

# Wagon Tracks

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Volume 3

Issue 1 *Wagon Tracks Volume 3, Issue 1 (November 1988)*

Article 1

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1989

## Wagon Tracks. Volume 3, Issue 1 (November, 1988)

Santa Fe Trail Association

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# WAGON TRACKS

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOC. NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3

NOVEMBER 1988

NUMBER 1

## NATIONAL TRAILS CONFERENCE REPORT

SFTA representatives Ruth Olson and Bonita Oliva attended the National Trails Conference, hosted by the Ice Age National Scenic Trail near Hartland, Wisconsin, Sept. 27-30. John Leamon, member of OCTA and SFTA, was there and filed a report. David Gaines and Jere Krakow of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Planning Team also attended. There were about 75 participants present, representing many of the 16 National Scenic and National Historic trails throughout the US, including the Iditarod National Historic Trail, Alaska. This was the first annual conference to bring National Scenic Trail and National Historic Trail groups together.

The conference was sponsored by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service. The purpose was to bring people together from the federal agencies and the private sector to increase awareness of the National Trails System and to improve communication through the exchange of ideas on promotion, funding, and liability. A session was held on working with private landowners to secure rights-of-way, and there was a "how to" session on lobbying.

Information was presented by panels of representatives from both National Scenic and National Historic trails, from the sponsoring federal agencies, and from the Nature Conservancy, American Farmland Trust, and the Sierra Club.

During the last day a session was held to set goals for the future of the National Trails System and to formulate recommended actions on the issues discussed during the conference. A steering committee was named to explore the possibility of a second conference in 1989, to be held near a National Historic Trail. The committee will also consider the formation of a National Trails organization.

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## 1989 DUES DUE SOON

Those who have not already submitted SFTA dues for 1989 will find that their membership expires Dec. 31, 1988. For your convenience, a membership form is enclosed in this issue. You may want to avoid the post-holiday-season rush and send your dues now. If you have already paid for 1989, use the form to recruit a new member. There is strength in numbers and SFTA will only be as strong as its membership. We don't want to lose anyone and treasure your membership. Please renew by Jan. 1. Thank you.

## SFNHT UPDATE

The Santa Fe National Historic Trail Planning Team, headed by John Paige, has completed most of the field work, and the new maps of the route and the proposed management and use plan are expected to be circulated for public review in February 1989. Additional public meetings will be scheduled to gather further information at that time. To obtain a copy of the Santa Fe Trail Comprehensive Management and Use Plan, contact David Gaines, National Park Service, Southwest Region, Branch of Trails, P. O. Box 728, Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728.

Appointments to the SFNHT Advisory Council were being announced by Sec. of Interior Donald Hodel as *WT* was going to press. A list of council members will be included in the next issue. A logo has been designed to mark the historic trail, featuring a freight wagon pulled by oxen. Any suggestions for the planning team may be sent to John Paige, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, P. O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287.

Because of operator error, some mailing labels were misprinted for the May 1988 issue of *WAGON TRACKS* (Vol. II, No. 3). If you did not receive that issue, please notify the editor and a copy will be sent.

## JOINT MEETING WITH OCTA DISCUSSED

During the recent Western History Association annual conference in Wichita, members of OCTA and SFTA broached the possibility of a joint meeting of the two trail groups, perhaps at Independence, MO, after the new Three Trails Center is completed there. Although many details must be worked out if such a meeting is to occur, and the proposed gathering is four or more years down the road because each group has already scheduled meetings several years in advance, the idea has received an enthusiastic response from some board members of both groups. Views of members, pro and con, should be sent to the respective presidents of the associations. If interest persists, a joint committee will likely be formed to pursue arrangements.

## FRANKLIN OR BUST SEEKS NEW CENTER

At a mass meeting in New Franklin, MO, on September 15, Franklin or Bust, Inc., was formed as a private, non-profit, civic group to preserve and commemorate Franklin as the starting point of the Santa Fe Trail. H. Denny Davis of Fayette, MO, was elected president, and the new group immediately joined SFTA as an institutional member.

The immediate goal of Franklin or Bust is to persuade the National Park Service and the Missouri State Division of Parks and Historic Sites to place the main federal-state cooperative interpretive center for the eastern end of the Santa Fe Trail at Franklin instead of at another location which was proposed.

This initiative was decided upon because it was learned that the state parks division already owns a 5.5-acre tract, above the flood plain, only two blocks from where the courthouse square stood in the original town of Franklin. At that historic court-

(continued on page 2)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Thank goodness the summer is over! Owing to my full schedule this one was particularly hectic. I made about twenty appearances in five different states, speaking on various aspects of the Trail. That included the rededication of a DAR marker and one of the Pioneer Mother statues.

But it was all worth it, because everywhere I was able to observe the keen interest in the Santa Fe Trail on the part of our members and the general public. That was reflected in the formation of our first two chapters, one combining members in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, and the other in Texas, and movement toward forming others in Council Grove and Ulysses, Kansas.

The National Park Service is also making strides in developing its management plan for the Trail. A handsome logo for the NPS signs to be installed on the Trail has been selected, with consultation of SFTA members. Several of our members, led by Greg Franzwa, met for two days in Santa Fe during September to review the official maps of the Trail to be used in the plan.

And speaking of Greg, in rapid succession he has produced three beautiful Trail books through his Patrice Press of St. Louis. They are noted elsewhere in this issue. These splendid titles should attract even more people to a serious study of our favorite historic Trail. All members should make a point of acquiring these books and urging their local libraries to get copies. Hats off to Greg!

I intend to adopt a low profile this winter and stay close to the typewriter, in order to finish a book I have due at the University of Oklahoma Press. But I won't be far from the doings of the Trail, especially the on-going planning for next year's Symposium.

The winter months are a good time for reading. So I urge all of you to include a few Trail books on your "To Be Read" list.

—Marc Simmons

## JOY POOLE HONORED

SFTA Director Joy Poole received a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History in Sept. for promoting the Santa Fe Trail. She organized the first Santa Fe Trail Symposium at Trinidad in 1986 at which SFTA was founded. Congratulations Joy! ◀

## UDALL TO KEYNOTE

Stewart L. Udall has just accepted an invitation to deliver the keynote address at the next Santa Fe Trail Symposium, September 29, 1989, in Santa Fe. His speech will be given at the Sweeney Convention Center near the main plaza at 7:30 p.m. and will be open to the public.

Udall was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and in 1961 was appointed Secretary of Interior by President Kennedy and reappointed by President Johnson. He is a dedicated conservationist and author of the environmental classic *The Quiet Crisis*.

His newest book is the highly praised *To the Inland Empire, Coronado and Our Spanish Legacy*. In its pages, the author traces Coronado's route across the plains and includes numerous references to the later Santa Fe Trail.

Udall's address will amplify the themes of the Symposium, which are "Trails That Tie Us Together" and "Hispanic Culture at the End of the Santa Fe Trail."

## FATE OF CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS DECIDED

The Museum of New Mexico regents voted unanimously to reinter in New Mexico the remains of 31 Confederate soldiers exhumed from their Civil War battlefield graves at Glorieta last year. Although Texas Gov. William Clements requested that the remains be returned to Texas, from which the soldiers originated, the regents decided that the skeletal remains would be reinterred at Santa Fe's National Cemetery after museum researchers complete their investigations.

The motion also requests that federal officials consider transferring those remains from the cemetery to the site of the Battle of Glorieta Pass if the battlefield becomes a national historic site. Legislation to achieve that status, introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Rep. Bill Richardson (D-NM) in 1987, failed to receive approval but will be introduced again. Albuquerque historian Don Alberts, president of the Glorieta Battlefield Preservation Society, expects the site to receive historic status within the next two years, and he especially requested the regents to keep the remains in New Mexico.

When research is finished, the Museum of New Mexico will issue

a report of its findings and prepare an exhibit relating to the discovery. The remains of those Confederate dead, some as young as 15 years, will have a final resting place of honor in Santa Fe if not back at the battlefield.

The Battle of Glorieta Pass was the most important Civil War engagement on the Santa Fe Trail. The controversy between Texas and New Mexico over the fate of the remains has been called "the second Battle of Glorieta Pass."

## FRANKLIN OR BUST

(continued from page 1)

house square, now long-since vanished, the Boonslick Road from St. Charles ended and the Santa Fe Trail began.

Franklin or Bust, Inc., includes members from Howard and Cooper counties and from the cities of Franklin, New Franklin, Fayette, Glasgow, Armstrong, and Boonville. The Franklin site has been endorsed by the Boonville Chamber of Commerce, the Howard County Commission, and the mayors of Boonville, New Franklin, and Franklin. The new organization has started a petition drive to gather signatures from people who want the proposed location reconsidered. There has been considerable newspaper space devoted to the new group and its efforts. The organization is seeking statewide membership and support. Anyone interested may contact Franklin or Bust, Inc., P. O. Box 32, Fayette, MO 65248-0032.

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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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Publicity Coordinator: Michael E. Pikel, Tano Rd., Rt. 4, Box 240, Santa Fe, NM 87501



## MADONNA STATUES REDEDICATED

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are rededicating the twelve Madonna of the Trail statues in the U.S. which were erected and dedicated sixty years ago. Four of these magnificent statues, honoring the role of pioneer women in the great westward movement, were on the Santa Fe Trail at Lexington, MO, Council Grove, KS, Lamar, CO, and Albuquerque, NM. The other eight were located at Bethesda, MD, Washington, PA, Wheeling, WV, Springfield, OH, Richmond, IN, Vandalia, IL, Springersville, AZ, and Upland, CA.

Rededication ceremonies were scheduled on the sixtieth anniversary of the original dedication (Council Grove on Sept. 7, Lexington on Sept. 17, Lamar on Sept. 24, and Albuquerque on Sept. 27). At Lamar SFTA member Mary B. Gamble was chairman of the event and spoke at the ceremonies at Santa Fe Railway Park about the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. At Albuquerque SFTA President Marc Simmons was the featured speaker at the rededication in McClellan Park. He noted that these 10-foot, 5-ton Pioneer Mother statues, showing a woman dressed in a homespun dress and boots with a baby in one arm and a musket in the other with a young boy clinging to her skirt, is a reminder "of the contribution of the women of America to the building of this nation." He praised the DAR for honoring women with "a truly heroic statue."

