

# Wagon Tracks

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Issue 1 *Wagon Tracks* Volume 15, Issue 1 (November 2000)

Article 1

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2001

## Wagon Tracks. Volume 15, Issue 1 (November, 2000)

Santa Fe Trail Association

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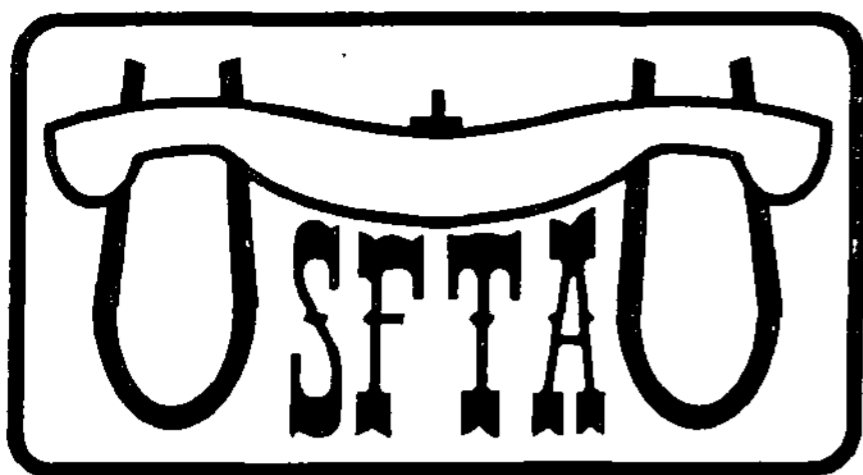
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# WAGON TRACKS

**SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY**

VOLUME 15

NOVEMBER 2000

NUMBER 1



## DUB COUCH JOINS BOARD

**DUB** Couch, Rocky Ford, Colorado, vice-president of Bent's Fort Chapter, has been selected by the SFTA board to complete the term of Phil Petersen, representative from Colorado who resigned because of other obligations. Couch, an affable fellow with a well-honed sense of humor, is a native of Oklahoma, graduate of Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University), and was a cattle buyer for 40 years (starting when he was 16 years old). He was owner/broker of a commodity futures office for a decade. He has taught farm/ranch management classes at community colleges and helped write curriculum requirements in this field for all eleven community colleges in Colorado.

Couch started buying and selling golf carts as a hobby, "to have something to do with my hands and to relieve stress of the office." Since he retired from the futures office, and realizing that retirement "did not work," Couch says today "the golf cart business is bigger than I thought or wanted it to become."

He has been active and held offices in several service organizations, including Rocky Ford Rotary Club, Rocky Ford Country Club, Tri-

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November 2000

## NEW-FOUND SWALES DEDICATED IN INDEPENDENCE

by Jane Mallinson

(Mallinson, Sugar Creek, MO, is a charter member of SFTA, Missouri River Outfitters Chapter, and Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center, and she is a frequent contributor to WT.)

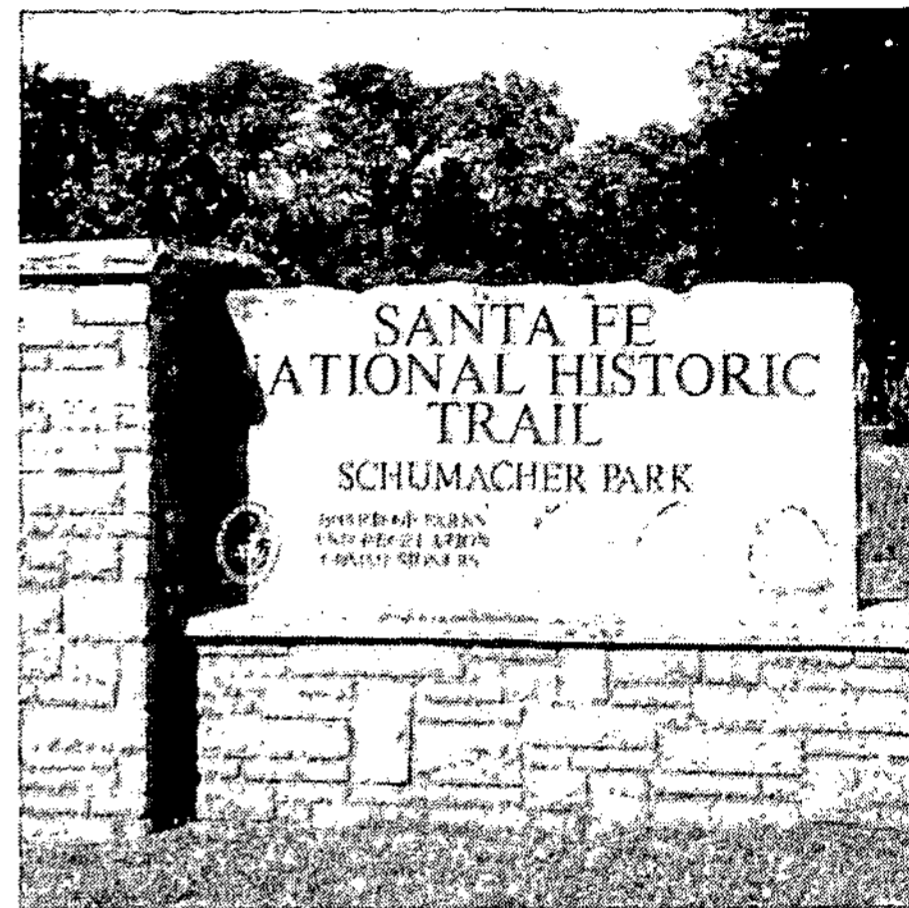
A large crowd gathered on October 18 for the dedication of the historic wagon swales and improvements on the grounds of the Bingham-Wagoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Since their discovery and documentation in 1999, these wagon ruts or swales on the south side of the estate have been made more accessible by the installation of a bridge and paved walking trail. Three interpretive signs are planned for installation later. The new asphalt walking trail guides visitors from the parking lot to the new bridge and loops around the eleven swales.

The ribbon was cut by Independence Mayor Ron Stewart who was introduced by John Mark Lambertson, Director of the National Frontier Trails Center, 318 N. Pacific. Lambertson discovered these ruts in an

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**Mayor Ron Stewart, I., assisted by John Mark Lambertson, cutting ribbon at bridge of new walking trail.**



## SCHUMACHER PARK DEDICATION

by Julie Daicoff

(Daicoff, Olathe, KS, is a member of the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter and reporter of Trail events in the area.)

**ON** a hot summer day with the wind gently blowing, surrounded by bluestem prairie, Schumacher Park, located at 6601 East 93rd Street, Kansas City, Missouri, was dedicated on August 29, 2000. With quiet fanfare the ceremony was filled with passion and pride. The program included inspirational music, picturesque views, and acknowledgments of deep gratitude to the Schumacher family and others involved in the creation of this Trail landmark.

The ceremony began with Geneva Price, professional vocalist, singing "Oh Shenandoah." The full-bodied sounds echoed through the crowd of more than 150 people thinking about the song's lyric, "Across the wide Missouri." With the flags of the United States and Mexico surrounding the pavilion and an honor guard from every branch of Kansas City Missouri public service, the significance of this event began to unfold. First was the traditional passing out of plaques to honor those who helped with this project and the typical

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**R**ENDEZVOUS seemed to offer a bit of something for those of all persuasions—a bit of wind [editor's note: not just from the speakers], a bit of heat, a bit of rain, and a bit of perfect weather. Unfortunately, what it did not produce was a large SFTA attendance. Actually, the number of attendees—approximately 200—was perfect for the program offered—no long lines, choice seats, active Q&A periods, and we did not run out of food. Again, Ruth Peters, Steve Linderer, and all those involved demonstrated superb conference organizational skills—it was a flawless event. Quivira Chapter members Maurine and Pat Hall planned one of the coffee breaks with little advance notice. I bear testimony to the tasty sweets they provided.

Quantity may have been missing, but quality was ever-present at the SFTA business events. Although only three committees chose to meet, the content of these meetings reinforced their value. Hopefully, that number will increase at Symposium 2001. The business meetings will be detailed elsewhere, but several issues raised at the Board of Directors meeting bear repeating. The number of applications for Speakers Bureau grants has been less than robust, with only two awards made thus far this year. As an effort to stimulate chapter interest in these grants, a speakers' directory will be produced. A planned giving recognition society was given the nod, to be named the Josiah Gregg Society. Mike Patterson, our planned giving consultant, will draft the policy. There was extensive discussion of suggested by-laws revisions which were prepared by Jane Mallinson. The Board will review the final draft at its 2001 mid-year meeting, with the revisions slated for action by the membership at the 2001 annual membership meeting.

Fifteen chapter presidents or their representatives gathered for breakfast on Saturday. Jeff Trotman, a unanimous choice of those present, agreed to lead the group for the coming year. Even before the waitress had taken our orders, lively discussion turned to the rapid proliferation of cell towers, pipelines, and

hog farms along the Trail corridor, plus other preservation issues. So energized was the exchange, that Faye Gaines, Liaison Officer, easily enlisted volunteers to meet in the near future to address these concerns.

If anyone had reservations about the Rendezvous theme, "Cultural Perspectives of Nature Along the Santa Fe Trail," these were dispelled with keynoter Leo Oliva's opening remarks. The spirited questions which followed each of the lectures, and the informal group discussions that could be heard throughout the three days indicate that this is a popular theme, and should be revisited in the future. Now that SFTA's second Rendezvous sponsorship with the Santa Fe Trail Center and Fort Larned National Historic Site is a fait accompli, I unequivocally declare that this is a good marriage and should last for a very long time.

The survey which solicited opinions about having national office collect chapter dues has produced some troubling statements. Several responders questioned national office's ability to handle the extra work. SFTA's Headquarters Plan Task Force has been charged with developing an operational system for the Association's national office. The first phase of the system was put into place in March 1998 when the Board hired Linda Revello as office administrator. As more of the Association's responsibilities have been moved to the national office, service to members has increased. We are, indeed, very fortunate to have such a highly qualified staff associate as Linda. It is amazing what is accomplished during her 15-hour work week. What impresses me most—and should you, as well—is her keen intellect and strong organizational abilities. It is inconceivable to imagine any basic associational task that she could not handle. Indeed, she could collect chapters' dues, and, in the process provide more services both to the chapters and national than are available now—for example, produce chapter membership lists.

In the survey, several chapters claimed they (or, at least, some of their members) were interested only in local activities. Like all politics are claimed to be, is the Santa Fe Trail simply local? Or is the reverse

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Patron	\$100/year
Institutional	\$40/year
Business	\$40/year
Family	\$30/year
Individual	\$25/year
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true, that is, all local Trail issues are also national? SFTA, and by extension its chapters, is a *national* organization with a set of bylaws we all agree to support. Otherwise, as wise Sam Arnold observed, we are left with a mere collection of local confederations that do as they please.

There is no such entity as a "local" Santa Fe Trail. Each mile from Santa Fe or Old Franklin is inextricably linked to the next. Each chapter's territory is not an island separated from its neighbors. The SFTA was founded to preserve the entire Trail, and to leave no stretch behind. To accomplish this, it envisioned a collection of people from all over joining together to shoulder the responsibility for the *entire* Trail.

If a "local-issues-only" philosophy were to prevail, SFTA would succumb, if not in actuality, definitely as a viable force. That being the case, would the Trail survive? Local persons in some geographic areas would continue to protect their stretch of the Trail, and, of course, the NPS Long Distance Trails would still be in business to certify and interpret sites. But, what would happen to the Trail and its resources in between those "islands" of protection?

I cannot comprehend the Trail *only* in Santa Fe. As I write, my mind is engaged in a fast-forward mode between here and Old Franklin, with hundreds of visions of the Trail passing before me: Point of Rocks (all of them), Raton Pass, Bent's Old Fort, Durham Blowout, Ralph's Ruts, McGee-Harris stage station, Grand Pass cemetery, on and on. What a loss if the Trail meant only Santa Fe to me.

All of us who have personally experienced more of the Trail than what is in our own back yard have been able to do so not just because of Marc Simmons's and Gregory Franzwa's incomparable guidebooks, the NPS Long Distance Trail office, or supportive landowners, but because there is a SFTA preserving, protecting, and educating from Old Franklin to Santa Fe. Perhaps a "local interest only" attitude really does not exist, but rather, those who contribute to their local section of the Trail *only*, whether intentionally or not, are doing so for the *entire* Trail.

A song from the late '70s which

has special meaning to me begins, "Time keeps flowing like a river, Time beckoning me on. . . ." Any analogy those lyrics have to the Santa Fe Trail may seem a bit contrived, yet, there may be a connection: the Trail not only exists in time, but is a product of time. It does not stop at a state line, at a property fence line, or at a chapter boundary. It keeps flowing unbroken like a river.

—Margaret Sears

## GRACE COLLIER



The Trail lost a great friend and supporter when Grace Collier died September 16, 2000. She was a charter member of SFTA. She served as executive director of the Santa Fe Trail/Highway 56 Association, forerunner of SFTA, of which the late William Wheatley of Clayton, NM, was president. In 1961 she organized and directed the Santa Fe Trail Caravan that followed the Trail, with special programs along the way. She was especially interested in preservation of Trail remnants. Her work was recognized with a SFTA Award of Merit in 1987.

Grace was born in Bunker Hill, KS, August 17, 1921, and married Kent Collier in 1940. She is survived by two daughters, one son, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She was a longtime resident of Hays, KS, where she managed the placement office at Fort Hays State University for 15 years. She always had a great love for the Santa Fe Trail and treasured her "Trail friends."

Grace is missed by all who knew her. Sympathy is extended to her family and friends. Memorials may be made to SFTA or the Grace Collier Scholarship Fund, Endowment Association, Fort Hays State University, Hays KS 67601.

## RENDEZVOUS 2000 PROCLAIMED BEST EVER

by Betsy Crawford-Gore  
and Ruth Olson Peters

**RENDEZVOUS 2000** was a success, with more than 175 participants from eight states enjoying a variety of events in the Larned area in late September. The theme for the eleventh biennial program was "Cultural Perspectives of Nature Along the Santa Fe Trail." This was the Santa Fe Trail Association's second time to cosponsor the Rendezvous, with the Santa Fe Trail Center and Fort Larned National Historic Site. The Kansas Humanities Council has provided principal funding for the Rendezvous programs in Larned since the inception of the seminar in 1980.

Following a day-long SFTA board meeting at the Santa Fe Trail Center, Rendezvous participants met at the Santa Fe Trail Center, Camp Aldrich near Great Bend and the Cheyenne Bottoms, Larned Community Center, and Fort Larned National Historic Site to hear speakers, enjoy meals, and take part in various activities.

Keynote speaker Leo Oliva opened the program with a summary of views of the natural world held by American Indians, New Mexicans, and Anglo-Americans, followed by a selection of Anglo travelers' accounts of experiences with nature along the Trail, and closing with questions for participants to ponder during and after the Rendezvous. Other programs focused on weather, plants and animals, Osage Indians, geological landmarks on the Trail, American Indian skywatching, and Hispanic interaction with nature. A slide program followed by a tour of Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Refuge was one of the highlights of the three-day event. Other activities enjoyed by participants during their day at Camp Aldrich included nature walks, live animals brought by zoo officials, hayrack rides, and singing around the

campfire. The Rendezvous concluded with retreat ceremonies at Fort Larned, followed by a dinner in the quartermaster storehouse and an outstanding presentation on frontier army medical practices performed by Joel Walker portraying a historical hospital steward.

One longtime attendee to the Rendezvous programs was heard to say that it was the "best Rendezvous ever." All who were involved in this year's event hope that you will plan to be in Larned for Rendezvous 2002.

## ERROR CORRECTED

Sometimes the gremlins produce egregious and embarrassing mistakes, and copious apologies are extended to Fort Union National Monument Chief of Interpretation Lyn Carranza for the ignominious mutilation of her name in "The Caches" column in the last issue. She is not a Mescalero Apache musician, and her last name is not a Spanish expletive. Forgive us our error, Lyn, and tell Fort Union Superintendent Harry Myers to forget it.

Lyn Carranza joined the Fort Union staff last May, coming from Carlsbad Caverns. The mistakenly identified Mescalero Apache who played and sang compositions of his heritage at Fort Union last July is Vincent Kaydahzine. May he forgive us too.

## SFTA MEMBERS RECEIVE OCTA AWARDS

by Ross Marshall

*(Former SFTA President Marshall served as chairman of the 2000 OCTA convention.)*

**A**T the Oregon-California Trails Association convention held August 7-12 in Kansas City, four of the highest awards were presented to individuals who also happen to be SFTA members. These awards were presented for achievements in trail preservation in the greater Kansas City area where the Santa Fe Trail and the Oregon-California Trails are essentially the same.

John Leamon received the Meritorious Achievement Award for his longtime achievements in trail research, mapping and educating, and for his leadership in both the Trails Head and Gateway chapters.



Lauren Schumacher, Rolla, MO, won the "Bold and Fearless" print given by the Fort Larned Old Guard at the conclusion of the Rendezvous on September 23. Lauren is shown with the print and Old Guard chairman Leo Oliva.

Craig Crease received the Meritorious Achievement Award for his outstanding achievements in primary trail research, writing and educating, and for identifying original emigrant and trade routes from the Missouri River.

John Mark Lambertson, the outstanding Director of the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence, received the Distinguished Service Award for his work on historic trails research and for his leadership in the Kansas City area trails community.

The Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association also received the Distinguished Service Award, accepted by founders Dorothy and Lee Kroh, for their work in historic trails research and mapping, and for erecting hundreds of trail markers in the Kansas City area.

