

Wagon Tracks

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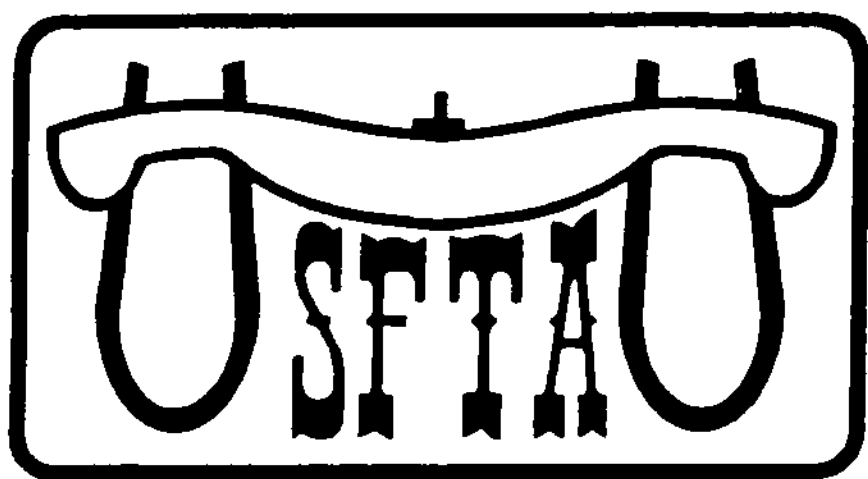


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WAGON TRACKS

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY

VOLUME 15

MAY 2001

NUMBER 3

LONE ELM CAMPGROUND PRESERVATION PROJECT

by Ross Marshall

(Ross Marshall, Merriam, KS, is former president of SFTA, the Association's representative to the Partnership for the National Trails System, and actively involved in Trail preservation.)

THE Lone Elm Campground site, for many years one of the most threatened Trail sites in the Kansas City area, has been purchased by the City of Olathe, KS, for a city park, thereby likely saving it from becoming a residential subdivision. The sale involves the purchase of a 160-acre farm from the Willsey family, who have owned it for the last couple of decades.

Lone Elm Campground is one of the most famous frontier Trail camp sites and rendezvous points. In the almost four decades of its use, starting in 1821, thousands of Santa Fe traders, Oregon and California emigrants, mountain men, missionaries, soldiers, and '49ers passed by and/or camped there, including such frontier notables as William Becknell, John Fremont, the Donner-Reed party, Kit Carson, and Francis Parkman.

(continued on page 5)

**WESTERN SIX CHAPTERS
LA JUNTA, CO, JUNE 9-10**

**SFT BIKE TREK
SEPTEMBER 9-28**

**SFTA SYMPOSIUM
LAS VEGAS, NM
SEPTEMBER 27-30**

EDITOR'S APOLOGY

My sincere apology is extended to Dr. Bob Mallin and Alma Gregory for unfair, unprofessional, and irresponsible criticism in the last issue of *WT*. There is no excuse for such bad judgment by an editor, and I am truly sorry. I also apologize to Louann Jordan for discarding her SFTA election logo, and it is back in this issue.

-Leo E. Oliva

SYMPOSIUM 2001

EVERYTHING is set for the symposium at Las Vegas, NM, September 27-30, 2001. Registration packets and program information have been sent to all SFTA members. If you did not receive a packet, please contact the coordinator, Steve Whitmore at (505) 454-0683 or <whitmore@newmexico.com>.

You will save money by register-

(continued on page 5)

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

SFTA ELECTION BALLOTS DUE JULY 15

THE nominating committee (Louann Jordan, chair, David Clapsaddle, and Clint Chambers) submits the following slate for officers and directors. Information about each candidate and the mail-in ballot are inserted in this issue. Please return the ballot to Secretary Ruth Olson Peters no later than July 15, 2001.

President (2-year term): Hal Jackson, Albuquerque NM

Vice-President (2-year term): Anne Mallinson, Centerview MO

Secretary-Treasurer (4-year term): Ruth Olson Peters, Larned KS

At-Large Director (4-year term): Clint Chambers, Lubbock TX

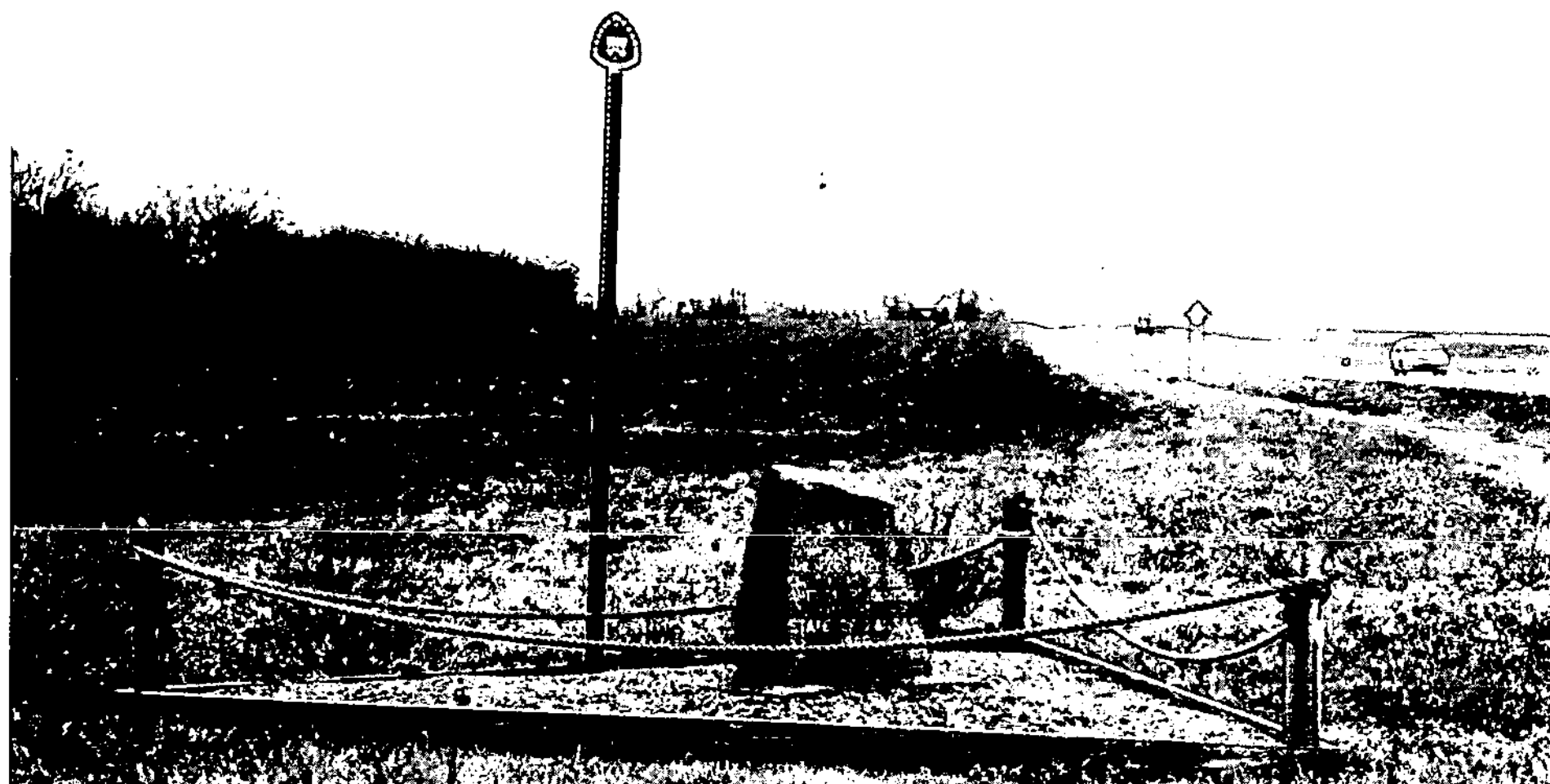
Colorado Director (4-year term): Mary Gamble, Springfield CO

Kansas Director (4-year term, vote for one): Vernon Lohrentz, Newton KS; Joanne VanCoevern, Salina KS

Missouri Director (4-year term): John Atkinson, St Joseph MO

New Mexico Director (4-year term, vote for one): Joan Sudborough, Santa Fe NM; Steve Whitmore, Las Vegas NM.

Oklahoma Director (4-year term): Richard Poole, Stilwater OK



DAR marker at Lone Elm Campground.

May 2001

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It will not be hanging chads nor butterfly ballots that will confuse and confound SFTA members when we cast our votes for national officers and directors over the next few weeks (ballots and nominees' biographies are inserted with this *Wagon Tracks* issue). But we may be faced with a more insidious issue which pervades American society—lethargy. SFTA's recent voting record is even worse than our nation's embarrassing performance. In SFTA it was thought that the absence of contested races was the cause—what is the motivation to check the only name on a ballot? Yet, even when opponents faced one another in a given race, the turnout in the last three elections was significantly below 50 per cent.

The current nominating committee—Louann Jordan (chair), David Clapsaddle, and Clint Chambers—has performed yeomen's duty in an effort to produce contested races. The ballot shows the results of their hard work. So, why are we not excited about who governs SFTA? Not being able to provide an answer, I must leave that to each member's personal conjecture. Certainly SFTA may be able to plod along for many years under such malaise, but what will be the price?

March 31 the Board of Directors held its midyear meeting in Santa Fe. The meeting, which moved along at a fairly good clip, covered a number of important issues, some which were resolved, others which will take a bit longer. To wit, the Board concurred that the business membership campaign of last year should be repeated, hopefully, with even more participation from the chapters. You will remember, for each new business member a chapter recruits, half of the dues (\$20) is returned to the chapter. The benefits for our chapters could be of greater import and more sustainable than simply a boost to the local treasury. Specifically, forging new partnerships for the Trail could make the difference whether some segments are preserved or lost forever.

An important report came from the mapping/marking committee, which joyfully proclaimed that chapter mapping forms are beginning to

come in to the committee. Our dedication to this Herculean task is beginning to pay off. Chair John Schumacher stumbled onto a fun internet "game" called Geocaching. He will prepare an article about this for the next issue.

Our website should soon contain an education component directed toward educators and students. The Board completed its review of proposed bylaws amendments, which will appear in the August *WT* issue for your examination in preparation for action at the 2001 annual meeting in Las Vegas.

The Board gave the green light to the Quivira Chapter to host the 2005 Symposium at McPherson, KS (see article herein). Speakers Bureau grants are being expanded to include speaker honoraria. At this writing the new guidelines should be in the mail to chapter presidents. However, if you have not yet received them, and have plans to apply for a grant yet this year, please promptly contact Rusti Gardner, Speakers Bureau administrator, at 801 Vernon Dr, Larned KS 67550. Finally, the "Planned Giving" and "Eternal Rest Along the Santa Fe Trail" articles herein reflect other Board work at the meeting.

On a regular basis over the past three years, I have notified the chapters about the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program, a financial assistance program for Trail enhancement/improvement projects. I have encouraged the chapters to investigate the certified sites in their territory which need improvement in some way or other. To my knowledge, only one "grant" (NPS insists this is not a "grant" program, but I know of no more appropriate word) has been awarded as a result of these efforts. I find it hard to believe that all of these sites are perfect as they presently exist. Of course, the CCSP requirements are rigid, thus NPS will not fund some projects that you and I may find worthy. As I cogitate over this languishing program, in my view both SFTA and NPS have not done their utmost for the Trail. Chapters have all but ignored the program, and NPS has failed to properly promulgate it. This is not to say that efforts have been totally lacking, but I do maintain that what is being done is far below the mark of

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Telephone: (620) 285-2054

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Membership Categories

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

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Directors:

Morris Alexander, Oklahoma
Helen Brown, Kansas
Anna Belle Cartwright, At-Large
Clint Chambers, At-Large
Dub Couch, Colorado
Faye Gaines, New Mexico
Mary Gamble, Colorado
Nancy Lewis, Missouri
Anne Mallinson, Missouri
Mike Slater, Oklahoma
Joanne VanCoevern, Kansas
Stephen Whitmore, New Mexico

what is possible. What to do? The 2001 cycle deadline was March 31, thus we cannot recapture the past. Will 2002 be better or much the same as previous years? The past is not preordained to be prologue. We can create a better future for CCSP support for the Trail, but to do so we must act now while time is on our side. Search your files for a copy (you may have more than one) of the CCSP Guidelines. If you cannot locate it, contact NPS Long Distance Trails Office, PO Box 728, Santa Fe NM 87504. Then conduct your personal mental inventory of opportunities in your area which cry out for Trail improvement, or contact NPS for help.

The February 2001 issue of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail newsletter will give you some sense of the types of projects which have recently been funded through CCSP. The CCSP program exists for all 20 (now 22) national historic and scenic trails. Since about 1998 when I began tracking the program, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail has been hovering near the bottom in annual CCSP dollars received. The reason: we have not applied for them! In our heart of hearts, we all sincerely want the very best for our Trail, yet actions sometimes indicate otherwise. It is we—the SFTA members, and principally the chapters—who must take the initiative. It is time to put our federal tax dollars to work for the Santa Fe Trail through CCSP.

As I peruse the various chapter newsletters, it is apparent that we are already embarked on another exciting year of Trail exploration from Old Franklin to Santa Fe. I hope each of you will branch out and participate in your neighboring chapters' activities. The Flint Hills trail ride, western chapters Mountain Route (Colorado) tour, a pot luck picnic at Point of Rocks (NM), and the SFTA Symposium are but a sampling of what is on the Santa Fe Trail horizon in 2001. Check each issue of the *WT* calendar for these and much more. And don't forget to vote.

—Margaret Sears

YOUR MEMORY CAN LIVE ON
REMEMBER THE SANTA FE
TRAIL ASSOCIATION
IN YOUR WILL

LAS VEGAS DESIGNATED DISTINCTIVE DESTINATION

LAS Vegas, New Mexico, the site of the Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium, September 27-30 2001, has been selected by The National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of its Dozen Distinctive Destinations for 2001. In their news release of April 13, the Trust says "The 12 communities met these criteria: well-managed growth, a dynamic downtown, a commitment to historic preservation with a protected historic core and meaningful context, interesting and attractive architecture, cultural diversity, an economic base of locally owned businesses, and walkability for residents and tourists." This is the second year the Trust has compiled such a list.

Las Vegas is described by the news release as having "a 160-year-old history and a vibrant cultural heritage influenced by Northern New Mexican Spanish, Native American, Northern European, and Jewish communities. . . . Established by a land grant in 1835, Las Vegas became a major trading center on the Santa Fe Trail. . . . It later became a major railroad depot when the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad came within a mile of the city limits and inspired rapid building and growth. . . . The historic architecture of Las Vegas reflects the influence of its disparate early settlers, with buildings from Spanish adobes to Victorian mansions. An astounding 918 of these buildings are in the National Register of Historic Places. . . . A short drive will take visitors to Fort Union National Monument, established in 1851 to protect wagon trains and now a museum about life in the 1880s. Las Vegas is also just half an hour from Pecos National Historical Park, which showcases the history of the Pueblo Indians who inhabited the area before the arrival of Spanish settlers in the early 1500s."

Symposium 2001 will feature historic attractions of Las Vegas and its region. The program includes guided walking tours of Old Town, with its Spanish plaza and acequias, and bus tours to old churches, synagogue, and hotels. Brochures will be available for self-guided walking and auto tours of other

historic districts. There will be a buffalo dinner and evening program at Fort Union, and guided tours of Pecos National Historical Park. For a registration packet contact Beverly and Hal Jackson, PO Box 1098, Placitas NM 87043, phone (505) 867-1742 or e-mail <sftasymposium@aol.com>.

MCPHERSON TO BE SITE OF 2005 SFTA SYMPOSIUM

by Margaret Sears

AT its March 31 midyear meeting the SFTA Board of Directors accepted an invitation from the Quivira Chapter to host the Association's 2005 Symposium at McPherson, KS, to be held September 22-25. In a letter extending the invitation, Britt Colle stated, "With the next two symposiums being toward opposite ends of the Trail [2001 is at Las Vegas, NM, and 2003 will be in the Kansas City area], it is again time to have one in the middle somewhere." Joining with the chapter in hosting the event will be Cottonwood Crossing Chapter, their neighbor to the east. The Board confirmed Britt, recently-elected Quivira Chapter president, as program coordinator.

McPherson, with a population of 13,000, overlooks the Santa Fe Trail, and is possibly best known for its location five miles north of the Kansa (Kaw) Indian Treaty of 1825 site. Located midway between Wichita and Salina, the community boasts, among other amenities, a college, conference facilities, and, as one would expect, a strong Scottish heritage—complete with a town bagpipe band. Plan now to be there in 2005.