The New Mexico Madonna Statue was originally to be placed in the Santa Fe Plaza at the end of the Santa Fe Trail. Because local politics intervened, with some arguing that the statue was not appropriate on the plaza, Albuquerque took advantage of the opportunity to obtain the statue for one of its parks.

Mary Moorehead of Santa Fe, author of a book-length manuscript on her great-aunt (Clara Blinn) who was captured by Indians in Colorado in 1868 and died along with her captive son during Custer's attack on Black Kettle's village on the Washita River later that year, shared the following story with SFTA Ambassador Paul Bentrup, who kindly sent it to WT. It seems appropriate to include this story here. "The Blinns went west to a stage station near Lamar, and Clara was captured there in 1868. My grand-



Scene at the rededication of Madonna of the Trail statue at Lamar, CO, Sept. 24, 1988. (Photo by Leo E. Gamble.)



Kathy Self, Springfield, CO, vice-regent of Fort William Bent Chapter, DAR, models a "Madonna of the Trail" dress as she holds her "baby." Mary B. Gamble, Springfield, chairman of the event, portrays a traveler of 1866. Mark Gardner, Trinidad, is director of the Bloom/Baca and Pioneer Museum. Mrs. Gamble and Gardner are both SFTA charter members. (Photo by Leo E. Gamble.)

father had a love affair with the automobile, and in 1916 he, my grandmother, my mother, and two other families camped and patched tires along the Trail, through Lamar and over Raton Pass on the way to California. My grandmother didn't mention her sister [Clara Blinn] on that trip or any journey until the DAR put up the statue, and then she stood before it and tears rolled down her cheeks. For her, it was Clara." ◀

## CAÑONCITO DEDICATION

On the afternoon of Sept. 17 a crowd about 50 people gathered at Cañoncito on the Trail 15 miles east of Santa Fe to dedicate two markers. One was a new official New Mexico State Highway marker whose text recounts important events that occurred at this site on the Santa Fe Trail.

The other was the long lost Cañoncito DAR marker that disappeared from this location some time in the 1940s. It was discovered last year in an Albuquerque back yard. SFTA member John Hunner moved the 300-pound stone to Santa Fe until it could be restored to its original site.

Mike Pitel of the New Mexico State Tourism Dept., who is also publicity coordinator for SFTA, presided over the roadside ceremonies. State Historian Robert Torrez and SFTA President Marc Simmons spoke. Mrs. Blanche Goldsmith, State Regent of the New Mexico DAR, cut the ribbon rededicating the restored marker and introduced the many DAR officers and members who were present.

For those traveling the Santa Fe Trail, these markers can be found at the end of the westbound off-ramp, at exit 294 on I-25. A brief history of the place is given on page 187 of Simmons's guidebook.



Mrs. Blanche Goldsmith, State Regent of the New Mexico DAR, cuts the ribbon at September rededication ceremonies at Cañoncito.

# THE RATTLESNAKE CREEK AND WALNUT CREEK CROSSINGS OF THE ARKANSAS

by Donald J. Blakeslee

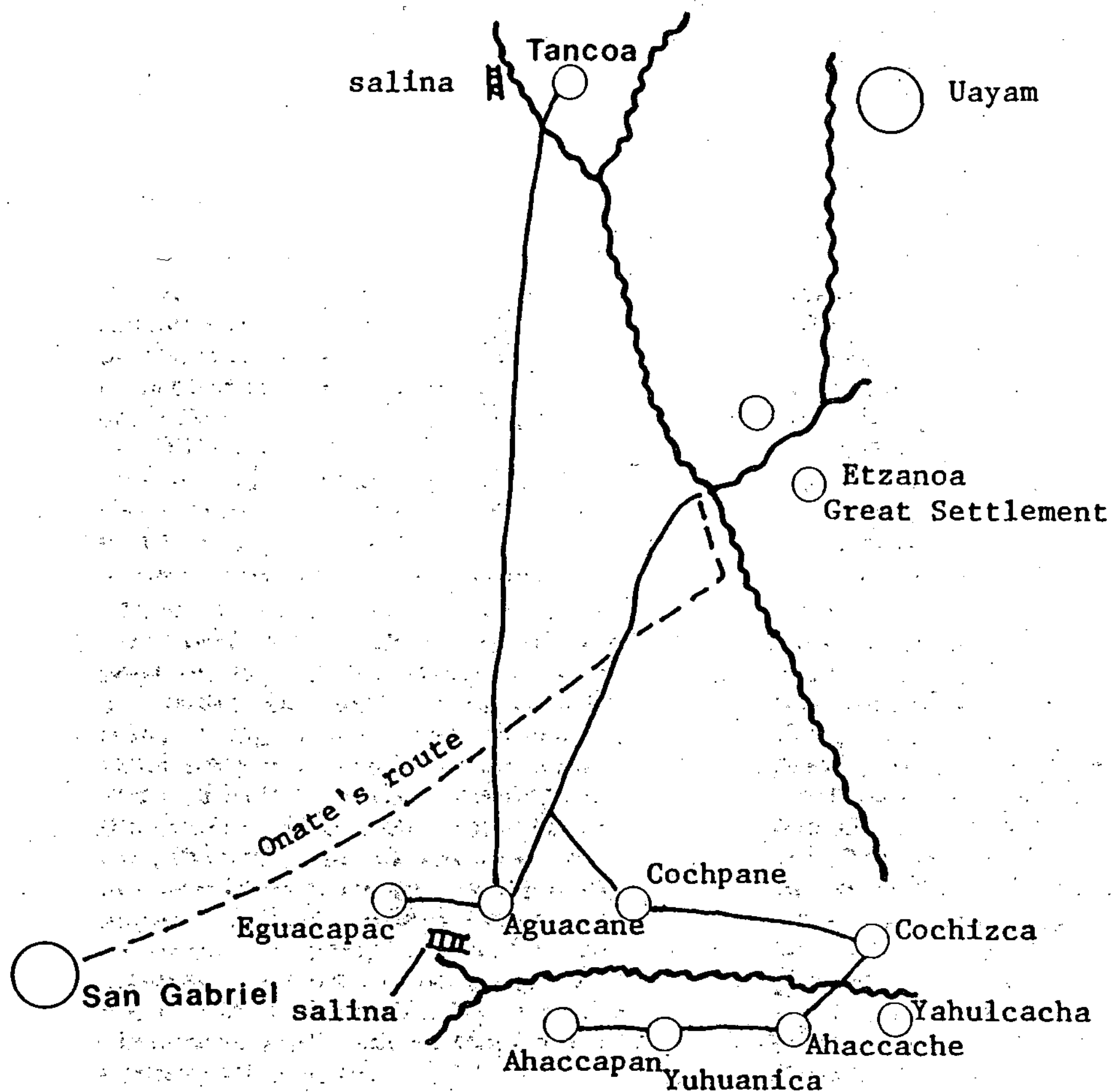
The excellent article on the Cimarron Crossing by Jesse Scott, Jr. (February 1988 *Wagon Tracks*) brings to mind two more crossings of the Arkansas River that were used by early travelers to and from Santa Fe. One of these is located near the mouth of Walnut Creek at Great Bend, the other below Great Bend near the mouth of Rattlesnake Creek. The latter is probably the crossing mentioned in Scott's article that was used by William Becknell in 1822. It was a major crossing point of the river that was old in 1822, and it is possible that Becknell had a map showing its location.

Now, it may sound odd to say that the ford was old in the second year of use of the Santa Fe Trail, but there is ample evidence for this. Long before the Santa Fe Trail proper came into use, a network of Indian trails crisscrossed the plains, and many early Spanish, French, and American travelers used them. The crossing at the mouth of Rattlesnake Creek was in use as early as 1601 and provided a ford of the river for a trail that led south into present Oklahoma and east to the present Kansas City area.

The crossing is depicted on the Miguel map of 1602 (Map 1). Miguel was a Plains Indian taken to Mexico by the Juan de Oñate expedition. He drew a crude map for the Spaniards that depicts Quiviran and other settlements in what are now Kansas and Oklahoma (Vehik 1986). They are shown in relationship to Oñate's route from San Gabriel, New Mexico, to Quiviran settlements in the vicinity of present Arkansas City, Kansas.

The river that runs diagonally across the Miguel map is clearly the Arkansas, and the Great Settlement is near the mouth of the Walnut River. The lower river is probably the Salt Fork of the Arkansas. Map 2 shows an interpretation of the Miguel map in terms of modern place names and archaeological sites.

The Miguel map shows a north-south trail that runs from the Great Salt Plain in Oklahoma past the Great Salt Marsh in Kansas to the Arkansas River and then northeast to a village named Tancoa. The latter is presumably one of the Quiviran settlements visited by Coronado in the vicinity of Lyons,



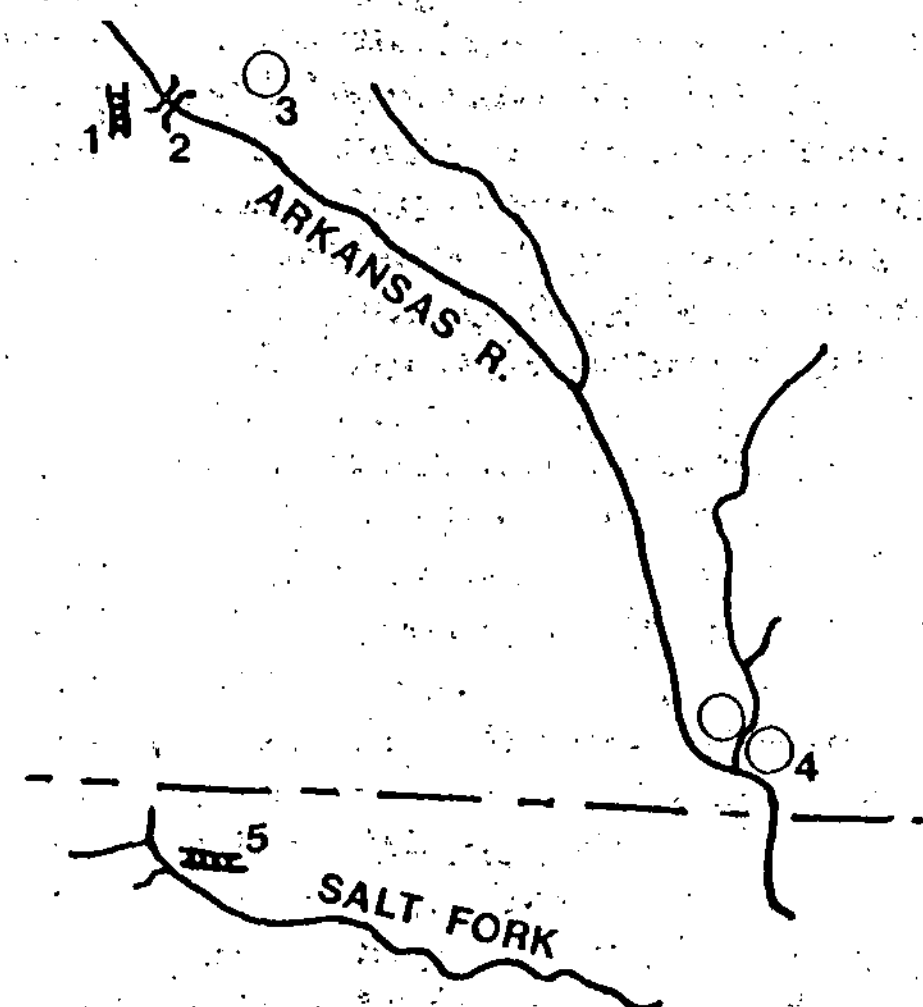
Map 1: Miguel Map

Kansas. Other trails, streams, and settlements are shown.