The Awards Banquet was one of the many events of the eighteenth national OCTA convention hosted by Trails Head Chapter and attended by nearly 400 registrants. The convention included the annual membership meeting, various workshops and chapter meetings, 1½ days of speakers, and four days of all-day bus tours on five different routes. (For those interested, copies of the tour booklets can be obtained from OCTA Headquarters at 816-252-2276 or <octahqts@gvi.net>.)

Next year's OCTA convention will be in Casper, WY, August 13-18.

## ARCHIVES RECEIVE SHELVING

by Betsy Crawford-Gore

**T**HANKS to substantial donations by SFTA members Nelson Sanford Weller of Healdsburg, CA, and Mel and Mary Cottom of Manhattan, KS, who responded to the plea in the last issue, the shelving needed for the SFTA archives housed at the Santa Fe Trail Center at Larned, KS, has been purchased. It is wonderful that there are members out there who will respond so quickly and generously. The entire membership owes these friends of SFTA a word of gratitude. Thank you. Thank you.

## DUB COUCH

*(continued from page 1)*

County Family Care Center, Rocky Ford Arts Commission, and Bent's Fort Chapter SFTA. He looks forward to serving on the SFTA board and is dedicated to the Association's goals of protecting, preserving, and promoting the Trail. He has not said anything (yet) about organizing a Santa Fe Trail golf tournament. He would like to hear from anyone who has suggestions regarding the Trail and SFTA. Contact him at PO Box 325, Rocky Ford CO 81067, telephone (719) 254-3000, or by e-mail at <dubcouch@ria.net>. Welcome to the board Dub Couch!

**LEAVE YOUR LEGACY: PLAN A BEQUEST TO THE SFTA**

## NRA LAUNCHES TRAIL BRONZE SCULPTURE PROJECT

by Mark L. Gardner

THE NRA Whittington Center near Raton, New Mexico, has commissioned the construction of a bronze, life-size replica of the wagons, animals, and people of a typical Santa Fe Trail wagon train of the 1870s to be placed overlooking historic remnants of the Trail. The artist, Fred Hoppe, is an award-winning sculptor who received the commission to create a bronze sculpture of George Bush for Bush's Presidential Library in Texas. When completed, the Whittington Center's Santa Fe Trail sculpture will be one of the largest bronze projects in the United States.

To assist in the financing of this huge undertaking, the Whittington Center Board of Trustees has created a limited edition of 2000 miniatures of "The Scout," the first sculpture slated for placement at the site. The model for the "The Scout" is NRA president and Academy Award-winning actor Charlton Heston. The miniature bronze of "The Scout" was unveiled at the Whittington Center on September 1. As part of the unveiling, Fred Hoppe presented a slide show overview of his work and historian Mark Gardner gave a program on the Santa Fe Trail in popular culture. Gardner is serving as a historical consultant for the project.

For more information on this project, or to order one of the limited miniature bronzes (\$1,950.00 each), write the NRA Whittington Center, PO Box 700, Raton NM 87740, or call (505) 445-3615.

## OFFICER & DIRECTOR HISTORY

by Margaret Sears

THE time is quickly approaching when SFTA members will again elect national officers and several directors. In the process of selecting candidates to fill these important positions, you may wonder who has served in the past. Each nominating committee has been required to seek out that information, which required searching through the many issues of *Wagon Tracks*.

Several years ago Ross Marshall compiled a historical flowchart which, while not complete in all details, triggered the effort to research

all SFTA files for the complete list of officers and directors who have served SFTA since 1986 when Marc Simmons was elected as first president of the Santa Fe Trail Council which became the Santa Fe Trail Association in 1987. This year Linda Revello, SFTA staff associate, and SFTA Secretary-Treasurer Ruth Olson Peters completed the task and prepared charts showing all officers and directors who have served. The charts are available upon request from the national office.

The nominating committee will be requesting suggestions for nominees soon. If you would like to serve as an officer or director or wish to suggest someone for consideration, please contact committee chair Louann Jordan, 1524 Camino Sierra Vista, Santa Fe NM 87501.

**★ VOTE! ★**  
**TO KEEP**  
**THE TRAIL**  
**★ ALIVE ★**

by Louann Jordan

THE first SFTA election year in the new millennium is almost upon us, and it is not too early to consider the people we want to lead us for the next two years (four years for directors). The nominating committee (chair Louann Jordan, members David Clapsaddle and Clint Chambers) is focusing on two goals in this election: (1) a search for two quality candidates for each position and (2) to double the number who voted in the 1999 election.

Your vote counts! We urge SFTA members who are not chapter members to consider the choices and to vote. And we hope the chapter members who do not belong to the SFTA will join the parent organi-

zation and vote. Look for the Call for Nominations in the February issue of *Wagon Tracks*. Deadline for nominations is March 31, 2001. Nominees, their biographies, and a ballot will appear in the May *Wagon Tracks*. We hope to hear from you.

## PARTNERSHIP REPORT

by Ross Marshall

(*Marshall serves as the SFTA representative to the Partnership for the National Trails System.*)

THE Leadership Council of the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), which is made up of representatives from the twenty National Scenic and Historic Trails, met for its semiannual meeting in Golden, CO, September 17-18, with a comprehensive list of legislative and strategic planning items on the agenda.

One of the priorities was planning 11<sup>th</sup>-hour strategies for the FY00-01 appropriations bills which were before the Congressional conference committees. Since that meeting, we have been informed that our efforts were successful on a broad scale. Nearly all the funding that we had requested has been included in the Interior Appropriations Bill which was signed by the president in early October. And we have been assured that National Trails have been raised significantly on the Congressional "radar" as a result of the efforts of PNTS, which bodes well for succeeding years.

Specifically for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail was a line item of \$90,000 for the hiring of a cultural resource specialist, which was the culmination of several years of effort. This investment of time is normal because we are already working on the FY01-02 budget requests and early next spring the administration (which involves the Santa Fe NPS office) will be developing its FY02-03 budget.

Other legislative items have fared a little less well. For instance, at the date of this writing, the final disposition of the Willing Seller legislation is still in doubt in this Congress as is HR5014 which would allow additions to the Oregon, California, Pony Express, and Mormon trails.

We have initiated and/or sup-

ported various interagency agreements, including "Unit Status" for each NPS National Trail, that would foster closer cooperation in the management of National Trails. These efforts are still in process but producing results.

The Partnership's working agreement with American Hiking Society to act as our fiduciary agent for IRS purposes is nearing completion and we will be operating under this partnership arrangement for at least the near future.

The agenda also included the development of PNTS's work plan for 2001, which still includes many of the above initiatives, as well as planning the annual Advocacy Week in Washington, DC, March 3-7, 2001. Planning for the 7<sup>th</sup> National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference, which will be held next September, setting criteria for affiliate memberships, and finalizing our 2001 budget were some of the other items on the agenda.

I appreciate SFTA's support of the Partnership and the encouragement that has been extended to me personally from the board and officers. The benefits of SFTA being a part of the Partnership will undoubtedly continue to expand in the coming years. The Leadership Council will meet again in Washington in March.

## 2001 SYMPOSIUM PLANS

by Stephen Whitmore

*(Whitmore is past-president of the Corazon Chapter and coordinator for the 2001 symposium at Las Vegas, NM.)*

**DURING** September 27-30, 2001, the Corazon de los Caminos Chapter will host the biennial symposium at Las Vegas, NM, with the theme "*Caminos y Comerciantes: Trails and Traders in New Mexico.*" They promise four days of fun, fandangos, food, music, and some serious history (lectures and tours).

For those coming from the north, there will be an evening event in Raton, NM, on Wednesday, September 26. The SFTA governing board will meet on Thursday, September 27, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Tours at Cimarron and Rayado will be available during the day. The opening reception will be at 5:00 p.m. in Old Town Plaza, Las Vegas, with an outdoor

buffet and musical entertainment.

A series of lectures at Ilfeld Auditorium on the campus of New Mexico Highlands University will begin Friday morning, with keynote addresses by Michael Olsen, professor of history at NMHU, and Harry Myers, superintendent of Fort Union National Monument. The SFTA membership meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday. Bus tours will include La Cueva, Loma Parda, Watrous, Fort Union Ranch, Ocate Crossing, Wagon Mound, Kearny Gap, Tecolote, and San Miguel del Vado. Hollywood films about the Trail will be featured in a "Saturday Afternoon at the Movies" presentation. Fort Union will host a barbecued buffalo dinner and sunset program. The awards banquet will include music and a fandango. Sunday events will include a sunrise service on the mesa east of Las Vegas, with lunch and a tour at Point of Rocks Ranch east of Springer.

Throughout the event there will be walking tours of Las Vegas and Trail exhibits at the Las Vegas Museum and Rough Rider Memorial. Book exhibits on the Trail will be available at the Carnegie and Donnelly libraries. There will be an unveiling of a wayside exhibit on the Las Vegas Plaza, installed cooperatively by the National Park Service and the City of Las Vegas. The symposium will feature two art shows and a photography show.

A nationally-advertised, juried art exhibition entitled "The Trail and the Traders" will be presented by SFTA and the Las Vegas Arts Council. The judge will be Charles Goslin, the Kansas artist well known for his paintings of the Trail. Entries in two or three dimensions should depict some aspect of Santa Fe Trail commerce and traders, and may be in symbolic or representational form. Works which are representational should be historically accurate. There will be cash awards for Best of Show, Best 2-D, and Best 3-D. Color slides of an entry must be received by August 14, 2001. Entry forms may be obtained from the Las Vegas Arts Council, PO Box 2603, Las Vegas, NM 87701, phone/fax (505) 425-1085. The Student Art Contest planned by Patti Olsen is described elsewhere in this issue.

There will also be a photography

show, intended principally to give SFTA members an opportunity to share with each other the best of the photographs they have taken over the years of the Trail and activities on the Trail. Curator and judge of this show will be Andy Kingsbury, a professional photographer in Las Vegas. Ribbons will be awarded, but no cash prizes. There will be classes for amateur and professional photographers, and entries may be in color or black-and-white. Historic photos will be welcomed but not judged. The photography show will be the opening exhibit for the new Santa Fe Trail Interpretive Center planned by the Las Vegas Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation.

In addition to these shows, SFTA chapters are encouraged to plan for exhibits which showcase for the public, and especially for SFTA members, their activities. Exhibit tables will be available in the lounge area shared by book vendors. Reserve a table with Tibor Remenyik, 1021 8th St., Las Vegas, NM, 87701, <jtrem@newmexico.com>, phone or fax (505) 454-1307. The Corazon Chapter web site contains information about the symposium. Check it out at <www.nmhu.edu/research/sftrail/corazon.htm>. Watch *Wagon Tracks* for further information.

## SYMPOSIUM STUDENT ART CONTEST

**PATTI** Olsen, Symposium Education Committee Chairperson, has organized a Student Art Contest, "Children's Visions of the Santa Fe Trail," in which students are asked to create an illustration based on a description written by a Trail traveler. Thousands of people traveled the Santa Fe Trail from 1821-1879. Some of them kept diaries or journals. Others wrote letters. Some were soldiers who filed reports. Olsen has selected fifteen quotations which are most often selected by students to illustrate. Students are to chose one of these quotations to use as the basis for their artistic creation. Students should be careful to draw any people wearing appropriate dress for the time period and place and be sure plants and trees grow in the area illustrated. The winning illustrations will be framed and displayed at New Mexico Highlands University Art Gallery during

the symposium, September 27-30, 2001, in Las Vegas, NM.

Two grade categories will be used in selecting the winning drawings: grades 4-8 and 9-12. Fifteen drawings will be selected from each category with a total of thirty drawings selected for display in the art show. The best three in each category will be given cash awards: first prize-\$50, second prize-\$25, and third prize-\$10. Following the symposium, all winners will be listed in the next issue of *Wagon Tracks*.

**Rules:** Pictures must be done on white 9" x 12" construction paper. The student may use markers, crayons, ink, colored pencils, or any combination of these media. Neatness, clarity, and how the student follows the descriptive quotation will be considered in the judging. Entries are limited to two (2) per student. Entries may **not** be folded or stapled. To identify each drawing, the following information should be printed on the **bottom right-hand side of the back, in pencil:**

Name

Grade

Home address

Phone number

Quotation Number (which you are illustrating)

**Deadline:** All entries must be postmarked no later than April 2, 2001. Entries will not be returned. For notification that your entry has been received, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard. Contact Olsen at (505) 454-0383 with any questions concerning the contest. For the list of quotations students are to illustrate, send your request and a self-address stamped business-size envelope to Mrs. Olsen at the address below. Mail all entries to: Patti Olson, Symposium Education Committee, 1729 Eighth St, Las Vegas NM 8770.

## BECKNELL NAME MYSTERY?

**I**S it possible that the "father of the Santa Fe Trail" operated under an assumed name? Until recently no one had implied that William Becknell was not operating under a legitimate family moniker. An implication is not evidence, but it is a cause to pause and see what the records reveal, if anything.

Several months ago End of the

Trail Chapter President Tom Steel was photographing sections of the tile mural of the Trail, at San Francisco and Galisteo streets in Santa Fe, to send prints to a teacher in Georgia. Serendipitously, just as he arrived at the mural (a few seconds sooner or later and he would have missed this entirely), a man was taking a photo of the tile with William Becknell's name. He turned to his young son and said, "You need to remember you are related to this man."

Steel said, "I jumped into the conversation and told him I had met direct descendants of Becknell here four years ago when we had the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and reenactment of Becknell's arrival in Santa Fe." The man, whom Steel recalls has the last name of Snow (possibly the first name is Richard) and is from Michigan (possibly Detroit), said "Becknell is a made-up name." He said it came from two Germans who were dodging the Prussian draft. Their names (Steel cannot be sure about the spellings) were Bechenhoffen and Nelleford (perhaps Nellenfort), and they combined parts of each to come up with Becknell and came to the U.S.

Snow said he was an amateur historian and had a relative doing family history. Steel gave the man his card and asked him to send an e-mail later. Because they were attracting a crowd, with tourists requesting Steel's card and asking questions, Tom did not get the man's full name or address. He hoped for a response later, but so far nothing.

Steel says, "Wouldn't it be great if someone could come up with verification of lineage and maybe even find a picture or painting of William Becknell?" If anyone can help locate Snow, document the legitimacy or illegitimacy of the name Becknell, or shed any light on this conundrum, please contact WT editor and Tom Steel, 691 Callecita Jicarilla, Santa Fe NM 87505, (505) 982-0254, <tomcarly@swcp.com>.

## PRESERVATION TASK FORCE

**P**RESERVATION is one of the primary purposes of SFTA. Today there are many threats to the historic Trail. A Preservation Task Force has been created to work on strategies for protecting the historic remnants. Members are Faye Gaines, Margaret

Sears, David Gaines, Jeff Trotman, Britt Colle, and Ross Marshall. Anyone with questions or suggestions should contact one of these members.

## POST OFFICE OAK

### —LETTERS—

Editor:

I saw in the last issue of *Wagon Tracks* (August 2000) that Doug and Marna Davis of Abilene, KS, portrayed Frank Butler and Annie Oakley for a SFTA chapter-sponsored event. By reading the article, it seems as though this event took place without any mishaps. However, this has not always been the case.

It was July 1998 in Greenville, OH, that I shared the stage with Doug and Marna Davis during the Annual Annie Oakley Festival. I performed my "Medicine Show" and then quickly changed clothes to help in a stagecoach robbery skit. I was the robber. Doug Davis was the sheriff. When the sheriff shot the robber, the end of Doug's .45 cal. pistol barrel was less than 2 feet from my face, pointed right at me, when he pulled the trigger. I'll spare you all the bloody, gory details, but I assure you I was NOT a pretty sight. The entire right side of my face was riddled with powder burns (I was thankful he was only shooting blanks). It took a little over three hours in the hospital for a doctor and nurse to remove as much of the powder from my face as they could. A few days later I found out that Doug's insurance did not cover that type of accident and, as of today, he has not made any attempt to help pay for the hospital bill.

I would like to caution any *Wagon Tracks* reader who may belong to an organization considering Doug and Marna for a program. You may want to contact their insurance company to find out exactly what their coverage is. These people have lied to me and they have lied to my friends—I cannot imagine why they would not lie to you. They may talk about gun safety, but do they practice it? **PLEASE BE CAREFUL** when dealing with these people.

Les Vilda  
Santa Fe Trail Ambassador  
2447 Co Rd N  
Wilber NE 68465

*Do people who write help wanted requests get responses? Most of the time we don't know, but sometimes they do. Jo Bennett Mitchell's request for information about her ancestor John Patton appeared in the May issue. Marc Simmons found Patton referenced in David J. Weber's *Extranjeros* and sent her photocopies of the pages. Simmons thought the account of her search would be of interest to WT readers and received permission to share her letter.*

Dear Dr. Simmons:

Thank you very much for your kindness in sending me the note and copy of pages from *The Extranjeros, Selected Documents From the Mexican Side of the Santa Fe Trail, 1825-1828*.

I have been subscribing to WT for about three years. I first subscribed in search for my ancestor John Patton. From what I learned from WT I made the trip to Franklin, MO, read the old newspapers at the University library, and did indeed find his trail. I have advertisements of several years in the papers of "Old Franklin." Then I have his trail in Mexico when he was a merchant in Chihuahua in the late 1830s and 40s. I found him again in Santa Fe after the war and finally in the 1860 US Census in Mesilla. Now your help has closed a gap in the life story. Thank you again.

I have indeed ordered a copy of *Beginning of the West* as well as continuing to scour the Trail literature for more about that May 1827 Caravan. I am having a lot of fun with this search!

