

# Wagon Tracks

---

Volume 10

Issue 2 *Wagon Tracks* Volume 10, Issue 2 (February 1996)

Article 1

---

1996

## Wagon Tracks. Volume 10, Issue 2 (February, 1996)

Santa Fe Trail Association

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/wagon\\_tracks](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/wagon_tracks)



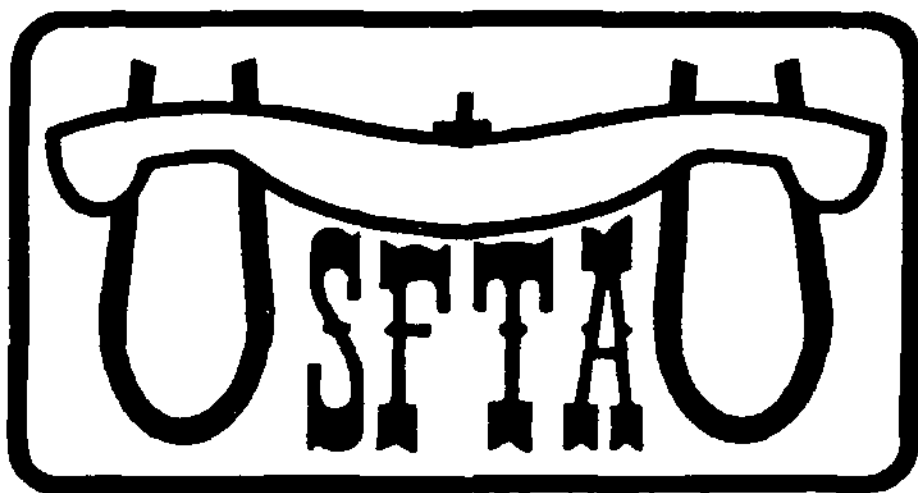
Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Santa Fe Trail Association. "Wagon Tracks. Volume 10, Issue 2 (February, 1996)." *Wagon Tracks* 10, 2 (1996).  
[https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/wagon\\_tracks/vol10/iss2/1](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/wagon_tracks/vol10/iss2/1)

This Full Issue is brought to you for free and open access by UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wagon Tracks by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).



# WAGON TRACKS

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY

VOLUME 10

FEBRUARY 1996

NUMBER 2

## NEW FEATURES ADDED

TWO new features begin in this issue. Patti Olsen, Las Vegas, NM, chairman of the SFTA education committee has proposed an exchange for teachers. She has agreed to serve as assistant editor of the regular column titled "Fort Larned—Teachers' Trading Post."

One of the purposes of SFTA is to promote learning about the Trail, and the education of young people is an important part of that mission. Classroom teachers and others are invited to send ideas for teaching the Trail, including projects, resources, and techniques. Olsen will be responsible for what is selected, and she will edit it for publication. Submit suggestions and articles to her at 1729 Eighth St, Las Vegas NM 87701.

Teachers and librarians are also reminded that, on request, *Wagon Tracks* is sent free to school and public libraries along the Trail corridor. A number of institutions now receive complimentary copies, and those not enrolled are invited to get on the list.

The second feature is Trail poetry and songs. Sandra Doe, Denver, CO, recently submitted some of her compositions for publication. Several of her poems will appear, starting with this issue, in a regular column titled "Trail Troubadour—Traffic in Verse."

Following publication of her own works (she is too modest to accept the obligation of overseer for her own creations), Doe has consented to serve as assistant editor for this feature devoted to historic and current poetry and songs about the Trail.

For more information or to submit items for consideration, write to Professor Sandra Doe, Department of English, Campus Box 32, Metropolitan State College of Denver, PO Box 173362, Denver CO 80217-3362. She will also solicit contributions, evaluate all items, select what appears in the column, and prepare biographical information about the authors.

RENDEZVOUS 1996  
SANTA FE TRAIL CENTER  
FORT LARNED NHS  
LARNED, KS  
MAY 30-JUNE 1, 1996

## 175th ANNIVERSARY

SFTA 175th anniversary committee chairman Harry C. Myers reports that numerous activities are being planned throughout the year to commemorate the historic Santa Fe Trail. A calendar of the events reported to WT is included in this issue, and additional information received in time for the May edition (deadline April 20) will be added then. Everyone is encouraged to participate in as many programs as possible.

RENDEZVOUS 1996  
LARNED, KS, MAY 30-JUNE 1

THE Army of the West and the War with Mexico, which began 150 years ago in 1846, will be the focus of the biennial Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous at Larned, May 30 to June 1, 1996. The program is hosted by the Santa Fe Trail Center and Fort Larned National Historic Site and funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Council.

Topics being explored for the seminar include Susan Magoffin's trip down the Trail in 1846, Fort Leavenworth and the Mexican War, the Mormon Battalion, the march of the Army of the West, the fall of New Mexico in 1846, the New Mexico Revolt of 1847 and the Treason Trial, and others. The tentative program includes speakers, a buffalo dinner at Fort Larned NHS, field trips, a fashion show of the Mexican War era, and a chuck wagon lunch at the Santa Fe Trail Center.

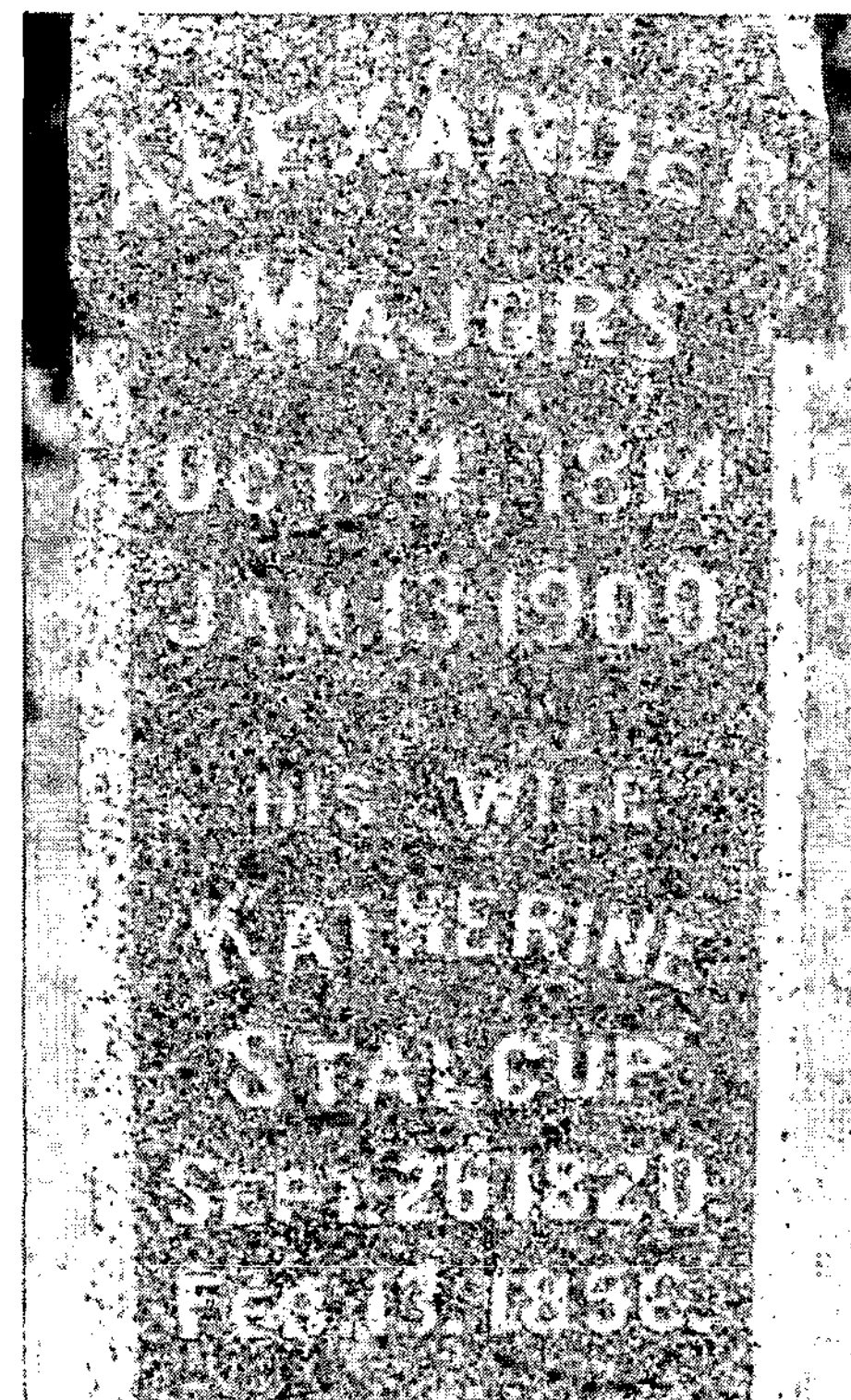
Members of SFTA will receive a mailing in the spring with program and registration information for Rendezvous 1996. The SFTA governing board will also meet during the conference. Plan now to be at Larned, May 30 to June 1.

## A KANSAS CITY GHOST STORY: THE ALEXANDER MAJORS HISTORICAL HOME

by Pauline S. and Eric Fowler

(Polly Fowler, Independence, MO, is a charter member of SFTA, a member of the board of directors, and has received an SFTA Award of Merit and the prestigious Rittenhouse Memorial Stagecoach Award. Her son, Eric, is a SFTA member. Both are active in the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter. They have chosen to share their research on the Majors home as a "ghost story," which is unique and makes it rather difficult to verify their sources, but they will do so for those interested.)

THE Alexander Majors Historical Home, located on 82nd near State Line Road within Kansas City, Missouri, was recently the site of a "ghost capture." The authors of



Alexander and Katherine Majors are buried in Union Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri.

(continued on page 8)



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I am writing this column on a very cold, snowy day in Kansas City. By the time you read it, hopefully the weather will be warmer and spring will be just around the corner.

Since I last wrote this column, attention has been given to SFTA business on a lot of fronts. And there is a lot yet to go.

Saturday, March 2 will be an all-day directors meeting in Larned, probably the first one that has been held in mid-year. Much time will be spent brainstorming and formulating directions and strategies for SFTA for the coming years.

We need to increase membership, and I am pleased Deanne Wright has agreed to chair the membership committee. We need to increase revenue dramatically and we will be looking at new revenue sources, some of which may be suggested by the Revenue Task Force chaired by Joy Poole. We need to increase our Trail preservation efforts, and I am pleased Phil Petersen has agreed to chair a new mapping committee.

The marking committee chaired by Bill Chalfant will be working on new signing standards stemming from our new marker policy. We may also need to look at the way we are organized. Some changes may be needed to meet the purposes for which SFTA was founded. The 2nd Century Task Force chaired by Mike Olsen will have some ideas here.

As always, all of you are invited to be in attendance at this meeting which will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Santa Fe Trail Center. To have someone from each chapter in attendance would be very encouraging. Also, mark your calendar for the board meeting held in conjunction with the Rendezvous at the Trail Center in late May.

A lot of attention has been given to a greatly expanded committee structure for SFTA. We have had only three standing committees. Several new ones have been created and more will follow soon. In the next issue, I should be able to include a full listing of committee chairs and members.

The 175th anniversary is here! Harry Myers and his committee have been distributing information, the travel and tourism people are in the midst of the media campaigns, and my phone was been ringing with people asking for in-

formation. And yours probably has been ringing too. This will be an exciting year all along the Trail! I hope you will join in the many activities.

As usual I get regular encouragement from many of the chapters and their activities. The phone calls, letters, and chapter newsletters that I receive speak of high local interest in promoting and preserving the Trail. This is what we are all about, and my sincere appreciation is extended to you for your efforts all along the Trail.

—Ross Marshall

## SINCERE APOLOGIES TO JOHN B. COLLIGAN

JOHN B. Colligan, whose name was unfortunately misspelled in the article, "New Mexico Students Travel the Trail, 1832-1880," compiled by him and edited by Mary Jean Cook (printed in the last issue), has every right to be resentful. Actually, the misspelling is, as he wrote, "a very small part of my complaint."

The flagrant offense, quite simply, is that he had not authorized publication of the list. This must be every researcher's and editor's worst nightmare. Mr. Colligan compiled the list as part of the research for a book he is writing and did not wish to have it released. In part, he wrote, "I wish a correction to the spelling of my name be made in a subsequent issue of your publication, and a statement that I in no way cooperated 'graciously' with Mrs. Cook to make my private intellectual property available to her for editing, additions, and publication. On the contrary, I resent the actions taken."

It is clear that some letters written by Cook and Colligan to each other were never received by the other, most likely due to interference of a third party responsible for Cook's mail. It is probable that a copy of the article which Mrs. Cook sent to Colligan for his examination was, in fact, never mailed. Needless to say, Colligan, Cook, and your editor were humiliated by the terrible misunderstanding.

Mary Jean Cook responded: "I received the letter from John B. Colligan stating that he had not given me permission to edit and publish the student names in the recent edition of *Wagon Tracks*. First, I apologize for the incorrect spelling of his name. I also regret

any embarrassment to you and the readers of *Wagon Tracks* and also to Mr. Colligan for this misunderstanding. I am forwarding copies of my letters to Mr. Colligan requesting permission to edit and publish the list. I can only say that I earnestly believed that I had permission. I would have never published the names had I known otherwise. Again, my sincerest apologies to Mr. Colligan for this gross misunderstanding on my part. I hope this has caused him and his forthcom-

Headquarters of the Santa Fe Trail Association are located at the office of Secretary-Treasurer Ruth Olson Peters, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR 3, Larned KS 67550; telephone (316) 285-2054, FAX (316) 285-7491.

*WAGON TRACKS* is the official publication of the Santa Fe Trail Association, a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado. Letters and articles are welcome, but they become the property of WT and may be edited or abridged at the editor's discretion. All rights reserved. Inquiries can be directed to the appropriate address below. Annual subscriptions are obtained through membership in the Association, whose dues are fixed per calendar year. Checks should be made payable to the Santa Fe Trail Association and sent to the secretary-treasurer.

### Membership Categories

Benefactor	\$1,000
Patron	\$100/year
Institutional	\$25/year
Family	\$20/year
Individual	\$15/year

Editor: Leo E. Oliva, PO Box 31, Woodston, KS 67675 (913) 994-6253

President: Ross Marshall, 6624 Craig Rd, Merriam, KS 66202 (913) 262-6445

Vice-President: Michael L. Olsen, 1729 8th St, Las Vegas NM 87701 (505) 454-0383

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

1995 Symposium Coordinators: David Hutchison, HCR 1 Box 35, Boise City, OK 73933 (405) 426-2457  
Dan Sharp, HCR 1 Box 83, Boise City, OK 73933 (405) 426-2710

Publicity Coordinator: Michael E. Pitel, New Mexico Dept of Tourism, PO Box 20003, Santa Fe NM 87503 (505) 827-7400

### Directors:

William Y. Chalfant, Kansas  
Virginia Lee Fisher, Missouri  
Pauline Fowler, Missouri  
David Hutchison, Oklahoma  
LeRoy LeDoux, New Mexico  
Pat O'Brien, Colorado  
Phil Petersen, Colorado  
Joy Poole, At Large  
Margaret Sears, New Mexico  
Dave Webb, At Large  
Deanne Wright, Kansas  
Tim Zwink, Oklahoma

ing book no harm."

Portions of a letter from WT Editor Leo E. Oliva to John B. Colligan follow: "Please accept my apology for the distress caused you by printing the article in *Wagon Tracks* without your permission and for not spelling your name correctly. I am mortified and truly sorry, as I am sure Mary Jean Cook is, that this terrible misunderstanding and failure of communication occurred. I assure you that neither she nor I had any intent to misrepresent you; rather, we and the readers of *Wagon Tracks* were honored with the outstanding information which you compiled and for which you were given credit. Trail scholars are indebted to you for the research. In fact, Santa Fe Trail Association Vice-President Michael Olsen, Professor of History at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas and a serious Trail scholar, sent me a note praising your significant contribution. It documents the importance of the Trail for cultural exchange as well as trade in commodities.

"I do not know how or why Mrs. Cook believed you had granted permission to share the list of names and that you had not done so. The breakdown of communication is most regrettable. Believing, as she did, that you were willing to share this material, I was delighted to publish it. Even though you resent that this was done, and I bemoan the fact that we violated your trust, it is information that should be shared with students of the Santa Fe Trail. The research is yours, but the historical information is part of our heritage. I sincerely hope you will continue with your plans to write a book, for the detailed documentation will be an invaluable contribution to Trail scholarship.

"I am not trying to justify what was done without your permission, but there is good reason for you to take pride in what you are doing and to continue with it. Now that the damage has been done to you, and unfortunately it is not possible to unpublish what has been printed, I ask how I can redress the wrong? In the next issue of *Wagon Tracks* I will run a note of your disclaimer of permission to use the material, a correction of the spelling of your name, an apology from Mrs. Cook, and an apology from myself as editor. If there is anything more you would like to say in print about it, please let me know.

Again, please accept my apology for what we have done and also my thanks for the good work you have done."

Mr. Colligan responded as follows: "I will appreciate your doing what you indicate in your letter you will do to partially correct this embarrassing situation. My first inclination was to cease work on the St. Louis University student project, but after reading your letter I have decided to go full steam ahead and attempt to finish it in the not too distant future. Therefore, I have a favor to ask. Could you indicate that I have been working some time on this project, and that the purpose is to see what effect, if any, the education in St. Louis had on the future prospects of the various students. I would appreciate any input from relatives or acquaintances of the various students so that I can provide comprehensive and accurate biographies of each one. Anyone with information, or equally important, photographs from the proper time periods, of the various students would be deeply appreciated and acknowledged in my final work. If you would provide my correct name and address with a note of this type, I will be very appreciative. In this way, after all is said and done, some good may come from this misunderstanding."

It is done as you request, with pleasure, the least we can do to assuage your justified indignation. Anyone with information desired should write to John B. Colligan, 2930 Fairway Dr, Las Cruces, NM 88011-4911.

## ERROR CORRECTED

IN the last issue (p. 26) a sentence was unfortunately omitted in the Bent's Fort Chapter report, resulting in a false statement. After noting that the chapter tour began at the Big Timbers Museum at Lamar, CO, the missing sentence stated, "From the museum the caravan traveled to the site of the Koen barn, west of Lamar." Thereafter, the description that "This beautiful and historic building was built from the stones that were left behind after Fort Lyon was moved from its first site," which refers to the Koen Barn, read as a description of the Big Timbers Museum, which is constructed of red brick.

The material submitted was correct, and the error was entirely the result of shoddy typing and proofreading by your editor. Sincere

apologies are offered to the chapter, the Big Timbers Museum, owners of the Koen barn, and all readers. Maybe the popular "three strikes and your out" rule should apply to editors as well as other criminals.

## TRAVELING SEMINARS

THE following tours will be conducted by David and Alice Clapsaddle during the spring of 1996. Interested parties should contact the Community Education Dept, Barton County Community College, Great Bend, KS 67530 (800) 748-7594. The Clapsaddles are veteran tour leaders and provide outstanding seminars.

**April 27-28, 1996: Council Grove, Rendezvous on the Trail.** At Council Grove, Santa Fe traders grouped to gain safety in numbers as they crossed the plains to New Mexico. There repair shops and general stores were established. The town has many Trail-related historic sites, including Kaw Mission, Last Chance Store, Council Oak, Hays House, and Seth Hays Home. On the return trip other Trail sites will be visited, including trading ranches, river crossings, and pristine ruts.

**May 11-12, 1996: The Bents and Cheyennes, Tragedy and Travesty.** This seminar looks at the close relationship between the Bents and Cheyennes during a tour to Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Bent's New Fort, Old Fort Lyon, New Fort Lyon, Boggsville, and the site of the Sand Creek Massacre (where four of William Bent's children witnessed the destruction of Black Kettle's village on November 29, 1864). All these places are on or near the Santa Fe Trail.

**June 7-9, 1996: Adobe Walls and Palo Duro Canyon.** Adobe Walls, a Texas monument second only to the Alamo, was the scene of the 1874 engagement between a group of buffalo hunters from Dodge City and a confederation of warriors from southern plains tribes. Adobe Walls is the final resting place for Billy Dixon, buffalo hunter and army scout, one of five civilians to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor (on display at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in nearby Canyon, TX). The tour will include Palo Duro Canyon, with a barbecue dinner and presentation of "Texas," a musical drama performance in the natural amphitheater.



## TRAIL PART OF LITERACY ACROSS AMERICA TOUR

ROGER Patton, SFTA member and national director of Literacy Across America, will travel horseback along the Santa Fe Trail during the summer of 1996 as part of an awareness and fund-raising tour. He explains his mission as follows:

"If you are reading this article, you are one of the fortunate people who is literate. This is a problem that many have heard about, but not everyone thinks about it. According to a 1993 report by the U.S. Census and Department of Education, 90 million Americans have insufficient reading and math skills to function successfully in our society. Half of welfare recipients do not have a high school diploma. In fact, 27% of our population has been identified as 'functionally illiterate' which means their reading skills approximate those of a third-fourth grader. One of the first steps toward solving the problem is to bring awareness to it. That's what this tour is all about."

