

# Wagon Tracks

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Article 1

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## Wagon Tracks. Volume 7, Issue 2 (February, 1993)

Santa Fe Trail Association

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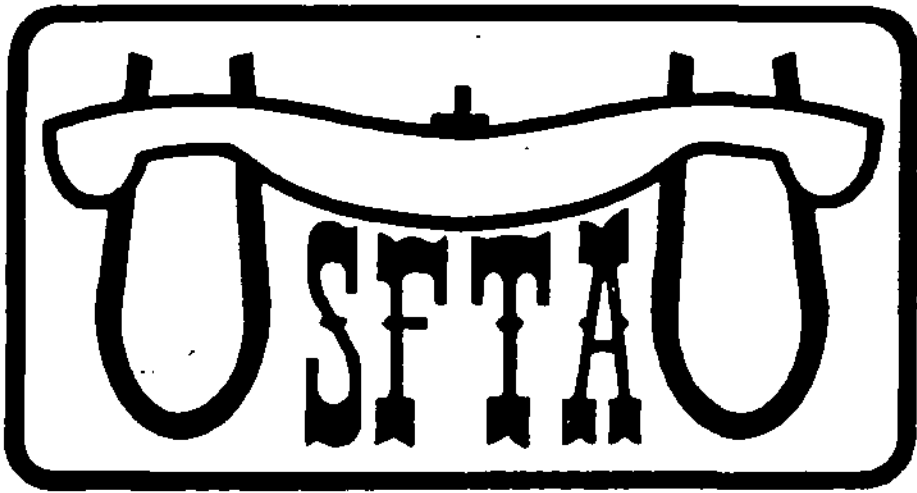
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# WAGON TRACKS

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY

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## A FEW THINGS MARIAN SLOAN RUSSELL NEVER TOLD OR NEVER KNEW ABOUT HER MOTHER AND FATHER

by Bonita and Leo Oliva

[The Olivas found information about Marian Sloan's mother and father while conducting research on the history of Fort Union, New Mexico. Bonita discovered the letter of Eliza Mahoney, reproduced here, at the National Archives and searched extensively for a reply which was not found. Although Miss Sloan's given name was "Marion," she has become widely known as "Marian" because that spelling was used in her memoirs, *Land of Enchantment*. The popular spelling is used here. It is hoped that others who have additional information about the Sloan family will share that with the readers of WT.]

MARIAN Sloan Russell is probably the best-known woman who traveled and wrote about the Santa Fe Trail. Her delightful and informative memoirs, *Land of Enchantment*, remain one of the most popular books in the vast Trail literature, treasured by scholars and general readers alike.<sup>1</sup> Marian was a truly remarkable human being as was her mother, Eliza St. Clair Sloan Mahoney, who, a single parent, ventured across the plains not just once but several times with her children (Marian and William). She made the first trip in 1852 when Marian was seven years old and Will was nine. In her memoirs Marian reveals some insights into her mother's unique life but tells almost nothing about her father, whom she never knew. A few pieces of information about Marian's mother and father, things Marian never told and some of which she undoubtedly never knew, may be of interest to those who have developed an affection for Marian and her family.

There is a mystery connected with Eliza St. Clair Sloan Mahoney and her family that remains to be unraveled. Eliza's first husband, the father of Will and Marian, was an army surgeon, William James Sloan. In her memoirs Marian stated that her father was killed at the Battle of Monterey during



Eliza St. Clair Sloan Mahoney

the Mexican War, and presumably that was what her mother told her. The daughter apparently never knew anything different, and one wonders to what lengths Eliza had to go to prevent her children from learning that their father survived the Mexican War, traveled the Santa Fe Trail, resided in Santa Fe for four years (1856-1860), was honored with a brevet rank in the army for his services during the Civil War, and survived until Marian was 35 years of age. Marian was born in 1845 and had no recollections of her father, whom she believed had died while she was an infant. Except for "an old daguerreotype" of Dr. Sloan, Marian seemed to know very little about her father.

Eliza and the surgeon most likely were separated or divorced before or during the Mexican War. Soon after that conflict Eliza married a man named Mahoney (first name unknown). Marian recalled of her step-father, "I do not know why I was not taught to call him 'father.' To me he was always Mr. Mahoney."<sup>2</sup> That made sense if her father were alive, which he was until 1880, an army surgeon until his death.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Mahoney was killed by Indians when Marian was about five

(continued on page 6)

## FORT UNION NATIONAL MONUMENT HONORED

FORT Union National Monument was twice recognized during 1992 for its efforts in interpreting the history of the military post and the Santa Fe Trail. Congratulations to Superintendent Harry C. Myers and his excellent staff for these well-deserved honors.

In October 1992 Southwest Parks & Monuments Association (SPMA) of Tucson, Arizona, announced that its board of directors had selected Fort Union as the SPMA "Outstanding Agency" for 1992. The national monument was cited for its work in two SPMA publications: *Fort Union: A Photo History* and *Quest for Quivira: Spanish Explorers on the Great Plains*, for the design of a visitor guide to the Civil War-era earthwork fort (the second Fort Union), and for a significant increase in publication selection and sales during recent years. SPMA is the cooperating association for Fort Union National Monument and 49 other National Park Service units from Kansas to California.

Director John Cook, Southwest Region of National Park Service, announced earlier that Fort Union National Monument was the recipient of the Southwest Region's "Garrison Gold" Award for achievements in 1991. The award, in commemoration of Lon Garrison, one of the leading proponents of interpretation in the NPS, recognizes the park within the region with the outstanding interpretive program of the previous year. Cook noted that Fort Union's outreach programs, special events, publication contributions, and visitor services "reflected the best of the best in the Southwest Region. This was no mean feat, given the number of outstanding programs" in the region.

**SFTA SYMPOSIUM**  
**BENT'S OLD FORT & LA JUNTA**  
**SEPTEMBER 23-26, 1993**  
**4TH ANNUAL BICYCLE TREK**  
**SANTA FE TO NEW FRANKLIN**  
**SEPT. 19-OCT. 8, 1993**

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

THE 1993 SFTA Symposium at La Junta and Bent's Old Fort, Colorado, September 23-26, will be another milestone in the growth of the SFTA. The program itself will be outstanding, and we members will be asked to approve what amounts to a new set of bylaws. The SFTA has grown from a loose-knit group of disciples residing along the ruts into a nationwide membership with influence in Congress. The growth of chapters has been faster than any of us imagined. The changes in the organizational structure will allow us to make our Association more active in preserving the history and ruts of the Trail for future generations.

The proposed bylaws will give more formal organization to the board of directors and to the chapters. The formation of an executive committee will allow the officers and board to take supportive action when historic sites are in jeopardy, and to solve the day-to-day problems which arise in our growing 1,300 member plus organization with members throughout the country and in Canada, Japan, Germany, Great Britain, and the Netherlands.

Several telephone calls have come to my office and home from persons interested in joining the SFTA. They learned about the Association from reading *Wagon Tracks*. Not being members, each one must have received a copy of *Wagon Tracks* from one of us who is a member. This is the best membership drive we could have. It shows we members are pleased with the Association and are sharing our satisfaction with others. *Wagon Tracks* and our chapter meetings make the Association active and viable. We members are giving validity to our shibboleth: "THE SANTA FE TRAIL LIVES ON!"

—Bill Pitts

## AWARDS NOMINATIONS NEEDED SOON

A highlight of each SFTA Symposium is the presentation of Awards of Merit to individuals and organizations who are singled out for exceptional service and outstanding contributions to the Santa Fe Trail. In the past, some of the most energetic and dedicated members of the Association (along with non-members, as well) have been recipients of this honor.

Awards Committee Chairman Marc Simmons is issuing a call to the general membership for award nominations. The deadline is May 15, 1993. Please submit a summary of your nominee's qualifications and contributions to the preservation or promotion of the Trail. All nominations should be sent to Marc Simmons, Box 51, Cerrillos, NM 87010.

From the submissions, winners will

be selected to receive Awards of Merit. The presentation ceremony will occur during the SFTA's general business meeting at the coming Bent's Fort/La Junta Symposium, beginning September 23.

In addition this year, the SFTA will name the first recipient of the newly established Jack D. Rittenhouse Memorial Stagecoach Award. The honor will be for extraordinary lifetime contributions to the Santa Fe Trail. Nominations are now being accepted. Current officers of the SFTA, as well as members of the Awards Committee, are ineligible.

The award consists of a cash prize of \$250, a plaque, and a handsome Santa Fe blanket from the Southwest Trails Blanket series, designed by noted Hopi weaver Ramona Sakiestewa and produced by the Pendleton Woolen Mills of Oregon. The SFTA is grateful to Ray Dewey of Santa Fe for initiating and supporting this special award. It commemorates the work of the late Jack D. Rittenhouse, chief bibliographer of the Trail.

## COLORADO REMEMBERS BATTLE OF GLORIETA PASS

THE Colorado State Legislature will travel to New Mexico and dedicate a monument to the Colorado Volunteers who fought at the Battle of Apache Cañon on March 26, 1862, and the Battle of Glorieta Pass two days later (including the destruction of the Confederate supply train at Johnson's Ranch, present Cañoncito). Those engagements on the Santa Fe Trail, often referred to as the Gettysburg of the West, constituted the turning point of the Civil War in the Southwest. At the Glorieta Battlefield the legislators will be hosted by NPS Southwest Regional Director John E. Cook, Supt. Linda Stoll of Pecos National Historical Park, and Southwest Regional Historian Neil Mangum.

The Colorado Historical Society is hosting a tour which will accompany the legislators, March 26-27, 1993. In addition to the dedication ceremonies, the trip will include a visit to Santa Fe and the Palace of the Governors Museum, a guided tour of the Glorieta battlefield, and a stop at Fort Union National Monument. The Fort Union staff and members of the First Colorado Volunteers reenactment group will present a program on the lives of the original Colorado troops and their epic march to New Mexico, followed by a tour of the earthwork fort (second Fort Union) from which the Colorado troops set out to drive the Confederates from Santa Fe and New Mexico. Although the Colorado Volunteers were not the only troops engaged in the important battles, they comprised the bulk of the Union soldiers involved. The State of Colorado will give them due recognition on the 131st anniversary of the crucial engagements.

## CONFEDERATE REMAINS FROM GLORIETA BATTLE TO BE REINTERRED APRIL 25

THE remains of 30 Confederate soldiers killed at the Battle of Glorieta Pass in 1862 will be reburied at the Santa Fe National Cemetery on April 25, 1993. The remains of 31 Texas soldiers were exhumed in 1987 and have been held by the archaeology department of the Museum of New Mexico. An attempt was made by Texas officials to have the remains buried at a Confederate cemetery at Austin, but the regents of the Museum of New Mexico voted to rebury them at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. The reburial will occur during a four-day encampment in the courtyard of the Palace of the Governors, April 23-26, of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and others interested in the Civil War.

Of the 31 Confederate dead only three were identified. The bones of Major John S. Shropshire, who was 28 years of age at the time, were returned to his descendants in 1990. Private S. L. Cotton, age 20, was identified by the inscription on a ring he wore. Private Ebinezer Hanna, age 17, was identified by his age, the groin wound that killed him, and the journal and writing implements he carried as the company's scribe. Cotton and Hanna will be reburied in separate graves and the 28 unidentified soldiers will be placed in a single grave. Each of the graves will be marked with a headstone similar to those used on other Civil War-era graves. A large crowd is expected to attend the reinterment ceremonies.

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### Membership Categories

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Benefactor    | \$1,000    |
| Patron        | \$100/year |
| Institutional | \$25/year  |
| Family        | \$15/year  |
| Individual    | \$10/year  |

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## OBSERVATIONS ON THE GALLEGO DIARY

by Marc Simmons

**PUBLICATION** by Michael L. Olsen and Harry C. Myers of the translated and annotated 1821 Gallego Diary in *WT* (November 1992) is certainly a landmark event in Trail studies. It resolves some old questions and raises new ones, but on the whole it is an exciting and eye-popping discovery. Why someone had not found and used this document before is difficult to understand.

Recently, after reading the diary, historian David J. Weber wrote me and said that since it placed the meeting of the Mexican and American parties at a location near Las Vegas, NM, the theory I had advanced back in 1971 seemed confirmed. The theory, which appeared in my privately printed booklet, *Opening the Santa Fe Trail*, and was afterward reprinted in the *Westport Historical Quarterly* (1971) held that William Becknell had intended from the very beginning of his 1821 maiden trip to go directly to Santa Fe. That was in contrast to Josiah Gregg's statement, accepted by most later writers, that Becknell was bent on trading with the Comanches and only well into the trip, when he chanced to bump into a Mexican troop, was he persuaded to go on to Santa Fe. The Gallego Diary appears to demonstrate that, indeed, Mr. Becknell was making a beeline for New Mexico's capital, using a well-worn Spanish trail that he'd picked up somewhere below the Raton Mountains.

If I was right on this point, the diary shows that I was miles off target on another one, that is, the exact number of men in the Becknell Expedition. On June 25, 1821 he had advertised in the *Missouri Intelligencer* for the enlistment of 70 men to go upon the plains. In my aforementioned booklet, I had speculated that perhaps as many as 20 to 30 men had actually composed the final party. But the Gallego Diary conclusively establishes that the party numbered only Becknell and five companions.

To me this is one of the most exciting and valuable new facts to come from the diary. With any luck, future research will turn up the names of the five men accompanying Becknell. Others have previously suggested that trappers Joseph R. Walker, William Wolfskill, and Moses Carson (eldest half brother of Kit) are possible candidates. However, at this time I know of no documentary evidence tying them or any one else definitely to the 1821 journey to Santa Fe, other than Wil-

liam Becknell himself.

I would like to raise a question about Olsen and Myers's identification of Captain Gallego's Puertocito de la Piedra Lumbre which they contend is today's Kearny Gap, just south of Las Vegas. That is the point Gallego says he first encountered Becknell, so identifying the location precisely becomes a matter of some historical interest. "Puerto" means gap, and "puertocito" means little gap.

The editors note that the stream that now flows through Kearny Gap is called Agua Zara Creek, but formerly it was known as Piedra Lumbre Creek. If that information is solid, then the Puertocito do la Piedra Lumbre surely ought to be our Kearny Gap. My information, however, is that Kearny Gap before it took that name in 1846, or shortly thereafter, was traditionally known as the Puerto del Norte and another gap several miles south, through which I-25 now passes, was called Puerto del Sur, or in other words North Gap and South Gap. Furthermore, a third gap on the main trail existed about two miles southwest of Kearny (or North) Gap.

This third one was the Puertocito Pedregosa (translated as Rocky Little Gap). It is shown, along with the other two nearby gaps, on the map in my guide, *Following the Santa Fe Trail*, page 178. The similarities between this name and that of Gallego's gap, I think, are striking. Both are called Puertocito. And in each case, the second element in the name has to do with "rock." Pedregosa signifies "rocky" and piedra lumbre literally means "lighting stone," but can specifically refer either to flint or milky quartz, probably because both were used in New Mexico with a steel to strike sparks in firemaking. Thus I'm asking, could Gallego's Puertocito de la Piedra Lumbre have evolved after 1821, ultimately to become the Puertocito Pedregosa?

Similarities, while suggestive, are not in themselves valid historical evidence. They are merely red flags that warn us to re-examine the problem. In fact, as I indicated, Olsen and Myers may have properly identified Kearny Gap as the earlier Puertocito de la Piedra Lumbre. In any event, they have scored an outstanding coup in bringing the Gallego diary to light.

### PAPER TRAILS COMING SOON TO WAGON TRACKS

by Michael Olsen

THE physical evidence of the Santa Fe Trail is not only found "on the ground" but also in accounts, histories, and new interpretations of the Trail and its

era which have been and continue to be published. As an aid in tracing this "paper trail," Harry Myers (Fort Union National Monument) and Michael Olsen (New Mexico Highlands University) will start a feature called "Paper Trails" in the next issue of *Wagon Tracks*. This column will list recently published items on the Santa Fe Trail. Myers and Olsen would appreciate having readers of *Wagon Tracks* send them the citations for (or copies of) any material concerning the Trail, published since January, 1992, which appears in local newspapers, county historical publications, newsletters of historical and genealogical societies, state historical journals, and so forth. If it is published somewhere and it is about the Trail, send it to Michael Olsen, 1729 Eighth Street, Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701.

### NATIONAL TRAILS DAY JUNE 5, 1993

NATIONAL Trails Day will be June 5, 1993, and events are being planned for every trail, historic and scenic, throughout the nation. Bob Ward of Denver, CO, has been named chairman of the National Advisory Board for National Trails Day. David Lillard has been hired by the American Hiking Society as National Trails Day coordinator. SFTA chapters and members may want to arrange special events (such as a tour, program with speakers, living-history presentation, or rendezvous). For more information contact Lillard at 1-800-972-8608 or write to National Trails Day, 1776 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Room 240, Washington, DC 20036.

Each state will have a National Trails Day coordinator. Those named so far are Claudia Winkler, Colorado, (303) 830-7792; Richard P. Douthit, Kansas, (316) 342-5508; and Dave Orcutt, Oklahoma, (405) 755-4306. Each group planning an event for June 5 is requested to submit a description to the national coordinator, who will supply National Trail Days materials. This celebration of the nation's trails will become an annual event.

