogether for traveling, but they would either die or become useless from the bite of a rattlesnake, and the men would sometimes be sent ahead of the caravan with whips to frighten the snakes out of the pathway, but later on, the ox-teamsters, with their large whips, destroyed them so fast that they ceased to trouble [the oxen] to any great extent."<sup>17</sup> Simmons has provided additional detail: "Drovers walking beside ox teams kept an eye peeled for snakes and upon spotting one would skillfully take off the head with a well-aimed snap of their heavy bull-whips."<sup>18</sup>

Treatment administered to a mule bitten by a rattlesnake was included in the reminiscences left by James Brice, who arrived in Independence from Ireland in 1858 and was employed in the transporting of mail over the Trail: "The herder brought one of the mules in off the pasture that was bitten by a rattlesnake. His head was twice its natural size. I brought a Cheyenne Indian

to see the animal, who had me to throw [the mule] down and secure him from struggling. [The Indian] took my pen knife, sharpened the point of the small blade, tied a cord around it, leaving one-fourth inch uncovered, pricking the mule around the nostrils with the uncovered point, blood coming from each stab; rubbing the bloody part with gunpowder and telling me to keep him from water until the next morning. I complied with his instructions and the mule was all right next morning."<sup>19</sup>

Some hair-raising experiences along the Trail were recorded by men who had gone out on the prairies, sometimes alone, to hunt or to look after their animals. One was David Kellogg on his way to Colorado in the first wave of gold seekers. He wrote in his diary on September 30, 1858, in camp at Cow Creek: "Today, while crawling along a slight depression in the prairie to get inside the fringe of bulls which are always surrounding a herd of buffalo, I heard a sudden rattle just where I was about to put down my hand, and came face-to-face with a rattle-snake coiled for business. In my eagerness to stalk the buffalo I had not noticed him. I was thrilled as with an electric shock and, bounding to my feet, I placed my gun against the snake and blew him to pieces. It was an ungracious act on my part after he had given me fair warning, but I had but one thought in my mind and that was to kill that snake, and I was satisfied to see my cows, one of which I had selected for my meat, go lumbering off over the plain."<sup>20</sup>

Lieutenant William B. Lane, stationed at Fort Union in 1857, encountered what he believed, at first, was a rattlesnake while hunting for antelope about 15 miles from the fort. He caught sight of and approached a large herd, dismounted and picked up a stone to drive a picket-pin [for hitching his horse] into the ground. Lane related his experience in a report written in 1894: "After about the third stroke with the stone I felt a sharp sting on the back of my left hand, and at the same moment heard the rattle of a snake, and saw within a few inches of my hand the last half of a large and horrid-looking rattlesnake just about to disappear in a hole in the

ground. . . . I immediately examined my hand, and sure enough there were the two punctures, just the distance apart to correspond to the fangs of a snake. I was of course frightened almost out of my wits."<sup>21</sup>

Knowing he must get back to the fort as quickly as possible, Lane retrieved his picket pin from the ground, removed his brandy flask from his saddlebags and took a "big" drink. As he headed back to the fort, Lane watched his left hand swelling up. He took another drink, described as "a whopper," and "raised both hands together that I might see just how much the left one was swollen. To my amazement the right one was just as large as the left, and not only that, there seemed to be several pairs of hands; in fact, the air was full of them, and all badly snakebitten. It suddenly occurred to me that I was very drunk. . . ." The thought came to him that he could not have been badly poisoned, or the brandy would not have worked so quickly.

Lane struggled to stay upright in his saddle and began arguing with himself. He seemed to be two fellows—a sober lieutenant telling a drunk lieutenant that he "ought to be court-martialed for cowardice. . . ." Managing to stay in the saddle, Lane saw wild geese as he was drawing close to the fort, and thought he might "redeem himself" by shooting a goose to take back with him. Tying his horse, he proceeded toward the geese, when he noticed men approaching on horseback in the distance. He realized it would be better to head straight for the fort; his horse had come to the same decision and was trying desperately to break away. In mounting his pitching horse, Lane threw himself too far over his saddle and had to cling in that awkward position while his horse "went thundering across the plain . . . nearly a quarter of a mile" before Lane regained control.

Lane concluded: "I had had what one might call 'a full day.' I had ridden over thirty miles, been bitten, as I supposed by a rattlesnake, got drunk and sober, was at the point of death and had recovered, and all this within twelve hours of the same day." He went to bed that night, "feeling thankful that I had a back and a comfortable place to put it."<sup>22</sup>

Although Lane seemed to think

that he probably had not been bitten by a rattlesnake because he did not have the expected symptoms, it is possible that he did receive a rattlesnake bite. Lane's age, size, vigor, and healthy condition could have enabled his system to resist the effects of the venom, or he could have received a bite of weak venom, or even a dry bite in which no venom was injected. Today, it is known that about one-fifth of rattlesnake bites are dry bites. Of approximately 8,000 bites from venomous snakes occurring each year in the United States, less than one percent result in death.<sup>23</sup>

Philip Gooch Ferguson, the company clerk of the First Regiment of the Missouri Mounted Volunteers in General Stephen W. Kearny's Army of the West, recorded an incident involving another volunteer, David Russell, in his diary on August 7, 1847: "Stopped at night a few miles past Middle [S]pring. Whilst hobbling his horse, Russell was bitten by a rattlesnake and became very much alarmed. One of the Mexicans cured him in the following manner. Made him swallow half a pint of whiskey, then tied a cord around his forefinger (the end of his finger being the place bitten) and cut it to the bone with a sharp knife, and then seared or burnt the wound. His hand was held down all night, and in the morning all danger was past. Some of [the] boys, seeing that whiskey was important in the cure of snake bite, complained to the Mexican that they were bitten and wished to be cured as he had cured Russell. The Mexican, discovering the ruse, wished to cut the flesh first and administer the whiskey afterwards!"<sup>24</sup>

Both Lane and Russell made use of the universal remedy for rattlesnake bites—whiskey. There were many different folk and other remedies, including a variety of poultices made from plants, but the remedy of choice among the frontiersmen and others of that time was whiskey. Today, we know that alcohol causes bite victims more harm than good. It has the adverse effect of speeding circulation, thereby increasing the rapidity of venom absorption. The large quantities of whiskey administered to snake-bite victims during frontier days has led to the view that a number of deaths were caused by alcohol poisoning, rather than snake

poisoning.

Lt. Lane's wife, Lydia Spencer Lane, wrote her recollections of the joys and sorrows of being the wife of an army officer on the frontier in her book, *I Married a Soldier; or, Old Days in the Old Army* (1893). Following their marriage in Pennsylvania in 1854, the couple headed for Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, and from there to a long list of posts stretching across Texas and the Southwest, with stops at several posts in New Mexico, including Fort Union. Among her recollections of her first journey to the western frontier, Lydia wrote: ". . . I never went to bed without making a thorough search for a snake, tarantula, or centipede; but in all the years I spent traveling and camping, I never saw a snake about the tents . . . so that as time went on and I did not find the thing for which I watched, I grew careless, but not on that first expedition, when all was so new to me."<sup>25</sup> She also recollected: "Back of our quarters was quite a large yard, but there was not a living thing in it, except tarantulas, scorpions, centipedes, with the occasional rattlesnake for variety. As long as we left them undisturbed, they were harmless."<sup>26</sup>

A common misconception among travelers on the Trail was that rattlesnakes, prairie dogs, and small burrowing owls lived together in harmony in the prairie dog's burrow. Many chroniclers made references to this widely-held belief in their recorded observations of wildlife along the Trail. Katie Bowen, for example, wrote in one of her letters to family back home in Maine: "We frequently see owls sitting on their [prairie dogs'] holes and are told that with the rattlesnake, they form a charming society in their houses."<sup>27</sup> Philip Gooch Ferguson noted: "Prairie owls and rattlesnakes live in the same dens with [prairie dogs], but what affinity of nature there is between them or what mutual benefit they derive from this association, I have never heard explained."<sup>28</sup>

Matthew C. (Matt) Field, writer and actor, traveled the Trail in 1839 with a group of leisure travelers, comprised of merchants and tourists. He recorded his colorful impressions of the trip in verse and wrote 85 articles that were serialized in the New Orleans *Picayune* from Decem-

ber 1839 to October 1841. In one of these articles, published in November 1840, Matt stated: "Snakes and owls are said to dwell with the dogs in their holes, with utmost harmony, but we had no opportunity of finding a proof of this, though the story is very generally believed."<sup>29</sup>

Alexander Majors elaborated on this misconception at the "old plainsmen's" gathering in 1909: "It has been claimed by men that snakes and prairie dogs, who were also found in great numbers upon the plains, lived in the same houses, the dog digging the hole and allowing the snake to inhabit it with him, but I do not think this is correct. Men came to this conclusion from seeing the snakes when frightened run into the dog-holes, but I think they did it to get out of the way of danger, and they lived, too, in the houses that had been abandoned by the dogs. It is a fact that the prairie dogs would only live in one hole for about a year, when they would abandon it and dig a new one, leaving the old ones to be taken possession of by the rattlesnakes and prairie owls."<sup>30</sup>

Frank Edwards also commented: "The old story of the rattlesnake and prairie dog associating together is now exploded, it having been proved that the former devours the pups of the latter, and that directly a snake takes possession of a hole it is, at once, deserted by its former inhabitant."<sup>31</sup>

A seemingly indestructible myth, held for centuries and first reported in print in the early 1600s, was known to people on the frontier. Sometimes referred to as "the snake-swallowing phenomenon," this myth entails the belief that rattlesnakes swallow their young, or take them into their mouths and release them when danger passes. Marion Sloan Russell, who had her own close encounters with rattlesnakes during her childhood, described such an occurrence involving her brother: "Once Will put his foot right down on a rattler. He was scared, but the snake did nothing. It did not even coil or strike out at him. This snake was certainly different. It lay still when Will removed his foot, lay still on the path to the milk house, and began slowly rattling its rattles. It fixed its great eyes on Will and flattened its head and stuck out its

forked tongue and went on rattling its rattles. Suddenly from all around little snakes began to put in an appearance. There were a dozen or more of them. The old snake opened wide her jaws and the little ones disappeared down inside of her. When Will came to tell mother about what he had seen, she told him he had witnessed one of nature's miracles."<sup>32</sup>

J. Frank Dobie collected numerous accounts and testimonies from people living in rural areas who had witnessed the "miracle" experienced by Will Sloan. Dobie trusted the veracity of some of the eyewitnesses, but declined to make a judgment regarding this subject, stating that his role was to transmit testimony and leave judgment to future observers. Biologists and herpetologists who have studied rattlesnakes for years have not reported witnessing this "phenomenon" and maintain there is no proof that rattlesnakes swallow their young.

An old fallacy prevalent among people today is that a rattlesnake's age can be found by counting the number of segments in its rattle. Bob Myers of the American International Rattlesnake Museum said he finds this the most common misunderstanding among both adults and children who visit the museum. Rattlesnakes shed their skin from one to four times every year. With each shedding, a new segment appears. Over time, segments become brittle and break off. The only way a rattlesnake's age can be known is if someone happens to be present when a snake is born and a record is made at that time. Births of snakes in museums or zoos are recorded, but there is little chance of making such a record in the wild.

Rattlesnakes try to avoid contact with people, and bite as a defensive reaction, not as an act of aggression. They will readily defend themselves, in particular the Western Diamondback, if threatened. Their rattle is the only means they have to communicate a warning that danger is near and that people and other animals are treading on unsafe territory. Throughout human history, humans have been much more dangerous to them than they have been to people.