Family lore said Patton came to Santa Fe from Missouri, but was born in Virginia. These customs house records show that he himself stated he came from Tennessee! Now I have further mystery to unravel. Will I find any trace of him in Tennessee? So far I have found no trace in Virginia either!

I have been "doing genealogy" only since retirement, but history was a major topic in college years ago. Genealogy feels a lot like coming home. The Santa Fe Trail Association is a happy discovery for me. I appreciate your pioneer work to get it established and appreciate your contributions to this publication and to the whole field of history.

Jo Bennett Mitchell  
1060 Lyons Road  
Ellensburg WA 98926

## THE WAGON TONGUE

### —OBSERVATIONS & OPINIONS—

I applaud your comments regarding a life membership program for the Association ("From the Editor," WT, May 2000). As one who has had management responsibility for the implementation and oversight of such a program, I am well aware of the benefits that can accrue to our SFTA. It will reduce operating costs and provide revenue stability. If properly implemented and promoted, I am confident that the ten-year impact of such a program will exceed our most optimistic expectations.

To assist the success and financial soundness of a life membership program, I share the following points for consideration:

- (1) All payments (I prefer the term "investments") for a life membership should go into an endowment with the provision that *only* the earnings will be used for operating expenses of the Association.
- (2) Annual earnings from the endowment in excess of some percentage (say 4 or 5%) should be reinvested in the endowment to help offset inflation.
- (3) *Do not* set the life membership charge *too low*. It is better to err on the high side than the low.
- (4) While full payment for the life membership is preferred, a provision for paying the life membership investment over a three-year period should be made during the initial campaign.
- (5) Determine and, if appropriate, promote the tax benefit of a life membership for the individual.
- (6) Many organizations use the term "investment" rather than "fee," "charge," or "dues." When the principal is put in an endowment it truly is an investment in perpetuity on behalf of the Association.
- (7) Some organizations give a life membership as an award, honor, or student recognition, however the life membership must be fully paid for—no free memberships. Thus, some operating revenues (for such awards) go back into the endowment. Also,

schools, business firms, and parents are encourage to give life memberships as a recognition or gift.

The implementation of a life membership program will help insure, to quote Marc Simmons, that "the Santa Fe Trail lives on."

Richard Poole  
815 S Shumard Dr  
Stillwater OK 74074

*Your reasoned support for this is appreciated. Several people have responded to my comments about life memberships, some pro and some con. Some requested that their comments not be published. My point is that this should be reconsidered. Several people who favor life memberships noted that they would be pleased to know the money paid in would keep working for SFTA long after they are gone. To me, it still looks like a viable way to help build an endowment fund. Many nonprofit organizations continue to use life memberships profitably. The problem some associations got into was setting life membership fees so low that interest income from that membership would not pay enough to service the member until he or she died. The solution is to calculate the life membership investment at a feasible level. Other comments on this issue are welcome. The following letter was addressed to President Margaret Sears with a copy to me.*

Editor

As a charter member of SFTA, I've been interested in the suggestion to have a life membership category. I was disappointed to read that the membership committee turned down the idea.

Life memberships work well for many organizations. My husband was a life member of the National Teachers association. The life membership fees help build an endowment fund plus the interest can provide for the member's newsletter plus other annual services.

At age 83 I can see that a life membership of \$600 or \$700 would be a contribution I could make to the growth and future of the SFTA. I'm heartily in favor of this idea of a life membership category coming up for consideration again.

Ethel C. Armstrong  
507 Twin Diamond Rd  
Roswell NM 88201

## SWALES DEDICATION

(continued from page 1)

overgrown wooded area south of the Trail Center where Trail travelers gathered for their water supply from one of the nearby springs. They traveled west from this site to California, Oregon, or Santa Fe. Visitors to the National Frontier Trails Center are directed to the ruts before touring the Center so they may have a better understanding of wagon travel.

The Independence Parks Department erected a rustic fence which protects the swales from vehicular traffic. There is handicapped parking with a path to allow people with disabilities to reach the swales. This is one of the few sites on the trails that handicapped can get this close to the original route.

The following groups were recognized for financial contributions which made this project possible: (1) Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center, (2) Independence Parks Matching Grant Program, and (3) Kansas City 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legacy Fund.

## SCHUMACHER PARK

(continued from page 1)

thank you from the recipients. Superintendent David Gaines, Long-Distance Trails Office (Santa Fe), National Park Service, recognized all city officials, historians, and family members. What really began to unfold was the sweeping impact this project had; it was a monumental task accomplished through intense dedication.

What started as a simple exercise in history developed into a serious journey and came to fruition with Schumacher Park. Many years ago Jane Mallinson, DAR representative and SFTA member, received a telephone call from Lou Schumacher inquiring about his property. Mallinson explained to Schumacher that the property was on the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails. During the dedication ceremony, she added, "Lou's enthusiasm was like a snowball rolling downhill." As Schumacher learned more, his excitement continued to build, encapsulating neighbors, businessmen, and family.

To understand more about the importance of this project, it is necessary to provide additional history.



**View of swales and part of walkway that loops around them south of Bingham-Waggoner Estate.**

Schumacher Park was officially certified by the NPS on November 3, 1991, as a Santa Fe Trail segment. This site and the adjoining house were the first two certifications on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. The Schumachers were frustrated with the continual loss of historic landscape and donated their property for the park, stating, "there is more to life than paving every square foot for monetary gain. We are so pleased and fortunate to be a part of preserving our history and our heritage."

Perhaps the best physical narrative is in the words written on the park dedication invitation by Kansas City Missouri Board of Parks and Recreation: "Lou and his wife Topper donated a 50 ft. wide strip of land for the development of this commemorative trail. In addition, Lou and Topper donated 2.5 acres of adjacent land (Schumacher Park) to provide a site for the development of a pavilion with wayside exhibits and a suitable place for housing a DAR trail marker that had been relocated in error years earlier, and for developing a sculpture depicting the role of Mexican traders in trail history."

Lou and his family created 3-Trails West, a Missouri not-for-profit corporation founded in 1992 for the purposes of "identifying, certifying, and preserving the original routes of the . . . trails through the greater Kansas City Missouri metropolitan area and promoting area tourism." This corporation has clear goals

which the family acknowledges can only be realized through volunteer efforts and funding. They are currently working on the completion of Schumacher Park that will include additional prairie grasses and wildflowers, the purchase of bronze statues, and inclusion of surrounding area and vistas into the park. A model of the type of bronze that 3-Trails West would like to acquire is in the photograph with Topper Schumacher and the Mexican trader on horseback. The gift of land typifies the reflective attitude of Lou, Jr., who commented, "We don't own anything in the world. We just lease it for a period of time and if we are good stewards, we will be better for it."

A project of this size simply is not completed alone. It is the effort of many people and was funded with private money, National Park Service cost-share funds, and Missouri Tourism and Development funds. The significance was explained by David Gaines: "Upon completion, Schumacher Park promises to help an urban populace to reconnect with the area's early roots, to learn about the role of the Santa Fe Trail and the lessons it can offer about diverse people who were brought together by it, and to benefit from the trail legacy as they use it to enhance their recreational opportunities. In terms of continuing and expanding the national historic trail's purposes today, Schumacher Parks offers a wonderful example of landowner stewardship, pride, and civic responsibility."



**Topper Schumacher with model of statue of Mexican trader on horseback.**

During the dedication ceremony, Gaines remarked that Lou told him, regarding the route of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, "your maps are wrong. We [the NPS] admitted it." Lou Schumacher's research and documentation of the historic route was meticulous and precise.

The ceremony had more touching components. Lou Schumacher, Jr., spoke about his father's work and the entire family's determination to continue onward. Lou, Jr. regrets not being as involved with his father's efforts early on, but is thankful for his father's dog-eared determination and research skills that afforded him the opportunity to pick up where his father left off. He expressed special gratitude for his father and mother and pledged to continue their work to preserve and protect the Trail.

The family was honored for their efforts to portray the cultural diversity of the Santa Fe Trail. They recognize that this site provides an opportunity to present a multicultural perspective of that diversity. Lou, Jr., noted that the Trail was "more

Hispanic than American." Another dimension of the site is indicated in the exhibit on Emily Fisher, 1808-1898. She was a Kentucky-born slave who lived in Jackson County, Missouri, most of her life. Like other slaves she was freed with the adoption of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1865. The story of Emily's life and her family shows deep family commitment. Three of her grandchildren were at the dedication.

The Trail lost a great friend when Lou Schumacher passed away on May 12, 1998. His research and dedication remain as information and inspiration, and his family continues the work. Lou Schumacher was recognized for his efforts. He and Topper received the Santa Fe Trail Association Award of Merit in 1990. Lou was presented the Friends of the Trail Award from Oregon-California Trails Association in 1992 and a Gold Award from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, in 1996 for his continued efforts in personal research, efforts with the Blue Ridge Corridor plan, gift of property for the park, and establishment of 3-Trails West. Schumacher Park is a monument to his work as well as to the Trail.

The story does not end with Schumacher Park. With Lou's help, the Blue Ridge Corridor plan can be realized with the establishment of a commemorative trail along 93rd Street linking Santa Fe Elementary School with Bannister Mall by way of the Trail route. Driving on urban streets while trying to find the Trail is difficult at times. The Schumacher family realized this and worked with officials to create some twentieth-century graffiti to identify the trail.

Other efforts are under way in the area to bring back the interest in history and the trails. The greater Kansas City metropolitan area is quite unique as the place where the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails traveled the same path for many years. These historic efforts include partnership with schools and businesses. Lou Schumacher's work is being continued and accelerated through his family and the desire to teach others and preserve the rich heritage.

Schumacher Park is different. Yes, it contains exquisite and accu-

rate wayside exhibits, it has quaint seating in a pavilion, with a walking path surrounding the property with its Trail remains. Yet there is something different, something special. When you look around and see the view of the city, and imagine what it would have been like in Trail days, you can become entranced with the bluestem and with the sound and spirit of Lou Schumacher which resides there.

One of the touching portions of the dedication ceremony centered on a rectangular box with an image on the side showing various modes of transportation. Visitors were asked to write their name on a piece of paper and place it inside the box. The family indicated the box would contain a pair of Lou's glasses so he could read the names, then the box would be interred deep in the Schumacher prairie. Family members added their names, then asked everyone to add theirs as they departed.

Simultaneously Lou, Jr., said "Honor my father by leaving a piece of yourself behind." With the sounds of "American the Beautiful" in the background, those who were there wondered if they had left enough, having received so much from the Schumachers.

Schumacher Park is scheduled to be part of the 2003 SFTA Symposium in the Kansas City area. Anne Mallinson, co-coordinator for the symposium, writes, "Schumacher Park, with its natural grass prairie, interpretive signage, and DAR monument was the inspiration of the late Lou Schumacher. Symposium participants will be given an opportunity to tour the park and enjoy a quiet slice of the Trail experience even though surrounded by 21<sup>st</sup>-century development." Doesn't it make you want to be there?



**Dedication ceremony memorial box interred at Schumacher Park.**

## FLORA SPIEGELBERG, "TENDERFOOT BRIDE OF THE SANTA FE TRAIL"

Introduction and Annotation by Mary Jean Cook

(SFTA member Mary Jean Cook, Santa Fe, is noted for her research into the history of the western terminus of the Trail. She is the author several books and articles and a frequent contributor to WT.)

### INTRODUCTION

**R**EMINISCENCES are not considered to be a reliable source of history. Nevertheless, when researching women's history of the Santa Fe Trail, judicious use of such material remains somewhat of a necessity. Flora (Langerman) Spiegelberg was nearly eighty years of age when she wrote the following accounts. It is, therefore, understandable that her memory failed her on specific dates and names. In 1947 Flora died at age eighty-seven in New York City, where she, husband Willi, and their two daughters had moved after leaving Santa Fe in 1888.<sup>1</sup>

Flora might well be compared to an Auntie Mame. Throughout her life she never ceased her limitless efforts in behalf of her fellow man, both for education and sanitation. Before the turn of the twentieth century, Flora collaborated with Thomas A. Edison in the production of one of the first environmental films ever produced in the United States. She encouraged, even harangued, the City of New York to collect its garbage in covered trucks, receiving the sobriquet of "Mrs. Sanitary." Whether in Santa Fe or New York City, Flora was on the front line of social change.<sup>2</sup>

Willi, Flora's husband, was the youngest of the several Spiegelberg brothers, the first of whom crossed the Santa Fe Trail prior to the Mexican War. The six Spiegelberg brothers—Solomon Jacob, Levi, Elias, Emanuel, Lehman, and Willi—comprised one of the earliest Jewish mercantile dynasties in the American Southwest. The eldest brother, Solomon Jacob, arrived in Santa Fe around 1844. He served as a trader with General Stephen Watts Kearny and the Army of the West in 1846. He traveled into Mexico with Colonel Alexander Doniphan later that same year and returned to Santa Fe in 1847, where he clerked in the Adolph

Staab store on the plaza before launching his own enterprise.<sup>3</sup>

Between the years of 1848 and 1861 five more Spiegelberg brothers crossed the Santa Fe Trail, arriving in New Mexico Territory. Elias was killed at age 23, in 1855, soon after his arrival, when a mud roof collapsed on him. The remaining five brothers became respected entrepreneurs in mercantile, real estate, mining, and banking. On the south side of Santa Fe's plaza they built what became known as the Spiegelberg Block. These two-story buildings remain today. The Spiegelberg's progressive plaza establishment sold sunbonnets to the Sisters of Loretto. Flora took French lessons from the good Sisters whose school and convent stood only two blocks away from her future home.

In the late summer of 1880 Flora and Willi Spiegelberg built a large house of thick adobe bricks with a metal-shingled mansard roof on Santa Fe's fashionable East Palace Avenue, approximately three blocks east of the Palace of the Governors. Early that same year the railroad arrived and with it came the latest architectural elements and construction materials.<sup>4</sup> The Willi Spiegelbergs lived in this house for eight exciting years, elegantly entertaining the influential and famous citizens of the era. During those Santa Fe years, Flora gave birth to two daughters, Rose and Betty.

A series of other historic events occurred both inside and outside of this French-style adobe house. The *Santa Fe New Mexican* boasted that the first exterior and interior gas-light fixtures in the city were in the Willi and Flora Spiegelberg Palace Avenue house. It also had one of the first indoor bathrooms in Santa Fe. It is said that European workmen who were brought to Santa Fe by Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy to build his St. Francis Cathedral also worked on the construction of the Willi Spiegelberg house.

The famous Archbishop Lamy, who often enjoyed tea with French-speaking Flora, planted and blessed two willow trees on each side of the front walk of the house. In the 1960s

these dangerously diseased trees were cut down. One of the dead tree trunks is now on exhibit in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Collection near St. Francis Cathedral.<sup>5</sup>

In 1888 the Willi Spiegelbergs sold their home, today at the intersection of Palace Avenue and Paseo de Peralta, to Dr. John Symington and his New Mexican wife, Teresa Armijo, daughter of Santa Fe Trail merchant Ambrosio Armijo. Dr. Symington practiced medicine across the street at the hospital of the Sisters of Charity.<sup>6</sup> Upon Dr. Symington's death in May 1888 at Johns-Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland, Teresa Armijo de Symington sold the house to Solomon and Emily Spitz.

Solomon Spitz was a plaza jeweler with his establishment in the former Second National Bank, built by the Spiegelbergs, on the south side of the plaza. In 1962 Solomon's son Bernard and his wife Florence sold the Spiegelberg house to Edward and Mary Jean Cook who own it today.<sup>7</sup>

The Cooks made their home there until 1972. Until January 1998 Dr. Cook practiced pediatric dentistry in the rear three rooms, leasing the front six rooms to two former New Mexico governors, Jack Campbell and Jerry Apodaca, and current U. S. Senator Jeff Bingaman. Added to this illustrious twentieth-century history is the notable fact that in the 1970s the late Todd Duncan, the first Porgy of Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," sampled his first Santa Fe tamale there. The supper was followed by an unforgettable evening of Schubert's lieder sung by Duncan. Musical Flora Spiegelberg would have enjoyed the musical events that later filled the living room of her beloved house, which was designed by her.

To celebrate the opening of a new exhibit at the Palace of the Governors on the Pioneer Jews of the Southwest, a reception was held in the Willi Spiegelberg house on October 12, 2000. Once again the elegant house hosted a gala of historic significance, gathering people from across the United States. During that same weekend, and for the first time during the 20th century, two

descendants of early merchants met bearing the surnames of their great-grandfathers—Spiegelberg (New Mexico) and Zeckendorf (Arizona). Interestingly, a Zeckendorf married a Spiegelberg. According to Bill Zeckendorf (my dinner partner), his family left New Mexico in the 19th century because they were “going broke.”

Regrettably omitted from the End of the Trail Chapter’s “Santa Fe Walking Tour,” 175th anniversary brochure (1997), the Willi and Flora Spiegelberg house has been on the National Register of Historic Buildings since 1971. The historic Spiegelberg house at Palace Avenue and Paseo de Peralta, occupied by Peyton-Wright Gallery, continues to be open to the public today.

Flora Spiegelberg’s “Reminiscences of a Jewish Bride on the Santa Fe Trail” was published in two parts in *The Jewish Spectator*, II (August 1937): 21-22 & (September 1937): 24-25, 44. This is followed below by her “Historical Reminiscences,” *El Palacio*, XXXVIII (April 1935): 45-46, which relates anecdotes of New Mexico Territorial Governor Lew Wallace. These items are reprinted here with annotations in brackets and endnotes.

## REMINISCENCES

### Part I

I was born in New York in 1857 in the home of my grandfather, Moses Lichtenhein and when two months old was taken via the Isthmus of Panama to San Francisco, the home of my father William Langerman, who was a pioneer of 1849, a Colonel of the California State militia and a member of the Committee of Vigilantes in 1850. My parents and their children moved to New York in 1866 and after my father’s death in 1869, my mother made her home in Nuremberg in order to give us a good education.