### CIMARRON HERITAGE CENTER SEEKS CURATOR

THE new museum and art gallery in Boise City, Oklahoma (see article in August 1993 *WT*), recently named the Cimarron Heritage Center, is seeking a curator to set up and operate the facility. For more information about the position or to submit an application, contact Jeff Wells, PO Box 655, Boise City, OK 73933. The Cimarron Heritage Center is an equal opportunity employer.

## TRAIL TOURS PLANNED

DAVID Clapsaddle, SFTA ambassador and member of the board of directors, will lead several guided tours in 1993. The tours are sponsored by Barton County Community College, with the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter of SFTA being a co-sponsor of one trip. Clapsaddle has been directing Trail tours for several years.

The first historic tour, April 15-16, 1993, "Traveling the Trail—Hancock Expedition," will follow the Fort Riley-Fort Larned military, stage, and freight road from Junction City to Fort Larned and visit the site of the Cheyenne-Sioux village (about 30 miles west of Fort Larned) destroyed by General Winfield Scott Hancock in 1867. Clapsaddle's article, "The Fort Riley-Fort Larned Road" is scheduled for publication in the Summer 1993 issue of *Kansas History*.

The second trip, September 22-26, 1993, will include the SFTA Symposium at Bent's Old Fort and La Junta and a visit to the Sand Creek Massacre site where Colonel John M. Chivington's command devastated Black Kettle's village in November 1864. For more information about the April and September tours, contact Elaine Simmons, Coordinator of Seminars, Barton County Community College, Great Bend, KS 66530 or call (316) 792-2701 or 1-800-748-7594.

A fall tour on October 9, 1993, co-sponsored by BCCC and the Wet/Dry Chapter of the SFTA, will cover the post-1859 Dry Route of the Trail as it existed following the establishment of the Pawnee Fork Mail Station and nearby Camp on the Pawnee Fork (later Fort Larned) in the fall of 1859. The tour will depart the Larned Municipal Building by bus at 8:00 a.m. Following a midway stop for lunch, the tour will proceed on to the terminus of the Wet/Dry Route one mile east of the Soldier's Home at Fort Dodge. Return time to Larned is expected to be about 5:00 p.m.

For the sake of safety, private vehicles will not be allowed. Cost will be \$10.00 per person which includes travel, lunch, and written material. To make reservations for this tour, call or write Ida Yeager, 416 Wichita, Larned, KS 67550 (316) 285-3032.

## CHAPTER PROGRAM TO FEATURE MUSIC

by Nancy Robertson

THE Corazon de los Caminos Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association will meet Sunday afternoon, April 18, 1993, at 2:00 p.m. in the Seton Museum, The Philmont Scout Ranch, Ci-

marron, New Mexico, for a program by Dr. Enrique Lamadrid of the University of New Mexico entitled *Musica Del Corazon: New Mexico Folk Music*.

*La musica*, the one truly universal language of the heart, flows freely across the shadowy realm between languages and cultures. Voices and instruments in song penetrate where ideas tangle and words fail. In music we celebrate ourselves and are revealed. The contours of a culture emerge as clearly and mysteriously as the emotion on the face of a singer. In this presentation, all the major genres of secular and sacred music native to New Mexico will be discussed and richly illustrated with field recordings and portraits of the musicians themselves.

This program is made possible by the New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities with grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Historic Preservation Division of the Office of Cultural Affairs of the State of New Mexico.

The public is cordially invited to participate in this free musical program and in all the activities of the Santa Fe Trail Association. For more information, please contact LeRoy LeDoux, President, PO Box 94, Wagon Mound, NM 87752, phone: 505/666-2262.

## TRAIL HERITAGE EDUCATION PROGRAM AVAILABLE

EDUCATION has long been a mission of America's National Parks. Today the National Park Service is more committed than ever to realizing its potential as a major national educational resource. As a result of a grant from the "National Parks As Classrooms Project," the interpretive staff at Fort Union National Monument has created an outreach program for area school systems in the form of a "Santa Fe Trail Heritage Education Kit." Several curriculum outlines allow the program to be used at all secondary levels, and this approach was the result of meetings between park staff and school faculty. The program entails a classroom visit by Fort Union staff and a follow-up visit to the park by the students.

The "Santa Fe Trail Kit" consists of a number of replica objects representative of the many cultures that affected (or were affected by) the Santa Fe Trail. Pueblo and Plains Indian cultures are represented by such items as a seedpot, bow, arrows, and quiver. The Spanish and Mexican peoples are recalled through a warrior helmet, crucifix, beaver pelt, and silver coins. Euro- and African-Americans

are symbolized by 19th century canned and bottled goods, shoes, replicas of U.S. Postal items, and a soldier's forage cap of the 9th U.S. Cavalry. As replicas, all of these items are intended for as much "hands-on" use as the students care to give them. Class outlines present the replicas with the chronology of the Trail, and the response has been enthusiastic. The basis of the program is to examine the positive contributions of the various social/ethnic groups.

A curriculum guide has been prepared that will allow the kit to be loaned to schools and civic groups whenever park staff are not available for presentations. Interested schools and organizations may contact Fort Union National Monument at (505) 425-8025 for more information.

## POST OFFICE OAK

### —LETTERS—

Editor:

I truly enjoyed the Nov. 1992 issue of *Wagon Tracks*, especially the Gallego Diary, the story of Boggsville, and the conclusion of Brice's reminiscences. I am truly grateful that you included the article on the KSDAR interest in the markers in Kansas and the essay contest. It was well written and accurate. I am most appreciative of your publicity of KSDAR.

Ruth Keys Clark  
DAR State Regent of Kansas  
PO Box 153  
Winchester, KS 66097

*The DAR performed invaluable service when it marked the Santa Fe Trail, for which everyone interested in the Trail will always be grateful. Please keep us informed of developments with the markers. The winning entry of the Kansas DAR Santa Fe Trail essay contest is printed in this issue.*

Editor

Editor:

Because I live so far from the Santa Fe Trail I sometimes feel left out when I read about the events and symposiums taking place. My schedule does not work out so that I can participate. But I do enjoy reading *Wagon Tracks* and learning about the Trail. I have visited several places, including Shawnee Methodist Mission, Council Grove, Pawnee Rock, and Fort Larned. I see in the membership roster that there are other members in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. I wonder if some of them would contact or correspond with me? We could compare what it is about the Trail that enchants us and, perhaps, arrange car-pooling to attend some of the events along the



Trail. I am also interested in all other trails across America; I live on a section of the Fort Wayne-Detroit Trail. I am seeking information on any trails and hope that SFTA members could tell me about trails in their part of the country (including maps with routes marked, if possible). I enjoy my membership in SFTA and hope to hear from other members.

Genevieve Lynn Amstutz  
RR 4 Box 53  
Bryan, OH 43506

*One of the reasons we publish information on new members in each issue and compile a membership roster once each year is to facilitate the contact among members. I hope you hear from other people in your area and from members everywhere about other trails.*

Editor

Editor:

I enjoy the newsletter. It and *folio* get read completely as soon as they arrive. We are members of the Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter and enjoy events at Council Grove. I showed twelve family quilts from 1831-1891 at the Hays Barn near Council Grove during the festival last Sept. 27. I wish the story of that festival would have been written up and sent to *Wagon Tracks* so more people would know what we did.

Helen M. Ericson  
1406 College Dr.  
Emporia, KS 55801

*Your wish points up how much WT depends on reporters to provide information. I hope you and everyone else will send information about events along the Trail so WT can fulfill its primary mission of keeping the membership informed. Too often we hear about things after they have happened or not at all. Every member is a reporter for WT.*

Editor

Secretary-Treasurer:

Enclosed is a check to renew my membership for 1993. I want to keep those interesting issues of *Wagon Tracks* rollin' in. Currently I live in the metropolitan Washington, DC, area, a pretty long haul from the Trail. Because of my proximity to good research opportunities, like the Library of Congress and the National Archives, I could possibly be of assistance to SFTA members doing research on the Trail who may have some questions to pursue here. I can't guarantee answers to all questions, but I would be glad to take a look for serious historical researchers in need of a "Washington connection."

Bruce Kemp  
PO Box 5773  
Takoma Park, MD 20913

## A GIANT TREE BY THE TRAIL

by Jesse Scott

*[Jesse Scott, Garden City, KS, is a charter member of SFTA and the author of several articles which have appeared in WT.]*

A commendable children's book about the Santa Fe Trail, *Tree in the Trail* by Holling Clancy Holling (1942), tells the story of a fictional cottonwood that witnessed and became a part of travel on the Trail. There is a living giant cottonwood (*Populus Sargentii*) located a few miles from the Trail in Hamilton County, Kansas, about ten miles northwest of Syracuse, which may have been alive when the first wagons rolled to Santa Fe in the 1820s. It is a tree worth commemorating, not only for its size but because it has survived so long in a hostile environment.

It grew in a land where trees were sparse, and a number of questions come to mind which can be answered at best by no more than conjecture. Was the light, fluffy seed from which this giant spouted airborne from the Big Timbers some 50 miles to the west? Did this plains cottonwood become a naturalized citizen when the Louisiana Purchase became a part of the nation in 1803 or did it begin life a few years later? Did Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike pass near the young sapling destined for immortality? Whenever it started its reach for the blue sky, it surely existed when the first successful commercial venture from the United States was initiated with Mexico in 1821. As the Santa Fe Trail

became a well-known avenue of trade it likely attained a healthy growth. When William and Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrain built their famous trading fort on the Arkansas River the tree may have had a height of 30 feet. When General Stephen W. Kearny and the Army of the West marched along the Arkansas River to conquer New Mexico in 1846, the cottonwood must have been a giant in the region.

How did this tree, just a few miles from the Arkansas River, survive so long and become the largest of its kind when there were almost no trees along that waterway from Pawnee Fork (where Fort Larned was established) to the Big Timbers? As a natural food of the beaver and, when small, of the rabbit, deer, and elk, why was it left to survive? Prairie fires swept back and forth across all the plains, set by lightning or by man (Indian and white). How did it escape? Was this cottonwood of such great size that the wood-hungry homesteader contented himself with lesser ones?

Location may have been a factor in survival. A bend in the arroyo and the ridge to the south kept travelers along the river from ever seeing the tree, unless they ventured away from the Trail looking for strayed or stolen livestock or when supplementing the pot with game. One wonders if those who did manage to see it were impressed with its size or even its presence in a land so destitute of timber.

Who or what reclined under its



The giant cottonwood with main branch of trunk missing.



## MARIAN SLOAN RUSSELL

(continued from page 1)

spreading limbs? Surely it was visited by buffalo, deer, elk, bear, wolf, coyote, and, perhaps, beaver. It may have been known to Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, Comanche, and other plains Indians. Perhaps the trapper, buffalo hunter, cavalryman, Mexican trader, cowboy, and a homesteader's children came by or stopped at its base. Were arrows or lead balls driven into its trunk when someone sought protection behind its huge girth from an adversary?

Possibly, in all the breadth of the nearly treeless high plains, the area once called the Great American Desert, this may have been the largest plains cottonwood in existence. The trunk of the old tree measures nearly 30 feet around. It held the record for Kansas in 1973 when it measured only 27 feet, as recorded by Kansas State University in "Champion Trees of Kansas." A close relative, the eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), located in Jefferson County, Kansas, holds the record for that type. Its circumference in 1980 was 26 feet, 11 inches. Its age was estimated at 140 years. It grew where the average annual precipitation is 34 inches. The western monarch undoubtedly is older because it has grown in an area that receives less than half the annual rainfall of the eastern giant. The average yearly precipitation in Hamilton County is 16 inches.

A few years ago the giant cottonwood near the historic Santa Fe Trail met in mortal combat with another giant of nature, the lightning of a thunderstorm. It must have been a great battle although no one was there to witness the engagement. A blow that would have proven fatal to a less stalwart opponent nearly brought the magnificent cottonwood down. The direct hit must have created a horrendous noise, if someone had been there to hear, and the next flash of lightning would have revealed, if someone had been there to see, that a branch nearly 21 feet in circumference, had been blown off above the fork in the trunk. Still the tree survives.

The grandeur of the majestic cottonwood is not equaled by any of its peers, including its cousins, the stately poplar and the lively aspen. The cottonwood, in shedding lower growth, grooms itself into a pleasing form. With all his recognized talents, it is to be regretted that Joyce Kilmer had the provincial outlook of the East. Otherwise, had he seen this giant cottonwood near the Santa Fe Trail, he would not have felt so insecure and would have started his well-known poem, *I know that I shall never see. . . .*

years old. Two years later, in 1852, Eliza Sloan Mahoney took her children over the Santa Fe Trail the first time. From September 1852 to August 1856 Eliza and her children lived in New Mexico (first in Albuquerque and, after 1854, in Santa Fe, where Eliza ran a boarding house on the plaza at the site of the present New Mexico Art Museum). Although Marian seemingly was not aware of it, her father, Dr. Sloan, traveled the Santa Fe Trail and arrived in Santa Fe in August 1856 to serve as the chief medical officer of the Department of New Mexico. He had married again and was accompanied by his wife. Whether he had children by his second wife has not been determined. It was probably no coincidence that Eliza and her children left Santa Fe in August 1856 and traveled the Trail to Fort Leavenworth.<sup>4</sup>

Although Marian recalled that she and her mother and brother were "homesick" for New Mexico, they did not return to Santa Fe until the autumn of 1860. Surgeon Sloan was relieved of his assignment in New Mexico in October 1860 and traveled the Trail back to Missouri. There seems to be little reason to doubt that Eliza knew of the coming and going of her former husband, and she stayed away from New Mexico only so long as was necessary to assure that her children were not in close proximity to him. It appears that there was a short period of time in the summer of 1856 and in the fall of 1860 when Surgeon Sloan and Eliza and the children were in Santa Fe at the same time. Eliza's actions indicate that she knew he was there. Several interesting questions

occur and remain unanswered in view of the known presence of Dr. Sloan in New Mexico. Was Surgeon Sloan aware that Eliza and his children were in Santa Fe? Did he perchance see "Little Maid Marian" on the plaza? Did she, unknowingly, see him? How did Eliza prevent her children from learning the truth about their father? Did Marian know the truth and not reveal it?

There would appear to be no connection with Surgeon Sloan in Eliza's decision to return with her children to Fort Leavenworth in 1861 and then settle in Kansas City, but she may have taken her family away from the disruptions of the Civil War in New Mexico Territory. Marian indicates that her mother planned to stay in Kansas City until Marian "should marry well."<sup>5</sup> Will joined the army during the war, and Eliza and Marian (who had not married) traveled back to New Mexico. In 1864 Eliza and Marian, age 19, moved to Fort Union and occupied quarters which were part of the large earthwork erected during the first year of the Civil War. Although Marian did not explain why her mother made this move nor what she did at the largest military post in the territory, it has been presumed that Eliza probably ran a boarding house as she had done at Santa Fe.

A letter written by Eliza to the chief quartermaster of the Department of New Mexico, Colonel John C. McFerran, confirms that she was cooking for an officers' mess. A number of officers pooled their rations and hired a cook to prepare and serve them. Some officers who had dined at Eliza's boarding house in Santa Fe may have per-



Base of the giant cottonwood. That is a full-size pickup.

suaded her to come to Fort Union. It was the need for a larger cook stove that prompted the letter, which is interesting by itself because of the request but more significant because it was written by Marian's mother. It appears unusual that Eliza wrote directly to Colonel McFerran (which she spelled "McFarren") at Santa Fe instead of the depot quartermaster at Fort Union, but most likely she knew McFerran as well as many other army officers at Santa Fe. The text of the letter follows, and the original is reproduced at the right.<sup>6</sup>

Fort Union N.M.

Oct the 13th 64

Colonel McFarren Sir

could you oblige me Sir, by letting me have the use of a cooking Stove out of the quartermaster Department at this post, expressly for the use of the Officers Mess, my mess is large and I have but a very small stove to cook by, which makes it very hard work and very inconvenient every way. Samuel Price who has charge of the Store house tells me that there are a great many Stoves in the store room, and I thought I would take the liberty to write to the Col. to see if you were willing for me to borrow one for my mess during my stay here. I will pledge myself to return every article that would come with it also the stove in as good condition as I would receive it, of which Mr Price would go my security—could Col McFarren let me know and oblige me.

respectfully

Eliza Mahoney

No record was found to indicate whether or not she received the stove, but her solicitation was worthy. McFerran did have more serious problems to occupy his time. Samuel Price, the storekeeper at the quartermaster storehouse who encouraged Eliza to request the stove, may have been one of Eliza's boarders or he may have been only a friend. Price was a veteran who had served more than 20 years in the army, and he was a civilian employee at Fort Union in 1864. He continued to work at the quartermaster depot at Fort Union until 1878, when he was dismissed from his position as watchmen at the quartermaster depot because of a reduction in the military budget. Price, age 62 in 1878, had been a soldier and a civilian employee of the army for 42 years. Colonel Edward Hatch, commander of the District of New Mexico, requested permission to retain Price on the job because of his "long and faithful service." The request was denied because the district would not be permitted to exceed its appropriation.<sup>7</sup> One can hope that

Fort Union N.M.