Beginning in mid-April 1996 Patton will embark upon a 2,500-mile, 5-month literacy awareness tour promoting family literacy and bringing attention to local community literacy organizations that will provide reading assistance and tutoring to those who need it. The tour on horseback will begin at the governor's mansion in Harrisburg, PA, follow the Santa Fe Trail from New Franklin to Santa Fe via the Mountain Route, and end in Phoenix, AZ.

Funds raised through corporate sponsorships, grants, sales of promotional items, donations, and other sources will be donated to local and national literacy organizations for enhancement of literacy programs already in place. Literacy Across America is working closely with Rotary International and other service clubs. The State of Pennsylvania has endorsed this program.

Throughout the trip, horseback riders are invited to join the tour for a day, week, or whatever. Riders will travel at their own risk and be responsible for their own provisions. For the safety of all riders, no stud horses will be allowed. A minimum daily \$5.00 donation to Literacy Across America from each rider is requested. For a minimum \$10.00 daily donation, the rider will receive a personalized "Liter-

acy Across America Participant" certificate suitable for framing.

The tour anticipates being in the New Franklin area in mid-June. From there it will move approximately 15 miles per day along the Trail. People along the route are encouraged to meet with Patton, help spread the message of Literacy Across America, solicit donations for the project, and, if possible, spend some time riding the Trail.

For additional information and tentative rider confirmation, contact Roger Patton, 947 Federal Ct, Meadville, PA 16335 (814) 724-6370.

## INTERPRETIVE TRAINING COURSE, MAY 13-17

ANYONE involved in or interested in providing interpretation of the Santa Fe Trail may enroll in a training course, "Interpreting America's Historic Trails," offered May 13-17, 1996, at the Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO. The course is a joint effort of the Colorado Historical Society and the National Park Service, with help from Bent's Old Fort Historical Association.

This course is an adaptation of earlier programs offered at Harpers Ferry, VA, in 1993, and at Salt Lake City, UT, 1994. The emphasis is on historical interpretation and the relationship between historic preservation and interpretation.

There are some funds available for scholarships to help with travel expenses. A special room rate is available at a nearby hotel. Those interested should contact John Conoboy at (505) 988-6888.

## BOOTH GRAVE STONES

THE Wet/Dry Routes Chapter has erected grave stones for Lucy and Nathaniel Booth at the Larned cemetery. Lucy Booth was the wife of Henry Booth, well-known military and political figure whose first connection with the Santa Fe Trail was in 1864. His company was dispatched from Fort Riley following the July 17 incident, when Kiowas drove off 172 horses and mules from Fort Larned. Booth was later appointed post trader at Fort Larned, where their second child, Nathaniel, was born. Both graves remained unmarked until the chapter completed this project last year. The chapter has done much to commemorate Henry Booth, as reported in earlier issues.

## MOUNTAIN ROUTE TOUR

SEVERAL organizations have cooperated to offer an auto tour of the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail from Lamar, CO, to Cimarron, NM, as part of the 175th anniversary commemoration. The tour, July 25-30, 1996, will start in Lamar and proceed to Las Animas, La Junta, and Trinidad in Colorado, and to Raton and Cimarron in New Mexico.

Arrangements have been made to tour Trail sites along the way, some on private land, and to have interpretive guides at the sites. The following public sites will have special events: Bent's Old Fort NHS, Comanche National Grassland, Boggsville, and the Trinidad History Museum. There will also be evening programs.

Participants will be furnished with maps and information so they can do all or any part of the tour. A \$10.00 registration fee will be charged.

Those who register early will receive a packet with site information, motel, camping, and restaurant lists, and other general information. All participants will be responsible for their meals, motel reservations, and usual admission fees where charged. Some meals will be available on the tour, but there will be a charge.

The tour is sponsored by Bent's Fort and Corazon de los Caminos chapters of SFTA, Bent's Old Fort NHS, Comanche National Grasslands, and the Trinidad History Museum. For additional information call Lolly Ming at (719) 523-6968. Send reservation fee to her at 1841 Co Rd DD, Pritchett, CO 81064.

## TRAIL ON INTERNET

THE Trail goes hi-tech. Nancy Applegate and Mike Olsen of New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, have created a computer web page for the Trail. It can be accessed through any online service, including America Online, Prodigy, and Compuserve, and the address is:

<http://vyne.nmhu.edu/sftrail>

The address must be written exactly as above. The page includes a history of the Trail and has links to the following: news of the Santa Fe Trail, the Santa Fe Trail Association, the 175th anniversary, historic documents and research tools, maps and photos.

# TRAIL TROUBADOUR

## —TRAFFIC IN VERSE—

SANDRA Doe, who will serve as editor of this column after her own poetry is published, is professor of English at Metropolitan State College of Denver. She recently offered several of her Trail poems for publication, noting that "Ranchero Wedding" (printed in this issue) "is from the first symposium in Trinidad, when Marc Simmons spoke on 'The Poetry of the Santa Fe Trail.' I fell in love with the Trail during his talk." Her second poem included here, "Pecos National Monument, New Mexico," she writes, "is from the third symposium when we went out in the field after the Santa Fe talks."

Because of her work and interest in Trail poetry, she accepted the duties of assistant editor for poetry and song, historic and current. Submissions for this column should be sent to Professor Sandra Doe, Department of English, Campus Box 32, Metropolitan State College of Denver, PO Box 173362, Denver CO 80217-3362.

About her Trail poetry, Doe writes as follows:

Most of my Trail poems were written on location. I've been swept up in Trail history and romance since the 1986 inaugural symposium in Trinidad, CO. I like catching the flavor of both contemporary and historical Trail lovers. I think today's Trail is a Trail of the imagination, in that it is marked and one may follow it with such books as Marc Simmons's *Following the Santa Fe Trail*. However, when a traveler arrives at various locations, she can't "see" the Trail; today's Trail is much different than the original Trail; thus the traveler reads, studies, and retraces actual routes and ruts and cutoffs while at the same time she "travels" in her imagination. Ergo, when a person travels the Trail, she becomes a student of it.

I've been so excited that I've worked to write a video production in conjunction with FOF Productions of Washington, D.C. Our first production has been "Waiting and Working: Women of the Santa Fe Trail Era."

Aside from the great Trail-loving company of the SFTA, the excellent expanses of land and sky, and fascinating history, I enjoy the Trail because it was an international Trail. Its characters are diverse and multicultural.

Stories await the telling. Some of the stories are contemporary, as you can imagine the incongruity of contemporary Trail lovers retracing the ancient

Trail in modern conveyance. Some of them are historical tales. But tales there are.

I utilize realistic depiction and have a passion for accuracy. These are poems of witness in which I hope to infuse that romance and reality of the spirit which is the Santa Fe Trail and which has drawn travelers for 175 years.

### Ranchero Wedding: A Waltz

by Sandra M. Doe

At the Santa Fe Trail Symposium Charlotte danced with a soldier

A fellow with brass buttons and sword flashing

The waltz was a ranchero

And all the songs were in at least two languages and then

There was body language and culture language and dance-talk and tourist-historian language

About the Wagon Wheel bar being a stage stop on the Trail

And we had a guided tour with flashlight to shine up the ancient beams

...

And around us stood buckskin boys and a Black Bart with a black shirt opened down his chest and a black hat

And Charlotte would not have it any other way but to dance with the soldier

Who was groom to a lovely pale yellow buttercup bride

Complete with generous pancake straw hat

And Charlotte could not contain herself and pinned posies of five dollar bills on his epaulets

And offered cheers and charros and cokedale joys so that she could become Charlotta . . .

Charlotte dreamed at the Santa Fe Trail Symposium that she slipped back 150 years and was the wife of a soldier on the Santa Fe Trail

And though she was not married to the burr-headed two stepping youth in U.S. Army green,

She waltzed as a captain's wife on the Santa Fe Trail . . .

And me? I took my turn with a ranger, a proud surveyor of grassland and hill, and his buckskins

Slid soft against my cotton dance dress,

The candle light flickered between us

As we lightly stepped forward . . .

And around us spun the mural of the painted way . . .

The cross creek sandstone

The Wagon Spring and Willow Bar

The names carved in Pawnee Rock And the Shawnee Mission and the Middle Spring

And the Diamond Spring and the Lost Springs

And the Cottonwood Crossing and the Plum Buttes

And the Wagon Mound and the Round Mound

And the forts - Riley and Leavenworth and Lyon -

The Rabbit Ears Mountain and the Point of Rocks

And Boggsville and Stonewall and the Raton Pass

And the green Cave Spring and the straw Cimarron grasslands

Wheat waves of grassland topping our heads

Like proportion times four wagons abreast

Times the routes and the ruts and the cutoffs

So on we swirled, 'midst peach-colored cliffs and

Lavender evenfalls and campsites

Crackling under the brilliance of the million stars dancing

Following our waltz . . .

And we all came to be lovers . . . with the Santa Fe Trail.

.....

### Pecos National Monument, New Mexico

by Sandra M. Doe

Just for a minute there  
We were a line of Pueblo  
Traveling single file  
Led by a Parks Service Chief.

Just for a minute there  
On New Mexico soil  
We descended the stream  
Flat-rocked and steep,  
Crossed a creek  
Slashed through willows  
Ascended a rise to the trail  
Ruts of the old ones, the ancient  
Traders heading toward Santa Fe.

Just for a minute there  
We found potsherds and flints  
Stood in the field with Kidder.

Under the Pecos sun we saw the shadows

Of ourselves traveling the distant paths.

We saw the city on the hill  
And there was blue lightning.

Just for a minute. There.



## FORT LEARNED

### —TEACHERS' TRADING POST—

*Patti Olsen, Editor*

AT the 1995 symposium I was appointed chair of the SFTA education committee. Since then I have been pleased to discover the tremendous interest everyone has in promoting the history and heritage of the Trail in schools and among teachers. This column seeks to provide a forum for an exchange of ideas.

The following people have agreed to serve on the committee: Kathy Revett (Amarillo, TX), Karla French (Ulysses, KS), Anne Carter (Center-view, MO), Connie Casteel (Alamosa, CO), and Margaret Sears (Santa Fe, NM). We have two immediate goals. The first is to increase awareness of "teaching the Santa Fe Trail" by finding out from teachers in classrooms just what they do with Trail materials. We plan to include the report of at least one such teacher in this column in each issue of WT. In this initial column there are two: Janice Klein of Dodge City, KS, and Linda Peters of Lakin, KS.

We are also working to develop guidelines for a teacher's award to be given by the SFTA. Members will be hearing more about both projects in coming months, but I invite anyone who wants to discuss education and the Santa Fe Trail to write to me at 1729 Eighth St, Las Vegas, NM 87701. Teachers and others with teaching ideas should send information for this column to the same address.

The first report is by Janice Klein, who teaches in an alternative school on the grounds of a residential facility at Dodge City. She has grades 6-12 in one room. Her students have both a special education and regular education background. She includes the Santa Fe Trail in a semester class on Western history, in which she covers such topics as Indians, Dodge City history, western trails, and related subjects.

**Janice Klein**

The following sample activity is called "Landmarks and Man Marks." I hope my classroom project will create further interest and that other educators will respond. I am always looking for ideas.

The goal of "Landmarks and Man Marks" is to identify well-known

landmarks along the Trail. Materials include photographs of the landmarks, descriptive and historical information about each site, and a map of the Trail showing landmark locations, and "Routes to Santa Fe" in Dave Webb's *Adventures with the Santa Fe Trail*.

We begin by reading the article "Routes to Santa Fe," after which we review each of the landmarks listed, look at the photographs provided, and discuss the importance of each site to the Trail. I then read descriptions of the landmarks as they were during Trail days and as they are today. Diary and journal entries are helpful for this part.

The first written activity in class is to take notes of the descriptions. The second is to look at the map. Students take each landmark as if they were traveling down the Trail and write a journal entry describing the site (they may do this activity in pairs). The third activity is to take a map of the Trail and match the photographs with locations on the map. This works well in small groups. The final activity is to use a map with most of the sites marked but not identified, and the students fill in the name for each site. Other activities include drawings of their own to match their journal entries or playing a quiz game to match the description with the location on the map or the photograph.

The second report is by Linda Peters, teacher of primary classes at the public school in Deerfield, KS. She has incorporated the Trail into her classroom activities for several years and describes plans for the 175th anniversary.

**Linda Peters**

The Deerfield Elementary School primary teachers have designed a special project, February to May 1996, for the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail. This involves about 75 students (second and third grades) and their teachers.

The emphasis in February is Indians. The first event will be a Plains Indian living-history demonstration by Ken and Meg Weidner of Copeland, KS. They will set up a tipi and show museum-quality items of Plains Indian cultures. This event will be open to all elementary students.

Following this each student will design a tipi, and each homeroom group will put together a village to

display the tipis. Later in February Charlie Norton, western artist, sculptor, and historian, will talk about Indians and their relationship to the bison (buffalo).

In March we will start traveling the Trail with stories, slides, pictures, crafts, and other activities related to the Trail. Each student will keep a journal and folder of their study. In late March, Steve Germes, a local teacher, will present a program, dressed as a mountain man with all his gear.

In April we will travel to the Santa Fe Trail Center and Fort Larned. Another speaker, to be determined, will also be scheduled this month.

At the beginning of May Patricia Heath, director of the Kearny County Museum, will discuss some of the well-known people who traveled the Trail. The field trip for the month will be to Bent's Old Fort.

The ending activity will be a poster contest in which each student will draw a picture about a Trail topic. The winners will receive a stuffed toy buffalo.

Throughout this project we hope the students will gain an understanding of the significance of the Trail as a part of our history and an appreciation of what life was like on the Trail. We want them to become acquainted with significant Trail sites near Deerfield, with a military post, and with a private trading post.

This project has received support from many people in the area. The school district will sponsor the field trips and provide arts and crafts supplies. The Deerfield Recreation Commission is providing 175th anniversary commemorative SFT T-shirts for the students.

The Deerfield Lions Club donated \$75 and the Sauvain family (one of the student's parents) donated \$100. The school's migrant program is donating \$60 toward poster contest prizes. The students are cleaning up trash in the city park and swimming pool and tennis court area as a community service for donations. Everyone is collecting and selling aluminum cans to earn money, and City of Deerfield, Kearny County Bank, and Kearny County Hospital are donating their cans. Parents and teachers sold T-shirts to raise money. We are working hard to make all this happen, and we look forward to an exciting journey on the Trail.

## ANOTHER SCHOOL PROJECT

by Karla French

(Karla French, Ulysses, KS, is a charter member of the SFTA, an officer of the Wagonbed Spring Chapter, and a member of the SFTA education committee. She teaches at Hickok Elementary School in Ulysses.)

ON May 10, 1996, three fifth-grade classes from Hickok Elementary School in Ulysses, KS, will participate in the 11th annual field trip to Cimarron National Grassland at Elkhart, KS, where they will culminate their studies of the Santa Fe Trail with a trek along the historic route from Murphy Trail Head to Middle Spring area for a "nooning." Students will ride in wagons furnished by Oliver Toole of nearby Johnson.

Students will raise money to hire the wagons and teams. Some students and teachers bring their own horses, and others will hike. Plans are to include a living-history demonstration. Anyone who would like to observe or join in should contact Karla French, PO Box 632, Ulysses, KS 67880. This trip has been a highlight for fifth graders each year.

## JULIA A. HOLMES AVAILABLE

RIDE into History, the project of Joyce Thierer and Ann Birney, Admire, KS, has been producing living-history performances of Calamity Jane, Amelia Earhart, and various other folks over the last five years. They have received support from the Kansas Humanities Council. Their newest, colorful offering is Julia Archibald Holmes, who traveled the Santa Fe Trail on foot in bloomer costume in 1858.

On the way Julia became the first white woman to climb Pike's Peak. She told stories of life on the Trail—leaving the last letters at Council Grove, receiving advice from the only other woman with the wagon train, adopting an orphaned buffalo calf, fielding reactions to her bloomer outfit, picking lice, increasing her strength as a walker, and "learning to walk."

The Ride into History performance is a first-person narrative based on Julia Archibald Holmes's letters, presented by Ann Birney. The program is available with or without a horse. Call Ride into History at (316) 528-3580 for more information or to schedule this lively program.

## LES VILDA AVAILABLE

LES Vilda, one of the colorful SFTA ambassadors (he was a buffalo hunter in the movie *Dances with Wolves*), offers a number of living-history programs which local organizations may wish to utilize. He has traveled the length of the Trail twice, once on foot and once in a small wagon.

His repertoire includes the following: "A Modern Day Encounter with the Santa Fe Trail," "Life on the Trail," "What Happened to the River?" (Missouri River), "Uses of Plants on the Prairie," "Mountain Man Storytelling," "Ropemaking," and "Dr. Rabi's Medicine Show." All programs are presented in period-correct costume, last approximately one hour, and are suitable for all age groups.

For more information, write Les Vilda, Educational Expeditions, RR 2 Box 13, Wilber, NE 68465. Les is not free, but he is reasonable. He is always good.

## AUDIO TOUR TAPES

SFTA member Maggie Greenwood, Angel Fire, NM, doing business as Down the Road in New Mexico, produces self-guided audio tour tapes with accompanying guide booklets. These mile-by-mile travelogues are designed to play in your car as you travel. The tapes include history, geology, folklore of the area, and music from local artists, and they are keyed to milepost markers.

Greenwood now has three tours available: (1) Enchanted Circle of northern New Mexico, featuring Taos, Angel Fire, Eagle Nest, and Red River; (2) Los Alamos to Bandelier Area; and (3) Santa Fe to Chimayo. She is currently working on the Santa Fe Trail in New Mexico and is seeking stories suitable for inclusion in this program. For more information, contact Maggie Greenwood, Down the Road in New Mexico, PO Box 981, Angel Fire, NM 87710 (505) 377-6870.

## STEINS SELL BOOK BUSINESS AND RETIRE; PARKERS STILL ACTIVE

DIANA and Joe Stein, charter members of SFTA, who operated La Galeria de los Artesanos bookstore on the plaza in Las Vegas, NM, from Christmas 1949 to Christmas 1995, have retired. They sold their large inventory of Western Americana to Page One and Page Too in

Albuquerque. They and their outstanding bookstore will be missed by many satisfied customers who depended on them for these many years. Best wishes to Diana and Joe in their retirement.

Riley and Betty Parker, also charter members of SFTA, who sold their Parker Books of the West in Santa Fe to André and Carol Dumont (as reported in an earlier issue) and are semiretired, now work a few days a week as consultants for Page One and Page Too in Albuquerque (purchasers of the Steins' inventory). Page One deals in in-print books and Page Too is all antiquarian, in all price ranges.

## POST OFFICE OAK

### —LETTERS—

Editor:

I am honored to receive the SFTA Award of Merit. The plaque was presented at a recent meeting of the End of the Trail Chapter. I was in France at the time of the 1995 symposium, researching the recently-discovered builder of the spiral staircase in Santa Fe's Loretto Chapel.

Mary Jean Cook  
PO Box 2676  
Santa Fe NM 87504

Editor:

In reference to the letter from Carrie Arnold about Gary Lucy and his paintings (in last issue), I am only familiar with his paintings by observing his catalog. However, my wife and I are looking forward to visiting his gallery in Washington, MO, this spring.

Another impressive artist doing waterways and steamboats, etc., is John Stobart. One of his works, "Wayne City Landing, Start of the Santa Fe Trail," hangs in the National Frontier Trails Center at Independence, MO. All SFTA members and others should see this painting, along with the outstanding exhibits in the Trails Center.

Clarence Stiver  
4391 E Farm Road 94  
Springfield MO 65803

Editor:

In the May 1994 *Wagon Tracks* you listed the names of pioneers who traveled the Santa Fe Trail. In this list you failed to include my great-grandfather, James Josiah Webb, who between the years 1844 and 1857 made 18 trips from St. Louis to Santa Fe. These trips were to carry merchandise for his store in Santa Fe.



I congratulate you and all the others who have brought the SFTA into existence and wish you a long and happy life.

Henry Webb  
443 Fairway Lake  
Port St Lucie FL 34986

*I understand that you may be perplexed that James Jostiah Webb did not appear in that list. However, that was a list published in the June 30, 1910, Las Vegas (New Mexico) Optic. It made no pretense of being comprehensive, and you will note that it was almost exclusively of people from New Mexico (there appear to be few names of those who traveled the Trail prior to the Civil War). Thousands of Santa Fe Trail travelers were not included in that list, some of whom are well known (such as your great-grandfather). We simply printed the document to add that information to what else is available. In time, when the Santa Fe Trail database is completed, we hope that all known Trail travelers will be listed. Because J. J. Webb is so well known, and he wrote about his experiences, he will be in that data file. Everyone interested in the Trail should read his book, Adventures in the Santa Fe Trade, 1844-1847, again in print and available from the SFTA Last Chance Store. Also, WT would welcome articles about Webb and other traders.*

Editor

Editor:

Unless I change my mind, this will be my final payment of dues to SFTA. I am finding very little information in the publication that stirs my interest. It is apparent to me, at least, that the ideas of the leadership do not coincide with what most readers would prefer in a trail organization, i.e., (1) preservation of existing trail ruts, (2) better compatibility with physical neighbors of the trail, (3) less self-glamorization, in WT, by officers, and (4) more and new printing of actual records of happenings along the trail. Of course I am only one voice and perhaps alone in my thinking.