One can only guess to what extent attempts to eradicate rattlesnakes have depleted their numbers up to

the present time. It is known, however, that their numbers are decreasing. This is very unfortunate, because they play an important and integral part in the ecological web of life. Dobie once stated: "Rattlesnakes, though not harmless, are the most interesting of all snakes in North America. I hate to think of the days when there won't be any."<sup>33</sup> He was pleased that more and more people, although still a minority, have learned to respect, even like, rattlesnakes as their understanding and knowledge of these fascinating creatures have grown. Dobie added: "I am good at belonging to minorities and I have joined this one. . . . Why should I pick on rattlesnakes?"<sup>34</sup> For that matter, why should anyone pick on rattlesnakes—or any other snakes—living along the old Santa Fe Trail and wherever else they range?

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31. Edwards, *A Campaign in New Mexico with Colonel Doniphan*, 16.
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#### KAW COUNCILS FEATURE DHEGIHA TRIBES

**KAW** Mission State Historic Site in Council Grove, KS, and the Friends of Kaw Heritage offer a monthly series of programs called "Kaw Councils." This year the series will feature programs on the Dhegiha tribes of the Siouan-speaking peoples: the Kaw (or Kansa), Quapaw, Ponca, Omaha, and Osage. These tribes share a common source in language, culture, and ancestry.

The Dhegihas probably once lived together in the Ohio Valley, and they separated when they moved west in the 17th century. The Kaw were later assigned a reservation at Council Grove and thus had a close association with the Santa Fe Trail. For a schedule of the monthly programs, visit the web site: <www.kawmission.org> or write Friends of Kaw Heritage, 500 N Mission, Council Grove KS 66846. Admission to the programs is free.

#### SYMPOSIUM 2003

**THE** 2003 symposium, set for September 25-28, will be held at Days Inn Southeast, 6101 E 87th St, Kansas City MO. A convention rate will be available. A Super 8 is in an attached wing.

An outstanding program is being planned under direction of Symposium Coordinator Anne Mallinson, with the following committee chairs: John Mark Lambertson, John Atkinson, Roger Slusher, Jane Mallinson, Ross Marshall, Nancy Lewis, and Mary Conrad.

Morning lectures will be in the Chaparral Ballroom/Theater at the hotel. Vendors will set up in the Santa Fe room across the hall. A number of field trips are being planned. The Saturday evening banquet and awards program will be held at Benjamin Ranch. Reservations will be sent to the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence. Make plans now to attend.

#### NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

**JUNE 7, 2003**, is National Trails Day, with the theme "Healthy Trails, Healthy People." To host an event, visit <www.AmericanHiking.org/events/ntd/index.html>. To register an event, go to <www.AmericanHiking.org/events/ntd/register.html>. Each registered event receives a banner, posters, and promotion on the American Hiking Society web site. Help celebrate the trails.

#### WET/DRY ROUTES SEMINAR AND FORT LARNED OLD GUARD ANNUAL MEETING MAY 3, 2003

**PLANS** are complete for the May 3 joint program of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter and Fort Larned Old Guard at Fort Larned NHS and the site of the Cheyenne and Sioux village on Pawnee Fork captured and burned by the army in 1867. See details and registration form insert.

The morning seminar looks at the Mexican War and the Santa Fe Trail, with three lectures. Afternoon activities at the village site will focus on the buffalo in Plains Indian life and the lives of white hunters. An evening dinner and program back at Fort Larned will conclude the program. Reservations are due by April 25.

## "THE OLDEST ROAD" by EUGENE MANLOVE RHODES

edited with an introduction by Mary Jean Cook

[Mary Jean Cook, *Santa Fe*, is a musician and historian, a frequent contributor to *Wagon Tracks*, and the author of books and articles about the Trail and Santa Fe. Her most recent book, *Loretto: The Sisters and Their Santa Fe Chapel*, was published last year by the Museum of New Mexico Press. The following piece is from *May Davison Rhodes, The Hired Man on Horseback* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1938). Original spellings and accents of Eugene Manlove Rhodes have been retained. Corrections and annotations are in brackets.]

### Introduction

Historians today know that the Santa Fe Trail was an extension of the Chihuahua Trail. Nevertheless, a time existed when certain non-historians mistakenly believed it to be the reverse—that the Chihuahua Trail was an extension of the Santa Fe Trail. Eugene Manlove Rhodes, an easterner-turned-New Mexican raconteur of the 1920s, was one who not only confessed but also wrote about his misguided historical thinking. Rhodes penned "Oldest Road" as a chapter of a book entitled, *Old Timers*, a work he never lived to see published.

As a promising young poet, Eugene Manlove Rhodes answered the letter of a young girl with gray eyes, the future Mrs. Rhodes, who lay desperately ill with diphtheria in Gloversville, New York. To soothe the ailing girl, her sister recited poems, one of which was written by Rhodes. One poem contained a stanza the patient especially liked, so she wrote to thank him. The stanza read:

Brown eyes, love-lighted and tender,  
My beacon pole star on the dark  
stormy sea where I sail.  
I am weary and sad. Through the  
storm and the darkness  
Shine softly tonight on the Santa Fe  
Trail.

Three months later, May Davison received an answer to her thank-you letter. Eugene Rhodes had curiously signed the letter, "With love, Jean." He, of course, was called "Gene," though he was known to substitute other names for his own in describing personal events. After two years

and several letters, May and Gene were married on August 9, 1899. Four days later, nevertheless, romanticist Eugene Manlove Rhodes unromantically departed New York for his favorite haunt, New Mexico, where he was described by fellow cowhands as "hard as nails and quick as greased lightning." And he had a temper, too.

Once in New Mexico, Rhodes often traveled by horse to Engle, on the *Jornada del Muerto* (Journey of the Dead Man) where he picked up his mail, digesting it and answering it before returning to work at the Johnson ranch. His romance with *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro*, Royal Road of the Interior as it is known today (recently designated a national historic trail), proved to be as profound as his love for May Davison and New Mexico. In 1926 May and Gene lived in Santa Fe on the Acequia Madre and then in Tesuque (north of town) for a brief time. Neither was to Rhodes's liking. He needed space and lots of it. While meandering on his horse on the *Jornada del Muerto* he would fall asleep in the warm sun, allowing the horse to graze randomly until he awoke.

Born January 19, 1869, in Tecumseh, Nebraska, Gene Rhodes lived as a child in Cherokee, Kansas, where the Rhodes's house was built of green walnut boards, which soon curled up sufficiently to create baby cradles, according to Rhodes. Eugene Manlove Rhodes died in 1934. He lies buried near the San Andres Mountains of New Mexico overlooking the oldest road on the North American continent and an unlikely twentieth-century site on the historic *jornada* called Trinity. On his gravestone is inscribed "Pasó por Aquí" (passed by here). This inscription was etched in stone by a 17th-century Spaniard and may be viewed today at El Morro National Monument near Ramah, NM, and Zuni Pueblo.

Rhodes penned his own epitaph, which failed to grace his tombstone:  
Now hushed at last the murmur of his  
mirth,  
Here he lies quiet in the quiet earth.  
—When the last trumpet sounds on  
land and sea

He will arise then, chatting cheerfully,  
And, blandly interrupting Gabriel,  
He will go sauntering down the road  
to hell.  
He will pause loitering at the infernal  
gate,  
Advising Satan on affairs of state,  
Complaining loudly that the roads  
are bad  
And bragging what a jolly grave he  
had!

A few years ago, I visited the lonely grave of Rhodes with a group of historians who had gathered in the dust and sweltering sun to read from his works. All participants departed following the reading, but our bus broke down and we discovered the entrance gate to the gravesite was locked, leaving us behind it. After a 911 call to ranch headquarters, that problem was overcome but more automotive trouble occurred on I-25. It was a late 11 p.m. upon our return to Las Cruces.

More recently, I spent ten rugged hours in a heavy-duty pickup, built for pulling sand or forging a road where there was none, with the ranch manager of the 360,000-acre Armendaris Ranch, today owned by CNN-mogul Ted Turner. The ranch, a Spanish land grant, encompasses approximately fifty miles of the *Jornada del Muerto*. Armendaris Ranch headquarters are located at Engle, where Eugene Rhodes picked up his mail during his cowpunching days. Engle, built as a station on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway, consists today of three buildings.

During the Armendaris Ranch visit we toured the moonscaped *Jornada del Muerto* with its bison, non-indigenous oryx (obtained from an over population at nearby White Sands Monument), bighorn sheep, antelope, coyotes, bat caves (the bats yet to return at the time), quail, and viewed the site of an old *paraje* (resting place of travelers) named Tucson Springs. A recent rain, a rarity on the parched plain where some optimistic Frenchmen abandoned a vineyard a decade ago, had washed Indian arrowheads into a sandy draw.

For that grand tour I owe a great deal to Tom Waddell, the ranch manager who patiently bucked the 60-mph wind, armed only with his sack

lunch, a bottle of water (he took one swig that I saw), a global-positioning system, a ranch intercom and cell phone, and a tin of Blackhawk wintergreen tobacco, "to smooth him out." At the end of the day, Waddell and I exchanged good-byes and his bison meat for my Santa Fe veggie tamales. One wonders if the wind ever ceases on the ancient jornada.

As for Gene Rhodes, on or off a horse, he had no fear of the hereafter: "I am loath to quit living for a while, being intensely curious. Hard times—but for the first time in my life I see ground for a thinking man to hope for a decent world—in time. I recommend this planet as a good place to spend a lifetime."

#### "The Oldest Road"

Cloudless, sun-lined, and silent, the Chihuahuan Desert is little known, even today; a land of *bolsines* [basins], and lost rivers that never find the sea. It is boot-shaped, a larger boot than Italy. The leg is in Old Mexico; the toe is in Arizona, with the Gila outlining the boot-sole; furious and desperate, the Rio Grande broke jail and cut across the instep, chiseling through four mountain ranges to seek the sea; and the heel is in New Mexico. We are to consider the People of the Boot-Heel.

The Kingdom of New Mexico was the first European foothold within the present boundaries of the United States—peace to St. Augustine: It is true that St. Augustine was built at the tide mark in 1565, long years before San Gabriel de los Españoles (1598) [near San Juan Pueblo] or Santa Fe (1605). Even so, a bivouac is not a civilization. Saint Augustine did not leave Florida Spanish; but Oñate made New Mexico Spain. Nor is that, all. Two generations before Santa Fe, Spanish explorers had pierced the grimmest recesses of New Mexico and Arizona and made them named and known.

Starting in 1636, Cabesa de Vaca meandered from the Gulf through Texas, possibly along the southern border of New Mexico when Henry VIII was, you might say, scarcely married at all. . . .

Frey Marcos de Niza scouted from Soñora through Arizona to Zuni in 1539. Cardenas looked down into the Grand Cañon in 1540. Coronado strolled from Acoma to the Missouri

and back, 1540-1542. What did they think, what could they dream of what lay still beyond their outmost voyaging? "Travelers' Tales" are often tall; but these doubtless told the truth.

Why, then, 'Old Timers,' for men still living? Because it is a true telling. Because while New Mexico is our oldest European civilization, the south of it is our last-won land. Bold and hardy as they were, the Spanish Pioneers found little to their liking in the boot-heel. It was a true desert, waterless, treeless, and grim. They pushed on to the watered high country of the north, where they might find souls to save and gold to gather; and in their going they made our Oldest Road. You may read of it in our first book.

After Don Juan de Oñate had crossed the Rio Grande, where El Paso now stands, he sent out a party of seventeen men to find a wagon road to the north. They made the first wagon road within the present limits of the United States. Even then they followed a trail already timeless; a trail which stretched from Yucatan to the Michigan peninsula; the same trail had led them north through all the eighty years since Cortez burned his ships; the Turquoise Trail. Just such a trail brought ivory apes and peacocks to Solomon—and it is thought the Turquoise Trail was old when Solomon was king.