AWARDS NOMINATIONS

AN important part of each SFTA symposium is the presentation of awards to recognize individuals and organizations who protect, preserve, and promote the Santa Fe Trail. Awards Committee Chairman Harry Myers is soliciting nominations for the following awards, as provided by the governing board. Nominations are welcome from individuals, chapters, or organizations. Send a one-paragraph nomination for each proposed award to Harry Myers, Chairman, SFTA Awards Committee, 16 Descanso Road, Santa Fe NM 87505, or e-mail <myers@cybermesa.com>

by July 4, 2001. The awards committee will select the recipients and present the awards at the Saturday evening banquet on September 29, 2001, during the Las Vegas Symposium.

The SFTA Award of Merit recognizes individuals, organizations, businesses, or groups who have made a significant contribution to the purposes of SFTA. A maximum of eight of these awards are authorized by the board. The recipient may or may not be a member of SFTA. Past Awards of Merit have been presented for books published, significant articles or new information published, special publicity efforts of a newspaper, radio program, or television station, preservation of Trail sites, organization of special events, significant chapter projects, and others. The award consists of a recognition plaque.

The Paul F. Bentrup SFTA Ambassador Award (maximum of two each symposium), an honorary lifetime designation, is given to a member of SFTA who has demonstrated exceptional promotion of SFTA, development and dissemination of knowledge of Trail history, preservation of Trail sites or artifacts, and otherwise promoted an understanding of the Trail. Current ambassadors are Paul Bentrup, Les Vilda, Katharine Kelley, Ralph Hathaway, David Clapsaddle, Harry C. Myers, Jesse Scott, Pat Heath, Mark L. Gardner, Virginia Lee Fisher, and Helen and Charles Judd.

The Ambassador Award consists of a recognition plaque and an ornament. The bylaws currently require that the nomination for ambassador be sent to SFTA President Margaret Sears, 1871 Candela, Santa Fe NM 87505 or Secretary Ruth Olson Peters, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR 3, Larned KS 67550.

The Jack D. Rittenhouse Memorial Stagecoach Award (one each symposium) is presented to a SFTA member for extraordinary lifetime achievement in research and writing about the Trail. Previous recipients are Leo and Bonita Oliva, Pauline Fowler, Harry C. Myers, and Gregory Franzwa. The award, cosponsored by Ray Dewey, consists of a recognition plaque, Santa Fe Trail Pendleton Blanket from Dewey Trading Co., and \$250.

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

The Marc Simmons Writing Award recognizes outstanding articles published in *Wagon Tracks* during the previous two years (in this case, volumes 13 and 14). There are two categories: (1) best original article about the history of the Trail based on research in primary sources; (2) best edited work of a previously unpublished source (letters, diary, report, etc.) on the Trail. Each award consists of a recognition plaque and \$50. Selection of recipients is made by a subcommittee of the awards committee, three persons who have not contributed to *WT* during the time period. All eligible articles will be considered, and nominations are unnecessary. The awards committee plans for Marc Simmons to present this award at the symposium.

The SFTA Scholarship Award is presented for research papers about the Santa Fe Trail written by college and university students. There are two categories: undergraduate and graduate. Nominations are by the professor in whose class the paper was written. Maximum length of paper considered is 25 pages, double-spaced, including documentation. Each award consists of a recognition plaque, \$500, and possible publication.

The SFTA Educator's Award is presented for outstanding classroom teaching. There are two categories: elementary educator and secondary educator. Recipients are chosen by the SFTA education committee and receive an engraved plaque and \$100. See following article for details.

Nominations for Award of Merit, Ambassador, Rittenhouse, and Heritage Preservation awards should include details of why the person, organization, or group should receive the award (limit nominations to one page please). Send nominations for Award of Merit, Rittenhouse, and Heritage Preservation to Harry My-

ers, Chairman, SFTA Awards Committee, 16 Descanso Road, Santa Fe NM 87505, or via e-mail <myers@cybermesa.com> by July 4, 2001.

The Ambassador nominations are due by the same date but sent to either the president or secretary, as noted above. The Educator's Award nominations are sent to the education committee (see following article).

EDUCATOR'S AWARDS

by Nancy Lewis

DO you know a remarkable educator whose efforts have promoted greater understanding of the Santa Fe Trail? Nominate him or her for one of two SFTA Educator Awards to be presented at the symposium in September in Las Vegas. Any SFTA member may submit nominations for two categories—one at the elementary level and one at the secondary level. The nominee does not need to be a member of SFTA, though membership is encouraged. The education committee will judge the entries and recommend the recipients in each category to the awards committee, giving particular attention to the objectives, originality, methods, and depth of exposure to the Santa Fe Trail and its historical legacy. Recipients will each receive an engraved plaque and \$100.00.

We all know teachers who utilize a multidisciplinary approach to include the Santa Fe Trail in their lesson plans. Each should be thanked for making a contribution toward promotion and preservation.

Basic guidelines:

1. Nomination should be made by someone in SFTA who is familiar with the work of the educator.
2. Information must incorporate a synopsis of projects exemplifying creativity consistent with SFTA's mission statement.
3. A recommendation from the educator's immediate supervisor or administrator needs to be included.

Submit nominations to arrive by **July 1, 2001**, to Nancy Lewis, Chair, Education Committee, 1112 Oak Ridge Dr, Blue Springs MO 64015, e-mail <SFTAMRO@aol.com>. If you have questions, contact Nancy at above e-mail address or by phone at (816) 229-8379.

LONE ELM CAMPGROUND

(continued from page 1)

This trail camp on the Independence Route was first known as Round Grove, named by the earliest traders to Santa Fe. By 1827 it shared duty with Elm Grove Campground on the Westport Route, 2¼ miles northwest on the same Cedar Creek, and the two campgrounds were often mistaken for each other. By the mid-1840s, when the grove had been reduced to one huge elm tree near the creek by the side of the trail, the site was known as "Lone Elm."

Along with traders and emigrants who camped there, in 1846 the Mexican War brought the frontier military through the Lone Elm Campground. Several of these soldiers and also '49ers who succumbed to cholera were buried there.

Susan Shelby Magoffin came through in 1846 and recorded in her diary, "There is no other tree or bush or shrub save one elm tree." Dr. F. A. Wislizenus also recorded in 1846, "How long the venerable elm tree [will remain] . . . I am unable to say, but I fear its days are numbered." J. F. Pritchard (on his way to California) recorded in his 1849 diary "This lone tree stands on the bank of a small stream, with no other tree or shrub in sight, all its branches have been cut from it by traders and emigrants for the purpose of fuel." By the end of the 1840s the great old tree was gone—used for firewood—but such was its fame that spurious reports of its existence continued through the 1850s.

W. W. H. Davis traveled by stagecoach to New Mexico in the autumn of 1853, and his party stopped for breakfast at the site of the Lone Elm. Davis provided this commentary in *El Gringo, New Mexico and Her People* (1857), p. 19:

"The spot known to all travelers upon the plain as the Lone Elm is a somewhat noted point, and would afford excellent capital for a romance manufacturer. When all that country was in the possession of the Indians, long before the white man had invaded their dominions, this tree is said to have been a great rallying-point for all the neighboring tribes. It stood solitary and alone upon the prairies, and its top could be seen for

many miles around. . . . It served as a landmark for those seeking the frontiers, and in the early times of the Santa Fe traders it was a place of encampment for the night. Travelers came to look upon it as an old friend—they felt an attachment for the tree that had so often sheltered and shaded them from storm and sun, and no inducement could have made them cut it down. But in the course of time some modern Vandal came along, and laid low this last of its race; and when we passed, it was all gone but a small portion of the stump, and part of that cooked our breakfast. We may be accused of something akin to sacrilege in burning the remains of the old patriarch of the prairie; but with us it was breakfast or no breakfast, and upon such occasions hungry men are not much disposed to give way to romance."

Lone Elm's fame was perpetuated into the early 1900s by Newton Ainsworth, the first owner of the land in post-trail days, who was a tireless promoter of the Lone Elm Campground and his farm. Ainsworth was instrumental in the placement of a Santa Fe Trail marker at Lone Elm in 1906 by the Daughters of the American Revolution, which continues to grace the spot today.

Craig Crease and I have been requested by the city to be a part of their team in the coming months to develop the plan for the interpretation of this historic site. As of this writing, we have selected the architect and the plans and specifications are being developed. The plan is to turn this 160-acre site into a multi-use city park, which will include a number of soccer and softball fields, and to preserve nearly half of the acreage in its natural state. The campground will be accessible by hiking paths, and will include interpretive markers and panels which will tell the story of the site and the westward movement on these historic trails. We even have plans to plant a new elm tree,

This is a wonderful conclusion to several years of focused efforts on the part of many of us in the Kansas City area and represents a fine example of partnering between public and private interests resulting in the preservation of a key trail site.

SYMPOSIUM 2001

(continued from page 1)

ing for the symposium prior to August 15. Everyone planning on lodging in Las Vegas should make reservations as soon as possible. There are other events in town that weekend. A list of accommodations and campgrounds, with a map, is included in the registration packet.

Be sure to read the inserts in your packet about the Santa Fe Trail Ride (bring your own horse) and Mountain Route activities, including tours at Trinidad, Raton Pass, the City of Raton, and an exclusive Michael Martin Murphey Cowboy Concert in Raton, prior to the symposium. The correct telephone number and e-mail address (listed incorrectly in the last issue) for Lynn and Ray Marchi, in charge of the Trail Ride, are (505) 387-5082 & <lmarchi11@msn.com>. The Corazon Chapter's web site, <www.nmhu.edu/research/sftrail/corazon.htm>, contains current information about the symposium and the chapter's monthly programs.

TRAIL QUESTION FRUSTRATES WOULD-BE MILLIONAIRE

SFTA Ambassador Les Vilda has completed another year of presenting programs about the Santa Fe Trail to schools in several states. Thanks to his efforts hundreds of young students know about the Santa Fe Trail. He finds the adults need a Trail education too.

While in New Mexico, Vilda was told by some educators about a Trail question that appeared on a recent episode of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*. It sheds "new light" on the history of the Trail. The question was "Where did the Santa Fe Trail begin?" and the choices were St. Louis, Chicago, New York, and Tampa. The participant chose St. Louis but was wrong because the "correct answer" was Chicago. Actually none of the choices was correct. No wonder it is so difficult to win the million dollars.

Ambassador Vilda and all SFTA members have an opportunity and obligation to help educate the public about the Trail. Vilda made sure the educators who told him about the television program were informed regarding where the Trail began. Do you know where the Trail began? Is that your final answer?

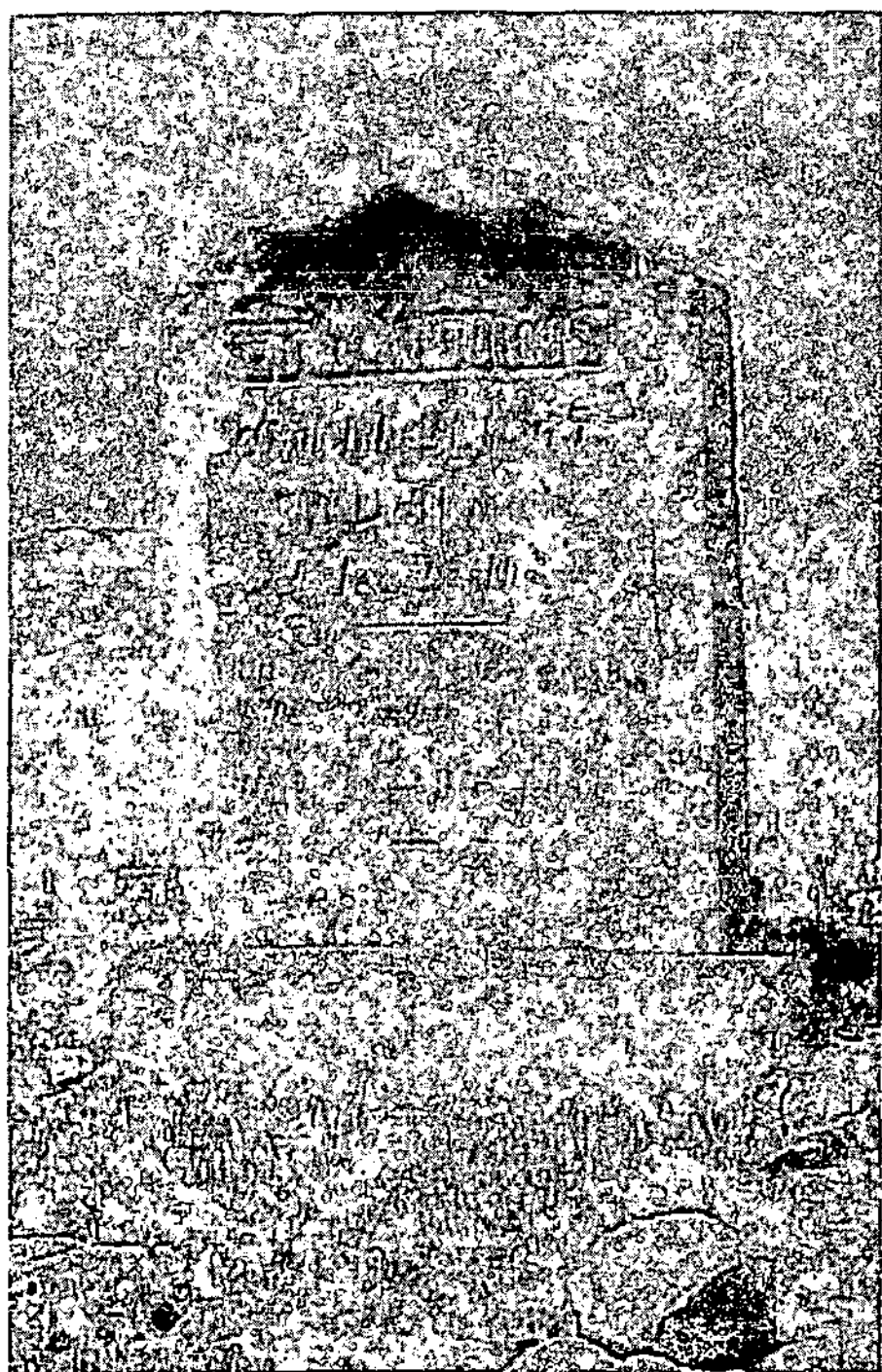
DEATH AT THE FORT: THE CEMETERY AT BENT'S OLD FORT

by Robert Kincaid

(SFTA member Kincaid, a banker in Crowell, TX, compiled this information several years ago and has kindly shared it for WT. Kincaid's study includes a lengthy bibliography which is not printed here.)

AT Bent's Old Fort National Monument in Colorado, outside the main gate and situated on a small rise, is a small cemetery. Archaeologists have confirmed 13 graves within the bounds of this cemetery, but only one, that of Edward Dorris, July 21, 1865, is identified and marked. Prompted by a request for comments on proposed renovations at the site, this article attempts to identify people who were killed and possibly buried there. Solely through a search of the literature, excluding the Dorris grave and the unknown number of Mexican laborers who died during construction of the fort, 30 people were found to have been killed or died at Bent's Fort and 22 of them were likely interred at or near the fort. It is unlikely that the Indians who died were buried there. Only a few of those who died at the fort can be named.

This study covered only the years



Grave marker for Edward Dorris at Bent's Old Fort NHS cemetery (photo by Laura Wilson).



View of Bent's Old Fort NHS with cemetery in foreground (photo by Laura Wilson).

from 1829 to 1849. Bent's Old Fort was constructed and served its original purpose as a trading post during those years. No attempt was made to investigate the later period, up to 1881, when the old fort was used during portions of that time as a stage station.