I was married in 1874 to Willi Spiegelberg, the youngest of five brothers. His oldest brother, Jacob Solomon [Solomon Jacob], in 1845 [1844] joined an ox-drawn covered wagon caravan going to Santa Fe, New Mexico, which took over three months. When half way across the famous old Santa Fe Trail [in 1846], he met Colonel [William A.] Doniphan who took a liking to him. My

brother-in-law accepted Colonel Doniphan’s invitation to join his cavalry regiment that was on its way to Chihuahua, Mexico, where he remained until 1846 [1847]. Then [Solomon Jacob] established in Santa Fe the General Merchandise firm of Spiegelberg Brothers, the first Jewish merchants in New Mexico.<sup>8</sup>

After our honeymoon in Europe, we started out for Santa Fe in 1875. We travelled, via St. Louis, in very primitive steam [railroad] cars to West Los Animas, Colorado, then the terminus of the railroad. Then we continued our journey to Santa Fe for six days and six nights in a stage coach, often drawn by four horses, across the famous old Santa Fe Trail, parts of which had already been explored by the early Spanish Conquistador Cortez [Coronado] in 1600 [1541]. The stage coach stopped at the log house coach stations three times daily; an hour to change horses and provide a most primitive meal. Usually we had dried buffalo chips [jerky], with beans, red or green peppers, coffee and tea without milk or sugar, and occasional delicacies such as buffalo tongues, bear and buffalo steaks. I did not relish this food, but my hardened pioneer husband never complained. Many of the station masters were old friends of my husband. When they assisted me out of the coach, they raised their big sombreros (hats) with a hearty greeting, “Welcome Don Julian El Bonito,” meaning William, the Handsome, and your pretty “Tenderfoot Bride of the Santa Fe Trail.”

During one of these stops, a station master told me this story: “Recently the stage coach arrived with four passengers, three Americans and one German. After a simple meal and smoking their pipes, they stood near the coach. The driver, always on the lookout for herds of buffaloes and Indians, was carefully watching the horizon. Suddenly he saw a band of Indians slowly walking single file a short distance away. ‘Indians, Indians,’ he shouted, warning the passengers to jump quickly into the coach. Greatly excited the station master could only find the three Americans; then looking behind the log cabin, he saw the German passenger praying softly in Hebrew, a black skull cap on his head, a

prayer shawl about his neck, and a prayer book in his hand. ‘Come, come,’ he shouted, ‘don’t you see the Indians are approaching?’ The German gentleman carefully wrapped up his prayer book and cap in his prayer shawl, then ran to the stage coach and jumped in. Noticing the impatience and excitement of the passengers, he calmly said, ‘Good friends, put your trust in God and He will bring you safely to your journey’s end.’ The driver whipped up the horses and they dashed away.”

The next day near Dry Cimarron station, our coach was stopped to let Colonel [William R.] Price [Eighth Cavalry], a friend of my husband, pass with a band of roving Indians he had captured. I was terribly frightened for they were the first live Indians I had ever seen. At the next station, Las Vegas, which was then the second largest town in Mexico [New Mexico Territory] and had a population of nearly one thousand, among them some twenty American men, four Jews and three American women, I saw the old Mexican adobe house from the roof of which General Kearney [Stephen W. Kearny] in 1846 made an urgent appeal to the assembled Mexicans to become loyal Americans and the United States would protect them.

We arrived in Santa Fe in a bright moonlight night. As we drove into the city, my husband told me of this incident: “When General [Henry Hopkins] Sibley and his Confederate soldiers from Texas occupied Santa Fe in 1862 during the Civil War, he declared martial law forbidding Mexican and American women to appear in the streets. On several occasions his soldiers invaded Spiegelberg’s store and looted it, altogether of fifty thousand dollars worth of merchandise which was never repaid. One day, a crowd of soldiers entered the store; an intoxicated soldier demanded clothing from my brother Levi without payment. While he was looking for it, the soldier pointed his pistol at his head, shouting, ‘Be quick or I’ll blow your brains out.’ I was standing nearby so I rushed to my brother’s assistance just in time to throw the drunken soldier’s arm up, and the bullet struck the ceiling, and thus saved his life.”

My brother-in-law Levi’s wife was

young and very beautiful and at that time was the fifth American woman in Santa Fe.<sup>9</sup> Their only pleasant recreation was a buggy ride every Sunday to visit the nearby Indian pueblos and watch them mould pottery and make gold and silver jewelry. One Sunday as they drove past General Sibley's headquarters they noticed that some of the officers and soldiers arose and stared at them. The following day an old pioneer friend told Levi: "When you drove past military headquarters Sunday, I overheard this remark; 'By Gingo! What a beautiful woman in these war times. A fellow might be tempted to kidnap her.'" To protect his wife, Levi's three brothers slept in an adjoining room with loaded guns to ward off any attempt to kidnap her. My brother-in-law forbid his wife even to look out of her bedroom window, but one day she heard a woman crying and moaning under her window: "For God's sake, help me! I am starving and bleeding to death." Remembering her husband's warning, she ran across the yard into the store to call him, but it was full of soldiers shouting and fighting for provisions. So she rushed back to her room, and when the crying and pitiful appeals continued, she could not resist any longer and looked out of the window and saw a young negro girl, who begged for help. Assisted by her Mexican maid, she dragged her into the house, washed and fed her, and sent for a doctor. The girl had been stolen from her master's plantation by General Sibley's soldiers, assaulted and abused by them. The Spiegelberg brothers not only bought her freedom, but also a man slave and adopted an Indian girl and boy the Confederate soldiers had captured. They were all sent to school and served our family faithfully for over 20 years.

Just when my husband finished telling me this story, our coach suddenly turned a curve in the road. To our great surprise, my husband's brother Lehman, joined by friends in buggies or horseback and even on burros, had come out to welcome us with a band of Mexican musicians on top of an old stage coach and amid cheers for "Don Julian El Bonito and his pretty Tenderfoot Bride." As the coach drove up the main street accompanied by these friends we were

cheered until we reached the home of my husband's brother. There General Devens [Thomas C. Devin, Eighth Cavalry], Commander of the Territory, an intimate friend of my husband's, waited to welcome us with his military band playing Lohengrin's Wedding March.<sup>10</sup>

At that time I was the eighth American woman in Santa Fe. There were about fifty American men, officials and merchants, and a Mexican population of two thousand.<sup>11</sup> My two daughters were born there.

## Part II

One of our best friends in Santa Fe was the Archbishop [Jean Baptiste] Lamy. In 1852, while still a Bishop, he was returning from Kansas accompanied by 2 young priests in a covered wagon and two mules. When half way across the Santa Fe Trail he met a large caravan of ox-drawn wagons taking merchandise to Spiegelberg Brothers in Santa Fe. He was a friend of the brothers, so he halted his wagon to greet Levi, the second oldest of the brothers, who was accompanying his wagon train. He learned that Levi had been taken suddenly ill with a severe attack of dysentery [dysentery], and as there was an epidemic of cholera at that time, the ignorant Mexican leader and his men of the caravan became panic stricken and refused to continue. Thus they forced the sick man to take refuge with a kind-hearted trapper living in a log cabin on the prairie until he was able to resume his journey. Just as he was being carried into the cabin, the good Bishop rushed up to his old friend, Levi, and quickly persuaded the sick man to join him. The two young priests, said in a kindly soothing voice, "Good friend, we gladly make room for you in our covered wagon, and will nurse you until you recover your health, for we could not think of leaving you here in this lonely log cabin on the prairies. We do not believe that you have that dreaded disease—and if you have it, we are not afraid either."

The five Spiegelberg brothers never forgot how Bishop Lamy's devotion to their brother possibly saved his life, and we were all very grateful to him.

In 1876 the Catholic cathedral in Santa Fe was built under his personal supervision, and he had placed

over the main arch, carved in large Hebrew letters the word, "Adonoi," and painted black to make it more conspicuous.<sup>12</sup> For many years he sent on the Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur gifts of wine, fruits and flowers to his Jewish friends.

No doubt as a result of his religious tolerance, the Mexican friends of the five Spiegelberg brothers used to say, and it has been published in New Mexican newspapers. "We honor and respect the Spiegelberg Brothers because they are of the same people as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

In 1887 an American physician was brutally killed by two young Mexicans, and when they escaped the death sentence, a party of old pioneers, to set an example and protect their families, appeared at midnight on horseback and urged my husband to join them to hang the murderers. I was terribly frightened for my baby was only a few weeks old. While my husband was persuading his neighbors that he could not leave his young wife, I wrapped my baby in a shawl and appealed to the ten men on horseback, "Good friends, you all have families. I am nursing this baby, have the care of another small child, [and] if my husband were to accompany you it will endanger my health and prevent me from doing my duty to my young, so I sincerely hope you will not ask my husband to join you in the first Santa Fe lynching party." Then almost in unison they said, "Good wife and mother, your wish is granted, we bid you good night," raised their hats, and silently rode away in the bright moonlight.

In 1878 General [William Tecumseh] Sherman was sent to Santa Fe to settle trouble with the Indians. At a dinner given to him, it was my good fortune to be seated beside the general. "General Sherman," I suggested naively, "do tell us something about your march from Atlanta to the sea."

The general arose from the banquet table with characteristic military dignity. Stiffly erect, and with a voice full of feeling, he said: "Good friends, although I am a military officer, at heart I am a pacifist."

He stared for a moment into space and then blurted out the thunderous declaration which has since become

a famous saying: "War is Hell!"

In 1879, Generals [Philip H.] Sheridan, [John] Pope and [Nelson A.] Miles came on official business[;] in 1880, General [Ulysses S.] Grant, John A. Logan and Robert Ingersoll. These gentlemen were all feted by the old pioneers and were welcome guests in my home. At that time, General Lew Wallace, the author of "Ben Hur," was Governor.

General Lew Wallace of Civil War fame was appointed Governor of New Mexico in 1878 and served with distinction, until 1881 when he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to Turkey, this honorary title was created especially for him.

During the Governor's term of office he was a neighbor of ours, and as Mrs. Wallace was obliged to remain at her home in Indiana to superintend the education of her young son, she only came occasionally to Santa Fe. My husband and Governor Wallace became very good friends and he frequently was our guest for dinner. He told us interesting war stories, and one occasion read for us his book the "Prince of Peace."

The official office of the Governor was in the old El Palacio Real, built of adobes by the Indians in 1609 under the supervision of the Franciscan Friars. It served nearly 300 years all Spanish-Mexican and American Governors until 1924 when the new handsome state building was erected. The large window at the old El Palacio Real is still shown to tourists where Governor Wallace used to sit after office hours and work on his manuscript "Ben Hur." One day as I passed I looked in the window and bowed good morning, the Governor beckoned me to come in[.] He said, "Mrs. Spiegelberg, I have just wrapped up my manuscript of Ben Hur, to forward to my publisher, do you think it is worth the expressage?" For a moment I stared at him, then quickly replied: "My dear Governor, judging by the success of your book, the 'Prince of Peace,' I'd gladly pay the express charges if you agree to divide the royalties with me." He smiled saying, "I will consider your offer," and I wished him good luck. It has been said that the royalties from the book Ben Hur, the play and film amounted to a million dollars. In later years I often joked with him about my offer, and how wise he was

not to accept it.

Shortly before the Governor's departure for Washington we gave him a grand banquet. In those good old days wines and champagne flowed freely, toasts and speeches were made, thrilling war and pioneer stories related, and the real western spirit of good-will and fellowship prevailed.

Toward the end of his farewell dinner the Governor said to my husband, who at that time was Probate Judge of the county of Santa Fe, the first and only Jew to be elected to that office in New Mexico, and by a very large majority, his opponent was [L.] Bradford Prince, a former Chief Justice and Governor of New Mexico:

"If during the time I am Minister to Turkey I can be of service to your people, for you know that the Jews in the Orient occasionally get themselves into trouble, I promise you for the sake of our friendship, I will do all in my power to assist them should such an opportunity occur." My husband and I shook hands with the Governor assuring him of our deep appreciation and gratitude. Then all our guests again drank to his health and success, cheering and expressing their admiration for his spirit of tolerance.

After serving with great success his four years term of office as Minister to Turkey, Lew Wallace returned to Santa Fe to attend to some of his mining interests. He was again our honored guest for dinner with city and military officials to greet him, and then he told the following story:

"Judge Spiegelberg, good old friend, remembering my promise to you, shortly after my arrival at Constantinople it was reported at the American Embassy that a caravan of Jews from Persia with their camels had gotten themselves into trouble in a small town in Asia Minor and were in jail. Immediately I thought of my promise to you, I preferred to go myself, so I crossed the Bosphorus, then drove in a wagon to the little town, pleaded earnestly with the officials, paid the bail and had the men released from jail. I gave them money besides, then told them I was doing this for a Jewish friend of mine. Kneeling the men clasped my hands, expressed their deep grati-

tude, offered prayers for my health and happiness." Then my husband and I shook hands with our honored guest assuring him of our deep appreciation, and all our other guests cheered and drank to the health of the most popular Governor of New Mexico.

In 1883, President and Mrs. Hayes, accompanied by General Sherman, were given a grand reception in the home of my brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Lehman Spiegelberg, attended by all Americans, hundreds of Mexicans, and Indians from all nearby Pueblos; they wanted to greet the Great White Father and Chief.

My nephew, Ernest A. Grunsfeld, was postmaster in Albuquerque, and his uncle, Albert Grunsfeld, collected the funds to build the Albert Temple, the first and only one in New Mexico. Simon Nussbaum [Nusbaum] was postmaster in Santa Fe; Simon Bibo, a former clerk of Spiegelberg Brothers, in the early seventies, was elected Chief [Governor] of the Acoma [Acoma] Indians. Another clerk, Louis Sulzbacher, later on became a lawyer, was first appointed Chief Justice to one of the western territories, and later became the first American Chief Justice in Porto [Puerto] Rico.

On Decoration Day in 1882, the Commander of the G.A.R. appointed me to decorate the monument that was to be unveiled to the great pioneer and trapper, Kit Carson. Then I took a stage coach full of little boys and girls to the nearby National Cemetery and gave them flowers to decorate each grave of the veterans to serve as a lesson of loyalty to their country.

In 1870, there was no public school in Santa Fe; the Christian Brothers Association and the Sisters of Loretto at the convent and in their parochial schools, provided the only educational facilities for children. Therefore, I organized the first non-sectarian school for 12 Jewish and Protestant children in a one room house, and engaged one teacher from the Presbyterian Teachers' Mission Society. In 1880 when the railroad came to Santa Fe, I collected from the pioneers one thousand dollars, obtained from the Federal government a plot of ground on old Fort Marcy[,] and built a two room frame

school house surrounded with trees and shrubs.<sup>13</sup> Again I engaged paid Presbyterian teachers who proved very satisfactory. At my special request they taught the children to recite by ear the Ten Commandments, explaining that it was a religious Code, but a moral and ethical code, which is the foundation of the civilization of the world today; and all parents approved it.

In 1882, I organized a Sunday School class for the Jewish children; the late Governor [Arthur] Seligman was one of my pupils, another, Joseph Lewitzky enlisted with Colonel Roosevelt's Rough Riders and, on account of his knowledge of Spanish, was of great service to him during the campaign in Rico [Cuba].

#### HISTORICAL REMINISCENCES: ANECDOTES OF LEW WALLACE.

Mrs. Flora Spiegelberg, former resident of Santa Fe, now of New York, contributes to a recent number of *The Jewish Chronicle*. Her reminiscences are of General Lew Wallace, who was Governor of New Mexico at the time that Mrs. Spiegelberg resided in Santa Fe. The offices and residence of Wallace were located in the Palace of the Governors, now the Museum of New Mexico. She relates that one morning as she passed under the portal of the Palace, she heard a knock at the window of Wallace's office and he called to her, "Good morning, Mrs. Spiegelberg," then holding up a neatly wrapped package, he confided "this is the manuscript of my latest efforts, *Ben Hur*, do you think it is worth the express charges to the publisher?" As is well known, the royalties from the book and motion picture rights, have netted the estate of Lew Wallace more than a million dollars. She tells of a promise made by Wallace at a banquet given in his honor as he was about to depart for his post as Minister to Turkey. Wallace had promised to look after the interests of Mrs. Spiegelberg's coreligionists, the Jews in Turkey. Four years later, when he returned to Santa Fe to look after his mining interests, a few miles south of that city, he reported to Mrs. Spiegelberg that he had kept his promise and told the incident of a group of Persian Jews who, traveling through Asia Minor on camels, had been

thrust into jail. Wallace hurried over to the Bosphorus and furnished the necessary bail to release the Jews. In addition he also gave them a sum of money, telling them that he was doing it in the name of Mrs. Spiegelberg from faraway Santa Fe. Lew Wallace is also quoted as follows: "When I wrote *Ben Hur* I was obliged to consult endless authorities concerning the geography and appurtenances of the places described in the book. When later I entered the ancient city of Jerusalem with a native guide and a copy of *Ben Hur* for ready reference, I found that I had not erred in the slightest particular in my descriptions." He tells another story. "One day when I happened to be in Asia Minor, my secretary received strange visitors—a tall and lovely Circassian slave girl with golden tresses, and a eunuch in a native garb. The latter carried a sealed letter from the Sultan of Turkey, addressed to me. Not daring to open the missive, my secretary surmised that the girl had been sent to serve Mrs. Wallace and took her to Mrs. Wallace's reception room. Mrs. Wallace surveyed the beautiful girl with a cold, critical eye and announced tersely that while she deeply appreciated the Sultan's thoughtfulness, she did not require the girl's services. The eunuch was much perturbed, 'Please madam,' he said meekly, 'my sultan's letter.' Opening it, she read it aloud. 'My dear General,' it ran, 'I am sending you this lovely creature with my compliments. I trust that she will be of welcome assistance to you in your daily toilette. She will gladly assist you in your bath.' Mrs. Wallace angrily turned to the eunuch and compelled him to take the present with him back to the Sultan."<sup>14</sup>

#### NOTES

1. Willi's name on his birth certificate is "Wolf." Flora's wedding portrait may be seen on a tile in the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library, Palace of the Governors, Museum of New Mexico, 110 Washington Ave, Santa Fe NM.
2. The film was *The Fly a Menace to Public Health*.
3. Solomon Jacob also found employment with E. Leitensdofer and Co., Santa Fe Trail merchants on the Santa Fe plaza. He left Santa Fe for Germany in 1856, later returning via Mexico.
4. The original roof was replaced in 1998 with a metal shingled roof matching the 1880 original.