Here passed the first wagon road, but not the first wagons. The same account says 'the tracks left by Castano's [Gaspar Castaño de Sosa] wagon when he was led captive from New Mexico in 1591 were found on May 4th.

Castano seems to have been an enterprising teamster. There may have been others even before him, but this is the first wheel track in the United States of which we have record. Villagra, in his epic poem describing the Entrada, tells us of the wagon and oxen taken by Oñate into New Mexico. This was in 1598; Shakespeare had just written *The Merchant of Venice*, and was turning a shrewd eye upon *Julius Caesar* as a commercial possibility.

The Oldest Road followed the river to Robledo, near Fort Selden [north of Las Cruces] of a later day.

Here it climbed the mesa and struck across the desert to Paraje [paraje meaning stopping place, of which there were several]. Of all the long roads to Mexico and Vera Cruz here was the spot most famed and feared, the journey of death, the Jornada del Muerto. And from rim to rim was eighty miles, if there was water in Laguna del Muerto, thirty miles south of Paraje; ninety miles if the lake was dry and you took the long detour to Ojo del Muerto, five miles west of the Laguna. A fine spring, this Spring of the Dead Man; abundant water and that of the best quality, but it was ten miles farther.

You must climb a ridge and drop down into a deep cañon, with a steeper hill to climb back. North of the spring, the road wound through a narrow and gloomy defile with conveniences for ambush; and the spring was a popular resort for the Apaches. People traveled in caravans for safety when the lake was dry, and if the caravan was strong enough to split—here is what happened. They outspanned at the dry lake; half of their forces stayed to protect the wagons while the other half rode the stock down to the spring and frequently returned. If the caravan was too weak for dividing it prayed and cursed and went on dry.

Fourteen miles south of Dead Man's Spring, shallow pools in the Cañada de Aleman held water for a little while after a rain, and another march to southward, Las Tinajitas—potholes in an outcropping of rock—held less water for a shorter time; only enough for camp use at best. From Las Tinajitas to Robledo, thirty miles, the road paralleled the river, with hills between; you might drive your oxen ten or twelve sandy miles down to the river. By the time you got back, they would be as thirsty as ever. Except in the last extremity of thirst, men held the beaten road.

The Jornada was named in fear and shuddering. Why then the desert route? Why did they not follow the Rio Grande? They had the best of reasons. For fifteen miles above Robledo the river had elected to run lengthwise through San Diego Hills. Above this bleak defile the fords were quicksands until you came to the rocky crossing just west of Del

Muerto Springs. Moreover the river made a great bend to westward, taking full fifty miles longer to reach Paraje; and the terrain was impassable, spring ridges and deep barrancas, jungles of cottonwood, willow, mesquite, and tornillo, deepest sand. For a wagon to climb even one of these desperate ridges will be dreaded five hundred miles away. There were fifty such ridges. The Rio Grande foamed against them, undermined them, carved their bases to high bluffs. Terrible roads steeple-jacked across this broken country after the American occupation; but not until the last decade was a good road built down the river; and no road mastered the gorge above Robledo until 1928.

For another reason look at the map. For over six hundred miles above the mouth of the Pecos, no stream flows into the Rio Grande from the east; even as every tributary of the Pecos comes from the west. But exactly opposite the Jorñada, no less than eight little rivers fall from the Continental Divide into the Rio Grande. Game and fish and corn, land, wood, and shelter—yes, and four notable hot springs for healing; here was the chosen home of the fierce Apaches. (Other Apache tribes lived on the Gila, and the Mescalero branch held the Pecos country.)

So the Oldest Road did well to cross the desert. On the clean plain there was no chance for ambush; the sand (though the oxen would not believe it) was comparatively light and shallow: and most of the Jorñada was good hard adobe. For two hundred and fifty years the Jorñada route was the main artery of New Mexican travel, and heavy ox-drawn *curretos* [*carretas*, ox-carts] groaned along the sandy waste. Kit Carson rode there; Doniphan passed this way; the Texans went north here in '62. When the surviving Texans of the ill-starred Santa Fe expedition of 1841 were led captive into Mexico, they were forced to walk across the Jorñada in two nights and one day, forty hours—and two men, Golpin and Griffith, were wantonly murdered by the Mexican guards, because they were unable to travel. It is pleasant to remember that Demasio Salazer [Dámaso Salazar], commanding the guards, was publicly

disgraced for his brutality by the Mexican general, Elias, when the prisoners reached Paso del Norte [El Paso].

Let me here make a confession and outcry. Until the year 1925, I did not know that this First Road had ever been known as other than the Santa Fe Trail, and I supposed that the later road, from Santa Fe to the Missouri, was only an extension of the original road. I had never heard the Southern Road called anything else, and I had never dreamed of calling it anything else. No surprising blunder, since that Old Road led to Sant[a] Fe and ended there when Santa Fe was the outpost of empire. Well! It seems that we were all mistaken. Santa Fe says—and who should know better?—that the Santa Fe Trail started in Missouri and ended in the Santa Fe Plaza. I stand corrected—but I am still surprised and resentful. The modern Santa Fe Trail is assured of immortality; even the brief Butterfield Trail is famous; but this Oldest Road, for all its high and tragic story, seems doomed to be forgotten—only because it lacked a resounding name to trap the eye and fill the ear. El Camino Real, the King's Highway? Why, that is to be merely nameless. It was sometimes called the Chihuahua-Santa Fe Road or the Mexico-Santa Fe Road. Who can make music with such names as that? This road deserved a great name, a name to sing in our memory. It should have been the Santa Fe Trail—it should have been the Great North Road. . . .

## TRAIL TROUBADOUR

### —Traffic in Verse—

Sandra M. Doe, Editor

This column seeks poetry which addresses the history, realism, romance, and diversity of the Trail and demonstrates authentic emotion, original images, and skill in craftsmanship. Submit poetry, in open or closed form, along with a brief biography to Sandra M. Doe, Dept. of English, Campus Box 32, Metropolitan State College of Denver, PO Box 173362, Denver CO 80217-3362.

Poet Erin Humpage resides in Denver with her partner, Douglas, and a troop of pets. She is a student of poetry and literary fiction. This ballad was inspired by an article in

*Wagon Tracks* (Feb. 1996), pp. 10-13, "The Death of Ed Miller on the Santa Fe Trail." One correction: Miller died in 1864.

This poem is well-timed, given the article by John Stratton, "A Bold and Fearless Rider": Ed Miller and the Paper Trail" in the last issue of *WT*, pp. 14-18, and there is more about Miller in this issue's "Council Trove" column.

#### Price of the Prairie:

#### The Death of Ed Miller, A Ballad

by Erin Humpage

In 1865, or there about, deep along  
on the Santa Fe Trail  
women died easy and often, and Katie Moore was ill,  
thought to be upon the edge of  
Heaven,  
so to fetch her mother, a neighbor  
boy was sent, Ed Miller.

Edward sought a quicker horse, but  
Mr. Moore's was all he had  
so on he rode to complete his mission,  
with young pride,  
eighteen years of courage he had,  
and adolescent drive  
to rip across Marion County before  
that woman died.

But Ed's fresh eyes failed to see before  
him on the trail  
a cloud of dust from five strong men,  
natives to that ground  
tearing towards with weapons drawn  
to protect their only soil  
and Ed was killed, a trespasser, with  
no one else around.

Up atop her farmhouse roof, the  
needed mother watched  
a lone horseman, whom she did not  
know, fall wounded on the Trail.  
fearful for her daughter, she went to  
Katie on a coach  
and found her child sick, but it was  
none too late and Katie sailed

back into health and life. But all the  
town did then ask  
what of young Edward Miller? A team  
was sent into the wild  
to look for his remains. Three rods  
south of the Santa Fe  
the search party sorrowfully found the  
bullet riddled child.

Edward died before his time, but did  
not die in vain  
for the prairie does not forget those  
who perished on the Trail,  
those who paid the price of death for  
life upon that land.  
Edward died before his time and we  
still tell his tale.

## FARING WELL WITH FOOD: THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

by Julie Daicoff

*[Julie Daicoff, Olathe, KS, is a board member of Missouri River Outfitters Chapter and a frequent contributor to Wagon Tracks. She is a master gardener, student of flora along the Santa Fe Trail, and much interested in the foods of the pioneers.]*

ON Sunday, January 26, 2003, Anne Mallinson (SFTA vice-president) and Nancy Lewis (MRO Chapter president and member of SFTA board) presented "Fare for the Expedition." The presentation was the official kickoff of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial at the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence, Missouri. In attendance were 60 guests, including members of the MRO Chapter and the Friends of the NFTC. These capable speakers presented interesting information about the foods gathered and consumed by the members of the Corps of Discovery.

Opening the program was Nancy Lewis, who discussed that telling people about history is effective when people can touch, smell, see, and taste the past. She added the audience will have "a taste of the expedition of Lewis and Clark travels." In a lively analogy to a family camping trip, Mallinson asked attendees to consider the over-packed modern vehicle and then consider packing all supplies needed for a trip that would take a group of men to the Northwest by water. The sound of laughter filled the packed room when it was shared that 80% of the travel was done by water and over 600 different campsites were set up. Wouldn't that be some family campout?

According to Mallinson and Lewis, there were three general categories of food available for the trip: (1) food the Corps brought with them, (2) food the Corps obtained through trade, and (3) food the Corps hunted. Potable soup was used during the treacherous travel in the Bitterroot Mountains, and this was carried from the East Coast throughout the expedition. In fact 30 tons of food and beverages were brought on the expedition. The collection of supplies for the trip was a large task, taking Meriwether Lewis about one year to procure.

In fact, Lewis found it necessary to obtain medical training from Dr. Benjamin Rush, famous for his Rush's Thunderbolts. These pills were prescribed on a frequent basis to rid the men of disease and sickness. With the high level of mercury contained in this medicine, it was suggested that one way archaeologists could confirm a site was a Corps of Discovery site is to test for mercury on location. This concept was confirmed by Dr. Pete Cuppage, who attended the presentation and added that Rush's Thunderbolts were used extensively. Dr. Cuppage commented that the medical treatment of the Lewis and Clark Expedition suggested that appropriate medical care is to "purge, puke, and bleed" away all problems.

To make the program more pertinent, Lewis and Mallinson served their guests a variety of Lewis and Clark cuisine, including sourdough bread, berry pudding, venison, and squash. The recipe for sourdough rolls, which can be easily adapted to bread, appeared in "Historic Cooking Came to Life at Mahaffie Farmstead Bullwhacker Days in June," by Julie Daicoff, in *Wagon Tracks*, August 2000, p. 13-16. The recipes for the other foods appear below. It is apparent they are adapted for the modern cook with foods readily available. Nonetheless, these recipes still provide that glimpse into historical foods that we all crave. Nancy Lewis assured her guests that the food was edible, and she even fed it to her husband, Don. When the audience noticed that he was missing from the room, questions abounded, but were addressed with humor.