No accurate record of deaths during the construction of Bent's Fort was found, but several accounts state that a smallpox epidemic occurred during that time. David Lavender, for example, stated, "Before the work was well underway, smallpox swept the camp, introduced probably by the Mexicans."¹ George B. Grinnell elaborated, "Only a short time after the Mexican laborers reached the place chosen for the new stockade, smallpox broke out among them and the work on the fort stopped. . . . After the smallpox had ceased, more Mexican laborers were sent for and work on the fort continued."² This disease was often fatal to the Indians on the Great Plains and Hispanics of New Mexico, and it may be assumed that some of the Mexican workers at the fort succumbed to the disease. William Bent and Ceran St. Vrain both were stricken and survived.³

George Bent, son of William Bent, later recorded what he had been told about the epidemic: ". . . A large body of Mexican 'dobe masons was

brought up from Taos to make and lay the adobe bricks. These Mexicans were housed in a temporary stockade, but hardly had they arrived when smallpox broke out and was soon raging among them. . . . A mounted messenger was sent up to the Platte to warn the Indians off. This prompt action probably saved the tribe from disaster. . . . After this epidemic of smallpox had run its course, the Mexican stockade with everything it contained was burned. . . . This smallpox was in 1829 or 1830, and so many of the Mexicans died that a new force had to be recruited in New Mexico and the work of building the fort was greatly delayed."⁴

Skip Miller, curator at the Harwood Foundation and Library, Taos, NM, thinks there is sufficient reason to believe that from 35 to 75 of the New Mexican laborers, who reportedly numbered as many as 150, may have perished in the smallpox epidemic and were buried in a single or several mass graves on the present historic site grounds or adjacent property.⁵ It is highly unlikely that the remains of those who died of smallpox or other causes during construction were returned to New Mexico for burial. None of these remains have been found to date. Excavation at the fort site during the summer of 1954 yielded the remains of only two

bodies, and both were aboriginal.⁶

If accurate information were available regarding the burials of construction workers at the fort and of other people who may have died leaving no record through the years, the total number of people interred there might be as high as 100. Information about the 30 identified in this research is printed below. Relevant quotations from the sources provide the explanations. Some additional commentary is included to illuminate conditions on the Trail and activities at the fort. Chronologically, the deaths and possible burials were as follows:

1-3. 1834, July 29

"In the early summer of 1834 . . . a band of Shoshoni wandered down from Wyoming to visit their relatives, the Comanches. Near Taos they fell on Charles Bent and stole a herd of mules from him. Later, on July 29, 1834, eight lodges of Shoshoni approached a log stockade on the Arkansas where William Bent was trading. In William's party were ten men, including . . . Lucas Murray. . . .

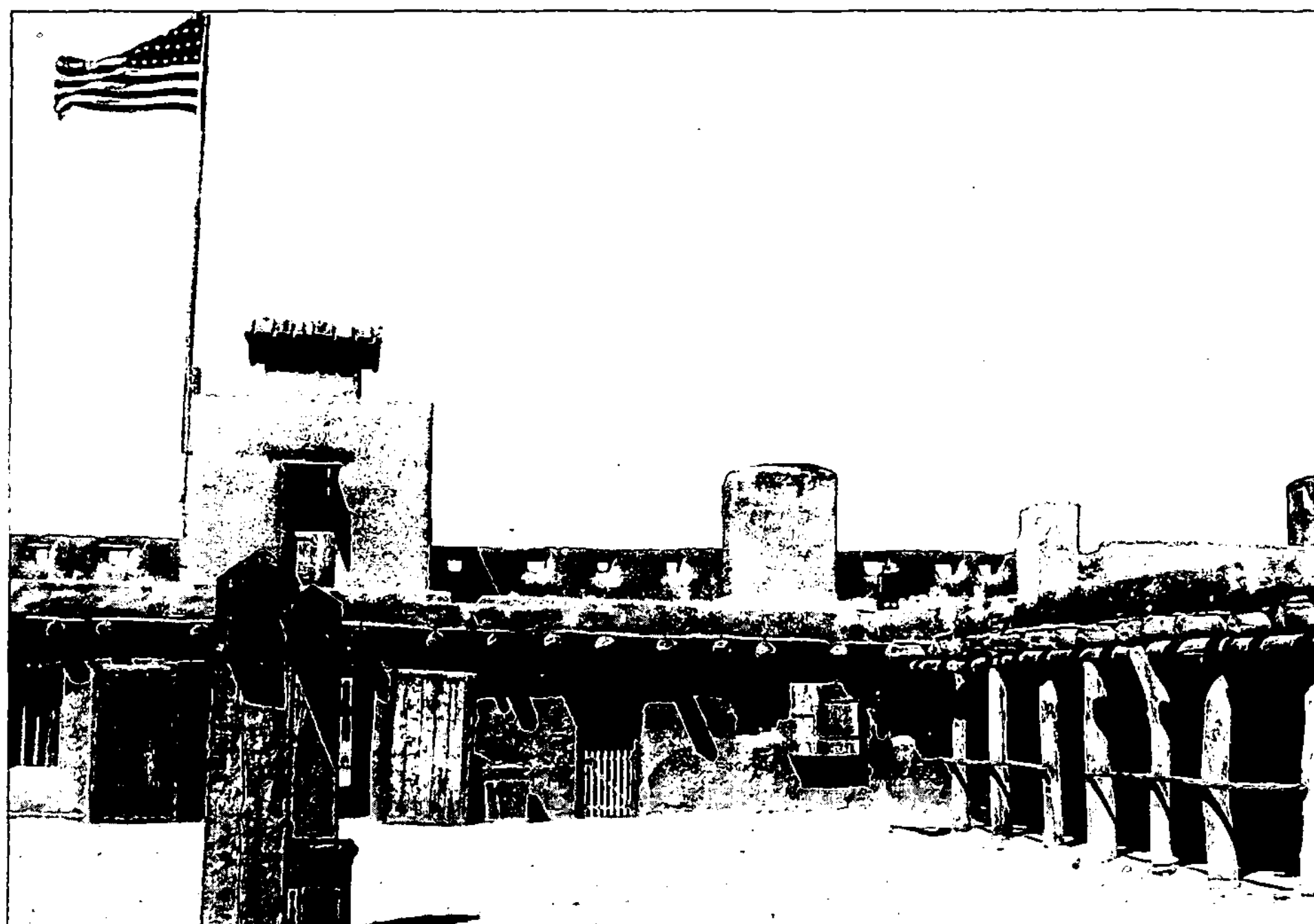
"As the Shoshoni approached, William recognized them as the same party that had stolen Charles's mules—or thought he recognized them. . . .

"Boys," he told his men, "let's get 'em."

According to Bent's Fort historian David Lavender, "Murray fired first on an unsuspecting Shoshoni standing only a few feet away. The Indian dropped dead and the battle was on. It was soon over—three Shoshoni killed and one wounded. Also wounded in the scuffle was an Arapaho, an innocent bystander. No white was hurt."⁷ The remains of the Shoshonis may or may not have been buried near the fort.

4-6. 1835

"In the early summer of 1835 . . . [James] Hobbs went . . . with the rest of the tribe to the great feast of that season. . . . Hobbs said the Comanche chiefs wanted Old Wolf to visit Bent's Fort, where he had never been. . . . Whiskey was sold to them the first day, but as it caused several fights among them before night, Bent stopped its sale. . . . Two or three deaths resulted in the first day, and there would have been



Interior view of Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site.

many more if the sale of whiskey had not been stopped."⁸ Where these were buried is unknown.

7-9. 1837

"One morning, I remember, two of the herdsmen were killed not more than fifty yards from the fort, and the stock which they were driving out to graze was all stolen [by Pawnee Indians in the summer of 1837] . . . , and now and then a man would be killed."⁹

"In September, 1837, Marcellin St. Vrain and at least five others leave Bent's Old Fort. They cross the Arkansas River, the boundary with Mexico at the time, and head southwest on the Santa Fe Trail toward Raton Pass. Pawnee Loups attack somewhere between present La Junta and Trinidad, Colorado, on Timpas Creek or perhaps the upper Purgatoire. The traders have one man killed, three wounded. . . ."¹⁰

10. 1838

"The slack season of summer brought a brief respite. It also brought several interesting visitors to Bent's Fort. The first were hardly welcome—a war party of Comanches who in mid-June, while the principal partners were still on the Platte, swooped down on the horse herd, killed the guard, and made-off with more than fifty head of stock."¹¹

11. No Date

A Mexican woman, no name nor date, died and was buried at the fort

with Bill Williams conducting the service.¹²

12. 1841, March

" . . . A council was held, and the Indians [Kiwias] asked that a white man be sent to their village to confirm the assurance of peace. The men at the fort demurred at the request, but an American there with two Kiowa squaws by whom he had three children was persuaded to accept the offer and go along, especially as he was promised handsome presents of horses and mules. He had become impoverished in supporting the squaws, whose freedom he had purchased while they were prisoners among a hostile tribe, and he hoped to improved his fortunes by accepting this offer." Since the man did not have enough resources for the trip, Alexander Barclay gave him a horse and other goods to fit him out for the expedition. On the second day of the journey with the Kiowas, two of their number rode up close behind and shot him in the back with their guns. Barclay was positive the squaws were secretly aware of what was to happen or even privy to the deed. Barclay labeled the Kiowas a "treacherous and consequently dangerous" group.¹³

13. 1846, Winter

"The winter was so cold that on the Arkansas a Bent employee out riding his mule froze stiff in the saddle and fell off dead."¹⁴

14. 1846, July 21

"Captain [Benjamin D.] Moore's command [First Dragoons] encamped about two miles below Bent's Fort. The troops celebrated the arrival, some them imbibed too freely. There were fights, and one of the dragoons was killed. Thus dissipation claimed the first casualty of this command."¹⁵

15. 1846, Last week of July [may be same incident as previous entry]

"Two drunken dragoons had a rousing fight. Afterward one of them went swimming in the river, lay naked under a tree, had a stroke, and died. His company wrapped him in a blanket, laid him on a bier made of willows, saddled his horse, inverted his boots in the stirrups, and marched solemnly to the shallow grave, where twenty-four muskets fired a parting salute."¹⁶

16. 1846, July 29

A headboard at a grave in the cemetery at Bent's Fort contained this information: "Leonard Hamlin, Lieutenant First Missouri Cavalry, Born in St. Louis, Aug. 10, 1821, died near Bent's Fort, July 29, 1846."¹⁷

17. 1846, July 31

Susan Shelby Magoffin recorded in her diary on August 6 the premature delivery and death of her first-born child a few days before.¹⁸ Lavender stated, "On the night of July 31, she suffered a miscarriage and William [Bent] had to show Sam [Magoffin, her husband] a decent place to bury the dead child."¹⁹

18-20. 1846, late July or early August

"A Missouri volunteer died suddenly one night. A dragoon was fatally stricken as his troop neared Bent's Fort; also a sergeant of the First Missouri succumbed to sudden illness the next day."²⁰

21-26. 1846, August

"August 1 we moved up the river and encamped near Fort Bent. Here, by order of the colonel commanding, Dr. [Isaac P.] Vaughan of Howard [County, MO], assistant surgeon, was left in charge of twenty-one sick men, who were unable to proceed further and had been pronounced physically unfit for service. Of this number some died, some were discharged and returned to Missouri, and others, having recovered, came

on and rejoined the Army at Santa Fe." Six of these men died, including the following members of the First Missouri Mounted Volunteers: Private William Duncan, Company E; Private Frances Fugate, Company A; Private James M. Durett, Company D; and Private John Stultz, Company H. Names of the other two were not found.²¹

A soldier, Private John T. Hughes, First Missouri Mounted Volunteers, recorded the following after leaving Bent's Fort in August 1846: "Early on the morning of the 12th, we passed the newly made grave of some unfortunate soldier [footnote: probably a dragoon], who had died the previous day, and was buried, perhaps without ceremony, on the roadside, Col. Kearney being now some distance in advance of Col. Doniphan, with near 500 men. Thus were our numbers diminished, not by the sword, but by disease. Almost every day some dragoon or volunteer, trader, teamster, or amateur, who had set out upon the expedition buoyant with life and flattered with hopes of future usefulness, actuated by a laudable desire to serve his country found a grave on the solitary plains."²²

27. 1846, November 29

Lewis Garrard recorded, "The Fort [Bent's] mud walls were abominably cheerless. Near were some men digging a grave."²³ This may have been a soldier or teamster left to recuperate at the fort, but the identity remains unknown.

28. 1847

"... Owl Woman [William Bent's first Cheyenne wife] bore William a fourth child [Charles]—and died. Perhaps her death occurred at the fort; more probably it happened in one of the nomadic villages. William probably did not reach her until after her body, clothed in the finery she loved best, had been placed according to Cheyenne custom on a rude scaffold in the branches of a cottonwood tree."²⁴

29. 1847, October 23

George Bent, brother of Charles and William, died of consumption at Bent's Fort and was buried in the cemetery outside the gate, later disinterred and reburied at St. Louis, MO.²⁵

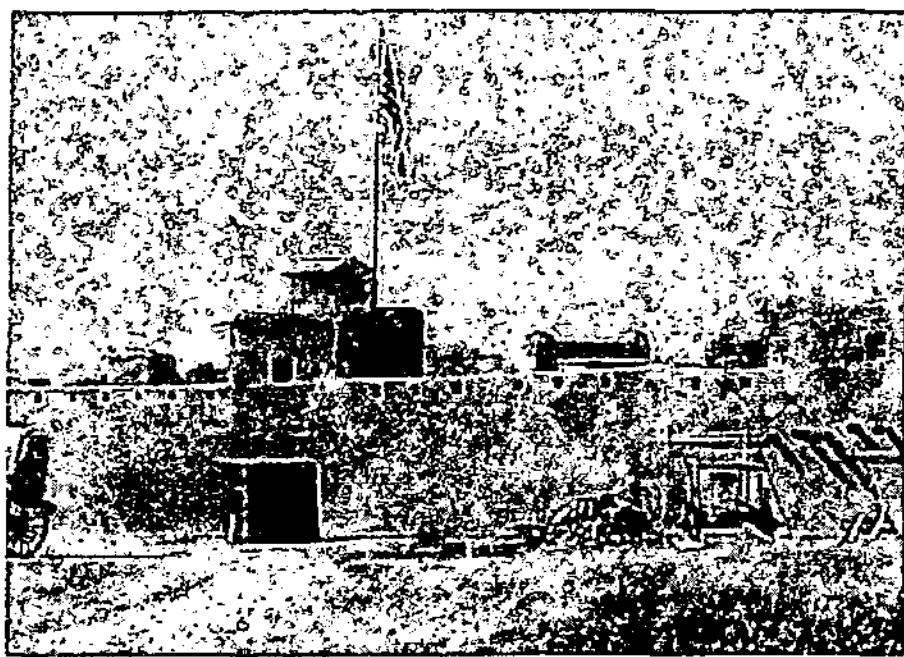
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NOTES

1. David Lavender, *Bent's Fort* (Dolphin Edition, Garden City: Doubleday & Co., 1954), 147.
2. George B. Grinnell, "Bent's Old Fort and Its Builders," *Kansas State Historical Society Collections*, XV (1919-1920): 33.
3. Lavender, *Bent's Fort*, 148.
4. George E. Hyde, *Life of George Bent, Written from His Letters* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967), 62.
5. Interview with Skip Miller, Curator, Harwood Foundation and Library, Taos, NM, December 1, 1994.
6. Jackson W. Moore, Jr., *Bent's Old Fort, an Archaeological Study* (Denver: State Historical Society of Colorado, 1973), 38.
7. Lavender, *Bent's Fort*, 161-162.
8. Henry Inman, *The Old Santa Fe Trail* (New York, 1899), 398-400.
9. Howard Louis Conrad, *Uncle Dick Wootton* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1980), 36.
10. David A. White, ed., *News of the Plains and Rockies, 1803-1865*, vol. IV: *Warriors, 1834-1865; Scientists, Artists, 1835-1859* (Spokane: The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1998), 402.
11. Lavender, *Bent's Fort*, 196.
12. Alpheus H. Favour, *Old Bill Williams, Mountain Man* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987), 99.
13. George P. Hammond, *Alexander Barclay, Mountain Man* (Denver: Old West Pub. Co., 1976), 28-29.
14. Janet LeCompte, *Pueblo, Hardscrabble, Greenhorn* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1990), 158.
15. Leo E. Oliva, *Soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967), 67.
16. Lavender, *Bent's Fort*, 275.
17. Isaac George, *Heroes and Incidents of the Mexican War* (Sun Dance Press, 1971), 254.
18. Stella M. Drumm, ed., *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico, the Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982), 67.
19. Lavender, *Bent's Fort*, 277.
20. Dwight L. Clarke, *Stephen Watts Kearny* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961), 120.
21. John T. Hughes, *Doniphan's Expedition* (1847; reprint, College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1997), 34; Interview with Donald C. Hill, Superintendent, Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, La Junta, CO, July 18, 1994, and January 9, 1995.
22. Hughes, *Doniphan's Expedition*, 38.
23. Lewis H. Garrard, *Wah-To-Yah and the Taos Trail* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1955), 73.
24. Lavender, *Bent's Fort*, 323.
25. *Ibid.*, 326, 441.
26. *Ibid.*, 332.



Bent's Fort (photo by Laura Wilson).

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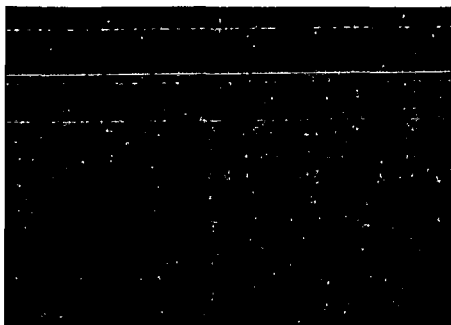
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Bent's Fort (photo by Laura Wilson).

