

Wagon Tracks

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WAGON TRACKS

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOC. NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2

AUGUST 1988

NUMBER 4



Sylvia Mooney, Anne Carter, and David Carter at the Hathaway Farm, June 17, 1988. (Photo by Ralph Hathaway.)

LONG TRAIL RIDE 1988

by Anne Carter

Trail Ride '88, plans for which were announced in previous issues of *WT*, occurred during June and July. The riders reached Santa Fe safely after six weeks of travel from Arrow Rock, MO. At departing ceremonies on June 4, the citizens of Saline County entrusted Trail rider David Carter with various maps, messages, proclamations, and a Missouri flag to be carried to the people of Santa Fe. After participating in a "farewell" play, the group rode westward.

David and Anne Carter of Center-view, MO, and Christopher Propst and Sylvia Mooney of Rayton, MO, traveled the Missouri leg of the journey, through Marshall, Malta Bend, Lexington, Sibley, and Independence. At the Bingham-Waggoner estate in Independence they met with the National Three Trails Museum Support Group. Local Trail historian Pauline Fowler verified the group's proposed route through Kansas, Colorado, (continued on page 8)

TRAIL SYMPOSIUM AT BENT'S OLD FORT SEPTEMBER 8-11

The Second Annual Fur Trade Symposium, "Interpreting the Santa Fe Trail and Trade," will meet at Bent's Old Fort NHS and Otero Junior College in La Junta September 8-11. SFTA President Marc Simmons will give the keynote address, "The Santa Fe Trail and the Fur Trade" at 8:30 a.m., Friday, Sept. 9. Other speakers are scheduled on Sept. 9 and 10. Living history demonstrations will be presented at Bent's Old Fort Sept. 9, 10, and 11. The registration fee is \$20 for the programs. A Thursday reception, Friday lunch, and Friday dinner are available for additional costs. A flyer and registration form are enclosed with this issue.

SYMPOSIUM PAPERS AVAILABLE SOON

The Kansas State Historical Society graciously offered to publish selected papers from the second Trail Symposium held in Hutchinson in September 1987. Marilyn Holt, KSHS director of publications, has announced that the book, featuring seven articles edited by Leo E. Oliva and entitled *Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail*, will be available September 1, 1988.

The authors and articles are: Marc Simmons, "The Santa Fe Trail as High Adventure"; Peter D. Olch, "Bleeding, Purging, and Puking in the Southwestern Fur Trade and Along the Santa Fe Trail"; David A. Sandoval, "Montezuma's Merchants: Mexican Traders on the Santa Fe Trail"; Mary Jean Cook, "In Search of the Nun's Grave: The 1867 Burial of Loretto Sister Alphonsa Thompson on the Santa Fe Trail"; Ralph Hathaway, "From the Little Arkansas to the Big Arkansas: A Segment of the Santa Fe Trail"; Stanley B. Kimball, "The Fort Leavenworth Branch of the Santa Fe Trail in 1846: An Annotated Map"; and Sondra Van Meter (continued on page 2)

SFTA BOARD MEETS TWO CHAPTERS JOIN

The SFTA governing board met at the Santa Fe Trail Center on June 2 with a good number of guests present. President Marc Simmons called this meeting to handle routine business of the Association and, especially, to adopt guidelines for SFTA chapters and act upon applications for chapter status by two groups which were already organized.

Following reports of officers and heads of committees, the proposed guidelines were amended and adopted. David Hutchison led the delegation from the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter, comprised of four counties in four states (Cimarron County, OK; Union County, NM; Baca County, CO; and Morton County, KS). Since this group had submitted the first application for chapter affiliation, the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter was approved as the first SFTA chapter.

Charles Pitts of Amarillo led the delegation from the Texas Panhandle Chapter, which was approved as the first chapter in a non-Trail state (although Texas was a Trail state, too, if the route from Fort Smith to Santa Fe is counted) and the second chapter to be accepted by SFTA.

Both chapters have sufficient active members to conduct worthwhile programs, and both plan to grow in numbers and in Trail activities. Each chapter was asked to submit information for a feature in *WT*. Both are expected to supply information about chapter activities for each issue, for a new section called "Camp Tales."

There are many other potential chapters along the historic route, and the SFTA governing board expects to receive additional applications before its next meeting. Everyone interested in forming a chapter is encouraged to pursue the idea. The SFTA will be a stronger organization and the preservation and promotion of the Trail will be better served with a number of local and regional groups working together. ◀

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As I've traveled the Trail this summer, lecturing and attending historical events, I occasionally heard this question: "If I want to do a little research project on the Santa Fe Trail, is there still something new to be discovered?"

Behind that query, of course, is the all too common assumption that everything worth saying has already been said, that the ground has been thoroughly covered in the past. But anyone who thinks the Trail's story has been completed by previous writers is making a serious mistake.

The truth is, standard histories published to date tell us just a fraction of what actually happened along the Trail during the sixty years it was in existence. Buried in early letters and diaries, old newspapers, and military records are accounts of stirring events still unknown to us.

At the recent Rendezvous in Larned, the speakers revealed some of their own archival discoveries that cast new light on diverse sides of Trail history. And the pages of *WT* regularly report on finds that others are continuing to make in the documents. It is exciting work, and more people are taking up the challenge.

One of the most pressing needs at present is for a summary history of each of the several hundred sites and landmarks between Franklin and Santa Fe. Places like Lone Elm campground, Lost Spring, Plum Buttes, Chouteau's Island, Flag Spring, Iron Spring Stage Station, Hole-in-the-Rock, and the Rock Corral are good examples of sites in need of close study.

Everyone is eligible to participate. Settle on a topic and then start combing the huge body of published Trail literature collecting references that refer to your site. You'll soon have a mini-history, and perhaps you can share some of the results with the rest of us at a future symposium or in the pages of *WT*.

So, get started . . . and happy digging!

—Marc Simmons

CORRECTION

In the last *WT* an incorrect telephone number for Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site was printed at the end of the article about the site. The correct number is (719) 384-2596. *WT* is looking for some competent help. ◀

SYMPOSIUM PAPERS

(continued from page one)

McCoy, "Central Kansas Trading Ranches on the Santa Fe Trail."

The paperbound volume may be ordered after September 1 from the Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West 10th St., Topeka, KS 66612 for \$5.00 plus 25 cents tax and 90 cents postage for a total of \$6.15 per copy. The Society announced that dealer discounts would be available on orders of 500 or more copies. A much smaller minimum order has been requested so shops along the Trail can handle it.

CORONADO TRAIL BILL

Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) sponsored legislation to mandate a major study of the route of the Coronado Expedition in anticipation of adding that route to the national historic trails system. The bill passed the Senate on June 6.

Bingaman said the Coronado Expedition study will educate the public about the motives behind the enterprise, as well as offer a view of how an undertaking such as this was organized, equipped, and financed. The bill is also aimed at recognizing the Spanish influence on the American Southwest.