5. While moving a large section of the willow tree trunk, a large caliber bullet fell into the author's hand.
6. John Symington crossed the Santa Fe Trail in 1867. *Santa Fe New Mexican*, May 24, 1888.
7. Apparently unknown to her son, Robert, Florence Spitz told this writer in 1962 that her first marriage was to an Ilfeld. Tangible proof of this union was a large chest of sterling silver silverware engraved with the initial "I" shown to this researcher. The chest has since disappeared.
8. Born in Hanover, Germany, Solomon Jacob sailed to America in 1842 at the age of sixteen. He remained in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore areas before traveling to Santa Fe. Merchant Adolph Staab opened his Santa Fe store in the late 1850s.
9. Levi's wife was Betty Seligman. It is not known whether she indeed was the fifth American woman in Santa Fe.
10. Thomas Casimer Devin was appointed captain in the First New York Cavalry in 1861 and rose to the rank of major general of volunteers during the Civil War. After the war he became lieutenant colonel of the Eighth Cavalry and was stationed with that regiment in New Mexico in 1874-1875. He was attached to the staff of General Gordon Granger, commander of the District of New Mexico. When Granger became ill, Devin served as acting commander of the district, thus "Commander of the Territory." Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903), I, 370; *Selected Letters Sent, District of New Mexico, 1874-1875*, National Archives MF 1072, roll 5.
11. A Mrs. Spiegelberg arrived in Independence, MO, on September 19, 1853. Louise Barry, *Beginning of the West* (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1972), 1179. The woman mentioned in Barry may have been Carrie Leopold (wife of Lehman) or Betty Seligman (wife of Levi).
12. The cornerstone of St. Francis Cathedral was first laid in 1869. Construction halted between 1876 and 1878, during which time Loretto Chapel was built by the same European workmen. The tetragrammaton, a triangle with the Hebrew letters for yaweh inside, and the reason for its placement over the entrance to St. Francis Cathedral confounds historians to this day. Whether it was indeed ever painted black also remains a mystery. New Mexico historian William A. Keleher, *The Fabulous Frontier*, rev. ed. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1962), 154-155, claimed that Abraham Staab, a Jewish merchant in Santa Fe who donated and loaned money to Lamy to help with construction of the cathedral, forgave his loans to the church in return for placing the Hebrew letters above the entrance. Keleher's source was Louis Ilfeld, son-in-law of Abraham Staab. Rabbi Floyd S. Fierman, *The Triangle and the Tetragrammaton, a Note on the Cathedral at Santa Fe* (El Paso, Texas: Western Press, 1961), expressed some doubts about that story. After lengthy research in France, this writer has concluded that the symbol

may be of French artisan origin rather than signifying any particular Jewish or Masonic implication. The symbol, used since medieval times by both Christians and knotics, will no doubt remain unanswered by New Mexico historians for years to come. In the village of Vif, France, birthplace of the legendary spiral staircase builder François-Jean Rochas, there is a stained glass tetragrammaton in the apse area in the Church of Jean Baptiste. Also, in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Museum may be seen a chasuble with a gold embroidered tetragrammaton, said to have belonged to Archbishop Lamy.

13. The site is at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Kearney Rd. today.
14. Susan E. Wallace wrote *The Land of the Pueblos* (New York: George D. Hurst, Publisher, 1888). In September 1878, she accompanied her husband, the newly appointed governor of New Mexico, crossing the remaining portion of the SFT from Trinidad, CO, to Santa Fe.

## THE CACHES

### -MUSEUM NEWS-

Anna Belle Cartwright, Editor

*(Please keep sending those newsletters, your important dates, and happenings to Anna Belle Cartwright, SFTA Museums Coordinator, 5317 Charlotte St, Kansas City MO 64110, e-mail <Acartwrgh@aol.com>.)*

In this column: a Lexington, MO, 1830s log cabin is paying its own way in an innovative program for adaptive reuse; what started out as an article about a surveyor's wagon in Lakin, KS, has evolved into a story about a twelve-sided round barn; what started out to be a roller rink in Las Vegas, NM, may well be a Santa Fe Trail museum in the making. A preview of a few Santa Fe Trail museums at Christmas time shows that, with the holiday season fast approaching, museums and historic homes are hanging the greens and readying their displays of Christmas past and present. In Independence, MO, "The Three Site Historic Homes Christmas Package" offers three 1850s residences decked out in festive splendor. The Stauth Museum in Montezuma, KS, has scoured southwest Kansas for contemporary creative decor to put you "In the Mood." The Governor's Palace in Santa Fe, NM, brings the spirit of Christmas in an ethnic potpourri of events featuring Native American children, a Hispanic reenactment, Santa Claus and you.

#### Another Life for the 1830s Log House

When the Lexington Historical

Society discovered that the log walls of the 1830s Log House were disintegrating, they had to admit that they could hardly afford to keep the cabin that had sat atop the Missouri River bluffs on the Santa Fe Trail for so many years. The whole town had been involved in its purchase and move, but the cabin was literally draining away the Society's funds.

Finally, a board member stepped forward and asked to rent the three-room cabin to house an antique shop. The shop seems to be doing well and Lexington Museum Director Roger Slusher points out that it is earning money that can be reinvested in its upkeep. This is a good adaptive idea that might work well for the many county museums that have empty buildings on their property.

#### Comings and Goings in Lakin

In 1999 I saw an intriguing surveyor's wagon in the Kearny County Museum in Lakin, KS, and made a note to talk with Director Pat Heath about it. Recently I saw Pat and asked about the wagon. "It's gone," she exclaimed, "the owner sold it without giving us a chance to bid on it." The 1880s wagon that Pat had "dusted and taken care of for fifteen years," was indeed everything a 19th-century surveyor could want: tool bins for chains, tripods, and poles; a suspended table; beds with rolling slats on canvas belts; a cooking stove; side curtains that could be rolled up; even fold away steps right below a sliding door. The Kearny County Museum's unhappy experience serves as a good lesson for all museums that borrow. Double check contract agreements, be sure that your museum's best interests are being served, with an option to buy.

The loss of the wagon was tempered by the news that the museum could purchase an old twelve-sided barn that sat on the western edge of Lakin. The board of directors didn't waste any time in saying, "Yes," and a construction company was hired to restore and move the barn. The board also voted to purchase a Conestoga wagon, another loan item. The three-month project is nearing completion and the barn will soon rest on a new foundation on the museum's premises.

Four horses and six cows were accommodated in the original 1909 structure. They drank water pump-

ed by a central windmill which ran right up through the structure and served as a pinnacle atop the conical roof; it also served as a ladder to the barn loft.

Utopian societies such as the Shakers, originated the round barn design which has many advantages over the square-sided style, with added strength and a self-supporting roof. Donations to help fund this project may be sent to the Kearny County Historical Society, PO Box 329, Lakin KS 67860

#### A New Museum on a Roll

For well over a year the Citizen's Committee for Historic Preservation (CCHP) in Las Vegas, NM, has been hunting for a building to house a new museum. They recently purchased a structure that once served as a roller rink, located in Old Town near the Plaza. A Department of Transportation Scenic Byways Grant provided the funds for what will be a Santa Fe Trail Interpretive Center. The next order of business will be to restore the building with a new ceiling and floor. Thematic ideas were discussed at a meeting with National Park Service attendees last summer, and there is strong support for interpreting the theme of the Santa Fe Trail's influence on the town of Las Vegas.

#### Christmas Calendar

**Nov. 25-Dec. 31, 2000:** "Three Site Historic Homes Christmas Package," Independence, MO, (816) 325-7111.

The City of Independence has made an annual affair of dressing up its historic homes in holiday regalia to showcase them with popular tours throughout the season. Two of the three homes have Santa Fe Trail connections, while a third, the 1859 Jail & Marshal's Home was built in the Trail's era. During that period nearly everyone in town made a livelihood from the Trail. Saddles and harnesses built the famous Lewis-Bingham-Waggoner mansion. John Lewis fashioned his saddles from fine leather and his 1852 house in the Federal style (later a third story, wraparound porch, and an Italianate roof were added). Legend has it that Lewis made so much money from his business that he kept two barrels under his shop's counter, one for silver coins and one for gold.

Another home on view, the High

Victorian Vaile mansion, was financed by the Star Mail Routes whereby Vaile & Co. had a contract to carry mail on the Santa Fe Trail and other roads. The three homes have captured national media attention with their beautiful period decor.

**Oct. 22-Dec. 3, 2000:** "Christmas Traditions of Southwest Kansas at the Staath Museum," Montezuma KS, Tue-Sat 9-12, 1-4:30, (316) 846-2527, free admission.

Southwest Kansans create these exhibits and show how they decorate their homes and businesses for the holidays. Themes and ideas are as original as their creators. A collection of electronic elves, holly-decked motorcycles that proclaim, "Its a Harley, Harley Christmas," one hundred manger scenes, and handmade Mennonite crafts are a few of the unique exhibits on display.

**Dec. 15, 2000:** "Christmas at the Palace," Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe NM, 5:30-9:00 pm, (505) 476-5100.

This evening open house is complete with holiday refreshments, musical performances, activities in the print shop, luminaries in the courtyard, and a visit from Santa Claus. Admission is free but contributions of nonperishable food items for the homeless are encouraged.

**Dec. 16, 2000:** "Annual Children's Art Show and Sale," Palace of the Governors, Old Library Meeting Room, 110 Washington Ave, Santa Fe, NM, 9 am-12 pm and 1-4 pm, (505) 476-5100.

Participants in the Palace of the Governors Native American Vendors Program start their art at a very early age. The children and grandchildren of the vendors will have their own art to sell, with items ranging from pottery to beadwork. There will be traditional storytellers, miniature art projects to take home, face painting, and snacks. The event is family oriented and free.

**Dec. 17, 2000:** "Las Posadas," 7 pm, Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe, NM, (505) 476-5100.

The traditional candlelight reenactment of Joseph and Mary's search for shelter in Bethlehem lights the Plaza and brings the audience to the "inn" (Palace of the Governors) for carols and free refreshments.

## ASH CREEK CROSSING

by David Clapsaddle

*(Clapsaddle is program director of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter, premier historian of the Trail network in that section, and a frequent contributor to WT. From time to time he will write about other stream crossings.)*

**S**TREAM crossings were of major importance on frontier roads, especially the Santa Fe Trail. Possessing the three necessities for overnight stops—water, wood or chips, and grass—they were invariably used as campgrounds. Fortunately, the distance between many of the crossings approximated the fifteen-mile length of a day's travel by wagon. Consequently, at many crossings, trading ranches were established by early entrepreneurs to sell provisions and offer other amenities.

Beyond the practical aspect of the crossings loomed the human dimension of any society, the need to communicate. At the end of a tiring day, following supper, the animals bedded down, a few rare moments were available for the men to socialize, exchange stories, and perhaps listen to some music. Such activity was magnified if other caravans were encamped at the crossing, especially if they were coming from the opposite direction. In such cases, information could be exchanged as to the condition of the upcoming road, the availability of grass, the threat of Indian attack. Of added interest was news of a national scope which parties from the East might have but was unknown by companies coming from New Mexico, their absence from the States being as much as six months, even longer at times. The Santa Fe Trail in Pawnee, Edwards, Ford, Ellis, Rush, Ness, and Hodgeman counties was represented by six separate routes which crossed four separate streams at ten different locations. Ash Creek was one of those crossings.

Ash Creek, an insignificant little stream, finds its headwaters in north central Pawnee County, Kansas, and flows southeast a brief 25 miles to the Arkansas River.<sup>1</sup> Camping at this stream on August 30, 1825, George C. Sibley wrote, "This creek is extremely crooked, and well deserves the name we have given it

"Crooked Creek." Sibley added, "As far as I could see up it, there is timber."<sup>2</sup> The predominant species, then as now, was the ash, hence the present name of Ash Creek. At about halfway between Pawnee Fork and Pawnee Rock, the Santa Fe Trail crossed Ash Creek. This crossing gained a certain notoriety in 1926 when Stella M. Drumm edited and published the diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin under the title of *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico*. To this day, readers of young Susan's diary entry of July 4, 1846, are fascinated by the account of her narrow escape from severe injury when her carriage overturned in the dry creek bed.<sup>3</sup>

Readers and other travelers in the nineteenth century were also impressed with the crossing, obscure as it was. It is listed almost without exception in every itinerary and table of distances of the Santa Fe Trail. Contemporary diaries, journals, biographies, and military reports are replete with references to the little ford. One might ask why the crossing commanded such notice. The answer may well lie in the following.

Leaving Walnut Creek some two miles east of present Great Bend, Kansas, the Trail pushed southwest sixteen and a half miles to Pawnee Rock.<sup>4</sup> This distance approximates the average day's travel by wagon. Thus, many caravans camped near the Rock. However, the campsite, about a mile north of the Arkansas River, was usually devoid of water. In 1859, Captain Randolph Marcy published an itinerary of the road from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe. His Pawnee Rock entry reads as follows, "Teams sometimes camp near here, and drive stock to the Arkansas for water. No wood."<sup>5</sup> Those not willing to suffer the inconvenience pressed on five and a half miles to Ash Creek crossing where the three chief ingredients for camping were present: water, wood, and grass. The *Western Journal of Commerce* published a "Table of Distances from Kansas City to the Gold Regions of Pike's Peak" in 1858. With each of the stops listed were remarks relative to materials there present. Ash Creek was identified as "275 miles

from Kansas City: wood, water, and grass. Buffalo and Antelope abundant for 200 miles."<sup>6</sup>

The crossing's idyllic setting was the scene of several Indian engagements, the first here cited taking place in the summer of 1847. In that year, Kit Carson had journeyed from California to Washington with dispatches from Stephen W. Kearny to the War Department. Arriving in the capitol, Carson received from President James K. Polk an appointment of lieutenant in the Mounted Riflemen; and immediately, he began a return trip to California, the courier of dispatches for both Kearny and Commodore Robert F. Stockton. Upon reaching Fort Leavenworth, Carson was furnished with an escort of fifty volunteer soldiers and struck off on the Santa Fe Trail to his California destination. On August 1, Carson and the escort encamped at Ash Creek about 300 feet from members of the First Illinois Volunteer Infantry.<sup>7</sup> Carson's account of a Comanche attack on the following day reads as follows.

"Next morning when the men of this company were leading out their horses to picket them in new grass, they were attacked by a party of Comanches and twenty-six horses and all of their cattle were driven off. The cattle took a turn towards our camp, and I was able to recapture them from the Indians. I lost two horses through the fault of two of my men, who had ropes in their hands and wishing to fire at the Indians, let them go.

"The other company lost twenty-six horses and would have lost all their cattle if my party had not been there to assist them. They also had three men wounded. They were under the command of Lieutenant Mulony [S. D. Mulowny?]."<sup>8</sup>

Thirteen years later, a trading ranche was established at the crossing by a man named Orville or William Thompson. What is known about the ranche and its enterprise is limited to contemporary newspaper accounts. As reported by Louise Barry, three Kiowas attacked the ranche on July 9, 1860. Killed were John Cunningham, thought to have been recently discharged from the army, and "a poor German" tentatively identified as Christian Krauss. The Kiowas made an at-

tempt to burn the store, but Thompson was able to withstand the attack until nightfall when he made his escape. As far as is known, Thompson abandoned the ranche and it was never operated again.<sup>9</sup>

The most grisly episode to occur at Ash Creek Crossing, however, involved the deaths of two soldiers from Company K, Second Colorado Cavalry. On the morning of June 11, 1865, the men were dispatched as couriers from Fort Larned to Fort Riley. That evening their bodies were found. Captain Theodore Conkey, commanding officer of Fort Larned, described the scene.

"Huestis' body was found lying near the road four miles this side of Ash Creek, scalped, stripped, and otherwise mutilated. Near the crossing of Ash Creek Corporal Hicks body was found in the road stripped, his head, feet, and hands entirely severed, and his body mutilated in a most shocking and barbarous manner. It appears that the Indians laid in wait, concealed in the bed of the creek, and succeeded in killing Corporal Hicks immediately and Huestis, more fortunate for the moment, made his escape and fled for the post, but was overtaken and killed after a chase of four miles."<sup>10</sup>

Today Ash Creek still meanders through Pawnee County, its banks lined with ash trees; but no evidence of the crossing remains. As late as the middle of the twentieth century, cut downs on both sides of the stream were quite pronounced, and thanks to the photography of Clay Ward, Great Bend, Kansas, images of the crossing have been preserved. A limestone marker with a bronze plaque placed at the crossing site by the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association further commemorates the crossing.