A second map showing the crossing was published by Zebulon Montgomery Pike. It reflects information gathered during his 1806 expedition through Kansas. It is this map that William Becknell might have used in 1822; others, including the McKnight party of 1812, definitely had used it to reach this point on the river.

On this Pike map, the ford is labeled the "Kansa Crossing." "Great Osage" and "Little Osage" crossings are shown below the site of present Wichita. The Wichita tribe had moved south sometime during the period from 1680 to 1718. This left their former homeland, which was prime bison-hunting territory, open for use by other tribes, and the Kansa and Osage both took advantage of this.

The Walnut Creek crossing also shows up on another Pike map. This one was drawn by Pike prior to the expedition and drew on in-



1. Big Salt Marsh
2. Pike's Kansa Ford
3. Saxman site, Rice County
4. Country Club Site, Cowly County
5. Great Salt Plain

Map 2: Miguel Map Interpretation

formation received from some French fur traders, Polite Cardinal, Joseph Marie Cardinal, and a Tibeau or Fibeau. The original



map shows a trail from the Platte River in Nebraska to Santa Fe and provides information about distances and stream crossings. The version shown here (Map 3) has been rotated so that north is at the top, and some of the captions have been omitted for clarity.

From the Walnut Creek crossing, the trail is shown following the south bank of the river to another ford. The second, western crossing between the Smoky Hill and the Arkansas reaches the latter stream at the same point and crosses it. This must be one of the Cimarron crossings of the Arkansas, as the trail runs southwest from there to the settlements of New Mexico. William Becknell, in 1822, probably followed the south bank of the Arkansas from the Rattlesnake Creek crossing to the Walnut Creek crossing and then merely followed this trail to Santa Fe.

Tracing out the Indian trails that preceded historic routes can help us understand better the course of the early history of the region. Becknell's route in 1822 has been something of a mystery, and the Indian trails show the most probable route.

At the same time, however, this kind of study can lead to further mysteries. The second Pike map depicts a cave on the north bank of the Arkansas a bit to the west of the crossing, and the label says "a rocky cave in which 500 men might sleep." Pawnee Rock is in the general location indicated, but no other sources make mention of any large cave in the area. Perhaps Pike misunderstood his informants; perhaps they misinformed him.

Donald Jackson and Mary Lou Spence (eds.), *Expeditions of John Charles Fremont*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1970.

Edwin James, *Account of an Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1966, reprint of 1823 edition.

Susan C. Vehik, "O'ate's Expedition to the Southern Plains: Routes, Destinations, and Implications for Late Prehistoric Cultural Adaptations," *Plains Anthropologist*, 31 (1986) 13-34.

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# CAVE SPRING: HISTORIC LANDMARK ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

by Sylvia D. Mooney

[Ed. note: This is the eighth in a series on museums and historic sites along the Trail. Sylvia D. Mooney is the former director of Cave Spring and a member of the SFTA board of directors.]

Cave Spring, so simply stated, but what does it mean? That is all there is on the large pink granite marker placed along Blue Ridge Blvd. by the DAR and the State of Missouri in 1909.

The DAR undertook the monumental task of marking the historic Santa Fe Trail from Franklin, Missouri, to Santa Fe between 1909 and 1913. These wonderful granite markers secured the path of the Trail for countless generations and for local historians to research, document, and follow.

In 1975, prompted by the upcoming bicentennial of our beloved nation, interested citizens began a quest for information about the history of Cave Spring. They discovered that Cave Spring is a significant surviving Santa Fe Trail landmark, a campground for traders and travelers from 1821 until 1872 on the primary route of the Road to Santa Fe in Jackson County, Missouri. It is located approximately ten miles southwest of Independence on the original Trail that George Sibley surveyed in 1825-1826.

In its time, this site possessed no unique significance. It was one of many campsites. This particular site had a stream of water surrounded by tallgrass prairie. The land fell away to the stream where the trees grew along the banks to the Big Blue River west of Cave Spring, which is now Swope Park. The burning of the prairie, both from natural causes and fires set by Indians, maintained the diverse ecosystem. Water was very abundant along the first ten miles of the Trail for the wagon trains and traders. A nearby road was named Spring Valley. The one distinguishing feature of the area was the cave, with a great spring bursting forth from the ledge of Argentine limestone rock.

In the *Diary of a Forty-Niner* entry for April 29, 1849, Hugh Morgan Price and Franklin Price described the area as they followed the Trail: "8 miles south of Independence the country is beautifully interspersed with prairie and timber. Well watered with fine springs. Limestone soil."

The Santa Fe trade began in 1821 in the Boonslick town of Franklin, Missouri, when William Becknell led a group of riders and pack animals loaded with American dry goods to Santa Fe. A lucrative exchange of Mexican silver and mules resulted and proved a significant factor in the economic growth of Missouri and the West.

Independence became the starting point for the Santa Fe trade by 1827. Riverboats traveled upstream on the Missouri River from St. Louis to the landing at Blue Mills, which is presently owned by the Portland Cement Company. Independence was the outfitting headquarters for more than two decades and then gave way to Westport, located some twelve miles to the west.

As the fertile land around Independence became enclosed by small farms, and the troublesome Big Blue River crossing could be avoided, departures from Westport grew. Two main branches of the Trail developed in Jackson County: one going southwest from Independence and the other from Westport. These trails merged near Lone Elm near present Olathe, Kansas.

Cave Spring was located on the Independence branch of the Trail in Township 48, Range 32, which followed the high ridge (Blue Ridge) separating the Big Blue River on the west and the Little Blue River on the east.

A historic map of Jackson County depicts Cave Spring as a campground with covered wagons encircling it. Dean Earl Wood, in *The Old Santa Fe Trail from the Missouri River*, mentioned the spring, stating that traders camped there. Local newspaper accounts describe the campsite as the farthest point reached by most caravans in a day, a stopping place to water cattle and horses. Sid J. Hare, who lived on adjoining property by 1921, was featured in a 1926 newspaper article claiming travelers often camped to eat and refresh themselves with cool draughts of spring water.

The area was surveyed in 1843, much later than the original survey of nearby areas in 1826. It was known as the "Lost Township." Jesse Barnes, who came from Kentucky in 1839, was the first landowner in the area in 1843. "Barn's Inclosure" began at

the southwest corner of Section 8 where it bordered on the eastern edge of what was clearly marked the "Road to Santa Fe." Cave Spring was north of this farm on the west side of the Road to Santa Fe, located in Section 7. After October 1844 the spring became part of Barnes's enclosure which contained 800 acres.

Susan Magoffin traveled down the Trail in 1846, the bride of Samuel Magoffin. She wrote in her now famous diary: "And after dinner between the hours of 3 and 4 we left the little village of I[ndependence] for the residence of Mr. Barnes, a gentleman some ten miles this side of that place. Here we procured a night's lodging preparatory to a final departure. They were very kind to us. Mrs. Barnes claims a relationship with me through the Harts; be it so or not I can't tell. On Thursday morning we left Mr. B's at an early hour. They had us up by day-light, gave us breakfast almost as soon, and by 7 o'clock we were on the road."

J. S. Chick, who came to Westport in 1836, recalled years later that from Blue Mills Landing trains passed through Independence then southwesterly by the Barnes and Rice farms. Two of Jesse Barnes sons, C. R. and S. S. Barnes, were engaged in the Santa Fe trade and traveled on the Oregon Trail. C. R. Barnes carved his name on Register Rock on the Oregon Trail (photo of signature in author's possession).

Cave Spring, a landmark on three major trails (Santa Fe, Oregon, and California), was remembered in 1906 by a surviving plainsman, W. H. Brady, who journeyed to Santa Fe in 1855. He recollected that, starting from Independence, the first point was "Barnes' Spring."

W. Z. Hickman was not only a veteran of the Trail, but also an author of a 1920 history of Jackson County. Hickman was the authority to whom the DAR turned to document and mark the sites along the Trail in Jackson County from 1909-1913. He wrote of Jesse Barnes: "On his tract was a magnificent spring that burst out from a great ledge of rock in such a way as to leave a cave, and it is known to this day as 'The Cave Spring,' and it has never been known to fail from that day to this."





Cave Spring.

This is the only cave site used as a campground along the entire Santa Fe Trail. The Oregon Trail has a spring and cave site also at Ash Hollow in Nebraska.

Today, Cave Spring is a 36-acre historic site on the National Register of Historic Places and a nature preserve located in the William M. Klein Park. William Klein gave a parcel of land worth \$100,000 to expedite the acquisition process. There is a small museum, the Cave Spring Interpretive Center, with changing exhibits about the historic trails and the natural environment. A variety of educational programs for all ages is available, including living-history demonstrations. The museum houses a gift shop and the administrative office for the Cave Spring Association, a non-profit organization that supports and manages the county-owned land.

There is a shelter house with picnic tables, and hiking trails through a beautiful woodland area of hackberry, walnut, elm, persimmon, redbud, locust, and sycamore trees. Cattails and young willows are distributed around a small marshy pond. The natural plant succession from prairie to forest continues to progress.