He stated that, even if the Coronado route does not become part of the historic trails network, it will help stimulate tourism in the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. No word has been received on House action on the bill.

TRAIL HERITAGE AND PIONEERS EXTOLLED

George Neavoll, an editor with the *Wichita Eagle-Beacon* and, with his wife Laney, a new member of SFTA, praised the heritage of the Trail in a recent feature in his newspaper. The couple had been to Fort Larned NHS, Pawnee Rock, Ralph's Ruts, and other Trail sites.

Neavoll stated that "the Santa Fe Trail came alive for me" at the Ralph Hathaway farm, and he wrote a veritable love story about the portion of Kansas through which the historic road had passed. If the story of the pioneers on the Trail can evoke such passion from an editor, just think what it can do for the rest of humankind. Welcome, George, to the world of Trail junkies. ▶

REDEDICATION OF MADONNA STATUES

Rededication of the three Madonna of the Trail statues along the Santa Fe Trail in Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado in September will mark the 60th anniversary of the first dedication by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) and the National Old Trails Road Association (NOTRA).

Judge Harry S. Truman, Independence, MO, president of NOTRA, spoke at the dedication ceremonies, as did Mrs. John Trigg Moss, St. Louis, chairman of NSDAR committee. German sculptor, August Leimbach who came to St. Louis in 1910, patterned the statues from sketches furnished by Mrs. Moss.

Twelve Madonna of the Trail statues were placed from ocean to ocean along the old trails: Washington or Braddock Road, Cumberland Road, National Pike, Boone's Lick Road, Santa Fe Trail, and the old trail from Santa Fe to California. Ten of the statues will be rededicated in 1988 and two in 1989.

Along the Santa Fe Trail, ceremonies will be held at Council Grove, KS, on September 7, 1988; at Lexington, MO, on September 17, and at Lamar, CO, on September 24. Mary B. Gamble, Springfield, CO, SFTA member, has been named by the Colorado DAR state regent as chairman of ceremonies at Lamar's Santa Fe Railway park. They will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 24.

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

Membership Categories

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

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

MORE ON OLD TRAIL HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

Katharine B. Kelley, Baldwin City, KS, SFTA member and recipient of an SFTA award for her work on marking the Trail in Douglas County, KS, sent additional information on earlier Trail associations. From an issue of the *Baldwin Ledger* in 1913, she sent articles about the Douglas-Osage Old Trails Association, organized to "boost" the old Santa Fe Trail through Douglas and Osage counties as part of the National Road "built and maintained by the United States Government." This association was seeking 1,000 members at 50 cents each to raise funds to mark the route with sign boards.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A national conference on the National Trails System, including scenic and historic trails, will meet Sept. 28-30 near Hartland, Wisconsin, near the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Sponsored by the Midwest Region of the National Park Service (NPS), the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, and Ice Age Council, the conference hopes to attract participants from government agencies and organizations such as the SFTA. It is hoped that representatives of SFTA will be able to attend.

STUDY TOURS OFFERED

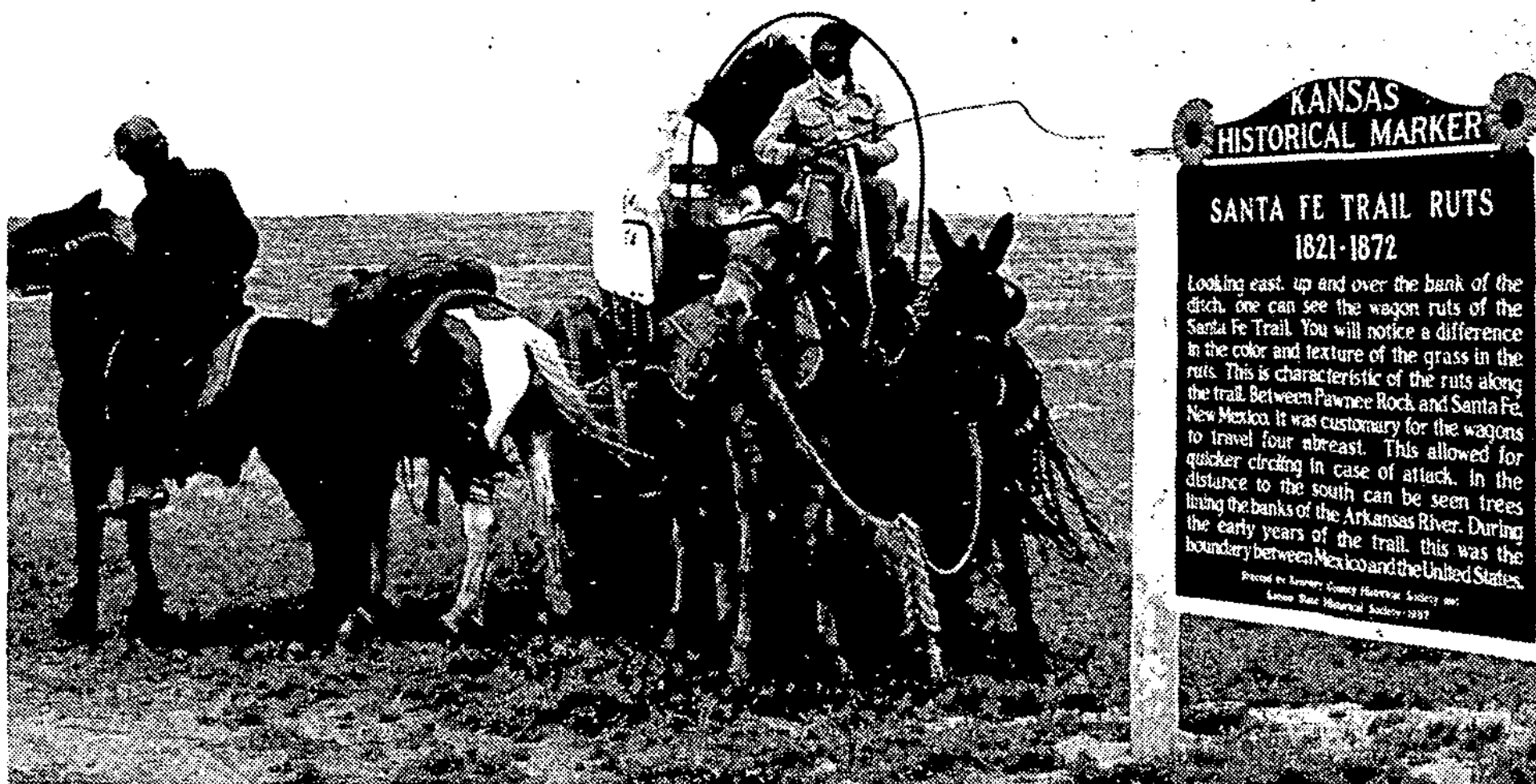
Barton County Community College, Great Bend, KS, offers two seminar/tours this fall: Military Forts in West Central Kansas on September 10-11 and Traveling the Trail (Council Grove to Stone Corral) on October 1-2.