## NOTES

1. The 25-mile length of Ash Creek was approximated from a map of Pawnee County in William T. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas*, 2 vols. (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883), I, 1350.
2. Kate L. Gregg, ed., *The Road to Santa Fe: The Journal and Diaries of George Champlin Sibley* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1995), 72.
3. Stella M. Drumm, ed., *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846-1847* (1926; reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1962), 41-42.
4. "Table of Distances From Kansas City To

The Gold Regions of Pike's Peak," *Western Journal of Commerce* (Kansas City, MO), November 6, 1858.

5. Randolph B. Marcy, *The Prairie Traveler; A Hand-Book For Overland Expeditions* (New York: Harper and Brothers, Publishers, 1859), 261.
6. *Western Journal of Commerce*, November 6, 1858.
7. Benjamin L. Wiley's Mexican War Journal, Benjamin Wiley Papers, and Thomas B. Lester's Diary, Western Historical Collection, University of Missouri, Columbia.
8. Milo Milton Quaife, ed., *Kit Carson's Autobiography* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 120-121.
9. Louise Barry, "The Ranch at Walnut Creek Crossing," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, 37 (Summer 1971): 137.
10. Letter from Theodore Conkey, Captain Commanding Post, Fort Larned, June 12, 1865, copy from Wisconsin State Historical Society at Fort Larned NHS Library.

## THE ATTACK AT BIG TIMBERS CROSSING

by Larry Mix

(*SFTA member Mix, St. John, KS, is webmaster for the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter and a frequent volunteer to help with chapter projects. His story demonstrates that adventure is still possible, though not always welcome, on the Trail.*)

SOMEHOW I got conned into cleaning the weeds from around the Wet/Dry Chapter trail markers. I enjoyed the time out cutting the weeds around all the markers along the roads to make them look a little better and so a person out looking for them might find them. It was a fun experience to go out and get with nature and the old Trail, sit in the shade of a large tree at a crossing and listen to the creaking of the wagons as they splash through the water. Call me weird or whatever, but it happens. That's why I stay away from Larned (location of state mental hospital) as much as possible.

On one of those days I had quite an adventure at the marker at Big Timbers Crossing on the Fort Hays/Fort Dodge Road. I had started at Fort Hays and went south, cleaning the weeds around the markers and taking GPS readings as I went along. At Big Timbers Crossing I got out of the pickup, got the weed-eater out of the back, and went to the side of the road about six inches from the edge of the weeds that lined the ditch to look over the weed situation. Before diving in with the weed-eater I thought I might have to use a chain

saw or something a little larger than the weed-eater to cut some of the weeds. While I was standing there looking at the crossing and wondering just what might have gone on at this location in Trail days, I was suddenly pulled back to reality. I heard something in the weeds at my feet. No big deal, I thought, because at other locations I had seen mice and figured that was what it was.

I don't know how many of you have ever been out in the wilds and heard a buzzzzzzzzzzzing sound from a rattlesnake, but I have and will never forget it. It makes water run down the pant leg and it's not from your water bottle. There I was standing about six inches from the weeds, hearing this buzzing sound that definitely was a rattlesnake. I stood there not moving and slowly looked all around. I couldn't spot him but knew I had upset him, and he was letting me know just that. After checking that he wasn't sneaking up behind me, I took a quick jump backward out on the road. I don't know for sure what the olympic record for a standing long jump backward is, but I now hold the gold medal for that event. I knew I should have gone to Australia.

After surveying the predicament I was in, I took the weed-eater and beat the weeds to see if I could make him a little madder or at least determine where he was. Well, I apparently didn't scare him one little bit. Out he came right on the road with me, and he was really mad. He got into the striking pose and stood his ground. I picked up a hand full of dirt and threw it at him. He stood his ground a little bit longer, but finally the old man won. He made a retreat down the road and into the weeds about twenty feet away from the marker.

I came back to the marker and listened. I could still hear another one somewhere in the weeds. These guys were interrupting my job. It was hot, and I was in no mood to let them stop me. So with my trusty weed-eater I beat the weeds in the ditch some more and out came two more, only they headed south right beside the marker and into the pasture beyond. One of these two was about four feet long. I'm glad he wasn't the one to come out on the road, because I may have let those darn weeds grow a

while longer and returned to that marker some other day. The other two were about two feet long. After I ran them off, I really beat the weeds and found no more or heard no more. I finally got the weeds cleared and was on my way.

There is a lesson in this little story. It pays to be careful out there as you never know what you might come across. I broke a rule that everyone should adhere to, that is don't go alone, take a friend. Rattlesnakes aren't the only things to watch for, the list is long. Right now buck deer are something to watch out for and keep your distance as you would lose that battle. I've decided that I'm going to wait till it gets colder and these little fellows are cold and asleep; then and only then am I going to get to the markers off the road and in the tall grass. Another lesson to learn is don't leave home without the camera.

## THE FORT LIVES ON

**S**FTA Vice-president Sam Arnold, his daughter Holly Arnold Kinney, and The Fort restaurant in Morrison, CO, were subjects of a feature article in the *Denver Post*, October 29, 2000. After the death of Carrie Arnold, Sam's wife of almost 30 years, in December 1998, Sam's interest in his restaurant waned, so much so that he thought of selling it (again). Sam was sure that it would be razed as the area is being developed and exclusive homes being built there. Then last year Sam received a Father's day card from his daughter Holly Arnold Kinney and in it she begged him not to sell the landmark and offered to buy into her father's business.

Holly, who heads Arnold Media Services, a Denver marketing and promotion firm, shares her father's interest in western history, and has joined her father in commanding The Fort. "I'm having such an exciting renaissance in my life right now," Holly said with a grin. "We're both bringing back a lot of the special things that were here in the 1960s, some of the whimsical things that we did back then." "Having Holly on board," Sam said, "makes it fun again."

Holly, daughter of Sam and his previous wife Betty, was 9 years old in 1962 when her father hired 22

men from Taos to assemble some 80,000 45-pound adobe bricks and hand-cut timbers into a replica of Bent's Old Fort, a trading post of the 1830s and 1840s along the Santa Fe Trail, near what is now La Junta in southeast Colorado.

It was Sam's dream to raise Holly and her brother, Keith, away from the city in an adobe home. Then in 1961, while thumbing through books at the Denver Public Library, Betty spotted a picture of Bent's outpost. The original plan was for the fort to be nothing more than their home. But when the banks balked at financing the odd dwelling, Sam decided to open the ground floor of the structure as a 300-seat restaurant and build quarters for his family on the second floor. The restaurant opened February 1, 1963.

Growing up at The Fort seemed magical to young Holly—especially when playing with the family's pet bear, Sissy. "Whenever business was slow, we'd take her up on the highway and all the people would stop," she said, "and then we'd lead them like a piper into the restaurant."

“[The bear] and Holly, when they were both very small, used to take naps together,” Sam said. “Then the bear grew to 500 pounds and 6 feet long. So she and Holly stayed friends, but they didn’t nap together any more.”

Holly also remembers the festive swirl of Mexican music and dancing at The Fort, and the "trade lodge" gift shop, where she helped her mother sell Indian jewelry and pottery. "It was growing up in living history," she said.

But not all was magical for the Arnolds, especially on the business side. "I knew that every plate I was serving was costing me more money than I was taking in," Sam said. We were so far out of town, and the highway wasn't in yet, and it was real nip and tuck for a few years whether we would survive."

Holly recalled, "we were trying to make ends meet. And I remember I went up to my dad and said, 'Can I get an allowance? All the other kids are getting one.' And he said 'Allowance? Go to work in the restaurant! You can make more money than anybody!' So I started working as a bus-girl, a salad girl, a tortilla-maker.

when I was 10 years old."

Before long Holly had to leave The Fort behind. In 1967, when she was 14, Sam and Betty divorced. Holly went to stay with her Aunt Mary in California, then finished high school in Pennsylvania before enrolling in Penn State University.

Meanwhile, The Fort's reputation grew nationally, especially when Sam launched a public-television series on frontier cookery, "Fryingpans West," in 1968. The next year, bachelor Sam met Carrie, then in her mid-20s, when she came to dinner at The Fort. At dawn one morning in 1971, they were married on the big rock above the fort.

Deciding he wanted a break from The Fort to spend time with his new bride, Sam sold the business in 1973, agreeing to take the purchase price in installments from the new owner.

And Holly, like many of her peers in the late 1960s and early 1970s, spent several years trying to find her place in the world. She married at age 19 and divorced at 21, and she dropped out of college when her son Oren was born. She found herself a single mother with a young child to support.

At her father's suggestion, Holly and her son moved back to Denver and she landed a job selling radio ad time to business clients. Overcoming the era's chauvinist attitudes toward women in ad sales, she became a top producer and at age 24 was offered a sales manager's job.

In 1980, at age 27, Holly was ready to leave radio and sales behind. "My father at that time had sold The Fort. He was running a small ad agency out of his house, kind of as a hobby, and he said he wanted a partner, not a competitor, so would I join him?"

With Sam traveling a lot, Holly found herself working with some of his clients, as well as hers. Soon she bought out her father and expanded the agency into a wide-ranging marketing and promotions firm serving many international clients.

Through those years, Sam received a steady income off the installment payments from The Fort's new owners. But by the mid-1980s, Sam discovered The Fort was floundering, and suddenly payments were skipped. In 1986 the restaurant was

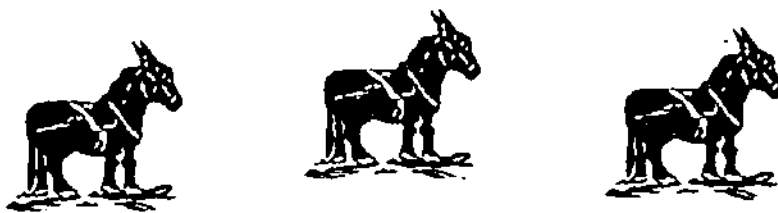
returned to him in a foreclosure.

There were tense nights, because of hard feeling over the foreclosure, when Sam says he slept at The Fort with a gun nearby in case of trouble.

"Suddenly finding himself back in the restaurant business . . . was sort of a shock," Holly said. "But then when they got back into it, they had a huge passion to save it."

Sam hired his daughter's firm to help promote The Fort. Through the 1990s, between Holly's marketing efforts and Sam's articles, books, speeches, and TV appearances touting Western cooking and history, The Fort's reputation has spread throughout the world.

While Holly was finding success in business, she also found romance with oilman Jeremy Kinney. They were married in February 1996 and, like countless others, had their reception at The Fort. Thanks to Holly, The Fort lives on.



## HOOF PRINTS

### —TRAIL TIDBITS—

SFTA member John N. Merrill from Derbyshire, England, who has walked trails all around the world, hiked the Santa Fe Trail, during September-November 2000, from Franklin, MO, to Santa Fe, NM, via the Cimarron Route, averaging more than 20 miles per day. He earlier walked the American Discovery Trail from coast to coast, including a portion of the Santa Fe Trail and part of the Mountain Route. Next year he plans to hike the Oregon Trail.

LouAnn Owens Strozyk, McCleary, WA, great-granddaughter of Santa Fe trader Samuel C. Owens who was killed during the Mexican War at the Battle of Sacramento, is writing a novel about the last years of Owens's life. Because she received help from the late Pauline Fowler, LouAnn recently made a contribution to SFTA in memory of Fowler.

A first edition inscribed copy of Lewis H. Garrard's *Wah-To-Yah and the Taos Trail* is listed in Dumont's Maps and Books of the West Fall

catalog #60 for \$2,000. Interested persons can reach the bookstore by calling (505)988-1076 or e-mail <info@dumontbooks.com>.

An article on "New Mexico's Frontier Forts: The Last Outposts" by David Grant Noble appears in the November 2000 issue of *New Mexico Magazine*. Information about Fort Union and the Santa Fe Trail is included. There are two photographs of Fort Union, but one is mistakenly identified as remnants of Fort Stanton.

SFTA Vice-president Sam Arnold attended the gala grand opening celebration of the Denver campus of Johnson & Wales University, the Providence, RI, based citadel that is purportedly the largest culinary and hospitality educator in the world. So says the September 14, 2000, issue of the *Denver Post*.

"Making a Unique Heritage: Celebrating Pike's Pawnee Village and the Santa Fe Trail, 1900-1918," an article by Amanda Laugesen, appeared in the Autumn 2000 issue of *Kansas History*. Identifying and marking these two features of the past gave turn-of-the-century Kansans a significant opportunity to create and reinforce a sense of community and identity. Five early photographs of DAR markers are included.

Rex Buchanan of the Kansas Geological Survey and speaker at the SFTA Rendezvous in September is a co-author of "Water of the Most Excellent Kind: Historic Springs in Kansas," *Kansas History*, Autumn 2000. Springs along the Oregon Trail, as well as the Santa Fe Trail, are discussed.

The SFT/Cimarron Cutoff Bike Trek has been postponed until the fall of 2001. For more information: write Dan O'Connell, 4709 Pepe Ortiz Rd SE, Rio Rancho NM 87124, or e-mail: <sftcc900@aol.com>.

Over 550 students of all ages from Keyes, Felt, and Boise City, OK, Elkhart, KS, Clayton, NM, and Plainview and Dalhart, TX, participated in the Living History Day-2000 sponsored by the Cimarron Heritage Center in Boise City on September 29.

The total number, including visitors, volunteers, and parents, reached 700.

The annual tour of the Santa Fe Trail sites in the Oklahoma panhandle, hosted by the Cimarron County Historical Society, was canceled this year because of the dry conditions.

The Kearny County Historical Society has undertaken the restoration of a twelve-sided barn that was threatened by construction on Highway 50. It will be moved to its new home at the Kearny County Museum complex in Lakin, KS, in November.

The Morton County Historical Society has been approved for a grant of \$20,000 by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) for the Grassland Heritage Festival project. The purpose is to support the local historical society's efforts to increase cultural awareness and tourism in southwestern Kansas.

The National Frontier Trails Center and the Missouri Valley Historical Interpreters held a candlelight tour of an 1860 Santa Fe Trail encampment at the Center on October 28. The encampment highlighted the turmoil of Independence and the nation on the eve of the Civil War.

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site sponsored the second Washita Symposium: Washita 2000, November 17 and 18. The event marked the fourth anniversary of the dedication of this important National Historic Site. Lawrence Hart, Director of the Cheyenne Cultural Center, spoke at the banquet Friday evening.

The Friends of Arrow Rock sponsored "Gunstocks & Bustles," a 19th century weekend in Arrow Rock, MO, September 16 and 17, 2000. The J. P. Sites Gun Shop and House was the focus of the event.

The Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, KS, was awarded a Conservation Assessment Program grant, enabling it to utilize the services of two specialized conservators. An objects conservator examined the Trail Center's collections and an architect examined the buildings and evalu-

ated the museum's operations. Both reports are crucial for grant applications and funding. Their advice will help the museum to continue to provide the best possible care for the objects entrusted to it.

The Santa Fe Trail Center received a General Operating Support Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in the amount of \$32,963.00. The funds will be given over a two-year period to enhance the museum's operations in the areas of staff development and compensation for personnel services and maintenance and repair.

A handsome revised brochure, "Frontier Trail Sites of Independence, Missouri" has been printed by the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter and the City of Independence. It provides a map and information for a self-guided tour.

The Wet/Dry Routes Chapter annual seminar will be held April 28, 2001, in conjunction with the Fort Larned Old Guard annual meeting. The morning seminar will feature four presentations on the Santa Fe Trail and the Civil War. The afternoon program will be at the Indian encampment at the village site on Pawnee Fork. The evening dinner will be followed by Elizabeth Custer, performed by Marla Matkin.

### LES VILDA MEETS THE DEVIL

SFTA Ambassador Les Vilda, Wilber, NE, has recorded one of the legendary mountain-man tales, "John Hatcher Meets the Devil," now available on cassette through the Last Chance Store for \$11 postpaid. Hatcher's story was carefully written down by Lewis H. Garrard during his ventures along the Santa Fe Trail, 1846-1847, published in *Wah-to-Yah and the Taos Trail* (1850, reprinted by University of Oklahoma Press, 1955), pp. 209-229. Vilda provides a professional and dramatic reading of this classic.

Listeners should brush up on "mountain-man lingo" so they won't be in the dark. A few examples will help you get started: "plew" is a beaver pelt, "Galena" is lead (as in bullets), "cache" is to hide, "awardenty" (*aguardiente*) is liquor, and "poor bull" is inadequate nourishment for

a hungry belly. This delightful story would make a mighty good stocking stuffer for Christmas, and the message of the tale would be fitting for the season. Thanks Les for a job well done.



## CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES

### —BOOK NOTICES—

James E. Perkins, *Tom Tobin, Frontiersman*. Available only from Herodotus Press, PO Box 7001, Pueblo West, CO 81007. Pp. xii + 313. Maps, illustrations, appendix, bibliography, index. Paper, \$20.00, includes postage.

This is the first biography of Tom Tobin (1824?-1904), fur trapper, trader, scout, and rancher. He is best known for tracking down the two Espinosa outlaws in southern Colorado, killing them (1863), and delivering their heads in a flour sack to Fort Garland to establish his claim for the bounty. Perkins cites the many garbled accounts of that episode, including one by Henry Inman in his *The Old Santa Fe Trail*. Then he gives the reader his fully documented version.

Tobin saw plenty of action on the Southwestern frontier, and knew men like Ceran St. Vrain, the Bents, Jim Beckwourth, the Magoffins, John C. Fremont, and Kit Carson. In fact, his daughter married Kit's eldest son William. Tom Tobin (also known in his middle years as Tom Autobees) always seemed to remain in the shadow of others, so that his career has generally been overlooked. The author does a good job of rescuing poor Tom and relating his fascinating story. A major incident in Tobin's life was his escape from the siege and massacre at Turley's distillery during the Taos Revolt of 1847. Prior to that, he had made a number of trips over the Santa Fe Trail.