Oct the 13<sup>th</sup> 64

Colonel McFarren Sir  
could you oblige me Sir, by letting me have the use of a cooking Stove out of the quartermaster Department at this post, expressly for the use of the Officers Mess. my mess is large and I have but a very small stove to cook by, which makes it very hard work and very inconvenient every way. Samuel Price who has charge of the Store house tells me that there are a great many Stoves in the store room, and I thought I would take the liberty to write to the Col — to see if you were willing for me to borrow one for my mess during my stay here. I will pledge myself to return every article that would come with it also the stove in as good condition as I would receive it, of which Mr Price would go my security — could Col — McFarren let me know and oblige me —  
respectfully

Eliza Mahoney

Eliza Mahoney fared better with her request for a stove than Price did with his job. Later, when a new military budget was passed, Price was again hired to serve as watchman at the depot.<sup>8</sup>

One is tempted to speculate that Eliza left Fort Union a short time after writing to McFerran because she did not receive the stove she needed. There was, however, a more compelling reason. Eliza moved her daughter back to Santa Fe, according to Marian, to remove the young girl from close proximity to an officer with whom Marian was smitten, Lieutenant Richard D. Russell who had arrived at the post in September 1864. Eliza did not want her daughter to marry a soldier, a determination that may have reflected her experience of a failed marriage to an army surgeon. As frequently happens, however, the mother's desires produced the opposite results, and Marian's love for the lieutenant grew. Lieutenant Russell was equally smitten and he came to Santa Fe to see Marian. They were married a few

months later, apparently with Eliza's approval, although one wonders what misgivings she may have had about her daughter's marriage to an army officer and if she was tempted to reveal to Marian the truth about her father.

The courtship and marriage of Marian and Richard Russell (they were wed at Fort Union in February 1865) and their subsequent lives together until Richard was killed in 1888, remains, perhaps, the greatest romance in the history of the Trail and the fort. Marian was able to explain her relationship more fully than the failed relationship between her mother and father, of which she may not have been aware. The additional information presented above may change the perception of many readers of the *Land of Enchantment* and cause them to give more attention to Eliza's attachment to the Santa Fe Trail, which may have been a route of escape as well as a route of discovery for her.

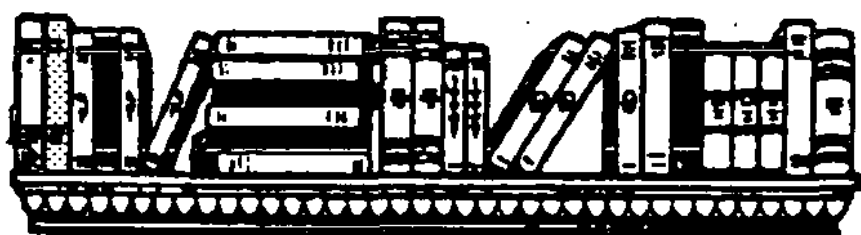
#### NOTES

1. See Marc Simmons's "Afterword" in the reprint of



Marian Sloan Russell, *Land of Enchantment* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1980), 157-163.

2. Ibid., 5.
3. Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army* (2 vols., 1903; reprint, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1965), I, 891.
4. The exact dates of Dr. Sloan's tenure in New Mexico has not been determined. He and his wife were in Santa Fe by Aug. 1856 but may have arrived in July. At what date he assumed his duties as chief medical officer was not found, but he was in charge of that office at least by Aug. 23. Sloan to W. A. Nichols, Aug. 23, 1856, Letters Received, Dept. of New Mexico, Record Group 393, National Archives. That Dr. Sloan was accompanied by his wife was attested by James Ross Larkin. Barton H. Barbour, ed., *Reluctant Frontiersman: James Ross Larkin on the Santa Fe Trail, 1856-57* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1990), 107, 108, 117. Dr. Sloan was first appointed chief medical officer by the department commander, Brig. Gen. John Garland, and was continued in that position by Colonel Thomas T. Fauntleroy when he assumed command of the department in the autumn of 1859. General Orders No. 5, Nov. 2, 1859, Headquarters Dept. of New Mexico, Dept. of New Mexico Orders, v. 38B, Record Group 393, National Archives. Sloan served as the chief medical officer in New Mexico until at least September 12, 1860, and apparently left for Fort Leavenworth in October of that year. Sloan to Dabney C. Maurey, Sept. 12, 1860, Letters Received, Dept. of New Mexico, Record Group 393, National Archives.
5. Russell, *Land of Enchantment*, 89.
6. Eliza Mahoney to Col. John C. McFerran, Oct. 13, 1864, Letters Received, Quartermaster Dept., Dept. of New Mexico, Record Group 393, National Archives.
7. Samuel Price to Amos Kimball, Mar. 27, 1878, & Edward Hatch to Assistant Adjutant General, Mar. 30, 1878, Letters Received, District of New Mexico, Microfilm M-1088, roll 32, Record Group 393, National Archives.
8. *Tenth Census of the United States: 1880, Population, New Mexico*.



## CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES

### —BOOK NOTICES—

Dave Webb. *399 Kansas Characters*. Dodge City: Kansas Heritage Center, 1992. Pp. 298. Illus. by Phillip R. Buntin. Index. Cloth, \$27.95, paper, \$19.95, plus \$2.00 shipping; Kansas residents add 6.15% sales tax. Order from Kansas Heritage Center, PO Box 1275, Dodge City, KS 67801.

Webb is well-known to SFTA members for his outstanding *Adventures with the Santa Fe Trail: An Activity Book for Kids and Teachers* (1989), also published by the Kansas Heritage Center. *399 Kansas Characters* presents brief biographies of 399 Kansans or people with a Kansas connection, plus references to many more. Webb's thorough research and effective communication skills have produced an honest and inspiring book. Written to be used by students (especially junior and senior

high levels) as well as adults, this outstanding compilation belongs in every public, school, and private library.

A number of "characters" had a Santa Fe Trail connection, from Francis X. Aubry to Theodore Weichselbaum. SFTA Ambassador Paul F. Ben-trup, that indefatigable shepherd from Deerfield, even rates space along with such other notables as William Becknell, Kit Carson, Zebulon Pike, Jedediah Smith, Mary Donoho, Bennett Riley, Black Kettle, Satanta, William "Buffalo Bill" Mathewson, and others. There is more to Kansas than the Trail, however, and interested readers will enjoy the stories of the other personalities, such as Amelia Earhart, Waldo Wedel, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Nancy Landon Kassebaum, Gordon Parks, William Allen White, "Sockless" Jerry Simpson, Carry Nation, Fred Harvey, Don Coldsmith, Robert Day, Peggy Hull, Jim Lehrer, Paul Wellman, Ed Asner, Milburn Stone, Gordon Jump, and John R. Brinkley. Highly recommended.

Will Bagley, ed. *Frontiersman, Abner Blackburn's Narrative*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1992. Pp. 309. Illus., maps, notes, index. Cloth, \$27.50.

Abner Blackburn (1827-1904) in his declining years wrote a narrative of his experiences in the Far West. In his youth he had been a steamboat worker on the Mississippi, a teamster for Brigham Young, and prospected for gold in California. Famed western historian Dale Morgan once declared that Blackburn's story is a "a jewel beyond price."

Of special interest is this pioneer author's account of his march over the Santa Fe Trail in 1846 with the Mormon Battalion. Unfortunately, he compresses the entire trip into a few pages, which nevertheless contain some useful and interesting comments. Upon first reaching the Arkansas River in central Kansas, for example, he remarks, "We were very much disappointed as we expected to see a large stream of water with steamboats running on it." And later at the Cimarron River, he mentions the soldiers digging in the dry bed to obtain "water which tasted like powder."

Although only a small part of the book deals directly with the Santa Fe Trail, it is highly readable and gives a good picture of one man's adventures in the West.

—Marc Simmons

William E. Hill. *The Santa Fe Trail, Yesterday and Today*. Caldwell, ID:

Caxton Printers, 1992. Pp. 232. Illus., foldout map, charts, bibliog., index. Paper, \$12.95.

Recently I phoned SFTA member Donna Hudgel of Trails West Books (Louisville, CO) to order this new title on the Trail. "I'm already sold out," she said. "I have more books on the way, but when any new Santa Fe Trail item comes on the market, it sells fast." That was news I delighted to hear.

Many SFTAers no doubt are already familiar with William E. Hill's popular *The Oregon Trail, Yesterday and Today*. His latest release follows the same format as the earlier work with a general historical introduction and sections that include an extended Santa Fe Trail chronology; reprints of maps, guides, and diaries; and a chapter called *Museums and Displays* which describes twenty important points of interest along the contemporary trail.

For me, the most valuable section is the one entitled, "Pictorial Journey." It reproduces 160 Santa Fe Trail photographs, paintings, and drawings. This gathering can serve as a basic guide for those seeking illustrations related to all aspects of the trail.

I found a few small errors in the chronology, but on the whole this book is well done and reliable. Dedicated trail buffs will want a copy for both reading and reference. Highly recommended.

—Marc Simmons

John H. Monnett. *The Battle of Beecher Island and the Indian War of 1867-1869*. Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1992. Pp. 235. Illus., maps, notes, bibliog., index. Cloth, \$22.50, plus \$2.00 postage. Order from University Press of Colorado, PO Box 849, Niwot, CO 80544.

This is the first thorough study of the Battle of Beecher Island, September 1868, which occurred some distance from the Santa Fe Trail. The Indian wars of 1867-1869, however, directly affected travelers on the Trail and the military use of that route. Monnett has carefully analyzed the causes and consequences of the engagement at Beecher Island, including the points of view of Indians as well as U.S. soldiers and citizens. He demonstrates that neither side understood the customs or visions of the future of the other. Principal characters are carefully depicted, including Roman Nose, Philip H. Sheridan, George A. Forsyth, Frederick H. Beecher, Allison J. Pliley, Abner "Sharp" Grover, Jack Stillwell, and Sigmund Schlesinger.

Forsyth may have been foolhardy to jeopardize his command as he did, and

they were fortunate not to be annihilated. The battle was of minor importance in the outcome of the Indian wars, but it was an inspiration to the troops who forced the Indians onto reservations and became a romanticized struggle of heroes in the popular mind. Actually Gen. Sheridan's experiment of using a unit of civilian scouts to find and fight "hostile" Indians failed at Beecher Island, but Sheridan's other tactic, a winter campaign, brought defeat to some of the tribes of the central plains. The Cheyenne Dog Soldiers continued resistance until defeated at Summit Springs on July 11, 1869. Monnett tells the story well and provides a balanced perspective on the Battle of Beecher Island.

*Ghosts of New Mexico: The Old West As It Really Was*, videotape (VHS). 70 minutes. \$29.95 plus \$4.00 shipping; order from Ghosts, 2204 Fredrick Ct. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87010, or call (505) 255-5749.

*Ghosts of New Mexico*, produced by documentary filmmaker J. C. Cale, provides a remarkable tour of some of the Southwest's most intriguing places—abandoned mining camps and eerie ghost towns (such as Loma Parda near Fort Union) where the spirit of the Old West still lives. These haunted relics of the past have long captured the imagination of the public, perhaps because they stand as physical evidence of a romantic period in our history that is now just a memory. Through use of historical photos, modern film footage of the towns, and interviews with old timers, the producers of this documentary have provided viewers the opportunity to get in touch with an authentic slice of western history. *Ghosts of New Mexico* has my strongest recommendation.

—Marc Simmons

## DAR MARKER REDEDICATED AT BURLINGAME

THE Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution (KSDAR) rededicated the Santa Fe Trail marker at Burlingame, Kansas, on September 16, 1992. The marker was originally placed in 1907 by the Topeka Chapter KSDAR to honor Fannie Geiger Thompson, Kansas DAR State Regent, who led the drive to have the DAR place a series of granite markers along the route of the Santa Fe Trail. Eventually DAR markers were placed along the Trail in Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, and New Mexico. Efforts are currently being made by the Oklahoma DAR to place a marker on the route in that state.

## KANSAS DAR TRAIL ESSAY CONTEST WON BY ERICA COURTRIGHT OF NEWTON, KANSAS

AS reported in the last issue of *Wagon Tracks* the Kansas DAR held a Santa Fe Trail essay contest for sixth and seventh graders in the state to help stimulate interest in the Trail among young people. Perhaps the DAR or other organizations could sponsor similar contests in other Trail states. Mrs. Charley Shoemake, KSDAR state historian, recently announced that the winner of the 1992 contest is Erica Courtright, a student at Santa Fe Middle School in Newton, KS. Her teacher is Mrs. Ray Van Sickle. The Newton Chapter KSDAR sponsored Miss Courtright's entry. Congratulations to Erica. Her winning essay follows.

### The Santa Fe Trail

by Erica Courtright

The Santa Fe Trail, and its short cuts, set the scene for many terrible things to take place. It is evident that disease was a major problem to people traveling the trail. Malaria, the dysenteries, cholera, typhoid, smallpox, and scurvy were the major diseases affecting travelers. Also, many times caravans were attacked by Indians or bandits. The short cuts, besides having threats of attacks, were dry and many travelers found themselves overcome with thirst.

Cholera and the dysenteries are diseases that affect the intestines. Typhoid is caused by eating food or drink that contains certain contaminants. Smallpox is a virus that causes prolonged fever, vomiting, and "pox." Scurvy is caused by a lack of vitamin C. And, finally malaria is a disease caused by a parasite. It was possible to prevent some of these diseases. For instance, malaria can be prevented by taking a medication called Quinine. Some caravans were provided with medication for these diseases by medical doctors, such as John Sappington. Dr. Sappington became an expert in the treatment of malaria through the use of Peruvian bark. Disease did provide many problems along the trail.

Caravans were often raided by groups of Indians and bandits. Many travelers returned sharing stories of such events. William Becknell, "Father of the Santa Fe Trail," had two men of his caravan confronted by some "rascally Osages." Horses, guns, and clothing were taken.

Indians would attack, sometimes kill, and at times scalp traders traveling to Santa Fe. Because of these attacks, the U.S. army provided escorts for a total of six caravans before the

Mexican War. The U.S. army, also built a number of forts along the trail in hopes of making travel safer. The trail was then calm, until the 1860's, which brought the Civil War.

Many of the troops from Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico were moved east to fight with the Union troops. Indians thought, for this reason, that they had a chance to force whites out of their territory. This fighting meant the travelers on the trail had to form very large traveling groups for protection. After this period conflicts became insignificant and rare. Seven forts were left along the trail, but by the turn of the century most of the forts had been abandoned.

Many terrible stories have been told of the thirst of those traveling the trail, but, especially those who chose to take the dry short cuts. Captain Becknell was the first to take a short cut, later named the Mountain [Cimarron] Route. Near thirty men and perhaps as much as five thousand dollars worth of goods in his company. Taking a more direct route to Santa Fe held hardships they had never imagined. The band of travelers marched on for two days with only the small volume of water kept in their canteens. After two days the thirst of both man and beast was very apparent. Desperate actions were taken. They had been reduced to killing their animals. Their mules' ears were removed. The men sucked blood from their ears, in hopes that this would quiet the thirst. This action made matters worse. They men now saw, clearly, the death that could be in the very near future. Frantically they spread out searching for this basic need which they lacked. In frantic search they had become very close to the Cimarron River. Without knowing how close they were, they had decided to find a way back to the Arkansas River. They were now exhausted and had very little strength. These men probably would have ended their lives right there. But, a buffalo came along filled from its drink at the river. The animal was killed. The animal's stomach held water of a foul and unclean quality. To men with such a thirst, it was the best thing ever to have been consumed. Water was scarce, at times. Many travelers found themselves thirsting for water.

Travelers on the Santa Fe Trail had to show much perseverance. Only the strong could make the 780 mile trip. The Santa Fe Trail was a trail of hardships.



## DAR MARKERS ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL IN NEW MEXICO

by Jane Mallinson

[Mallinson is a charter member of the SFTA, represents the National Daughters of the American Revolution on the SFNHT Advisory Council, and chairs the committee on Missouri Trails for the Missouri DAR. She was the organizing chairman for the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter SFTA. She has prepared earlier articles about the DAR markers on the Santa Fe Trail in Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado. She invites further information about all the DAR markers.]

A DAR marker designating the end of the Boon's Lick Road on one side and the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail on the other side is located in the center of town in New Franklin, Missouri. This marker was dedicated in May 1913. There is a monument marking the end of the Santa Fe Trail on the SE corner of the Plaza in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The inscription states "This stone marks the end of the Santa Fe Trail 1822-1879, erected by the DAR and the Territory of New Mexico, 1910."

In Missouri and Colorado the markers were funded by the State Legislature and the State DAR. The Kansas State Historical Society and the Kansas DAR placed the markers there. In New Mexico, which was still a territory, the markers were placed with convict labor from the penitentiary.

The *Session Laws of New Mexico, 1905*, contained the following provisions:

"Section 1. There is hereby established a public highway through the Territory of New Mexico, to be known as 'El Camino Real,' which said highway shall have for its northern terminus a point in the Raton Mountains on the State Line between Colorado and New Mexico where the old Barlow & Sanderson stage road, known as the 'Santa Fe Trail,' crossed the State Line, running thence in a southerly direction and following the old Santa Fe Trail as nearly as practicable through the city of Raton, the town of Cimarron, to the village of Rayada; thence to the town of Ocate; thence to the town of Mora; thence to the city of Las Vegas; thence following the route of the highway established by Chapter 56 of the Session Laws of 1903. . . .

"Sec. 9. At suitable points along said public highway, and at places of historic interest, there shall be erected stone monuments commemorative hereof, which said monuments shall be erected by the labor of penitentiary

convicts.

"Sec. 10. There shall be erected at the southeast corner of the public plaza in the city of Santa Fe, immediately opposite the old Exchange Hotel, known as the 'Fonda,' a stone arch, with suitable inscription marking the same as a principal point on the Santa Fe Trail. . . .