The first will visit five historic military posts, including Forts Larned, Dodge, and Zarah on the Santa Fe Trail. The other forts are Harker and Hays. The instructors are David K. Clapsaddle and George Elmore.

The second tour will visit many Trail sites: Council Grove, Diamond Spring, Six Mile Ranch, Lost Spring, Cottonwood Crossing, French Frank's, Fuller's Ranch, Kaw Treaty Site, Stone Corral, and Jarvis Creek. The guides are David and Alice Clapsaddle.

Enrollment in both seminars is limited and preregistration is required. For details, contact Elaine Simmons, Coordinator of Seminars, Barton County Community College, Great Bend, KS 67530 (316) 792-2701, ext. 214. ◀

FRENCH TRAVELERS VISIT BENTRUP RUTS



Herve Dela Borde on horse and Brigette Blanche on wagon at the new sign near the Trail ruts which SFTA Ambassador Paul Bentrup has donated to the Kearny County Historical Society, located 3 miles west of Deerfield, KS, May 30, 1988. (Photo by Carl Hilger.)



HOOF PRINTS —TRAIL TIDBITS—

The Santa Fe Trail Daze in Boise City, OK, and Rails and Trails Days in Las Vegas, NM, this past June both reported large turnouts and an abundance of enthusiasm.

A leaflet describing the Clayton Complex on the Santa Fe Trail and prepared by SFTA member Susan Richardson is being distributed to visitors by the Clayton, NM, Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioners of Rice County, KS, have approved the building of a parking area to accommodate visitors to Ralph's Ruts.

An Amarillo Santa Fe Trail reenactment group, *Los Historianos de Tejas*, recently made a special presentation at Fort Union. Their equipment includes a hand-made ox cart, of the kind used by Mexican buffalo hunters and described by Josiah Gregg.

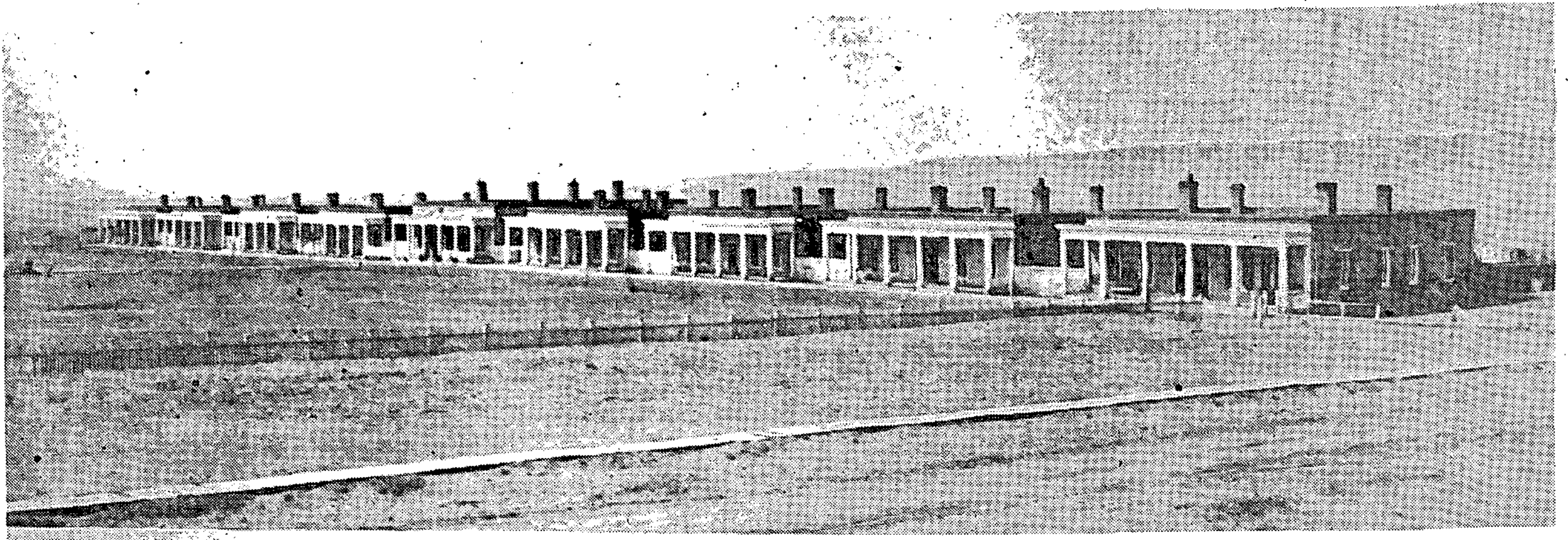
The *Plainsman Herald* of Springfield, CO, gave good coverage in its June 16, 1988, issue to the formation of the newly formed Cimarron Cutoff Chapter of the SFTA. Leo and Mary Gamble of Springfield were among a small group of prime movers getting this chapter under way.

The biennial Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous at the Santa Fe Trail Center, June 3-4, had a record attendance. The presentations were well received, and the field trip was popular.

The splendid Coronado-Quivira Museum, Lyons, KS, is seeking new county funds and up-grading services, looking toward accreditation. It would like to become an official interpretive center of the Santa Fe Trail. In 1991 it will honor the 450th anniversary of Coronado's expedition to Kansas.

The *Lakin Independent*, June 9, carried a large photo of the new marker at the Bentrup ruts west of Deerfield, KS (note sign in photo above). The same issue carried a feature story about the SFT Rendezvous at Larned, with emphasis on the field trip to Duncan's Crossing. The original bridge and trading store at the crossing were built by John O'Loughlin, who was later the founder of Lakin.

The Santa Fe Trail Historical Society in Baldwin City, KS, reports increased travel on their Midland Railroad in 1988 and expects to have over 20,000 passengers during the present season. It was even used for a wedding recently. The train runs on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, with departures at 11 a.m. and 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the afternoons. Costs are \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 4 to 12, and children under 4 are free. ◀



Historic photograph of officers' quarters at Fort Union.

FORT UNION NATIONAL MONUMENT

by T. J. Sperry

[Ed. note: This is the seventh in a series on museums and historic sites along the Trail. T. J. Sperry is a member of the NPS staff at Fort Union National Monument.]

Rising starkly from the prairie along the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail, nearly 100 miles east of Santa Fe, is Fort Union National Monument. Once the largest military installation in the Southwest, the adobe structures that once witnessed the arrival and passage of thousands of wagons remain only as crumbling ruins.