BENT'S FORT HAS NEW KID'S WEB PAGES

BENT'S Old Fort National Historic Site, La Junta, CO, has added a new feature to its web site: "Kid's Trail Game." This will encourage young people to log onto <www.nps.gov/beol/home.htm>. The pages help children and their families to discover the fur trade of the 1830s and 1840s through maps, photographs, trade ledgers, diaries, and journals.

Viewers will learn about the lives of trappers, traders, Indians, and others associated with Bent's Fort. The pages also include illustrations and accounts of the Santa Fe Trail and the Mexican-American War. This is an opportunity to take a "journey back in time." Check it out.

CHAPTER WEB SITE EXPANDS

by Larry Mix

(SFTA and Wet/Dry Route Chapter member Larry Mix (who received a SFTA Award of Merit for his web site work in 1999) and his wife Carolyn, St. John, KS, developed and maintain the Wet/Dry Chapter web site, now known as the Santa Fe Trail Web Page and including several chapters: <<http://www.stjohnks.net/santafetrail/>>. This is linked to the SFTA web site: <www.santafetrail.org>. Their volunteer work continues to expand this important Internet resource on the Trail. They generously offer to add material for any chapter to this site. Much good Trail material is on this web site.)

THE Santa Fe Trail Web Page now covers the part of the Old Santa Fe Road that runs through McPherson, Rice, Barton, Pawnee, Edwards, Ford, Gray, Finney, Kearny, Hamilton, Haskell, Grant, Stanton, Stevens, and Morton counties in Kansas, also The Fort Hays/Fort

Dodge Road that runs through Ellis, Rush, Hodgeman, Ness, and Ford counties in Kansas. South of the Arkansas River, the Santa Fe Trail becomes the Dry Route, Cimarron Route (or Cutoff), Desert Route, or as it is called by the Mexicans *La Jornada del Muerto*, the Dead Man's Journey, is covered to the Oklahoma line. In Hamilton County, in far western Kansas, the Aubry Route or Cutoff crossed the Arkansas River running to the south-southwest into present Oklahoma. The Aubry Route will be added soon. Other trails, forts, and historic trail sites that branched off the Santa Fe Road or have a connection in some way with the Trail will also be explored and explained in depth.

We now have, in addition to the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter, the Quivira Chapter, the Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter, and the Wagonbed Spring Chapter on the server. We also have a link to the Corazon de los Caminos Chapter web site in New Mexico, another great Santa Fe Trail site, check it out.

There is plenty of room for the other chapter web sites to be added to our server. All I need is the information about your part of the Trail that you would like to have on the site, and I'll put it up and maintain it for you. If anyone has any questions on this matter, get in touch with me via e-mail: <santafetrail@stjohnks.net>.

Our web page has something that hasn't been put out anywhere else. There is even a free gift hidden on the web site, answer the question right, send me where you found the question and your address, and I will send you a . . . now it wouldn't be nice to tell you what it is, then it wouldn't be a surprise. About 50 people have answered the question so far and received a gift.

TRAIL TROUBADOUR

—Traffic in Verse—

Sandra M. Doe, Editor

This column seeks poetry which addresses the history, realism, romance, and diversity of the Trail and demonstrates authentic emotion, original images, and skill in craftsmanship. Submit poetry, in open or closed form, along with a brief biography to Sandra M. Doe, Dept. of

English, Campus Box 32, Metropolitan State College of Denver, PO Box 173362, Denver CO 80217-3362.

In her poem, "The Three Churches at Taos Pueblo," writer and photographer Alma Gregory creates an overlay of the various constructions. Like a palimpsest, one church emerges on history's parchment after another has been erased, but shards of one can be found in another. The word palimpsest derives from Latin and Greek words meaning "scraped again." The word seems appropriate, too, for the culture clashes that Gregory describes. Gregory is a member of the Corazon de los Caminos chapter of the SFTA and her articles about the Trail have been widely published.

The Three Churches at Taos Pueblo

by Alma Gregory

The Red Willow People live by the Red Willow Stream.

Trout frolic in the water, clear and cold.

The People were raising squash and maize

When the Spaniards came, looking for gold.

The first adobe mission was built in 1619

By Catholic Conquerors (some good, some bad)

With Red Willow labor, the way they did.

By 1680, the Indian tribes were angry and sad.

They drove the conquerors south, back to Mexico,

And destroyed the church of their slavery.

The Spanish returned; the church was rebuilt.

Then came the Americans, flexing their bravery.

Spaniards and Indians joined forces next time:

Another rebellion! More blood was shed.

Missourians shelled the new church in 1847.

Many Red Willow People wound up dead.

Native Americans gained the right to vote in 1924.

The third church, the one built in 1850, still stands.

Taos Pueblo regained its Sacred Mountain in 1996.

Now the conquerors pay \$10 a head to visit Red Willow land.

WAGON TRACKS, VOL. 15, No. 3, MAY 2001, ERROR CORRECTION

Due to a printing error discovered after this issue was mailed the other side of this page was omitted from this issue of *Wagon Tracks* and another page was printed twice. Please insert this page in its proper place. Thank you.

Santa Fe Trail Association
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LETTERS OF ANDREW T. FITCH, ARMY SURGEON, 1866-1867

THE following letters are from the collection "Andrew T. Fitch Letters to his Family," Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University (call number WA MSS S-1638 F551), transcript provided by Bob Rea at Fort Supply Historic Site, Fort Supply, OK. These letters are reprinted here courtesy of the Yale University Library.

Andrew T. Fitch served in the Civil War, and became a contract surgeon for the U.S. Army in 1866, appointed acting assistant surgeon to the Third Infantry in the Indian Territory and Kansas. He moved throughout Indian Territory, Kansas, and New Mexico from 1866 to 1880, serving at Forts Riley, Harker, Stanton, Sill, Fletcher (later Fort Hays), and Camps Webb and Supply. He visited Forts Zarah and Larned.

Fitch wrote letters to his father, brother Luther, and sisters Caroline and Harriet. Dated from his departure from New York to join the Army to his return in 1880, Fitch wrote of encounters with, and raids by, the Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Apache Indians; journeys from fort to fort and on reconnaissance; unrest in New Mexico between Texans and Mexicans; the use of troops to protect the government staff of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian Agency and to preserve order during the 1866 election in Missouri; and society at Fort Sill, OK.

The following letters provide some details of his service in Kansas during 1866-1867, mentioning several forts, trails, and the Hancock Expedition of 1867. It is interesting to note that he made a trip from Fort Hays to Fort Larned via Fort Harker rather than going directly across country. He stated that the Indians who raided along the Smoky Hill Trail in the spring of 1867 were those from the village on Pawnee Fork captured by Gen. W. S. Hancock. He mentions a case of cholera in St. Louis, but these letters were written just prior to the cholera epidemic along the trails and among the forts that claimed many lives during 1867.

Fort Riley Kansas
Sept. 30th 1866

Dear Sister,

While I was at Independence I received a letter from you which was written in May. It had been up the river and was sent from Omaha to Fort Leavenworth and from thence to Independence.

The two companies of the 3rd Inftry which were at Independence when I wrote to Luther were relieved on the 11th by two companies of the 17th, the former going back to Leavenworth. The companies of the 17th from Dakota. They had formerly been stationed at Fort Preble [Maine]. Among the officers was Mr. Richardson [James Prentiss Richardson] a cousin of _____. He was a Colonel in the Volunteer service and is now 2nd Lieutenant. There was another 2nd Lieut. who had been Brigadier General in the Colored service. I remained at Independence a few days with two companies and was then ordered to rejoin the companies of the 3rd which were going out on the plains.

We left Leavenworth a week ago tomorrow by the Union Pacific Rail Road and went to its terminus at Manhattan a distance of 126 miles arriving at 3½ p.m., encamped the night, and the next day marched to this place where we have been ever since. This fort is situated at the junction of the Republican and Smoky Hill Rivers, the two forming the Kansas.

We start tomorrow for Fort Fletcher 145 miles from here. The latter fort was abandoned last spring and now is to be reoccupied. It is called a fort but there are no buildings there we shall probably spend next winter in tents. It is said to be one of the best locations on the plains. It is on the Smoky Hill River. There is plenty of _____ buffalo, deer, antelope, prairie chicken, turkey, etc. There will be only one company there present the other company of the 3rd going farther on but in a few weeks we are to have a company of cavalry.

We shall be on the stage road and shall have daily mail. As there is a prospect of my being located at one place for a considerable length of time I hope I shall receive _____ letters and papers from home.

While I was in Independence I heard of Dr. Macdonald's death [Army Surgeon John Ellis MacDonald]. He died at St. Louis on the 11th of this month of cholera. He had just returned from New Mexico where he had been with Gen'l Pope. I had a note from him a few days before he died. He was sick only six hours.

I have written to Adeline, _____, Almira and Edward since I came west but have not heard from either of

them. I wish you would remind them of this and tell them I would like to hear from them at Fort Fletcher Kansas.

Please remember be to Father, Mother and all the family.

Yr, affc Brother
Andrew

Fort Fletcher Kansas
Nov. 12th 1866

Dear Father,

I received from you a few days ago the Press of the 20th & 22nd of October and on Saturday last the Press of the 6th of Oct. From this you may form some idea of the regularity with which we receive our mail. We have no Post Office here, the nearest one is at Fort Ellsworth 60 miles east of us. The Holliday line of stages passes by our post every day both ways, but it only carries a through mail from the terminus of the Pacific Rail Road to Denver City, Colorado. There is another line of stages running from the terminus of the R.R. to Santa Fe and this latter line carries the mail to Fort Ellsworth. At Fort Ellsworth the road divides, the Santa Fe road turning off to the south and the other following up the Smoky Hill River. The mail for our post should be sent by the Santa Fe coach which would take it as far as Fort Ellsworth where it can be sent to us by the drivers of the Holliday line or by any officer who may be coming this way. But through the _____ or importance of somebody most of the mail matter for this post is sent by the Denver mail, which as I have said before, is not opened from the time it leaves the terminus of the Rail Road until it reaches Denver 350 miles west of us.

A few days ago an officer from this post was at Fort Ellsworth on business and being in the post Office which is kept in the Sutler's shop, he saw a mail bag marked Fort Fletcher. On inquiring into the matter it appeared that this bag contained mails for us which had been sent to Denver. The P.M. there had sent it back to us but the driver neglected to deliver it as he passed by us and carried it back to Ellsworth. The last mail we received was brought from Ellsworth by some officers who were on their way out to Colorado by which I received a letter from Caroline and from Harriet and from Edward and which Luther enclosed from somebody in Boston.

I left Fort Riley on the first day of October with two companies of the 3rd Infantry. One company left us at Fort Ellsworth and took the Santa Fe road. We arrived here on the 11th Oct. distance from Riley 150 miles. The weather was beautiful, not a drop of rain. This place

was occupied by troops last winter but was abandoned in the spring. We found a few log houses standing but they were in a dilapidated condition. We commenced repairing them and shall move into them today or tomorrow. Today is the coldest we have had since we have been here. The wind is blowing a gale from the north. Since we came here the strength of the post had been increased by the addition of one company of Infantry and one of Cavalry. Nearly half of this force is to be sent away in a few days to guard the station of the stage line, the Indians having _____ them considerably of late.

Caroline has informed me of Aunt Farnsworth's death. You must miss her very much.

I hope you will write me some. I wish you would let me know what funds I have left in Portland. I hope I shall be able to add something to the amount if I remain here long enough.

Please remember me to Mother and all the family,

Yr affc Son
Andrew

Fort Harker Kansas
Dec. 10th 1866

Dear Father,

I have just arrived at this post on my way to Fort Larned. I left Fort Fletcher yesterday morning camped out last night and reached this place at one o'clock today. This was formerly Fort Ellsworth the name has just been changed to Harker. It is situated at the junction of the Smoky Hill and Santa Fe roads. Fort Larned is eighty miles west of here on the Santa Fe road. I am going after medicines. I am travelling in an ambulance with four mules.

The ground is covered with snow to the depth of three or four inches but it is drifted in many places two and three feet deep. I shall have as company from here to Fort Larned a Paymaster, and a Lieutenant who is going to Fort Dodge, but I shall have to travel the whole distance back 140 miles all alone. The weather is very cold and the ground being covered with snow make camping out rather uncomfortable. Last night we found a spot where somebody had camped during the snow storm and ground was perfectly dry and free from snow.

We have very comfortable quarters at Fort Fletcher. The Commanding Officer and I occupy a log house. We have a large fire place which keeps us warm.

I have received several newspapers from you, some presses and _____, the last ones that I got went to Denver before

ore I received them. I send you a check for __69 which I wish you would deposit in some safe place. I suppose the Savings Bank will be the best.

The name of Fort Fletcher has been changed to Fort Hays after a General who was killed in the Battle of the Wilderness. You must _____ address to Fort Hays.

Please remember me to Mother and all the family.

Yr affec Son
Andrew

Fort Hays, Kansas
Feb. 2nd 1867

Dear Father,

Your last letter or the one in which you acknowledged the receipt of the check reached me some time ago. I was absent from here 13 days on my trip to Fort Larned, was detained there four days by a snow storm. I did not return on the back of a mule as I may have given you to understand I _____ and returned in an ambulance. But for the snow storm I should have come across country on my return, _____ 100 miles. The paymaster who has just left here came that way and had no difficulty, excepting in crossing some ravines where the snow was deep enough to make it necessary to use shovels. We traveled altogether by compass, there being no road, and struck the creek on which our camp is located within two mile of it.

We have had some very cold weather, I cannot say how cold for I have no thermometer, but quite a number of the men have had their hands and feet frozen.

Two of our men went out after buffalo the next day after Christmas, got lost and were about 15 days. They lived on raw buffalo meat — during that time excepting 3 days when they were unable to get any. During those three days they lived on the meat of a wolf which they were fortunate enough to kill.

They came in with their feet badly frozen.

We have had no fresh meat since we have been here except buffalo but we have had that nearly all the time. Today there is a herd in sight of camp, but we have generally been obliged to go 5 or 10 miles to find them.

The meat is very much like beef, a little darker colored and has not much fat but it is so much better than living on salt meat that we are glad enough to get it.

I have received several newspapers. I _____ from yourself _____ from Luther _____ for which I am much obliged.

Please remember me to mother and all the family.

Your affec. Son
Andrew

Fort Hays, Kansas
May 8th 1867

Dear Father,

I received your letter of April 22nd a few days ago. Since I wrote you last there has been considerable excitement here in consequence of Indian depredations in this vicinity. About two weeks ago the Indians attacked one of the stations of the stage co. eighteen miles west of here, killed three men, burned the buildings and drove off all the horses and mules that were in the stable. A few days ago another station 150 miles west of this post was burned by Indians and the horses were driven off. The Indians have visited several stations west [west] of here and have driven off in all 60 or 70 horses so that the stages were unable to run until others were brought up from below. The Indians who have been committing these depredations are Sioux and Cheyennes who crossing the stage road on their way north. You have probably seen in the newspapers some account of Genl. Hancock's expedition against the Indians.