### BERRY PUDDING

6-8 large ripe plums, pitted and chopped  
2 pints fresh berries (blackberries, raspberries, or other available berries)  
juice from a large lemon  
1/4 tsp. salt  
3 cups white sugar or double for sweeter flavor  
Mix above together in a bowl  
Allow flavors to blend for 20-30 minutes

1 cup white flour  
1/3 cup brown sugar packed  
1/3 cup quick cooking oats  
1/4 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp cinnamon  
dash of allspice  
1/2 tsp baking powder  
1/4 pound butter softened  
Mix all dry ingredients in a bowl  
Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse cornmeal  
Spread fruit mixture in bottom of baking dish  
Sprinkle the dry mixture over top  
Dot top with additional butter if desired  
Bake for 45 minutes in a preheated 375 degrees oven  
Cool 10 minutes before serving

### VENISON

1/3 cup olive oil  
1/4 cup liquid smoke  
Sprinkle meat tenderizer  
1 Bay leaf  
1/4 tsp celery salt  
1/4 tsp oregano  
onion salt to flavor  
Mix together  
Cube 1.5 pounds of venison  
Sprinkle above ingredients over venison  
Marinate 24 hours  
Cook in 325 degree oven for 1.5 hours

### SQUASH

Dice up 3 squash  
In a skillet of bacon drippings, add squash and:  
1 scallion, chopped  
1 bocchoi stalk, chopped  
Cook for 30 minutes over medium heat, turning frequently  
Remove from skillet before squash becomes mush.  
Serve hot

Additionally, a detailed description of "white pudding" or boudin blanc was presented. This is extracted in full text from Meriwether Lewis's diary entry of Thursday, May 9, 1805. The interpretation will be left up to the reader, but the audience at the presentation was amazed at the length Lewis went to explain this food:

## CHARBONNEAU'S RECIPE

[Source: <[http://www.lewis-clark.org/bison/bison\\_recipe.htm](http://www.lewis-clark.org/bison/bison_recipe.htm)>]

"Capt C. killed 2 bucks and 2 buffaloe, I also killed one buffaloe which proved to be the best meat, it was in tolerable order; we saved the best of the meat, and from the cow I killed we saved the necessary materials for making what our wright-hand cook Charbono calls the boudin blanc, and immediately set him about preparing them for supper; this white pudding we all esteem one of the greatest delicacies of the forrest, it may not be amiss therefore to give it a place.

"About 6 feet of the lower extremity of the large gut of the Buffaloe is the first mosel that the cook makes love to, this he holds fast at one end with the right hand, while with the forefinger and thumb of the left he gently compresses it, and discharges what he says is not good to eat, but of which in the sequel we get a moderate portion; the mustle lying underneath the shoulder blade next to the back, and fillets are next saught, these are needed up very fine with a good portion of kidney suit [suet]; to this composition is then added a just proportion of pepper and salt and a small quantity of flour; thus far advanced, our skilfull opporater C-o seizes his recepticle, which has never once touched the water, for that would intirely distroy the regular order of the whole procedure; you will not forget that the side you now see is that covered with a good coat of fat provided the animal be in good order; the operator sceizes the recepticle I say, and tying it fast at one end turns it inwards and begins now with repeated evolutions of the hand and arm, and a brisk motion of the finger and thumb to put in what he says is bon pour manger' thus by stuffing and compressing he soon distends the recepticle to the utmost limmits of it's power of expansion, and in the course of its longtudinal progress it drives from the other end of the recepticle a much larger portion of the [blank] than was previously discharged by the fingers and thumb of the left hand in a former part of the operation; thus when the sides of the recepticle are skilfully exchanged the outer for the iner, and

all is completely filled with something good to eat, it is tyed at the other end, but not any cut off, for that would make the pattern too scant; it is then baptised in the mis-souri with two dips and a flirt, and bobbed into the kettle; from whence after it be well boiled it is taken and fried with bears oil untill it becomes brown, when it is ready to esswage the pangs of a keen appetite or such as travelers in the wilderness are seldom at a loss for."

Clearly missing from the food samples were some of the more controversial items common to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It was estimated that these men needed nine pounds of meat per day to sustain them. In order to eat this much meat, they obtained a wide variety of animals and birds to feed their huge appetites. These meat sources included buffalo, deer, elk, wolves, turkeys, buzzards, dogs, and horses. In her usual quick wit, Mallinson remarked about dogs, "I guess it is just an acquired taste." Both Mallinson and Lewis were quick to point out that neither dog nor horse would be served at any of their presentations.

Mallinson also talked about Lewis and Clark's use of turnips. Reminiscing, she told the story about how her mother, SFTA Ambassador Jane Mallinson, used to serve turnips and Anne thought they were mashed potatoes. The younger Mallinson said she used to eat these "mashed potatoes" with much excitement until she learned the truth. This brought a huge smile to Jane Mallinson whose 80th birthday was also celebrated during the program—complete with candle in a bowl of Lewis and Clark Berry Pudding.

When asked about her interest in the Corps of Discovery, Mallinson commented, "The Lewis and Clark Expedition has always fascinated me both as a teacher and a historian. Man traveled into unknown territory to explore and to collect information about the animals and plants of that territory. The fact that they took along an Indian woman as a guide appeals to me. Sacagawea has always been an inspiration since I was a little girl. Researching the expedition has been great fun and to be able to share it with others helps keep alive the sense of adventure."

This well-done program was re-



**SFTA Ambassador Jane Mallinson celebrated her 80th birthday at the meeting, shown here receiving a bowl of berry pudding with a candle.**

searched by both Mallinson and Lewis, partially supported by the Missouri Humanities Council. With the solid history background of Nancy Lewis, you may recall that she has earned the Missouri Teacher of the Year Award, and Mallinson's interest in trail history, there is little doubt that this program will be frequently requested. If January 26 was any indication of the quality work of these presenters, the 2003 Symposium in Independence will be awesome.

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## THE WAGON TONGUE

### —OBSERVATIONS & OPINIONS—

There are ambushes, pitfalls, false trails, and quagmires (of a literary and historical nature) on the Santa Fe Trail.

Most members of SFTA not only have a passion for history, but also for history in detail. History with a broad brush, even as to a particular incident, may have a few ambushes for the reader; however, when the small, personal remembrances are studied, it is most easy to be led down a false trail by the poor memory or exaggeration of the person doing the reporting. Sorting out the fact from the fiction, the accurate from the vague, leads one into a quagmire of differing recollections.

*Wagon Tracks* recently published the two-part extract regarding the Santa Fe Trail from Matt Thompson's book, published in 1901, entitled *Early History of Wabaunsee County*, and while it is particularly charming when it relates to the domestic culture as found in the New Mexico of the 1860s, as "history" it suffers from serious drawbacks. The purpose of this submission is not to criticize the publication (there was a prefatory note of caution about the reliability of some of Thompson's stories), but to warn about the pitfalls incident to the use of such documents as historical reference without independent verification.

Perhaps Marc Simmons summed it up best and most succinctly in his introduction to the 1995 reprint of Edwin Sabin's *Kit Carson Days*, when he cautioned: "In the first years of the twentieth century, elderly men who palmed themselves off as colorful paladins were fairly common. Some sought to make money by selling their fabricated narratives, while others, being lonely, merely wished to draw attention to themselves."

Thompson does not arise to the level cautioned about by Simmons, but he does demonstrate clearly the problem when reading a biographical recounting by an old man remembering (or trying to remember) people and places that happened 30 or so years ago. It brings to mind a scene from a movie a number of years ago when King David was

asked if Goliath was as big as claimed. The king answered, "Well, he seems to get bigger each year."

Such is a common problem of one trying to remember the halcyon days of their youth, and such can lead one into that quagmire of ill-remembered facts when attempting to determine whether to read the account as a good tale or as serious history.

Two characters mentioned by Thompson suffer from such false trails of inaccuracies. For one, Lucien Maxwell was not a "Frenchman." Maxwell was born in Kaskaskia, Illinois, which in 1818 was clearly a part of the United States. His father was an Irish-born storekeeper, and his mother was a Menard. Maxwell's paternal grandfather, while of French extraction, was the first lieutenant-governor of the State of Illinois.<sup>1</sup>

While Maxwell did, through marriage to a woman of Mexican/French (not Spanish) heritage, and his own business sense and hard work, amass a "princely fortune," not so as also alleged by Thompson for Kit Carson. Although Carson also married into a prominent and well-connected Mexican family, at his death his "princely fortune" was shown on the probate records of Pueblo County, Colorado Territory, as \$7,970.00. The "fortune" ran out within a few years, and Carson's children were raised at the personal expense of Tom Boggs and other friends.

Thompson next refers to a Mr. Lambert, a Frenchman who owned "Lambert's Hotel," a "70-room establishment." Lambert, he alleges, was a "friend and companion of Maxwell." Fred Lambert and his "St. James Hotel" (not Lambert's Hotel, and certainly not 70 rooms), are worthy of a full article. Moreover, if the hotel was built in 1871, as Thompson alleges, Lambert's time in Cimarron hardly made him the "friend and companion" of Lucien Maxwell, who sold his Cimarron holdings in July 1870 and moved his family to Fort Sumner, 200 miles south, in October 1870.<sup>2</sup>

Other examples of the false trails and inaccuracies of the autobiographies of old age abound. Last year I bought, sight unseen, from a book-

seller's list, an autobiography by William H. Ryus, entitled *The Second William Pen, Treating with the Indians on the Santa Fe Trail, 1860-1866* (Kansas City: Riley Publishing, 1913). Ryus, while undoubtedly telling his own story as he remembered it, made serious errors in such matters as Kit Carson's military status in the 1860s and his participation in the raids by the army against the Comanche and Kiowa in the Texas Panhandle. He also has Uncle Dick Wootton killing the bandit Espinoza brothers rather than Tom Tobin.

Probably the most widely published, read, and quoted of these later accounts is Henry Inman's *Old Santa Fe Trail* (Macmillan, 1897). A year ago I wrote to Harry Myers about a particular event Inman alleged to have witnessed at Fort Union. Myers's reply was, "Inman tells wonderful stories of much doubtful veracity."

Subsequently, reviewing the entry on Inman in the *Dictionary of Western American Biography*, I noted the same reservation. As an example, Inman related Uncle Dick Wootton's accounts of his adventures as straightforward truth, when even the most casual reading shows that Uncle Dick was "yarning" at his best.

While Uncle Dick's reputation has deservedly come down as one of the giants, he was known then and now as probably a teller of tall tales exceeded only by Jim Beckwourth. At least young Lewis Garrard, in *Wah-to-Yah and the Taos Trail*, told John Hatcher's tale of meeting the devil as a yarn and could discern the difference. Matt Field's recount of his own travels on the Santa Fe Trail, written when the matters were fresh in his mind, appear to be more accurate, although laced with exceedingly bad attempts at poetry.

Another elderly autobiographer, whose first-person accounts clearly contained false claims, was James A. Bennett, who wrote *Forts and Forays, James A. Bennett, A Dragoon in New Mexico* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1948). Bennett enlisted in the army in November 1849 and arrived in New Mexico in October 1850. His recounting about the lives of Dragoons in New Mexico should be most helpful to re-enactors and historians. He did serious damage to his credibility,

however, by claiming to have been part of the attempted rescue of James White's daughter after the father had been massacred. The problem is that he placed the incident in April 1851, so he could be there, when in fact the incident actually happened in October 1849, when Bennett was still in the East and had not even enlisted. Bennett's accounts of his witnessing or participating in incidents must be suspect unless they can be verified by independent sources.

Perhaps the worst ambush of all of the old-timer's yarns was that of Oliver Perry Wiggins in his recounting for Sabin of Wiggins's many supposed adventures with Kit Carson. Sabin bought the stories in whole cloth in *Kit Carson Days* (revised edition, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995). As Marc Simmons pointed out in the introduction, Wiggins "was an imaginative impostor who had never laid eyes on Kit Carson." Reputable historians, ignorant of the fact even after this hoax was exposed, have repeated the false trails laid down by Wiggins.

As an after note, the incident I questioned in Inman supposedly took place on July 4, 1867, when a cannon at Maxwell's Ranch exploded, causing an army captain to lose his arm and Lucien Maxwell to have a thumb amputated. It was this account that Harry Myers was unable to verify. About a year later I was able to partially verify the incident, which I found reported with citation to the original Fort Union documents in Leo Oliva's *Fort Union and the Frontier Army in the Southwest*.