In 1851, Col. Edwin V. Sumner and a column from Fort Marcy at Santa Fe arrived at the spot along Coyote Creek to establish the fort. Sumner's objectives were, first, to distance the troops from Santa Fe, "that sink of vice and extravagance," and, second, to station a force closer to the Great Plains, better able to respond to Indian depredations along the Trail. The site was just north of "Los Pozos" or "the holes in the prairie" where Sumner had camped with Kearny's Army of the West in 1846. The 30-odd log structures constructed by Sumner's unskilled soldier labor decayed rapidly. By 1856, Asst. Surgeon Jonathan Letterman commented that "the unbarked logs afford excellent places for the annoying and disgusting insect the *cimex lectularius* [bed bug], so common in this country."

Although garrisoned by only a few companies of infantry, dragoons, or mounted riflemen, Fort Union was a staging area for several major Indian campaigns, including the Jicarilla and Ute wars of 1854 and 1855. Providing

military patrols and escorts along the Santa Fe Trail had been a regular duty since the establishment of the post. By 1860 Kiowa and Comanche activity had become so troublesome that another campaign was launched from Fort Union by six companies of Mounted Riflemen. After months of fruitless marching and counter-marching, Lt. Col. George B. Crittenden's command attacked and destroyed a hostile village some 70 miles north of the post near Cold Springs.

The Civil War brought many changes to the frontier outpost. Southern-born officers resigned their commissions to join the Confederacy. Regular army troops were moved east and volunteers assumed duties. The prospect of Rebel invasion from Texas underscored Fort Union's tactical vulnerability, under the guns of a conventional armed force on the nearby hills. Faced with evidence of Rebel invasion plans and the deterioration of the buildings, Fort Union was moved across Coyote Creek to a position deemed more defensible. The second fort was designed to meet the emergency at hand, being a star-shaped earthwork right out of West Point textbooks. Working in shifts, hundreds of men labored furiously to complete the new fort as the Confederate troops moved north up the Rio Grande.

The star fort was never tested because Col. John Slough took the fight to the foe and moved a large force toward Santa Fe in March 1862. They engaged the Rebels at Glorietta Pass. Col. Slough failed to gain a battlefield victory, but the destruction of the Confederate

supply train at the mouth of Apache Canyon forced the Rebels to retreat. They were soon driven back to Texas.

The star fort proved to be as miserable as the site it replaced. Most of the garrison lived in tents near the earthwork. In November 1862 Gen. James H. Carleton ordered construction of the third Fort Union, located several hundred yards north of the earth fort.

From the adobe fields there arose three separate facilities: the military post of Fort Union, the Fort Union Quartermaster Depot, and the Fort Union Arsenal, the latter built on top of the first fort ruins. Costing millions, constructed by hundreds, and requiring six years to complete, the new complex was built to accommodate a garrison of four companies of infantry or cavalry.

The hub of activity was the quartermaster depot, a sprawling area that included huge storehouses, offices, teamsters quarters, corals, wagonshops, and hay yards. The depot was the receiving and distribution point for all military supplies bound for other forts throughout New Mexico Territory. As frontier military activity increased during and after the Civil War, so grew the volume of logistical traffic at Fort Union. A single roadway carried this freight—the Santa Fe Trail.

The Fort Union garrison faced problems in all directions between 1862 and 1875. To the south and southwest, raiding Apaches created frequent need for patrols, escorts, and campaigns. To the north and east, Comanches, Kiowas, Arapahoes, and Cheyennes threatened the Santa Fe

Trail and advancing settlers in Kansas and Texas. Troops from Fort Union participated in the Mescalero campaigns of 1862-1863, the Navajo war of 1864, the Kiowa and Comanche campaign of 1864, the Southern Plains war of 1868, and the Red River War of 1874-1875.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe replaced the old Trail, and when the railroad reached nearby Watrous in 1879, Fort Union's days were numbered. The quartermaster depot and arsenal were no longer needed, and both ceased operations in 1882. Although the Apache wars in the Southwest continued into the late 1880s, the Plains tribes were confined to reservations. There was no Santa Fe Trail to protect. Nevertheless, the garrison remained active because the War Dept. did not have the time, money, or opportunity to consolidate the many posts that the frontier by-passed so quickly.

Consolidation was a goal, however, and by 1888 posts such as Riley, Leavenworth, Robinson, Niobrara, and Omaha were being expanded while the posts marked for abandonment received no appropriations for repairs. Thus neglected, Fort Union's adobe buildings literally began to melt away. Troops were moved to other locations, and by May 1891 the once-great military terminus of the Santa Fe Trail stood dark, silent, and empty.

The military reservation was acquired by the Union Land & Grazing Co., and for the next 60 years the only visitors to the old fort were local picnickers, curiosity seekers, material scavengers, cowboys, and cattle. Useful materials, including roofing, were removed, and the melting process was hastened. Cattle rubbed against walls which collapsed under the pressure. By 1950, local rancher James Arrott was leading a drive to save what remained. Largely because of his efforts, Fort Union was designated a National Monument in 1954.

Today the once-familiar bugle calls sound again, though from a National Park Service (NPS) audio system rather than a trumpeter in blue. Facilities constructed by the NPS include a visitor center and museum, administrative and maintenance offices and shops, walking trails, wayside exhibits, and the personal services of the park staff.

The museum exhibits include a

unique combination of well-preserved representative specimens and actual Fort Union artifacts. Together they tell the story of the three forts, the Trail, and the people and events that left their marks.

During the summer months Fort Union is alive with activity as park rangers and volunteers present a variety of talks, tours, and living-history demonstrations. Visitors may also explore on their own by using the one-and-a-quarter-mile self-guided trail. Santa Fe Trail enthusiasts especially enjoy the extensive network of remaining ruts that pass through the site.

The Fort Union experience begins on the eight-mile drive to the monument from exit 366 of I-25. Enroute the visitor passes numerous points of historic interest, including Tiptonville, the deeply-carved final yards of the Cimarron Cutoff as it rejoins the Mountain Branch, the "holes in the Prairie," and an unmatched vista of Fort Union in a natural setting little changed from a century ago.

Information regarding your visit to Fort Union, including tour arrangements, can be made by writing the Superintendent, Fort Union National Monument, Watrous, NM 87753, or calling (505) 425-8025. Entrance fees are \$1.00 for individuals 17-61, or \$3.00 per carload. As a unit of the NPS, Fort Union honors Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access passports, all of which are available at the visitor center. Located eight miles north of Watrous on highway 161, Fort Union is open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. May through Labor Day and 8 to 5 the remainder of the year. The park is closed on December 25 and January 1.



CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES —BOOK NOTICES—

Stanley B. Kimball, *Historic Sites and Markers Along the Mormon and Other Great Western Trails*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988. Pp. 320. Illus., maps., bibliog., index. Cloth, \$37.50; paper, \$15.95.