Remains of seven chimneys can be seen along the woodchipped trails, remnants of 1926-1948 when there was a private country club and golf course with a small lake for swimming and fishing. The lake drained away in the

1970s.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and on Sunday from 1:30-5:00 p.m. It is closed major holidays and December 25 through January 1. The park is open daily from 8 am until nightfall. There is no fee, but donations are welcomed. Guided walking tours can be arranged as well as guided bus tours of the historic trails through the area. For further information, contact Lynn Sloan, Director, 8701 E. Gregory, Kansas City, MO 64133, phone (816) 358-CAVE.

## RICE-TREMONTI HOME PRESERVATION EFFORTS

by Sylvia D. Mooney

Progress is being made in the efforts to save the historic Rice-Tremonti home in Raytown, Missouri. The Rice home was built in 1844 on the Santa Fe Trail beside Aunt Sophia's cabin, which predated the home by eight years. The Archibald Rice family left North Carolina in 1826 and spent the next six years living in the eastern part of Jackson County, Missouri, near Buckner. By 1837 farmer Rice settled on land in the "Lost Township" one-half mile north of Cave Spring and erected three log cabins for the Negroes and had land under cultivation.

Matt Field, a traveling reporter from 1839 to 1841, wrote of a visit to the Rice farm: "About half a day's travel brings the Santa Fe bound traveler past the flourishing plantation of farmer Rice, where leisure travellers often linger to enjoy his sweet bacon, fresh eggs, new milk and other nutritious and unsophisticated luxuries that always appease appetite without encumbering digestion."

The Rice farm had become a camping site on the Trail. It had space for wagons, springs for watering, and corn and prairie grass for feeding animals.

After Archibald Rice's death, the house was sold. Between 1906 and 1922 the land was owned by Judge Joseph M. Lowe and his son, John Lowe. The judge became president of the National Old Trails Association and recorded his recollections in the book, *The National Old Trails Road, the Great Historic Highway of America*.

Judge Lowe and the Missouri chapters of the DAR began a movement in 1908 to mark the Santa Fe Trail across Missouri. A pink

granite marker was placed beside Aunt Sophia's cabin in 1913.

Two of the Lowe sisters, Florence and Mildred, granddaughters of Judge Lowe, have recently donated \$1,000 each to help in purchasing the property from Mrs. Gloria Tremonti, who has lived there since 1931.

The Friends of the Rice-Tremonti Home Association, led by President Whitson J. Kirk, has formally signed a contract to purchase the property for \$370,000. The Raytown Kiwanis have committed \$63,000 to the project, with a \$10,000 advance payment which made the down payment on the Rice home possible. The City of Raytown has set aside \$10,000 in its budget for 1989 for the Rice project.

The Raytown Park Board has been approached by the Friends to consider purchasing a tract of land on the site for \$100,000 to build an activity center at that location. Members of the Board seem interested in cooperating with the Association. Both the historic home and activity center would mutually benefit by sharing the site. The Friends group made it clear that they look forward to the Park Department managing the Rice property, with volunteer support services and renovation provided by the Association.

*[Sylvia D. Mooney is a trustee and treasurer of the Friends of the Rice-Tremonti Home Association. She expresses special thanks to Roberta Bonnewitz and James Denny for their research and information provided for this and the article on Cave Spring. Anyone interested in helping with the Rice-Tremonti project should contact Mrs. Mooney, 7120 Harecliff Dr., Kansas City, MO 64133.]*

## TRAIL FEATURED IN NATIONAL MAGAZINE

The November 1988 issue of *Travel and Leisure* features an article by Douglas Preston, "The Way to Santa Fe: Following New Mexico's Pioneer Trail." It calls attention to the major historic Trail sites in New Mexico, particularly from Fort Union to Santa Fe, with a few recommendations about places to stay and eat. With a national circulation of 1.1 million, *Travel and Leisure* carries the story of the Santa Fe Trail to an expanding audience, which will increase travel along the route and visitation at the historic sites.



## CAMP TALES —CHAPTER REPORTS—

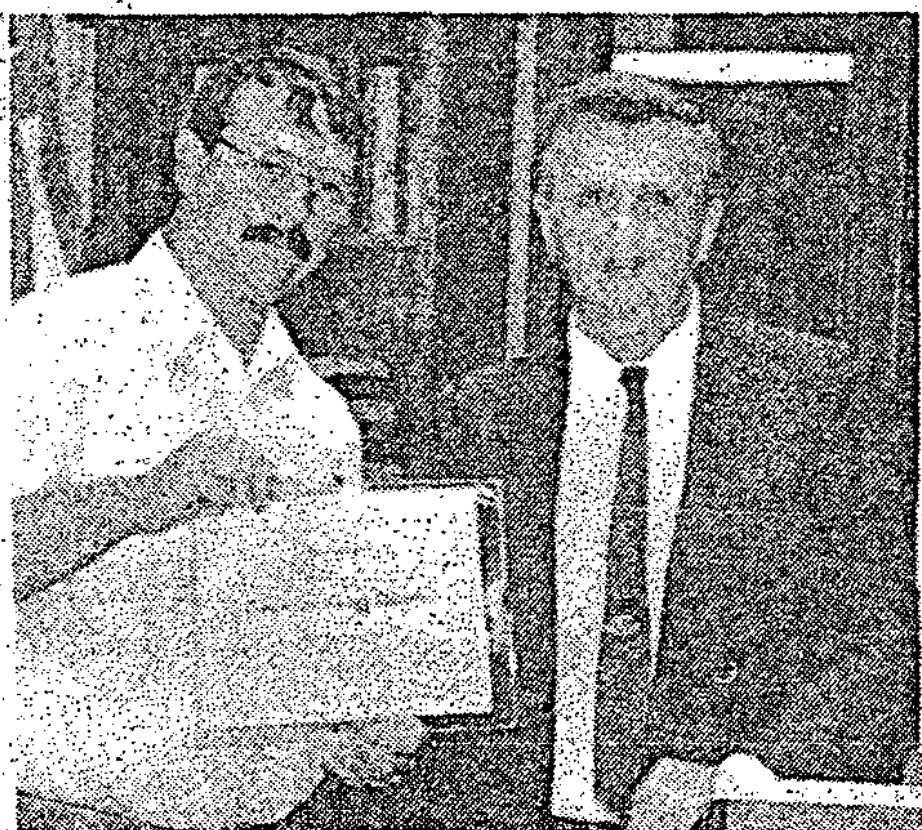
### Cimarron Cutoff

by Mary B. Gamble

David Hutchison, president of the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter, received the chapter charter from SFTA President Marc Simmons at Clayton, NM, on the evening of August 18. Simmons made the presentation at the Albert W. Thompson Memorial Library, following his lecture on "Adventure and Tragedy on the Santa Fe Trail." This was the first lecture in the Monroe Lectureship Series sponsored by the library.

The Cimarron Cutoff Chapter was the first to be organized, and it was accepted at the June 2 Board meeting of SFTA at Larned.

Prior to Dr. Simmons's lecture, during a dinner at the Eklund Hotel, Hutchison conducted a brief business meeting of the chapter. Chapter members from Boise City, Elkhart, and Springfield joined those from Clayton for this meeting and the program.



David Hutchison, left, receives the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter Charter from SFTA President Marc Simmons. (Photo by Leo E. Gamble.)

### Texas Panhandle

by Dennis C. Clayton

SFTA President Marc Simmons came to Amarillo on August 19 to present the Texas Panhandle Chapter its charter and give a lecture on the Trail. He spoke to a group of 82 people, all of whom were inspired by his talk. There followed an autograph party for Simmons. Prior to the program, Simmons was hosted at a reception in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Enos Jones, and the chapter extends a hearty thanks to them for their hospitality.

Simmons's visit was heavily promoted in the Panhandle. Chapter President Charles Pitts appeared on local television stations to promote the organization and the visit by Simmons. Channel 4, the local NBC affiliate, interviewed Simmons and Pitts on the campus of Palo Duro High School in front of a marker which designates the route of Josiah Gregg's Fort Smith to Santa Fe branch of the Trail. At the Fifth Season Inn where Simmons gave his presentation, the electronic marquee of the motel high over I-40 read a continuous message: "WELCOME MARC SIMMONS, THE SANTA FE TRAIL LIVES ON!!"

SFTA Ambassador Paul Bentrup accompanied Simmons to Amarillo and blessed the gathering with his wit and good spirit. The chapter is looking forward to bigger and better things next year. Looking to the year ahead, President Pitts hopes to create excitement over the Gregg trail from Fort Smith through the Texas Panhandle to Santa Fe. This route was a part of westward expansion and should be considered as one branch of the Santa Fe Trail.

### POTENTIAL CHAPTERS

Meetings have been held in Council Grove and Ulysses, KS, to discuss possible SFTA chapters in those areas. No word was received about the Council Grove meeting.

At Ulysses the formation of the Wagonbed Spring Chapter, including members from Grant and Stevens counties, has been discussed at a couple of meetings. Fern Bessire was elected president of the group.

There may be other places thinking about or in the process of forming a chapter. Please send news about any chapter plans and developments to WT.

### HISTORIC MARKERS



Have you seen one of these signs along the Santa Fe Trail? They were placed on or near schools located near the Trail on November 16, 1948, by the American Pioneer Trails Association with headquarters in Kansas City, MO. At that time Judge Henry A. Bundschu was president of the Association, and Thornton Cooke was chairman of the special committee that designed this plan for marking the historic Santa Fe Trail. Blevins Davis, Independence, MO, donated funds to provide the artistic plaques for marking the route. Irvin Shope was the artist.

The Association provided a plaque for every school along the Trail and suggested a dedication program for November 16, 1948. Students were to conduct the ceremony and give the addresses. They were encouraged to dress in pioneer costumes for the occasion. The suggested program included singing "The Star Spangled Banner," an address on the reason for the ceremony, unveiling the marker by the Boy Scouts, an address on the history of the Santa Fe Trail, singing some pioneer songs, an address on local incidents connected with the Santa Fe Trail, and singing "God Bless



Officers and board members of the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter who attended presentation of the charter, l to r: D. Ray Blakeley, Edgar White, Brooks Littrell, Mary B. Gamble, David Hutchison, Juanita Anderson, and Joan Walton. (Photo by Leo E. Gamble.)



America." It was recommended that parents, patriotic societies, old inhabitants, and the public be invited to attend the dedication.

A colored map of the Santa Fe Trail was provided by the Association with the recommendation that it be framed and hung in the school before the dedication. Does anyone know where a copy of that map may be found?