Homer C. Beck  
2530 Sennett  
Wichita KS 67211

*I appreciate your opinions and recommend that you get involved with one of the SFTA chapters, where much of the real work of SFTA is being done, before writing off the organization. I doubt there is much hope for WT, however, unless you can help the board find a competent editor.*

Editor

## KANSAS CITY GHOST STORY

(continued from page 1)

this article, after checking and verifying the story the ghost told them, believe the facts are correct. Their unedited tape-recorded interview with the "ghost" follows:

Question: Would you tell us who you are, please?

Answer: I am Lucinda Dodson.

Q: Why were you in the Majors home?

A: I was not in the Majors home. I was inside the Dodson-Poteet-Johnston home.

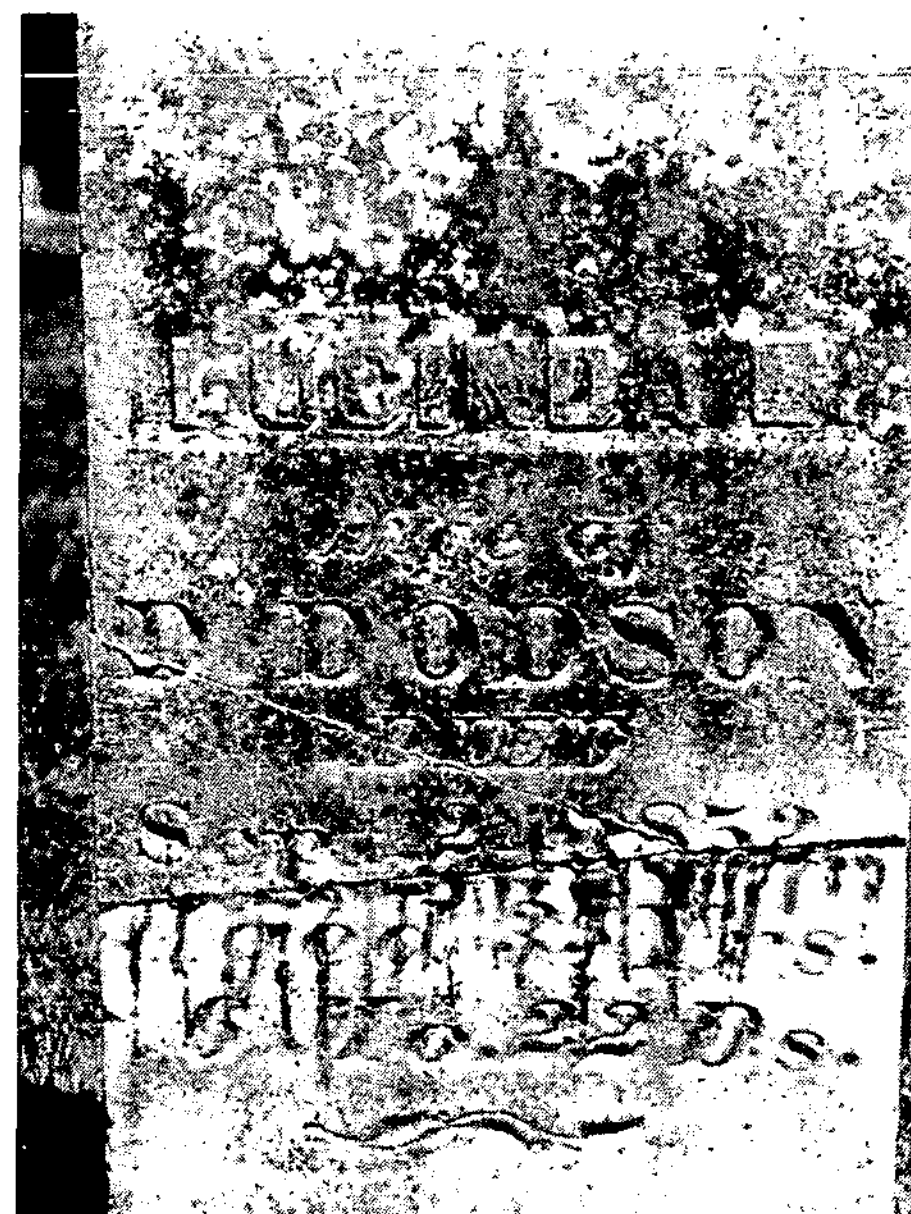
Q: We don't understand. Why do you call it that instead of the Majors Home?

A: Because that's how it should really be known. I and my husband Drury built the middle section of the east wing of this house. The Poteets added on the west wing and Miss Louisa Johnston saved it.

Q: We still don't understand. Will you tell us the true story.

A: Yes, I'd be delighted to tell you. Once upon a time, a long time ago, I and my husband Drury homesteaded this beautiful prairie and began to improve it and make plans for it, starting in 1846. At the time, we lived a couple of miles southeast of here, where Drury had built and improved a small home and blacksmith shop on the main road near Indian Creek, but it was easy to see that this land here would be a much better place to live and raise our three children.

We picked out this very spot for our new home and had the lumber and siding sawed down at his brother-in-law Anthony Watt's mill and then brought up here to get ready to build. Everybody all around here—the Dyches, Fuquas, Hays, Watts and Boones—were all related to us and all of us had been helping each other out since when we had all lived near each other back in St. Charles County and even back in Kentucky. They all came and helped raise one of the first frame houses in these parts and we moved in with our children and just loved it here. The new house and the better land was just perfect for us. We bought some more slaves and more land and Drury made more money from both blacksmithing and farming, but then I got sick and died and was buried just south of here. Drury sold the land and our house to Lott Coffman not long after that and moved back to our first place. He



Grave stone of Lucinda B. Pittman Dodson, who died September 24, 1852, Corinth Cemetery on the south side of 83rd Street and east of Mission Road.

never did remarry and just before the War he moved to Texas. One of our girls never did marry and she's the one who took care of him after I died.

Then Alexander Majors made all of the arrangements to buy the place but had our kind of bad luck with it. Katherine Majors died just before Alexander bought it, so almost as soon as he got the deed he gave it to his daughter Rebecca and her husband Samuel Poteet and they're the ones who added on the big west wing. They needed all that extra space since they were taking care of their five children as well as all the Majors children. They're also the ones who bought the land just west of here in Kansas so they could have a big front yard and all.

Then during the War and later it was Samuel who operated the freight business out of here. Alexander never did do hardly anything out of this house, since he really didn't live here and mostly because all of his partnership business was in Leavenworth and Nebraska City and St. Joseph and down on the levee in Kansas City. After his big business went bust, he helped Samuel out down here a little and then went out to Colorado, where he finally ended up staying.

Finally, Rebecca and Samuel got pretty old and sold the place to their son and moved to California, where they both are buried. A few years later, Miss Louisa bought the

## CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES

### —BOOK NOTICES—

Anita Niles-Beattie. *The Trail to Tomorrow*. Huntington, WV: University Editions, Inc., 1993. Pp. 71. Maps. Paper, \$9.00.

The premise behind this short novel for young readers is good. Tom is a teenage orphan working in his uncle's blacksmith shop in Franklin, Missouri. He is invited by William Becknell to accompany the 1822 expedition to Santa Fe, the first time wagons are to be taken on the Santa Fe Trail. Tom is charged with minding and repairing the three wagons on the journey.

Travel through eastern Kansas, including Council Grove and Diamond "Springs" is especially well portrayed. Tom experiences typical Trail situations, including encounters with rattlesnakes, buffalo, Indians, creek crossings, storms, and waterscapes. Along the way he worries about his own meager trade goods, a keg of nails and some iron tools which Captain Becknell is transporting for him.

Unfortunately, for a book aimed at students, there are many inconsistencies, errors, and anachronisms. The author uses actual Trail accounts for background, but since Becknell went in 1822, developments depicted in later journals and diaries are not always pertinent. For example, since no one had taken wagons across the Arkansas before, Becknell's dire predictions of how difficult it will be seem odd. The meal the cook fixes one night using fresh buffalo "chips" must have been an interesting one.

Details on New Mexico are particularly inaccurate. In 1822 Wagon Mound was uninhabited and it does not have a spring at its base. Santa Clara Spring is two miles away. There also was no Las Vegas, where the author has the Becknell party purchasing fresh provisions. And the Santa Fe plaza as described is more that of 1846 than 1822.

One final caveat concerns the author's attempt to write in the dialect of the day. Such writing is best left to Mark Twain, or perhaps more in context, to Lewis Garrard. It is hard to sustain and difficult for young readers.

—Mike Olsen



The original two-story Dodson house—its north wall is shown here—was built about 1850. It had only one chimney, the one on the far left, which was also a part of the house's exterior wall. Its west exterior wall was just to the right of the door near the middle of the porch.



The large west wing, which nearly quadrupled the size of the Majors house, was built about 1856 by Rebecca Majors Poteet and her husband Samuel.

place and over the years kept it up as best she could and fought off the shopping center people. That's why I say she is really the one who saved the house so you all could see it like it is today, even though it's changed so much since when I used to live here.

All three of us and sometimes our husbands and the children come back together here when you are all gone and have a lot of fun. I stay mostly in the old part, because that's the part I know best, with the same woodwork and all. The west wing is Rebecca's favorite part, since that's what she and her husband added on. Miss Louisa, who never married, goes everywhere.

It used to be a little bit hard for Drury to come here because of my having died here, but he's used to it now. We're all sort of glad the place is closed so much, cause it gives us a big time choice when we can come and not be bothered and

visit and tell each other stories about the good old days. I sure wish you could hear those stories. I'll tell you what. Would you like to meet the three of us?

Q: Yes, we certainly would. Could we do that?

A: We could, but you'll have to let me go and then I'll promise to bring everyone back, and the husbands too. Is that a deal?

Q: Ok, that's a deal. When can we do all that?

A: It'll take a while to make all the arrangements with the schedules and all. We still lead busy lives, but we do get time off. Next time, don't catch me, I'll catch you, so to speak.

Q: Sounds good to us. In the meantime, we'll figure out what we want to ask all of you.

A: No, you all don't have to do that. Like I said, we'll tell you everything you need to know, and then some.



# THE DEATH OF ED MILLER ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

*Articles from the Marion County Record, Marion, KS, 1911-1912*

ED Miller, about 18 years of age, was killed by Indians near the Trail in 1864 (mistakenly given as 1865 in some of the following information), and his grave and stone marker are located two miles east of Canton, KS, in McPherson County. Miller was a resident of adjacent Marion County.

Dr. Gil Michel, Newton, KS, vice-president of the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter, submitted the following newspaper clippings about this incident from the *Marion County Record*, with exact publication dates unknown but written in late 1911 and early 1912. The articles are reprinted here as written with clarifying notes inserted in brackets. There is a bonus in one article which includes information about the wagon train besieged by Indians at Cow Creek in the summer of 1864. Special thanks to Dr. Michel for making this material available.

## How Ed Miller Died

In July, 1865, [Atlantic A.] Lank Moore, owner of Moore's ranch [at Cottonwood Crossing] on the Santa Fe trail, was in Marion with his family for a brief stay. While here they were living in the house now occupied by Mr. Western Martin just south of Central Park. Mrs. Moore's health was very poor and she was anxious to have her mother come and see her. Her mother, Mrs. Waterman, was living three miles south of the present town of Galva, in McPherson county, Mr. Waterman being the proprietor of the big Turkey Creek ranch on the Santa Fe trail at that place. There was a man by the name of Miller who lived on Mud Creek about two hundred feet from the present residence of W. H. Carpenter and Mr. Moore went to see him to ask if he would not send one of his boys to the Turkey Creek ranch to bring Mrs. Moore's mother to Marion. Mr. Miller sent on the errand his son Ed who was a boy about eighteen years of age. The young man left his home and went to French Frank's ranch [operated by Frank LaLoge at Cottonwood Hole approximately six miles southwest of Cottonwood Crossing] on the Santa Fe trail where he ate his breakfast and then left there at about eight o'clock in the morning for the Turkey Creek ranch which was down the trail about ten miles southwest. Al Bichet, a young man who was working for French Frank on the ranch accompanied young Miller for about three miles and was the last white man who saw him alive. About half an hour after Miller and Bichet parted company the Watermans at Turkey

Creek ranch saw a lone horseman coming rapidly along the trail from the east. Just a short time before they had seen a party of about twenty Cheyenne Indians killing a cow near the Trail and only a mile or so east of the ranch. Suspecting that the Indians were hostile and that the approaching horseman was some one of their friends they hastened to the top of their house and through a field glass got an unobstructed view for several miles east along the Trail. The Miller boy, for it proved later to have been he, was coming rapidly along the Trail and did not seem to scent any danger until he was about two hundred yards from the Indians. There had been up to that time no hostile demonstration on the part of the Indians. Suddenly they began to gather up their weapons and to mount their horses. The lone horseman halted and for a moment, seemed to hesitate and then he wheeled his horse and started down the trail to the east with the Indians in full pursuit. As nearly as the watchers at the ranch could tell he was holding his own in the race with the Indians when all disappeared in a cloud of dust. Two days later the Watermans became so uneasy because they had heard nothing from their daughter, Mrs. Moore, who they knew was sick, that they decided to come to Marion. When they reached Marion the first question that was asked them was, "where is Ed Miller?" They had seen nothing of young Miller but told the story of the lone horseman and the heart-broken parents needed no further proof that their son had been killed by the Indians.

On the following day Henry Roberts, Jack Griffith, Roddy Coble and Evan Hoops started in search of the body of Ed Miller. They went northwest to the Santa Fe Trail and then followed the Trail to French Frank's ranch where they secured further information. They followed the Trail west and when about four miles west they found the mutilated body of Ed Miller. Henry Roberts was sent back to the Franks ranch to get tools and when he returned a grave was dug on a beautiful little mound near the Trail and the body laid tenderly away. Ed Miller was the only white man killed by Indians in the settlement of Marion county.

Last Friday, Dec. 8, 1911, more than forty-six years later, Henry Roberts, Taylor Riddle, H. P. Paddock and Lewis E. Riggs went west along the old Santa Fe Trail to endeavor to locate the grave. It was found without much trouble and now some suitable marker will be placed there. It must be done.

In explanation it may be said that Taylor Riddle took as a timber claim the quarter upon which French Frank's ranch had

stood and had often seen the grave in the now thirty years gone. French Frank was Frank LaLodge [LaLoge] who lived east of Florence for many years afterwards and the Al Bichet spoken of is Mr. A. Bichet, now and for many years a resident of Florence. Lank Moore was the founder of Marion. Ed Miller's father was the first hotel keeper in Marion. All the other men mentioned are well-known early settlers of the county.

Ed Miller's grave is two miles east of Canton, just inside of McPherson county. It is on the s.w. quarter of section 24, twp. 21, range 1 west. It is on land owned by Mr. M. M. Jones and is about three hundred feet south of the Santa Fe railroad track. It can be plainly seen from the car window.

An Old Settler.

P.S. Henry Roberts, mentioned in this article, has purchased a beautiful black granite tombstone to be placed at the grave of Ed Miller, giving his age, date of death and by whom killed.

## THAT MILLER STORY

### Another Pioneer Writes Interesting account of Ed Miller and Indians.

The Record is pleased to publish here another chapter in the interesting story of the killing of Ed Miller by the Indians. Several of the pioneers have furnished their versions of the event and the incidents connected with it and altogether these accounts furnish not only an interesting story but put into form for preservation much valuable historical data relative to the early settlement of the county. Mr. R. C. Coble for many years one of the county's most prominent citizens and who is remembered in high esteem by a great number of old friends here writes to his old friend A. E. Case concerning the Miller incident and also gives other facts concerning those early times. We publish here the part of his story concerning Ed Miller and will likely publish at an early date the remainder of his most interesting letter. Mr. Coble was one of the party who went in search of young Miller and in the account which follows he modestly refers to himself as "another man,"—this for the benefit of some who might not know the identity of the "other man." Special attention is called to Mr. Coble's suggestion concerning an appropriate recognition of the memory of this young man whose life was given as part of the "Price of the Prairie." The account follows:

You know that I have, for a long time, advocated it to be a duty residing upon the citizens of Marion, to erect a suitable monument in Central Park, or some other conspicuous place, to the memory of Edward Miller.

When I review the tragic death of Edward Miller nothing appears upon my field of vision throughout the entire horizon around, but a lad of tender years undergoing a series of tortures under the lancet and spear, of a group of savages piercing his ankles and his heels, which scientists tell us is the most sensitive part of the body, and I seem to hear him beg for mercy where no mercy was given. It is this that makes me weep to tell the story. It is this that transforms him from the herding boy into a character in the performance of a tragedy, in which for all utter disregard of the pleas for mercy, and for the infliction of cruel torture, it is seldom equalled, and not often surpassed in the annals of human suffering. To the boy, Edward Miller, Marion could have no more interest than she could have in any other boy, but in Edward Miller, as a character, and his awful suffering, Marion has a legacy which would be interesting to generations yet unborn. It would be an honor to Marion to perpetuate the remembrance of Edward Miller, and this honor belongs to Marion in a peculiar sense, and to her alone. It would be an exhibition of refined settlement if a monument could be erected in Central Park showing the race between the lad and a group of savages; also the lad in a pleading attitude for mercy, while a group of savages were lancing and torturing his ankles and heels. Mrs. Lenore Cook has the ability to put out a scene upon a landscape that would be exceedingly interesting. I honor Henry Roberts for what he has done and Taylor Riddle, Lewis Riggs and Mrs. Paddock and also the solicitude you have shown in this matter. Now, let Marion, instead of burning up a lot of means in fire crackers, devote one 4th of July and her means to the erection of a suitable memorial to the memory of Edward Miller, who died in the performance of a glorious mission, and his remembrance will not perish from the face of the earth. For he was a character representing what at that time, could have easily befallen all of the inhabitants of not only Marion, but Marion county, scattered, as they were, along the creeks, distances apart.

In order that there may be a clear understanding of the situation of the early inhabitants of Marion county in those early days, I herewith give a list of all the settlers at that time: Wm. Everett, Geo. Griffith, W. P. Shreeve, Henry Roberts, W. H. Billings, Atlantic A. Moore, Ruben Riggs, John Snow, Herman Deal, J. H. Costello, Thomas Wise, G. C. and R. C. Coble, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Houck, Evan Hoops, Jack Griffith, Thomas Wise Jr., James Norris, Barsilla Gibson, Wm. Carter, Charles Fuller, Frank Lalodge, Eli Waterman and Silas Locklin and Dr. Roberts. Johnny Madden Sr., came in soon after, which at that time embraced all the inhabitants of Marion and McPherson counties. There were a few

ranchers on the Santa Fe trail reaching the west line of the state. There was no Florence, Peabody, Newton, Wichita or anything before Marion in the way of a settlement. There was no town of Marion; only a post office where we got our weekly mails. All that vast region of country lying west of Marion and Butler counties to the west line of the state, with the exception of a few ranches or stage stations on the Santa Fe Trail, was one vast prairie, which had seemingly slept from creation, undisturbed by the profanation of labor. Undisturbed, excepting at times the stealthy tramp of the savage that gave back scarcely a muffled echo on the breeze, and the clatter of the war horses and the yell of the savage in war. When one was out 15 or 20 miles alone on these prairies he was confronted with a horrid stillness that made him feel almost that he was on enchanted ground.