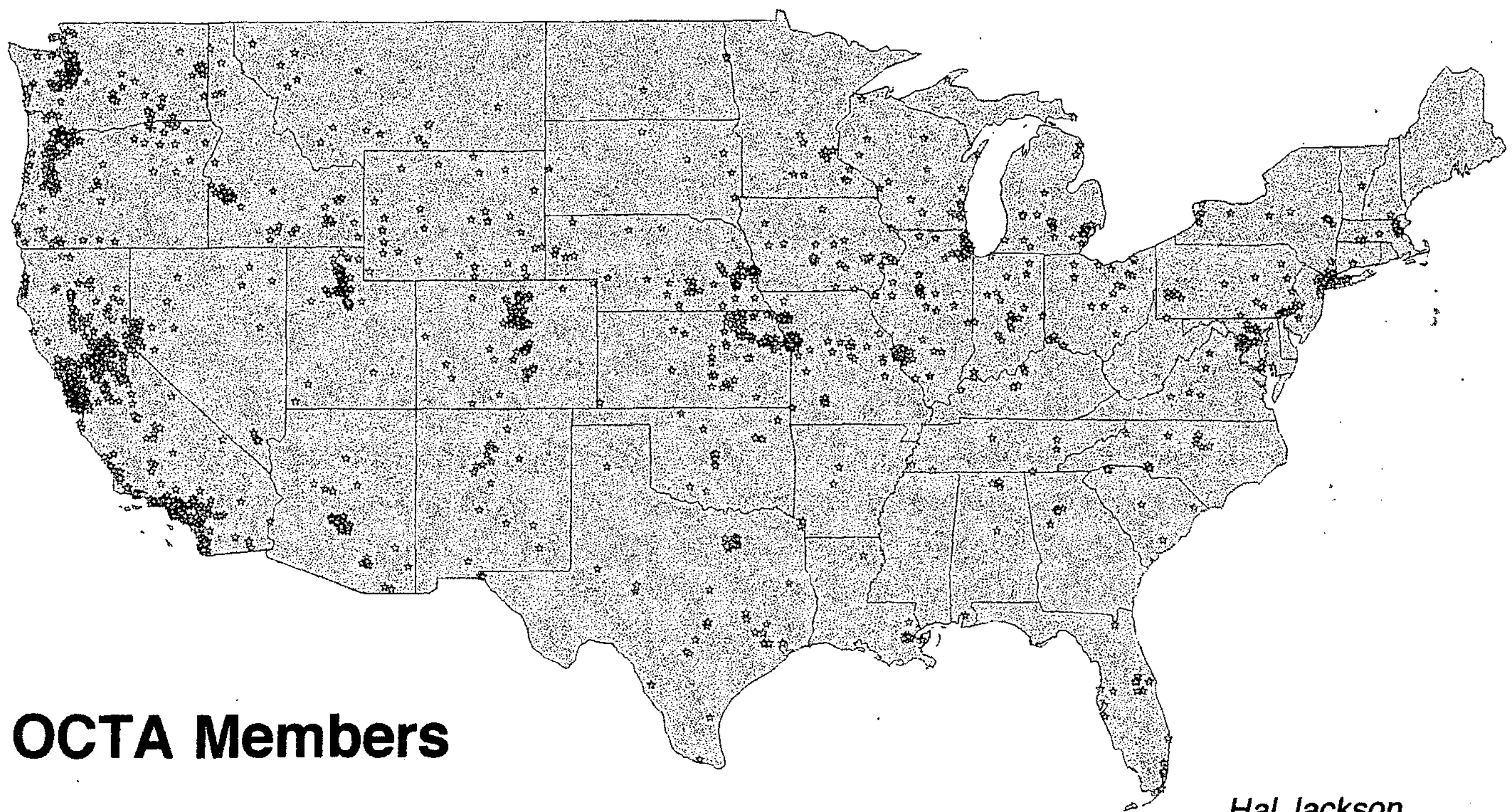
He went out last month on the Arkansas route which leads to New Mexico. At Fort Larned he met with 1500 or 2000 Indians had a talk with them and made an arrangement for another meeting on the following day but in the night they left their camp leaving their lodges all standing and started north. It was these same Indians that committed these depredations on their way.

Genl. Hancock sent Genl. Custer who is now Lieut. Col. Of the 7th Cavalry in pursuit of them but he was unable to overtake them. He followed them until he struck the Smoky Hill Route and then was obliged to come to this post for forage. He is still in camp here with his regiment. Genl. Hancock passed here last Friday with the balance of the expedition on his way back to Leavenworth. Genl. Custer will remain here for the purpose of keeping open this road.

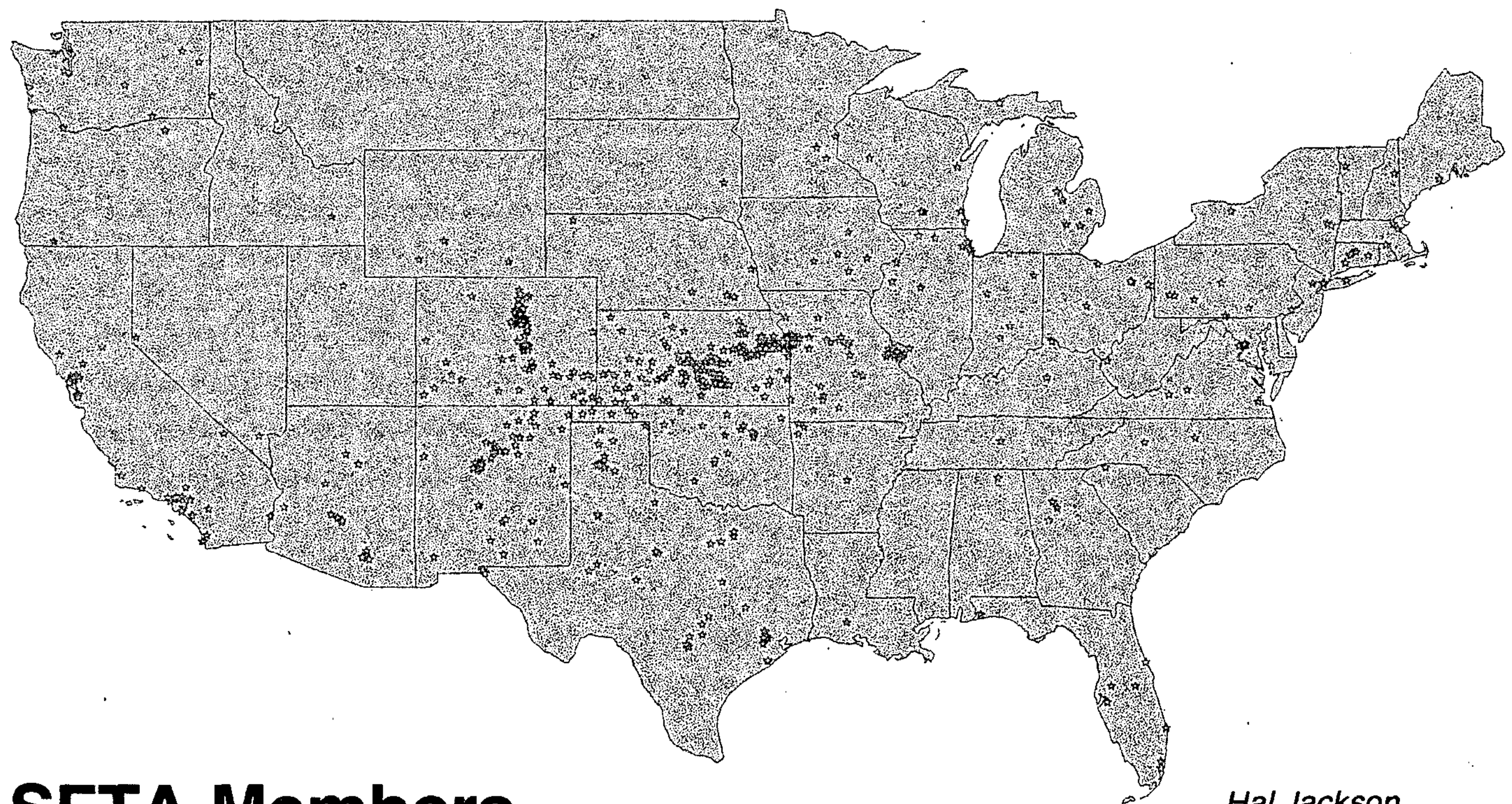
I wish Caroline would send me some flower seeds. A few even be sent in a letter. I would try the experiment of _____ some kind of vine to shade our windows. I would like some seeds of the morning glory or _____ if the latter can be raised from seeds.

Please remember me to Mother and all the family.

Yr. Affc Son
Andrew



Hal Jackson



Hal Jackson

SFTA Members

A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP OF SFTA AND OCTA

by Hal Jackson

These two maps illustrate a major difference between the membership of the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Oregon-California Trails Association. Many folks claim that SFTA should be more like OCTA, but these maps demonstrate a difference that runs counter to that position. OCTA members have personal ties to individuals who took part in the migration. They have an ancestor who traveled the trail and that is why they are tied to its memory. Except for a concentration of members along the trails westward from Kansas City and St. Joseph for about 100 miles, OCTA members are scattered far and wide. The SFTA member map reflects the Santa Fe Trail. Our members are trail, not people, oriented. This is an important distinction. It helps explain SFTA's numerous chapters in comparison to OCTA's few.

ETERNAL REST ALONG THE SANTA FE TRAIL

by Joanne VanCoevern
and Anne Mallinson

(SFTA board members VanCoevern and Mallinson prepared this committee report for publication.)

FROM time to time the Santa Fe Trail Association receives some interesting requests from its membership. One of these requests involved the possibility of SFTA establishing a cemetery where human remains, or ashes, could be eternally laid to rest. Since this request involved several states that may have differing laws in dealing with this matter, a committee was formed to determine how best to handle this "grave" matter.

According to the information that we were able to obtain, there is no Federal law regulating the burial of human remains, or the spreading of human ashes, except that it is prohibited in waterways and state parks. There may be restrictions in national parks. After checking with the various State Departments of Health in the Trail states, it is the general consensus that **local** governing bodies have the jurisdiction over this matter. In most cases, this will be the county or township where you are seeking burial/spreading of ashes. The most important factor seems to be "Permission of the landowner," and written permission is advisable. In addition, if the landowner is a nonresident, you should also seek the permission of both the tenant AND the landowner.

Our first consideration was to determine what the law is in establishing a cemetery, and secondly, if it was feasible for SFTA to do so. To establish a cemetery, land must be purchased, or acquired through donation. The land must be platted with the county and meet any regulations in effect, and registered with the Register of Deeds. (Note: Before purchasing any land, it is advisable to check any zoning ordinances in place.) If burial lots are being sold in advance, a trust fund must be established and set up through the Secretary of State's office. This is to make sure that the money collected for lots and upkeep is being used as stated in the contract and not being used to

fund someone's vacation.

Upon further discussion, the SFTA Board of Directors decided not to pursue the establishment of our own cemetery. Some of the reasons for this decision included the cost, maintenance, long-term upkeep, responsibility of handling details with burial, and choosing one location for a SFTA cemetery. Another major reason for not establishing our own cemetery is the fact that from one end of the Trail to the other, established cemeteries can already be found, several with existing Santa Fe Trail ruts running through or near them. A listing of some of these can be found on the Internet, county by county. The site is the USGS Map Site at <<http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/gnis/gnisform.html>>. The use of an established cemetery would insure upkeep and maintenance in the future, as well as a record of the burial. It would also allow individuals to choose an area of the Trail that is special to them. County offices should be able to tell who to check with at individual cemeteries for costs and requirements to be buried there. As noted before, there are several established cemeteries laid out right over the Santa Fe Trail and with a little planning, an individual could be laid to rest eternally "in a rut" or at least close to one!

A question was also raised about being buried, or having ashes spread at National Park Sites. Burials are generally prohibited at National Park Sites, except at the already established National Cemeteries, such as Arlington. However, certain criteria must be met before burial is allowed at these sites. To see if you are eligible at these cemeteries, you should check with the superintendent of that particular site. The spreading of ashes may be done in National Parks, or at Historic Sites, but only with the permission of that site, or in areas that are specifically designated for such a purpose. Before doing anything at a National Park Site, get the written permission of the superintendent of that site.

When thinking of your options concerning burial, or the spreading of ashes, please consider the historical integrity of the site. Will a burial or a monument placed at a site where someone has spread ashes disrupt the historic integrity of the site?

A headstone or monument would be a permanent modern intrusion on the historic scene. Digging a grave or just placing a small marker could potentially destroy buried archaeological remains, which could include previous unmarked burials. Consider also the cultures of that area. The spreading of human ashes, or a random burial, could be seen as a desecration of an area that is considered "sacred" by some groups.

Perhaps the most important thing involved with the disposal of human remains is that your wishes be made known. Make sure that you discuss this matter with those closest to you and let them know where you would like to be laid to rest. The Santa Fe Trail will always live on, unfortunately, we will not.

JOSIAH GREGG SOCIETY ESTABLISHED BY SFTA

by Mike Patterson

(Patterson is a charter member of SFTA and serves as regional director of planned giving for the Arthritis Foundation in San Antonio, TX. He has donated his time to assist SFTA in developing planned-giving programs, including the Josiah Gregg Society.)

THE Santa Fe Trail Association Board of Directors has approved the creation of the Josiah Gregg Society to recognize and honor individuals who have made a planned gift to the SFTA. Planned gifts include, but are not limited to, naming the SFTA as a beneficiary through a bequest, charitable remainder trust, insurance policy, retirement plan assets, or estate planning tools.

"We thought it most fitting that this society be named after Josiah Gregg, Trail merchant and author of the first extensive history of the Santa Fe Trail," says Margaret Sears, president of the SFTA. "He had the vision to plan for the future, and that's what planned giving is all about as well."

To be recognized in the Josiah Gregg Society, a member must notify the SFTA president that she or he has made such a provision in an estate plan. Unless the individual wishes to voluntarily provide the information, the amount or type of gift is not required for membership.

Wagon Tracks will print a listing of the members of the Josiah Gregg Society. In addition, each member will receive a certificate of Society membership or similar gesture of appreciation.

"The Josiah Gregg Society is designated to encourage our members to think about the future—not only theirs, but also the future of the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Santa Fe Trail itself," said President Sears. "Through a bequest, trust, insurance policy or other means, individuals can help ensure that the Trail is preserved for future generations to enjoy."

For more information on the Josiah Gregg Society, contact President Margaret Sears, 1871 Candela, Santa Fe NM 87505, or call her at (505) 473-3124.

THE WAGON TONGUE

—OBSERVATIONS & OPINIONS—

(Editor's Note: Alma Gregory did not write the following for publication, but she makes many good points and has agreed to permit inclusion here.)

I was pleased to see my article, "Bleeding, Purging, Vomiting, and Quinine Were the Cures of Choice" about Dr. Bob Mallin's presentation to a Corazon Chapter meeting, in the last *WT*. I thought your expansion in the introduction and suggested further-reading sources were splendid additions to my text.

By now you know how stunned I was therefore upon reaching the very last page and your editor's column challenging Dr. Mallin's veracity and your apology for running the story.

You of course have every right to cut anything you wish from any article submitted, including the entire article. However, instead of killing the entire article which you ultimately found so offensive, or even having the courtesy to e-mail or telephone me inquiring whether I was sure this article really should be considered by you, you ran it and then insulted both Dr. Mallin and me 22 pages later. You can say you didn't mean to impugn me all you wish. Nevertheless, the fact is, you stated very plainly, "I apologize for including it."

Bob Mallin was not giving his doc-

toral presentation to a panel of experts in the Santa Clara Cafe last November, nor the many times before he has given this entertaining lecture at Pecos National Monument and Fort Union.

Perhaps the key word there is entertainment - but only you and a handful of other experts would know that. To the majority of us, and I speak from also observing the audience at Fort Union get caught up in his talk and enthusiastically ask questions and wonder over his medical instruments, it was an hour's presentation of material we would not normally even think of, much less have ready access to.

You may have, in your neck of the woods, an abundance of retired medical doctors regularly giving ponderous presentations on medical practices along the Santa Fe Trail between 1821 and 1879, but this is the first one I have ever heard - albeit I have only been an active member of SFTA for almost four years.

In fact, it is safe to say I do not know one other single medical doctor along my stretch of the Trail who is volunteering their time to get involved, teach and learn a little, and have some fun.

If you thought what Dr. Mallin said was in error or felt it had no relevance at all for *WT*, why did you run it in the first place? It is only two columns long. Surely you must have something in stock to replace that short piece. I know you have been calling for submissions to *WT* - that's part of what prompted me to submit this article. Several of us here thought he was very interesting.

I can't help seeing the irony in President Sears's three-column article in the same issue, pleading for more exposure, participation, money, and membership versus the last paragraph in the issue where you slam-dunk a retired doctor who is interested, active, and participating.

I don't know whether he is a dues-paying, card-carrying SFTA member - but I sure betcha' he won't ever be after this issue reaches everyone!

I say, how sad. It occurs to me that without active volunteers SFTA would not be where it is today. Have they all been scholarly experts? Wouldn't it be kinder to offer a little guidance, nudge them along in the

direction they are growing rather than summarily dismiss them with, "I apologize for including it"?

I think what you have done to Dr. Mallin is very sad. In my opinion, it is him to whom you owe the apology - and three months down the line with the next *WT* seems a long way away.

Alma Gregory
HC 69 Box 20-J
Sapello NM 87745

I cannot disagree with anything you say, and my apology to Dr. Mallin and you appears on the front page of this issue. I was wrong and regret it. You have been very gracious, and I appreciate it.

Editor

POST OFFICE OAK

—LETTERS—

Editor:

While reading the current issue of *Wagon Tracks*, I was pleasantly surprised to come across the description of the bicycle trip & ride schedule on page 6. Also, the listing in the Trail Calendar. I thank you for giving the Trek so much space. Commenting on Margaret Sears's "President's Column," ever since its first printing, we have given every cyclist who rides the Trek a copy of the excellent Nat'l Park Service Trail brochure. It's the best piece I've seen about the Trail. Also, with the Park Service's permission, we give every rider a quality T-shirt with the full color print of the Park Service's copyright Trail logo. The riders prize these shirts and are proud to wear them not only on our trips, but back to their home towns which include many riders from Canada and Great Britain. Thanks for every thing.