This worthwhile book contains many historical photos never before published. Available only from the author, it is apt to be missed by many libraries, researchers, and collectors. Serious SFT aficionados should take note.

—Marc Simmons



## CHILDREN OF THE TRAILS DEDICATION

by Julie Daicoff

(Daicoff is a member of the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter and resides in Olathe, KS.)

**D**ISPLAYED proudly in the middle of the Johnson County public square in Olathe, KS, is a new "Children of the Trails" fountain sculpture created by Kwan Wu. The 10-foot by 100-foot sculpture was dedicated on September 7, 2000. The bronze sculpture is tucked in an area near the DAR markers, time capsules, and other historic signs.

The ceremony included speakers and recognition of the artist. Appropriately, the program featured school-age children who sang songs, including "The Cumberland Gap," "Home on the Range," "O Susanna," and "Sweet Betsy From Pike," danced to music of the time, and read inspirational literary passages. The life-size bronze sculpture represents the children of the trails and their plight in the westward movement. Thousands of children perished and this bronze was created to honor them. The specific inspiration for Wu is the small grave of Asa B. Smith, whose grave marker remains on Kansas Highway 7 in the area where the trails traveled from Olathe to the west.

Demonstrating the free movement of pioneer children, this sculpture shows a twelve-year old boy who is leading the way, a girl holding onto her rag doll with a sunflower in her hand, and a dog tagging along.

Interestingly the girl has a missing tooth that Wu indicates is a statement on health care of the time. The children are running over a creek with rocks and moving water, while facing west toward the future. Wu indicates that the rainbow over them symbolizes the upward movement and the hope for a new future.

The project, costing more than \$125,000, was a collaborative effort by the Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund, the county contingency fund, and the Johnson County Old Settlers Association. Wu's efforts have been recognized locally as exceptional and his bronzes grace the entire Kansas City area.

Wu believes the sculpture is not complete, stating, "It is how the work communicates with you and how it enhances your life." For Trail enthusiasts and everyone who visits, this sculpture will enhance the visual landscape for decades to come.

## 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, Metropoli-

tan State College of Denver, PO Box 173362, Denver CO 80217-3362.

The following poem was published in the October 1924 issue of *Sunset Magazine*, found in the Margaret Long Collection, University of Colorado Archives. Long's collection includes poems by writers other than herself, and one may surmise she was gathering a collection of desert and trail poems that pleased her. Perhaps she planned to publish them at some time.

In the following selection Santa Fe Trail followers may particularly enjoy: "dimming gulfs of starry space"; "faint paths that skirt a canon rim"; "vagrant prairie trails"; "tawny plains"; "blue, windy space"; and "dark hills against the night's starred face." These are strong expressions of the Trail experience. By publishing this poem, *Sunset Magazine* spoke to the trail-following spirit of its readers.

### Hill-Trails

by Ted Olson

Some may choose the broad roads  
that reach across the world,  
The splendid shining thoroughfares  
of prowess and renown,  
Along their curving majesty what vistas  
are unfurled  
Of towered and templed legend  
days, of scepter and of crown!  
But storied lands grow stale too soon,  
and I would watch a desert moon  
That shadows forth a timbered  
ridge above a sleeping town,  
And turn again my weary face to dim-  
ming gulfs of starry space--  
On the high trails, the shy trails,  
across the mesas brown.

The ancient trails of ancient lands are  
hammered deep and wide;  
Their dust is stamped by pilgrim feet  
and dark with pilgrim tears,  
The winds they know are weighted  
down with freight of brooding  
pride;  
Their very stones are resonant of  
long-forgotten years.  
But in my land the trails are dim--faint  
paths that skirt a canon rim  
Where scarce a foot has marred  
the rock or cupped the yielding  
sod,  
Where one may hear, at night or  
noon, the dreaming pines' ances-  
tral rune--  
On the hill trails, the still trails, unfet-  
tered and untrod.  
Oh, some may choose the old roads  
that centuries past have known,

The staid and somber thoroughfares of storied pomp and fame.  
But I would face the mountain wind,  
the tang of sage far-blown,  
And tramp the vagrant prairie trails  
that boast no pride nor name.  
For weary is the weight of time; outworn the past, howe'er sublime,  
And I would leave a little while the pigmy craft of men  
For tawny plains; blue, windy space;  
dark hills against the night's starred face,  
On the new trails, the true trails,  
that call me forth again.

## SAND CREEK MEMORIALIZED

by Richard W. Godin

*(SFTA member Godin, Woonsocket, RI, has a special interest in the Bent family and the Cheyennes.)*

NOVEMBER 29, 2000, will mark the 136<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the most controversial events in the annals of Colorado history, that of the Sand Creek Massacre. On that fateful day in 1864 a peace-seeking village of Cheyennes under Chief Black Kettle and several lodges of Arapahos under Left Hand were attacked by Colonel John Milton Chivington, commander of the Third Colorado Regiment (the "100 daysers") and a contingent of the Colorado First Regiment out of Fort Lyon.

Over the years, the account of this affair has been written and rewritten, usually pursuant to the bias of the chronicler, and its cause and effect disputed to the level of finger pointing. What transcends the controversy, once the smoke has dissipated, is the tragedy and irony of Sand Creek. The Cheyenne and Arapaho losses, young and old, male and female, touched virtually every family in the village. Ironically, the death of most of the chiefs who favored peace, notably White Antelope and Lone Bear (One Eye), caused a realignment of loyalties and leadership which supported resistance . . . the rest is history.

On a brisk sunny morning, November 29, 1990, a group of Cheyennes, all descendants of the survivors of Sand Creek, led by Chief Laird Cometsevah, assembled at the site, known to them a Ponoehoe, to commemorate those who died there in November 1864. At the invitation of Chief Cometsevah, SFTA Ambassador Paul Bentrup and I were privi-

leged to have attended this solemn and moving ceremony.

The following poem by Simon Ortiz, 1981, is a fitting tribute to the future of Sand Creek.

This America  
has been a burden  
of steel and mad  
death.  
but, look now,  
there are flowers  
and new grass  
and a spring wind  
rising  
from Sand Creek.



Raising the American flag and white flag of truce in memory of Chief Black Kettle, l to r: Homer Flute, Byron Black (descendant of Black Kettle), and Robert Simpson.

## SAND CREEK NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BILL PASSED

THE bill creating the Sand Creek National Historical Site won final congressional approval on October 23. This act authorizes the National Park Service to negotiate for property within the boundaries of the 12,480-acre site from willing sellers only and protects private property owners. The site of the Sand Creek Massacre was determined last year after a lengthy investigation. Traditional agricultural uses inside the national historic site boundary may

continue until the property is purchased from the private owners.

Colorado Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, who introduced the legislation, read excerpts from the two recently-discovered, dramatic letters printed below, written by Colorado soldiers who witnessed the massacre of 163 Indians at Sand Creek on November 29, 1864, during the hearings. Senator Campbell wept when he read the graphic descriptions. The Sand Creek NHS has Santa Fe Trail connections.

## SAND CREEK LETTERS

*(Special thanks to SFTA member Malcolm Strom, Dwight, KS, for sending copies of these letters as printed in the Rocky Mountain News, September 15, 2000.)*

THE following two letters were recently made public and provide ghastly testimony to the massacre of 163 Cheyenne and Arapaho by U.S. troops at Sand Creek in southeastern Colorado on November 29, 1864. The letters were written by two army officers, Lieutenant Joseph Cramer and Captain Silas Soule, First Colorado Volunteers, who witnessed the carnage but refused Colonel John M. Chivington's orders to join in killing men, women, and children who were encamped under a U.S. flag and a white flag. The letters were addressed to Major Edward W. Wynkoop, the officer who assured the Cheyenne and Arapaho at Sand Creek that they were safe there while peace arrangements were completed.

The letters, evaluated by Colorado State Historian David Halaas as authentic and "the most important evidence we have about the Sand Creek Massacre," were brought forth by Linda Rebeck, Evergreen, CO, who found them in her mother's papers. They had belonged to Linda's grandfather, Mark L. Blunt, a farmer in the Arkansas valley who knew the Bent family and, possibly, the authors of the letters. The letters are handwritten copies, in the hand of the two officers. They were written some two weeks after the event. Both officers testified before a Congressional committee investigating Chivington's handling of the Sand Creek attack, and they said many of the same things that appear in these letters. Both letters are reproduced in

their entirety. It should be noted that Black Kettle was not killed as reported. Soule was assassinated in Denver on April 23, 1865.

**Captain Silas Soule to Major Edward W. Wynkoop, December 14, 1864**

Ft. Lyon, C.T.

December 14, 1864

Dear Ned:

Two days after you left here the 3d Reg't with a Battalion of the 1<sup>st</sup> arrived here, having moved so secretly that we were not aware of their approach until they had Pickets around the Post, allowing no one to pass out! They arrested Capt. Bent and John Vogle, and placed guards around their houses. They then declared their intention to massacre the friendly Indians camped on Sand Creek. Major Anthony gave all information, and eagerly joined in with Chivington & Co, and ordered Lieut. Cramer, with his whole Co to Join the command. As soon as I knew of their movement I was indignant as you would have been were you here, and went to Cannon's room where a number of officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3d were congregated and told them that any man who would take part in the murders, knowing the circumstances as we did, was a low lived cowardly son of a bitch. Capt. Y. J. Johnson and Lieut Harding went to camp and reported to Chiv, Downing, and the whole outfit what I had said, and you bet hell was to pay in camp. Chiv and all hands swore they would hang me before they moved camp, but I stuck it out, and all the officers at the Post, except Anthony backed me. I was then ordered with my whole company to Major A—with 20 days rations. I told him that I would not take part in their intended murder, but if they were going after the Sioux, Kiowa's or any fighting Indians, I would go as far as any of them. They said that was what they were going for, and I joined them. We arrived at Black Kettles and Left Hand's Camp at day light. Lieut Wilson with Co's "C", "E" & "G" were ordered in advance to cut off their herd. He made a circle to the rear and formed a line 200 yds from the village, and opened fire. Poor Old John Smith and Louderbeck ran out with white flags but they paid no attention to them, and they ran back into the tents. Anthony then (indecipherable word) with Co's "D" "K" & "G", to within one hundred yards and commenced firing. I refused to fire and swore that none but a coward would. For by this time hundreds of women and children were coming towards us and getting on their knees for mercy. Anthony shouted, "Kill the sons of bitches" Smith and Louderbeck came to our command, although I am

confident there were 200 shots fired at them, for I heard an officer say that Old Smith and any one who sympathized with the Indians, ought to be killed and now was a good time to do it. The Battery then came up in our rear, and opened on them. I took my Comp'y across the Creek, and by this time the whole of the 3d and the Batteries were firing into them and you can form some idea of the slaughter. When the Indians found that there was no hope for them they went for the Creek, and buried themselves in the Sand and got under the banks and some of the bucks got their Bows and a few rifles and defended themselves as well as they could. By this time there was no organization among our troops, they were a perfect mob—every man on his own hook. My Co. was the only one that kept their formation, and we did not fire a shot.

The massacre lasted six or eight hours, and a good many Indians escaped. I tell you Ned it was hard to see little children on their knees have their brains beat out by men professing to be civilized. One squaw was wounded and a fellow took a hatchet to finish her, she held her arms up to defend her, and he cut one arm off, and held the other with one hand and dashed the hatchet through her brain. One Squaw with her two children, were on their knees, begging for their lives of a dozen soldiers, within ten feet of them all firing—when one succeeded in hitting the squaw in the thigh, then she took a knife and cut the throats of both children, and then killed herself. One old Squaw hung herself in the lodge—there was not enough room for her to hang and she held up her knees and choked herself to death. Some tried to escape on the Prairie, but most of them were run down by horsemen. I saw two Indians hold one of another's hands, chased until they were exhausted, when they kneeled down, and clasped each other around the neck and were both shot together. They were all scalped, and as high as half a dozen taken from one head. They were all horribly mutilated. One woman was cut open and a child taken out of her, and scalped.

White Antelope, War Bonnet and a number of others had Ears and Privates cut off. Squaws snatches were cut out for trophies. You would think it impossible for white men to butcher and mutilate human beings as they did there, but every word I have told you is the truth, which they do not deny. It was almost impossible to save any of them. Charly Autobee saved John Smith and Winsers squaw. I saved little Charley Bent. Geo Bent was killed. Jack Smith was taken prisoner, and murdered the

next day in his tent by one of the Denn's Co. "E". I understand the man received a horse for doing the job. They were going to murder Charlie Bent, but I run him into the Fort. They were going to kill Old Uncle John Smith, but Lt. Cannon and the boys at Ft. Lyon interfered, and saved him. They would have murdered Old Bents family, if Col. Tappan had not taken the matter in hand. Cramer went up with twenty (20) men, and they did not like to buck against so many of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Chivington has gone to Washington to be made a General, I suppose, and get authority to raise a nine months Reg't to hunt Indians. He said Downing will have me cashiered if possible. If they do I want you to help me. I think they will try the same for Cramer for he has shot his mouth off a good deal, and did not shoot his pistol off in the Massacre. Joe has behaved first rate during the whole affair. Chivington reports five or six hundred killed, but there were not more than two hundred, about 140 women and children and 60 bucks. A good many were out hunting buffalo. Our best Indians were killed. Black Kettle, One Eye, Minnemic, and Left Hand. Geo. Pierce of Co. "F" was killed trying to save John Smith. There was one other of the 1<sup>st</sup> killed and nine of the 3d all through their own fault. They would get up to the edge of the bank and look over, to get a shot at an Indian under them, and get an arrow put through them. When the women were killed the Bucks did not seem to try and get away, but fought desperately. Charly Autobee wished me to write all about it to you. He says he would have given anything if you could have been there.

I suppose Cramer has written to you, all the particulars, so I will write half. Your family is well. Billy Walker, Col. Tappan, Wilson (who was wounded in the arm) start for Denver in the morning. There is no news I can think of. I expect we will have a hell of a time with the Indians this winter. We have (200) men at the Post—Anthony in command. I think he will be dismissed when the facts are known in Washington. Give my regards to any friends you come across, and write as soon as possible.

Yours sc.

(signed) S.S. Soule

**Lieutenant Joseph Cramer to Major Wynkoop, December 19, 1864**

Ft. Lyon, C.T.

December 19, 1864

Dear Major:

This is the first opportunity I have had of writing you since the great Indian Massacre, and for a start, I will acknowledge I am ashamed to own I was in it with my Co. Col. Chivington came

down here with the gallant third, known as Chivington Brigade, like a thief in the dark throwing his Scouts around the Post, with instructions to let no one out, without his orders, not even the Commander of the Post, and for the shame, our Commanding Officer submitted. Col. Chivington expected to find the Indians in camp below the Com—but the Major Comd'g told him all about where the Indians were, and volunteered to take a Battalion from the Post and Join the Expedition.

Well Col. Chiv. got in about 10 a.m. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> and at 8 p.m. we started with all of the 3<sup>rd</sup> [and] parts of "H" "O" and "E" of the First, in command of Lt. Wilson Co. "K" "D" and "G" in commanding of Major Anthony. Marched all night up Sand, to the big bend in Sanday, about 15 or 20 miles, above where we crossed on our trip to Smoky Hill and came on to Black Kettles village of 103 lodges, containing not over 500 all told, 350 of which were women and children. Three days previous to our going out, Major Anthony gave John Smith, Lowderbuck of Co. "G" and a government driver, permission to go out there and trade with them, and they were in the village when the fight came off. John Smith came out holding up his hands and running towards us, when he was shot at by several, and the word was passed along to shoot him. He then turned back, and went to his tent and got behind some Robes, and escaped unhurt. Lowderbuck came out with a white flag, and was served the same as John Smith, the driver the same. Well I got so mad I swore I would not burn powder, and I did not. Capt. Soule the same. It is no use for me to try to tell you how the fight was managed, only I think the Officer in command should be hung, and I know when the truth is known it will cashier him.

We lost 40 men wounded, and 10 killed. Not over 250 Indians mostly women and children, and I think not over 200 were killed, and not over 75 bucks. With proper management they could all have been killed and not lost over 10 men. After the fight there was a sight I hope I may never see again.

Bucks, women and children, were scalped, fingers cut off to get the rings on them, and this as much with Officers as men, and one of those officers a Major; and a Lt. Col. cut off Ears, of all he came across, a squaw ripped open and a child taken from her, little children shot, while begging for their lives (and all the indignities shown their bodies that ever was heard of) (women shot while on their knees, with their arms around soldiers a begging for their lives.) things that Indians would be ashamed to do. To give you some little idea, squaws were known to kill their

own children, and then themselves, rather than to have them taken prisoner. Most of the Indians yielded 4 or 5 scalps. But enough! for I know you are disgusted already. Black Kettle, White Antelope, War Bonnet, Left Hand, Little Robe and several other chiefs were killed. Black Kettle said when he saw us coming, that he was glad, for it was Major Wynkoop coming to make peace. Left Hand stood with his hands folded across his breast, until he was shot saying, "Soldiers no hurt me—soldiers my friends." One Eye was killed: was in the employ of Gov't as spy, came into the Post a few days before, and reported about the Sioux, were going to break out at Learned[sic], which proved true.