This was the most thorough effort to mark the Trail since the DAR granite markers were erected earlier in the century. The markers were placed on or near schools, but only a few remain where originally placed. There is one on a tree at Shawnee Mission in Kansas City and one at Lakin, KS, high school on the flagpole. There is one at the Mahaffie House in Olathe, KS, another at the Coronado-Quivira Museum in Lyons, KS, and one hangs in the window of an antique shop in Trinidad, CO. If anyone knows of the location of one of these signs, please send information to WT. Be sure to note if it is still in its original location or if it has been moved (if moved, try to determine where it was originally erected).

The National Park Service will soon be providing new signs to mark the Trail. This will be the most extensive marker program to date, but the earlier markers, including those of the DAR and the American Pioneer Trails Association, should be remembered and preserved when possible.

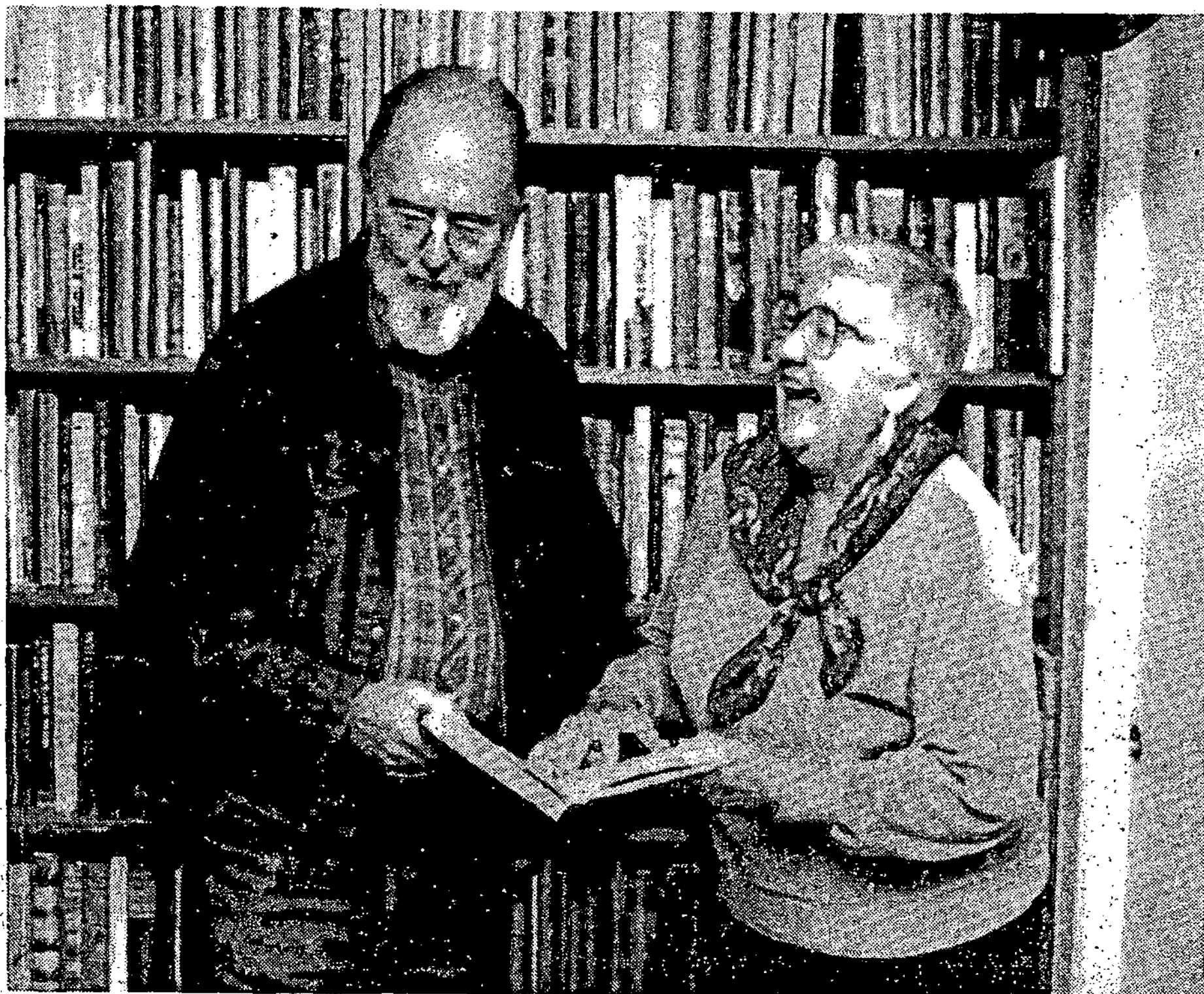
[Special thanks to John K. Riddle for this information found in a copy of the American Pioneer Trails Association program from the collection of his late father, Kenyon Riddle.]

## PIONEER STATUE

SFTA member Jane Mallinson, chairman of the Friends of the National Three Trails Interpretive Center, states that the City of Independence is raising funds for a statue of a Pioneer Woman to be placed in the Sculptor Garden at the new Center. Your pioneer ancestor's name will be placed in a permanent record book for a donation of \$25.00 to \$1,999.00. Donations of \$2,000.00 or more will put your ancestor's name on the base of the statue. Donations are also accepted to honor those living. The new Trails Interpretive Center is scheduled for completion by April 1990. Send donations to Pioneer Women's Fund, Standard State Bank, 10801 East 23rd St., Independence, MO 64052. ◀

## THE ARMSTRONGS—ALL-AMERICAN TRAIL BUFFS

by Betty Ann Parker



Aaron and Ethel Armstrong in their library.

Aaron and Ethel Armstrong may or may not eat Wheaties for breakfast like the famous Jack Armstrong of radio fame, but calling them the Dynamic Duo of the present-day Santa Fe Trail is no exaggeration. This exuberant couple have been over all or part of the Trail eight times to date and have a library of approximately 170 items, including books, pamphlets, and machine copies, relating to it.

Aaron is from Colorado, Ethel is from Illinois, and the two met in Santa Fe in the mid-forties. Both are educators and taught in Colorado, Guam, and California before retiring to Roswell in 1979. Their interest in the Santa Fe Trail evolved from their reading of books like Susan Magoffin's *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico*, Kate L. Gregg's *The Road to Santa Fe: The Journals and Diaries of George C. Sibley*, and Marian Russell's *Land of Enchantment*.

Their first trip was in 1982 after they had been reading Hobart Stocking's *Road to Santa Fe*. After a trip to Iowa and Illinois to visit relatives, they used Stocking's book to follow the Trail back to New Mexico. They recall, "Since we'd read some of the classics about the Trail, we enjoyed finding and photographing landmarks and Trail sites mentioned in these books. After that first trip, we were 'hooked.' Later that year we talked to Marc Simmons and compared notes about the Trail. We found that he was writing a modern guide to the Trail [*Following the Santa Fe Trail: A Guide for Modern Travelers*]. Our next trip we used his manuscript to guide us since the book was in press and not available when we left. We began acquiring more journals and books about the Trail and reading more about it. You know how one thing leads to another!"

If anyone is wondering why the Armstrongs keep going over the same territory with no indication of ever being through, they say they find something new each time they make the journey. Their last trip, September 1987, they found some new DAR markers they had not been able to locate before. Meeting Trail "buffs" along the way and talking with old-timers who live near the Trail is another incentive.

The love of reading and exploring feeds their hobbies of collecting and trail-hunting. Jack Rittenhouse's *The Santa Fe Trail: An Historical Bibliography* is a companion as they use the annotations to help them pick out pertinent items about the Trail. Publishers' catalogues, bookstores, and book reviews keep them abreast of the new material written on the Trail.

(continued next page)



Ethel's favorites are Russell's *Land of Enchantment*, Gregg's *The Road to Santa Fe*, Lt. J. W. Abert's *Western America in 1846-47*, James J. Webb's *Adventures in the Santa Fe Trade 1844-1847*, and Magoffin's *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico*.

Aaron likes Lewis H. Garrard's *Wah-to-Yah and the Taos Trail*, David Lavender's *Bent's Fort*, Joan Myers and Marc Simmons's *Along the Santa Fe Trail*, and, since Aaron is a fan of Kit Carson, M. Morgan Estergreen's *Kit Carson: A Portrait in Courage*.

Ethel says Aaron likes to photograph Trail sites, crossings, ruts, landmarks, stage station ruins, old forts—anything to give a feeling of the Trail as it is today. "Through research in our book collection, we use journals and memoirs to create the feeling of yesterday—of the actual events on the Trail. Combining these two facets, we've made up a travelogue about the Trail which we've presented to various groups. Besides slides, we collect pamphlets written by county and local historians or Trail buffs that give us bits of information about that specific small area. We've found many of these in our travels, some in print and others out-of-print."

The Armstrongs throw themselves into their Trail Odysseys with tenacity, enthusiasm, and the abandon of children off on a holiday. At the same time they never lose the joy of thoroughly researching the areas they travel. It hasn't been all fun, though. "On our first trip in 1982 we signed up for an overnight wagon ride through the Flint Hills south of the Trail. A thunderstorm hit us at the overnight camp spot about dark, drenching everything. Not being very hardy pioneers, we asked to be taken with our wet gear back to the ranch where we'd left the car. We spent the next morning at the local laundromat getting everything dried out."

There have been more serendipitous experiences than unpleasant ones: "On our 1984 trip we were using Mrs. T. A. Cordry's *The Story of Marking the Santa Fe Trail* (by the DAR in Kansas) to find the familiar red granite markers placed in 1906-1908 along the Trail. Stopping in Lakin for gas, we asked the attendant for directions to Hartland—a once-thriving town along the Arkansas in 1908 when the marker was dedicated. He looked puzzled and asked, 'Why do you want to go to Hartland? Nothing there but an

old house and a tombstone along the road.' 'Does the tombstone look like this?' we inquired, showing him a picture of a Trail marker. He nodded and gave us directions not only to Hartland but also to the Lakin High School where we found two more unusual Trail markers."

For Aaron and Ethel Armstrong, retirement means pursuing every facet of their literary interests with all the energy and ingenuity of a lifetime. Besides actively searching the Santa Fe Trail and its artifacts, they teach an adult education class titled "Books of the Southwest" at the Roswell Adult Center. It is a survey course wherein they discuss thirty or more books in each two-hour session. They tell something about the author, give a brief review of each book, and read a paragraph to indicate style, particularly for the New Mexico classics.