"Sec. 11. The sum of ten thousand dollars is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the Territorial treasury except the interest fund, for carrying on the work provided for by Chapter 56 of the Session Laws of 1903."

The *Session Laws of New Mexico, 1903*, provided:

"Section 1. There is hereby established a public wagon road from the city limits of Santa Fe, in the County of Santa Fe to the city limits of Las Vegas, County of San Miguel, which said road shall be constructed over the most feasible route through or near the cañon of the Santa Fe River from the court house in the city of Santa Fe, over the mountain range . . . to the court house in Las Vegas.

Sec 23. . . . The sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) is hereby appropriated . . . for the prosecution of this work."

New Mexico DAR markers may be seen on the Mountain Route at Raton Pass, Raton, Tinaja, Cimarron, and Rayado; on the Cimarron Route at Wagon Mound, Las Vegas, Tecolote, Bernal, San Jose Del Vado, Cañoncito, and Santa Fe. It has been said that two of them are on private property and the owners do not wish their location to be documented as they do not want visitors on their property. With the building of new roads many of them have been moved. I hope the following information is correct.

1. The Raton Pass marker is located off I-25 at exit 6 (Gallinas exit) just behind the exit sign. This marker is accessible only from the southbound lane of I-25. Raton Pass, which sits astride the Colorado-New Mexico border, was a major obstacle for wagon trains. Years ago there was a DAR Marker at the summit of Raton Pass on the old dirt road.

2. In the town of Raton, the DAR marker is located in Ripley Park. This park was named for the president of the AT&SFRR who donated the land adjacent to the tracks. The marker is located in the southwest corner of the Park at 2nd and Savage streets.

3. DAR records show a marker at

Clifton House which was located 8 miles southwest of Raton (between Hoxie and Raton) on US 85. This marker has been moved to the Tinaja Rest Stop on I-25.

4. The Colfax marker was located near the approach to the highway bridge over Vermejo Creek and was in place in 1978 but was gone in 1980. It may have been moved to the other rest stop on I-25 at Tinaja. There is a rest stop on each side of the Interstate there.

5. At Cimarron, on the east side of NM Highway 21, in front of the St. James Hotel, the marker is on the NW corner behind an iron fence and hidden by bushes.

6. Philmont Ranch on NM Highway 21. The Mediterranean Mansion, Villa Philmonte, was once owned by Waite Phillips who donated the ranch to the Boy Scouts. Just past it on the left is the library and museum named in honor of famed naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton. The DAR marker is in front of the library.

7. Rayado, also on NM Highway 21, is the site of the "restored" house of Kit Carson. Some of the walls are original but the plan and design have little resemblance to the original Carson house. DAR marker in front of house.

8. Colmor marker (between Springer and Wagon Mound), originally on the Mountain Route, was moved at an early date. Now it has been moved again to the northbound rest stop (Fort Union rest stop) on I-25 north of Watrous.

9. Wagon Mound marker was on the Cimarron Route and has been moved to the porch of the municipal building in the town of Wagon Mound.

10. Watrous marker has been moved to the southbound rest stop (Fort Union rest stop) north of Watrous.

11. Las Vegas Plaza. This may be on the original site.

12. The Tecolote marker is located on the southwest corner of the plaza in the community of Tecolote.

13. The Bernal marker may be reached from I-25. Take the Bernal exit and go south to a T in the road; turn east and proceed about 50 yards to a grove of trees on the south side. The marker is in the grove.

14. The marker at San Jose del Vado is about a block from the southeast corner of the plaza.

15. The Kozlowski Ranch marker is at the headquarters of the Forked Lightning Ranch, approximately 3.4 miles

from I-25 exit 307, on the east side of road near the corner of the ranch house.

16. At the town of Glorieta, the marker is located north of the road, south of the railroad, and east of the Glorieta railroad station. This site was recently cleaned up by members of the End of the Trail Chapter.

17. The Cañoncito marker is located next to a state historical sign near the I-25 exit. This marker was missing as early as 1954. It was recovered by Dr. Marc Simmons in 1987, replaced, and rededicated Sept. 17, 1988, by DAR members and the state highway department.

18. An unnamed marker is located four miles east of Santa Fe behind the old El Gancho Inn.

19. The End of the Trail marker is at the southeast corner of the Santa Fe Plaza. This is the last of the DAR stones that mark the trail from New Franklin, Missouri.

There is one of the special DAR bronze Santa Fe Trail plaques inset in an adobe wall a few steps from the point where the street called Old Santa Fe Trail enters the Santa Fe Plaza. The plaque faces the La Fonda Hotel.

Since I cannot visit all the DAR marker sites in New Mexico, I have asked for advice from Mike McDonald, Harry Myers, Marc Simmons. Mrs. George T. Foehr, DAR State Regent, has also given me information, and I have consulted *Following the Santa Fe Trail, A Guide for Modern Travelers* by Dr. Simmons. My personal thanks to all who have helped me assemble this information for publication.

I take full responsibility for any errors and ask the readers for additional information or corrections. When markers have been moved (some more than once) it is hard to be as accurate as I want to be. Please send any corrections to Jane Mallinson, Box 8604, Sugar Creek, MO 64054. I am preparing further information for *Wagon Tracks* about corrections on the DAR markers in Kansas.

## LAMBERTSON NEW ARCHIVIST AT NFTC

John Mark Lambertson is the new archivist at the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence. He previously served as director of the Franklin County (KS) Historical Society and, most recently, as an archivist at the Kansas State Historical Society. He will continue to build the research collection at the Center's library. He is especially looking for back issues of historical journals from western states at this time.

## MORTON COUNTY AND ITS HISTORY MUSEUM

by Helen C. Brown

*[This is twenty-fifth in a series on historic sites and museums along the Trail. Helen Brown of Elkhart, KS, is a charter member of SFTA and the director of the Morton County Historical Museum.]*

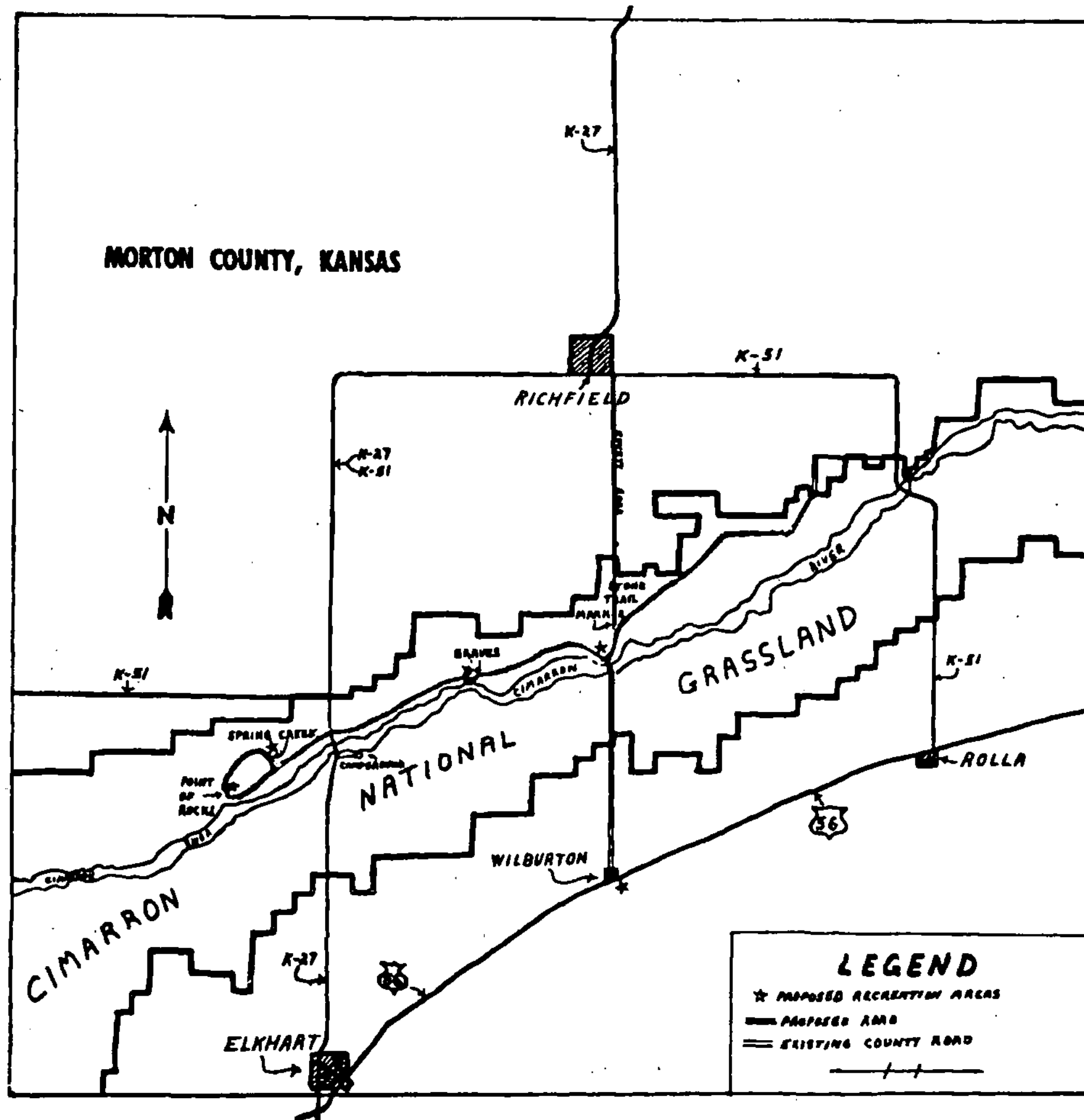
MORTON County, Kansas, "the cornerstone of Kansas," is bordered on the south by Oklahoma and on the west by Colorado. The Morton County Historical Society has joined the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Cimarron Cutoff Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association to preserve and promote the history and remnants of the Cimarron Route across the county. Approximately 23 miles of the Trail are found in the county on the Cimarron National Grassland, the largest piece of federally-owned land in Kansas (108,175 acres), administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Among the Trail landmarks in the county are Middle Spring and Point of Rocks (one of several along the route).

In 1991 the Forest Service commenced the Santa Fe Trail Project, designed to promote the protection of significant natural and cultural resources along the route of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. The project was designed to help protect resources from overuse, vandalism, inappropriate use, and to promote compatible adjacent use on the Cimarron National Grassland. It has also promoted visitor use, recreation, public enjoyment, appreciation, and understanding of the Santa Fe Trail and related sites, including side trails, and provided facilities for the disabled and elderly.

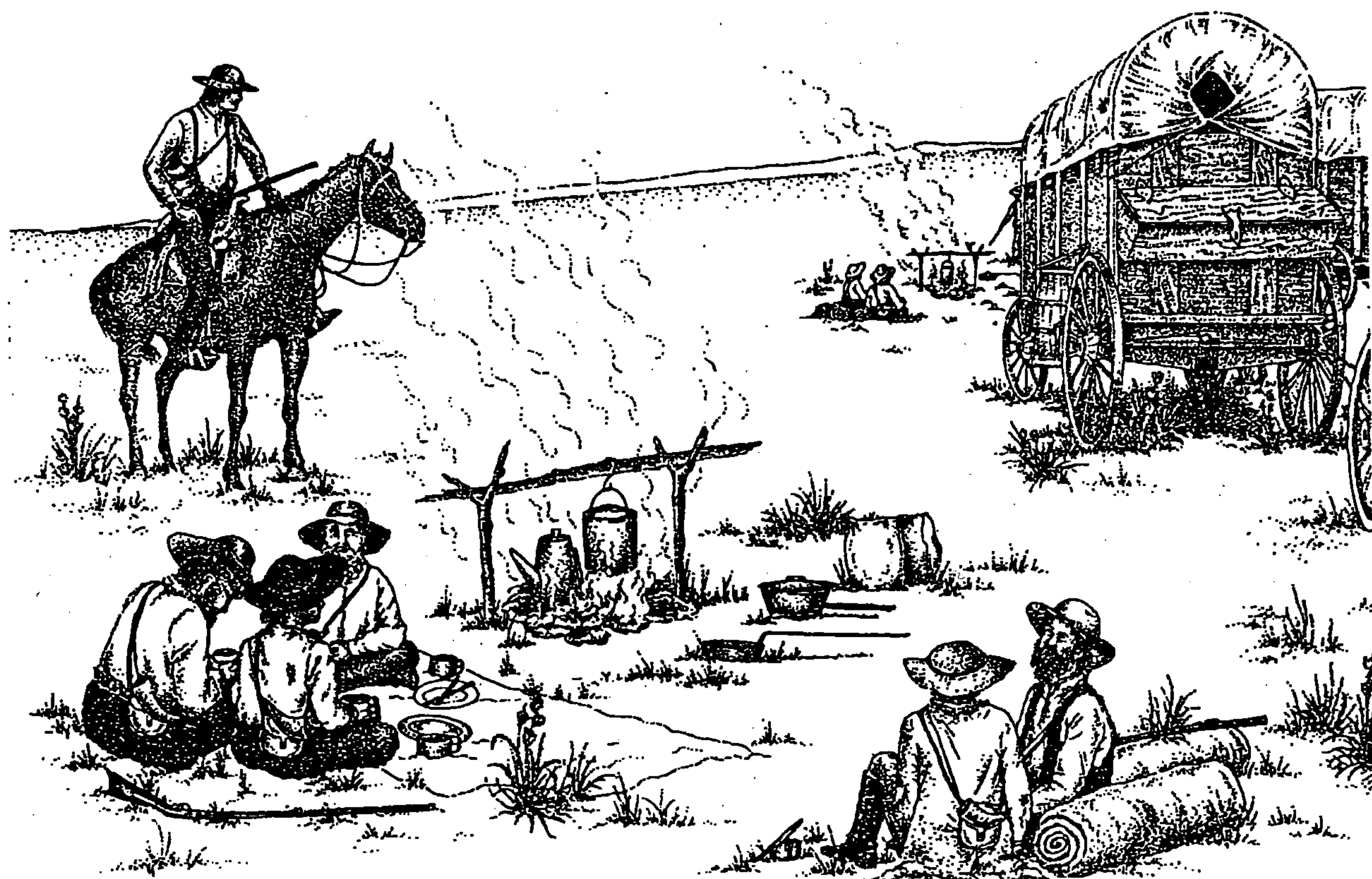
The project was completed in the fall of 1992, and Morton County citizens are proud of the new roads built, toilets provided, the campground and recreational area which has 14 hook-up spaces for campers, a picnic area with tables, grills, and recreational equipment. A "companion trail" is being built to accommodate non-motorized users who are hiking, biking, horse-

## PROPOSED PROJECT

### Cimarron National Grassland







back riding, or traveling in wagons and will run the entire length of the Grassland along side of the historic Trail. It will be a single lane approximately eight feet wide with turnouts. The "companion trail" will be graded with minimal soil disturbance. Over time and use, it will take on a natural appearance of a "two track" across the prairie that will be visually and environmentally desirable and acceptable. Attractive limestone posts have been erected by the Forest Service across the Grassland, marking the ruts of the Cimarron Route. Interpretive signs with drawings by local artist Julie Caffee will be placed at points of interest along the Trail. Other historic themes, such as ranching, will also be interpreted.

To enjoy the Grassland and its improved recreational aspects, visitors are encouraged to stop at the U.S. Forest Service Office on Highway 56 and pick up a brochure of the Cimarron National Grassland Auto Tour. This brochure contains a map and written history of the 50-mile, three-hour, self-guided tour of the Grassland. This will help the traveler to enjoy the history of the region and present-day management. Santa Fe Trail points of interest are prominent in this 17-site auto tour.

Last fall a wagon train led by Wes McKinley and Dean Ormiston, owners and operators of the Kirkwell Cattle

Company, followed adjacent to the Santa Fe Trail from the northeast corner of Morton County to the Colorado line. The first night, the group camped at the Cimarron Recreational Campground, enjoyed a "cowboy" supper, music, story-telling, and games around a campfire. Co-sponsored by the Forest Service and Morton County Historical Society, plans are being made to make this an annual event. All visitors to the area are invited to see the Morton County Historical Museum, located on Highway 56 in Elkhart. A museum project for 1993 is the preparation of a "Santa Fe Trail Room" to serve as a learning center for Trail history in the area.

The museum was established in 1987 and it has developed a fine collection and displays informative exhibits which tell the story of the county, from Indians to the 20th century. A series of paintings by local artists help depict the history of exploration, freighting on the Trail, pioneer settlement, ranching and farming, railroads, and other activities. The museum also offers researchers primary sources for Morton County and Santa Fe Trail history, and it contains family history files, a large photograph collection, newspapers, and maps.

The museum regularly sponsors special workshops, slide programs, community programs, and temporary exhibits. It also utilizes the Kansas Com-

mittee for Humanities Speakers Bureau and special programs offered through the Kansas State Historical Society. School groups, scouts, and local clubs use the museum for meetings and educational programs. Audio-visual equipment is available for public use. The museum also serves as a gallery for Shirley Jackson, local artist and sculptress. Art works of other local and regional artists are also exhibited periodically.

The Morton County Historical Society is actively involved in the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Cimarron Cut-Off Chapter, and the museum hosts a chapter meeting and dinner each January. It is also a member of the Kansas Museum Association, Wild West Country, and the Kansas State Historical Society. The Morton County Historical Society and the U.S. Forest Service cordially invite everyone to see the Cimarron National Grassland and tour the county museum to relive the history of Morton County and the section of Santa Fe Trail that crosses it.