After all the pledges made my Major A — to these Indians and then to take the course he did. I think as comments are necessary from me; only I will say he has a face for every man he talks. The action taken by Capt. Soule and myself were under protest. Col. A —was going to have Soule hung for saying there were all cowardly Sons of B—s; if Soule did not take it back, by nary take back with Soule. I told the Col. that I thought it murder to jump them friendly Indians. He says in reply: Damn any man or men who are in sympathy with them. Such men as you and Major Wynkoop better leave the U.S. Service, so you can judge what a nice time we had on the trip. I expect Col. C—and Downing will do all in their power to have Soule, Cositt and I dismissed. Well, let them work for what they damn please, I ask no favors of them. If you are in Washington, for God's sake, Major, keep Chivington from being a Bri'g Genl. which he expects. I will send you the Denver Papers with this. Excuse this for I have been in much of a hurry.

Very respectfully,

Your Well-Wisher

(signed) Joe A. Cramer

John Smith was taken prisoner and then murdered. One little child 3 months old was thrown in the feed box of a wagon and brought one days march, and there left on the ground to perish. Col. Tappan is after them for all that is out. I am making out a report of all from the beginning to end, to send to Gen'l Slough, in hope that he will have the thing investigated, and if you should see him, please speak to him about it, for fear that he has forgotten me. I shall write him nothing but what can be proven.

Major I am ashamed of this. I have it gloriously mixed up, but am in hopes I can explain it all to you before long. I would have given my right arm had you been here, when they arrived. Your family are all well.

(signed) Joe A. Cramer

## CAMP TALES

### —CHAPTER REPORTS—

Because of no takers, Wet/Dry Routes Chapter Webmaster Larry Mix has withdrawn his offer to put all current chapter newsletters on the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter web page to be accessible for anyone to view on the Internet. Thanks Larry for trying.

#### Cimarron Cutoff

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

The fall meeting was hosted by the Morton County Historical Society in Elkhart on October 14, 2000. Lunch was served and the program theme was "Music on the SFT."

#### Texas Panhandle

President Kathy Revett  
PO Box 2791  
Amarillo TX 79101  
(806) 371-9309  
<krevett@arn.net>

No report.

#### Wagonbed Springs

President Jeff Trotman  
PO Box 1005  
Ulysses KS 67880  
(316) 356-1854  
<jtkb@pld.com>

The chapter held its quarterly meeting October 13 at the Historic Adobe Museum in Ulysses, in conjunction with the museum open-house activities the week of October 8-14. The museum building and exhibit gallery have been newly renovated. The building was constructed of adobe blocks in the 1930s, and it is listed on the State Historic Register.

New rack cards for the Wagon Bed Springs Chapter are ready for distribution at tourist sites. They contain general information about the Santa Fe Trail, Jedediah Smith, the Mormon Battalion, and annual wild flower tours. They were paid for by the Grant County Tourism Board. If anyone could distribute some of these, contact President Trotman.

#### Heart of the Flint Hills

President Donald B. Cress  
RR 1 Box 66  
Council Grove KS 66846  
(316) 767-5826

The chapter annual meeting was held October 5 at the Burlingame ro-

deo grounds building. Five directors were elected representing Lyon, Osage, Morris, and Wabaunsee counties, and one at-large position.

"Petticoats Rule" became the theme as Joleen Day, Helen Ericson, Carol Retzer, Cathy Swartz, and Deanne Wright were elected. The men in the chapter have been busy. Charlie Noonan and Al Bunting recently hauled rock to Wilmington School for repair of the west wall.

In April the chapter sponsored a Trail tour of eight sites from Burlingame to Council Grove. Don Schiesser and Joleen Day were tour guides for 20 participants, many of whom had been too involved with the symposium last year to make the trek but had heard rave reviews for the guides.

Stories are still being told of the 2000 Trail Ride in June when 110 participants rode about 100 miles from Frankfort to the Jeffrey Energy Center, up to the Skyline Scenic Drive to Old Highway 4, and on to Council Grove. Nature provided a major thunderstorm while the riders were on Skyline ridge.

After the October business meeting, slides of Trail maps, swales, and forts on the Santa Fe, Oregon, and Lewis and Clark trails were shown by Alfred and Helen Ericson. They have traveled historic trails for 10 years and recently attended the OCTA conference in Kansas City.

The next chapter meeting will be held in January.

### End of the Trail

President Tom Steel  
691 Callecita Jicarilla  
Santa Fe NM 87505  
(505) 982-0254  
<tomcarly@swcp.com>

On September 16 seventeen hardy members and guests gathered at Apache Ridge to hike the Trail to the outskirts of Cañoncito. The Trail is precipitous, rocky, and overgrown with vegetation. It had been improved by US Topographical Engineers in 1859, as part of an effort to modernize the route between Fort Union and Santa Fe. It is difficult to imagine how the wagons on the early Trail were able to negotiate the ridge. We stopped at a spot that overlooks Interstate 25 and Johnson's Ranch Civil War site, with Glorieta Mesa in the back-

ground. We had a leisurely lunch before returning to our cars. Thanks to Margaret Sears for being our guide and giving us an interpretation of a very arduous portion of the Santa Fe Trail.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 18. Dr. David Sandoval will give a presentation on the Presidial Soldier (*soldado de curea*) and the Presidial System. Sandoval is Professor of Chicano Studies/History at the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo. He is a charter member of SFTA, former member of the board of directors.

Looking ahead, Supt. Harry Myers, Fort Union National Monument, will present a program, "Hispanic New Mexicans' Cultural Ideas and Interaction with Nature," on January 20, 2001. On March 17 Andy Hernandez, historian from Western New Mexico University, will speak at a joint meeting of EoT and Salida del Sol on "Indian Slavery and Trails of the Southwest." It will be held at the Folk Art Museum.

The board of directors met October 3 to discuss, among other business, participation in the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition. President Steel reported that *Sunset Magazine* will mention the chapter's Walking Tour brochure in an upcoming article about Santa Fe. We also discussed the fact that some state historical markers pertaining to the Trail were placed in the wrong locations and text on some is certainly dated. An attempt will be made to correct these errors.

The chapter sadly reports the passing of SFTA and EoT charter member S. A. Bennett, Santa Fe. He was a faithful member and constant supporter of the Trail. He will be missed.

### Corazon de los Caminos

President Faye Gaines  
HC 60 Box 27  
Springer, NM 87747  
(505) 485-2473  
fayegaines@yahoo.com

The August field trip to Philmont Scout Ranch south of Cimarron, NM, included a tour of Villa Philmonte, the Phillips' magnificent 22-room "summer home." Waite Phillips (of the Oklahoma Phillips Petroleum family) donated much of the land he had purchased on the original Beau-

bien/Miranda/Maxwell Land Grant to the Boy Scouts of America.

A little farther south on the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail is Rayado. Kit Carson and Lucien Maxwell founded the village in 1848 on the Beaubien land grant (Maxwell's father-in-law). Carson's reconstructed hacienda and Jesus Abreu's stage station and mercantile were being shown by Henry Ostrander and John Webb dressed in historic attire.

The September adventure was the annual workday at Fort Union. We learned how to make adobe plaster and applied 20 wheelbarrow loads of the heavy, sloppy stuff to crumbling walls of the former soldiers' barracks. Superintendent Harry Myers, Exhibit Specialist Bob Hartzler, and Maintenance Supervisor Roger Portillo gave us another memorable day.

More than 30 "rut-nuts" gathered at the Rock Crossing on the Canadian River in October. This site is on private ranch land so we were grateful for the special tour. One tombstone remains of three men killed by Indians as the wagoneers raced from the crossing in 1879. It is a poignant reminder of the drama and death encountered on the old Santa Fe Trail.

The November 19 meeting was scheduled at the Santa Clara Café in Wagon Mound. Bob Mallin, a graduate of New York Medical College, had the program on Health, Medicine, and Surgery on the Western Frontier. Ray and Lynn Marchi will host a potluck Christmas dinner for chapter members on December 16.

Plans for Symposium 2001 in Las Vegas are getting lots of attention. Entertainment, eats, expert speakers, and excursions are being addressed in detail (see article in this issue). It's not too early to make your plans or volunteer. Coordinator Steve Whitmore can be reached at (505) 454-0683 or <whitmore@newmexico.com>.

### Wet/Dry Routes

President Howard Losey  
726 James St  
Maize KS 67101  
(316) 722-8669  
<hlosey@swbell.net>

The chapter summer meeting was at the Barton County Museum in Great Bend, KS, with 28 members and guests attending. Larry and

Carolyn Mix, members from St. John, arranged for the meeting place. Lois Brichacek, museum president, welcomed the group. She and the museum staff were gracious hosts and invited the chapter to return any time. Carolyn Mix served homemade cookies and Joyce Losey provided ice tea and lemonade.

Clara Goodrich accompanied herself on the autoharp and sang several Trail songs and led the group in a sing-along for the first part of the program. Program Director David Clapsaddle gave a briefing on Ash Creek crossing, one of the chapter's most well-known sites. The physical evidence of this site has been carelessly obliterated but fortunately there is a photograph taken in 1949 by Clay Ward that shows the crossing's bank cutdowns really well.

Items discussed during the meeting included SFTA's survey regarding dues collection, the chapter's web page, report by the Faye Anderson award committee, Chuck wagon committee report, marker committee report, joint venture with the Fort Larned Old Guard, donation to FLOG to help acquire the Cheyenne/Sioux village site, and the Beecher Island traveling seminar.

### **Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron**

Ann Warner  
10072 120 Rd  
Spearville KS 67876  
(316) 385-2456

The chapter's third quarter meeting was held September 30, 2000, at the Staath Memorial Museum, Montezuma, KS. Allen Baily, Dodge City Marshall and Boot Hill Cowboy Poet, presented a program on the history of the Dodge City, Montezuma, & Trinidad Railway.

The fourth quarter meeting will be Sunday, November 19, at the First Christian Church, Dodge City, at 2:00 p.m. The Wet/Dry Routes Chapter will meet join with us. Janice Klein will be the presenter and refreshments will be served.

### **Missouri River Outfitters**

President Roger Slusher  
1421 South St  
Lexington MO 64067  
(660) 259-2900

On Saturday, October 21, thirteen members gathered for a day on the eastern leg of the Santa Fe Trail.

Roger and Sandy Slusher guided the group and shared information about historic sites from Lexington to Arrow Rock. Because of time and distance constraints, we are saving the Franklin area for a trip in 2001. After lunch in Arrow Rock, the group took a walking tour of the town and met at the Interpretive Center for a very interesting program by historian and site interpreter Mike Dickey entitled "The Impact of Santa Fe Trail Trade on the Banking Industry of Missouri." Following the program, Dickey conducted a tour of the Interpretive Center.

The next MRO Chapter meeting will be the pot luck holiday dinner on Sunday, December 3. For more information contact John Atkinson, (816) 233-3924.

### **Quivira**

No report.

### **Cottonwood Crossing**

President Dale E. Brooks  
316 W 16 St  
Newton KS 67114  
(316) 283-6454

The quarterly meeting was held in Tampa on August 24, with 24 members present. Following lunch, Ed Costello presented a historical review of the town of Tampa and the surrounding area. The town is located on top of the Santa Fe Trail.

Following Costello's presentation, chapter members toured markers and Trail ruts located at the northeast corner of Tampa. Visible ruts are located in the Lutheran Cemetery. A stone marker was previously placed there by the chapter, identifying the ruts as Trail remnants.

Several chapter members attended the Larned Rendezvous.

### **Bent's Fort**

President Mark Mitchell  
Comanche National Grassland  
1420 E 3rd St  
La Junta CO 81050  
(719) 384-2181

The Bent's Fort Chapter and the Fowler Historical Society enjoyed a trip to the Fowler South Country on September 16. Approximately 70 people attended the tour.

After the meeting at the Fowler Museum, the group caravanned to the area of Omer School where Elton Watson gave a talk. At the White Rock School, Nadine Martin gave a

history of the building and Clark Harriman showed maps and spoke about the area's history. The Van Skyke Ditch headgate was visited and then the groups moved on to a petroglyph and archeological site. After a picnic in the shade of cottonwood trees, the tour concluded at the Apishapa Dam Site where Allen Knowlton, Harriman, and Watson told about the building of the dam and 1923 flood which washed it out.

Many thanks go to ranch owners John and Bonnie Welch for giving permission for us to tour the sites on their land, and to the Welches, and to Cletis and Nadine Martin, ranch foreman, for leading the tour. Thanks also to the White Rock Community who were our hosts. The committee who planned the tour was comprised of Deb Smith, Dub Couch, and Dale and Teresa Kesterson.

A social/educational meeting was scheduled November 4 at the Bent's Fort Inn, Las Animas, CO. Luella Marlman presented a program about "The Daughters of the American Revolution Contribution to Preserving the Santa Fe Trail." Mary Gamble spoke about her book, *Santa Fe Trail Markers in Colorado*. Mary and Leo also have books about DAR markers in Kansas and New Mexico.

### **HELP WANTED**

My great-great-grandfather, John German, was reported by family members to have freighted on the Santa Fe Trail. He was born in Tennessee in the early 1830s, married a Cherokee woman whose parents made the march on the Trail of Tears, and they had two sons, Paralee, born c. 1855, and John C., born c. 1857. The family may have lived in Santa Fe for a time. Any information about this family will be appreciated. Thanks.

Shirley Daykin  
<outhouse@ionet.net>

I received from Virginia Fisher a copy of February 1998 *Wagon Tracks* with her article about Joseph B. Watrous. He was the oldest half-brother of my grandfather, Charles E. Watrous. I would like to know more about this family if anyone can share details with me. Thank you.

Marge Craig  
<mcraig0520@yahoo.com>

## NARDONE GIVES OVAL SIGN

**JOE** Nardone, Laguna Hills, CA, director of the Pony Express Trail Association, recently donated to SFTA one of the porcelain Santa Fe Trail oval signs placed on schools along the route in 1948. He did not explain how he obtained the marker. It is now on permanent display at the Santa Fe Trail Center at Larned. Nardone is pleased that it has a home where the public may view it.

The story of these signs has been told in earlier editions of WT and efforts have been made to identify the location of as many as possible. This one makes a total of 38. It is estimated that perhaps 100 of the signs were dedicated in 1948.

Nardone is donating several other Trail-related items to SFTA, including a metal coaster which is a replica of the Santa Fe Trail/Highway 56 road sign, a glass tumbler with a picture and "Santa Fe Trail - Kansas" inscribed, Kansas Centennial Santa Fe Trail medallion, and six medallions commemorating the 350th anniversary of Santa Fe. These will be exhibited in appropriate locations. Special thanks to Nardone for these generous donations.

### 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.

### BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

**Santa Fe Trail Association**  
PO Box 31  
Woodston, KS67675

*Change Service Requested*

Baker's Market, 115 E Main, Council Grove KS 66846

Cottage House Hotel, 25 N Neosho, Council Grove KS 66846

Rough Rider Trading Co LLC, 158 Bridge St, Las Vegas NM 87701

Spivey's Books & Maps, 825 Westport Rd, Kansas City MO 64111

### PATRON MEMBERSHIPS

James P. Cavanagh, 4436 Clayton Ave, Los Angeles CA 90027

### FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Perry & Diann Gilmore, 7708 Tripp, Amarillo TX 79121

Tom & Lou Ann Gray, 67 N Rd I, Ulysses KS 67880

Jim & Bonnie Ryan, 2724 Bengal Lane, Plano TX 75023

Malcolm & Katie Schnitker, 2124 Candelero, Santa Fe NM 87505

The Stich Family, 6966 S Atlantic Ave, New Smyrna Beach FL 32169

Gareth & DeAnn Wilson, 2600 NW 124th St, Vancouver WA 98685

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Marge Craig, 8804 Zyle Rd, Austin TX 78737

Velvet Glass, 3401 Timmons Ln #37, Houston TX 77027

### TRAIL CALENDAR

Everyone is invited to send notices for this section; provide location, date, time, and activity. This is a quarterly. The next issue should appear in February, so send information for March and later to arrive by January 20, 2001. Thank you.

**Dec. 3, 2000:** Missouri River Outfitters Chapter meeting, 2:30 pm, Lexington, MO.

**Dec. 9, 2000:** Ft. Larned Christmas.

**Dec. 16, 2000:** Corazon de los Cami-

nos Chapter meeting.

**Jan. 20, 2001:** End of the Trail Chapter meeting, program by Harry Myers.

**Mar. 17, 2001:** End of the Trail Chapter Meeting at Folk Art Museum, program by Andy Hernandez.

**April 28, 2001:** Texas Panhandle Chapter, Wildcat Bluff Nature Center and Amarillo Botanical Gardens festival. Call Kathy Revett at (806) 371-9309 or e-mail <www.wildcatbluff.org>.

**Sept. 27-30, 2001:** SFTA Symposium, Las Vegas, NM. Contact Steve Whitmore, 120 Gabaldon Rt, Las Vegas NM 87701, (505) 454-0683.

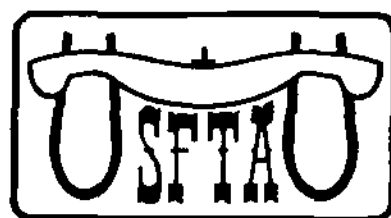
### FROM THE EDITOR

It was a pleasure to travel the Trail again with an enthusiastic group of 50 Elderhostelers in October, under the direction of SFTA member Jim Sherer. Anytime one can travel the Trail is a good time. Special thanks to the following SFTA members for help along the way: Kathy Borgman, Pam Parsons, Roger Slusher, Katharine Kelley, Connie Essington, Ralph Hathaway, Betsy Crawford-Gore, Bev Howell, Noel Ary, Patricia Heath, Gerald Faust, Harry Myers, Margaret Sears, and Marc Simmons.

Plans are underway to publish a new membership roster as soon as this issue is in the mail. An updated index to WT, through volume 15, is in the works, scheduled for release soon after the last issue of this volume is completed in August 2001.

Happy Trails!

—Leo E. Oliva



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