They have written a bibliography, *Discover New Mexico*, which they use with the class. The Roswell Public Library sells it for a small fee. As a service to their students, the Armstrongs also search for out-of-print books they review in their class under the business name of A & E Books.

Being with Ethel and Aaron is sometimes akin to entertaining a group of children just returned from the circus. They are both so alive, so interested in the new Trail marker they just discovered, so full of the tales about the flood they got caught in and how they almost didn't get the trailer turned around on an abandoned trail, that their stories come tumbling out as they try to tell it all at once. If this is retirement, let me at it!

[Betty Ann Parker operates a bookstore, Parker Books of the West, in Santa Fe. The Armstrongs are scheduled to show their slides of the Trail during the Symposium in Santa Fe in 1989.]

## TRAIL ROMANCE LEADS TO TRAIL ROMANCE

"The Santa Fe Trail Lives On," and romance on the Trail is not dead either. SFTA board member Mark Gardner and Katie Davis of our membership committee were married in Colorado Springs on September 4. They first met at the Trinidad Symposium in 1986 and discovered they had more in common than just a love for the Santa Fe Trail. Congratulations and Best Wishes! ◀

## POST OFFICE OAK —LETTERS—

Editor:

I am a new member of SFTA. Recently I gave my copy of *Trail of Commerce and Conquest* to an important prospective member. Enclosed is my check for another copy. I can't be without Rittenhouse's brief history of the road to Santa Fe.

August G. Schmuhl  
1007 Paseo DeLaCuma  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Editor:

I am seeking information about my husband's family who traveled the Santa Fe Trail in the 1800s. Jonathan Barton was my husband's g-g-g-grandfather, and traveled with other members of his family. We are surmising that his oldest boys went along and perhaps some of his in-laws, Carlews and Holtons. We have a large family history. If anyone has information about these folks, it would be so welcome. Thank you.

Helen Ann Hancock  
58 Via Morella  
San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Editor:

I am interested in finding more information about the traders, drivers, and stores of the Trail era. My great-grandfather from Missouri was a driver of a mule train from Franklin, MO, to Santa Fe in the late 1820s or early 1830s. His name was Rice Patterson, and he was hired by John R. White to drive a team to Santa Fe, where he remained for 3 years clerking and selling goods. He crossed the plains on the SF Trail 6 times as a hireling, a merchant, a captain of a company, and a traveler. By 1838 he was back in Missouri, married, and had taken up farming on the family farm.

Where can I find more about the time he was on the Trail and in Santa Fe? Were there any stores in Santa Fe bearing the name of White or Patterson? Are their records of the drivers and traders of Trail days?

I have been in Santa Fe many times and found my grandfather's name, Alexander Denny, on the mail call list in an 1849 newspaper as he traveled to Calif. during the Gold Rush. He was also there in the Mexican War in 1846 as a Missouri Volunteer. Thank you.

Mary Denny Ellerman  
45055-21 E. Florida Ave.  
Hemet, CA 92344



## BERNARD SELIGMAN: JEWISH MERCHANT ON THE TRAIL

by Marc Simmons

[Ed. note: This is the seventh in a series on merchants and the Santa Fe trade. Marc Simmons is the leading authority on the history of the Trail and president of SFTA.]

In the period after 1850 a number of Jewish immigrants from Germany entered the Santa Fe trade, freighting over the Trail from Missouri and becoming prominent in the economic and political life of New Mexico. A leading example of such men who became involved in the commerce of the prairies was Bernard Seligman.

Born near the Rhine River on November 23, 1837, Bernard Seligman received a good education and learned to speak six languages fluently. Before leaving Germany, he was associated with the great banking house of the Rothschilds at Frankfort-on-the-Main. After coming to the United States, he located briefly in the Philadelphia area where he was involved in the manufacture of cotton goods.<sup>1</sup>

In 1856, Bernard, not yet twenty, went west and traveled the Santa Fe Trail to New Mexico. He was going to join his older brother, Sigmund, who had settled in Santa Fe in 1849 and since that year had been active in merchandising. Sigmund Seligman, then 43, had formed a partnership in 1855 with another German Jew, Charles P. Cleaver from Cologne. Their firm was known as Seligman & Cleaver which was said to have "engaged extensively in a flourishing trade over the Santa Fe Trail."<sup>2</sup>

Young Bernard went to work for the company and by 1862 was a full partner. By then Cleaver had withdrawn, going on to a career in law and politics, and the firm took the name Seligman Bros. One of their many advertisements in the local *Santa Fe New Mexican*, dated December 5, 1863, conveys an idea of the nature of their business:

Look Here! Look Here!

The place to get good bargains is at Seligman Bros. We are continually receiving by express from New York and other eastern cities and have continually on hand every description of staple and fancy dry goods: Domestic, calicos, cloaks, mantillas, boots, shoes, hats, caps, hardware, groceries, stationery, etc. etc.<sup>3</sup>

It is known that Bernard was in New York in 1866, probably mak-



Bernard Seligman (left) and friends Zadoc Staab and Lehman Spiegelberg with Kiowa Indians. (Courtesy Museum of New Mexico, Neg. No. 7890.)

ing purchases for the firm and arranging for their shipment to the head of the Santa Fe Trail in Missouri.<sup>4</sup> How many other trips he may have made in these years is unknown. Thus far no diaries or journals of Bernard's Trail travels have come to light.

One item of record notes that Seligman Brothers loaded in one day in Kansas City 83 wagons with an average of 5,000 pounds each for their store in Santa Fe which at times carried in stock as much as \$200,000 worth of merchandise. A freight bill of \$30,000 was paid by the firm to one wagon train carrying \$125,000 worth of their goods. This delivery was sold within three weeks upon arrival at the Santa Fe store, and the profit made on that single consignment was \$51,000. Total sales of \$10 million were reported to have been reached during the life of the company.<sup>5</sup>

From this it would appear that the Seligmans relied primarily upon private contractors to transport their freight to New Mexico. This was clearly the case by the early 1870s when the Kansas Pacific Railway reached Kit Carson, Colorado, the latest Trail head for wagon traffic to Santa Fe.

Surviving bills of lading and invoices indicate that Otero, Seligman & Co., Commission and Forwarding Merchants, was receiving consignments of goods destined for Seligman Bros. and freighting them to the New Mexican capital.

Some of the wares carried, as revealed in these documents, were clothing, stationery, carpets, tobacco, cheese, vinegar, mace, pepper, oils, buckets, tubs, washboards, lamp wicks, and barrels and half-barrels of whiskey. One shipment also included two ox yokes and wagon covers.<sup>6</sup> In 1872 the Seligmans had a government contract to supply grain to Indian agencies in the Southwest, and the yokes and covers may have been intended for use of their delivery wagons.<sup>7</sup>

Both Seligman brothers took an active role in the civic life of the Santa Fe community. As early as 1859, Bernard, along with his good friend Zadoc Staab, joined with other municipal leaders to found the Historical Society of New Mexico, the first such organization west of the Mississippi.<sup>8</sup> An accomplished public speaker, Bernard soon gained political influence, and served in both houses



of the territorial legislature. He was also treasurer of the territory from 1886 to 1891. Sigmund devoted most of his time to the business, although he was appointed a Santa Fe County Commissioner in 1876, the year of his death.<sup>9</sup>

Before the first bank was chartered in Santa Fe in 1870, Seligman Bros., in addition to its mercantile activities, engaged in private banking. That was a valuable service for Santa Fe freighters and others who were accustomed to carry thousands of dollars on their persons. The firm also helped finance construction of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.<sup>10</sup>

At the end of his life, Bernard Seligman returned to live in Philadelphia, where he died on February 3, 1903. He left a wife and four children. His son Arthur, born at Santa Fe in 1871, had entered the family business as a bookkeeper in his youth, and took over its management upon the retirement of his father. He served as mayor of Santa Fe, 1910-1912, and two terms as state governor from 1930 to 1933.<sup>11</sup>

Arthur Seligman had two interesting connections with the Santa Fe Trail. First, as mayor of Santa Fe he participated in the dedication ceremonies of the DAR "End of the Trail" marker on the Santa Fe plaza, August 21, 1911, accepting it on behalf of the city.

Second, he acquired the last surviving Barlow and Sanderson stagecoach that had traveled the Trail in the 1860s and 1870s. It was the one involved in a famous holdup on Raton Pass in 1867 by the Kid Barton gang. The express messenger and two passengers had been killed and \$60,000 taken. Lawmen pursued the gang and in a shoot-out a sheriff and two deputies had been slain. But Kid Barton was captured and hanged from a railroad bridge near Tucumcari.

Arthur Seligman for many years rode in the coach during Santa Fe parades and pageants. In 1935, two years after his death, it was presented by his widow to the Historical Society of New Mexico. Today it remains on display in the historic Governors Palace on the Santa Fe plaza.<sup>12</sup>

## NOTES

1. Biographical sketch of Bernard Seligman in Ralph Emerson Twitchell, *Old Santa Fe* (Danville, Illinois: Interstate Printers, 1925), 477.
2. Quoted in "Obituary of Arthur Seligman," *New Mexico Historical Review*, 8 (October 1933) 306. For a sketch of Charles P. Cleaver, see

- Floyd S. Fierman, *Guts and Ruts, The Jewish Pioneer on the Trail in the American Southwest* (New York: KTAV Publ. House, 1985), 66-85.
3. From a microfilm copy in the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe (NMSRCA).
4. His presence in New York is mentioned in *Seligman vs Baca*, 1866, District Court, Mora County, Civil Case #37a in NMSRCS.
5. Figures are from an original advertising circular, undated, issued by Seligman Bros. Co., in possession of the author.
6. Bills of lading, dated August 17 and November 4, 1872, in Seligman Papers, NMSRCA.
7. See, for example, Receipts for delivery of corn and wheat to Agency at Fort Defiance, Arizona, May 25, 1872, in *ibid.*, NMSRCA.
8. Jacqueline Dorgan Meketa, *Louis Felsenthal* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 1982), 20.
9. *Daily New Mexican*, March 14, 1876.
10. "Obituary of Arthur Seligman," 306-307.
11. Twitchell, *Old Santa Fe*, 477-478.
12. The story of the coach is related in Boaz Long, "Stagecoach Traveling," *El Palacio*, 60 (December 1953) 403-408.



## HOOF PRINTS -TRAIL TIDBITS-

SFTA Ambassadors Paul Bentrup of Deerfield, KS, and Les Vilda of Wilbur, NE, both have their pictures in Greg Franzwa's new book, *Images of the Santa Fe Trail*.