The Morton County Historical Museum is open during May through September from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. During October through April the hours are 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and by appointment on Saturday and Sunday. For more information call (316) 697-2833.

## ROCK AND WHETSTONE CREEKS, SANTA FE TRAIL LANDMARKS

by Pete and Faye Gaines, and Harry Myers

[Pete and Faye Gaines live at Point of Rocks, New Mexico, and operate a ranch. They are members of SFTA and the Corazon de los Caminos Chapter. They are authorities on the Trail in northeastern New Mexico. Myers is superintendent of Fort Union National Monument, a member of SFTA and the Corazon de los Caminos Chapter, and a frequent contributor to WT.]

IN northeastern New Mexico, between the well-known landmarks of Round Mound and Point of Rocks on the Cimarron Route of the Santa Fe Trail, is a wonderland on the high plains of old volcanoes, lava flows, and intrusive rocks pushed up from beneath the earth's surface. For Trail travelers going west, this land provided the first significant relief from the wide, endless, flat prairie that had been predominant for some 400 miles. For travelers heading east from Santa Fe, this area provided a transition from the mountains, through mid-sized hills, to that prairie which persisted to Council Grove. Although many Indian tribes hunted in this transition zone, it was largely undistinguished both in the historic and modern-day annals of the Santa Fe Trail. Except for a few incidents, the most dramatic of which was the murder of James White and members of his party in 1849, this area has been virtually ignored by historians and cartographers.

It was an area that Trail travelers had to cross and it contained sources of water, the one essential item required by humans and their livestock. The headwaters of Ute Creek and Gallegos or Carrizo Creek are found there. This section of the historic Trail is isolated from present-day routes of travel, lying between two modern highways (U.S. 64-87 and U.S. 56) which skirt its edges. Few roads run in this area and those that do are typically sparse gravel or dirt. This isolation has preserved almost unchanged from Trail days two campsites named with surprising frequency by a number of Trail journalists, Rock Creek and Whetstone Creek. Rock Creek Crossing or campsite is on what today is called Gallegos or Carrizo Creek in T 26 N, R 30 E. Whetstone Creek or campsite is today an unnamed tributary of Ute Creek in T 26 N, R 28 E. The present owners of these sites and their neighbors are not familiar with these forgotten names. One owner recalled the distant memory of one of these names from childhood but never knew where it was. An autumn

excursion along the Trail by the authors revealed these sites and gave us a new appreciation for this wonderland and the reason that the Trail ran through it. A search of historical records disclosed several references to these sites.

George Sibley, who surveyed the Trail in 1825, was captivated with this area and paused to sketch the hills, not once but twice, commenting, "The mountain scenery around us today is extremely romantic and pretty." On Saturday, October 15, 1825, Sibley and his party followed Rabbit Ear Creek, passed Mount Dora, left the creek on a more westerly course over a "beautiful Plain," passed Round Mound at its base, and continued on four and a half miles, stopping after dark at "a Spring in a Hollow among Rocks." The horses were tired and the grass there was very bad. The next morning they started early and moved one mile westward to a small stream (Rock Creek) and halted to let the horses graze where the grass was good but the water, in holes, was bad. A few miles farther they passed "a pretty large Pond of Water" (Whetstone Creek). Without using the names that were later attached to these sites, George Sibley described Rock and Whetstone Creeks, the first such description since the Trail had been opened to Americans in late 1821.<sup>1</sup>

Probably a portion of the area had been described earlier by Hispanic soldiers. The 1774 expedition of Don Carlos Fernandez against the Comanche Indians took place in the vicinity, if not at Whetstone Creek. Later travelers would variously describe Don Carlos Creek within a few miles of or at Whetstone Creek. If the pond at Whetstone existed in 1774, then it was likely that Don Carlos Fernandez and his 600 men defeated the Comanche here. Unfortunately the references at hand are secondary and do not allow us to pinpoint the actual battle site.<sup>2</sup>

In 1831 Josiah Gregg, early Trail historian and author of the classic *Commerce of the Prairies* (1844), climbed to the top of Round Mound and saw over a hundred miles in some directions. In one direction he noted "extensive plains spread out, studded occasionally with variegated peaks and ridges. Far beyond these, to the north-westward, and low in the horizon a silvery stripe appears upon an azure base, resembling a list of chalk-white clouds. This is the perennially snowcapped summit of the eastern

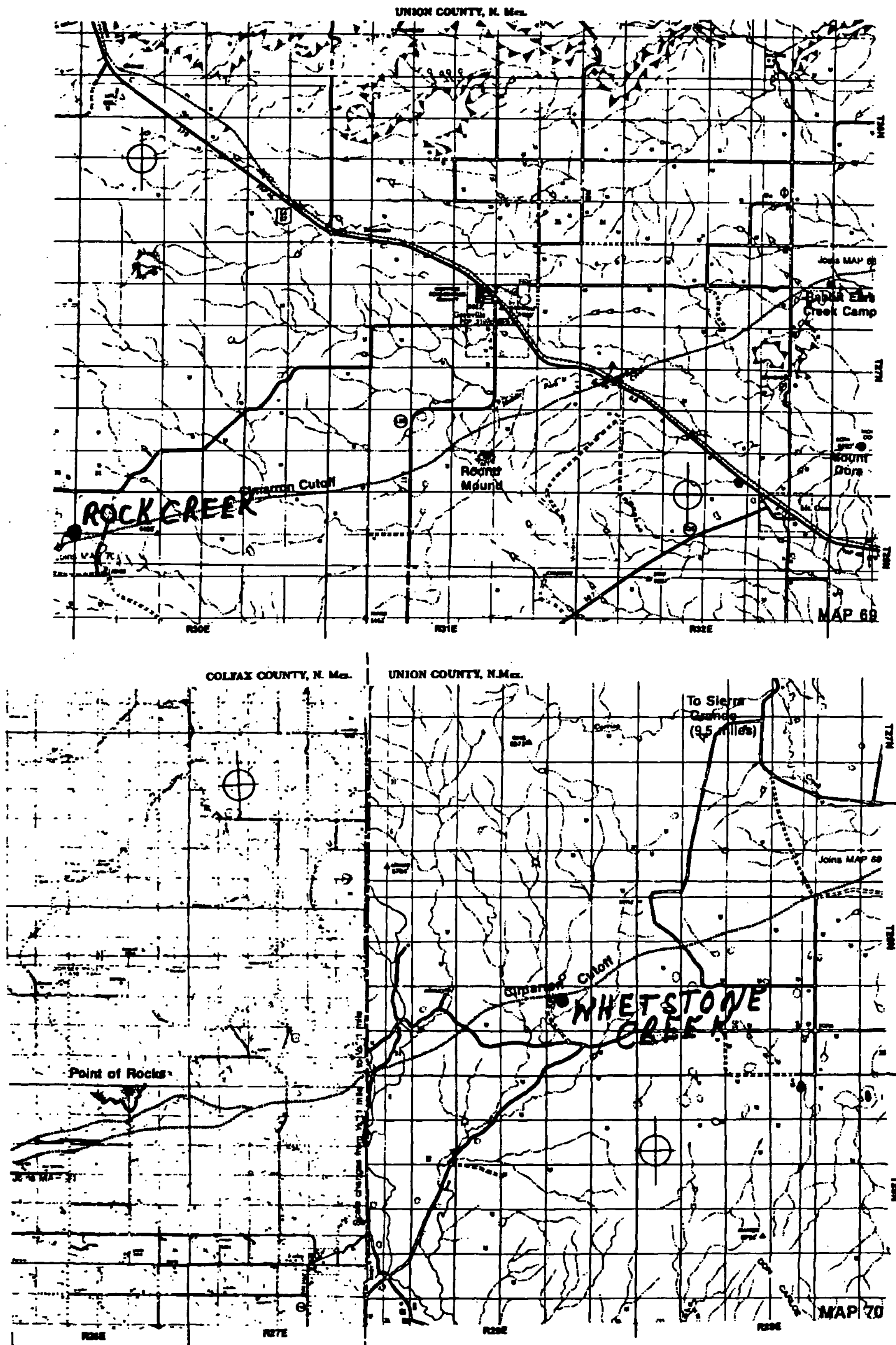
spur of the Rocky Mountains." Gregg went on to comment that the plains and hills, except for a chance scattering tree, "are wholly destitute of timber." Camping on a "beautiful plain" near Round Mound, his caravan that night was disturbed by a stampede of their livestock. Starting out the next morning, he continued, "At Rock Creek, a distance of six or seven miles, we were joined by those who had gone in pursuit of the stock." It was unfortunate that Gregg was preoccupied with the stock, or he may have described Rock Creek. His caravan then entered "a region of rough and in some places rocky road, as the streams which intervene from this to the mountains are all bordered with fine sandstone." Whetstone Creek was one of these streams and the sandstone there, appropriate for sharpening a knife, was the reason for its name.

Another mention of Rock and Whetstone creeks was not found in the records until a decade later, in an extract of a letter dated July 29, 1841, published in the Evansville, Indiana, *Journal*. Although the route was not described, the table of distances noted that "Rocky Branch" was 12 miles west of Round Mound and that the "Summit Level, in view of Rocky Mountains," which would be about a mile short of Whetstone Creek, was 8 miles farther.<sup>4</sup>

In the spring of 1843 New Mexico Governor Manuel Armijo, with a command in search of Texans rumored to be along the Cimarron Route, camped at Palo Blanco Creek and on May 18 marched 2½ leagues east to what he called "Rito de Don Carlos," the same place also known to Anglo-Americans as Whetstone Creek. Armijo said that water and pasture were abundant. Remaining in camp on the 19th, they marched the following day a distance of 4 leagues to "leguaje del Gallego" (Gallego pond). Rock Creek is known today as "Gallegos Creek." Armijo noted that there were "water holes on both sides of the road with but little water, not permanent, only in holes, no wood."<sup>5</sup> James J. Webb, in 1844, met an anticipated wagon train coming from the States somewhere between Point of Rocks and Whetstone Creek but gave no description.<sup>6</sup>

John D. Lee traveled the Cimarron Route with the Mormon Battalion on the way to the Mexican War in 1846. Lee kept a diary in which he noted that, on October 1, 1846, the battalion marched west three miles from their





The above two panels from Gregory M. Franzwa's *Maps of the Santa Fe Trail* show the locations of the Santa Fe Trail crossings of Rock Creek and Whetstone Creek.

previous night's camp (about 7 miles west of Round Mound) and halted at what Lee called "Stillbetter Creek." Here, a halt was called for the stock to graze for about three hours, "grass good."<sup>7</sup> Rock Creek at that time evidently provided good grass. Earlier that year, on June 19, Adolph Wislizenus and the party he was with had marched 20 miles without rest, for want of water, to Rock Creek. There Wislizenus saw "amygdaloidal basalt" lying atop sandstone. The next morning they traveled approximately five miles to Whetstone Creek where they found good grass and water. Wislizenus described it: "The sandstone here contains some lime, and may be used for coarse whetstones." They continued on that afternoon to Point of Rocks.<sup>8</sup>

Near the end of the Mexican War, in 1848, three soldiers traveled the Trail and mentioned Whetstone and/or Rock creeks in their journals. George R. Gibson, traveling east on May 7, noted that Whetstone Creek had "a little wood and plenty of water." George D. Brewerton, traveling east in August, camped at Rock Creek. There he met a wagon train coming west and heard about an attack on the Utes by a party of Comanches. The next day, before reaching Round Mound, Brewerton found bones of the Comanches who had been defeated by the Utes. On August 14 Philip G. Ferguson, coming to New Mexico with other Missouri Volunteers, camped at Rock Creek where they saw their first "Mexican" woman who "was looked upon by us as a great curiosity."<sup>9</sup>

Two '49ers headed for California and the gold rush via the Santa Fe Trail left their impressions. On June 24 William W. Hunter "crossed Whetstone Creek just below an excellent spring, round and about which were stone of as fine grit as I ever saw. We procured some and pushed on." A few days later, on July 1, H. M. T. Powell climbed Round Mound and had a magnificent view: "to the North West I saw for the first time the peaks of the 'Rocky Mountains' on which the snow glittered in the sun; to the North a range of various shaped eminences, some like field works. East, the wide Prairie was broken only by our old friends, the two mounds; to the South, the Plains stretched away, away—I do not know how far; and to the South West and West a series of hills and some Mountains." The next day brought Powell and his party to "the East Fork of Rock Creek." Over a level prairie they traveled to "the next fork called 'Whetstone Creek' on a/c of fine whetstones got here. We laid in a stock . . . There is a fine spring just

North of where the road crosses the creek."<sup>10</sup>

Anna Maria Morris and her soldier husband (Major Gouverneur Morris, Third Infantry) were with a military detachment traveling to Santa Fe in 1850. On June 30 they marched 28.5 miles and camped at Rock Creek where there was "fine water, no wood, and poor grass." She was impressed with the scenery: "We have the Raton mountains constantly before us now and farther off the Spanish peak covered with snow - I never thought I should be as near the Rocky mountains as I am but here I am seeing their distant grandeur." The next day they marched eight miles to Whetstone Creek in intense heat. She noted that they were within five days' travel of Las Vegas and that a dragoon detachment was sent ahead to look for Indians.<sup>11</sup>

In 1854 W. W. H. Davis headed to New Mexico as the newly appointed United States Attorney to the Territory and gave a description of Rock Creek where his party stopped for breakfast. "The geological formation of the rocks along the stream is rather interesting. The rocks were originally formed by deposition in water, and the strata can yet be distinctly traced, as though they had been laid by a stone mason. The layers have not been disturbed from their horizontal position, and the attrition of water in times of freshets has worn many of the softer stones away, and left the harder ones projecting over the bed of the stream. The formation appears to have been subjected to the accumulation of fire at a subsequent period, as it bears evidence of having undergone intense heat. Many of the rocks are partially crumbled, and in places they are almost a blood red, caused by the action of the atmosphere upon the chemicals in their composition. In places they exhibit seams and ridges upon their flat surface, probably caused by a softer overlying stone having been reduced to a liquid state, portions of which remained and became hardened."<sup>12</sup>

Many other Trail travelers must have stopped at the crossings of these two streams. Today Rock and Whetstone creeks are little changed from the Trail days and could be recognized by those old descriptions. Whetstone Creek or pond has had a dam built immediately upstream of the original pond which still exists. It is on private property and is not accessible to the public, but a county road crosses Ute Creek about a mile south of the pond. Rock Creek also lies on private property, however a county road runs immediately east of it and it can be viewed from the road. In the soft stone there, is inscribed "E.

Lee 1849." This may be Elliott Lee who in 1848 with Lucien Maxwell and others was attacked in Manco Burro Pass. Lee was one of the lucky survivors. No record has been found to indicate Lee's whereabouts in 1849, but further research may indeed reveal that Elliott Lee was at Rock Creek in 1849.<sup>13</sup>

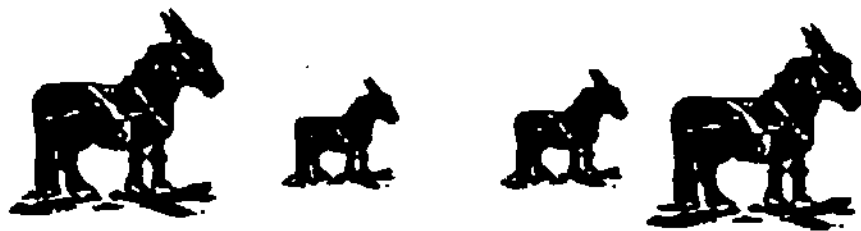
Later travelers on the Cimarron Route continued to take advantage of these two creeks and their valuable water. After the Santa Fe Trail died out, ranchers occupied the area and Rock and Whetstone Creeks became only a memory; each a watering site for cattle, without names. Because they were important to Trail travelers, they are important to us today. Perhaps future Santa Fe Trail maps and guides will take note of Rock and Whetstone creeks, drawing attention to their importance in the history of the Trail.

#### NOTES

1. Kate L. Gregg, *The Road to Santa Fe: The Journal and Diaries of George Champlin Sibley* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1952), 101-103, 121-123.
2. Harry C. Myers, "Point of Rocks, New Mexico," *Wagon Tracks*, 6 (Aug. 1992): 6-7; Alfred B. Thomas, *Forgotten Frontiers: A Study of the Spanish Indian Policy of Don Juan Bautista de Anza, Governor of New Mexico, 1777-1787* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1932), 63.
3. Josiah Gregg, *Commerce of the Prairies* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954), 69-74. In his Table of Distances on page 217, Gregg noted that Rock Creek was eight miles from Round Mound and nineteen from Point of Rocks.
4. "Trail Trip, 1841," *Wagon Tracks*, 3 (Nov. 1988): 14 & (Feb. 1989): 9-10. This article without the table of distances was also published as "Santa Fe and the Far West," *New Mexico Historical Review*, 5 (July 1930): 299-304.
5. General Armijo's "Diary of Operations," Huntington Library.
6. James Josiah Webb, *Adventures in the Santa Fe Trade, 1844-1847* (Glendale: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1931), 71.
7. John D. Lee, "Diary of the Mormon Battalion Mission," ed. by Juanita Brooks, *New Mexico Historical Review*, 42 (Oct. 1967): 287.
8. Adolph Wislizenus, *Memoir of a Tour to Northern Mexico, Connected with Colonel Doniphan's Expedition in 1846 and 1847* (Albuquerque: Calvin Horn, 1969), 15.
9. Robert W. Frazer, *Over the Chihuahua and Santa Fe Trails, 1847-1848, George Rutledge Gibson's Journal* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1981), 68; George D. Brewerton, *In the Buffalo Country* (Ashland: Lewis Osborne, 1970), 26-29; Abraham Robinson Johnston, Marcellus Ball Edwards, and Philip Gooch Ferguson, *Marching with the Army of the West*, vol. 4 of the Southwest Historical Series, ed. by Ralph P. Bieber (Glendale: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1936), 313.
10. William W. Hunter, *Missouri '49er, The Journal of William W. Hunter on the Southern Gold Trail*, ed. by David P. Robrock (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1992), 35; H. M. T. Powell, *The Santa Fe Trail to California, 1849-1852*, ed. by Douglas S. Watson (New York: Sol Lewis, 1981), 63.
11. Kenneth L. Holmes, ed., *Covered Wagon Women, Diaries & Letters from the Western Trails, 1840-1890*, vol. 2 (Glendale: Arthur H. Clark, 1983), 35.
12. W. W. H. Davis, *El Gringo: New Mexico and Her People* (1857; reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982), 43.