The moral of this recounting is to be careful of your sources and take old-timer's statements with a grain of salt and healthy skepticism unless specific factual statements can be verified by at least one other independent, credible source. Otherwise these pitfalls will ambush you as to the facts, lead you down false trails, or mire you in the quagmire of pop "history."

Remember, however, that not all old-timer stories are to be discounted. Properly used and authenticated, they can add a richness of detail to a story. When David Hieb was superintendent at Fort Laramie, 1947-1958, he interviewed

many original inhabitants; see "We Lived at Fort Laramie—Interviews with Old Timers," *The Denver West-erners Golden Anniversary Brand Book*, XXII (1995). Not only did they help him with accurate restoration of the buildings, particularly when more than one related similar details, but he noted, "the products of Old-Timer interviews are largely sidelights and whet our appetites to more fully appreciate that history." Allow the old-timers to give a feeling of the time and place, but be careful in accepting specific historical reference as gospel.

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## NOTES

1. Stephen Zimmer, *For Good or Bad* (Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 1999).
2. Harriet Freiburger, *Lucien Maxwell, Villain or Visionary* (Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 1999).

[Editor's note: SFTA member John Webb is a retired army judge advocate and a retired civilian attorney who is a re-enactor, having spent the summers of 2000 and 2002 as a living historian and re-enactor at the Kit Carson Museum, Philmont Scout Ranch, Rayado, NM. Thank you, sir, for your perceptive remarks. Articles you have from your research related to the Trail will be welcome.]



## CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES

### —BOOK NOTICES—

William G. B. Carson, *Peter Becomes a Trail Man, The Story of a Boy's Journey on the Santa Fe Trail*. Revised by William C. Carson. Illustrated by Pat Oliphant. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002. Pp. 191. Maps, illustrations, biographical sketches, bibliography. Cloth, \$12.95. Available from Last Chance Store.

A healthy number of Santa Fe Trail books for children and young adults have been published in recent years, but it is always good to see the reappearance of a classic. This novel, originally issued in 1965 as *Peter and Brownie Follow the Trace*, a

*Story of the Santa Fe Trail*, has well withstood the test of time.

The tale is set in 1852. Twelve-year-old Peter Blair is living with a family in St. Louis, an arrangement made by his father who has gone to Santa Fe to seek his fortune. Most importantly, Peter has a dog named Brownie, to whom he is fiercely loyal.

Through a series of developments, including various boyish escapades, Peter and Brownie end up traveling with a caravan to Santa Fe. Along the way Peter experiences typical Trail people and events. Brownie sounds false alarms, tangles with a bear, and becomes a hero when he saves another boy's life.

One further adventure awaits Peter when he reaches Santa Fe. On the road to Taos to find his father, who is actually on his way back to the States to get his son, an Apache snatches Peter. But his father rescues him and both are united with Brownie, who is waiting for them at the Palace of the Governors.

During his journey, Peter encounters "real life" Santa Fe Trail personalities, including Isaac and Kitty Bowen, Bishop Lamy, Governor William Carr Lane, and Solomon Spiegelberg. These people, the various scenes in the novel, and Peter's life on the Trail all ring true and are well integrated into the plot.

The book is suitable for readers from middle school to adult. Even well-informed Trail aficionados will find themselves caught up in the story.

—Mike Olsen

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Mark L. Gardner, *Washita Battlefield National Historic Site*. Tucson: Western National Parks Association, 2002. Pp. 16. Illustrations and maps. Paper, \$4.95 plus shipping. Available from Last Chance Store.

SFTA Ambassador Gardner has produced another fine booklet for Western National Parks Association (formerly Southwest Parks and Monuments Association). He has written about several other sites for WNPA, including *Santa Fe Trail*, *National Historic Trail* and *Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site*.

*Washita Battlefield* presents a finely-crafted, handsomely-illustrated summary of the background leading to the 1868 battle when George

A. Custer led the Seventh Cavalry against Black Kettle's Cheyenne village on the Washita River in western Oklahoma, a brief account of the engagement, and an assessment of the historic event.

In the short space available, Gardner provides insight into the conflict of cultures, the qualities of Black Kettle and Custer, and the sense of tragedy that occurred at Washita Battlefield. He sets the attack in a proper perspective, as part of the disastrous series of events from Sand Creek Massacre in 1864 to the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. This is a good introduction for a study of the battle or visit to the site.

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Stephen G. Hyslop, *Bound For Santa Fe, The Road to New Mexico and the American Conquest, 1806-1848*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2002. Pp. xiii + 514. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth, \$34.95. Available from Last Chance Store.

[This book was reviewed in the August 2002 issue of *Wagon Tracks*, which see, and here is another view. This review was initially submitted to the *Journal of America's Military Past*, where it is pending publication.]

The book's title comes from a marvelous poem sent as a telegram by a Captain Alexander Reynolds, running late, to the owner of a stage line in Independence, Missouri, as follows:

Fink's stages are so rickety,  
His horses are so slow,  
His drivers are such drunken sots,  
They scarce can make them go,  
Then hold your horses, Billy,  
Just hold them for a day,  
I've crossed the River Jordan,  
And am bound for Santa Fe.

The River Jordan is not what you think it is; rather it is a small stream that flowed into the Missouri River below Jefferson City. As for the book itself, it is taken mostly from accounts written by early explorers, travelers, and adventurers who were involved, one way or another, with Santa Fe, all properly identified by the author who quotes long passages verbatim, and retells stories in his own, often politically-correct words. As historian Marc Simmons puts it in a cover "blurb," the "transitions"

are good though Simmons is more impressed than is this reviewer. The author's prose is sometimes clumsy, and here and there are sentences that are inscrutable, e.g., "Few Americans involved in the Santa Fe trade made a better bargain with New Mexico in writing in the early years than Josiah Gregg" (p. 255). And by the way, where is Santa Fe? You will look in vain for maps. [Editor's note: see p. 3.]

Like Gaul, this work is divided into three parts (*Omnia Gallia in tres partes divisa est* - if you remember your first-year Latin). The first, as the author says, "surveys the ground historically up through the Mexican War" and using the words of those involved "charts" the origins, changes, and "consequences" of the Santa Fe trade. There is mention and comment on some of the authors whose work together constitutes "Trail literature." The second part, the heart of this book, is titled "The Road to New Mexico (1821-1846)" and covers the Trail from east (St. Louis) to New Mexico, with some unorganized observations on the differences between American ways and New Mexico ways thrown into a chapter called "Accommodations in the Marketplace." The last chapter in the second part of the book is titled "Paths to Conflict," and the author in it drops his long quotes from contemporaneous writers with semi-neutral comments of his own and instead writes an "essay" that purports to explain, I believe, why conflict arose between the (New) Mexicans and the Americans. Great weight, far too much weight, in this reviewer's opinion, is given to George Kendall's *Narrative of the Texan Santa Fe Expedition* and the "facts" and activities described therein. The activities of Charles Bent, later the first territorial governor of New Mexico, are also cited as a "Path to Conflict." It seems to me this part of the book is unnecessary. Regardless of details and personages, when one country invades and conquers another, there is going to be conflict, some of the conquered are going to resist, some will try to reverse the conquest. Past grievances, affecting a few, are not the path to conflict. Conquest, so to speak, stands on its own two feet. Manifest Destiny and similar ideas caused the conflict in New Mexico,

something that would have come about had there been no Texan Santa Fe Expedition and had Charles Bent never been born.

Part Three of the book, "The American Conquest (1846-1848)," continues with more of Hyslop than quotes from Trail travelers or occupiers. The Conquest was over after the Taos Revolt (and associated actions) in early 1847. A good deal of what is in this third part has nothing directly to do with the conquest of New Mexico by the Americans, interesting as some of the events and descriptions are.

This reviewer went to a college where reading "originals" was emphasized. While Hyslop certainly presents the reader with long quotes that both tell a story and provide some "color," much more color and a better understanding of events is available by reading the contemporaneous sources themselves, rather than the distillation provided here. On the other hand, for readers who want The Santa Fe Trail and Associated Important Events In A Nutshell, this book, despite its faults, will do nicely.

—E. Donald Kaye  
Santa Fe, NM



## HOOF PRINTS

### —TRAIL TIDBITS—

State historic sites administered by the Kansas State Historical Society started charging admission on February 1 to try to recover some funds lost by budget cuts. The National Park Service has increased entry fees for the same reason.

The Kansas State Travel and Tourism Division awarded an \$80,000 Attractions Enhancement matching grant to the Kaw Nation for the initial phase of developing Alle-ga-wa-ho Memorial Heritage Park near Council Grove.

The Historical Society of New Santa Fe, MO, has an art collection on exhibit at the South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, 5908 East Bannister Road. There is consi-

derable material relating to the Fitzhugh/Watts Mill.

On November 18, 2002, the Independence City Council adopted a resolution in support of the National Heritage Area designation for the Kansas City region.

Richard Edwards is the new education and special events coordinator at the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence, MO. He brings a long background of experience to this position.

The Cimarron Heritage Center in Boise City, OK, now has a complete database for Autograph Rock and Signature Rock. Anyone interested in doing a name search should contact Phyllis Randolph, Cimarron Heritage Center, PO Box 214, Boise City OK 73933, (580) 544-3479, <museum@ptsi.net>.

*The Cherokee Trail Diaries*, Vol. III, 1851-1900, by Jack and Patricia Fletcher is now available, \$29.95 paper, \$39.95 cloth, plus \$4.95 shipping for first copy and \$2.00 for each additional copy. Send orders to Fletcher Family Trust, 730 Three Crabs Rd, Sequim WA 98382. Web site <cherokeetrail.org>.

Mark L. Gardner wrote a foreword for the new edition of Charles J. Brill, *Custer, Black Kettle, and the Fight on the Washita*, published last year by the University of Oklahoma Press.

SFTA member Sue Peeler, Pollock, MO, is writing a western historical romance set along the Trail in 1847. She writes, "writing it has brought back memories of traveling the Trail and attending the La Junta symposium in 1993."

A special program to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Fort Riley, KS, which had a close association with the Santa Fe Trail, will be held at Fort Riley, September 11-12, 2003.

Ed Eberheart, a professional hiker, walked along the Trail from central Missouri to Santa Fe, July 29-August 26, 2002. He then headed for San Diego, completing a cross-continent trip.

## COUNCIL TROVE

### —DOCUMENTS—

#### ED MILLER GRAVE

Mel and Mary Cottom, Manhattan, KS, located the following article in the Cherryvale, KS, *Daily Republican*, December 29, 1911. It is a fitting follow-up to the Ed Miller article by John Stratton in the last issue of WT. The following item mistakenly gives the year of Miller's death as 1865 instead of 1864. It is printed here as originally published.

#### WAS VICTIM OF INDIANS

#### Grave of Marion County Settler Will Be Marked

Peabody, Kans., Dec. 27—The old Santa Fe trail movement so actively being waged through Central Kansas has renewed interest in the killing by the Indians of Ed. Miller, the only man killed by Indians in the settlement of Marion county.

Miller was killed in 1865 [1864] and the other day, forty-six years afterward, a committee, comprised of Taylor Riddle, the widely known Democratic politician, "Hank" Roberts, Lew Riggs and H. P. Paddock, all of Marion, went west along the old trail in a search for Miller's grave. They located it just over the line in McPherson county, two miles east of Canton, on the farm of M. M. Jones. It is about 300 feet south of and can be plainly seen from the Santa Fe railroad. A marker will be placed at a point on the old Santa Fe trail, nearest to the grave, with a statement of the facts of the killing on it and directions to travelers for finding it. "Hank" Roberts had not seen the grave since the day it was made and Miller was laid away in it. Taylor Riddle had seen it often as he, thirty years ago, had a ranch in its vicinity.