In July, about the year 1865, Atlantic A. Moore resided on the place known afterwards as the Aunt Katy Brumbaugh place, near where Taylor Riddle now lives. Nelson Miller lived a short distance east of the mineral wells, and George Griffith lived south of Central Park, on the south bank of the Muddy, and Eli Waterman lived on a ranch out on Big Turkey, now in McPherson county. The wife of Mr. Moore was taken very sick and they decided to send for her mother, Mrs. Waterman, who was not only an estimable lady, but was one of the best nurses in sickness known to the settlers. Mr. Moore first went to Mr. George Griffith to get him to go for her, but owing to an affection of the heart, and not being accustomed to riding on horseback, it was thought that he might not be able to stand the ride. Mr. Moore then went after Mr. Miller, whose son Edward, a youth of 16 or 17 years, had been accustomed to herding cattle and was a good and fearless rider. It was known the Kiowa, Comanche and Cheyenne Indians were on the war path, but when young Miller started out we had no knowledge of their exact location. All knew that it was possible for them to run into a band of warriors at any time, and were on the look out for them, and were ready for either a fight or a run. All went armed, but the security of the inhabitants of Marion was not in her arms and weapons of warfare, but was in the overshadowing care of God's providence, under Whose watchful eye no sparrow can fall without His notice. Mr. Moore was fully conscious of the gravity of the situation in sending young Miller out. He provided him with his fast horse, and instructed the boy to go to the Frenchman's ranch and exchange for the Frenchman's fast horse. On reaching the Frenchman ranch the boy found that Frank had gone to Council Grove, taking his fast horse along with him. This we learned from French Peter. Being unable to make the exchange he proceeded on his way with

Moore's horse for about 16 miles southwest of the Frenchman's ranch, reaching the brow of the hill, descending down to the ranch at Big Turkey, where Mr. Waterman lived. On turning the brow of the hill he was confronted by a band of Kiowas and Comanche, or Cheyenne Indian warriors who opened fire upon him, upon which he turned back and fled. The people at the ranch heard the report of the Indian guns and got a glimpse of a lone horseman turning and fleeing before them. From the roof of the ranch they could see the cloud of dust upon the Santa Fe trail for a considerable distance, but the boy and the savages soon passed the vanishing point upon the perspective plain, and went out of view. The race continued up the Santa Fe trail to the northeast, for about 12 miles, to a point, I suppose, to be about a quarter of a mile west of the old Cottonwood holes, about four mile west of the Frenchman's ranch, where it is said that Fremont had a battle with Indians and buried a small gun in the stream at that point. There the savages tortured, killed and scalped Edward Miller. After killing Edward Miller the Indians went eastward along the Santa Fe trail to the Frenchman's ranch. There they found a man resting, or sleeping in the shade of his wagon. They killed and scalped him. They continued to go eastward to the head of Muddy Creek, taking all the horses and mules which they found upon the way, and returned westward. After they had passed Moore's ranch, going back, Mr. C. O. Fuller, who lived there, sent word to Marion that the Indians were in the country and had raided the U.S. stage line. On the second day after young Miller left Marion, he failed to return as expected. The third day passed and still he did not return. On the fourth day a company went out to look for him, consisting of Jack Griffith, Henry Roberts, Evan Hoops and another man. They went from Marion to the Frenchman's ranch. There they learned that on the day that Edward Miller passed there, the Indians had raided the ranch, taking the stock and killing the man sleeping under his wagon. A man from Louisiana was at the ranch, a ruddy, stout, resolute looking fellow. He volunteered to go out with the crowd on the search, making five persons in the crowd. They moved southwest along the Santa Fe trail. J. S. Griffith, Henry Roberts and the man from Louisiana were riding together, and Evan Hoops and the other man were riding a little ahead. On ascending the hill, or rise, a short distance westward from the Cottonwood holes, Mr. Hoops having a sharp sense of smell, detected something unusual in the air, but did not speak of it until they had passed nearly ten or twelve rods beyond the point. He then asked his fellow if he had detected anything peculiar in the air, back there. On being told that he had not, they decided to wait until the rest came up. None of them had noticed anything, but all agreed to return to the place,



and make search. Upon their return they noticed the body lying about three rods south of the Santa Fe trail, with one or two handfuls of weeds broken off and thrown upon it. It bore the marks of the most excruciating torture. Numerous marks of the lance or spear, were found around his heels and ankles. He had been pierced a little above the pit of the stomach, which was, in all probability, the death stroke, reaching the heart. He was scalped clean, with the exception of a spot of hair about the size of a quarter of a dollar in front of one of his ears. Upon the discovery of the body, Henry Roberts went back to the Frenchman's ranch and brought out a shovel or spade, and pick, and they proceeded to dig a grave on the top of the hill, five or six rods north of the Santa Fe trail. Henry Roberts, Jack Griffith and the Louisianian worked digging the grave. Hoops and the other man held the horses and kept watch of the trail.

### IN THE EARLY DAYS

The following is a continuation of the story of Ed Miller, printed last week from the pen of R. C. Coble, and also contains other interesting facts concerning early times in the county. There will likely be a final installment of the reminiscences by Mr. Coble next week.

While the grave of Ed Miller was digging Mr. Hoops noticed a spindle of dust rising upon the Santa Fe trail, west of them, and behind it a heavier volume of dust moving along very rapidly. He called attention to it, and a consultation was held upon which it was decided that they should stand their ground until danger came in view. So the watch was continued while they dug away at the grave. They had not long to wait before they discovered a lone horseman coming upon the road, under full tilt, swinging in his right hand a heavy Colts, Navy or Army pistol. Almost every jump the horse made the[y] could see him swing that arm nearly as high as his shoulders and then down again, up and down as his horse ran. He came within about a quarter of a mile of the Marion boys. There he made what seemed to be a square angle to the south, and went about a quarter of a mile. He then made a square angle eastward, and when he came directly under the sun he recognized the grave diggers as white men, and rode up to where they were at work. He told them that he was a wagon master in charge of a train of about 100 wagons, which was coralled on Cow Creek and were surrounded by about 2,000 or 3,000 Indians, Kiowas and Comanches. The corall was made by running wagons behind each other in a circle; and their stock had been enclosed within for two or three days and were not only starving for food but were famishing for water. He said their water was all exhausted but one ten gallon keg and he had given strict orders not to use that. He had tried to get some of his picket men to

run the gauntlet, but all declined to do so. He then determined to try it himself. So when night drew on he gave his horse some water from the last keg, and a light feed, and about nine o'clock at night he gave the horse a little more water and feed; at about three o'clock in the morning he saddled his horse, and threw the bridle reins over the horn of the saddle, and took a number of platted lariats, and his weapons, and fastened a lariat to the bit of the bridle, and instructed his men that when he made pull on the lariat for them to turn his horse out of the corall. So he crawled out over the short buffalo grass, pulling himself along by the grass; tying lariat to lariat, thus lengthening his cord as needed. He passed between two Indian sentinels about a rod on each side of him. They seemed to be asleep when he passed them. A short distance behind the Indian guards there was a shallow ravine, deep enough for him to be out of view. There he was in a position where he could shoot the Indian guards if they should stop his horse. He accordingly determined to bring matters to a crisis, and gave a good pull upon the lariat, and saw his horse leave the corall. He then began to pull in the lines. When the horse approached the Indian guards they stretched up and grunted but settled right back again into ascending stupor, and he continued to pull in his horse. When his horse reached him he had his knife in hand ready to cut the rope. He cut the rope and mounted, hoping to get off without notice. In this he failed.

The guards fired upon him. To use that fellow's expression for it, he said that after the guards had fired it seemed to him that all the devils in hell were turned loose, and the race began. His horse could run away from the war horses, but he had endeavored to spare his horse as much as possible, and after running away from them he would let up a little, and allow the warriors to come within range of Spencer carbine, and would exchange shots to check them up, until they got too close, then he ran away from them again. He was riding a chestnut sorrel horse, looked to be very fleet. He was armed with a Spencer carbine and heavy Colt's revolver. He said that before leaving Kansas City he purchased his horse to meet just such an emergency as this, and told what paid, but I disremember. He was on his way to Council Grove to get troops to go out and release his train. He feared that the Indians would come in on the north side of the range of hills where Edward Miller was buried and would yet try to cut him off. He said the last he saw of the Indians was five or six miles back and advised the Marion boys not to remain there longer than they could help. He then went on his way riding at a good speed. We learned afterwards that a troop of cavalry passed Moore's ranch about day break the next morning on their way to Cow Creek, but when they reached there the stock were

all out grazing and not an Indian was to be found anywhere. When this man left the Marion boys they had the grave dug about two feet deep. They continued digging until they got down between 2½ and 3 feet deep, when they proceeded to bury his body.

The second day after the burial of Edward Miller, Mr. Waterman reached Marion and we learned that the lad had reached nearly the end of his journey as he was thought to be the lone horseman seen upon the brow of the hill. Edward Miller fell into the hands of those savages horrified, but unhurt, and underwent a series of torture to meet the insatiable delight of the savages, which is seldom equalled and never greatly surpassed in the annals of human sufferings. It is this that makes me weep, and places me under obligation to make an apology for my weakness to all to whom I tell the story. I can truthfully say, that, while I have passed through several alarms from Indians, I have never experienced that sense of fear and horror that seems to effect some others; but I have never been able to tell the story of Edward Miller without being deeply affected, and yet I do not remember of ever seeing him alive more than two or three times.

### Further Testimony From Old Timers Concerning the Death of Ed Miller

Several weeks ago the Record printed a story of the killing of Ed Miller, the only Marion county man who was killed by the Indians during the settlement of the county. In the main the old-timers agree on the facts of the incident but in some particulars they disagree. One thing that has been the subject of a little contention is the question of the year when he was killed. Some said it was 1864 and some said it was 1865. According to the way it looks now, the '65 fellows will have to surrender. Henry Roberts has a letter from Judge Frank Doster, and we quote from his letter as follows:

"He was killed in 1864. You may remember that in 1865 I was a boy soldier of the 11th Indiana Cavalry, which was stationed at various points on the old Santa Fe trail during the summer of that year. My company was quartered at Cottonwood Crossing or Moore's ranch. Several times we were down at the little settlement of Marion, and when there were told of the killing of Ed by the Indians the year before. I very well remember that Ed's mother—old "Aunt Jane"—told the story of Ed's death personally to me and a boy of my company named John Wells. If a monument is erected to mark the spot of Ed's death, see that the inscription reads that his killing was in 1864, not 1865. I think you yourself will recall that during the summer of 1865 there [were] no Indian depredations in your part of the state, if in any part of it."

And now Alex. Case has a letter from A.

A. Moore—Lank Moore—who lives in Arizona, which corroborates Judge Doster in the matter. Mr. Moore's letter follows:

"On Wednesday, July 6th, 1864, I took my wife and baby Ira in a buggy and drove from Marion over the same road that Ed Miller went to 'Running Turkey' ranch, 35 miles, to visit Mr. Watermans, my wife's parents. On the 9th I came home over the same road, on the 10th at home, on the 11th at home, and the 12th at home; on the 13th received an order to draft two men from my company, I being the Captain of the company of Militia of Marion county. On the 14th drafted two men,—Chyron Riggs and Edward Deal were the men drafted. On the 15th took the two soldiers to Council Grove and delivered them to the government, 16th at Council Grove, 17th came home, found my wife sick. On 18th went from home to Cottonwood Falls and returned, 19th at home, on the 20th I sent Ed Miller to 'Running Turkey' ranch for Mr. Waterman's people, on a fast horse. Started him very early in the morning and as we had been over the road twice in the 2 weeks previous we had no thought of any Indian trouble. On 21st at home, wife sick, no news from Watermans or Ed. On 22nd courier came telling us to move out, Indians coming, and we supposing that Watermans and Ed were killed I at once gave the alarm and hitched 4 horses to a wagon, filled the wagon box with hay and carried my wife out, put her in the wagon and started for Cottonwood Falls, with the rest of the families of the settlement. When about a mile out a messenger came and told us that Watermans were safe and had come. Then we all turned back and when we got back found that Ed was not with them and hadn't been seen. I at once sent a number of men from my company in charge of Lieutenant Jack Griffith to find Ed, and when they got to Moore's ranch they met Vet Waterman on his way to my place. He had just come from 'Running Turkey' 20 miles west of there where he was the morning of the raid, and after their explaining to him their mission he told them that the morning of the raid, after the Indians had got all the mail stock and all of Waterman's, making 23 head in all, they drove them about a mile and he climbed on top of the house, boy like, to see what they were doing. He saw a mounted man about 3 miles down the road coming towards the ranch, at the same time 4 or 5 Indians start to meet him, and when they met he saw the smoke from a gun and they all took right back down the road the way the lone rider had come and went out of sight. So then they concluded that was Ed and started search and part way between Moore's ranch and Running Turkey, on the south side of the road they found the body with the scalp gone—every hair taken from his head—one bullet hole in his head and his body full of holes from a lance, and they buried the body there on

the 23rd of July, 1864. This is taken from an old diary of mine of 1864 and Vet Waterman is still living and an old Arizona miner and here to testify."

In another letter to Mr. Case, Mr. Moore also puts the facts on straight as to the place he was living at the time. He did live on the place just south of Central Park—where Mr. Western Martin now lives, but that was a little while after the Indian raid and the killing of Miller. Here is what he says about that:

"When Ed Miller was killed I was living on the farm I had bought from E. P. Waterman, afterwards known as the Brumbaugh farm, 1/2 mile north of Main street. I had rented Moore's ranch to Chas. Fuller and gone down and bought that place and Watermans had moved out to 'Running Turkey' ranch and were running a mail station."

Further and strong evidence in support of the 1864 date is also received in a letter to H. P. Paddock from Charles Atkinson. Atkinson was working at the Moore ranch at the time. He says that he first met Ed Miller in 1862 and that he was with him much of the time from then until his death. He says that his brother was in the 9th Kansas regiment in Arkansas and that he came home in 1865, and he has reason to remember that when his brother came home was about ten months after Miller was killed. Atkinson joined the searching party when they reached Moore's ranch and was with them when the body was found. He is now running a hotel at Burdick, Kansas.

These stories of the early days are very interesting and the Record would be glad to have any of the early settlers write concerning them. And every effort will be made to have the facts accurately given. Where one person's memory may be poor another's may be good.

## CAMP TALES

### —CHAPTER REPORTS—

#### Cimarron Cutoff

President Helen C. Brown  
PO Box 1400  
Elkhart, KS 67950  
(316) 697-4597

No report; meeting is February 24.

#### Texas Panhandle

President Kathy Revett  
3505 Cinderella  
Amarillo, TX 79121-1607  
(806) 358-7320

On November 5, O. L. (Lee) Russell and his wife, Natalie, reminisced about his grandmother, Marion Sloan Russell, at the Amarillo Central Library. His recollections of his early life with his family in the Stonewall Valley of Colorado, his grandmother, aunts, and

uncles provided a direct link to the lives and characters of the Santa Fe Trail era and the early settlers of the region. Members also enjoyed the collection old photographs Lee displayed. The Russells have joined the chapter and SFTA.

Scott Burgan is putting together a committee to work on the brochure, and anyone interested in helping is asked to contact him at 355-7763. Historian Beverly Lyle requests that a copy of any literature, publications, or articles you may have or find be given to her to be kept in the chapter archives. The Lyles have been doing a Trail display at the Central Library each March and are looking for photos, maps, or anything suitable for display. Contact her a 353-2559.

On February 4, Keith Latham, chapter member who is also a part of a reenactment military detachment, will discuss the life and times of the military man during the Trail years, at the Amarillo Central Library (meeting room B), 2:30-4:30 p.m.

#### Wagonbed Spring

President Ed Lewis  
602 E San Jacinto  
Ulysses, KS 67880  
(316) 356-2141

Harry Myers, superintendent of Fort Union National Monument and chairman of the 175th anniversary committee, was guest speaker at the January 11 meeting at Ulysses, KS. He talked about "Folklore on the Trail."

Ed Lewis presided at the business meeting, and read notes left by visitors at the site, commenting on Wagonbed Spring. He also presented the 1996 agenda for guided tours to the site in celebration of the 175th anniversary.

The first tour will be February 10, weather permitting. On April 20-21 a tour of the spring and the Jedediah Smith monument will take place. May 18 is the date of the guided wildflower tour.

Ulysses Postmaster Rene Garcia spoke on a pictorial or a historical cancellation on envelopes in honor of the 175th anniversary.

Steve Hayward exhibited a carsonite marker that could be used with the NPS logo to mark the Trail in Grant and Stevens counties. These markers are used along highways near bridges with a yellow rectangle at the top where a NPS logo would be placed. The members present agreed on that

(continued on page 24)



# CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES for the 175th ANNIVERSARY of the SANTA FE TRAIL

Compiled by Harry C. Myers,

Santa Fe Trail Association and National Park Service 175th Coordinator

(505) 425-8025, Fax (505) 454-1155

Please call the listed numbers to confirm dates, times, activities, and the latest information on each event. The 175th anniversary celebration will continue through the September 1997 symposium.

## 1996

**February 10 - Ulysses (Grant County), KS, Wagonbed Spring Chapter:** Guided tour of the Santa Fe Trail starting 1:00 pm at the Civic Center. Annual Coin and Gun Show & Juried Art Show at the Civic Center. Contact Grant County Chamber of Commerce, 115 W Grant, Ulysses, KS 67880 (316) 356-4700.

**March 30 - Las Cruces, NM, Sesquicentennial Symposium:** An examination of the effect of the capture of New Mexico in 1846. Contact Dona Ana County Historical Society, 500 North Water Street, Las Cruces, NM, 88001-1224 (505) 522-1194.

**April - National Frontier Trails Center, Independence, MO:** Special activities during the month, call (816) 325-7577.

**April 18-20 - Las Vegas, NM, Historical Society of NM annual conference:** New Mexico Highlands University Campus. Papers and sessions on the history of the 175th of the Santa Fe Trail and the 150th of the Army of the West and the Invasion of New Mexico. (505) 827-7332.

**April 20 - Independence, MO, Missouri River Outfitters Chapter:** Bus Tour of the Santa Fe Trail from Fort Osage to Kansas Line. Meet at the Square in Independence. Cost and time to be determined. (816) 230-7228.

**April 20-21 - Ulysses (Grant County), KS, Wagonbed Spring Chapter:** Guided tours of the Jedediah Smith Monument and Wagonbed Spring. Chamber of Commerce Spring Fling at the Civic Center. (316) 356-4700.

**April 26-28 - Las Vegas, NM, Early days on the Santa Fe Trail:** Reenactors, crafts persons, and others recreate the early New Mexican life along the Santa Fe Trail in Las Vegas. (505) 425-3591.

**May 11-12 - El Rancho de las Golondrinas, NM, Civil War along the Santa Fe Trail:** 15 mi. south of Santa Fe, NM. Recreations of the battle of Glorieta Pass which held New Mexico for the Union in the Civil War. (505) 471-2261.

**May 18 - Ulysses (Grant County), KS, Wagonbed Spring Chapter:** Guided wildflower tours at Wagonbed Spring. High Plains Art Festival and High Plains Safari at the Grant County Museum. (316) 356-4700.

**May 19 - Ulysses (Grant County), KS, Wagonbed Spring Chapter:** Last Wagon Train of the 20th Century. (316) 356-4700.

**May 25-27 - Queen City Rendezvous, Independence, MO:** The Santa Fe Trail is celebrated through a mid-1800s encampment, blacksmith demonstrations, spinners, leather crafters, and other skilled artisans recreate a time when Independence was the departure site for the West. (816) 3325-7111.

**May 25-27 - Santa Fe Trail Days, Larned, KS:** The largest living-history weekend at Fort Larned, with parade, crafts, gunfights, games, and shows in Larned. (800) 747-6919

**May 31 - Santa Fe Trail Bus Tour, Boise City, OK:** Santa Fe Trail sites that are not normally open to the public will be open to the bus tour. Held in conjunction with **Santa Fe Trail Daze, May 30-June 2**, which features activities for the family, with a Santa Fe Trail theme. Contact Debbie Crews, Box 1027, Boise City, OK, (405) 544-3344.

**May 30-June 1 - Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous 1996, Santa**

**Fe Trail Center, Larned, KS, & Fort Larned NHS:** The 150th anniversary of the March of the Army of the West will be celebrated and examined at this biennial meeting. (316) 285-2054.

**June-August - The Indian Trade, Koshare Indian Museum, La Junta, CO:** A special exhibit of actual articles traded at Bent's Fort and other items of the Indian trade in the early 1800s. Indian dance performances also take place every Friday and Saturday evening throughout the summer. (800) 693-5482.

**June 3 - Kansas State Historical Society, Santa Fe Trail (KSHS, SFT) Program Series, Prairie Village, KS:** From the Trail Ruts, Voices and Music, 7:00 pm, Harmon Park, 7805 Delmar. (913) 381-6464.

**June 4 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Kansas City, MO:** A Trail of Commerce and Conflict, 7:00 pm, Alexander Majors Historical Museum, 8201 State Line Road. (816) 333-5556.

**June 5 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Fairway, KS:** Tastes and Tales of the Trail, 7:00pm, Shawnee Mission State Historical Site, 3403 W. 53d. (913) 262-0867.

**June 6 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Olathe, KS:** The Great Campground, 7:00 pm, Lone Elm Campground, 167th St & Lone Elm Road. (816) 333-5556.

**June 7 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Edgerton, KS:** A Prairie Adventure, 7:00 pm, Lanesfield School & Museum, 187th & Dillie Road. (913) 631-6709.

**June 8 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Baldwin, KS:** Maid Marion of the Santa Fe Trail, 7:00 pm, driving tour at 2:00 pm, potluck at 6:00 pm, Black Jack Park, 1½ miles east of Baldwin City. (913) 594-3411.

**June 8 - Santa Fe Trail Festival, Trinidad, CO:** Traditional artists and living-history demonstrations, music, dance, storytelling, drama, Hispanic folk arts, tours of historic sites, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. (719) 846-7217.

**June 8-9 - National Frontier Trails Center, Independence, MO:** Mexican War dragoons, Santa Fe traders, special pictorial stamp cancellation, and an exhibit of Santa Fe Trail drawings by William James Hinchey in 1854. (816) 325-7577.