SFTA member Stanley Kimball is a leading scholar of Mormon pioneers and western trails. This comprehensive listing of sites and

markers, accompanied by 30 maps, is an excellent guide for anyone traveling the old trails. The sites are keyed to maps and the photographs (of which there are 71 on unnumbered pages) are keyed to the text. The author traveled more than 10,000 miles and visited more than 500 sites in the preparation of this book.

In addition to the Mormon trails and major routes, this volume treats the many branches of several famous overland trails. Of particular interest to Santa Fe Trail enthusiasts are sections on the Boonslick Trail and Santa Fe Trail in Missouri and on the march of the Mormon Battalion along the Santa Fe Trail and on to California. There are several good photographs of signs and sites along the road to Santa Fe. Some Trail scholars may quarrel with his assertion that "Rabbit Ears Mountain, New Mexico, is the most famous landmark on the Santa Fe Trail."

This is a beautiful piece of work by an inspired trail follower. It is highly recommended to serious students and general readers. It is a necessary part of the baggage of any traveler who wants to find the sites and markers and have a brief introduction to the history of each location.

POST OFFICE OAK —LETTERS—

Editor:

You are forgiven for being late with the May WT. But please, please never skip an issue. We have had to stay home this summer. We hope to do a bit of trailing in the fall.

WT keeps us informed as to what is going on. We are amazed with what has been done and is being done. We will have to start all over again.

The photo at McNees Crossing was of particular interest to us. We were there on Independence Day 1985 and just happened onto the July 4 marker. We copied the inscription and photographed the monument.

Our thanks to local and professional historians, NPS staff, and ALL others associated with the Trail survey. When it is finished, or maybe finished for this time, we will have to do the Trail again and again.

Aaron and Ethel Armstrong
507 Twin Diamond Rd.
Roswell, NM 88201

Editor:

On August 8, 9, 10, we will have a Santa Fe Trail Association booth at the Kearny County (KS) Fair. We hope to arouse the interest of other Kearny Countians in preserving and promoting the Trail. In addition to soliciting memberships in SFTA and encouraging everyone to enjoy the Trail treasures in our region, we will be selling SFTA bumper stickers, Jack Rittenhouse's *Trail of Commerce and Conquest*, and *Santa Fe Trail Trivia*.

Pat Heath and Linda Peters
P. O. Box 907
Lakin, KS 67860

God bless the folks of Kearny County. May your Trail activities inspire others.

Editor

SHORT TRAIL RIDE 1988

by Don Cress

The annual Santa Fe Trail Ride in connection with Wah-Shun-Gah Days in Council Grove, KS, began at Osage County State Lake south of Four Corners at noon June 8. There was a hustle of people getting horses and wagons ready to start at 1:00 p.m. There were 52 riders this first day who traveled the road from the old Harris-McGee stage station to Burlingame for the first camp. Belinda Black and Susan Becker were trail bosses for the day.

The next day, after moving pickups and trailers ahead to 142 Mile Creek, the group (now 69 riders) traveled west from Burlingame, with Chas. and Joyce Noonan as trail bosses. The noon stop was at the Phillip Workman farm where there are large ruts. During the afternoon we crossed Chicken Creek, Logchain Creek, and Elm Creek where there was a post office in Trail days. By 4:30 p.m. we were at the campsite at 142 Mile Creek where in Trail days there was a toll bridge, store, barn, forges, and several cabins built by Chas. H. Withington in 1854 on the south side of the Trail. This later became the town of Allen. This beautiful campsite is now on the Wheat Ranch where the brome grass had been baled and there were plenty of trees and running water for the riders' convenience.

After a chilly night in camp (42 degrees), the wagons and riders (76 in all) headed west through native prairie pastures with the Noonans and Don Cress as trail bosses. We passed several Trail ruts and saw wild strawberries in a ditch. One wagon broke an axle

and was abandoned. The descent of Shellenberger Hill required cowboys using ropes to assist wagons down the steep slope. After crossing Bluff Creek, passing the site of Agnes City, stopping for noon on the old Edmunds place, we reached Rock Creek where the group split.

Some followed U.S. 56 and some took the hill road to Council Grove. About a mile from Council Grove the two groups rejoined for the entrance into the town where we camped overnight. After tending to horses and finding showers, the riders enjoyed a relaxing evening. The sleeping bag felt good.

The next morning, Saturday, we joined the big parade in Council Grove. While lining up, a boy fell beneath a horse when a float of balloons passed. A grandfather led a riderless horse down the parade route while the boy with a fractured hand tried to convince the doctors to return him to the parade so he could ride his horse. Despite our concerns over how the horses would act, they behaved well with the large crowd on hand. They did not like the mountain men who were firing black powder rifles. Our banner carriers had trouble with the banner and it waved like a flag until they got it reassembled. After the parade, some packed up and headed for home. Others remained for Wah-Shun-Gah Day activities. There had developed a strong bond among the riders during the three days they had been together. The pioneers who traveled the trails must have developed similar bonds. Also, there was a great excitement in riding a horse or wagon on the actual Santa Fe Trail where thousands had earlier traveled.

Sunday morning started with a tent church service and preparation to ride on to Diamond Spring. The most excitement, however, was to see that the group made the front page of the *Topeka Capitol Journal*. When the riders regrouped they were joined by Sylvia Mooney and Anne and David Carter who had started in Missouri and were going all the way to Santa Fe.

We rode out of Council Grove and went up Elm Creek, which was the lower route used in 1846 and after. At Jack Gieswein's place, he was our trail boss, we joined the older trail and found some ruts and a creek crossing. As we approached Wilsey, more ruts were observed. A two-mile detour was made because we were unable to

travel through the Diamond Creek Ranch and visit the famous Diamond Spring. Camp was made at the Lloyd Burns farm a mile west of the spring, where Bonnie Sill gave an informative talk on the area's history.

On Monday, June 13, Raleigh Sill and Harvey Smith led us through a big pasture containing ruts and to Six Mile Creek crossing. We nooned at a pond and proceeded to the town of Lost Springs to see an excellent Trail marker in the park. We traveled on west to the Lost Springs for camp. It is a beautiful place with shade and running water. That evening Virginia Shields gave an interesting history of the area. A band entertained the riders until dark with old-time music.

We moved on west the next day, with a noon stop at Tampa to see ruts and markers and to eat lunch in the park. We reached Cottonwood Crossing by 3:45 p.m. and camped at the Gordon Christensen farm. Here a rain shower came at 5:00 p.m. After that Iralee Barnard talked of Trail days, showed pictures of big ruts to the southwest, and showed slides of wild flowers that the riders had been seeing along the way. Later Anne Carter played soft music on her dulcimer.

Wednesday morning saw 13 riders start the final day. We observed ruts and visited the Jones Cemetery where 18-year-old Ed Miller was buried after being killed by Cheyennes in 1864. Our ride ended at Canton, where we parted from Sylvia, Anne, and David, as they continued on to Santa Fe. We had traveled 125 miles through five counties (Osage, Lyon, Morris, Marion, and McPherson) and enjoyed it greatly.