Speaking of the intense excitement among the settlers that followed the killing, Taylor Riddle told the following:

"In July, 1865, 'Lank' Moore, the owner of Moore's ranch on the Santa Fe trail, was in Marion with his family, for a brief stay. Mrs. Moore's health was poor and she was anxious to have her mother come and see her. Her mother was Mrs. Waterman, wife of the proprietor of big Turkey creek ranch, northwest

of Marion, in McPherson county. Ed. Miller, the 18 year old son of Marion's first hotel keeper, was selected to go to the Turkey creek ranch to bring Mrs. Waterman to Marion. He left his home and went to 'French Frank's' ranch on the Santa Fe trail. ('French Frank' was Frank La Lodge, one of the early French settlers of Marion county, now a resident retired farmer of Florence.) He ate breakfast and left at 8 o'clock in the morning for Turkey creek ranch, ten miles down the trail, southwest.

"Al Bichet (now also a respected resident of Florence), a young 'French Frank,' rode three miles with Miller and was the last white man who saw him alive. About half an hour after Miller and Bichet parted company, the Watermans, at their ranch, saw a lone horseman coming rapidly along the trail from the east. Just a short time before they had seen a party of about twenty Cheyenne Indians killing a cow about a mile east of the ranch. Suspecting that the Indians were hostile and that the approaching horseman was some one of their friends, they hastened to the top of their house and with a field glass got a view, extending several miles east along the trail. Ed. Miller, it proved later to be, was riding fast along the trail and did not seem to scent any danger until he was within two hundred yards of the Indians. Up to that time there had been no hostile action on the part of the Indians but suddenly they grabbed up their weapons and mounted their horses. The lone horseman wheeled his horse and started down the trail east, with the Indians in pursuit. He was holding his own in the race with them when all disappeared from view in a cloud of dust.

"Two days later the Watermans became uneasy because they had heard nothing from their daughter, whom they knew was sick, and they came to Marion. The first question asked the was, 'Where is Ed Miller?' They had not seen Ed. Miller but they told the story of the lone horseman and the boy's father and mother knew he had been killed by the Indians. The next day "Hank" Roberts and three others started in search of the boy.

They found his mutilated body four miles west of 'French Frank's' and buried him on a beautiful mount near the trail. This is the grave that the trail committee located the other day."

## CHEAP WHISKEY BROUGHT DRUNKENNESS TO NEW MEXICO

by Marc Simmons

*[This article appeared in Simmons's newspaper column, "Trail Dust," in the Santa Fe New Mexican, June 22, 2002, and is reprinted here with permission and special thanks to the author.]*

**W**HAT was New Mexico famous for in the 1830s and 1840s? It wasn't pretty landscapes, spicy cooking or wild dances called fandangos, although the territory had plenty of all three.

No, New Mexico's renown, throughout the Rocky Mountains at least, rested upon its celebrated whiskey that went by the colorful name Taos Lightning. By all accounts, a jigger of that heady stuff, swallowed in a single gulp, could knock a fellow's boots off.

The source of this stout spirit lay in the bountiful wheat fields of the Taos Valley. In 1824, a couple of Missouri backwoodsmen who had settled there looked at all that grain and wondered what kind of beverage it might be made to yield.

They brought a copper still from the East, opened a small distillery and came out with a liquor more potent than corn whiskey - or White Mule, as Southerners termed it.

The new creation, Taos Lightning, won immediate acceptance. Several well-staffed distilleries appeared at Taos proper and at Ranchos de Taos. The largest, however, was established by Missouri-born Simon Turley at Arroyo Hondo, 12 miles north of Taos Pueblo.

In 1836, Turley hired Charlie Autobeas as a traveling salesman. With pack mules carrying 10-gallon wooden casks of Taos Lightning, Charlie ranged as far north as the Platte River, vending his liquid wares.

The casks were purchased by owners of fur-trading posts who resold the liquor to trappers, American In-

dians and even agents of Canada's Hudson Bay Co. Through the latter, Taos Lightning became available to guzzlers in faraway British Columbia and other western Canadian provinces.

Since the Taos product was 40 percent to 50 percent proof, imbibers easily got roaring drunk, and sometimes dangerous. One trader on the Missouri River was reported to have laced his casks with laudanum (tincture of opium) to help control the unruliness of his customers.

New Mexican liquor venders who dealt with the Comanches on the Texas plains had their own method of self-protection. They buried their casks several miles out before going into the tepee village.

Upon trading for buffalo robes, they made a quick exit, leaving one of their number as hostage. After a half-day, he would guide the Comanches to the alcohol and then ride at top speed to get away before the big drunk began.

Intoxication also became a problem among New Mexicans themselves. British traveler George F. Ruxton, visiting New Mexico in 1846, took note of Taos Lightning, calling it "a raw, fiery spirit."

On the Santa Fe Plaza, he was shocked to see that every other place of business was "a whiskey shop disgorging reeling, drunken men." The revelers were both native Santa Feans and recently arrived American soldiers.

Before the appearance of Taos Lightning, drunkenness had been fairly rare in Hispanic New Mexico. The main reason was the small supply of hard liquor.

Franciscan padres in the 1620s developed the first large-scale vineyards in the Piro pueblos of the Socorro Valley. They made sacramental wine and grape brandy, using a copper still.

Others soon produced wine and brandy commercially. But the poor rural masses usually could not afford either beverage. When Americans arrived in the 19th century, they enjoyed the local brandy, but they preferred Taos Lightning if they could get it. That became impossible in early 1847, since the Turley distillery was destroyed during the Taos insurrection. Simon Turley and most

of his employees were killed.

But by then barrels of Kentucky whiskey were being imported over the Santa Fe Trail. That was too expensive to be used in the Indian trade. So a cheap substitute was created.

Here's the recipe: To one gallon of silty water from the Rio Grande, add a pint of raw grain alcohol, a dash of bitters, a pinch of Jamaica ginger and one plug of chewing tobacco. Stir and age overnight.

For obvious reasons, this concoction became known as rot-gut whiskey!

## CAMP TALES

### —CHAPTER REPORTS—

#### Cimarron Cutoff

President D. Ray Blakeley  
PO Box 222  
Clayton NM 88415  
(505) 374-2555

The January 18 meeting was scheduled at Springfield, CO, with a program on the Trail in southeastern Colorado by Lolly Ming. The April meeting will be in Morton County, KS, with a planned wagon ride along a portion of the Trail. The July meeting is scheduled in Clayton, NM.

#### Texas Panhandle

President Kathy Revett Wade  
1615 Bryan Place #14  
Amarillo TX 79102  
(806) 371-9309  
<krevett@arn.net>

In March 2003 we plan to meet at the Crosbyton Museum east of Lubbock. In April or May we will meet at Wildcat Bluff and surrounding area with Alvin Lyn, the authority on the location of trails in the area, and SFTA President Hal Jackson as guest.

#### Wagon Bed Spring

President Jeff Trotman  
PO Box 1005  
Ulysses KS 67880  
(620) 356-1854  
<jtkb@pld.com>

President Trotman has carefully checked out proposed gas drilling sites by BP America near the Trail in Kearny County and forwarded this information to SFTA environmental lookout Faye Gaines and to the National Park Service. There was cooperation from the company. After assessment of the proposed sites, ap-

proval was given to BP America to drill.

#### Heart of the Flint Hills

President Carol L. Retzer  
4215 E 245th St  
Lyndon KS 66451  
785) 828-3739  
<carolandrick@grapevine.net>

The chapter met January 23 at the home of Carol Retzer and Rick Antisdell in Lyndon. Sixteen chapter members/directors enjoyed a soup supper, complete with more tasty goodies than any of us really needed, before getting "down to business".

Officers elected are President Carol Retzer, Vice-President Don Cress, Secretary Helen Ericson, Treasurer Joleen Day, Morris County Directors Don Cress and Leland Zerbe, Lyon County Directors Joleen Day and Helen Ericson, Osage County Directors Carol Retzer and Al Bunting, Wabaunsee County Directors Lois DeWitt and Cathy Swartz, and At-Large Director Sheila Litke.

Our main concern these days is the ever-rising cost of liability insurance for our yearly trail ride. Al Bunting referred us to a new company, and after some research we voted to replace our existing policy with one from American Horseman's Insurance. This should offer a great deal of financial relief for the chapter.

Our trail ride this year is scheduled to start on June 13. That's Friday the 13th, so wish us all luck! The ride will end in Council Grove, KS, with our participation in the Wah-Shun-Ga days parade June 21. Work is being done to lay out the route and will be announced in the next newsletter. Also included will be a liability waiver and registration form. The number of participants is limited, and we encourage early registration. We invite all trail enthusiasts to join us for this week of fun and adventure.

We continue to struggle with renovation of the Wilmington Schoolhouse. Vandals and time have taken their toll of this lovely old place. Craftsmen are very difficult to find, even more difficult to get to commit to the job. If anyone out there has a referral, feel free to contact us.

Our next chapter meeting will be April 23. Please contact President Retzer if you have any questions.

#### End of the Trail

President Pam Najdowski  
1810 Paseo de La Conquistadora  
Santa Fe NM 87501  
(505) 982-1172  
<mikenaj@cnsf.com>

There was a great turnout of members and guests at the November meeting to hear Pam Najdowski tell of the life and time of James L. Johnson, trader and resident of Santa Fe at the end of the Trail. The meeting was in El Zagan, where Johnson resided from 1854-1897.

Pam gave a detailed account of his wholesale and retail business, his business partners, some examples of goods traded, and prices at the time. She also gave figures for some of the real estate prices.

Johnson's mercantile company went bankrupt in 1881, and most of his holdings went to Thomas B. Catron who held mortgages on the properties. El Zagan passed from Catron to James Baca, a Johnson grandson, in 1918. Baca defaulted on the loan and the property went to Bronson Cutting. In 1927 Cutting sold the property to Margretta Dietrick who converted the property into apartments.

After Dietrick's death in 1961, the building was bought for preservation by El Zagan, Inc. In 1979 ownership was transferred to the Historic Foundation. The property still has apartments for rent. Constant Chapman, great-grandson of Johnson, was on hand to share family memories and information about preservation of the home.

It was a fine experience to convene in Johnson's home to hear about the history of the man and his home and to relate it to the time when trade goods were transported along the Santa Fe Trail.

On January 18 the chapter heard a presentation by Mary Jean Cook, local historian, who is investigating the life and legacy of the renowned Doña Tules, who is noted for entertaining and housing the U.S. military after the U.S. claimed New Mexico in 1847.

Mary Jean's talk was confined to Doña Tules's will, its significance and importance. It was written in English, although Tules was supposed to be illiterate in English. Mary Jean thinks she has discovered

who may have written the will. She has also investigated the histories of those named in the will, which makes for a very interesting picture of Doña Tules. There are still gaps in the story. Mary Jean noted, "Women's histories are difficult to research because of so little documentation."

Plans are arranged for the six western chapters meeting, to be hosted by the chapter, in Santa Fe, June 14-15. See article and insert in this issue.

Pam Najdowski has been researching implementation of the Old Fort Marcy Site interpretation plans which were drawn up years ago. In 1963 *The New Mexican* supported the plan in an editorial, ending with the question, "What are we waiting for?" Pam has picked up on the question and is exploring avenues of funding, with hope this year will be the year.