Willard Chilcott
SFT Bicycle Committee
885 Camino Del Este
Santa Fe NM 87501

Editor:

With regard to the availability of film products centering on the Santa Fe Trail (President's Column, *Wagon Tracks*, February 2001), I would remind readers that there is a videotape available from KNME Public Television (Albuquerque, NM) of the program "With Each Turn of the Wheel." While this one-hour-long tape is not precisely akin to those shown at National Park Service

sites, it does contain scenes of the present-day Trail and develops the story of various historical issues in this part of the country relating to the Santa Fe Trail. I believe several organizations affiliated with SFTA have held showings of "With Each Turn of the Wheel." Individual copies are available for \$14.95 plus shipping and handling from KNME at 1-800-328-5663. New Mexico residents must add 5% tax. The tape is referred to as episode #801 in the award-winning "KNME Colores" series. It was produced in 1996.

My wife Suzanne is an administrator at KNME. I am retired from a broadcasting career but, as a member of SFTA, I assisted the producers in some of the early preparation for this production, especially in pointing them toward Trail authorities and other sources, including Margaret Sears in Santa Fe. A number of these people did contribute to the program and/or appeared on camera in "With Each Turn of the Wheel."

Allan Kurman
3108 Camino Cepillo NW
Albuquerque NM 87107
<skurman@unm.edu>

Editor:

Through the years I've enjoyed and learned much about the Santa Fe Trail by reading your *Wagon Tracks*. I am a charter member of the Santa Fe Trail Association. I have all *Wagon Tracks* issues from your first, with a few pages, to the last one with 28 pages.

I should have written long ago to thank you and Bonita for all the effort and time you spend writing a quality publication for the SFTA membership. We are so lucky to have both of you.

You may wonder why I'm writing. I had to tell you my favorite article, so far, is in the Feb. 2001 issue, pages 10-18, "Santa Fe Trail Perspectives on Natural History." I love reading and rereading your selection of quotations from Trail travelers about various aspects of nature along the Trail.

Thanks to both of you for your dedication in the highest order.

Evelyn A. Bartlow
54 Woodbridge Ln
Kansas City MO 64145

Thank you for generous praise.

Editor

WOMEN'S TALES OF THE TRAIL RARE BUT TELLING

by Marc Simmons

(The following appeared in Simmons' "Trail Dust" column in the March 3, 2001, Santa Fe New Mexican. Special thanks to him for sharing this.)

IN those days women dreaded worse than death the perils of Western trails." Those words were recorded by Hezekiah Brake in setting down his recollections of an 1858 trip over the Santa Fe Trail. The young English immigrant had come out to Fort Union, N.M., where a civilian job awaited him. He soon sent for his wife and infant child he had left in Missouri.

The hazards and discomforts of trail travel were well known to women in the East. Many of them thought it foolish to risk the welfare of their families by following their menfolk to New Mexico, Oregon, or California in search of an elusive prosperity. But quite a number put their fears aside and went.

The Santa Fe Trail was somewhat unusual in that for much of its 60-year existence, women travelers were scarce. That was primarily because the majority of wagon traffic involved commercial freighting. Merchants, making quick business trips to Santa Fe, Albuquerque and El Paso, thought it safer to leave their families at home.

A few years ago, I made a survey of first hand published accounts by women on the Santa Fe Trail. I could only locate 20, and all but two were relatively short. By contrast, for the Oregon Trail, an emigrant route, dozens of women's diaries and memoirs are available.

The two long Santa Fe Trail items are by Susan Magoffin and Marion Sloan Russell. Together, the pair of books gives us a foundation for understanding the feminine perspective on traveling by merchant caravan to Santa Fe.

Eighteen year-old Susan Shelby Magoffin, raised in luxury on a Kentucky plantation, left for New Mexico in June of 1846. She accompanied her new husband, veteran Santa Fe Trail trader Samuel Magoffin, at a time when the beginning of the Mexican War was making trail

travel even more difficult than usual.

The doting Samuel did his best to shield her from some of the hardships by providing his wife a carriage, servant girl, spacious tent, and folding bed. But his efforts were not entirely successful.

Crossing Ash Creek in central Kansas, the carriage tipped over and Susan was injured. Later, on the road below Socorro, she suffered a severe attack of malaria but found relief by swallowing a box of Sappington's Quinine Pills.

Throughout the long trip to New Mexico and then to Chihuahua, Susan kept a diary that described events, places, and people. In Santa Fe, for instance, she wrote about shopping for food in the market, attending a military ball, and receiving formal visits from town dignitaries.

In 1926, her splendid diary was found in a Missouri attic and published. For many years it was assumed Susan Magoffin was the first Anglo woman to travel the Santa Fe Trail. But then in 1987, historian Marian Meyer discovered that Mary Donoho had made the trip in 1833. Unfortunately, however, she left no record of her experiences.

Little Marian Sloan, age 7, made her first crossing of the Santa Fe Trail with her mother and older brother in 1852. It was to be merely the first of a half dozen such trips undertaken in her youth. On one of those in the 1860's, she met and fell in love with Lieutenant Richard Russell, stationed on the Trail at Fort Union east of Las Vegas. They were married in the post chapel.

Shortly before her death at 91 in 1936, Marian dictated her recollections. They were published as a book in 1954 under the title *Land of Enchantment*. Only 750 copies were printed.

When I became interested in Trail history a couple of decades later, it was practically impossible to find a copy in rare bookstores. I persuaded UNM Press to bring out a new edition, which it did in 1981. It has remained in print ever since.

Land of Enchantment, with its moving narrative, is my favorite book dealing with the American West. Marian Russell had left us a classic and a literary treasure. Not

long ago, a national magazine referred to her as "the best-known woman to have traveled the Santa Fe Trail."

Her fame, however, is of quite recent origin, dating only from UNM Press's republication of her recollections. Before 1981, she had slipped into undeserved obscurity.

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>.)

AT this writing, spring's greens and pinks are chasing away the "winter blues," and we are looking ahead to the time when the trees take on the serious business of providing leafy shade for upcoming events where the sun shines bright and hot. All along the Santa Fe Trail this summer there will be things to do and see and celebrate. Spaces on the summer-time calendar of events are filled in with names and places, whatever your pleasure, be it bus tours or trail rides, festivals or fireworks, barbecues, picnics, or pet parades. A listing of some of the offerings is below. A star * marks those events created for children.

May 20-June 9: Cimarron Grassland Heritage Festival at Elkhart, KS. See last issue of *WT* or contact Helen Brown (620) 697-2833 or e-mail <mtcomuseum@elkhart.com>.

June 1: Santa Fe Trail Daze Tour, Cimarron County, OK. The tour bus heads out from the Cimarron Heritage Center in Boise City promptly at 8:00 am, with stops at Autograph Rock and sites in the Kenton area. Bus tour is free; lunch at Camp Billy Joe costs \$5 (or bring your own). Reservations are a must, (580) 544-3479.

June 2: Friends of Arrow Rock Antique Forum. Calling all antique enthusiasts to Arrow Rock, MO, for a "Journey into the World of Classical Furniture and Decorative Arts from 1815-1840." There will be famous speakers, lunch at the old tavern and an end-of-the-day Champagne reception at "Oak Grove." Contact (660)

837-3231 or <www.friendsar.org>.

June 9-August 26: Beyond the Horizon: Robert Sudlow & Keith Jacobshagen at the Staath Museum, Montezuma, KS. If you think you have seen the prairie in every color and form, see it again through the eyes of two of the most celebrated American landscape painters at work today; twenty paintings of Kansas and Nebraska. (620) 846-2527 or <staathm@ucom.net>.

***June 9:** Santa Fe Trail Festival, 10 am-4 pm, Trinidad, CO, History Museum. Free living-history presentations of Kit Carson, SFT traders, and African-Americans in the Frontier West. Also "Visits With a Victorian Lady" with Judi Brandow. More information, (719) 846-7217.

June 9-June 10: Six Western Chapters of the SFTA at Las Animas and La Junta, CO. Early birders on June 8 might enjoy the area museums: Otero, Koshare Indian, Bent's Fort, or Kit Carson. June 9, 10:30 am, registration at Best Western Bent's Fort Inn precedes a buffet lunch. A slide show previews some of the Mountain Route sites. Guests will board buses for Bent's Old Fort, Fort Lyon, Las Animas Cemetery, and a Boggsville tour with a barbecue supper. Program by Kit Carson's great-grandson, John Carson. Sunday morning features an 8:00 am breakfast at Otero Jr. College in La Junta. Buses will go to Timpas, where a boxed lunch awaits, then on to Iron Spring and Hole in the Rock for a special program. Contact Dub Couch, (719) 254-3000.

June 16: First Fort Tours at Fort Union National Monument, NM. Open only once a year, this event provides visitors with a rare view of the archaeologically-sensitive first Fort Union. Tours will be provided throughout the day. (505) 425-8025 or <foun_administration@nps.gov>.

***Summer History Outings** from the Trinidad History Museum, (719) 846-7217:

June 30: 8:30-11:30 am, Trinidad's Architecture, a walking tour for adults and teens and a hands-on workshop for kids ages 6-12. Fee charged.

July 14: A repeat of June 30 program, same times.

July 21: 8:30-11:30 am, For Garden and Nature Lovers, a walking tour

for adults and teens and, at the museum, a hands-on workshop for kids ages 6-12. Fee charged.

***July 18:** "Once Upon a Time" Children's Workshop, 1-3 pm, ages 8-11, hands-on activities exploring Trinidad's past. Sponsored by Trinidad History Museum and Carnegie Public Library.

***July 4:** Celebrate Trinidad's 125th Birthday at Trinidad History Museum, 12:00 pm, free admission for Colorado residents. The birthday cake is at the museum; there will be music at Kit Carson Park and fireworks at Trinidad Lake. (719) 846-7217

***July 14:** Forgotten Skills Day at Shawnee Indian Mission, Fairway, KS (Kansas City area), 10:00 am-5:00 pm What was life like before electricity? Stop at the spacious grounds of the Shawnee Indian Mission and find out. See the skills of blacksmithing, broom making, outdoor cooking, weaving, wood carving, and much more, (913) 262-0867.

July 28-29: Cultural Encounters on the Santa Fe Trail, Fort Union National Monument, the cultural diversity of 19th century Fort Union and the Santa Fe Trail is recreated by contemporary performers. You may see former Fort Union resident, Marion Russell, or thrill to ancient Apache airs on flute or guitar by Vincent Kaydahzinne. Hear the talk and make the walk with Lola Henio as she and her Navaho ancestors suffer "The Long Walk" to Bosque Redondo. For times and information, (505) 425-8025 or e-mail <foun_administration@nps.gov>.

July 28: Bloom Picnic and Dedication Ceremony, 11 am-2:00 pm. The Trinidad (Colorado) Historical Society and Friends of Historical Trinidad host their annual picnic in the Bloom Gardens. Dedication of the new SFT Information Center. Reservations for picnic and a fee for lunch, (719) 846-7217.

August 4: Prelude to the Civil War, 2 pm-3:00 pm at the Shawnee Indian Mission, Fairway, KS. Meet Abraham Lincoln, Gen. Jim Lane, John Brown, and a host of other historical characters who debate the slavery question and other issues that led our nation into the Civil War. The fictional historical drama is presented by the Lecompton Reenac-

tors, (913) 262-0867.

August 18: An Evening at Fort Union. Experience the fort by lantern light. The shadows come alive and a ghostly air prevails as one walks through the adobe ruins, spotting soldiers at leisure and soldiers on duty, all in a silent pantomime. For times and information, (505) 425-8025.

September 26: On the Way to Las Vegas Symposium. Free admission to the Trinidad History Museum for members of the Santa Fe Trail Association. On Wednesday, September 26, 12:00-4:00 pm, Richard Loudon is on hand to meet SFTA members and talk about the Trail in Trinidad.

FORT LEARNED

—TEACHER'S TRADING POST—

by Anne Mallinson

(Anne Mallinson is a member of the SFTA board of directors and candidate for the office of vice-president. She is a teacher and volunteered to revive this column for teachers.)

Exploring the Relationship between Time and Distance—Math Exercises using the Santa Fe Trail

The following utilize both right and left brain thinking skills. They can be integrated to fit with practice exercises needed to prepare students for state testing objectives. The activities can be completed using either the individualized instruction method or the cooperative learning format.

Teacher says: "Have you ever taken a long trip? Today we are going to brainstorm with one another and come up with three ways we can evaluate how far one place is from another." (Answer—By distance—vehicle odometer, map legend, pedometer, road signs. By time—number of hours or days required for covering a certain distance multiplied by the rate of travel.)

"We are going to do some math teasers by taking a trip down the Santa Fe Trail." (Give students a handout of a map of the Trail.) "The average horse walks at a rate of three and a half miles an hour. The average person walks at a rate of two and a half miles an hour. The average mule can manage at least four miles an hour. Twelve to fifteen miles a day is good time for a wagon

pulled by a team of oxen."

This sets up anticipatory set, giving the student an opportunity to contribute via oral discussion (while teacher hands out the maps) whether he or she has ever hiked with their family or with a scouting program, ridden on a trail ride, or traveled by vehicle on a trip that seemingly took forever. (Are we there yet?) Students can then begin to conceptualize the idea that it takes time to travel a great distance and that the two are interrelated.

Each problem requires the student to calculate the length of time whether one travels by way of a motorized vehicle, with an ox cart, by muleback, by riding a horse, or by walking on one's own two feet. Each method of travel requires a separate formula. Note that the class will be calculating actual time spent traveling. Necessary rest days will not be included as part of the total. You can discuss that aspect when utilizing part 3 (in a future issue) of this exercise.

Sample problems:

1. Have the student determine the length of time required for him/her to walk to school. Some may already be walking, so that will be easy. For others who ride a bus, this may take longer. Pair a walker with a rider so that the two can compare experiences. Note: Have walkers share their preferences regarding footwear.

2. Calculate the time required for a student to travel from the school to a favorite place in the community by horseback.

3. Calculate the time required for the student to travel by mule from the nearest segment of the Santa Fe Trail to the school. (Local map required.)

4. Calculate the length of time required for one person to travel with an ox cart from a local grocery store to the school.

5. Calculate the time required for a wagon train to travel from Franklin, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, making stops in between.

This can be broken into separate units, with one team of students calculating distances/times by state, or by segments.

a. by foot

b. by oxen

c. by horseback

d. by mule

e. by car (averaging 60 mph)

Students can report on their findings and compare notes on which method of travel they prefer. Remind them that only modern vehicles are air conditioned. The climate control for all other methods of travel are regulated by Mother Nature.

HOOF PRINTS

—TRAIL TIDBITS—

Harry C. Myers, superintendent at Fort Union National Monument, Watrous, NM, for nine years, whom many believed would be buried next to William Rawle Shoemaker on the site, has moved to new trails. He is now on the staff of Long Distance Trails in National Park Headquarters in Santa Fe working on the management plan for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. He has purchased a home in the Santa Fe suburb Eldorado. Congratulations, Harry.

On February 12 D. Ray Blakeley, president of the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter, became the director of the Herzstein Memorial Museum in Clayton, NM, under the auspices of the Union County Historical Society. Blakeley plans to work with the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office to develop a Santa Fe Trail exhibit at the museum. Congratulations, D. Ray.

The February issue of *Oklahoma Living* featured an article about Autograph Rock entitled "If This Rock Could Talk." It relates history of the area and of how Dan and Carol Sharp became the owners of Autograph Rock. The Sharps and the National Park Service have a cooperative agreement signed ten years ago that provides public access and preservation of the site.

Wabaunsee County, KS, has officially adopted names for its county and township roads. The Santa Fe Trail crossed the county. Road names associated with the Trail are 142 Mile Road, Agnes City Road, Chicken Creek Road, Dagoon Creek Road, Elm Creek Road, Mormon Trail Road, Military Trail Road, Ox

Team Road, Robbers Roost Road, Santa Fe Trail Road, Soldier Creek Road, and Wilmington Road. The colorful name Bullwhacker Road (the driver of an ox team) was dropped when residents complained they didn't want that name on their stationary.

SFTA member Stanley B. Kimball reports that Violet T. Kimball's *Stories of Young Pioneers in Their Own Words* has been named winner of the Spur Award in the category of Best Western Juvenile Nonfiction in the Western Writers of America annual literary competition. The Western Writers of America represents more than 600 writers of every genre who share the common interest of writing about the American West.

The Dripping Springs Natural Area near Las Cruces, NM, was the outdoor feature in the May issue of *New Mexico Magazine*. Giovanni María Agostini, better known as "The Hermit" spent the last year of his life in a cave in the Organ Mountains in this area. The article briefly sketches his life.

Dr. Mike Olsen, Professor of History and University Archivist, New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, spoke on "Fleeting Fame: Faded Heroes of the Santa Fe Trail," on March 26 at the Hotel Santa Fe. This is part of the *Speaker's Choice Lectures Series* presented by Southwest Seminars for the Palace of the Governors and underwritten by Hotel Santa Fe, a Picuris Pueblo Enterprise.