**June 8-9 - Rails and Trails Days, Las Vegas, NM:** Celebration of the the heritage of Las Vegas, the Santa Fe Trail, and the coming of the railroad. (505) 425-8631.

**June 9 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Overbrook, KS:** Ridgeway Along the Trail, 7:00 pm, Simmons Point, 8 miles east on Hwy 56. (913) 665-7143.

**June 9-16 - Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous, NRA Whittington Center, NM:** South of Raton, NM, at Coal Canyon. The life of mountain men and Santa Fe traders is recreated during this week-long celebration of life 150 years ago. (505) 445-3615.

**June 10 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Scranton, KS:** 110 Mile Creek: The McGee-Harris Crossing, 7:00 pm, 3 miles east, Hwys 75 & 56. (913) 828-4844.

**June 11 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Burlingame, KS:** Burlingame, Its History on the Santa Fe Trail, 7:00 pm, Main Street. (913) 654-3587.

**June 12 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Harveyville, KS:** Wilmington and its Place on the Santa Fe Trail, 7:00 pm, 2½ miles south on Hwy 31. (316) 767-5410.

**June 13 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Allen, KS:** Remembering the Past, 7:00 pm, 142 Mile Creek Crossing, 4 miles NE of Allen. (316) 767-5410.

**June 14-16 - Wah-Shun-Gah Days, Council Grove, KS:**

Fourteenth annual celebration with pow-wow, parade, carnival, flea market, craft show, historical demonstrations, and celebration of 175 years of the Trail. (316) 767-5882.

**June 14 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Council Grove, KS:** The Rendezvous Relived, 7:00 pm, The Stone Barn, 1 mile east of Council Grove on Hwy 56. (316) 767-5410.

**June 15 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Council Grove, KS:** Conversations with the Kaw, 7:00 pm, The Kaw Mission, 500 North Mission. (316) 767-5410.

**June 16 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Diamond Spring, KS:** The Diamond of the Plains, 7:00 pm, 4 miles west of Wilsey corner on Hwy 56. (316) 767-5410.

**June 16 - Las Vegas, NM, Becknell-Gallego Meeting Reenactment:** Restaging of the initial 1821 encounter on the Trail. (505) 454-0683.

**June 17 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Lost Springs, KS:** The Mystery of the Lost Springs, 7:00 pm, 2½ miles west of Lost Springs. (316) 947-3506.

**June 18 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Durham, KS:** Maid Marion of the Santa Fe Trail, carry-in picnic at the ruts, 6:00 pm, Cottonwood Crossing, 1 mile west of Durham. (316) 947-3506.

**June 19 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Canton, KS:** Chisholm Trail Crossing on the Santa Fe Trail, 7:00 pm, 3 miles east of Canton on Hwy 56. (316) 947-3506.

**June 20 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Maxwell Wildlife Preserve, KS:** Kansas Prairie Wildlife, 7:00 pm, Tram rides and buffalo suppers available by reservation, 8 miles north of Canton. (316) 628-4455.

**June 21 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Elyria, KS:** The Sibley Survey & Indian Treaty, 7:00 pm, ¼ mile east on Hwy B1. (316) 257-3941.

**June 22 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, McPherson, KS:** The Little Arkansas Crossing Tour, 7:00 pm, Stone Corral, 5 miles south on Plum Road & ½ miles west. (316) 257-3941.

**June 22 - Fort Union National Monument, NM:** The normally closed First Fort Union, 1851-1862, will be open to the public for guided tours. This is the only day of the year visitors have the opportunity to tour this site. (505) 425-8025.

**June 22-23 - Bullwhacker Days, Olathe, KS:** Celebration of Santa Fe Trail heritage of the 1860s with demonstrations, music, crafts, games, and horse-drawn rides at the Historic Mahaffie Farmstead. (913) 782-6972.

**June 23 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Lyons, KS:** Artifacts from the Trail, 7:00 pm, Coronado Quivira Museum, 105 West Lyon. (316) 257-3941.

**June 24 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Chase, KS:** My One-half Mile of the Santa Fe Trail, 7:00 pm, Ralph's Ruts, 4 miles west and ¾ miles north of Chase. (316) 257-3941.

**June 25 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Ellinwood, KS:** Military Attire on the Trail, 7:00 pm, Ellinwood Community Building, west of the water tower. (316) 257-3941.

**June 26 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Great Bend, KS:** Archeology of Fort Zarah, 7:00 pm, Barton County Historical Museum, ½ miles south on Hwy 281. Tour at 5:00 pm, meet at Fort Zarah Park, Hwy 56 east of Great Bend. (316) 257-3941.

**June 27 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Pawnee Rock, KS:** The Great Wart on the Plains, 7:00 pm, ½ mile north of Pawnee Rock. (316) 982-4522 after 5 pm.

**June 28 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Larned, KS:** Sibley's Camp, 6:30 pm, 502 West 2d St, Larned. Here the U.S. survey team of the Santa Fe Trail camped on August 31, 1825. Reenactors present a program on the Santa Fe Trail survey and this site. (316) 285-2054.

**June 29 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Fort Larned National Historic Site, Larned, KS:** Conflict on the Santa Fe Trail is explored through living history reenactors, 1:00-5:00 pm. Guest speaker at 2:00 pm. (316) 285-2054.

**June 29-30 - Mahaffie Farmstead & Stagecoach Stop Historic Site, Olathe, KS:** Bullwhacker Days, 10:00 am to 7:00 pm on 29th, noon to 5:00 pm on 30th. (913) 782-6972.

**June 30 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, KS:** Boyd's Rancho, speaker at 2:00 pm, a special exhibit of photos, slides, and images of Boyd's Rancho will be on display. (316) 285-2054.

**July 1 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Kinsley, KS:** Battle of Coon Creek, 6:30 pm, two miles east of Kinsley. (316) 285-2054.

**July 2 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Kinsley, KS:** The Big Rut, 6:30 pm, five miles NW of Kinsley. Program illustrated by photographic slides of Santa Fe Trail ruts and the many different appearances they make. (316) 285-2054.

**July 3 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Offerle, KS:** Gabriel's Barbecue, 6:30 pm, 10 miles south of Offerle. Members of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter will present a program on this Indian engagement. (316) 285-2054.

**July 4 - Hispanic Fiestas, Las Vegas, NM:** A celebration of the early days in New Mexico. (505) 425-8829.

**July 4 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Dodge City, KS:** Walking Tour of Fort Dodge, 7:00 pm, Fort Dodge 2 miles east on Hwy 154. (316) 225-8186.

**July 4-7 - Warner Grove on the Black Diamond Angus Ranch, Dodge City, KS:** Rendezvous encampment, 2 miles east to Hwy 283 and 9 miles north on the Ford and Hodge-man county line. Reenactors in a typical 19th-century encampment, focusing on the Santa Fe Trail. Activities include arts and crafts booths, muzzle loaders competition, dutch oven cooking, mountain man skills, and traders peddling their wares. Enjoy the old camp atmosphere of tipis, tents, and early lodgings. (316) 225-8186.

**July 4-7 - Raton Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally, Raton, NM:** Balloon Rally in the mountain town of Raton. Afternoon talks given on the Santa Fe Trail. (800) 638-6161.

**July 5 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Ford, KS:** Voices from the Past Through Their Diaries (Susan Magoffin), 7:00 pm, 1 mile north of Ford. (316) 225-8186.

**July 5-7 - Wagon Rides, Boot Hill Trail Ruts, Dodge City, KS:** nine miles west of Dodge City on US 50, wagon rides available for \$5.00 per person. (316) 225-8186.

**July 6 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Warner Grove, Dodge City, KS:** Trail Personalities from the Past, 7:00 pm, 2 miles east and 9 miles north. (316) 225-8186.

**July 6-7 - Trolley Tours, Dodge City, KS:** Ride the Dodge City Trolley for a narrated tour of sites along the Trail, start at 3rd and Front St, 9:30 am, \$5 per person.

**July 7 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Dodge City, KS:** A Visit to the Ruts, 10:00 am 'til dark, Boot Hill Ruts, 9 miles west on US 50. Certified Santa Fe National Historic Trail Site will have guides available. (316) 225-8186.

**July 8 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Cimarron, KS:** Cimarron Crossing Stories, 7:00 pm, Cimarron Crossing Park. (316) 885-2282.

**July 9 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Garden City, KS:** Maid Marion of the Santa Fe Trail, 7:00 pm, Finney County Historical Museum, 403 South 4th. (316) 272-3664.

**July 10 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Lakin, KS:** The Upper Crossing/Chouteau's Island, 7:00 pm, Kearny County Museum, 101 So. Buffalo. Museum open all day, tour to Indian Mound. (316) 335-7448.

**July 11 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Ulysses, KS:** Horses, Necessary and Useful, 7:00 pm, Fair Grounds Arena, W. Patterson Ave. 1:00 pm, tour museum and Santa Fe Trail. 7:30 pm, Bit & Spur Rodeo at Fair Grounds Arena. (316) 356-4700.

**July 12 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Ulysses, KS:** Tour Wagonbed Spring and Stevens County Museum, 1:00 pm; 7:30 pm, Old Fashioned Cookout at the Wagonbed Spring Site, reservations required. (316) 356-4700.



**July 13 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Elkhart, KS:** Traders & Trials of the Cimarron Route, 7:00 pm, Cimarron National Grassland, 8 miles north on Hwy 27. Wagon rides and a barbecue will also be available. (316) 697-2833.

**July 14 - KSHS, SFT Program Series, Elkhart, KS:** Maid Marion of the Santa Fe Trail, 7:00 pm, and dedication of the Santa Fe Trail Exhibit at the Morton County Museum. (316) 697-4597.

**July 18-20 - Trail Celebration, Springer, NM:** Arts and crafts festival, mural art project, trail ride, chuckwagon dinner, street dance, etc. (505) 483-2998.

**July 19-20 - Springer, NM, Santa Fe Trail Culture:** A Santa Fe Trail horse ride between Wagon Mound and the Rock Crossing, barbecue, and street dance. Reservations for trail ride are first come-first served; must provide own horse, etc. (505) 483-2998.

**July 19-21 - Lakin, (Kearny County), KS:** Rodeo, street dance, parade, Trail ride, and special activities at the museum. (316) 355-7448.

**July 19-28 - 175th Anniversary Tour of the Santa Fe Trail, Smithsonian Associates:** Leo Oliva leads this tour of the Trail from Franklin, MO, to Santa Fe, NM. Contact Amy Ritchie (202) 357-4800 ext. 220.

**July 20 - Mahaffie Farmstead & Stagecoach Stop Historic Site, Olathe, KS:** Living Lifestyles on the Santa Fe Trail, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. (913) 782-6972.

**July 20-21 - Fort Union National Monument, NM, Cultural Encounters on the Santa Fe Trail:** A living-history exposition of the cultures one would encounter on the Santa Fe Trail and their contributions to the Trail. (505) 425-8025.

**July 20-21 - Melvern Lake, KS, 1846 Speyers & Webb Expedition to Santa Fe living-history program,** contact Ken Wilk (913) 549-3318.

**July 25-30 - Mountain Route Tour:** Auto tour along Mountain Route from Lamar, CO, to Cimarron, NM. Contact Lolly Ming, 1841 Co Rd DD, Pritchett, CO 81064; Paula Manini, PO Box 472, Trinidad, CO 81082, (719) 846-7217; Raton Chamber of Commerce, (800) 638-6161.

**August 1-4 - Santa Fe Trail Days, Marshall, MO:** Crafts, entertainment, bicycle ride, and a chuckwagon dinner celebrate the Trail. (816) 848-2288.

**August 3 - Las Vegas, NM, 7th Annual Places with a Past Historic Building Tour:** A rare opportunity to see and tour buildings connected with Las Vegas' past, including Santa Fe Trail era structures and those related to the commerce of the prairies. (505) 425-8803.

**August 7-11 - Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe, NM:** Mountain Man Rendezvous and Trade Fair. (505) 827-6473.

**August 10 - Mahaffie Farmstead & Stagecoach Stop Historic Site, Olathe, KS:** Old Fashioned Fair, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. (913) 782-6972.

**August 24 - Fort Union National Monument, NM, Evening Tour:** A rare opportunity to tour this historic fort in the evening. Scenes from its historic Santa Fe Trail past will be recreated. Free admission but reservations required. (505) 425-8025.

**August 31-September 2 - SANTA-CALI-GON Days, Independence, MO:** A three-day festival commemorating the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails with arts and crafts, carnival, and more. (816) 252-4745.

**September 1 - Santa Fe Trail Days, New Franklin, MO:** A commemoration of William Becknell's first trip to Santa Fe in 1821, which opened the Santa Fe Trail. (816) 848-2288.

**September 13-15 - Las Vegas, NM, Wildflowers, Music & Arts Festival:** A family-oriented celebration of the music, art, and cuisine of the culturally diverse region of northern New Mexico. (505) 425-8631.

**September 15-October 4 - 7th Santa Fe Trail Bicycle Trek:** From Santa Fe to New Franklin, MO. Contact Willard Chilcott, 885 Camino Del Este, Santa Fe, NM 87501, (505)

982-1282.

**September 16-21 - Kansas Daughters of the American Revolution 175th Anniversary Bus Tour,** from Leavenworth to Dodge City and return. Local guides and speakers, stops at museums, Santa Fe Trail sites, DAR markers, and rededication of first KS DAR marker at Pawnee Indian Village in Republic County. Contact Kim Clair, KSDAR Bus Tour, 1704 Candlewood Dr, Leavenworth, KS 66048.

**September 17 - Ulysses (Grant County), KS, Wagonbed Spring Chapter:** 1:00 pm, tours of Wagonbed Spring Site and Jedediah Smith Monument; 7:00 pm, 34th Annual Home Products Dinner. (316) 356-4700.

**September 20-22 - Santa Fe Trail Arts Festival and Historical Pageant, Council Grove, KS:** Voices of the Wind People. (316) 767-5882.

**September 21 - Santa Fe Trail Festival, Overbrook, KS:** Historical reenactments, music, flea market, crafts, etc. (913) 665-7512.

**October 12 - National Frontier Trails Center, Independence, MO:** A tour of Santa Fe Trail sites between Independence and Olathe is planned. (816) 325-7577.

**November 13 - Las Vegas, NM, Corazón de los Caminos Chapter, Daughter of the American Revolution:** Celebration of Gallego-Becknell Meeting. Dedication of state highway historic marker and DAR monument. (505) 425-8025.

**November 16 - Santa Fe, NM, End of the Trail Chapter:** Becknell Entrada into Santa Fe (reenactment).

**November 23-24 - Ulysses (Grant County), KS, Wagonbed Spring Chapter:** 1:00 pm, tours of the Wagonbed Spring and Jedediah Smith Monument. Riley Arts and Crafts Show. (316) 356-4700.

**December 5 - National Frontier Trails Center, Independence, MO:** Sam Arnold, authority on Santa Fe Trail food, will give a presentation and taste treat. (816) 325-7577.

## 1997

**May 10-18 - New Mexico Heritage Preservation week emphasizing the Santa Fe Trail:** A celebration of the heritage of New Mexico is highlighted at sites all across New Mexico. (505) 827-6320.

**June 21 - Fort Union National Monument, NM:** First Fort Union site open. (505) 425-8025.

**July 19-20 - Fort Union National Monument, NM:** Cultural Encounters. (505) 425-8025.

**August 2-3 - Rancho de las Golondrinas Festival:** South of Santa Fe, NM, life styles of New Mexicans during the Santa Fe Trail period will be depicted. (505) 471-2261.

**August 3 - Las Vegas, NM:** CCHP Places with a Past Historic Buildings Tour. (505) 425-8803

**August 16-17 - Santa Fe, NM, End of Trail Chapter:** Entrada to Santa Fe Plaza, Santa Fe, NM.

**August 23 - Fort Union National Monument, NM:** Evening Tour. (505) 425-8025.

**September 24-28 - Santa Fe Trail Association Biennial Symposium, Cimarron Cutoff Chapter, Elkhart, KS; Boise City, OK; and Clayton, NM.**

## MULTI-YEAR EVENTS

**May-September 1996, Arrow Rock, MO, and Arrow Rock State Historic Site** will hold special events and exhibits commemorating the Santa Fe Trail. Daily guided walking tours of Trail sites including Big Spring, the Old Tavern, and the John P. Sites Gunshop. Friends of Arrow Rock (816) 837-3231; Arrow Rock State Historic Site (816) 837-3330.

**June 1, 1996-October 31, 1997 - El Rancho de las Golondrinas, NM:** Special exhibit, La Junta, Meeting of the Trails, on the Chihuahua Trail (Camino Real) and the Santa Fe Trail, with emphasis on their impact on Santa Fe and its people. This bilingual exhibit will include period artifacts and hands-on activities. Louann Jordan (505) 471-2261.

## NEW MEXICANS, LAS VEGAS, AND THE SANTA FE TRAIL

by Maurillo E. Vigil

(Dr. Vigil is professor of political science at New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas. He is active in the National Social Science Association and the National Association of Chicano Studies. Vigil is the author of several books on Hispanic political behavior, including *Los Patronos: Profiles of Hispanic Political Leaders in New Mexico History*, 1980, and *Hispanics in American Politics: The Search for Political Power*, 1987, both published by the University Press of America. He also co-authored, with Michael Olsen and Roy Lujan, *New Mexico Government and Politics*, University Press of America, 1990. The following article was presented at the New Mexico Highlands University Conference "From Zia to Wagonwheel: New Mexicans and the Santa Fe Trade," in August 1990.)

ONE of the most fascinating images of the early history of Las Vegas is the picture of Las Vegans welcoming "la caravana," the caravans of the Santa Fe Trail, as they entered the dusty, isolated hamlet after two or more months' travel over the plains from Missouri. During its early years, Las Vegas was regarded by many people as synonymous with the Santa Fe Trail, not only because its early development and growth were spurred by the Trail, but also because some of the most prominent New Mexico businessmen associated with the Santa Fe Trail were from Las Vegas.

This article examines the intimate relationship between New Mexicans, Las Vegas, and the Santa Fe Trail. It will show that, while the Santa Fe Trail was begun by merchants coming from and returning to Missouri, it later became an enterprise of New Mexicans whose caravans traveled east to Missouri and returned to New Mexico with products to supply local stores. This commerce enhanced the growth and economic development of many New Mexico communities and also gave rise to some of the principal mercantile companies in the Southwest.

Some people are surprised to learn that the traffic of the Trail preceded by over a decade the establishment of a permanent settle-

ment at Las Vegas. The first wagon trains led by pioneer merchants, such as William Becknell, saw only the dense large *vegas* or meadows that later caused the town to be called Las Vegas.

Baptiste La Lande in 1804 and James Pursley in 1805 were perhaps the first Anglo-American traders to travel across the plains to New Mexico, but it was the expedition of Captain Zebulon M. Pike that stimulated interest in trade with New Mexico.<sup>1</sup> However, early efforts of imaginative pioneer traders who sought to transport hardware, textiles, and other manufactured goods to New Mexico were frustrated by hostile Spanish officials who arrested the interlopers and confiscated their wares.<sup>2</sup>

When Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821, trade soon opened with the U.S. Becknell, who became known as the "Father of the Trail," arrived in Santa Fe shortly after Mexican independence. He was warmly welcomed and received a handsome profit for his small supply of goods. Becknell led a second expedition the following year when he used wagons and followed a different route. On his return to Missouri he apparently traveled what became the main wagon road between Missouri and Santa Fe, later known as the Cimarron Route.<sup>3</sup>

Traffic on the Trail increased as word spread of Becknell's success and of the friendlier posture of Mexican officials. Between 1831 and 1840 Josiah Gregg, a physician turned merchant, made several trips on the Trail, and his *Commerce of the Prairies* became the most important history and first-hand account of the adventures and perils of the Santa Fe Trail.

Gregg, referring to the present site of Las Vegas, recounted that he came across a small sheep ranch on the Gallinas and secured some goat's milk and curdle cheese from a Mexican.<sup>4</sup> The *ranchero* may have been a son of Luis Maria Cabeza de Baca, the original recipient of a land grant for Las Vegas in 1821, or Miguel Romero, who claimed to have built a cabin and farmed on the Gallinas as early as 1833.

The original port of entry in New

Mexico for the Santa Fe Trail was the village of San Miguel del Vado. This village was settled in 1794 by 52 families, including Hispano settlers from Santa Fe and Pena Blanca and some *genizaros* (Indians cast out of their tribes because of their conversion to Christianity and Spanish culture). The San Miguel Grant, consisting of 315,000 acres, included rich farmland along the Pecos River and was named for its patron saint, San Miguel, and the village was located at the the popular ford (*vado*) on the Pecos River.

As the principal community east of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, San Miguel was the seat of government for the eastern New Mexico region and later gave its name to the first *condado* (county) established for the area. It was also headquarters for a company of militia stationed there beginning in 1808 and responsible for the defense of San Miguel and other settlements against Indian attacks and foreign intrusions. San Miguel also spawned other settlements in the region, including San Jose (1803), Tecolote (1824), Anton Chico (1824), and Las Vegas (1835), with the Alcalde from San Miguel usually presiding over the ceremony placing the grant recipients in possession of their land. In 1839 a visitor estimated the population of San Miguel to be about 1,500, a growth no doubt enhanced by the early commerce on the Santa Fe Trail.