The mid-summer event at Fort Union National Monument known as Founder's Day has been renamed and is now called Soldiering on the Santa Fe Trail. This year's attendance was 1,030, and WT editor Oliva was a speaker.

The National Park Service has contracted with WT editor Oliva for a history of Fort Union, NM, to be completed in three years.

Individuals are invited to join the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. Annual dues are \$15. Write: 1001 Upper River Dr./RR 4433, Great Falls, MT 59401.

Recent landscaping has improved the entrance to Arrow Rock, MO, site of the 1991 SFTA Symposium.

Apparently the congressional bill to bring the Glorieta Battlefield and Pigeon's Ranch Stage Station, on the Trail 15 miles east of Santa Fe, under federal jurisdiction is not dead as we previously reported. It is just temporarily buried.

Jefferson National Expansion Historical Association at 11 No. 4th, St. Louis, MO 63102, offers a free catalog listing hundreds of titles related to Westward Expansion.

sion. This is a good source for members who don't live near bookstores.

Secretary-Treasurer Ruth Olson of Larned has been shepherding the SFTA's request for tax exempt status through the bureaucratic maze of the IRS.

The American Hiking Society in cooperation with the National Park Service now publishes a handsome newsletter, *PATHWAYS Across America*. It focuses on National Scenic and Historic Trails. For a free copy of the first issue, write the Society at 1015 31st St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

Betsy Crawford Gore recently left her position as archivist and educational director at the Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, and now resides in Wisconsin.

The new archivist and educational director at the Santa Fe Trail Center is Jon Zwink, a new member of SFTA and, incidentally, the brother of SFTA board member Tim Zwink.

A dedicated company of cyclists pedaled across Kansas, August 14-19, on the Kansas Santa Fe Trail Bicycle Tour. Will it be skate boards over the Trail next?

The Cave Spring Interpretive Center is now offering guide service over the Santa Fe Trail in the Kansas City area. It is intended for school groups, clubs, and organizations. Call (816) 358-CAVE.

Good News! Grant County, KS, plans to build an access road to the Wagonbed Spring site. The new gravel road should be completed this winter. In the course of the work, historical markers there will be relocated.

The candlelight tours of Fort Larned National Historic Site, on October 28, featuring a living-history enactment of the attack on the post by a rabid wolf in 1868, was well attended.

Greg Franzwa is traveling the Santa Fe Trail, showing slides of the NPS survey work last spring, and selling and autographing his books. He intends to have the new book of maps of the Trail available early in 1989 and his auto-tour guidebook out later in the year.



## CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES —BOOK NOTICES—

The three books noted below are published by Patrice Press, 1701 So. Eighth St., St. Louis, MO 63104. Each book is available at the list price, plus shipping at \$2.95 for the first book and .95 for each additional book. Missouri customers must add 6% sales tax. Write the above address, or call toll free 1-800-367-9242.

William E. Brown, *The Santa Fe Trail: National Park Service 1963 Historic Sites Survey*. St. Louis: Patrice Press, 1988. Pp. 221. Illus., maps, notes, bibliog., index. Cloth, \$17.95.

This 1963 report has, until now, been available only as a National Park Service limited edition. The volume contains a good overview history of the Trail, fine maps, and descriptions of many important sites along the route. It serves as an introduction to the historic road for the beginner, and it is a valuable handbook to be carried on the Trail by the veteran enthusiast. This is a study which many students of the Trail have wanted to read and own. Now that is possible.

Gregory M. Franzwa, *Impressions of the Santa Fe Trail*. St. Louis: Patrice Press, 1988. Pp. 190. Illus., map, index. Cloth, \$14.95; paper, \$9.95.

This is a very personal book, a diary kept by Franzwa during the 1988 National Park Service expedition to prepare new maps and site descriptions of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. This is the story of a love affair, for the author is enamored with the Trail and with his work on its story and maps. It provides a look at the places and people encountered during the expedition, it communicates the excitement of discovery as the author visits many places for the first time, and it expresses plainly the frank opinions of a dedicated preservationist and promoter.

Franzwa doesn't hesitate, for example, to call the spurious Council Grove claim of "birthplace of the Santa Fe Trail" a "silly slogan" and "baloney." Many

students of the Trail have questioned this, and more than a few scholars have recommended that the pretension be dropped. Franzwa makes it clear that Council Grove has so many legitimate Trail-related sites that this claim only weakens the credibility of community leaders. Perhaps, hopefully, this widespread exposure in print will achieve the desired result.

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Gregory M. Franzwa, *Images of the Santa Fe Trail*. St. Louis: Patrice Press, 1988. Pp. 129. Illus., maps. Cloth, \$24.95; paper, \$19.95.

This collection of 114 black-and-white photographs, taken by the author in 1988, shows scenes along the entire Trail and its several branches. Franzwa provides a brief introduction to the volume and captions for the pictures. In addition to being a fine, representative selection of Trail scenes, this book is a teaser. It makes you want to know more about the places, which should lead most readers to their library and local bookstore, and it makes you want to get out and visit sites along the route. For those unable to travel on the Trail, this handsome volume provides an armchair tour.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

(continued from page 1)

Currently trail interests are being promoted by American Trails, which will be studied to see if it adequately represents the interests of the National Trails System.

As part of the conference activities, Ice Age National Scenic Trail members hosted a three-mile hike along the Holy Hill segment of the trail, a drive through a portion of Kettle Moraine State Forest, and a tour of Henry S. Reuss Ice Age Visitor Center.

John Leamon shared his report to OCTA with SFTA; a portion of his views follow: "It became apparent that the federal agencies (NPS, BLM, FS) and some of the Scenic Trail groups were hopeful that all national trail groups could join forces and operate under one umbrella group. As time passed, it became apparent that the only advantage of this would be a stronger voice in obtaining congressional action; and even that was questioned by some. There is something to be gained in supporting an annual National

Trails Conference. . . . Both OCTA and SFTA can benefit from exchanging views and sharing ways that have been successful in solving problems and keeping abreast of what new inroads the other trail groups are making in achieving government support. It will not be in the best interest of either OCTA or SFTA to join an all-encompassing national trails organization. It would, however, be well for some or all private Historic Trail groups to meet and explore ways to help one another and to resist a dominance the Scenic Trail groups seem to already enjoy or are moving toward in terms of obtaining government financial support."

## HUTCHISON BABY

Cimarron Chapter President David Hutchison and his wife, Shirley, have a new daughter, born November 15. As many of you know, Shirley had brain surgery in June and has had chemotherapy treatments since. Reports are that mother and baby are doing fine. Congratulations!

Additional chemotherapy treatments are planned. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the assistance fund established to help with Shirley's medical bills should send it to the First State Bank, Boise City, OK 73933, or the Farmers and Stockmens Bank, Clayton, NM 88415.

## COUNCIL TROVE —DOCUMENTS—

### AN EARLY PHOTOGRAPHER ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

Matt Thomson, in his book *Early History of Wabaunsee County, Kansas* (Alma, KS, 1901), tells of encountering a wandering photographer on the Santa Fe Trail in 1862. Could he have been the man who took the picture of a wagon train at Cow Creek Crossing (Rice County, KS) about that time? The photo is reproduced in Marc Simmons, ed., *On the Santa Fe Trail*, p. 56, and is believed to be one of the earliest images of the Trail thus far discovered. Thomson wrote:

The value of the work of our local photographers as an auxiliary factor in presenting our readers and those who will come after us with true and life like representations of scenes and faces cannot be overestimated. But the photographer of the present can well afford to divide the honors with the traveling artist of the past. With un-



bounded delight do we scan the lineaments of those most dear to us—made possible by the old time photographers' advent among us even in advance of other civilizing influences. While crossing the plains in 1862 we distinctly remember that at the crossing of the Little Arkansas, on the Old Santa Fe Trail, one of these traveling artists was encamped—going where, it is hard to tell, but maybe he knew. Besides being of an adventurous spirit he was accomodating [*sic*] as well. With what patience did he upset the contents of box after box in his search for—well, it doesn't matter. Suffice it to say that when we returned to our camp we were well satisfied with our trip. That was forty years ago next July and we have often wondered where on earth that clever old man was going with his tripod and camera, and what he was doing away out there on the Little Arkansas. But it doesn't seem so far away now. Maybe he was taking sketches of the immense herds of buffalo that were never out of sight in the sixties, or of the bands of Indians, whose presence wasn't always agreeable to the men and boys who always enjoyed life on the plains better when the redskins were out of sight. It was a case wherein distance lent enchantment to the view.

#### SANTA FE ADVENTURERS

Mark Gardner sent the following item from the *Fayette Missouri Intelligencer*, May 24, 1827:

The following interesting letter was received by us, a few days since, from our friend and fellow-citizen, Col. Augustus Storrs, one of the gentlemen composing the party which lately left this vicinity, on a commercial expedition to NEW MEXICO:

Santa Fe Trace, 120 miles west of Franklin, May 18, 1827.

DEAR SIR—Agreeably to previous arrangement, the Santa Fe company generally arrived at the Blue Springs, the place of rendezvous, on the 15th inst. We have in company about ONE HUNDRED FIVE MEN, and FIFTY-THREE WAGGONS and PLEASURE CARRIAGES. Our line of march is at least ONE MILE in length, and is said to be extremely beautiful to the eye of a spectator, and certainly must appear formidable in the estimation of Indians. The company is the largest which has traversed this route, are in fine spirits, and do not entertain a doubt of going through in perfect safety. We have adopted our form of government, and elected officers to carry it into effect and operation. The following is a list of the officers which have been appointed. We have elected the Rev. John Pearson, Chaplin, who is a gentleman of very agreeable manners and of very handsome scientific

and theological attainments.

CAPTAIN—Ezekiel Williams.

AIDS—Presley Samuel, Jas Glenn.

CLERK—James L. Collins.

MARSHALL—Richard Gentry.

PILOT—Joseph Reynolds.

COURT—Joshua Fletcher, John Dade, and James Ramsay.

COMMANDERS OF THE GUARDS—E. Williams, P. Samuel, J. Glenn, S. Turley, J. Rennison, R. Stowers, L. Morrison, A. Barnes, and D. Workman.

Although a pretty general apprehension seems to have prevailed that the present company will be in danger, yet our numbers and discipline will ensure our safety. Our government is almost as complete and perfect as though we composed a full republican government; yet we can never forget the blessings of our own institutions; and I have no doubt the longer we are absent the more forcibly this idea will occur to us. If fighting should be necessary, it will be as much a matter of pride and ambition to sustain the glory of our arms and the honor of our country, as to protect our own interests and rights.