HELP WANTED

You may have noticed that this issue does not carry an article in the series on merchants on the Trail. As the solicitor of contributions for this series, I've about run out of people willing to do this work. If you have collected information or know someone who has compiled information about a Trail merchant, please contact me about preparing an article for *WT*. This is an area of Trail history that needs extensive research. The deadlines for upcoming issues are October 25, January 20, and April 25.

Mark L. Gardner
P. O. Box 472
Trinidad, CO 81082

CAMP TALES —CHAPTER REPORTS—

Cimarron Cutoff

by Mary B. Gamble

The Cimarron Cutoff Chapter attained No. 1 status as the first chapter to be organized as an affiliate of the Santa Fe Trail Association, beating out the "off-Trail" Texas Panhandle Chapter, which had hoped to be No. 1 but was accepted into SFTA as the second affiliated chapter. An application asking for recognition of the Cimarron Cutoff group was sent to President Marc Simmons in April after he had attended the March 24 organizational meeting in Boise City, OK.

Approval of the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter was given at the SFTA governing board's meeting during the Santa Fe Trail Center Rendezvous at Larned on June 2. The chapter includes SFTA members in the four-county, four-state area of Morton County, KS, Baca County, CO, Cimarron County, OK, and Union County, NM.

The new chapter hopes to call attention to the importance of the Cimarron Cutoff, also called the Dry Route, which carried the most freight from Missouri to Santa Fe in covered wagons from 1822 to the late 1870s. The four-county area contains many Trail ruts and historic sites.

Members of the chapter who attended the board meeting at Larned were President David Hutchison of Boise City, who spearheaded the chapter organization; Jeff and Jo Ann Wells, Boise City; Leo and Mary B. Gamble, Springfield, CO; and Edgar W. White and Brooks Littrell, Elkhart, KS. Hutchison and Littrell made the presentation for the chapter to the board.

An eight-member board of directors represents the historical societies and chambers of commerce in each county: Hutchison is from the Cimarron Co. Historical Society; Littrell, Morton Co.; Juanita Anderson, Baca Co.; and D. Ray Blakeley, Union Co. Members from the chambers of commerce are White, Elkhart; Mary B. Gamble, Springfield; Joan Walton, Boise City; and Diana L. Callis, Clayton. Four at-large members will be added later. Anderson is vice-president and Blakeley is secretary-treasurer. The chapter plans to hold quarterly meetings.

Inquiries about joining the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter should be sent to D. Ray Blakeley, P.O. Box 486,

Clayton, NM 88415.

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Texas Panhandle

by Dennis C. Clayton

The organization of the Texas Panhandle Chapter was led by Charles Pitts of Amarillo, and the group was accepted as the first chapter in a "non-Trail" state by the SFTA board on June 2. For further information about the chapter or to join, write to P. O. Box 1533, Amarillo, TX 79105 or call Charles Pitts at (806) 359-1056 or Dennis C. Clayton at (806) 352-9698.

The chapter is proud to announce that SFTA President Marc Simmons will meet with and address those present at the August 19 meeting in Amarillo. He will also present a certificate of chapter membership. All interested parties are invited to attend. There is no charge for the meeting, but donations will be accepted. For details as to exact time and location, please contact the above address or phone numbers.

NEW SFTA MEMBERS

This list includes new memberships received since the last issue up to July 25, when total memberships stood at 593; 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

Holly Commercial Club, P. O. Box 114, Holly, CO 81047

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Robert Kincaid, P. O. Box 359, Crowell, TX 79227
Burrell, Colleen & Colette Mason, 333 Main St., Springfield, CO 81073
George & Laney Neavoll, 312 N. Broadview, Wichita, KS 67208
Bonnie & Raleigh Sill, RR 2, Box 14, Burdick, KS 66838

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

R. Allan Ake, P. O. Box 839, Savage, MD 20763
Roger L. Benefiel, 225 S. Old Manor, Wichita, KS 67218
Jane L. Blair, 1907 N. Van Buren, Hutchinson, KS 67502
Lloyd Burns, 216 N. Rockhill, Council Grove, KS 66846
Joleen Day, RR 1, Box 49, Council Grove, KS 66846
Catherine Devereux, 2112 Sixth Ave., Greeley, CO 80631

Jo Hazelton, 504 N. 4th St., Garden City, KS 67846
M. Elizabeth Mead, 250 E. Alameda, 307, Santa Fe, NM 87501
Phyllis M. Melton, 118 N. 4th, Marion, KS 66861
Mrs. Fred Shields, RR 1, Lincolnville, KS 66858
Michael Wallis, 2716 So. Rockford Rd., Tulsa, OK 74114

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 November, so send information for December and later to arrive before October 25. Thank you.

Aug. 13, 1988: Kid's Quarters, Bent's Old Fort NHS.

Aug. 13, 1988: Palace Rendezvous & Buffalo Roast, including living history and authentic buffalo roast, 6-10 p.m., \$20 per person, Palace of the Governors, P. O. Box 2087, Santa Fe, NM 87504 (505) 827-6474.

Aug. 14-Sept 12, 1988: Exhibit of "The Santa Fe Trail: Photographs by Joan Myers," San Juan College, Farmington, NM.

Aug. 19, 1988: Texas Panhandle Chapter meeting at Amarillo, with lecture by Dr. Marc Simmons. For time and location, call (806) 359-1056 or 352-9698.

Aug. 21, 1988: San Juan College, Farmington, NM, two slide shows by Homer Hastings—"Fort Union and the National Park System" and "Fort Union Sidelights."

Aug. 23, 1988: San Juan College, Farmington, NM, slide program by Joy Poole—"Cruzando Sobre el Paso de Raton."

Aug. 27, 1988: Moonlight tours at Fort Union National Monument, 9:00-11:30 p.m. Reservations required. Call (505) 425-8025.

Aug. 30, 1988: San Juan College, Farmington, NM, lecture by Dr. Marc Simmons.

Sept. 3-5, 1988: Bean Day Fiesta in Wagon Mound, NM, including a free barbecue at noon on Sept. 5.

Sept. 3-5, 1988: Santa-Cali-Gon Celebration, mostly free, Independence Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 147, Independence, MO 64051 (816) 525-4745.

Sept. 3-5, 1988: Cimarron Days and Old Timers Reunion, Cimarron CofC, P. O. Box 604, Cimarron, NM 87714 (505) 376-2614.

Sept. 6, 1988: San Juan College, Farmington, NM, lecture by Joan Myers.

Sept. 7, 1988: Rededication of Madonna of the Trail statue at Council Grove, KS.