### Corazón de los Caminos

President Mary Whitmore  
120 Gabaldon Route  
Las Vegas NM 87701  
(505) 454-0683  
<whitmore@newmexico.com>  
<www.nmhu.edu/research/sftrail/corazon.htm>

Greetings for 2003! First, brief notes on other Trails. The Old Spanish Trail was recognized as a new National Historic Trail by Congress and President Bush in December 2002. That 1200-mile trail runs from northern New Mexico through Colorado, Utah, and Nevada to Los Angeles, California. The End of the Trail Chapter tentatively plans a joint meeting on March 22 with Salida del Sol Chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association and the Docents of the Palace of the Governors on Commerce of the Trails.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association will have its first organizational meeting in Socorro, NM, on March 14 and 15. This international conference will feature speakers Marc Simmons, Oakah L. Jones, Jr. (historian and author), and José Luis Punzo Díaz (Director, Museo de las Culturas Del Norte, Paquimé, Casas Grandes, México). Pre-registration (\$25) by March 1 is essential due to space limitations. Contact John Bloom in Las Cruces, NM, at (505) 382-0722 for more in-

formation.

According to a press release from U.S. Representative Tom Udall, "the National Park Service is currently conducting a three-year feasibility study to determine if routes comprising what is known as the Native American Long Walk qualify for National Historic Trail status. President Bush signed that bill, authored by Udall, into law on August 21, 2002."

As for our own chapter, based on a membership survey last fall, we are returning to holding our meetings on the **third Sunday of the month**. The following is our opening calendar; the rest will be forthcoming in the next issue. Please contact Mary Whitmore at (505) 454-0683 or Tibor Remenyik at (505) 454-1307 if you have questions.

**Mar. 16:** Presentation by Richard and Shirley Flint about Hispanic employees at Fort Union. Meet at 1 p.m., downstairs in the Spic and Span Restaurant, Las Vegas.

**Apr. 20:** Annual Work Day at Fort Union National Monument beginning at 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

**May 18:** Field trip to Hatch's Ranch ruins on Park Springs Ranch, south of Las Vegas. A panel will present the story of the site: Marc Simmons will address "the times." Jean Brittingham (ranch owner) will tell about "the land." Diana Dunn (a Hatch descendant) will talk about "the family." Leo Oliva will serve as moderator and will speak about "the military post" at Hatch's Ranch. The tour will start at 1:30 preceded by a BYOPL (bring your own picnic lunch) at noon.

It is going to be a very exciting year for Trail enthusiasts.

### Wet/Dry Routes

President Rusti Gardner  
801 Vernon Dr  
Larned KS 67550  
(620) 285-3433  
<jaxrus@larned.net>

The chapter held a joint meeting with the DodgeCity/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter in Dodge City on November 3, 2002. Following a business meeting, George Elmore reported on the Cheyenne and Sioux Village Site brochure recently published by the Fort Larned Old Guard. The program was "Murder

and Mayhem at Walnut Creek" by David Clapsaddle.

The winter meeting was January 12, 2003, at the Kinsley Municipal Building. Officers for 2003 were elected: President Rusti Gardner, Vice-President Barbara German, Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Koester, and Program Director David Clapsaddle. Reports were given on the seminar scheduled at Fort Larned NHS May 3 and an interpretive marker was approved for the Pawnee Fork Crossing near Larned with reference to the precursors of the Santa Fe Trail who used the crossing: Coronado, Melgares, Pike, and others.

Two presentations were made. A donation of \$500 was presented to Leo Oliva, chairman of the Fort Larned Old Guard, to assist with the printing of the recently-published brochure about the site of the Cheyenne/Sioux Village on Pawnee Fork. The Faye Anderson Award was presented to the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association. Craig Crease was present to represent that organization and receive the award.

Following the business meeting, SFTA President Hal Jackson presented a program on the parallels of the Zebulon Pike Expedition and the Jacob Fowler Expedition.

The spring meeting will be at Fort Larned NHS, April 6, 2:00 p.m. George Elmore, park ranger and historian, will present the program.

### Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron

President Bill Bunyan  
2207 McCoy  
Dodge City KS 67801  
(620) 227-8203

Officers and directors for 2003-2004 were elected at the joint meeting with the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter on November 3, 2002: President Bill Bunyan, Vice-President Jim Sherer, Secretary Kathie Bell, Treasurer/Historian Richard Dryden, and Directors Keith Chadd and Dixie Oringdorff. Bunyan is a charter member of SFTA and has served on several local, regional, and state historical societies' boards.

Bill and his wife Susan traveled the entire length of the Santa Fe Trail in 1999. He presented the first program of the new year on January 8, which covered their 1999 Trail adventure.

## Missouri River Outfitters

President Nancy Lewis  
1112 Oak Ridge Dr  
Blue Springs MO 64015  
(816) 229-8379  
<SFTAMRO@aol.com>

Members of the chapter have been meeting regularly to plan the symposium. Tour Chair Ross Marshall has organized several tours that are sure to be outstanding. Recently we advertised a call for tour guides. If anyone has a few hours to spare and would like to learn more about the Trail, consider volunteering to be a guide. The training process will be fun, and you can join others in learning about the Trail from Lexington to Olathe.

The chapter met on Sunday, January 26 for a joint gathering with members of other historical organizations. Members of the public and educators from the Fort Osage and Raytown School Districts attended as well. Members Nancy Lewis and Anne Mallinson presented the Humanities program, "Fare of the Expedition." While learning about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, members of the audience had the opportunity to taste various foods that men of the expedition would have eaten. Anne and Nancy served squash and wild onions, deer steak (from a Missouri deer), sourdough bread, and a cooked pudding of wild fruits gathered locally.

The nominating committee was elected. Sandy Slusher is chairperson and announced that anyone wishing to serve as a board member or an officer should contact her. Elections will be held at the next meeting in March. Six members renewed. Members were encouraged to attend the SFTA board meeting, March 21-22.

John Atkinson and John Schumacher reported that they had recently been working on the mapping of extended areas of the Santa Fe Trail in Kansas. The meeting adjourned for additional refreshments.

## Quivira

President Britt Colle  
PO Box 1105  
McPherson KS 67460  
(620) 241-8719  
<blkcolle@midusa.net>

The chapter is starting plans for the 2005 symposium to be held in McPherson, KS.

## Cottonwood Crossing

President Gil Michel  
605 Park Place  
Newton KS 67114  
(620) 284-0313

The chapter met November 21 in Canton. A short business meeting was held, followed by election for 2003 officers: President Gil Michel, Vice-President Dale Brooks, Secretary Vernon Lorentz, Treasurer Bill Silverstrand, and board members Steve Schmidt, Sharon Schute, and John E. Wiebe. A guest speaker gave a presentation on the Mormon Battalion.

The board met January 21 in Hesston for a planning session. Among items discussed were dates for future board and chapter meetings, ideas for programs and activities, and plans for signs along the auto tour route in Marion County.

The next chapter meeting will be March 20 in Florence. There will be a dinner and program at the Harvey House Museum.

## Bent's Fort

President Richard Carrillo  
718 W. 2nd St.  
La Junta CO 81050  
(719) 384-8054  
<cuartejo@centurytel.net>

No report.



## KANSAS HERITAGE CENTER DODGE CITY, KS 67801

A resource center for the history of the American West, available for teachers and the general public, including books, newspapers, photographs, census records, microfilm, and videos. The gift shop features books, maps, posters, and many other items. Call for a catalog. Open 8-5, Monday-Friday.  
1000 2nd Ave, PO Box 1207  
(620) 227-1616; FAX 227-1701  
<www.ksheritage.org>

## HELP WANTED

Seeking information and/or descendants on Watrous Family that lived Watrous, NM, during the 1800s. Samuel Bowman Watrous had three wives: Tomacita Crespín, Rosa and Josephine Chapin. Daughters of Samuel are Belinda Wildenstein, Emeteria Gregg, Louise Kronig, Mary M. Tipton, Mary A.

Johnson, and Rose Lange. Sons are Joseph B., Samuel B., Jr. and Charles E. Also looking for article said to have appeared in "a western magazine" titled "The Fastest Ox Train in the West," which told the story of the Watrous freight line. Thank you for any assistance.

Frankie Sue Rider  
PO Box 814  
Poteau OK 74953  
<frankiesue@clnk.com>

My grandmother lived nine miles west of Dodge at a place called nine-mile house (a sod house used as a stopover for freight wagons prior to the railroad), 1867-1877, when she moved to Dodge City to work at Dr. McCarty's Drug Store. If anyone can help me find the location of the sod house, I would really appreciate it. I would like to write a children's book about her life on the Trail.

Shirley M. Carey  
198 Eagle Dr So  
Canon City CO 81212

## NEW SFTA MEMBERS

This list includes new memberships received since the last issue. 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.

There have been 10 life memberships added since last issue, making a total of 16, one of whom is a new member.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Theo Hunt, 27212 Lost Colt Dr,  
Laguna Hills CA 92653

## FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Bob and Phyllis Anderson, PO Box 113,  
Kenton OK 73946  
Jim, Helen & Sheryl Barr, 6996 S  
Spruce Dr W, Centennial CO  
80112

James and Mamie Crabb, 6285 Old  
Post Rd, Garden City KS 667846

Craig and Nancy Groth, PO Box 325,  
Satanta KS 67870

Darlene Groth, RR 1 Box 121, Sa-  
tanta KS 67870

Carroll Whiting, 2170 8th Rd, Blue  
Rapids KS 66411

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Joy Blanton, PO Box 1062, Lamar CO  
81052

Shirley M. Carey, 198 Eagle Drive  
So, Canon City CO 81212  
William C. Carson, 978 Indian Ridge  
Rd, Santa Fe NM 87501  
Steve Charles, 251 Beech Hollow Rd,  
Killen AL 35645  
Sandy Clifton, 545 W Colorado,  
Amarillo TX 79108  
David DuBois, 829 Burlington Rd,  
Pittsgrove NJ 08318  
Eric Karnes, 3329 E Bayud Ave  
#1503, Denver CO 80209  
Charles Nobles, 2746 S Hudson Ave,  
Tulsa OK 74114  
Carolyn K. Robinson, 505 Oppen-  
heimer Dr #510, Los Alamos NM  
87544  
Battle Smith, 228 Chestnut Ave, St  
Louis MO 63119  
Laura I. Streeter, PO Box 815, Cana-  
dian TX 79014  
Kay Townsend, 421 8<sup>th</sup> St, Las Vegas  
NM 87701

### TRAIL CALENDAR

Everyone is invited to send no-  
tices for this section; provide loca-  
tion, date, time, and activity. This is  
a quarterly. The next issue should  
appear in May, so send information  
for June and later to arrive by April  
20, 2003. Thank you. Dates of addi-  
tional events may be found in chap-  
ter reports.

**Mar. 6, 2003:** Kaw Mission program  
on Quapaw Tribe, Council Grove,  
7:00 p.m.

**Mar. 14-15, 2003:** Meeting to organ-  
ize El Camino Real Association, In-  
ternational Heritage Center south of  
Socorro, NM.