Early visitors to San Miguel commented on the diligence of the Mexican farmers, the well-tended and productive fields, and the favorable appearance of the town.<sup>5</sup> By the 1840s, however, San Miguel would yield to its own offspring, especially Las Vegas, its role as the New Mexico port of entry and commercial center of the trade with the U.S.

The town of Las Vegas was officially founded on April 6, 1835, on the west bank of the Gallinas River by some 29 colonists from San Miguel del Vado. Among reasons given by the Las Vegas settlers to the Mexican government in support of their request for land were the crowded conditions in San Miguel. However, even after 1835 the site was vacated for some peri-



ods due to Indian raids. The first permanent settlement of Las Vegas, it appears, was in the summer of 1837 or 1838 when the first stone and adobe structures were built in what is now the plaza. By 1838 approximately 30 families had settled in Las Vegas and by 1840, according to an early historian, H. T. Wilson, "Las Vegas assumed the appearance of quite an important little settlement [although] mostly of poor farmers."<sup>6</sup>

Although most of the original Las Vegas settlers were poor, they were joined in succeeding years by more affluent settlers such as the Bacas, the Lopezes, the Romeros, and the Delgados who brought better farming equipment and herds of sheep and cattle. In 1840 a new settlement in "upper Las Vegas" was started and joined the lower Las Vegas community. Both communities were agricultural and pastoral in nature, with the villagers busy building homes, constructing *acequias* (ditches), planting their crops, planting orchards, and tending their livestock.

After 1838 Las Vegas became a regular stopping point for the wagons of the Santa Fe Trail. Initially, only a few wagons made the trek from Independence, Missouri. Later, however, the number of wagons and caravans increased and the point of embarkation was Santa Fe, Las Vegas, or other New Mexico communities as often as Independence, Missouri. In 1835, for example, 75 wagons hauled an estimated \$140,000 in goods. By 1843 the value of goods had risen to \$250,000, and by 1855 the annual haul was estimated at about half a million dollars.<sup>7</sup>

Thus, in 1840, Las Vegas, standing right in the path of the Santa Fe Trail, was on the verge of being transformed by the very wagons that were heading toward Santa Fe. At first the wagons used Las Vegas as a temporary stopover to rest the weary travelers and animals. Later more and more wagons unloaded their wares in the various mercantile houses which emerged and which, in turn, distributed the goods to other points in New Mexico territory.

To the settlers of Las Vegas, the arrival of "la caravana" (the caravan) marked an occasion for celebration. F. Stanley in his history of Las Vegas wrote that the community sent out scouts to look for incoming caravans, and the news that one was close by was an-

nounced by ringing of the church bell. At this alarm, carts laden with fresh fruits and vegetables sped out to meet the caravan with the winner given first option at selling his goods to the wagoners who were starved for these items.<sup>8</sup> Dr. Lynn Perrigo wrote that after Las Vegas became active on the Trail, young men would ride out to meet the wagons and relieve their fathers so that the men could return to the village, clean up, and rest for the *fandango* (dance) that celebrated the arrival of the wagon train in Las Vegas.<sup>9</sup>

The Las Vegas the Anglo wagoners saw, especially in the earliest days, did not impress them, as was related in the diaries of travelers. W. W. H. Davis who visited in the 1850s described it as a "dirty mud town of some seven hundred inhabitants."<sup>10</sup> Understandably, the one-story adobe dwellings situated around a dusty plaza were a typical picture of a frontier New Mexico village and a far cry from the cosmopolitan appearance of cities such as St. Louis in the 1850s.

Nonetheless, the Santa Fe Trail soon became the economic life blood of Las Vegas. Although there were several routes of the Santa Fe Trail network, the one most used approached Las Vegas from Watrous, north of Las Vegas at the junction of the Mora and Sapello rivers. The Trail approached Las Vegas from the mesa east of the town and turned westward on a roadway around the hill where the university is presently located. It crossed the Gallinas River near the present bridge and proceeded west by way of *El Camino Nacional* (national road).

This road, which later became Bridge Street, got its original name from the Santa Fe Trail which was considered an extension of the "Old National Highway" of the east. The Trail entered the plaza from the east side. The Trail left Las Vegas through a road on the southwest side of the plaza where South Pacific is now located. It veered southward toward the creston (the hills on the west side) and through *el puertecito* (small gap) later known as the Kearny Gap and on to Tecolote, San Miguel del Vado, San Jose, Pecos, and Santa Fe.<sup>11</sup>

In the early years, as indicated, Las Vegas were content to sell the wagoners fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, milk, and cheese. Much of the exchange was in bar-

ter, with the wagoners providing hardware such as traps, knives, axes, and hatchets, as well as fabrics sorely needed by the local population. The caravans then began to provide seasonal employment for men, young and old, who signed on as wagon drivers, teamsters, bullwhackers, or laborers. Others tended the livestock in the corrals near the plaza.<sup>12</sup> By 1850 the Las Vegas plaza was completely surrounded with buildings and the population had grown to about 1,000.<sup>13</sup>

Over the next two decades, as the village prospered, some of the more enterprising residents realized the potential value of the commerce provided by the Trail and took steps to share in the profits. Some simply diversified their farming and stock-raising activities by opening a mercantile store. Others concentrated their energies on commercial enterprises, expanding to other villages in the region. Even their approach to commerce varied. Some local merchants opened a mercantile store and purchased goods at wholesale from independent freighters on the Trail while other merchants supplied their own stores with hardware and fabrics shipped in their own wagons. As this occurred, the pastoral nature of Las Vegas changed and it began to acquire the appearance of a commercial center. The plaza, originally surrounded by private homes, was slowly transformed with the development of general mercantile stores.

Of the native Las Vegas entrepreneurs, Miguel Romero and his sons were most notable because of the important role they played in the development of Las Vegas. Miguel Romero, who originally came to Las Vegas as a farmer, was one of the first to appreciate the commercial importance of the Trail. In 1851 he purchased wagons and oxen from traders who had come from Missouri and took to the Trail with his oldest sons, Trinidad and Eugenio. Miguel and his two sons operated a mercantile store on the plaza.<sup>14</sup> Miguel had built a 23-room mansion in the northeast corner of the plaza from which he supervised his business, farming, and ranching ventures.<sup>15</sup> The family partnership lasted for several years until the elder Romero retired, and the two oldest sons branched out on their own.

Trinidad and Eugenio joined in a partnership and ran a store on the

south side of the plaza.<sup>16</sup> The third son, Hilario, also took to the Trail and opened a mercantile on the east side of the plaza in partnership with another brother, Benigno. Thus, at one time in the 1860s and/or 1870s, the Romero brothers operated competing mercantile stores on the east and south blocks of the plaza.<sup>17</sup> Another brother, Margarito, emulated his father and brothers and became perhaps the most successful in the mercantile business, and he continued to operate the Romero Mercantile store on the southwest corner of the plaza into the 20th century. The youngest Romero, Benigno, in addition to the mercantile business, became famous for his pharmaceutical skill, having invented and marketed his own medicinal tonic known as "*La Sanadora*" (the cure-all).<sup>18</sup>

All the brothers emulated their father's versatility by diversifying their economic enterprises. In addition to his mercantile store, Trinidad owned and operated a large sheep and cattle ranch in El Puertecito, a grant which he acquired in 1875. Romero built a two-story mansion on the site which became known as Romeroville. In this splendid home with a large ballroom and 32 rooms paneled in walnut and decorated with ornately carved wood furniture freighted from Missouri, Trinidad entertained the elite of New Mexico society and such visiting national dignitaries as Presidents Ulysses Grant and Rutherford B. Hayes and General William Sherman.<sup>19</sup> Trinidad was also active in Republican party politics. He served as probate judge, was a member of the territorial legislature, and served as New Mexico delegate to Congress from 1877 to 1879.<sup>20</sup>

Eugenio Romero, as noted, joined his father and brother in the freight business on the Santa Fe Trail. In 1855 when Eugenio was 18 years old he accompanied his maternal grandfather, Manuel Delgado, on a freighting expedition to Missouri. On the return trip home, Manuel Delgado died of heat stroke, and Eugenio wrapped and buried the body near the present site of Great Bend, Kansas. A year later, on another expedition, Eugenio exhumed the body and returned it to Las Vegas for reburial. To preserve it from further decay and presumably for fumigation, whiskey was poured over the body until they arrived in Las

Vegas.<sup>21</sup>

On another trip to Missouri, Eugenio's caravan was attacked by a group of Indians. Eugenio captured one young Navajo Indian boy whom he took into his home and named him Juan. Juan Romero remained devoted to his adoptive father and was at his bedside when he died in 1929.<sup>22</sup>

Eugenio retained his interest in the mercantile business but later diversified into construction. He was one of the suppliers of railroad ties for the railroad when it built into New Mexico in 1879. At one time he operated lumber yards and stores in Santa Fe, Estancia, Moriarty, Duran, and Vaughn. Eugenio was also a leading politician, having served as Las Vegas mayor in 1882 and later held such county offices as sheriff, assessor, treasurer, territorial representative, and delegate to the state constitutional convention. Two of Eugenio's sons, Secundino and Cleofas, continued their father's political legacy in San Miguel County.<sup>23</sup>

In addition to his mercantile business, Hilario won a reputation as one of San Miguel County's most respected and courageous sheriffs, an office he held for three terms in the turbulent period of the 1880s and 1890s in Las Vegas.

Margarito also used his mercantile operation as a basis for other endeavors including the development of a resort and lumber mill in El Porvenir. He was also active in politics as the mayor of the town of Las Vegas, county treasurer, and delegate to the state constitutional convention.

Benigno Romero established the Romero Drug Company, a wholesale and retail drug outlet which served the entire northeastern New Mexico region. He also was the organizer of the development firm which constructed the Plaza Hotel which still stands in the Las Vegas Plaza. Benigno was an early advocate for the mentally ill and was instrumental in the establishment of the state mental hospital in Las Vegas.<sup>24</sup>

In addition to the Romeros, other Hispanos from Las Vegas known to have participated in the Santa Fe trade were Francisco Lopez<sup>25</sup> and the aforementioned Manuel Delgado. Hispanos from Santa Fe and other New Mexico communities also participated in the Trail commerce, either as freighters who transported goods to be sold at

wholesale prices to merchants or as merchants who preferred to run their own wagons to supply their mercantile stores. The extent of their participation also varied with some large entrepreneurs running their own caravan of 20 to 40 wagons and others providing a few wagons which joined a larger wagon train.

Francisco Perea of Bernalillo and Santa Fe became a frequent traveler and merchant on the Santa Fe Trail. After receiving his early education in Bernalillo and Santa Fe, Perea attended the Jesuit College in St. Louis from 1843 to 1845. He then studied in the Bank Street Academy in New York for two years. In 1850 he returned to New Mexico and engaged in the Santa Fe Trade. He would purchase large quantities of tools, hardware, and related supplies in Independence and St. Louis, Missouri, and return to New Mexico where he would sell his goods at different points along the Trail. Perea also drove large herds of sheep to California and the meat-starved markets of the gold rush region. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Perea became an outspoken advocate for the Union cause in New Mexico. He even recruited enough volunteers to form a battalion for which he was commissioned a lieutenant colonel and placed in command of the fort in Albuquerque. He and his troops participated in the decisive battle at Apache Canyon which resulted in the defeat of the Confederates, leading to their expulsion from New Mexico. In politics, Perea went on to serve in the Territorial Council (Senate) and was later elected as New Mexico's delegate to Congress and served from 1863 to 1865.<sup>26</sup>

Tomas Romero of Mora was one entrepreneur who specialized in freighting and whose fortune was made on the Trail. Aniceta Romero Jones recalled in an interview that her brother, Tomas Romero, purchased three wagons and hauled goods for merchants in Mora and Las Vegas. In his early trips he joined a larger caravan. Later as his profits increased he bought more wagons and had a full "tren" of his own.

Romero described how local preparations for the trip began several weeks in advance. The oxen and saddle horses were fattened on a grain diet in preparation for the long haul to Independence, Missouri. Wagons were overhauled, worn parts were replaced, and new



wheels fitted. Weapons were cleaned and a generous supply of ammunition was stored in the wagons. Shortly before departure "a large amount of bread was baked for use in the first days of travel." Wheat flour was obtained and packed in the wagons for making bread and tortillas along the way. *Carne seca* (jerky) was packed in large wooden boxes. Other food packed included dried vegetables, salt, sugar, and coffee. Clean clothes, medicine, whiskey, soap, and grain for the livestock were also packed. A full day was spent loading the supplies on the wagons. Those items to be used first, such as bed rolls, were packed last and everything was systematically arranged for convenience and accessibility during the trip. After everything was packed and secured, the large canvas tops were stretched over each wagon. The oxen were hitched and amid emotional and tearful goodbyes the wagon train was on its way. The trail boss and other guards were mounted on horses in front, back, and alongside the train. As days and weeks passed, the family received reports of the caravan from travelers making the westward trip. On their arrival at Independence or wherever the eastern terminus was at the time, several weeks were spent securing the designated merchandise, resupplying, and outfitting the wagons for the return trip. After several weeks on the return trip one of the riders sent ahead would arrive in the village with news that the caravan was a few days out. Friends and family would meet the caravan at Watrous with fresh food and a joyous reunion was had. The wagon train was then escorted home.<sup>27</sup>

In his research, Perrigo uncovered some accounts describing actual conditions faced by the wagoners on the Trail. The round trips usually required over two months travel in daytime in heat and dust through seemingly endless plains. The elements such as rain and winds made the voyage even more intolerable as the wagons became mired in mud or the wind created enormous dust storms which blinded animals and drivers. At night, the wagons were drawn into a circle, ideally near a watering place.

Trail hands usually bedded down on the ground since wagons were full. Indians posed the danger of attack, but most of the time they

were more of a nuisance as they rode alongside of the wagons bartering for whiskey or food. Along the Trail were occasional reminders of past disasters. A cross or a pile of rocks marked the grave of a wagoner who had died of sickness, accident, Indian attack, or some other misfortune. Once on a crossing over Raton Pass one train of freight wagons lost many mules and oxen, forcing the abandonment of wagons laden with valuable merchandise. Another caravan ran out of corn and fodder and animals were left dying along the Trail.<sup>28</sup>

Several non-Hispanic merchants settled in Las Vegas during the heyday of the Santa Fe Trail and their enterprises enhanced both their own personal fortunes and the growth of Las Vegas. In 1849, Michel Des Marais, a French-Canadian, and his wife Deluvian (Vigil, formerly of Taos) moved into a house on the east side of the Las Vegas plaza. Des Marais and his friends, Carlos Beaubien and Ceran St. Vrain, had come to New Mexico to trap beaver. Whether Des Marais himself engaged in freighting goods on the Trail is not known, but he operated a small mercantile store on the plaza in the 1850s and 1860s, so he surely relied on freighting on the Trail to replenish his stocks.<sup>29</sup> A recently discovered ledger of the Des Marais store contains a record of credit which Des Marais granted to St. Vrain, Beaubien, and other famous New Mexicans of the period.<sup>30</sup> Dr. Henry Connelly and E. F. Mitchell built the Exchange Hotel and its barroom, known as the Buffalo Hall, in 1852. The hotel became a favorite resting place and watering hole for trail-weary travelers as well as a regular crowd of local politicians, businessmen, cattlemen, and gamblers. The hotel had stables in the back for boarding animals. Shortly thereafter Frank O. Kihlberg began freighting on the Santa Fe Trail and opened a general mercantile store on the north side of the plaza.

In 1862 Emanuel Rosenwald from Bavaria opened an imposing two-storied mercantile store on the south side of the plaza.<sup>31</sup> This store, featuring an upstairs balcony, set the tone for later buildings on the plaza. It and other buildings on the south side burned down in a disastrous fire in 1977, and all of the buildings were replaced with modern structures.

Charles Blanchard arrived in Las Vegas from Montreal in 1864. He took a job as a clerk in the Las Vegas store and in 1865 moved to Rio Bonito (now Lincoln) New Mexico. By 1868 he returned to Las Vegas and signed on as wagon-master of an ox train operating between Fort Union, New Mexico, and Fort Harker on the Smoky Hill Trail in Kansas. At Ellsworth, Kansas, the owner exchanged the entire crew for a mule outfit made up of sixty-seven mules, twelve wagons and two horses, accompanied by twelve men. On the return trip this wagon train was captured by a large party of Cheyenne Indians. Blanchard made a successful escape, however, and eventually settled in Las Vegas. There he opened a mercantile store on the south side of the plaza which he operated for 26 years. Blanchard became a successful wool dealer and opened branch stores in Socorro, Carthage, and San Miguel. Blanchard also took part in San Miguel politics, serving as county treasurer and county judge.<sup>32</sup>

Other prominent merchants who operated substantial mercantile businesses on the Las Vegas plaza in the 1860s and 1870s and who either freighted their own goods or engaged private freighters on the Santa Fe Trail included Charles Emil Wesche, John and Andres Dold, and Marcus Brunswick.<sup>33</sup>

However, of all the merchants of this era of Las Vegas and the Santa Fe Trail, the name of Charles Ifeld is the most enduring. In May of 1867 a burro train filled with merchandise entered the Las Vegas plaza and stopped in front of the Frank Kihlberg store on the north side of the plaza. Workers carefully unloaded the merchandise belonging to Adolph Letcher who had relocated his business from Taos, New Mexico. About one month after the opening of the new store, Letcher formed a partnership with his employee, Charles "Carl" Ifeld, a German Jew who obtained financing from his cousins, Jacob Amberg and Gustave Elsborg, of Santa Fe. From this time (about July 1, 1867) Charles Ifeld managed the company which went on to become one of the most successful mercantile businesses in the western United States. Ifeld purchased Letcher's interest and became sole proprietor on September 14, 1874.<sup>34</sup> The growth and progress of the Charles Ifeld Company was closely tied to the growth

of Las Vegas for the next four decades and to the Santa Fe Trail between 1867 and 1879. Until the latter year (1879) when the railroad reached Las Vegas, Ilfeld freighted his merchandise over the Santa Fe Trail which was shrinking as the railroad moved westward. Ilfeld mastered the intricate problems associated with frontier mercantilism, including market diversity, monetary exchange, and freight costs. According to William Parish in his book, *The Charles Ilfeld Company*, he fit the epitome of the frontier merchant "who exchanged goods for grain to the extent of need . . . then makes a heavy advance upon his goods and profits by selling the grain to the government or those who have contracts with the government."<sup>35</sup> He then used the monetary exchange to purchase goods at wholesale prices to restock his inventory, thus completing the commercial/financial cycle. Parish wrote, "to help finance his grocery and liquor purchases in St. Louis, Ilfeld shipped wool and hides to that center".<sup>36</sup>

Parish also detailed how Ilfeld's investment in wagons shaped his commercial enterprise: "Once the sedentary merchant of the southwest acquired his own wagons and trains he had committed himself more deeply than ever to the practices of mercantile capitalism. Not only did he make markets for local produce for the purpose of acquiring eastern credit and liquidating local accounts; it became necessary for him to find raw materials to fill the empty or partially filled wagons on the light side of the haul. It was costly to pay drivers to accompany trains over long and circuitous routes with only space to pay the freight. . . . The sedentary merchant solved this back hand problem in part through the use of independent freighters who were as reliable as a group of 'boomers' as can be found in history."<sup>37</sup>

Among the many private freighters whom Ilfeld successfully engaged without suffering a single loss were Hispanics such as Felipe Chavez, Francisco Lucero, Aarsiso [Narciso?] Otero, Preciliano Maris [Mares?], and Damacio Baca among others.<sup>38</sup>

Ilfeld also actively pursued contracts to supply the dozen or so military forts in order to provide a source of eastern monetary exchange which was the only acceptable exchange to many of his east-

ern suppliers of merchandise. Ilfeld augmented sales by filling army contracts. As Parish pointed out, "he delivered oats to Fort Craig, beans to Fort Defiance, corn to Fort Wingate and lumber to Fort Union, getting in return the needed money exchange to finance Letcher's (his partner) purchases."<sup>39</sup> Ilfeld was not above profiting from varying prices in precious metals. For example, in 1878, Ilfeld purchased devalued but heavier and full bodied Mexican silver dollars at 80 cents apiece and shipping them east where they could be melted down and taken to the mint to be coined as domestic dollars.<sup>40</sup>

In just over a decade Ilfeld had expanded mercantile operations throughout northern New Mexico by opening branch stores in Tecolote, Watrous, Corona, Pastura, Fort Sumner, Encino, Mountainair, Willard, Roy, and Springer. In 1882 Ilfeld invested \$49,000 to build a stone three-story building on the north side of the Las Vegas Plaza and moved his mercantile headquarters there. In 1890 he built another three-story addition next to the existing building, which doubled his floor space. The combined store housed the grocery department in the basement, dry goods on the first floor, millinery and dress making on the second floor, and furniture on the third floor. By this time, too, Ilfeld had begun to specialize in the processing of wool which he shipped eastward in large quantities as a raw material to generate the capital to purchase manufactured goods for his mercantile operation. To receive the shipments of wool from ranches and to support his considerable inventory of products in the main and branch stores, Ilfeld built three large warehouses on Valencia Street, directly behind the main store on the plaza. In its heyday the Charles Ilfeld Company with its headquarters in the plaza was, as Perrigo called it, the "capital of a remarkable mercantile empire."<sup>41</sup>

While the Santa Fe Trail had been the mother that provided the milk for the growth of mercantile firms in communities such as Las Vegas, the westward movement of the railroad provided unprecedented opportunity for merchants who eagerly abandoned the "mother" in favor of the new conveyance. When one compares freight charges over the Trail with

those offered by the "iron horse" one can understand their rationale. The movement west of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad from Topeka to Burlingame, Kansas, in 1869, to Emporia in 1870, to Newton in 1871, to Hutchinson and Dodge City in 1872, and to Las Animas and La Junta, Colorado, in 1875 meant that the shipping point for goods was moving westward and freight charges between Las Vegas and the succeeding shipping points were reduced. For example, before the railroads were built across Kansas after the Civil War, it had cost 14 cents per pound to ship merchandise by wagon from Leavenworth, Kansas, to Santa Fe. In 1867 when the Union Pacific, Eastern Division, (later known as the Kansas Pacific) built westward to Ellsworth, Kansas, the rate went down to eight cents per pound, and it dropped even more when the line reached Hays City later that same year. In 1868, when that rail line reached Sheridan, Kansas, the rate was two to three cents, and when it reached Kit Carson, Colorado, in 1870, the rate went down to 1.5 cents per pound.<sup>42</sup> For merchants like Ilfeld who relied heavily on private freighters, freight rates were a constant concern, and they welcomed the lower rates which the railroad provided as it moved west. Of course, when the railroad arrived in Las Vegas in 1879, it also brought the competition of new mercantile firms such as Otero, Sellar and Company, and the Browne and Manzanares Company which had been following the railroad westward. Otero, Sellar and Co., in particular, co-founded by Miguel A. Otero of New Mexico, went on to become the Gross Kelly Company, one of the largest wholesale dry goods distributors in the Southwest.<sup>43</sup>

In 1878, perhaps to more effectively compete with the expected arrival of the new mercantile firms which would come with the railroad, Miguel Romero and his sons founded the Romero Mercantile Company, thus consolidating their previously divided mercantile operations. A large two-story building on the south side of the plaza housed the mercantile store. The Romero Company later built branch stores in other New Mexico communities.<sup>44</sup>

The prosperity of the Romero family thus coincided with the growth and prosperity of Las Vegas



and the Santa Fe Trail. The commerce of the Trail provided the initial economic stimulus to the struggling settlement of Las Vegas in the 1830s and to business success of the Romero, Ilfeld, and others. The growth Las Vegas enjoyed as a result of the commerce made it a large enough community by 1879 that the Santa Fe Railroad built its tracks next to it, thus setting the stage for further growth and development.