#### TRAIL TRIP, 1841

An unidentified traveler on the road to Santa Fe in 1841 penned this account in Santa Fe on July 29 of that year. It was included in Charles J. Folsom's book, *Mexico*, in 1842, with a table of distances attached. This item was found and contributed by Marc Simmons. The original spelling has not been changed, and the distances are somewhat exaggerated. Because of the length of this document, the first part is printed here and the second part will appear in the next issue.

I left Vincennes on the 23d April for St. Louis, with a view of ascertaining the object of the visit by the company raising for the Pacific ocean. When I arrived at St. Louis, I found I had to proceed to Independence, the upper country on the Missouri river and adjoining the Indian boundary, 400 miles farther. There I found three different caravans busily recruiting; the Rev. Bishop Smith with a caravan to establish a mission amongst the Blackfeet Indians, in the valley of the Columbia river; who left with the caravan to California by the way of the head waters of the Columbia river, commanded by Col. Bartleson and Richma, composed of about ninety persons, male and female. The second to California, composed of about 100 men and 30 women and children; and the third, the yearly caravan, composed of merchants, to this city [Santa Fe], Chihuahua, and Señora, consisting of about 80 men and 40 wagons,

loaded with merchandize, &c. The caravans all left between the 8th and 19th of May. After ascertaining the object of the California caravan, Governor Boggs and myself, having understood that a caravan would positively leave Santa Fe to join the one by way of the Columbia, raised ten men, and agreed to start in time to overtake the Santa Fe company at or near the Arkansas; but on the evening previous to our departure the governor's wife was taken ill, and he was compelled to abandon the adventure. Accordingly, on the 19th of May, myself and eight others, with three little wagons loaded with provisions and arms, and three riding mules, left the line of Missouri for the far west.

The Indian country as far as Council Grove, 200 miles from the line, is perhaps as fine a tract of country as can be found in the world; there is rather a scarcity of timber, but in soil and water none can be superior. The Council Grove, as it is called, is the ancient site of a once proud and mighty city. It is situated on the main White river, which here forms a crescent or curve of about nine miles in circumference, and contains more than a hundred mounds, half of which are more than ten times as large as those near Vincennes; those in the centre are in the form of a square, many containing a surface of more than two acres, some in the form of a triangle, and others perfectly round. Here the Pawnee, Arapaho, Comanche, Loups, and Eutaw Indians, all of whom are at war with each other, meet and smoke the pipe one a year in peace. Every person and every thing are held sacred for many miles around this peaceful grove. This custom has been handed down for many centuries among the red men, and here their chiefs and great men are brought from hundreds of miles around to be interred. The numerous camps everywhere to be seen around here, at once convince the traveler that this is the great rendezvous of thousands annually. From hence onward for 400 miles, there is nothing to be seen but one eternal desert, without a solitary stick of timber to cheer the eye for thirty days. Nothing here is to be had but buffalo dung to cook the food that is used, but with this the whole prairies are covered, and it is an excellent substitute.

We overtook the caravan in sight of the Arkansas, about 400 miles from the line of the United States, and 800 from St. Louis, without being troubled by the Indians, and attached ourselves thereto for duty in crossing the river, which is much larger than at the mouth, and always muddy, and rolling her quicksands into bars almost every hour, so that fords and crossings are dangerous and uncertain.

(concluded next issue)

## HELP WANTED

We are looking for the names of persons who came through Independence, MO, on either the California, Oregon, or Santa Fe trails. Our plan is to create a library and genealogy center to assist those who are researching their families who followed a trail west.

Please share any information you may have so when our National Three Trails Interpretive Center is opened in April 1990 we will have a start on this project. At the recent OCTA annual meeting, I was asked many times where one could go for this information. This service will fill a need. Send information to me. Thank you.

Jane Mallinson, Chairman  
Friends of Three Trails  
Interpretive Center  
Box 8604  
Sugar Creek, MO 64054

It would be helpful for all of us working with site planning and promotion of the Trail to have information about the number of visitors the various sites have. These records will also help anyone seeking to show the economic impact of visitors along the Trail. If someone at each of the historic sites, museums, etc., located on or near the Trail, will send this information (annual visitors over the past several years would be helpful, but the most recent year is most important) to me before January 15, 1989, I will compile it for a report in the next WT. Thanks for your help.

Leo E. Oliva  
RR 1, Box 31  
Woodston, KS 67675

## NEW SFTA MEMBERS

This list includes new memberships received since the last issue up to November 15. 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. If you know of people who may be interested in the Association and are not a member, please urge them to join. We thank you for your support.

### INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Heirloom Shop, P. O. Box 1225, Raton,  
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### FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

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Grandview, MO 64030  
Donald & Arlene Buttel, 3324 W.  
Scott Pl., Denver, CO 80211  
Muriel F. Cleverdon, P. O. Box 446,  
Lexington, MO 64067  
Rebecca & Clark Coan, 307 Park Hill  
Terr., Lawrence, KS 66046  
Robert & Nancy Dean, 1221 E. 18th  
St., Farmington, NM 87401  
M/M Marc Dorsett, Box 5033,  
Topeka, KS 66605  
Joseph & Mary Crane Gorman, 1258  
Atwood Ct., Longmont, CO 80501  
Gerald L. Harris, 3321 Old Mallard  
Rd., Enid, OK 73703  
M/M Roger C. Jones, Rt. 1 Box 25,  
Johnson, KS 67855  
Baldwin & Ormie Lamson, 4706 Balboa  
Ave., Encino, CA 91316  
Vernon & Hazel Michael, P. O. Box  
12, Baldwin City, KS 66006  
Richard K. Moores, 2321 Atkinson,  
Amarillo, TX 79106  
M/M Jimmie L. Shields, Rt. 1 Box  
15, Stinnett, TX 79083  
Ralph & Mary D. Smith, 3621 12th  
St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107  
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Hickory Knoll, Deerfield, IL 60015

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87571  
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William Higton, 6217 Ralston, Ray-  
town, MO 64133  
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toso, Santa Fe, NM 87501

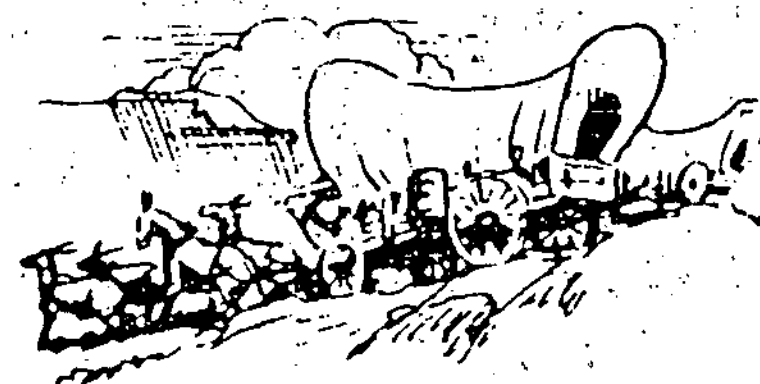
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Ruth Olson  
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## TRAIL CALENDAR

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 February, so send information for March and later to arrive before January 20. Thank you.

**Dec. 9-10, 16-17, 1988:** An 1846 Christmas, Bent's Old Fort NHS, 35110 Hwy 194 East, La Junta, CO 81050 (719) 384-2596.

**Jan. 29, 1989:** Kansas Day Celebration, 9 am to 5 pm, special activities and free admission, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR 3, Larned, KS (316) 285-2054.

**April 12-14, 1989:** Conference at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, "From Spanish Explorers to Plains Settlers: The Hispanic Presence on the Great Plains."

**Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 1989:** SFTA Symposium, Santa Fe, NM. Contact Symposium Coordinator Adrian Bustamante, P. O. Box 4182, Santa Fe, NM 87502 (505) 471-8200.

## FROM THE EDITOR

One of the many benefits of membership in SFTA is the friends we make along the way. In recent weeks we have had the pleasure of several SFTA movers and shakers as overnight guests in our home, including Sec.-Treas. Ruth Olson, Director Joy Poole, and Ambassador Paul Bentrup. It is always good to share ideas about SFTA and the Trail.

Many good things are happening along the Trail, but I am disturbed by the controversy brewing over the location of a federal-state cooperative visitors' center at

the eastern end where it all began in the early 1820s. We all need to be cooperating, rather than competing, in the preservation and promotion of the historic route. It is, however, acceptable behavior for local leaders to seek the location of an interpretive center at their site.

What disturbs me most about this controversy, from what I've been able to gather in my isolated setting (mostly newspaper reports), is the way this was apparently touched off by a premature announcement from the National Park Service.

The SFNHT Planning Team, as I understand it, is charged by Congress to gather information and prepare a report with recommendations (the power and decisions to commit funds apparently still reside with Congress). Procedures prescribed include public meetings in preparation of that report and in the review of it. It appears to be a subversion of the process for anyone to announce where a federal-state cooperative center will probably be established or where a shelter with interpretive signs will be built, rather than just gathering information about possible sites, before a plan for management and use has even been drafted and before the SFNHT Advisory Council has been appointed. Was this announcement a Planning Team decision?

It is one thing to gather information for that plan and another to give an indication of where a center will probably be located before the gathering is done. If those charged with finding the facts possess the power to make

such decisions before the facts are in, the process of public involvement is meaningless.

The controversy is so unnecessary, even though it gets some of the public involved to a degree that would not have happened otherwise and brings forth a plethora of information that may not have been available to the Planning Team. Even so, if the premature announcement still stands after the dust has settled, charges of procedural subversion and favoritism will continue. If that announcement is changed after the facts are all in, there will be other embarrassed and unhappy people. Meantime, much time and ink is devoted to statements which too often shed more heat than light.

Regardless of the outcome after the controversy, the NPS has a black eye and many along the Trail who have fears of what will happen with the federal government involved have those fears confirmed. Then all supporters of the Trail, including SFTA, suffer. Whether what happened was intentional or not, which no observer can determine, the results are the same and so is the public judgment.

My plea is simple. Let the established process work, gather the facts before making recommendations, and be constantly vigilant that decisions are made for historical and not political reasons. Then, when final decisions are announced and funds are committed to projects, we all will know everyone received a fair hearing. We should expect and accept nothing less.

Happy trails!

—Leo E. Oliva

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