### Symposium 2003

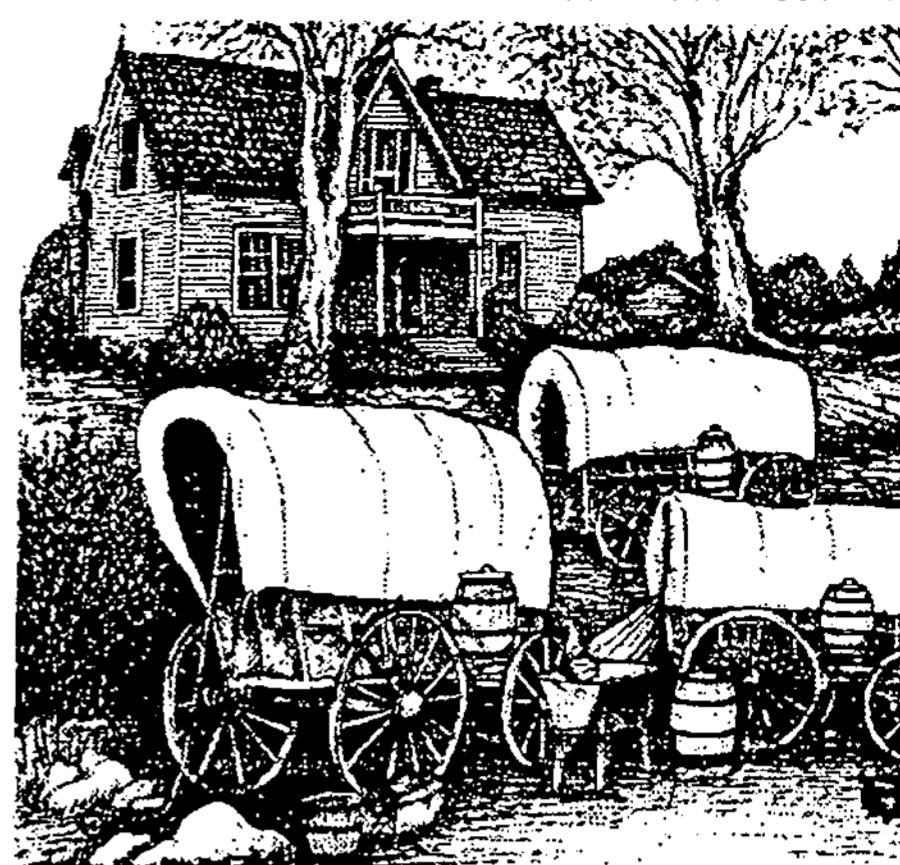
Independence/Kansas City MO  
*"A Highway Between Nations"*



MISSOURI RIVER OUTFITTERS  
September 25, 26, 27, 28

Join us for a tour of  
the Rice-Tremonti Home  
and Schumacher Park.

Symposium Coordinator-Anne Mallinson



**Mar. 16, 2003:** Corazón Chapter  
meeting, 1:00 p.m., Spic & Span, Las  
Vegas, NM.

**Mar. 20, 2003:** Cottonwood Crossing  
Chapter meeting at Florence, KS,  
(620) 284-0313.

**April 6, 2003:** Wet/Dry Routes  
Chapter meeting, Fort Larned NHS,  
2:00 p.m.

**April 10, 2003:** Kaw Mission pro-  
gram on Ponca Tribe, Council Grove,  
7:00 p.m.

**April 20, 2003:** Corazón Chapter an-  
nual work day at Fort Union Na-  
tional Monument, beginning 10:00  
a.m., lunch provided.

**May 3, 2003:** Wet/Dry Routes Chap-  
ter Trail Seminar and Fort Larned  
Old Guard Annual Meeting, Larned,  
KS.

**May 8, 2003:** Kaw Mission program  
on Omaha Tribe, Council Grove, 7:00  
p.m.

**May 18, 2003:** Corazón Chapter  
meeting at Hatch's Ranch, sack  
lunch at noon, program to follow.

**June 7, 2003:** National Trails Day,  
<NTD@AmericanHiking.org>.

**June 14-15, 2003:** Six Western  
Chapters gathering, Santa Fe, NM.  
For information call (505) 473-3124  
or (505) 244-7608.

**Aug. 10-16, 2003:** OCTA National  
Convention, Manhattan, KS.

**Sept. 25-28, 2003:** SFTA Sympo-  
sium, Independence, MO.

### FROM THE EDITOR

There are many activities coming  
up along the Trail, so make plans  
now to participate in as many as pos-  
sible, especially the 2003 Sympo-  
sium in September. Get those nomi-  
nations of candidates for office to  
Roger Slusher and for SFTA awards  
to Mike Olsen. Start reading about  
the Pike Expedition and take a look  
at the web site <<http://pikebicentennial.org>>. It is never too late to get  
into a rut.

Happy Trails!

—Leo E. Oliva

**Santa Fe Trail Association**  
PO Box 31  
Woodston, KS 67675

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## ADDENDUM

[Editor's Note: The sad news of the death of Connie Casteel and the addition of several new members arrived after this issue had gone to the printers, and the other items were omitted by mistake of a misplaced file.]

### CONNIE CASTEEL

Connie Casteel, Alamosa, CO, wife of former SFTA board member Earl Casteel, lost her second bout with cancer in December 2002, at age 62. She was a member of the board of the Old Spanish Trail Association as well as an active member of SFTA. Professionally, she was the director of Saguache County Social Services. Sincere sympathy is extended to Earl and the rest of her family and her many friends.

### PEDRO RIBERA ORTEGA

Mary Jean Copk sent the following note and editorial regarding Pedro Ortega, a Santa Fe teacher, scholar, historian, and gentleman whose life deserves commemoration. She wrote:

"Pedro taught at Santa Fe High School long after I had graduated. Last year, I received a letter from him with a check enclosed for a copy of my book, *Loretto: The Sisters and Their Santa Fe Chapel*. I took it by his small Garcia Street home, where his ancestors had lived for centuries. We visited about "old Santa Fe" and the many changes our lives had witnessed. Adios, amigo. MJCook."

#### **Pedro Ribera Ortega was Cultural Campeador [Warrior]**

[Editorial, Santa Fe New Mexican, January 10, 2003.]

To his students, he was *Señor*. And there was, about Pedro Ribera Ortega, much of the *señorial*; a graceful manner, paying-respect; a characteristic prized among the people of Spain, a land he loved.

He died this week in a place his ancestors helped build as an outpost of New Spain: *la Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco de Asis*.

Few felt the pull of Iberia as strongly as Pedro Ribera Ortega did. During summers off from Santa Fe High School, this teacher of Latin, English, Spanish and history would wander about Spain, captivated by its culture and compelled to read and collect its written works. His interest extended to Mexico's viceregal heartland, another rich source for research into the history and lore lending so much influence to New Mexico.

He was a founding member of Los Caballeros de Vargas, who have done so much to keep Santa Fe's Fiesta traditions alive, and a leader of several Hispanic-heritage organizations.

As an editor of Spanish-language publications, and as a contributor of commentaries to this and other papers, he was a constant champion of Spanish culture in the face of historical revisionism and the "black legend" of an evil Spain versus a beneficent Britain in the New World.

But most of all, *Señor* was a teacher-in and out of the classroom. Brandishing books of great beauty and lovely prose, he would pay visits to this office and others around town, telling all who'd listen about our region's Spanish roots. Enthusiasm welling within his courtly demeanor, he could take you back to a day of dauntless explorers, an era of empires founded for king and cross.

And a mentor of Latin; think of that. His better students still can recite the Pledge of Allegiance in that allegedly dead language, while generations of Demons [school's football team] remember the sacrifice of a chicken that began the yearly Roman Feast by toga-clad teens.

In Truchas, where he spent part of the year, his 50,000-volume library will need the care of successors sharing his enthusiasm and willing to develop his wealth of knowledge.

That's a tall order--but surely the spirit of Pedro Ribera Ortega will live on.

## MORE NEW MEMBERS

### **BUSINESS/INSTITUTION MEMBERSHIPS:**

Otero Museum Association, PO Box 223, La Junta CO 81050

### **FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS:**

Jim & Alle Barron, 6930 Sweetgrass Ct, Topeka KS 66614

John & Beverly Chapman, RR 1 Box 15, Goodwell OK 73939

M/M R. E. Edmiston, 2630 S Holly, Denver CO 80222

Albert Lavigne & M. Joan MacNeish, 167 Hwy 72, Raton NM 87740

Willard & Mary Loudon, PO Box 172, Branson CO 81027

Karyl Lyne & Patrick Rucker, 89 roadrunner Rd, Las Vegas NM 87701

M/M R. L. Sharp, 12 Donnington, Pueblo CO 81005

Don & Gayle Turrentine, 7146 Summit Ln, Shawnee KS 66216

(continued on other side)

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Marvin Barnes, 1348 S Coffman #7, Longmont CO 80501  
Robert E. Goodfellow, PO Box 656, Rociada NM 87742  
Kevin Heckathorn, 1900 NW Lyman Rd #74, Topeka KS 66608  
Bruce Jackson, 821 Allen Dr, Longmont CO 80503  
Laura Jackson, 1214 Barton Hills Dr #303, Austin TX 78704  
Alvin Lynn, 7311 Cat Creek Ln, Amarillo TX 79108  
Dennis J. Mahaney, 5 Standish Ct #D, Greenfield MA 01301  
Steve Podszus, PO Box 102, Lincolnville KS 66858  
Paul Rheingold, 5 Manursing Way, Rye NY 10580  
David Steffan, 128 E Virginia, La Veta CO 81055  
William O. Stevens, 508 NW 1001 Rd, Centerview MO 64019  
Floyd Trujillo, 1401 17th St Ste 1200, Denver CO 80202  
Lawrence J. Tynan, PO Box 850, Rociada NM 87742

## SFTA AMBASSADOR PAUL BENTRUP'S BIRTHDAY

SFTA Ambassador Paul Bentrup, charter member of SFTA who has received many awards and honors, including designation of the honorary position of ambassador as the "Paul F. Bentrup Ambassador Award," will celebrate his 86th birthday on February 19. Unfortunately this information will reach most readers after the fact, but a belated wish to the esteemed ambassador will still be appreciated. His address is PO Box 595, Lakin KS 67860. Happy Birthday Paul!

## OLD SPANISH TRAIL NAMED NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

THE Old Spanish Trail running from Santa Fe to Los Angeles has been designated a National Historic Trail by Act of Congress signed into law by President George W. Bush on December 4, 2002. This was accomplished through the efforts of the Old Spanish Trail Association and support of Colorado Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. The next step will be preparation of a Comprehensive Management Plan for this trail.

OSTA has a fine publication, *Spanish Traces*, and a web site at <<http://www.oldspanishtrail.org>>. The Winter 2003 issue of *Spanish Traces* features a two-page article about historian Marc Simmons, founder and first president of SFTA and renowned historian of the Southwest. Other articles trace the steps leading to designation of the National Historic Trail. OSTA's annual conference is June 21-22, 2003, at Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO. Membership is \$15 per year, and life membership is a bargain at \$250. Send membership to OSTA Treasurer, PO Box 7, Marysville WA 98270.

## SFTA MEMBERSHIP ROSTER TO BE AVAILABLE AS OPTION

SOMETIME back the SFTA board of directors decided that an annual printing of the membership roster, with distribution to all members, was an expense that might not be desired by all members. As the governing board struggles to maintain a balanced budget, an annual roster appeared to be an item of low priority. The last roster printed was in November 2001.

Beginning in May 2003, a printed membership roster will be available on demand as a plastic-comb-bound booklet for a charge of \$5.00 postpaid from SFTA Last Chance Store. These will be printed and bound as ordered, so each will be current on the date published. By this method there will be no expense to SFTA for publishing a roster, and there will be a clear indication of how many people desire a list of members with mailing addresses and, when available, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. The format will be the same as previously published rosters. Orders will be accepted beginning May 1, 2003, at SFTA Last Chance Store, PO Box 3, Woodston KS 67675, phone (888) 321-7341 or e-mail <[oliva@ruraltel.net](mailto:oliva@ruraltel.net)>.

## LATE ADDITION TO BUSINESS/INSTITUTION DIRECTORY

### MUSEUMS

Otero Museum Association  
706 W 3rd St  
PO Box 223  
La Junta CO 81050  
(719) 384-7406