Sept. 8-11, 1988: Second Annual Fur Trade Symposium, "Interpreting the Santa Fe Trail and Trade," Bent's Old Fort NHS and Otero Junior College, La Junta, CO. Contact Kurt Cunningham, 274 Holman Way Apt 4-G, Golden, CO 80401 (303) 278-0185.

Sept. 10-11, 1988: Seminar/tour, Military Forts of West Central Kansas, Barton County Community College, Great Bend, KS. Contact Elaine Simmons at (316) 792-2701, ext. 214.

Sept. 11, 1988: San Juan College, Farmington, NM, dramatization by VanAnn Moore, portraying Susan Shelby Magoffin.

Sept. 16, 1988: Diez y Seis de Septiembre celebration, Bent's Old Fort NHS, commemorates Mexican independence and the contributions of Hispanic Americans.

Sept. 17, 1988: Rededication of Madonna of the Trail statue at Lexington, MO.

Sept. 24, 1988: Rededication of Madonna of the Trail statue at Lamar, CO, 9:30 a.m.

Oct. 1-2, 1988: Seminar/tour, Traveling the Trail (Council Grove to Stone Corral), Barton County Community College, Great Bend, KS. Contact Elaine Simmons at (316) 792-2701, ext. 214.

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.

LONG TRAIL RIDE

(continued from page 1)

and New Mexico. The Santa Fe Trail was to be followed to La Junta, where the group planned to take the old traders' trails where traffic is safer for both horses and riders.

After the Missouri section, Chris Propst left to fulfill scouting obligations. David, Anne, and Sylvia continued. To minimize dangers of 20th-century travel (traffic and beer bottles), the group trailered through the Kansas City area and eastern Kansas to join another Trail ride organized by Kansans in the Council Grove region (see companion article about that ride).

Donald Cress and friends of Council Grove and nearby communities arranged an eight-day wagon train tracing the Trail from the Harris-McGee stage station east of Burlingame to Canton. Timed to highlight Wah-Shun-Gah Days in Council Grove, the wagon train camps at historic sites and draws on local residents to share each area's past. The three riders from Missouri enjoyed the time

traveling with such dedicated Trail enthusiasts.

At Canton the three bid farewell to Cress and the other riders. Sylvia, whose horse had become lame, became driver of the support vehicle while Anne and David rode their two horses. At McPherson the group gave a living-history program and Anne celebrated her 40th birthday with a cake and lunch provided by the McPherson Visitor's Bureau.

Ralph Hathaway of Chase, KS, met the travelers there and escorted them to his farm, sharing markers and Trail sites along the way. Moving by vehicle at this point, they visited the Little Arkansas Crossing and the site of Camp Grierson where black troops of the 10th Cavalry were stationed in 1867. The best view of the Trail was on Hathaway's land, where seven parallel ruts, now known as Ralph's Ruts, are evident in the pasture south of his home.

Hathaway loaned Sylvia a horse to ride, and he, his daughter, Carolyn Kern, and his grandson, Peter Kern, joined Sylvia and the Carters and toured the area as earlier travelers did—on horseback. The six saw Ralph's Ruts, the site of the Plum Buttes Massacre, and nearby Trail swales. Three generations in one family generously shared with three comparative strangers their common love of a part of our nation's past.

Refreshed and recharged with enthusiasm, Sylvia and the Carters drove to Pawnee Rock, a major Trail landmark. After making camp, they presented another demonstration on life during Trail days, 1821-1880. Clothing, a living structure, camp gear, horse tack, and eating utensils used by the travelers during the trip were reproductions of those used by travelers of Trail days. At the programs, Anne played the hammered dulcimer, Sylvia discussed camp gear and foods, and Dave explained horse equipment and care of animals traveling long distances. The dates and times for programs were previously worked into the group's itinerary and advance publicity was sent to local sources.

After Pawnee Rock came a two-day stay at Larned, with a demonstration at the Santa Fe Trail Center there. Jon James of the National Park Service at Fort Larned took the three on a tour of Trail ruts in the area, including the Ash Creek Crossing.

At Dodge City the group stayed

on Front Street with their two horses safe in a pen on the grounds. Boothill Museum Director Jim Sherer was most hospitable and showed the group Trail ruts west of town. Members of the Dodge City Chapter of the DAR visited Anne Carter, a member of the Independence Pioneers Chapter, bringing refreshments and a map depicting the Trail in the area. Anne, David, and Sylvia spent their time in Dodge City visiting with citizens and tourists, explaining clothing and gear, and sharing knowledge of the Trail.

SFTA Ambassador Paul Bentrup journeyed to Dodge City to meet the group and make arrangements for their next evening's stay in Lakin. Paul's standing as Ambassador is well deserved, as he made everyone at the program in Lakin feel comfortable and welcome. Even the horses received special treatment—the gift of a much appreciated bale of hay.

The next stop was Holly, CO. As the riders crossed the border from Kansas into Colorado, a group of cross-country bicyclists heading east stopped for a mutual photography session. Sarah McKeever of Holly shared with the group her town's history and important sites. A program that evening afforded the travelers an opportunity to swap stories with townspeople.

The trio stayed next at Lamar, CO, offering a program to local Trail enthusiasts. At John Martin Reservoir campground they presented demonstrations on three successive evenings. The group visited Bent's Old Fort NHS for two days, an especially exciting opportunity for the Carters since they enjoy the fur trade era. A proclamation from Arrow Rock was presented to Don Hill and Alex Aldred of the NPS. The next program was at Las Animas, after which the Trail riders went separate ways. Just as the traders and travelers of the 1800s took separate routes to complete their trade missions, members of this group chose differing paths to Santa Fe.

Sylvia's husband brought a horse from Missouri for her to use. She chose to experience the highway route through Trinidad, Raton, Fort Union, and south on I-25 to Santa Fe. Following the original plan, the Carters were joined by Jim and Margaret Jones of Elm, MO, and traveled exclusively horseback along the traders' trails through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains—a welcome break from highway travel for both



Trail riders at Bent's Old Fort, Anne and David Carter on horseback, with Alexandra Aldred and Don Hill of the National Park Service, and Sylvia Mooney at right.

riders and horses.

So she could be in Santa Fe to participate in ceremonies on June 8, Sylvia traveled directly to Santa Fe by vehicle and horse trailer. She was able to ride her horse a few miles within the city. At the ceremonies at the plaza in Santa Fe, Sylvia delivered letters from mayors in Missouri and a proclamation from Arrow Rock to Santa Fe Mayor Sam Pick and to other dignitaries. The *New Mexican* newspaper quoted the mayor's praise for Mooney's determination in completing the journey alone.