Word has just been received that Wesley Garton, charter member of SFTA from Benton, KS, died September 20, 2000. Sympathy is extended to his family and friends.

The Friends of Arrow Rock recently received a 2001 McReynolds Award from the Missouri Alliance of Historic Preservation for their more than 40 years of historic preservation in Arrow Rock and the current restoration projects of the black lodge hall and the Lawless-Barger farmstead. Executive Director Kathy Borgman accepted the award at a ceremony in the state capitol rotunda. Congratulations.

The Friends of Arrow Rock recently received a gift of \$3,000 from Corinne Jackson to underwrite expenses for the six-week Children's Education Program. Jackson, age 93, attended school and taught school in a one-room school house and has recorded her experiences, which will be printed and given to each child who participates in the program.

Arrow Rock State Historic Site has prepared a new 20-minute video on "Arrow Rock: Frontier Town in Boone's Lick Country." The premier showing was held at the visitor's center in Arrow Rock on May 12.

Craig Crease presented a program, "The Story of the Great Lone Elm Campground," at the May 8 meeting of the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, held at Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway, KS.

The Ford County Historical Society, with the help of several Boy Scouts from Dodge City and the Ford County Commission, is restoring the Coronado Cross Park east of Dodge City. The cleanup, painting, new signs, and other improvements make this park more attractive and accessible to visitors.

The ten new wayside exhibits interpreting the history of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in Council Grove received second place in the wayside exhibit category of the National Association for Interpretation's annual interpretive media competition last November. Congratulations to all involved.

CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES —BOOK NOTICES—

M. C. Gottschalk, *Pioneer Merchants of the Las Vegas Plaza*. Las Vegas, NM: M. C. Gottschalk, 2000. Pp. 60. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Paper, \$15.00. Order from M. C. Gottschalk, 118 Bridge St, Las Vegas NM 87701; add \$4 for mailing. Book will be available at the symposium.

Marcus Gottschalk of Las Vegas operates a jewelry store on Bridge St. near the Plaza, and he is an accomplished historian. He won the

SFTA scholarship award in 1999. This little book is carefully researched, thoroughly documented, and well written. He makes it clear that this town on the Santa Fe Trail was a most important commercial center into the 20th century.

Gottschalk traces the changes in ownership and businesses around the Plaza during three periods: that of American occupation from the war between the U.S. and Mexico through the 1850s, the "Booming Trail Years" of the 1860s and 1870s, and the changes brought by the railroad in the 1880s and after.

Gottschalk explains the relationship of the town to the Trail, and he evaluates the importance of military contracts and participation in economic development of the Territory in the commercial success of leading merchants. Many adapted well to changing conditions, and Las Vegas prospered.

A series of maps trace the changes that occurred on the Plaza in key years: 1853, 1862, 1867, 1876, and 1883. The text is enhanced with fine illustrations. Most important are the stories of the merchant families (Hispano, Anglo, French-Canadian, German, and Jewish) that made Las Vegas the leading commercial center in New Mexico Territory for many years. Many merchants in other towns had outlets in Las Vegas. Its dominance in trade lasted until 1912, when the main line of the railroad bypassed the town and sent it into decline.

Pioneer Merchants is highly recommended. Those attending the symposium would do well to read it before going to Las Vegas, gaining an appreciation for the history of this important Trail community. To understand Las Vegas and the Trail, one needs to know about many merchant families of New Mexico, including Romero, Lopez, Baca y Baca, Gonzales, Perea, Otero, Blanchard, Dold, Ilfeld, Maese, Pendaries, St. Vrain, von Grolman, Whitlock, and others. This book is the place to begin.

J. L. Wilkerson, *Frontier Freightier: Alexander Majors*. Kansas City: Acorn Books, 2000. Pp. iv + 116. Illustrations. Paper, \$9.95. Order from Acorn Books, 7337 Terrace, Kansas City MO 64114, phone (888)

422-0320.

There is always a need for good children's books about people who made history, and this volume is part of *The Great Heartlanders Series* of biographies designed for readers ages 8-12. The story of Majors is closely tied to the Trail.

This biography is faithful to the record and tells Majors's story well, relying in part on his autobiography. The accounts of his career as a freighter are especially informative and interesting. Children will learn about the Trail, wagon trains, character, Pony Express, business success and failure, and other facets of Majors's long life. Majors held to high standards for himself and those who worked for him. His story can be an inspiration. Teachers and students will enjoy this fine biography.

RALPH'S RUTS

by Leo E. Oliva

(Editor Oliva writes a weekly column, "Our Kansas Heritage," for a small-town Kansas newspaper, the Logan Republican. This item is from that series. Ralph Hathaway is a charter member of SFTA, serves as a SFTA Ambassador, and welcomes visitors to the famous ruts that cross his land.)

IT is a small sign beside Highway 56 four miles west of Chase, Kansas, and you will miss it if not watching carefully. It says "Ralph's Ruts," with an arrow pointing north, "3/4 mile." The sign directs you to the finest set of Santa Fe Trail remnants in Kansas or perhaps anywhere along that historic highway from Missouri to New Mexico.

On the farm of Ralph Hathaway, for whom these pristine ruts are now known, are seven parallel swales produced by thousands of wagons, draft animals, stagecoaches, loose stock, and people walking or on horseback. Ralph's grandfather homesteaded this land well over a century ago, and the pasture in which these ruts are located has never been cultivated. Ralph is an octogenarian who has spent most of his life, except for college and military service, living within sight of these fascinating reminders of travel, commerce, and military expeditions during a period from the 1820s to the 1870s. The railroad

made the Trail obsolete.

If Ralph is home, he welcomes the opportunity to tell visitors about the Santa Fe Trail, why it crossed his land to avoid heavy sand in the Arkansas River valley to the south, the story of Plum Buttes (three large sand dunes on which grew plum thickets about a mile west of his farm), and an Indian attack on his farm, known as the Plum Buttes Massacre, in 1867.

In 1867 a group of Cheyenne Dog Soldiers attacked the wagon train belonging to Franz Huning, a merchant in New Mexico who freighted his own merchandise to Albuquerque. On this particular trip Huning was bringing his mother-in-law and brother-in-law from Missouri. As fate would have it, the Indians cut off the carriage in which mother-in-law and brother-in-law were riding, and both were killed. By the way, this incident has spawned a few bad mother-in-law jokes by tasteless and disrespectful commentators. You will hear none of those here. Soldiers from Fort Zarah (east of present Great Bend) recovered the bodies and gave protection to the wagon train.

Visitors may walk in these ruts and envision the traffic that occurred there. One can stand in awe and imagine some of those travelers, such as Kit Carson (one of the most famous of all frontiersmen), Susan Shelby Magoffin (whose diary has been in print for over 70 years), Josiah Gregg (who wrote, in 1844, the classic account of *Commerce of the Prairies*), Marion Sloan Russell (who first traveled the Trail as a seven-year-old girl and later wrote a beautiful memoir), Francis X. Aubry (trailblazer and merchant who opened new routes and pioneered winter travel on the Trail), Bennett Riley (military officer who led the first escort of troops on the Trail in 1829 and for whom Fort Riley was later named), General Stephen Watts Kearny (who led the Army of the West to conquer New Mexico and California during the Mexican War), José Antonio Chavez (New Mexican merchant who was killed by a band of thieves a few miles east of Ralph's Ruts in 1843), Julia Archibald Holmes (a reform-minded woman who wore the bloomer outfit and was the first white woman to climb Pike's

Peak), Kate Kingsbury (who died of tuberculosis at the Arkansas River crossing west of present Dodge City and was buried in Santa Fe), Philip St. George Cooke (who participated in several military expeditions and captured a band of Texan mercenaries on the Trail in 1843), Alexander Majors (partner in the firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell, once the largest freighting firm in the American West), and thousands of unnamed teamsters, travelers, soldiers, and adventurers.

In 1996, to honor the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail, the Kansas Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), which had erected nearly 100 granite markers along the route of the Trail across Kansas earlier in this century, dedicated the newest DAR marker at Ralph's Ruts. Ralph and his famous ruts have been featured in many publications, including *National Geographic*. Next time you are in the area, watch closely for that small sign and enjoy one of the little-known treasures of our rich heritage.

COUNCIL TROVE

-DOCUMENTS-

BULLWHACKING

A frontier soldier, Robert Morris Peck, wrote his memoirs for the *National Tribune*, published as a series under the title of "Rough Riding on the Plains 50 Years Ago, A Trooper's Story," in 1901. He spent time on the Santa Fe Trail and recorded many accounts of life along that route. In the late 1850s he noted that the firm of Majors and Russell held contracts to deliver military supplies to western forts. Alexander Majors had a reputation of running a clean outfit, as Peck noted, but sometimes even Majors's strict rules had to be bent as Peck described in the following excerpt (*National Tribune*, March 7, 1901):

We have passed several of Majors & Russell's "bull" trains since we struck the Santa Fe road, hauling Government supplies to the military posts in New Mexico. These outfits travel back and forth across the plains, taking their own risk against Indians. I am informed that the owners of these trains arm each teamster and wagon master, at starting, with a Bible and hymn-book, a good rifle and plenty of ammunition;

and they are required to enter into an obligation in writing not to swear or gamble, and not travel on Sundays; and are also instructed that in case of an attack from Indians, and they find their Bibles and hymn-books insufficient to repel the poor savages, and they have to resort to the rifle, to take good aim and not waste a shot.

In connection with this Bible and hymn-book and non-swearing business, I must related a little incident that was told me by one of Majors & Russell's wagon masters. He says:

"The first train that I ever ran for Majors & Russell came near being the last one, for I am firmly of the opinion that no man can run a bull train or drive a bull team without swearing. You see, the steers are used to it, and so are the teamsters, and the teams won't pull worth a cent without a little pious talk. Well, as I was goin' to say, I hired to the firm to take a train out to Fort Union, and, of course, me and the boys had to subscribe to the ironclad agreement not to swear, etc., and after loading up and receiving our outfit of Bibles, hymn-books, arms, ammunition and instructions, we pulled out slowly and sadly from the outfitting depot in Leavenworth City.

"It seemed to me more like a funeral procession than a bull train starting for the plains. The cattle seemed half asleep, I was afraid to say anything, for fear I should swear, and each teamster seemed afraid to pop his whip, for fear it would betray him into using a few cuss words. It was very muddy, but we poked quietly along till we got into the lane by the Government farm.

"That lane was always bad in a muddy time, and when we got fairly strung out in it the teams all seemed to bog down at once. I became completely discouraged, for though I was an old bull-whacker, I never had tried to run a train or drive a team without swearing. So I called a halt, and in order not to discourage the boys, told them I'd forgot something and would have to go back to the office. Turning my mule toward town, back I went lickety-brindle, fully determined to throw up the job. I rode up to the office, jumped off and hitched my mule, and walked in. Mr. Majors, seeing me return unexpectedly (and I probably looked excited), asked: 'What's up?'

"I've come back, sir, to ask you to send another man out to take charge of that train, if you know of one that can run a bull train without swearing, for I can't do it. I got as far as the Government land, and there the train stands, bogged down, world without end, and nary team will pull a pound. I'm an old bull-whacker, sir, but I can't drive bulls without using stronger lan-

guage than my contract calls for.'

"Well, go 'long, go 'long!' said the old man, pettishly. 'If you have to swear, don't swear any more than is necessary.'

"That settles it! Thankee, sir!' I said, and I jumped on my mule and lit out up the road, whooping and swearing like destruction, so as to get my hand in, like, for I was gettin' sorter out of practice.

"You'd orter seen how them bull-whackers took the hint from my gentle racket as I went splashin' and swearin' along the train. And them steers! You'd orter seen them squat and twist their tails, as much as to say, 'Now we understand you!'

"Well, sir, that train rolled right along, and we had no more trouble about stickin' in the mud. And that convinces me that a bull-whacker must be allowed some liberty in his language."

CAMP TALES

—CHAPTER REPORTS—

Cimarron Cutoff

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

D. Ray Blakeley presided over the chapter meeting on March 24 following lunch at the historic Eklund Hotel and Saloon in Clayton, NM. Eighteen members and guests were present. Chapter boundaries were discussed and the subject was tabled until more information was available. Helen Brown and Myrna Barnes volunteered to edit the chapter newsletter. Blakeley reminded the group of upcoming events: the western chapters meeting in La Junta in June, the Black Jack Ketchum Festival in Clayton, and the Grassland Heritage Festival in Elkhart. He also said that a traveling display of the Santa Fe Trail was being developed. A pair of ox shoes are needed.

Helen Brown reported that 145 students and 80 adults attended the Kansas Day program at the Morton County Historical Museum. Artist Charles Goslin was scheduled to begin a continuation of the mural that he began in the Santa Fe Trail display. The mural will depict the plains with a herd of buffalo in the distance as a backdrop to the mounted buffalo that has been donated to the museum. A "name the buffalo" contest was held during the Kansas Day observance. Third

grader Carly Madrid won with the name "Brewster" after Dr. Brewster Higley who wrote the Kansas state song "Home on the Range." The museum staff is printing a quarterly newsletter to keep members informed and a quarterly meeting with a program is planned to help members feel more involved with their museum. The staff is working on shelves to house all the newspapers that were printed in the county and a media room has been set up for people who want to do research. The staff is also busy with the Grassland Heritage Festival, May 20-June 9.

Blakeley was recently appointed the new director of the Herstein Museum in Clayton, NM. Staff there are working on inventorying and cataloguing items. They are also working on organizing family histories and genealogy files and are involved in the Black Jack Ketchum Festival.

Bill Mock, owner of McNees Crossing, brought artifacts to show that the family has found in the area of the crossing. Items included a spur, Indian paint pots, a sewing awl, hide scrapers, handmade bullet and handmade musket ball, and dinosaur prints.

David Gaines, National Park Service, spoke to the group on the creation and preservation of National Historic Trails—especially what could be done by the private landowner. He used Dan and Carol Sharp's partnership with the NPS on the opening of Autograph Rock for public display as an example of what could be accomplished.

Following the program refreshments were served and the group was invited to tour the museum.

A chapter project has been the donation of copies of Dave Webb's *Santa Fe Trail Adventures* to all the fifth and sixth grade teachers in the chapter area. Bill and Myrna Barnes delivered the books in Colorado for Leo and Mary Gamble. Thirty-five fifth and sixth grade students from the Walsh Elementary School, Walsh, CO, were scheduled to visit the Morton County Museum on May 5, 2001. On April 6, the fifth and sixth grade students from Campo, CO, took the same field trip after studying the Trail using the books provided by the chapter to their school. They ate lunch at Middle

Spring on the Cimarron National Grassland, then Bill Barnes took the children for a walk on the Santa Fe Trail.

Texas Panhandle

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

No report.

Wagon Bed Spring

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

The Wagon Bed Spring Chapter met in Hugoton, April 19, 6:30 p.m., with 17 members present.

The high winds of early spring had damaged two chapter signs in the Wagon Bed Spring area, and signage for the chapter was discussed. Also discussed at the meeting was the guide lines for Santa Fe Trail preservation.

The natural gas well project by British Petroleum/Amoco that would affect SFT ruts in Kearny County was also discussed. Chapter President Trotman met with BP/Amoco representatives in Lakin about the proposed site. BP/Amoco is not going to drill at this location because there is enough supporting evidence from aerial photos, Kearny County original land survey map and field journal notes that they feel that they would be destroying a historic cultural resource. BP/Amoco was also given a copy of the chapter area mapping information of Trail segment GPS locations for there files to use in planning new well locations.

Ed Dowell and Jeff Trotman met with Larry Mix about submitting information to him for a chapter web site. The web site is up and running at <www.stjohnks.net/santafetrail/wagonbed/spring.html>.

The next meeting will be July 12 in Ulysses at the Peddler's Inn Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

Heart of the Flint Hills

President Deanne Wright
PO Box 45
Council Grove KS 66846
(620) 767-7080

On April 29 the chapter met at the Kaw Mission in Council Grove for a

short business meeting, followed by a tour of the Trail ruts and historic sites west of Council Grove. Doris and Don Cress led the caravan to visit some of the most noted Santa Fe Trail sites in Trail literature, including Diamond Spring, Six Mile Crossing and Stage Station, and Lost Spring. This tour was in response to requests from chapter members and area residents who have not made the tour with knowledgeable guides.

Leland Zerbe and Al Bunting have planned another great Trail Ride for June 8 to June 15. Wah-Shun-Gah Days in Council Grove is June 16 and 17. The ride will begin in Marquette, with rides planned in the Marquette area, then travel to Lindsborg and camp at the Old Mill. On June 11 the group will ride east of Roxbury. Camp will be at Tampa on June 12, and ride to the Lost Spring area on June 13. Camp will be near Delavan on the 14th and will ride into Council Grove on the 15th.