13. For Elliott Lee and the Manco Burro Pass Massacre, see Janet Le Compte, "The Manco Burro Pass Massacre," *New Mexico Historical Review*, 41 (Oct. 1966): 305-318.



## HOOF PRINTS

### —TRAIL TIDBITS—

Since 1993 is the 150th anniversary of the Oregon Trail, a series of events has been planned to commemorate that important historic route. The National Frontier Trails Center at Independence, MO, will host a special festival, May 29-31, 1993, entitled "The Queen City Rendezvous." A number of tours of the Oregon Trail are also being planned, and each state in which the Trail was located will be celebrating this anniversary.

The Johnson County Museum System and four Kansas communities (Baldwin City, Edgerton, Gardner, and Olathe) have produced an attractive brochure, "Where the Trails Divide," a visitors' guide to Trail sites in the area. A copy of the guide may be obtained by writing the Johnson County Historical Museum, 6305 Lackman Rd, Shawnee, KS 66217 or by calling (913) 631-6709.

The Friends of Arrow Rock will host the first annual Antiques Forum at Arrow Rock, Missouri, April 17, 1993. Topics included are "The Way We Were: Boonslick Lifestyles of the Mid-19th Century," "Searching and Surveying the Decorative Arts of Missouri," and "Missouri Silver." For more information contact Friends of Arrow Rock, PO Box 124, Arrow Rock, MO 65320.

SFTA member Mary B. Olch, widow of the late Peter Olch, continues to operate The Owl & The Buffalo Books business which Dr. Olch started. The mail-order bookstore specializes in western history. To obtain the latest catalog, please contact Mrs. Olch at PO Box 527, Kensington, MD 20895 or (301) 949-0469.

The historic La Fonda Hotel, the inn at the end of the Trail in Santa Fe, was featured in an article in the November 1992 issue of *New Mexico Magazine*, written by best-selling author Michael Wallis. The site of the landmark hotel on the plaza has been home to a series of hotels. The Santa Fe House was

there when General S. W. Kearny's Army of the West occupied the town in 1846. It became the U.S. Hotel in 1848 and the Exchange Hotel in 1850. The Exchange was razed in 1919 and the current facility was built in 1922 and became a Fred Harvey hotel in 1925.

SFTA Vice-President Mark L. Gardner's study of the Glasgow brothers in the Santa Fe trade will be published by the University Press of Colorado in late spring 1993. A review and ordering information will appear in the next issue of WT.

Fort Union, NM, was featured in a ten-page illustrated article in the January 1993 issue of *New Mexico Magazine*, prepared by photographer-author Douglas Merriam. The brief history of the post is enhanced with nine color photographs and selected quotations from primary sources. The close connection of the military post and the Trail is noted.

Marc Simmons had an article, "Coal Oil Jimmy: One Slick Outlaw," in the February 1993 issue of *New Mexico Magazine*. It tells the colorful story of James Buckner and his crime spree (he especially liked to rob stagecoaches) along the Santa Fe Trail from Raton to Fort Union in 1871. Coal Oil Jimmy was killed by bounty hunters.

Nearly 10,000 people hiked, biked, or rode horseback on 85 percent of the American Discovery Trail on ADT Trail-Blazer Day on September 12, 1992. More than 1,000 miles of this trail are now marked, according to national coordinator Reese Lukei. Congress has authorized a study of ADT to consider adding its 4,900 miles to the National Trails System.

The annual Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous at the NRA Whittington Center near Raton, New Mexico, will be held June 13-20, 1993. For further information contact the Center, PO Box 700, Raton, NM 87740 or (505) 445-3615.

The Santa Fe Trail ruts west of Dodge City, KS, administered by the Boot Hill Museum, was recently certified by the National Park Service as part of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. Plans for improvements include installation of interpretive signs and the construction of sidewalks and benches to accommodate visitors.

The silhouettes of a man on a horse

and an ox-drawn covered wagon have been placed on the Lori Cosgrove ranch near Council Grove, KS, along Highway K-177. The ten-foot high silhouettes, called "Travelers of the Prairie," are metal painted black and stand near the remnants of the Santa Fe Trail. This was a project of the Council Grove Community Arts Council.

Sam Arnold, the authority on foods and food preparation in the Old West, author of *Eating Up the Santa Fe Trail*, owner of The Fort restaurant, and charter member of SFTA, was the subject of a feature article in the February/March issue of *Modern Maturity*, "Wild-Man Sam: This Old West Chef Is At Home On the Range." Several of his recipes are included. Sam was also profiled in "Tasting the Good Life," *Rocky Mountain News*, December 13, 1992.

The Santa Fe Trail in western Kansas and a number of related sites, including Dodge City, the Cimarron Hotel in Cimarron, Fort Larned, and Pawnee Rock, were mentioned in a feature article written by Robert Day, author of the highly acclaimed novel *The Last Cattle Drive*, which appeared in *The Washington Sunday Post Magazine*, October 11, 1992. Titled "High Plains Drifters," the article relates the adventures of Day and his friend Fred Whitehead (a new member of SFTA) in "Lonesome Dove Country."

The 1993 *New Mexico Vacation Guide* is available free for the asking, call 1-800-545-2040. The 168-page guide is produced by the New Mexico Department of Tourism. The cover photograph shows the Spanish mission church at Pecos National Historical Park. This is an informative publication whether you plan to visit New Mexico or just think about it.

An exhibit entitled "El Camino Real: Un Sendero Historico" is on display at Otero Junior College Student Center, La Junta, Colorado, during the month of February 1993. The exhibit is sponsored by Otero Junior College and Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site. *El Camino Real* was the route, opened in 1598, connecting New Mexico with Chihuahua and the rest of Mexico. It was used for three centuries. The Santa Fe Trail connected with it after 1821. The exhibit is an officially recognized Columbus Quincentenary project and has been or will be exhibited in several states.

Another Santa Fe National Historic

Trail newsletter (no. 8) was published in January 1993. In addition to details of developments with the SFNHT, including certification of sites and the advisory council, a number of corrections in the comprehensive management and use plan were included in an errata sheet which can be removed from the newsletter and placed with the plan. A copy of the newsletter may be obtained from the Branch of Long Distance Trails, National Park Service, Southwest Region, PO Box 728, Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728.

Adrian Bustamante of Santa Fe, a member of the SFTA board of directors and the program chairman for the 1989 Symposium at Santa Fe, was recently featured in the Santa Fe Community College advertisement in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. A photograph of the popular professor, who is division head of arts and sciences at SFCC, and biographical data were included.

## CAMP TALES

### —CHAPTER REPORTS—

#### Cimarron Cutoff

President David Hutchison  
West Star Route Box 35  
Boise City, OK 73933

The January meeting was cancelled because of the weather. Contact the president for the next meeting date.

#### Texas Panhandle

President Charles H. Pitts  
7101 Wolflin #103  
Amarillo, TX 79106

No report.

#### Wagonbed Spring

President Edward Dowell  
521 W. Janice  
Ulysses, KS 67880

Karla French showed the video, "West to Santa Fe," for the program at the meeting of Wagonbed Spring Chapter on January 28, 1993, at Ulysses. The meeting was postponed from January 14 due to the snow storms in western Kansas. The video shows sites along the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri to New Mexico and provides an overview of the history of the Trail. Mrs. French had shown the film to her three classes of fifth graders at the Ulysses school.

President Dowell conducted the business meeting. He reported that John Conoboy, NPS, sent him a letter saying no money was available for another survey of the Wagonbed Spring site. Conoboy and other NPS personnel had visited the site last fall to consider whether to enlarge the site or if

an archaeological dig should be made there.

The annual election was held. Roy Bessire made the motion to re-elect all the officers and the motion passed. Those who will serve another year are: Edward Dowell, president; Ed Lewis, vice president; Marjorie Persinger, secretary; Karla French, treasurer; and Mary Gamble, reporter. The office of program chairman was left vacant.

The spring meeting of the chapter will be at Hugoton on April 8, 1993.

#### Heart of the Flint Hills

President Donald B Cress  
RR 1 Box 66  
Council Grove, KS 66846

The chapter met at the Flame Room in Council Grove the evening of January 12. Plans were made to help with the Oregon-Santa Fe Trail Ride that will begin at Westmoreland, Kansas, on May 29, 1993, and proceed toward Gardner, Kansas, on a section of the Oregon Trail. It was decided to be involved in the second "Voices of the Wind People" pageant, September 25, in Council Grove, and to have the Santa Fe Arts festival at the Fremont Park Stone Barn on September 26, 1993. Deanne Wright was appointed to the pageant board of directors, as a liaison person for the chapter. Howard Mohler sent a letter reporting that his committee is making progress in getting the old Wilmington School on the National Register of Historic Places. Dean Spittles and Don Cress stated that they would get the windows covered soon on the Wilmington schoolhouse. It was decided that a short trail ride would be run from Lost Springs to Council Grove, June 10 and 11, 1993, for those who could not attend the ride on the Oregon Trail. Registration fees will be:

Oregon Ride, \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Two-day Ride, \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members.

Because of the lack of a quorum at recent meetings, a special membership meeting will be held in conjunction with the directors' meeting on April 13, 1993, 7:30 p.m. at the courthouse meeting room in Council Grove.

#### End of the Trail

President Carlton R. Damonte  
7221 Vivian Dr NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

The chapter's executive board met at the home of Margaret Sears, vice president, on November 6, 1992, in Santa Fe. Topics discussed included use of videos for meetings, field trips for 1993, and the chapter's financial situation. The board also identified five members to serve as a nominating

committee to select individuals as candidates for office for 1993. Election of officers was set for the January meeting.

The last chapter meeting for 1992 was held on Sunday, November 15, at the Santa Fe Library, with a program by Mary Moorehead. In addition to being a chapter member, Mary serves on the SFTA board of directors and is chairman of the SFTA historical sites committee. The title of Mrs. Moorehead's dramatic presentation was "Trailing Clara Blinn." Clara Blinn was Mary's great-aunt. On October 18, 1868, while traveling from Fort Lyon, Colorado, to Kansas, their wagon train was attacked by Indians on the Santa Fe Trail. Clara Blinn and her two-year-old son, Willie, were abducted and forced to travel south with the Indians, and were subsequently killed during an attack on the Indians by the U.S. army. They were buried at Fort Arbuckle on Christmas Day, 1868. To highlight her talk, Mary showed photos of Clara Blinn, a piece of the dress she was wearing when captured and a letter Clara Blinn had written asking for help. Mrs. Moorehead hopes to get a manuscript on the experiences of Clara Blinn published. A business meeting followed. A door prize, a 1993 Santa Fe Trail calendar, was won by Joyce Remke.

The first meeting of the new year was held on Saturday, January 16, at the Santa Fe Library. The meeting was attended by 48 chapter members. The featured speaker was David Gaines, Chief of the Branch of Long Distance Trails, National Park Service, Southwest Region. Gaines showed slides and discussed the work of his department on the Santa Fe Trail. The National Park Service certifies sites which have development plans that meet their standards and are historically correct. To date, 16 sites have been certified, one of which is in New Mexico: Point of Rocks.

Following the slide presentation, Gaines showed a Santa Fe Trail Pendleton blanket from Ray Dewey's Santa Fe Pendleton store. The NPS receives a percentage from the sale of these blankets. He also mentioned that the NPS is producing a new Trail brochure that will be ready for distribution in early 1994 and suggested several projects he thought were appropriate for chapter involvement.

Gaines then introduced Bill deBuys from the Conservation Fund, who updated the group on the Fund's plan to preserve a "greenway" trail between Santa Fe and the Forked Lightning Ranch in Pecos. DeBuys described the proposed route and commented that



many chapter projects are available on the Cañoncito to Santa Fe leg. Because no county or city study of open spaces has ever been commissioned, Trail sites that no one knows exists are being destroyed. He also mentioned that on April 25, 1993, the remains of Confederate soldiers found at Pigeons's Ranch will be reburied at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. The Conservation Fund will use this event to announce its plans for a "New Santa Fe Trail."

Elaine Pinkerton Coleman, chapter member and published author, announced the forthcoming publication (due out in May) of her new book, *The Santa Fe Trail by Bicycle*, published by Red Crane Books of Santa Fe. The book contains photographs by Murrae Haynes and a foreword by Marc Simmons. It is intended for both the serious cyclist and the "armchair" tourist. Elaine describes historical sites along the Trail and an overview of Santa Fe Trail history. The book will also serve as a useful guide for motorists traversing the Trail. Elaine is also author of the guidebook *Santa Fe on Foot*.

During the business meeting, Carlene Steel of the nominating committee reported that the 1992 officers were nominated for a second term. Carl Damonte, Margaret Sears, and Louann Jordan were elected by acclamation. After viewing a video on the Santa Fe Trail, the meeting adjourned. On January 29 the chapter's executive committee met in Santa Fe to plan activities and discuss possible projects for the coming year.

### Corazon de los Caminos

President LeRoy LeDoux  
PO Box 94  
Wagon Mound, NM 87752

Chapter members were treated to a preview of Mike Olsen's and Harry Myers' publication on researching Spanish documents published in the November issue of *Wagon Track* at the November meeting. Nineteen members and seven guests were present. The membership voted on the dues, frequency of activities, and the program for 1993. The dues remain unchanged, but anyone wishing to contribute more than the required dues may do so. The number of meetings was reduced to ten per year, one per month except for December and January. The regular meeting date is the third Sunday of the month. The 1993 program schedule, prepared by Nancy Roberts, was approved. The membership opted for a combination of outdoor activities at Trail sites, lectures, talks, and interviews of local residents. The 1993 schedule may be found in the Trail Calendar in *WT*.

### Wet/Dry Routes

President Lon R. Palmer  
358 West 8  
Hoisington, KS 67544

The chapter met on January 17, 1993, at the St. Joseph Hall in Offerle, Kansas. The meeting was called to order by President Joanne VanCoevern. President VanCoevern stated that three more markers would be placed on the Wet/Dry routes as soon as the weather cooperates, and plans to control the grass around the markers would be implemented. There has been some discussion about which was the Wet and which was the Dry Route of the Santa Fe Trail. President VanCoevern read an order issued at Fort Dodge, May 11, 1868, copy of which was provided by George Elmore, stating that the road closest to the Arkansas River was the Wet Route. All other historic records state the same thing.

The following officers were elected for 1993: President Lon Palmer, V-P Louis Van Meter, and Secretary-Treasurer Mildon and Ida Yeager. The following will hold appointed offices: David Clapsaddle, program chairman; Clara Goodrich, historian; and Carl Immenschuh, publicity.

Our guest speaker was Leo E. Oliva, who talked about Francis X. Aubry and the Aubry Route of the Santa Fe Trail. The talk was very well received because of the educational content and the enthusiasm of the speaker. The members and guests appreciated Dr. Oliva taking time to present a most entertaining talk.

President Lon Palmer mentioned that the March meeting of the chapter will cover several topics, including the Second Annual Wet/Dry routes tour scheduled for October 9, 1993; non-profit mailings; Larned Trail Days; Wet/Dry Route brochures; the chapter's mobile display schedule; and additional markers that will be placed this summer. David Webb was in attendance to personally autograph his new book, *399 Kansas Characters*, and was well received by the membership. Officers will be meeting in February to discuss the many issues of the chapter and planning another exciting year.

### Mountain Branch

President Roberta Cordova  
202 East Sixth St.  
Trinidad, CO 81082

The annual meeting of the chapter is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., March 20, 1993, at the Trinidad Motor Inn in Trinidad. There will be an election of board members and officers, and such other business as is brought before the

group. Don Hill, Superintendent from Bent's Old Fort, will be there to tell us about the Santa Fe Trail Symposium to be held at the Fort and in La Junta this coming September 23-26. After lunch at "Wanda's Buffet," Jamie Kingsbury of the National Forest Service will lead a tour to the Santa Fe Trail Campsites under development by that organization.