The arrival of the railroad soon reduced the Santa Fe Trail traffic to a trickle and it eventually ceased entirely, but the Trail had played a very important role in the history of Las Vegas and New Mexico and its citizens. The Trail also introduced New Mexico to the United States and its democracy, commerce, industry, and technology. The Trail served as the initial linkage for the courtship that was to result in the engagement in 1846 and the marriage of New Mexico to the United States in 1850.

#### NOTES

1. For a discussion of Pike's impact see Marc Simmons, *New Mexico: A History* (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1977), 97-100.
2. Ibid.
3. Myra Ellen Jenkins and Albert H. Shroeder, *A Brief History of New Mexico* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1974), 34-36.
4. Josiah Gregg, *The Commerce of the Prairies* (1844; reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1972), 100.
5. "San Miguel del Vado," *Las Vegas Daily Optic*, August 13, 1976.
6. H.T. Wilson, *Historical Sketch of Las Vegas, New Mexico* (Chicago: The Hotel World Publishing Co., nd.), 10.
7. "Vegas Growth Spurred by Santa Fe Trail traffic," *Las Vegas Daily Optic*, July 27, 1979.
8. F. Stanley, *The Las Vegas (New Mexico) Story* (Denver, 1951).
9. Lynn I. Perrigo, *Gateway to Glorieta: A History of Las Vegas, New Mexico* (Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Co., 1982), 8.
10. W. W. H. Davis, *El Gringo or New Mexico and Her People*, (1857; reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982), 52.
11. "Vegas Growth Spurred by Santa Fe Trail," *Las Vegas Optic*, July 27, 1979.
12. Perrigo, *Gateway to Glorieta*, 8.
13. Wilson, *Historical Sketch of Las Vegas*, 11.
14. Maurilio E. Vigil, *Los Patronos: Profiles of Hispanic Political Leaders In New Mexico History* (Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1980), 63.
15. Anna Nolan Clark, "House of the Dons," *New Mexico Magazine* (Feb. 1936): 37-38.
16. Several photos of the plaza in the period of the 1870s depict a store with the sign "T. Romero and Bro." See Elmo Baca, "Old Town Plaza Before the Railroad," *Las Vegas Daily Optic* July 27, 1979.
17. Vigil, *Los Patronos*, 64. See also map of the plaza, *Las Vegas Daily Optic*, July 27, 1979.
18. Vigil, *Los Patronos*, 65.
19. Clark, "House of the Dons," 19.
20. Vigil, *Los Patronos*, 63, 66-67.
21. Ibid., 70. Another variation of the Delgado story is found in Lynn I. Perrigo, "The Santa Fe Trail Through Las Vegas," unpublished essay, 2.
22. Vigil, *Los Patronos*, 70-71.
23. Ibid., 71-72.
24. Ibid., 64-65.
25. Perrigo, *Gateway to Glorieta*, 25.
26. Vigil, *Los Patronos*, 53-54.
27. Andres S. Hernandez, "This They Said: A Report on interviews with old-time residents of Las Vegas and San Miguel County, New Mexico," unpublished manuscript (Donnelly Library, New Mexico Highlands University), June 1955.
28. Perrigo, "The Santa Fe Trail Through Las Vegas," 1-2.
29. Baca, "Old Town Plaza," *Las Vegas Daily Optic*, July 27, 1979.
30. The Des Marais ledger was reviewed by this writer before it was donated to the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives in 1989.
31. Baca, "Old Town Plaza," *Las Vegas Daily Optic*, 4.
32. George T. Gould, ed., *Illustrated Las Vegas, 1903* (Las Vegas: Blake and Joquel, Publishers, 1903), 50.
33. Baca, "Old Town Plaza," *Las Vegas Daily Optic*, 4.
34. William J. Parish, *The Charles Ilfeld Company* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1961), 20-22, 29.
35. Ibid., 20.
36. Ibid., 42.
37. Ibid., 72-73.
38. Ibid., 20-21.
39. Ibid., 27.
40. Ibid., 44.
41. "Ilfeld Building," *Las Vegas Daily Optic*, August 13, 1976.
42. Parish, *Charles Ilfeld Company*, 74, 76-77.
43. Lynn I. Perrigo, "The Eminence of Las Vegas during Territorial Period," *Las Vegas Daily Optic*, July 27, 1979.
44. Vigil, *Los Patronos*, 64.



## HOOV PRINTS

### —TRAIL TIDBITS—

The *Kansas State Collegian*, student newspaper at Kansas State University, Manhattan, and four area Kansas newspapers publish each year a special tourism guide, "Discover Kansas Trails." The 1996 issue, scheduled for circulation in early April, will be devoted to the 175th anniversary of the Trail.

An article by Marc Simmons, "The McComas Massacre," appeared in the January 1996 issue of *New Mexico Magazine*. The Apache attack on the McComas family in southwestern New Mex-

ico in 1883 is a remarkable story, well told as always by Simmons.

The winter 1995-1996 issue of the *Pioneer Champion* includes an illustrated article on Fort Leavenworth, KS, and the museum located there. This quarterly publication, featuring articles about the region, is available for \$6.00 per year from Champion Publishing, RR 3 Box 88, Baldwin City, KS 66606.

The fall 1995 issue of *Pathways Across America*, a newsletter for national scenic and historic trails published by the American Hiking Society, features an article on SFTA member Jere Krakow who now serves as superintendent of the National Park Service Long Distance Trails office in Salt Lake City, in charge of four trails: Oregon, California, Pony Express, and Mormon Trail. Krakow worked on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail survey and management plan.

The fall 1995 issue of *Pathways Across America* includes an article by SFTA member Stanley Kimball, "Religious Beliefs Were Major Influence Along the Mormon Trail." Kimball is a leading authority on the Mormon Trail and on the Mormon Battalion on the Santa Fe Trail.

The Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center has received a \$5,000 grant from the Independence Community Foundation to help hire a part-time education coordinator to assist curator Anna Belle Cartwright for one year. Duties will include development of educational materials, distribution of packets for area teachers, conducting tours for school groups, and presentation of trail programs in classrooms.

A brochure on the Santa Fe Trail prepared by SFTA publicity director Michael E. Pitel, with a map and 175th commemorative calendar of events in New Mexico, is available free to SFTA members from the New Mexico Dept. of Tourism by calling (800) 545-2040, ext. 751.

The February 1996 issue of *Mature Outlook*, which has a circulation of 925,000, features an article, "Travel on the Santa Fe Trail." The article includes phone numbers to

request information from Trail-state tourism offices (except for Colorado which has no such office). The National Frontier Trails Center, Independence, MO, is also listed.

The fall/winter 1995 edition of *The Boggsville Times* includes an article on the Prowers House, currently being restored. Membership in the Friends of Boggsville is \$15 per year for an individual and \$25 for a family, and this includes a subscription to *The Boggsville Times*. Send to BRC, PO Box 357, La Junta, CO 81050.

The Finney County Historical Society, Garden City, KS, has printed a brochure on the Trail in the region, with a map, photographs, and points of interest between Dodge City, KS, and Holly, CO. For a copy contact the society, PO Box 796, Garden City, KS 67846-0796 (316) 272-3664.

Tom Miller, Arrow Rock, MO, has been named curator of the Missouri Press Foundation's old Print Shop in Arrow Rock, recently operated by volunteer Cordell Tindall of Fayette. Miller has a background in the newspaper business and will renovate some of the collection and provide demonstrations.

The Friends of Arrow Rock are working to portray the history of black residents in the historic community. They recently acquired structures used as a black church and Masonic lodge. The Friends are seeking photos and written or oral information about the daily life of African-Americans who lived in Arrow Rock. Contact Director Kathy Borgman, Friends of Arrow Rock, PO Box 124, Arrow Rock, MO 65320.

Marsha K. King, archeologist at the Kansas State Historical Society, completed the report, "Phase III Archeological Investigations at the Cottonwood Creek Crossing Santa Fe Trail Campground, Marion County, Kansas," in January 1996. This thorough account is an important source for anyone doing research on that site. For more information, contact Marsha K. King, Cultural Resources Division, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 SW Sixth Ave, Topeka, KS 66615-1099.

## THE STONE CORRAL AT LITTLE RIVER CROSSING, PART II

by Ed Lindell

*(This concludes the article from The Blazer [Windom, KS], May 2, 1932. There was a sketch of the Stone Corral in the original, but it would not reproduce clearly for inclusion here.)*

ACCORDING to Horace Jones, the Corral was built in 1865 by a man by name of Wheeler, but Mr. Bean says that in the northeast corner of the corral wall there was a stone on which was carved the following inscription "Bean 1850" which indicated that this was probably the year the corral was built. It seems more probable that this was the date of its construction because, at the time the first homesteaders came, the corral had every appearance of being much older than six or seven years. Also the writer believes that as late as 1865 there could have been no practical incentive for an individual to build such a structure at this point on the Trail. At that time the building of the Union Pacific railroad through Kansas had been provided for and the operation of the railroad would seal the doom of the freight traffic on the Trail and make structures of this character valueless. The "Bean" carved in the stone was no relative of the homesteader Bean, and it is possible that it was Bean instead of Wheeler who built the Corral. Much early day history was written from hearsay and was not always reliable.

Just why an individual built this fort-like Corral is not definitely known, but it was probably a strictly commercial proposition, very much as our auto camp grounds are today. This was at the eastern edge of the hostile Indian country, and no doubt, the travelers were glad to pay a fee for the privilege of camping inside its protective walls. Also it is possible that the builder had in mind its possible sale to the government. Although there were troops stationed there for some time, there is no record that the government ever purchased the Corral.

The owner also built a toll bridge across the river near the northeast corner of the Corral. This bridge was built on stone piers, five of them, and the driveway was constructed of logs and plank. A remnant of one of these piers may still be seen in the north bank of the

river. A toll of seventy-five cents per wagon was charged for crossing. In order to insure a good patronage for his bridge, the owner built a dam across the river a little way above the bridge, which kept the ford flooded, making it impassable and forcing the traveler to use the bridge. It is said that the owner, if the traveler was short of funds as many were, would extend credit for the toll on the traveler's agreement to pay on his return trip. The dam site may still be plainly seen by the rock in the river bed just north of the old corral site. There were a store and blacksmith shop at the crossing and a number of shacks where people lived. William Mathewson owned the store, as well as the one at the Cow Creek crossing. Mathewson, it is claimed, was the original "Buffalo Bill" of the plains but "Buffalo Bill" Cody, when about eighteen years old, worked for Mathewson at Cow Creek, it is probable that he also did duty at the Corral.

In 1866, Colonel Grierson of the Seventh [actually the Tenth Cavalry, as noted below] U.S. Cavalry, was stationed at the Corral and Lieutenant Colonel Custer was the officer under him [Custer was in the Seventh Cavalry and was not stationed at the Little Arkansas River]. Follow along the river's bank to the north of the Corral, and you will see plainly the ruins of the dugouts the soldiers built and lived in while stationed there. They were dug out of the bank, walled with stone and covered with logs and earth, making comfortable winter quarters, but certainly not safe in flood time. About forty of these ruins can still be counted. The soldiers also built a large log stockade, standing the logs on end, in which they had their quarters and corralled their horses. It is not now known just where this stockade was built, probably near or adjoining the Corral.

When Mr. Bean took his homestead, he lived in the corral for several months and had a post office there. During his occupancy there was still considerable travel over the Trail but mostly by homeseekers, seeking homes on the Kansas prairies. The Union Pacific railroad had been built through Kansas by this time, and overland freighting became unprofitable.



The railroad hauled the freight to western points where wagon trains received it and freighted it to New Mexico. Mr. Bean said that "during his occupancy there was seldom a night when from eight to as high as thirty wagons did not camp in the enclosure."

During the trail days a company of colored soldiers, said to have been the 10th U.S. Cavalry, was stationed here and had a fight with the Cheyenne Indians which lasted two or three days. The Indians, mounted on ponies, made repeated charges but were finally defeated with an unknown loss, as the Indians always, if possible, carried away their dead. Three of the colored soldiers were killed in the fight and were buried on the river's bank. Old settlers say there is a brass canon sunk in the river bed someplace near the corral.

Now let us cross over to the east side, the old ford is still passable for pedestrians. We go south through the field toward the section line. Those zig zag ridges in the field and running across the road into the trees on the south side are what remain of the breast works built by the soldiers, and behind which they fought off the hostile Indians. These breastworks wind through the field, south across the section line and into the timber on the river's bank. Just below the south end of these breastworks may be seen where once were the graves of fourteen soldiers who lost their lives at or near the Corral. Later, about forty years ago, the remains were removed to the government cemetery at Fort Leavenworth. Mr. J. W. Crawford of Little River moved them.

You will observe the scarcity of timber for about a mile on either side of the Corral. This area was probably as heavily wooded at one time as it was further up the river, but it was all cut away by the travelers and soldiers for fuel and for building a large stockade and dug-outs to live in.

W. E. Pierce of Saxman, who carried mail between Lindsborg and Hutchinson by way of the Stone Corral in 1872 and 1873, says that "at that time there was no sign of a tree or bush within a mile either direction from the Corral." However there are some who believe that the Old Cottonwood mentioned in our last issue, was still standing when the trail was in use and that the roadway was a little to one side. This old tree does appear

to be much older than sixty years, but we have as yet been unable to verify it.

It is unfortunate that the Corral was not preserved, but it had been abandoned when the first settlers came and was on railroad land and no one could prevent the homesteaders and others from hauling the stone away. It is said, Stone Corral school house is built of stone from the Corral. Also much of the stone was hauled to Nickerson and Sterling and used in the many buildings there.

## PAPER TRAILS

by Mike Olsen

OF the three "Santa Fe Trail" novels listed below, two require some explanation. I have previously said the criteria for inclusion is that characters in the novels should actually travel some portion of the Trail. The heroine of O'meara's *Spanish Bride*, Josephina María del Carmen Torres, accompanied the Villasur expedition on its fateful venture in 1720, a journey that certainly is part of the heritage of the Santa Fe Trail. In Burgess's *Pillar of Cloud*, the narrator hits the Trail literally on the last page of the novel.

I am still looking for more titles to add to this list. I'm also interested in titles of juvenile Trail literature, fiction and non-fiction. Send them to me at 1729 Eighth St, Las Vegas, NM 87701.

Burgess, Jackson. *Pillar of Cloud*. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1957. 254 pp.

O'Meara, Walter. *The Spanish Bride*. Santa Fe, Friends of The Palace Press, 1990 (first published in 1954). 370 pp.

Stanley, Chuck. *North of Santa Fe*. New York, Phoenix Press, 1949. 252 pp.

## CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

THE Kansas Corral of the Westerners is planning to publish volume six of *The Prairie Scout* in commemoration of the Corral's silver anniversary. The publications committee is seeking article-length manuscripts for possible inclusion. They should relate to the history of Kansas and/or the American West. Manuscripts should be submitted for evaluation no later than May 1, 1996, to Publications Committee, Kansas Corral of the Westerners, c/o Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 SW Sixth Ave, Topeka, KS 66615-1099.

## CAMP TALES

(continued from page 11)

type of marker.

Roy Bessire moved that all current chapter officers be elected for another two-year term. It passed, and the officers retained are Ed Lewis, president; Edward Dowell, vice-president; Marjorie Persinger, secretary; Karla French, treasurer, and Mary Gamble, reporter.

The spring meeting on April 11 will be in Hugoton, KS.

### Heart of the Flint Hills

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

The quarterly meeting at the Morris County courthouse, January 25, was attended by 30 people. Plans for the 175th anniversary programs were discussed. The June 14 program, "Rendezvous Relived," will be at the Old Stone Barn, one mile east of Council Grove. The June 15 program, "Conversations with the Kaws," will be at the Kaw Mission. There will also be a quilt show at that location. Members working on these programs are Max Dixon, Earl Wright, Leland Zerbe, Bill Alspaw, Deanne Wright, Don Cress, Doris Cress, and Helen Ericson.

The 1996 Trail ride will start at Lone Elm Campground on June 6 and follow the progression of the Kansas State Historical Society 175th programs to Council Grove. Committee members are Clayton Stephenson, Charles Noonan, Rex Pio, Jim Heath, and Leland Zerbe. It was decided to buy a 425-gallon water tank to accompany the portable "Johnny" on the trail ride.

Officers for 1996 are President Don Cress, V-P Charles Macy, Secretary Helen Ericson, and Treasurer Joleen Day. The next meeting will be April 25 at the Rapp School House in Osage County.

### End of the Trail

President Margaret Sears  
1871 Candela  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
(505) 473-3124

The November 18 meeting was called to order in the LaFarge Library with 36 members present. The guest speaker was Robert Lone Eagle from Eldorado, who builds models of the types of wagons that were used on the Santa Fe Trail. He has done extensive research on all the different designs that traveled on the Trail. He explained why

some of the wagons were built and the type of animals that were used to pull them. Two of the wagons he had constructed were on display, and it was evident that it took many hours to build each one.

Mary Jean Cook was presented the Award of Merit bestowed upon her by the SFTA at the symposium in September, for her research and writing and for erecting the marker honoring New Mexico Territorial Governor James S. Calhoun. Susan McConnell and the 4th grade class of Bandelier Elementary School, Albuquerque, NM, who prepared a Santa Fe Trail quilt now the property of the Museum of New Mexico, also received an Award of Merit.

A grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 has been secured by the chapter to purchase copies of *Adventures with the Santa Fe Trail* by Dave Webb to be placed in New Mexico elementary school grades 5 and 7 and in high school libraries.

Marilyn Earp and Vi Navrot, entradas and special events committee, gave a brief summary of the events that are being planned in Santa Fe on November 16, 1996. Jack Barns, markers and easements committee, reported on the progress of approximately 15 sites that need to be marked. There is a possibility that the city might help fund signs for some of these ruts and Trail sites.

Margaret Sears presented a copy of a four-state national ad promoting the 175th anniversary that will appear in some national travel magazines. Margaret expressed her concern that some historical errors appeared in the ad, but it was probably too late to correct the material. Nonetheless, members were encouraged to write the four state tourism directors.