End of the Trail

President Tom Steel
12919 Chitalpa Place
Albuquerque NM 87111
(505) 821-5805
<tomcarly@swcp.com>

On March 17 Andy Hernandez, a teacher from Western New Mexico University, Silver City, spoke at a joint meeting of the chapter and the Salida del Sol Chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association on "Indian Slavery in New Mexico." About 24 chapter members were included in the total attendance of 150. Hernandez is a Ph.D. candidate at UNM. His lecture recounted the long tradition of slavery from ancient times to the particular practice in Spanish Colonial North America and New Mexico.

Spanish law prohibited slavery but the law was circumvented by encouraging Indians to capture slaves from other tribes and then ransoming the captives. These slaves could pay off their ransom over time, usually six years but in reality longer in many instances. The slave trade continued after Mexican independence in 1821 and even beyond the American occupation in 1848.

On May 19 Harry Myers, former superintendent at Fort Union National Monument, will present the talk "Hispanic New Mexicans' Cul-

tural Ideas and Interaction with Nature." Faye Gaines will speak about her role as Liaison Officer for preservation of the Trail.

On July 21 Mike Najdowski will lead a field trip to view the Trail route and ruts in the San Miguel area.

Corazon de los Caminos

President Faye Gaines
HC 60 Box 27
Springer, NM 87747
(505) 485-2473
<www.nmhu.edu/research/sftrail/corazon.htm>

The chapter was saddened by the death of Elsie LeDoux. She and LeRoy have given much to the chapter and the Santa Fe Trail. She and LeRoy were an immense help to the Gaines during the dedication of Point of Rocks.

Jack Urban, dedicated historian of the area and last year's chapter program chair, died in January. One of the activities he planned was a tour of Elizabethtown. His ashes are interred there at the cemetery.

The November 18, 2000, meeting was called to order by past-president Stephen Whitmore, in place of Faye Gaines, president and Jack Urban, vice-president, who had moved to California. Dorothy Valdez resigned from the board and was replaced by Alma Gregory. Jack Urban was recognized as a most successful program chair. Jean Hinkle received a round of applause for a very professional and informative chapter scrapbook. Ray Marchi's Marker and Mapping Committee has done extensive mapping and marking. He needs more volunteers. Nancy Robertson is forwarding mapping data to SFTA. Faye Gaines received another GPS unit. Alma Gregory reported on our web site which is now linked to the Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce site. Bernt Winkel, chair, Morris Eiland, and Don McCloskey will propose amendments to the by-laws, which have not changed in five years. They will report to the membership on March 18, 2001. Patti Olsen reported that notices of the Symposium Student Art Contest were sent to 150 school districts.

The chapter board of directors had a productive meeting in Wagon Mound Feb. 14. Mike Olson volunteered to be the program chair. Ray

Marchi agreed to serve on the board and to be new vice-president. The revised bylaws were reviewed and sent to members for review.

President Faye Gaines opened the 2001 activities with a spirited meeting at the Santa Clara Café in Wagon Mound. The *good* news was conveyed by Stephen Whitmore: planning for the Symposium 2001 is on track. Many of our 2001 Corazón activities will be centered on making sure that we are providing our guests the best symposium ever. To this end, there are several walking tours of Las Vegas as part of our activities which serve as dry runs and should prove quite interesting not only to us "natives" but also to our chapter in general.

Jean Hinkle displayed our chapter's scrapbook. What a glorious collection of memorabilia! Again, three cheers for Jean.

Hal Jackson is running for SFTA president. He received a rousing endorsement from the 33 chapter members present. Gaines will write a recommendation to the SFTA Nominating Committee. Work continued to obtain non-profit corporation status from the state of New Mexico.

The "bad" news is that Harry Myers has left us to work in Santa Fe and the Camino Real. Gaines presented Harry with a gilded coal bucket, and Harry promised to visit us. Our loss is the EoT's gain: they cannot wait to get Harry to give them all those good talks. In the meantime, Harry, let us know if you need guys to do some dirty work: a sacrificial coat for an adobe wall somewhere on the Camino Real.

About 20 history enthusiasts attended the April 22 meeting at the Holiday Classic in Raton, NM. Nancy Robertson arranged for Gerry Clay Allison, great-great-grandson of Jesse Allison, the older brother of Gunfighter Clay, to give a living-history presentation "The Life and Death of a Gunfighter."

President Gaines reported she was doing the paperwork for New Mexico non-profit status for the chapter. The Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway in New Mexico, sponsored by the Federal Highway Commission, is giving grants to promote tourism along the designated corridor. Who better to promote the Trail and have

facts about the Trail than the Corazón and End of the Trail Chapters? Without non-profit status, the chapter is not eligible for available grants.

Alma Gregory has consented to edit the chapter newsletter. Many thanks to Bernt Winkel for his many years of excellent service as editor.

Faye Gaines, SFTA board member, has been charged with establishing chapter preservation committees. Mike Taylor has agreed to accept the chairmanship of the chapter Preservation Committee until the November election. He reported that hearings have been held in Mora County to evaluate permits for cell towers along I-25. Both towers disrupt the "viewshed" of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail and the Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway.

The Corazon Chapter, host of the 2001 Symposium at Las Vegas, NM, September 27-30, hopes to see you there. Registration packets have been sent. Symposium Coordinator Steve Whitmore is still happily taking names for the volunteer lists, phone (505) 454-0683. Read information with your registration packet, noting many additional activities available before the symposium. The chapter web site (address in above chapter heading) is constantly updated with symposium information and the chapter's monthly activities. From June through November, they are as follows:

June 17: Point of Rocks Ranch east of Springer. Potluck picnic at noon, meeting begins at 1:00. Faye Gaines, Dixie Odum, and Becky Sauble will speak on "Ranching and Ranch Women." Contact Faye Gaines at (505) 485-2473.

July 15: St. Paul's Peace Episcopal-Lutheran Church, 8th and National, Las Vegas. Lunch on your own, meet at the church at 1:00. This will be a Churches of Las Vegas Tour as it will be conducted for the symposium. Contact Mary Whitmore (505) 454-0683; e-mail <whitmore@newmexico.com>.

August 19: Santa Fe Trail Museum, 606 Maxwell Ave, Springer. Lunch possibilities to be announced, museum tour starts at 1:00. Contact Mike Taylor at (505) 483-5554; e-mail <miket@railnet-isp.com>.

September 27-30: Symposium!

October 21: Santa Clara Café, Wagon Mound. Buffet at noon, meeting at 1:00. Guest speaker TBA.

November 18: Santa Clara Café, Wagon Mound. Buffet at noon, meeting at 1:00. This is the annual year-end meeting and election of officers. Guest speaker TBA.

New members and guests are always welcome.

Wet/Dry Routes

President Lon Palmer
358 W 8th St
Hoisington KS 67544
(620) 653-2827

The chapter has a new permanent address: Wet/Dry Route Chapter of the SFT, PO Box 355, Larned KS 67550.

The chapter hosted a very successful seminar on the Santa Fe Trail and the Civil War on April 28 and served the lunch on April 28 for the joint meeting of the Fort Larned Old Guard and the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter. The spring business meeting was held the day of the seminar.

During the evening of April 20, 2001, a devastating tornado struck the city of Hoisington, killing one person. The home of President Palmer was destroyed, along with some 200 other homes.

Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron

Nancy Jo Trauer
1309 West Brier
Dodge City KS 67801
(620) 227-8343

On February 25 the chapter met at the Kansas Heritage Center where Jim Scherer, director, gave a program on the Santa Fe Trail Elderhostel tour conducted each October.

The new president for 2001-2002 is Nancy Jo Trauer. She is the director of the Kansas Teacher's Hall of Fame in Dodge City. She is also a charter member of the chapter.

Officers and directors have met to plan the 2001 year. The chapter has been invited to present a program at the yearly Fort Dodge Day, July 7, 2001, for the fourth year.

Missouri River Outfitters

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

The chapter met April 29 at 2:00 pm in the chapel area in the East Building of Shawnee Indian Mission Historical Site located at the corner of Mission Road and 53rd Street (3403 West 53rd, Fairway, KS 66205). A docent explained the Mission's history as members toured the site. National SFTA President Margaret Sears was in attendance for this event and visited with our chapter regarding Trail matters in the MRO area.

The following officers were elected for 2001: President Nancy Lewis, Vice-President John Atkinson, Secretary Anne Mallinson, Treasurer Glenda Sours, Historian William Wall, and Directors Roger Slusher, Anna Belle Cartwright, Mary Conrad, and Julie Daicoff.

After ten years of volunteer service, founding member Jane Mallinson is retiring from the MRO Board. Thank you, Jane, for your gift of time, expertise, and creativity. Without your dedicated perseverance, MRO would not have begun as early as it did, nor remain as strong.

The MRO Board nominated John Atkinson to run for the SFTA Board of Directors for the Missouri position open in the upcoming election.

Glenda Sours and Julie Daicoff reported that, upon disbanding, The Friends of Mahaffie Farmstead donated \$1000 to MRO to be used toward the 2003 symposium. Our chapter is very appreciative of this generous contribution and will use it to further education and preservation efforts as per the SFTA mission statement. Thanks to Glenda and Julie for their years of hard work in promoting and preserving the Mahaffie Farmstead and its historical Trail legacy.

Mark your calendar for a fun field day on National Trails Day June 2. The Missouri River Outfitters will celebrate its 10th year with a pot luck gathering at Schumacher Park. National Mapping/Marking Chairman John Schumacher will share local mapping/marking information with us and we can view the interpretive signs at the site. A special ceremony is planned. Bring your lawn chair and musical instruments. For further information, contact President Nancy Lewis at 816-229-8379.

Quivira

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

The chapter will host the 2005 symposium. Plans are underway to provide an outstanding program.

Cottonwood Crossing

President Dale E. Brooks
316 W 16 St
Newton KS 67114
(620) 283-6454

Twenty-five members and guests attended the February meeting at Kingfisher Inn on Marion County Lake. The program was a presentation of the history of the lake and a presentation of the life William Becknell given by Vernon Lohrentz.

Chapter officers made an auto tour of the SFT through Marion County on March 30. Markers and ruts were viewed with the following objectives in mind:

1. Review all existing markers and plot on a Marion County map.
2. Review and identify visible evidence of Trail ruts and plot on map.
3. Identify locations where ruts can be observed from the road and plot on map.
4. Identify potential locations for road signs identifying direction for Marion County auto tour.

The tour gave the chapter officers an indication of the work to be done in developing a Marion County Auto Tour of the Trail markers and ruts.

Our chapter lost a long-time member Alex Case to death. He will be missed.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 24 in Canton. A tour of the Empire camp and town will be made.

Bent's Fort

President Dub Couch
PO Bos 325
Rocky Ford CO 81067
(719) 254-3000
<dubcouch@ria.net>

The chapter started the year with an election and awards meeting in January. Small compensation for all the time and work that goes into making the chapter function.

Our first tour, May 12, arranged by Lolly Ming and hosted by Angelo Passini, started at the Kansas line and came west along Highway 50.

This was an interesting and educational tour.

The biggie this year is the Western Six Chapters meeting hosted by Bents Fort Chapter, June 9-10. The tour organizers are Dale and Teresa Kesterson. We will have busses to transport about one hundred people. Also we will have a motorhome with the tour to be available for those that may need restroom facilities. The first day will pretty much be sites, Bent's New Fort, Fort Lyon (see Kit Carson Chapel, where it will be moved when Colorado Dept. of Corrections takes over Fort Lyon), south of Las Animas to view early grave sites of some of the original settlers, and Boggsville for a tour, barbecue dinner, and reenactment of a part of Kit Carson's life by his great-grandson, John Carson.

Sunday, after breakfast and meeting, it will be viewing ruts at Timpas, Iron Spring, and Hole in the Rock. Again we will have busses and the motorhome. All members of SFTA are invited and welcome.

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

JE Canyon Ranch LLC, PO Box 813,
Powell WY 82435
Land of Enchantment Ranch Co., Richard Ferina, 6506 N Ponchartrain, Chicago IL 60646

PATRON MEMBERSHIP

Steve Hyslop, 608 Ramey St, Alexandria VA 22301

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Robert & Martha Platzer, 960 Morgan Dr, Boulder CO 80303
Carol Retzer, 4215 E 245 St, Lyndon KS 66451
Roger & Jary Riolo, 1036 NW Harmon, Bend OR 97701
Laurie & Jim Swindler, 807 Normal Ave, Normal IL 61761
Pat & Candy Taylor, 4230 E 24 St, Lyndon KS 66451
William Timberlake, PO Box 127, Ocate NM 87734
Kathleen & John Webb, Jr., 2658 Ponderosa Rd, Franktown CO 80116

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Daren Coen, PO Box 41, Elkhart KS 67950
 Claire Crowley, 39 Calle del Norte, Placitas NM 87043
 Glen Gilpin, PO Box 1027, Emporia KS 66801
 Clifford T. Gordon, Jr., 410 Ash, Junction City KS 66441
 Ronald L. Harris, 229 W 3rd, Junction City KS 66441
 Val Lane Howe, 33609 E Ryan Rd, Oak Grove MO 64075
 Drew Mc Daniels, 1120 NW Laird, Lawton OK 73507
 Marie Quinn, 930 N Missouri St, Ulysses KS 67880
 Edith Reeves, 254 E Mariellen Ave, Ulysses KS 67880
 Walter A. Ross, PO Box 29781, Santa Fe NM 87592
 J. Doug Ryan, 29951 Happy Sparrow Ln, Laguna Niguel CA 92677
 Beryl J. Shriner, 2001 28th St, Great Bend KS 67530
 Russell L. Tanner, 745 Ridge Ave, Rock Springs WY 82901
 Judy Wagner, 2287 S High, Denver CO 80210
 Robert Youker, 5825 Rockmere Dr, Bethesda MD 20816

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 August, so send information for September and later to arrive by July 20, 2001. Thank you. Dates of additional events may be found in The Caches column and chapter reports.

June 2, 2001: National Trails Day; spend some time participating in a

Trail activity.

June 8-15, 2001: Heart of the Flint Hills Trail Ride. For more information contact Leland Zerbe (620) 767-5424 or Al Bunting (785) 793-2248.

June 9-10, 2001: Western Six Chapters meeting, Las Animas and La Junta, CO, contact Dub Couch (719) 254-3000.

June 9-10, 2001: Old Spanish Trail Association annual symposium, San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands, CA. Contact Rick Whitaker (909) 792-6315.

June 10, 2001: Rice-Tremonti Home Association Community Festival, (816) 358-7423.

July 4, 2001: Old Time Independence Day celebration, Fort Larned NHS.

July 21, 2001: End of the Trail Chapter field trip to view the Trail route and ruts in the San Miguel area, led by Mike Najdowski, (505) 982-1172.

Aug. 12-18, 2001: OCTA Annual Convention, Casper, WY, (816) 252-2276.

Aug. 17-21, 2001: 7th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails, sponsored by Partnership for the National Trails System, Casper, WY, contact Gary Werner (608) 249-7870.

Aug. 25, 2001: National Park Service Day. Visit a park.

Sept. 1-3, 2001: Labor Day Weekend military living-history programs at Fort Larned NHS, (620) 285-6911.

Sept. 9-28, 2001: SFT Bike Trek, contact Willard Chilcott at (505) 982-1282.

Sept. 21-22, 2001: Voices of the Wind People: Historical Pageant of the Kaw Indians, Santa Fe Trail, & Council Grove. Contact Kaw Mission State Historic Site, 500 N. Mission, Council Grove KS 66846 (620) 767-5410, <kawmission@cgtelco.net>.

Sept. 26-29, 2001: 3rd International Trails and Greenways Conference, sponsored by Rails to Trails Conservancy, at St. Louis, MO, (202) 974-5152.

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

Sometimes one wonders if anyone is reading *WT*, and then your editor makes a few goofs and there are quick responses. I appreciate hearing from readers whether the responses are favorable or unfavorable, at least I know someone is reading it.

After 15 years of *WT*, we are running short of material. This issue is shorter than usual and contains too much of my own work because of the dry spell. Maybe everyone is busy traveling the Trail, and there is no time left for writing. Maybe you need a young and competent editor with some fresh ideas. If you have something in the works, please consider *WT* as a possible outlet.

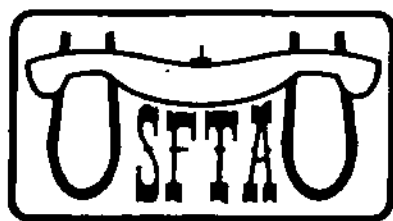
Take a few minutes to vote for officers and directors. Spend more time on the Trail. We hope to see you at the symposium in September.

Happy Trails!

—Leo E. Oliva

Santa Fe Trail Association
PO Box 31
Woodston, KS 67675

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