Trinidad will celebrate its historic beginnings June 12 and 13 with its Eighth Annual Santa Fe Trail Festival. Leading off the Festival this year will be a dedication ceremony for the recently designated National Historic Santa Fe Trail site at the Baca House Pioneer Museum on Trinidad's Main Street. For the first time, the Mountain Branch Association will offer convoy auto tours to the old Trail ruts nearby. These will be hour-long tours with some interesting stops along the way. Events in the Corazon de Trinidad will include the Festival's popular quilt show which will be expanded this year to include other textiles. There will be major exhibits of Navajo and Hispanic weavings, both by individuals and from museum collections. An interesting feature of the Festival will be the reprise, sponsored by Trinidad State Junior College, of the historical trails exhibit which was first displayed at the Santa Fe Trail Symposia in Trinidad in 1986. As in previous years, the Baca House will feature living-history demonstrations and the Mitchell Museum of Western Art will host its annual regional art show and a new Mountain Man exhibit. Another first this year is the historical model railroad exhibit "Chariots of Iron," which will be featured at the Aultman Museum of Photography. Historic Kit Carson Park will be the site of the arts and crafts booths, food booths, and entertainment activities. See you in Trinidad!

### Dodge City/Fort Dodge

President Jack Fraley  
106 Plaza Ave.  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
No report.

### Missouri River Outfitters

President Roger Slusher  
1421 South St.  
Lexington, MO 64067  
No report.

### Quivira

President Wayne Smith  
RR 1 Box 44  
Raymond, KS 67573  
No report.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE OF  
WAGON TRACKS IS APRIL 20, 1993.**

## DONIPHAN'S MARCH

by Marc Simmons

[Reprinted from Simmon's "Trail Dust" column, *Santa Fe Reporter*, Dec. 16-22, 1992, with thanks to Marc Simmons for sharing this with WT.]

ON August 5, 1880, a distinguished visitor stepped off the train at the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe depot in New Mexico's capital city. He was General Alexander W. Doniphan, age 79, who was returning to view the Santa Fe he had helped conquer for the United States back in 1846.

Local dignitaries, beginning with territorial governor Lew Wallace and the city mayor, hurried to pay their respects and extend a welcome to the honored old soldier.

A reporter for the weekly newspaper, *Southwestern Era*, obtained an interview. "Doniphan was the hero of the grandest march of either ancient or modern times," he wrote enthusiastically. "The general is fairly entitled to rank among the first men of the nation, although his illustrious deeds have in a great measure been for the time forgotten."

If memory of Doniphan's place in history had slipped in 1880, it is all but dead today. Born in Kentucky in 1808, Alexander Doniphan went on to become a lawyer, settling at Liberty, Missouri then on the edge of the frontier. When war broke out between the United States and Mexico in the spring of 1846, the 38-year-old attorney enlisted as a private in the First Missouri Mounted Volunteers.

The regiment of 856 men was mustered in at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in early June. As was the custom in volunteer units, the men were allowed to elect their own officers.

Chosen to be colonel and head of the regiment was Pvt. Alexander Doniphan. Although he was totally without military experience, his courage, character and talent for leadership were apparent to all.

As events would prove, it was a wise selection. Americans in those days still had the capacity to select leaders who were above the ordinary in both their mental and physical capacities. It was an age of exceptional individualists, and Colonel Alexander Doniphan proved a prime example.

The Missouri Volunteers formed the vanguard of the Army of the West, whose mission was to march over the Santa Fe Trail and seize New Mexico. On June 26, Doniphan's regiment set forth in advance of the main army, composed of U.S. Dragoons, which was led by Col. Stephen Watts Kearny.

The army rendezvoused at Bent's Fort in southeastern Colorado, then crossed Raton Pass into New Mexico. On August 18, the troops entered Santa Fe unopposed.

Soon afterward, Kearny made a reconnaissance of central New Mexico, leaving Doniphan as acting military governor in charge of the capital. During that time, he directed the writing of the "Kearny Code" (named in honor of the army's commander), a document that served the territory as its basic set of laws for the next four years.

Soon Kearny and his regulars departed for the conquest of California. Col. Doniphan was left with instructions to lead his men down the Rio Grande Valley to occupy El Paso and then move south to invade Chihuahua.

After a difficult crossing of the dreaded Jornada, the desert east of today's Truth or Consequences, the Colonel brought his troops into the Mesilla Valley. Camped beside the Rio Grande at Brazito, 35 miles above El Paso, Doniphan and his officers were playing three-card loo when a Mexican army of 1,000 strong suddenly appeared.

A sharp engagement followed, the Battle of Brazito. The attackers were dispersed within half an hour, opening the way for the Missouri volunteers to march unopposed into El Paso.

Upon taking the city, Doniphan announced to its citizens: "We do not come to plunder and ravage but to offer liberty and protection." After allowing his men to rest, he continued his advance southward.

Not far above Chihuahua City, near the Sacramento River, the regiment ran against an army of 4,000 soldiers commanded by the State governor, General Angel Trias. Their position was heavily fortified, behind breastworks.

Doniphan realized that a frontal assault would fail, so he ordered an attack on the flank. A furious and bloody fight ensued, lasting almost four hours, with the Americans finally winning the Battle of Sacramento.

Shortly the victors paraded into Chihuahua City, their band playing "Yankee Doodle" and "Hail Columbia." On the plaza, they fired a 28-gun salute and ran up the stars and stripes on the tower of the cathedral.

In April, Col. Doniphan guided his men on a 900-mile tramp across Mexico to the Gulf Coast, where they were able to get a ship for New Orleans. There the men received their first military pay since leaving Fort Leavenworth.

Arriving in St. Louis, Doniphan and his officers were greeted as conquering heroes, having traveled some 4,000 miles on their expedition. They were showered with honors, formal receptions and dinners for their victories at Brazito and Sacramento.

The reporter at Santa Fe who interviewed Alexander Doniphan in 1880 described him as still active and vigorous, "giving promise of usefulness for the next 10 years." But the old soldier died in 1887. Today, a handsome marble column marks his grave at Liberty, Mo.

## COUNCIL TROVE

### —DOCUMENTS—

#### Little Hope for Future Trade with Santa Fe, 1825

In 1825 it appeared to some Santa Fe traders that the market in New Mexico was saturated and there was little hope for continued profitable commerce between Missouri and the northern province of Mexico. The following letter, from the *Missouri Intelligencer* (Franklin, MO), November 4, 1825, reflects that pessimistic view, and it demonstrates again the old saying that "making predictions is very difficult, especially about the future." The writer of the letter was not identified; the article is reprinted as it appeared.

#### INTERESTING LETTER FROM SANTA FE

The following letter from a highly respectable and intelligent gentleman, now in New Mexico, to his friend in this place, corroborates the statements heretofore made by us respecting the actual condition of the commerce with that country.

Santa Fe, Aug. 25, 1825

"Dear Sir— Before I left Franklin I promised on my arrival at this place to give you an account of the state of trade in this country. From my own observation, and conversations which I have held with a number of individuals, some of whom have been trading throughout all the upper provinces of New Mexico, I think I shall be able to draw a pretty correct picture of the present state of commerce in this and neighboring states.

"The importations this year have been so great, the market for goods is completely overstocked. Many who brought but few goods, and left families behind, have been compelled to sell; some at a loss & others for about enough to save themselves. In this way the trade for cash has been ruined.

"Every village is crowded with goods, and it would be difficult to find a place within 300 miles where more could be sold. There is a large amount still in Santa Fe, & the owners are completely at a loss how to act.



The little cash that was in the country has been expended, and to think of bartering altogether for mules, at high rates, they cannot.

"In Sonora, goods may yet be disposed of on pretty good terms for mules; but the great fatigue and the still greater hazard attending a traffick of that kind, deter many from engaging in it. Several persons, however, have left here for that Province, and necessity I expect will compel others to follow them. There is no cash in the country except in the hands of a few individuals who are already supplied with more goods than they can consume in two years.

"The sales that have been effected this year; have been principally at wholesale; and I think I hazard nothing in saying that more than like the 'old hands' can do well in trade for two or three years longer, but new adventurers generally must suffer.

"On the whole it appears that there is little prospect of a successful trade being kept up between the United States and this Province, except on a very limited scale indeed. The country has but few resources, and the people in general are too indolent to call even those to their aid. They are very poor but very contented.

#### Wet & Dry Routes Defined

Although historical documents were consistent in defining the Wet and Dry routes of the Trail between the vicinity of Larned and Fort Dodge, a few modern students of the Trail have been confused about which was which. George Elmore at Fort Larned NHS recently found the following clarification in Special Orders No. 75, May 11, 1868, Headquarters Fort Dodge, Kansas (the relevant section of which is excerpted here).

II. In compliance with instructions received from Head Qrs., Dist. of the Upper Arkansas dated Ft. Harker May 7, 1868, it is hereby ordered for the Government of all concerned:

1st. The *Route* known as the "*Dry Route*" will hereafter be discontinued by all escorts and public teams—substituting thereafter the line of the Arkansas River, known as the "*Wet Route*,"

2nd. The journey between Forts Dodge and Larned, Ks will hereafter, except in case of extreme necessity (the circumstances of which will be fully explained in writing to the Commanding Officer of this Post) be performed in not less than two (2) days.

#### Government Express, 1847

During the Mexican War it was important to keep communications open between the States and New Mexico. There was no regular mail service over the Santa Fe Trail at the time. Solomon P. Sublette of St. Louis, who had trav-

eled the Santa Fe Trail several times previously, was hired to carry a "government express" to Santa Fe and back early in 1847. When he returned to St. Louis he wrote the following letter, dated May 1, 1847, about the trip. The recipient of the letter was not identified. The original letter is in the Sublette Papers, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis. Additional information about Sublette's trip may be found in Louise Barry's *Beginning of the West: Annals of the Kansas Gateway to the American West, 1540-1854*, 660-662, 673. Barry identified the three men who accompanied Sublette to Santa Fe as "Bill Garmon, Fred Smith, and an 'amateur.'" The twelve men met along the way were "teamsters employed by 'Harvey, of Boonville.'" At the same time Sublette was going to Santa Fe, Thomas O. Boggs was carrying an express from Santa Fe to Fort Leavenworth. His party also encountered severe winter weather. Several other parties suffered along the Trail from the snow and cold. See Barry for further details.

Saint Louis  
May 1, 1847

Dear Sir

The interest that you manifest for the safe conveyance of the mail forwarded from Washington City by Mr. Fitzpatrick induce me to undertake its transportation from Ft Leavenworth to Santa Fe at a most inclement season of the year and as the period was one of great excitement a sketch of my journey may not prove unacceptable to you.

I left St Louis on 24th Dec/46 accompanied by Major Fitzpatrick and arrived at Ft Leavenworth Jan 3. I then set about making preparation for my journey across the plains in which I was afforded every facility by Col Wharton the commander at the Fort and Capt Clary qr mast.

I left Ft Leavenworth for Santa Fe Jan 8 with three men to assist me on the expedition the snow 10 inches deep on the plains when I started and I had to select my route so as to avoid the road usually travelled in order to procure enough of wood for provender for my mules and also to keep out of the way of the Indians who might be waiting on the main road to rob small parties of white men.

I crossed the Kansas river on 11th near the Caw mission where I procured enough of corn for my mules until we reached Council Grove from that point they had nothing to feed upon but dry grass and the bark of the sweet cottonwood which we got by cutting down the trees and lopping off the limbs with smooth bark which we thawed by our evenings fire and with our knives cut off the bark and fed the mules before it could freeze, and it gives me

pleasure to state to you that I took all the animals safely to Santa Fe that I started with from Ft Leavenworth although I was exposed to the same snow storm in which Lt Abert lost one of his men and nearly all his animals.

On the 23 I found the first buffalo at the little Arkansas on the 24 the weather was very cold and stormy and not having a favorable encampment I moved about two miles where I found a good one. I was here joined by twelve men afoot returning from Santa Fe where they had been with a trading company and were then forty-six days out. A few night previous all their mules had been froze to death altho they covered each with two blankets. The party had very little provisions so I divided what I had with them and gave them direction for travelling by the nearest route to the Caw mission which was the nearest point that they could procure relief.

On my arrival at Fort William on the Arkansas (Bents Fort) on 6 Feb I heard of the insurrection at Taos and the murder of Chas Bent and others and I did not therefore deem it prudent to risk the mail with so small party. I made application to Capt Enos asst Qr. master at that place for an additional force, and he gave me an order on Capt. Armstrong who was stationed at the crossing of the Picketware for ten teamsters. When I got there I found the men without arms or ammunition and of course they would have been of no service. I found there sixteen volunteers who had been sent to protect the cattle at the Rio Ponier and who had left on hearing of the insurrection. These men could not be prevailed upon to return. I was therefore compelled to remain until the arrival of a Spaniard. I learned that Col Price had quelled the insurrection and next day 17 I started and reached Taos on 21st and on the 23 delivered to Col Price the mail that had been entrusted to my care.

I reported myself to Capt McKissick asst qr. master as ready to take the mail to Ft Leavenworth that was to be sent on the 1st March but he refused as he could get McColburn to bring it for a trifle and he wished me to remain until he could get news from Chihuahua. This news reached on the 24 March and on the 26 I left Santa Fe with the mail for Fort Leavenworth having with me two men and six mules. I asked for two mules more and a light waggon to take corn for the mules if he desired me to make a quick trip. His answer was that he did not wish a quick trip. So I started with my two men and no feed for my animals. I purchased in the New Mexico feed as there was no grass for the mules, the small sum that I paid (about 5\$) was not allowed on settlement of pay account nor was any allowance made for the time that I was detained in Santa Fe.

The day after I left Santa Fe I was joined by Capt Walker and two men and we traveled together to Ft Leavenworth where I

arrived on 21st April and reached St. Louis on 27th April.

On my return trip I lost one mule which had given out the others was so poor that I could with difficulty get them along, indeed nearly the entire journey was performed afoot.

I rec'd as compensation for taking the mail to Santa Fe and the return mail to Ft Leavenworth Five Hundred Dollars and my expenses from St Louis to Ft Leavenworth and from Ft Leavenworth to St Louis paid.

### Sisters on the Trail, 1867

SFTA V-P Mark L. Gardner found the following chapter in *History of The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas*, by A Member of the Community (Kansas City, MO: Hudson-Kimberly Pub. Co., 1898), 101-110, dealing with the travel of Sisters of Charity and Sisters of Loretto with Bishop Jean B. Lamy over the Santa Fe Trail to New Mexico in 1867, during which Sister Mary Alphonsa died along the way. This rare document adds further information about a topic that has fascinated many Trail buffs and engaged several in the search for the site of Sister Mary Alphonsa's grave site. The entire chapter is reprinted here.

A perfect babel of voices was heard in Bishop Miede's yard in the morning of the sixth of June, 1867—French, German, Spanish, Italian, and English. All was quiet at the Academy, school was in session, the pupils were diligently preparing for the coming examinations, and were sitting with eyes intent on books; but when they heard the unusual tumult in the Bishop's hitherto quiet and most orderly premises, they began to endeavor, if possible, to ascertain the cause of the excitement. The teachers of the different class-rooms were also filled with their share of curiosity as to what such an unusual state of affairs would indicate, and their desire to see and hear was soon gratified, for it was near time for the morning recess, and the Sisters and pupils standing on the Academy porch discovered the two yards, the Bishop's and the Sisters', filled with wagons, with drivers urging their poor tired horses or oxen, as the case might be, to give way to those that were in the rear; there were also carriages, from which were alighting priests and nuns. It was Bishop Lamy, who was returning from a second trip to France, and he had not come empty-handed—he had with him a suite of twenty-six persons.

The yards presented a most uncommon appearance; a more animated, exciting scene was seldom beheld—they scarcely held all the wagons, ambulances, and carriages that were necessary to convey this caravan on the long journey across the plains to New Mexico, their destination; there were bedding, food, cooking utensils,

provender for the horses and oxen, firearms and ammunition—in fact, all that was needful for a weary journey of weeks.

In the Bishop's suite were fifteen missionaries and five Sisters. His Lordship had long ardently desired to secure the invaluable services of the Jesuits in his diocese, and now he was accompanied by three reverend Jesuit Fathers and two Jesuit Brothers; there were also some secular priests, two Brothers of Christian schools, Paul Beaubien, a young Mexican from the St. Louis University on his return home with the Bishop, Jules Masset, the Bishop's business agent, some relatives of the secular clergy, and two Mexican servants, the whole party consisting of twenty-six persons.

Twenty-one of the party were entertained during the week of their stay in Leavenworth at the Bishop's residence. The traveling Sisters were lodged at St. John's Hospital, but they were also considered guests of the Academy, where they spent most of their time. There were two Sisters of Charity from Cedar Grove, near Cincinnati, and three Sisters of Loretto from Kentucky. The two Sisters of Charity were Sister Louise and Sister Seraphine; the Sisters of Loretto were Sister Ignatia, Sister Cecilia, and Sister Alphonsa—the youngest of the number, she was not yet twenty years of age. This young Sister had an elder sister belonging to the same Order as herself, who had been in New Mexico for some years, and was ardently longing to see Sister Alphonsa, as she had hastened to write when she learned that her young sister was destined for the Mexican mission.

In the course of conversation one day a Leavenworth Sister said to Sister Alphonsa, "O, what a happiness it will be for you to meet your dear sister whom you have not seen for so long a time!" Sister Alphonsa replied very seriously, "Sister, I never expect to see her." The Sister to whom she made this remark said nothing in reply, for she thought it a strange expression for Sister Alphonsa to make, as she neither knew nor did she see any reason for her to say or think such a thing.

The Sisters had already some experience of Western life before starting for their trip on the plains. While camping about ten miles from Leavenworth, they had their tents pitched and had retired for the night, when a heavy rain-storm, accompanied by the usual not very gentle Kansas breezes, drenched them through the tent, and they were compelled to stand in puddles of water and uphold the poles of the tent to keep it from falling; whilst doing so they sang a hymn; they did not say what—possibly the hymn the Israelites sang when with staves in their hands they were leaving Egypt.