Fort Union National Monument Superintendent Harry Myers was the guest speaker on January 20. He is chairman of the SFTA 175th anniversary committee and brought the chapter up to date on events being planned.

The next meeting will be March 16, 1996, location to be announced. The guest speaker will be Ruth Holmes, a friend of Arrow Rock, MO, whose topic is "Reflections on Arrow Rock, Then and Now."

A field trip is being planned for May 18. For more information on these two meetings call Louann Jordan at (505) 983-2994.

## Corazon de los Caminos

President LeRoy LeDoux  
PO Box 94  
Wagon Mound, NM 87752  
(505) 666-2262

The marker committee has received a donation of \$300.00 from Jack Urban to mark Trail ruts on private land, with landowner permission. A decision will be made whether to use limestone posts or carsonite markers. Nancy Robertson, chairman, has asked the following members to serve on the marker committee for 1996: Colfax County—Faye Gaines, Jack Urban, and Steve Zimmer; DAR—Mary Gamble; Mora County—LeRoy LeDoux and Lloyd Revera; San Miguel County—Steve Whitmore.

Wink Winkel has translated our brochure into German. In order to be distributed at New Mexico welcome centers, it must be printed on a tri-fold cardboard stock. Foreign visitors may request a French, German, Italian, or Spanish *Vacation Guide* from any welcome center.

The 175th anniversary committee has been busy meeting with the New Mexico Tourism Department and local tourism agencies in several towns. They have formed a Santa Fe Trail Task Force and are working on possible package tours.

## Wet/Dry Routes

President Janice Klein  
3008 Anna Ave  
Dodge City, KS 67801

The fourth annual chapter tour was conducted on October 21, 1995, when 26 participants visited the eight campsites of the 1825 Santa Fe Trail survey team in Pawnee, Edwards, and Ford counties, in addition to other historic locations along the Wet Route. David and Rob Cross were recognized for their donation of beef to serve the symposium meal.

The November 5, 1995, meeting was at the Haun Museum in Jetmore, KS. Special guests were present from Hodgeman, Ford, and Ness counties. Reports were given on the symposium, Booth grave marking project, annual tour, Trail marking project, and photographic essay project on the Fort Hays-Fort Dodge Road.

The winter meeting, January 14, 1996, was at the city hall in Kinsley, KS. Items of business included a report on the marking project and a vote to serve a chuckwagon meal at Rendezvous 1996. Officers elected for 1996 are Presi-

dent Janice Klein, Vice-President Rusti Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer Ida Yeager, and Program Director David Clapsaddle.

The Faye Anderson Award for 1996 was presented to Joanne and Greg Van Coevern. They were instrumental in the establishment of the chapter in 1990, and Joanne served for two years as the first president. Following the business session, Clarence Wadkins, Park Ranger at Fort Larned NHS, presented a well-received first-person interpretation of a Tenth Cavalry Buffalo Soldier. The spring meeting is scheduled for April 14 at the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge near Stafford, KS.

## Dodge City/Fort Dodge

President A. Ted Mueller  
508 Annette  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
(316) 225-2371

The first meeting of 1996 was held January 26 at the Dodge House Restaurant. Election of officers was held. The new president, Ted Mueller, presented past-president Janet Bevers with a plaque in gratitude of her leadership of the chapter during 1994 and 1995. Other business included planning for the 175th anniversary. Members of the master map committee, Keith Chadd, Bob Monaghan, and Guy Josserand, presented a map of Ford County showing the location of historical events and sites related to this anniversary observance.

The program was presented by chapter member Nancy Trauer, who showed a videotape of the statewide events planned for the 175th anniversary. Ted Mueller was on hand with the chapter shirts he created for the 175th Anniversary for sale to members and others who wish to purchase them.

Three postrock markers were recently placed in Ford County. On January 17, 1996, the Wet/Dry Routes chapter, in cooperation with the DC/FD chapter, installed bronze and stone markers at Fort Mann, the Caches, and Point of Rocks.

175th Trail anniversary fever is high in Dodge City. Under the direction of David Kloppenborg, Boot Hill Museum curator, an outstanding program of events has been planned for the weekend of July 4-7, 1996. David has also designed a Dodge City button (lapel pin type) especially for the 175th in Dodge City. This year is also the 5th anniversary of the DC/FD chapter.



## Missouri River Outfitters

President Anne Carter  
964 NW 600  
Centerview, MO 64019  
(816) 230-7228

The chapter will meet on Sunday afternoon, February 18, at the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence, MO. Pat Short will present a lecture on Jabez Smith, a local banker and merchant involved in the Santa Fe trade.

On April 20 the chapter is sponsoring an all-day Santa Fe Trail Trek led by Pauline and Eric Fowler. Participants will board the bus in Independence and ride to Fort Osage in eastern Jackson County where the tour will begin. Following the route of William Becknell to points westward into Kansas, the tour will make frequent stops at historic sites. For further information or to reserve your seat, contact Jane Mallinson (816) 461-2454 or Anne Carter (816) 230-7228. A membership meeting will be held during the lunch break.

Members of the MRO will participate in a living-history encampment and demonstrations on June 8 and 9 at the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence, MO. The regular membership meeting will be held at 10:00 am on the 8th. After adjournment members may enjoy visiting the Bingham-Waggoner House, the Trails Center, and the encampments.

## Quivira

President Linda Colle  
724 Penn Drive  
McPherson, KS 67460  
(316) 241-8719

The chapter sponsored a car caravan tour for teachers and Trail buffs originating at the Coronado Quivira Museum in Lyons, KS. The group traveled to Pawnee Rock and traced the Trail back to the east through Barton and Rice counties. A highlight of the tour was an unscheduled visit to the Jarvis Creek area, led by Lil Swick, tour participant and land owner. We hope to have a more organized teacher's in-service day this spring.

At the October 29, 1995, meeting several committees were formed to increase efficiency and communication both within our chapter and the SFTA. These included: marking and mapping committee, Britt Colle, chairperson; maintenance and preservation committee, McPherson County—John Martin and Britt Colle, chairpersons, Rice

County—Wayne Smith and Ralph Hathaway, chairpersons, Barton County—Bob Button and Cleat Walters, chairpersons; education and program committee, Betty Romero, chairperson; 175th anniversary committee, Linda Colle, chairperson; and nominating committee, Wayne Smith, chairperson.

On January 23 the board of directors met to discuss upcoming activities, especially the Boy Scout Camporee to be held the first weekend in May. There could be up to 1,000 boys participating in this event.

The chapter's annual meeting is scheduled for February 4, at the Ranch House Restaurant in Lyons. A speaker from the Kansas Department for the Humanities will provide the program. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 13, 1996, at Lost Spring. More details on this will be announced later.

## Cottonwood Crossing

President John Dick  
PO Box 103  
Goessel, KS 67053

No report.

## Bent's Fort

President Earl Casteel  
5666 S 106 Rd  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
(719) 589-2061

The annual meeting on January 27, 1996, at Bent's Fort Inn, Las Animas, CO, was attended by 48 members and guests. In addition to the usual business and committee reports, awards were presented and new officers elected. The awards were for a variety of services to the chapter. The recipients were Craig Moore, Bob Jones, Lolly Ming, Don and Katherine Berg, Fort Union National Monument, Jamie Kingsbury, Teresa Kesterson, Dale Kesterson, Nancy Robertson, Connie Casteel, Palmer Construction, and Earl Casteel. The officers for 1996 are President Earl Casteel, Vice-President Phil Petersen, Secretary Connie Casteel, and Treasurer Sue Petersen.

## HELP WANTED

Several years ago while traveling in Colorado I purchased a large hand-drawn and hand-written map entitled "A Map-History of the American Indian Tribes," by Perry C. Van Arsdale. This is the second edition, published in 1972 and dedicated to the memory of Wounded Swallow (Sioux) who did

the authenticated Indian drawings which form the borders of this map. The dimensions are approximately 28½ by 44 inches. I am looking for a supplier of this map or Mr. Van Arsdale with the idea that this informative map might be reprinted. Does anyone know about this? Any help will be appreciated.

Les Vilda  
RR 2 Box 13  
Wilber NE 68465

I am producing a self-guided audio tour tape on the New Mexico portion of the Santa Fe Trail (see article in this issue). If you know of any stories or anyone who has unique stories of the Trail in New Mexico and they would donate them to this project, please contact me. Thank you.

Maggie Greenwood  
PO Box 981  
Angel Fire NM 87710

I am preparing a book-length manuscript on the New Mexican students who studied in the United States (see list in last issue). The purpose of my research, extending over the past three years, is to see what effect, if any, the education in St. Louis had on the future prospects of the various students. I would appreciate any input from relatives or acquaintances of the various students so that I can provide comprehensive and accurate biographies of each one. Anyone with information, or equally important, photographs from the proper time periods, of the various students would be deeply appreciated and acknowledged in my final work.

John B. Colligan  
2930 Fairway Dr  
Las Cruces NM 88011

We are looking for any information regarding King's Ferry Crossing, where the Trail crossed the Arkansas River west of Bent's Fort at La Junta, CO, for an interpretive sign. Our information is limited and at a standstill. Any information about King's Ferry Crossing will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Earl Casteel, President  
Bent's Fort Chapter  
5666 S 106 Rd  
Alamosa CO 81101

I am seeking information about Thomas T. Hagan, who died Janu-

ary 12, 1865, at Fort Larned, Kansas. A record of his death appears in an old family Bible. We have in our possession a bullet which supposedly caused his death. We also have a Bill of Sale of a black mule for \$200 from Fort Union, dated December 10, 1864, signed "T.S. Hagen." Despite the spelling, I am wondering if he is not Thomas T. Hagan. The 1850 U.S. Census lists a Thomas Hagan (age 18 years, born in Kentucky) living with John Raymond Hagan and Rosella Wiseman Hagan (my great-grandparents) in Caldwell County, Missouri. My goal is to determine how Thomas Hagan fits into my family line and as much as possible about his life and untimely death. I have no information that he served in the military, but I wonder if he may have been employed by a mail contractor or a freighting company. If anyone can provide any documentation about Thomas T. Hagan, I will be most appreciative.

Raymond Donald Hagan  
1056 Honeysuckle Dr  
San Marcos CA 92069

The Historical Society of Jackson County, Missouri, is sponsoring the creation of an illustrated book on the historical Santa Fe Trail. I have been asked to gather material for the publication. I am hoping the Santa Fe Trail Association will be a source of archival material. Specifically, I am interested in Trail-related images (photographs, maps, paintings, etc.) which members of the Association might own or know about.

Also, I would like to hear from libraries, museums, and other institutions which serve as repositories for pictorial material about the Trail. I would also like permission to use these materials. Thank you for your assistance.

Jami Parkison  
Juxtapose Photo/Prose  
7337 Terrace St  
Kansas City MO 64114

The Camino Real-Santa Fe Trail Database committee (comprised of Michael Olsen, Gabrielle Palmer, Marc Simmons, and myself as chair) needs help from many people. If you have created a database or a bibliography that you believe should be included, please send it to me at the address below. A print-out will allow the cross-checking of computer entries already made and the updating of edition information. If you hold a bibliography

of any of the various state historical journals, it would be of enormous help. We want YOU to become a contributor to this significant effort.

Here is what is needed: (1) Author, (2) Title of book, magazine, journal, or newspaper article (volume, number, issue, pages (including number of pages in a book), series (if any), publisher and year (or copyright year), (3) a sentence or two (no more) describing the material's relevance to the Trail (Camino Real or Santa Fe Trail), with mention of the specific year (if not already included in the title) or span of years. In this abstract please include several names mentioned therein (people, place names, Indian tribes, massacres, deaths, etc.). This information will be used for the keywords. Take a look at any annotated bibliography. We thank you for any information provided.

Mary Jean Cook  
PO Box 2676  
Santa Fe NM 87504

## 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.

## INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Cimarron National Grassland, U.S. Forest Service, PO Box 300, Elkhart KS 67950  
EBSCO Industries, Magazines Division, PO Box 1943, Birmingham AL 35201  
Haskell County Historical Society, PO Box 101, Sublette KS 67877  
Kiowa National Grassland, U.S. Forest Service, 714 Main St, Clayton NM 88415

## FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

John & Joyce Bussian, 21419 Fairfield Lane, Boca Raton FL 33486  
Keith & Joyce Chadd, 2707 Maralane, Dodge City KS 67801  
Richard & Marie Greene, PO Box 483, Angel Fire NM 87710  
Neal & Mary Nell Holden, 1301 W 113th St, Jenks OK 74037  
Mike & Janet Kimball, PO Box 505, Ulysses KS 67880  
Frances, Levine, & Tom Merlan, 1677 Cerro Gordo Rd, Santa Fe NM 87501  
Jim & Marilyn Peterson, 11902 W 143rd Ter, Olathe KS 66062  
Michael & Mary Ellen Redman, 704 La Joya St, Espanola NM 87532  
Oliver Lee & Natalie Russell, RR 8 Box 36-2, Amarillo TX 79118  
Michael & Julia Taylor, PO Box 8, Springer

NM 87747

Ruth & Lyle Taylor, 701 Clinton Ave E, Huntsville AL 35801  
Sidney Warner Family, PO Box 309, Cimarron KS 67835

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Dick Anderson, PO Box 488, La Veta CO 81055  
Mary J. Bates, 2582 Camino Chueco, Santa Fe NM 87505  
Dennis Beeson, 6525 Crabtree, San Diego CA 92114  
Senator Jeff Bingaman, 119 E Marcy St, Santa Fe NM 87501  
Marian Cornish, 3818 Duquesne Lane, Pasadena TX 77505  
Dorothy DiChellis, 4100 SW Edmunds #218, Seattle WA 98116  
Doug Dinwiddie, 1500 University Dr NMSU-C, Carlsbad NM 88220  
Senator Pete Domenici, 120 S Federal Place #302, Santa Fe NM 87501  
Doris M. Drury, 10879 E Powers Dr, Englewood CO 80111  
Joanne Eggenhofer, RR 9 Box 16 R, Santa Fe NM 87505  
Nora Mae Foster, PO Box 248, Satanta KS 67870  
Barbara Frisbie, 2745 Oro Blanco Dr, Colorado Springs CO 80917  
Tillman Hershberger, 233 S Hess, Hesston KS 67062  
Doug Holdread, PO Box 293, Cokedale CO 81032  
Karla Homan, PO Box 102, Claflin KS 67525  
Tom Huggins, 1002 Rainbow, Salina KS 67401  
Duane A. Iles, PO Box 98, Blue Rapids KS 66411  
Kiku Kato, 1557 Avenida de las Americas, Santa Fe NM 87505  
Sonie Liebler, 9720 Lakeland Terr, Oklahoma City OK 73162  
Larry Linscott, 930 Alabama, Canon City CO 81212  
Dr. Joseph F. Meany Jr., 693 New Scotland Ave, Albany NY 12208  
Bonnaye V. Mims, 10400 Sycamore, Kansas City MO 64134  
Leon Osban, 2504 N Meade Ave, Colorado Springs CO 80907  
Charlie Pepper, 333 Seaspray Ave, Palm Beach FL 33480  
Dorothy Ragain, 609 Crestview Dr, Junction City KS 66441  
Congressman Bill Richardson, c/o Rebecca Montoya, PO Box 1805, Las Vegas NM 87701  
Louise B. Smith, 299 Beach Rd N, Wilmington NC 28405  
Lotte G. Swartz, 3091 Plaza Blanca, Santa Fe NM 87505  
Terri Tiehen, 3729 S Ensenada St, Aurora CO 80013  
Brantley Unruh, RR 2 Box 98, Galva KS 67443  
D. A. Webb, 2421 Sixth Ave, Dodge City KS 67801  
Clara L. Wingfield, 819 East Ave So, Lyons KS 67554  
Lisa York, 14087 E Stanford Ct #108, Aurora CO 80015



## TRAIL CALENDAR

Everyone is invited to send notices for this section; provide location, date(s), time(s), and activity. Events scheduled as part of the 175th anniversary celebration are located in a special calendar in this issue. Remember this is a quarterly. The next issue should appear in May, so send information for June and later to arrive by April 20, 1996. Thank you.

**Feb. 18, 1996:** Missouri River Outfitters Chapter meeting, National Frontier Trails Center, Independence, MO.

**Feb. 24, 1996:** Cimarron Cutoff Chapter meeting, Mexhoma Church, 6:00 p.m.

**Mar. 9-12, 1996:** 13th National Trails Symposium, Bethesda, MD. Contact Skye Ridley (303) 321-6606.

**Mar. 16, 1996:** End of the Trail Chapter meeting. (505) 983-2994.

**Mar. 17, 1996:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting, Wagon Mound, program by Patti Olsen, "Teaching the Santa Fe Trail." (505) 666-2262.

**Mar. 21, 1996:** Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center, Independence, MO, program on westward migration. (816) 325-7577.

**April 11, 1996:** Wagonbed Spring Chapter meeting, Hugoton, KS.

**April 14, 1996:** Wet/Dry Routes Chapter meeting, Quivira Wildlife Refuge. (316) 285-3295.

**April 20, 1996:** Missouri River Outfitters Chapter tour. (816) 230-7228.

**April 21, 1996:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting, Las Vegas. (505) 666-2262.

**April 25, 1996:** Heart of the Flint

Hills Chapter meeting, Rapp School, Osage County. (316) 767-5826.

**April 27, 1996:** Mahaffie Farmstead & Stagecoach Stop Historic Site, Olathe, KS, Mahaffie Herb Market, 9:00 am to noon. (913) 782-6972.

**April 27-28, 1996:** BCCC Traveling Seminar, "Council Grove, Rendezvous on the Trail." (800) 748-7594.

**May 4, 1996:** Bent's Fort Chapter meeting at Sand Creek site near Chivington, CO.

**May 11-12, 1996:** BCCC Traveling Seminar, "The Bents and Cheyennes, Tragedy and Travesty." (800) 748-7594.

**May 16, 1996:** Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center, Independence, MO, program by Francie R. Wolff, "The Spirit of Pioneer Women." (816) 325-7577.

**May 18, 1996:** End of the Trail Chapter tour. (505) 983-2994.

**May 18, 1996:** Bent's Fort Chapter work day at Timpas.

**May 19, 1996:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting, Anton Chico. (505) 666-2262.

**June 1, 1996:** National Trails Day. Contact American Hiking Society (301) 565-6704.

**June 7-9, 1996:** BCCC Traveling Seminar, "Adobe Walls and Palo Duro Canyon." (800) 748-7594.

**June 15-16, 1996:** Bent's Fort Chapter tour of Granada-Fort Union Military Road.

**June 22-23, 1996:** Buffalo Soldiers living-history program, Melvern Lake, Melvern, KS. Contact Ken Wilk (913) 549-3318.

**July 21, 1996:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting, Angel Fire. (505) 666-2262.

**Aug. 3, 1996:** Bent's Fort Chapter tour to Russell graves, Stonewall, CO.

**Aug. 3-4, 1996:** Third Annual Old West Frontier Celebration and Rendezvous, Pomona State Park, Vassar, KS. Contact Jeff Bender (913) 828-4933.

**Aug. 10-11, 1996:** U.S. Dragoons living-history program, Melvern Lake, Melvern, KS. Contact Ken Wilk (913) 549-3318.

**Aug. 14-18, 1996:** OCTA annual convention, Elko, NV.

**Aug. 18, 1996:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting, Point of Rocks, NM. (505) 666-2262.

**Aug. 24-25, 1996:** Fur Trade in America living-history program, Pomona Lake, Vassar, KS. Contact Brad Cox (913) 453-2201.

**Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 1996:** Bean Day, Wagon Mound, NM.

**Sept. 6, 1996:** Mahaffie Farmstead & Stagecoach Stop Historic Site, Olathe, KS, Senior Citizen's Day, 9:30-11:00 am. (913) 782-6972.

**Sept. 14, 1996:** Back to Boggsville, Boggsville, CO.

**Sept. 15, 1996:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting, Gallejos. (505) 666-2262.

**Oct. 12, 1996:** Mahaffie Farmstead & Stagecoach Stop Historic Site, Olathe, KS, Autumn Faire & Pumpkin Sale, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. (913) 782-6972.

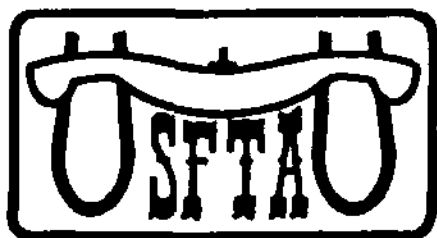
**Oct. 20, 1996:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting, Ocate. (505) 666-2262.

**Sept. 24-28, 1997:** SFTA Symposium, Boise City, OK, Elkhart, KS, and Clayton, NM. Contact Dave Hutchison, HCR 1 Box 35, Boise City OK 73933.

Happy Trails!

—Leo E. Olliva

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
FORWARDING POSTAGE GUARANTEED

PRESORTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S.  
POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 2  
WOODSTON, KS 67675