The four remaining Trail riders rode from Walsenburg across old La Veta Pass, taking the Navajo Trail to the Kit Carson Trail into Fort Garland. From there they followed the Carson Trail to San Luis. There the mayor, Joe Espinoza, came north of town to meet the four riders to deliver a dinner invitation and to inform them that overnight accommodations had been arranged. The townsfolk had read about the Trail riders in newspapers and were delighted that the travelers had chosen a route that included their town. The hospitality and warmth extended by the citizens of the oldest town in Colorado emphasized what wonderful people live along the trails. The friendliness and generosity found in San Luis was mirrored along nearly all the miles traveled from Missouri to New Mexico. Whether the travelers were riding or trailering, people honked and waved a greeting.

Keeping Ute Mountain in sight, the riders traveled south from San Luis along the Carson Trail into New Mexico. After checking the horses' health papers with appropriate authorities at the border, the riders continued to Costilla, where they camped for the night. The next day they went to Questa, took the Old Taos Highway through Lobo Pass into San Cristobal, then on to Arroyo Hondo for the night, a forty-mile day.

From Arroyo Hondo the Joneses and Carters rode to Taos, then through the Rio Grande Gorge to Pilar. From that point they rode toward Espanola until heavy traffic forced them to trailer the horses into the rodeo grounds in Santa Fe. Stalls were rented for the horses, leaving the weary travelers free to enjoy the city at the end of the Trail. The Missouri flag and a map from Arrow Rock were delivered to the mayor's office on June 15. After too brief a stay, the riders loaded the horses into waiting rigs and drove home.

The Trail riders had a wonderful experience, well worth the two years' planning and the resources it took to complete successfully. They feel lucky that, unlike earlier Santa Fe travelers, no one became ill during the journey. They faced challenges and problems similar to those experienced more than a century ago—heat, need for water, stress, homesickness, a brush with banditos, fatigue—yet, like those who went before, they overcame and pers-

evered. The number of people who eased the journey are too numerous to mention here, but they all live in Anne Carter's diary and in the memories of the others who rode the Trail in '88—Sylvia Mooney, Christopher Propst, Jim and Margaret Jones, and David Carter.

The travelers salute the people along the route and thank them for their hospitality, interest, and warmth. The people are as important to travelers as the road to New Mexico. The Trail is a marvel in its diversity of plant and animal life, variety of climatic conditions, and cultural differences. The scenery afforded the riders each day underlined the purpose of traveling horseback. By moving slowly enough to see the land, one becomes for a brief period a part of the landscape. Best wishes to the people along the Trail and to the landscapes that unite them.

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

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

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



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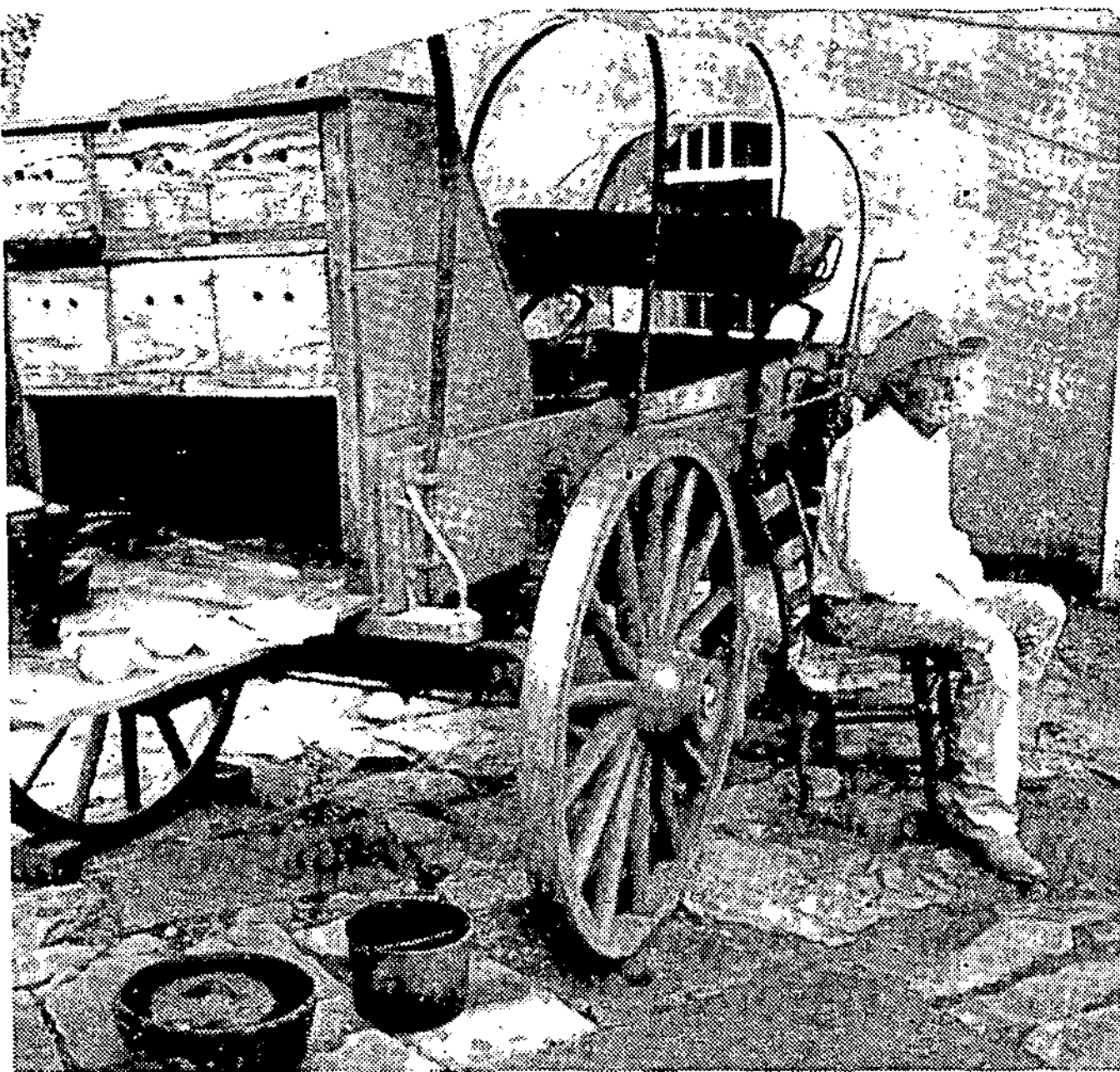
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TRAIL FESTIVAL, TRINIDAD June 10-12, 1988



Top l: Joe Lopez, 91-year-old cowboy, and chuckwagon. Lopez got his first job at age 12 and had many stories to tell of his experiences on ranches across southern Colorado.



Top r: Alexandra Aldred of Bent's Old Fort NHS demonstrated the operation of the horno at the Baca House for her presentation on Hispanic Lifestyles Along the Trail.

Right: Trail travelers from three different eras, l to r, 1860s soldiers portrayed by Doug McChristian and Cameron Laughlin, 1870s cowboys portrayed by Dan Muldoon and Fred Dixon, and an 1840s trader portrayed by Mark L. Gardner.



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