The Sisters were in good cheer, save Sister Alphonsa, who seemed slightly pre-

occupied, and were anxious to continue their journey, which could not be done as soon as they wished, as there were daily rumors of travelers on the plains having been murdered and scalped by the Indians. This summer they seemed to be more ferocious than they had ever been known to be, owing to the fact that the incursions of the whites into their fastnesses were becoming of more frequent occurrence. Scarce a day passed that there were not dozens of wagons on the way through their hitherto happy hunting-grounds.

The Bishop delayed from day to day, hesitating to risk so many useful, precious lives to the chance of being destroyed by the furious savages.

On the eighth day of their stay, however, it was decided to start. O, how the Leavenworth Sisters feared to let their sister guests depart for what to them seemed nearly certain death!

On Friday, June 14th, the caravan started from Leavenworth, after many good wishes for the travelers, and many thanks from them to their kind entertainers, whom they promised ever to hold in grateful remembrance. The last that is remembered of dear little Sister Alphonsa is her showing a leaflet of the Sacred Heart that Bishop Miede had given her on bidding her good-bye, and her saying, "On this I will make my daily meditation until I reach my journey's end." Ten days from that date she had reached the end of her journey of life.

It may be easily imagined that the Sisters in Leavenworth were anxious to obtain news of the departed caravan. Days passed and no news came. In the meantime, the Sisters had made their annual retreat, this year given by Rev. Father Garesche, S.J., whose attention was called, early on the morning the Sisters finished the retreat, to a notice taken from the *Denver Gazette*, which to his horror read as follows: "The caravan of Dr. Lamy, Bishop of Santa Fe, composed of fifteen missionaries and five Sisters, has been attacked by the Indians. Monsignor and his priests have been massacred and the Sisters led away captive by the savages."

The Leavenworth Sisters were sadly grieved when they heard this news; they had much rather have heard that the Sisters had been killed outright than to think for an instant of the degradation of an Indian captivity. They prayed and hoped that the news might be false.

Father Garesche walked to Fort Leavenworth that morning before saying Mass—it was on Sunday—to find if any particulars of the sad affair had been received at the post; not learning anything, he returned and said Mass in the old frame Cathedral, and at the close of the services asked the congregation to pray for the souls of those devoted missionaries who had just left their midst, but who had been murdered by the



untutored sons of the forest whom they were going to civilize.

The Bishop asked him after Mass why he made the announcement without certain foundation. Father Garesche replied that he "firmly credited the report; anyway, that prayers were never lost;" nor were these in this instance, for the company arrived at the end of their journey, having lost in their terrible trials only two of their band, when in all human probability it did not appear that one would ever reach New Mexico.

The events of these two months of trials, fright, and terror were afterwards related to the Leavenworth Sisters by Rev. J. De Blieck, S.J., who was a member of Bishop Lamy's party, but who did not remain in New Mexico, the climate not agreeing with his health, which was in a failing state. On his return trip to St. Louis he remained over for some time in Leavenworth, and from time to time the Sisters gathered the details of the journey of the poor Sisters to New Mexico.

After leaving Leavenworth on June 14th, they reached St. Mary's on the 18th, where they remained with the Jesuit Fathers for a few days; then again, with fortified courage, as there were no more reports of Indian depredations, renewed their journey. When they had crossed the Smoky Hill River they felt, indeed, that they were now on *The Plains*—for, as far as the eye could scan, not a human habitation was to be seen. Still the Sisters evinced no fear. The weather was bright, the grass green, the sky blue, and seemed to smile on the entire caravan, for all enjoyed excellent spirits, and, to add to their feelings of security, they overtook a Mexican caravan, the men being furnished with weapons of defense in abundance, guns, pistols, knives etc.

Some days after meeting this company, scouts were sent out to see how the land lay, as they were receding farther and farther from human habitations, and they thought it best to be cautious. The scouts came hurrying back with the astounding news that a *thousand Indians* were near, who seemed ready, from all appearances, to fall upon the party at any moment.

So far, the health of the Bishop's party had been excellent, but cholera had broken out among the Mexicans, and for several days it was feared that few would be spared. The services of the two Sisters of Charity were invaluable; had it not been for their effective prescriptions, the mortality would have been much greater; as it was, many of the Mexicans died. When near Fort Dodge, there they camped for the night, and at dark, while the men were unharnessing the tired animals from the wagons, they were attacked for the first time by the Indians. They were on horses and rode madly towards the caravan, shouting and yelling like very demons, and at the same time discharging their guns and arrows. No one of the caravan was injured on this occasion,

but from this moment a constant outlook was kept for fear of another attack.

It was all so sudden and over so quickly that time was scarcely given the frightened Sisters to realize what had happened, but it showed them that they were not traveling in the company of cowards. Every man in both caravans had shown himself equal to the emergency and determined to sell his life dearly.

They were near the Arkansas River, when the Bishop's business agent, Jules Masset, at ten o'clock in the morning was seized with cholera, and, much to the Bishop's undisguised grief, was dead that afternoon.

On this day a wagon belonging to the Mexican caravan had crossed the river, when hundreds of Indians on horseback and others on foot attacked the camp. A stockade had been made of the wagons bound together, with the animals in the center. The men stood inside; there were only eighty, the enemy being many times as great. The furious fight, as it proved to be, lasted for three hours, at the end of which time the Indians retreated as before, but the poor caravan feared it was only to return with fresh forces.

The Sisters in the meanwhile were in one of the covered wagons, and we will only have to *imagine* their feelings—what pen could do them justice? It was noticed that Sister Alphonsa was of the pallor of marble, and that for all the terrible time she remained silent, seemingly absorbed in some overwhelming thought. No one of them wept until the frightful firing ceased, when tears came to their relief and they expressed thankfulness—not so much that they had not been killed, as that they had not been taken prisoners by the Indians, which they considered an evil immeasurably worse than any manner of death. The whole time of the attack, there was not a moment that the bullets were not flying around the canvas of the wagon and arrows piercing it until it was covered with them. Not a single member of the caravan was wounded. Was it not a miracle? The Sisters must have been holding up their innocent hands to Heaven to beseech protection for their protectors, and when was there a more manifest response to appeals for aid in difficulties than in this instance?

Stray parties of Indians continued to harass the caravan, but they kept at a respectful distance. The men of the party kept awake—never at any time after were more than half the company allowed to sleep at once—a constant watch was kept with gun in hand.

We take from "The Historical Sketch of the Catholic Church in New Mexico," by the Very Rev. James H. Defouri, the following interesting account of Sister Alphonsa's death and burial:

"On the twenty-third of July" writes Fa-

ther Gasparri, "we continued our journey, and towards evening Sister Alphonsa Thompson, a native of Kentucky, fell sick. Night setting in, we camped, and she, being very ill, received the Last Sacraments. The other Sisters waited on her all night, and the next day we had to continue our journey. She was put into a wagon with the four other Sisters, and when we had halted, she died at ten o'clock, July 24th, being not quite twenty years old. We all felt most sensibly the death of that Sister, so much the more, as no remedies could be procured in these desert plains to relieve her. On the other hand, the Indians would not let her die in peace. She was buried in the evening near the road, in a place well marked and known to the Mexicans. A coffin, the best that could be had under the circumstances, was made for her, and all accompanied the body in procession, a Jesuit Father performing the funeral ceremony, and the Bishop assisting. Before leaving the place, a cross was planted over the grave. The poor Sister had expressed a desire not to have her body left there, but to have it taken on with us to New Mexico, fearing, perhaps, that the wild Indians, finding it, would desecrate it. But this was not done, above all because the cholera had broken out among us, but also because it is said that the Indians always respect dead bodies. God, moreover, would protect in a special manner that body, in which had dwelt a soul as pure and innocent as Sister Alphonsa's."

Referring to the sad death of Sister Alphonsa, Bishop Lamy wrote: "The youngest Sister of Loretto died on the 24th of July, from fright, as I consider it, caused by the attack of the savages. She was nineteen years of age, well educated, and a model of virtue."

In a footnote of the "Sketch" Father Defouri writes: "Three years afterwards, while pastor at Topeka, Kas., I received a note from Bishop Lamy, requesting me, on my frequent visits on the plains, to find the grave of Sister Alphonsa. Accompanied by two men of those who were employed by the railroad near Cimarron Crossing, I forded the river, and, following the old track, quite plain yet, we saw, or we thought we saw, the grave by the roadside, the spot being marked by a higher tuft of grass. The cross, however, had disappeared, burnt probably by the frequent prairie fires. We could not delay long, as the evening was advancing, and we had strict orders from the camp not to stay long for fear of the Indians. The fact is, the tracklayers were working with tools as usual, but having a gun close by to repulse attacks, which were quite frequent."

The "Sketch" continues: "The following lines, written by an unknown friend in the *Ave Maria*, were handed to me. Let them be the epitaph of dear Sister Alphonsa:

"*The Desert Grave.*

"[Suggested by the death of a Sister of Loretto, while crossing the plains in the train of Bishop Lamy, which was attacked by Indians.]

"A lonely grave on the desert plain,  
Where the howling winds and the driving rain  
Chant their wild requiem over my head,  
As if I were one of their early dead—  
Here is the chosen spot for me  
To rest in my virgin purity  
Till the Bridegroom cometh to call me hence,  
To be crowned in His heavenly residence.

"Hush! a footstep over my head"  
I remember the hurried and stealthy tread.  
'Tis the savage Indian tracking the train  
That is passing across the desert plain.  
I know by the sound of the warlike shriek  
'Tis one of the tribe I came to seek.  
Came to this howling wilderness,  
With a sister's love to redeem and bless  
Their outcast life; by no hope enticed,  
Save to win their savage souls to Christ;  
One of the tribe for whom I gave  
My life in return for this desert grave.

"They met us passing this lonely road.  
'Ho! ho!' they cried, 'tis the white man's code;

"Sick unto death with the fever's blight,  
I heard the sounds of the deadly fight.  
Visions of foul dishonor rose  
In my woman's fear, and with terror froze  
My virgin blood. Too weak to fly  
From the dreaded fate, I prayed to die.  
Then my soul fulfilled its virgin vows.  
And escaped to the arms of its Heavenly Spouse.

"When God shall call for His martyred dead,  
From my desert grave I will lift my head."

Who will not drop a tear to the sad fate of this dear little Sister, so young and so good? Many were the tears that fell from the eyes of the Leavenworth Sisters when they heard of her untimely death. May the holy angels always guard her grave until "God shall call for His martyred dead, and from her desert grave she shall raise her head."

With what sad and lingering looks did not the remaining Sisters leave this sacred spot.

The news of the massacre of Bishop Lamy and of all his company had spread in various directions, so when the company made its appearance in Santa Fe, the demonstrations of joy were delirious—they were received as if arisen from the dead.

Mother Elizabeth Hayden, a holy Loretine, said to a Leavenworth Sister when

speaking of this terrible false news: "When I heard that distressing news, I raised my hands and my eyes to God and I said, 'O my Savior, our Heavenly Spouse, gather Thy spouses to Thy Sacred Feet! Let them rather die by bullet or arrow than to be desecrated.' I prostrated myself on the ground and besought that our dear Sisters might not fall alive into the hands of those frightful savages; and never in our houses was the Blessed Sacrament left alone without an adorer and petitioner until we heard of the arrival of the caravan in New Mexico."

## 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. The 1993 roster will be published soon. We thank you for your support.

## INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Boise City Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 1027, Boise City OK 73933  
Lenexa Convention & Visitors Bureau, PO Box 15626, Lenexa KS 66285  
Marion Chamber of Commerce, 201 N Third, Marion KS 66861

## PATRON MEMBERSHIPS

Neal A. Brown, 190 Riverside Dr, New York NY 10024

## FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

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Robert & Shirley Boland, 9001 Booth, Kansas City MO 64138  
Jim & Rose Bowles, 5600 Berryman Rd, Oklahoma City OK 73150  
Leigh & Brenda Chisholm, 5861 Corte Mente, Pleasanton CA 94566  
Karyl & Jan Decker, 1008 N Grimes, McPherson KS 67460  
Jane Dennis & Kent Hatch, 2807 Meadowlark Lane, Dodge City KS 67801  
Jim & Patricia Flood, 1050 Independence, Lakewood CO 80215  
Walter & Eugenia Hatcher, 250 E Alameda #620, Santa Fe NM 87501  
M/M William A. Kupke, 1900 Market St, Silver City NM 88061  
Charles & Charlene Maerz, PO Box 429, Lakin KS 67860  
M/M P. D. Maxwell, 1881 N Calhoun, Liberal KS 67901  
Bill & Sherrie McLeRoy, 111 W Beldon, Sherman TX 75090  
Pablo & Martha Montoya, 1803 23rd St, Alamogordo NM 88310  
Michael & Ann Peacock, 1312 N James, Guymon OK 73942  
Ernesto & Ernestina Romero, HCR 62 Box 46, Raton NM 87740  
Tom & Carlene Steel, 691 Callecita Jicarilla, Santa Fe NM 87505  
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## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

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 Sara L. Yeager, 7909 W Wethersfield Rd,  
 Peoria AZ 85381

## TRAIL CALENDAR

Everyone is invited to send notices for this section; provide location, date(s), time(s), and activity. Remember this is a quarterly. The next issue should appear in May, so send information for June and later to arrive by April 20. Thank you.

**Mar. 21, 1993:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting at Cleveland Mill, Mora. Contact LeRoy LeDoux (505) 666-2262.

**April 8, 1993:** Wagonbed Spring Chapter meeting at Hugoton.

**April 13, 1993:** Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter meeting, 7:30 p.m., at courthouse meeting room in Council Grove.

**April 18, 1993:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting at Seton Museum, Philmont Ranch, Cimarron, "New Mexico Folk Music" by Enrique Lamadrid. Contact LeRoy LeDoux (505) 666-2262.

**April 20, 1993:** Deadline for next issue of *Wagon Tracks*.

**May 15, 1993:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting at Mills Canyon, Springer. Contact LeRoy LeDoux (505) 666-2262.

**June 13-20, 1993:** Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous at NRA Whittington Center near Raton, NM. Contact the Center, PO Box 700, Raton, NM 87740 (505) 445-3615.

**June 20, 1993:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting at Kearny Gap, Puerto

del Norte, Tecolote. Contact LeRoy LeDoux (505) 666-2262.

**July 18, 1993:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting at Bueyeros. Contact LeRoy LeDoux (505) 666-2262.

**Aug. 15, 1993:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting at La Cueva. Contact LeRoy LeDoux (505) 666-2262.

**Sept. 19-Oct. 8, 1993:** Santa Fe Trail Bicycle Trek, Santa Fe to New Franklin. Contact Willard Chilcott, 885 Camino Del Este, Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 982-1282.

**Sept. 23-26, 1993:** Santa Fe Trail Symposium, Bent's Old Fort and La Junta, CO. Contact Don Hill, Bent's Old Fort NHS, 35110 Hwy 194E, La Junta CO 81050 (719) 384-2596.

**Sept. 29, 1993:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting at Rock Crossing of the Canadian. Contact LeRoy LeDoux (505) 666-2262.

**Oct. 17, 1993:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting at Hermit's Peak. Contact LeRoy LeDoux (505) 666-2262.

**Nov. 21, 1993:** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting at Las Vegas. Contact LeRoy LeDoux (505) 666-2262.

## FROM THE EDITOR

It is a record-setting winter at the editor's homestead and many other parts of the plains. Some weeks ago we broke all previous records for continuous days of snow cover on the ground, and every day sets a new record. We have received approximately four times the average snowfall, and it is snowing hard as this is written, but so far this area has escaped a disastrous blizzard such as those which struck in 1887, 1912, and 1958. But this winter is not over yet, either. We now have bumper stickers that say "Ski Kansas."

Recently, while looking over the back issues of *Wagon Tracks*, I began to calculate the amount of time I have spent on this part-time (and for four years unpaid) job. When I volunteered to launch a newsletter for the newly-

formed organization in 1986, I assumed it would probably have a membership of 300 or 400 and a quarterly newsletter of four to eight pages. After spending some 25 years researching and writing about the Santa Fe Trail, with little public interest shown during most of that time, it didn't seem possible that the Trail was going to become such a hot topic. You know the rest of the story. At this point I've spent well over a year of my life working on *Wagon Tracks*, and I think it has been very worthwhile.

This publication has been a success (at least I think of it as successful) primarily because of the contributions of devoted students of the Trail who have written and shared information. Without the help of SFTA members all along the Trail, this quarterly would be what I originally anticipated, a four-page newsletter. The future of *Wagon Tracks* depends on continued contributions of many people. At this point it seems that the amount of material submitted is decreasing. If this trend continues, *Wagon Tracks* will become a smaller publication (which may or may not be better). I need your help. Happy Trails!

—Leo E. Oliva

All inquiries regarding membership should be directed to the secretary-treasurer:

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

All matters relating to *Wagon Tracks* should be addressed to the editor:

Leo E. Oliva, RR 1 Box 31, Woodston KS 67675 (913) 994-6253, FAX (913) 994-6255.

**WAGON TRACKS**  
**Santa Fe Trail Association**  
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Please check the expiration date of your membership on your address label. If it says Dec 1992, please renew. If it says Dec 1993 or later, you do not need to renew at this time. Thank you.