



# Arizona Trails

Feb 1989

NEWSLETTER - AZ CHAPTER - OCTA

Vol. 2 No. 1

## JACK'S TRAIL BITS

Today's mail brought our confirmed reservations for a spot at the Anza-Borrego Palm Canyon campground on March 10th. We're anticipating the weekend Gordon and Shirley Stebbings have planned for all of us with keen interest; here's hoping our Chapter supports this outing with a big turnout.

The January field trip to historic sites between Tucson and the border was a success on all counts, tho we did get a little flak from the campground (not as many overnigheters as they were led to expect). Those Rebers throw a great cocktail party!

Last weekend (1/27) Ruth and I joined a group of pilgrims at Lake Powell. Their purpose was to commemorate the 1880 journey of a group of LDS pioneers who descended (with 26 wagons) through a narrow defile in Glen Canyon to the Colorado River, 1000' below. Today it is known as Hole-In-The-Rock and the bottom of the trail lies hundreds of feet below the waters of Lake Powell. Your reporter attempted the ascent but didn't make it to the top---maybe next year. On the return we stopped overnight at the Grand Canyon---how peaceful it is in winter! No crowds.

Looking further ahead, the Arizona Historical Society has confirmed that we may use their facilities for a June Trails Symposium. Harland Tompkins will be assembling the program for this significant event in our chapter's life.

See you in California!

Jack D. Root

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A CURRENT MEMBERSHIP ROSTER WILL BE SENT WITH THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

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Betty Lee, who broke her leg at Christmastime and missed the last meeting is mending well. She plans to be at the next meeting.

When Aubrey and Wilma Haines arrived home after the Green Valley meeting, they found their home had been burglerlized. There were some losses and some damage but nothing of major proportions.

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DUES FOR 1989 WERE DUE ON DECEMBER 1, 1988. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID,

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWLETTER.

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## SOUTHERN EMIGRANT TRAIL TOUR - MARCH 11 &amp; 12

## CALIFORNIA ANZA-BARREGO STATE PARK

With mounting excitement, our chapter is packing its wagons and yoking the oxen for the trip west to "Californy" where we'll follow the wheel ruts along the trail of the Mormon Battalion, the Butterfield Overland Mail, and thousands of gold-seekers.

We'll head for Borrego Springs, a small town in the Anza-Borrego State Park about 7 hours' drive from Tucson. There we will headquarter at the Borrego Palm Canyon State Park Campgrounds or stay in motels. All living quarters will be a mile or two from the Desert Visitor Center, a museum built into the side of a hill.

Mr. Harlan Boucher, a local resident and a member of the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association, has volunteered to guide us along the 3 1/2 to 4 hour auto and walking tour of the Southern Emigrant Trail. We will meet him at the Visitor Center at 9:30 A.M. on Saturday morning, March 11. Along the way we will view such places as the Box Canyon Historic Monument, a rock barrier that required the construction of a bypass trail before the emigrants could traverse Blair Valley and make their way to Warner's Ranch. We will also visit Vallecitos, the first stop for grass and water after many dry desert miles, later to become a stage station on the Butterfield route.

For lunch, we will eat on the trail at the Butterfield Ranch Restaurant. Later, back at the Visitors Center in Borrego Springs, we will see a slide show and browse through the museum. At 6:00 P.M. we meet at one of the rigs for BYOB drinks and snacks, followed by a pot luck dinner. Don't forget your pot luck dish, your place setting, and your lawn chair. Following dinner, the day will conclude with a business meeting.

Sunday, the 12th, as an optional trip, the Gordon and Shirley Stebbings have invited all to travel up the hill to Julian, CA, about 45 minutes over the curves of Banner Grade. A free tour will be given through an 1870's gold mine, and home-made apple pie and coffee will be served afterwards at the Stebbings' home nearby.

If you wish to follow the "trail" down the hill west to San Diego, it will take an hour (it took two days by wagon). There are campgrounds, motels and bed and breakfast places in the Julian area. There are other sites in the state park that you may wish to explore also. Refer to the literature you recieved at the last meeting, plus there will be information at the Visitors Center.

For those who received the information packet from the Stebbings at the last meeting, you can find information about how to reserve a spot in the campground. There are motels in Borrego Springs, two of them are:

Oasis Motel - phone (619) 767-5409

Overland Junction Motel - phone (619) 767-5341

If you would like more information about this area, contact Shirley Stebbings at (619) 765-1065. She recommends getting a reservation. March is a popular time of year in the area as the desert is blooming.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Our chapter meeting for June will be a bit different from most of our meetings. This summer meeting will be a symposium. The meeting will be held at the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson on Saturday, June 17 (the day before Father's Day) The symposium will consist of a series of presentations by our members and selected others on various subjects in the areas of trails, Arizona history, etc.

For this symposium, Harland Tompkins is the Program Chairman and Jack Root is the Local Arrangements Chairman. We invite each of you to think about preparing a half hour presentation on a subject of interest to you. The intent is not on original research, but to educate the membership in a manner similar to the presentations at the national meetings. We are hoping to have talks on subjects as diverse as mapping the trails, instruments the explorers used to determine location, as well as aspects of the various trails themselves.

Please send your tentative title to Harland by May 15 so that a program listing can be prepared for a flyer and advertising purposes. We hope this program will attract new members to OCTA and our chapter, especially from the Arizona Historical Society. You will receive a flyer later informing you of the time and other details.

We plan to have one or two invited speakers from outside our chapter. Also we hope there will be time available to tour and use the facilities of the Arizona Historical Society.

Presenting a paper may be a new experience for some of you. We encourage you to give it a try in the friendly supportive atmosphere of our group. It is obvious from conversations with each other at other meetings that we all have knowledge and interests to share with the other members.

CONTACT: HARLAND TOMPKINS  
1125 W. MISSION DR.  
CHANDLER, AZ 85224 phone (602) 963-3565

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## OUR OWN LOGO



Gary Keller has been working on a logo for the chapter. Displayed here are several variations of his latest effort. As you can see, he has modified the national logo, including a sky from the state flag and a saguaro cactus. Do you have a favorite? Let Jack or Gary know.



## LET'S GET ACQUAINTED !

Continuing with our series of articles designed to introduce us to each other, this issue profiles another charter member of our chapter, Sheri Lee; who has been the one and only treasurer of our chapter. It is hard to miss Sheri with her red hair and her "let's-get-the-work-done-but-have-fun-too" attitude.

Sheri Ann Hendricks was born in Wisconsin and is now in her mid 40's. She lived in Minnesota and California before coming to Tucson with her husband, Robert (Bob) Lee.

She says that she has 4/5 of a degree in Pharmacy from the Univ. of Wisconsin, but is presently working on a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Univ. of Arizona.

A many faceted person, Sheri says that her interests and hobbies are many and varied, including genealogy, reading, writing, skiing, hiking, needlework, and cooking. She and Bob have also been working on a cabin they have on Mount Lemmon.

Sheri and Bob joined OCTA because of an interest in history and have attended almost all of our meetings.

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## JANUARY OUTING - WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY !

It was a beautiful day for our Saturday in southern Arizona. A crisp morning that became one of those days that makes us glad we are living here and not in the north.

The caravan of cars headed out of the Green Valley RV Resort with a first stop at Tubac. There was time to visit the Visitor's Center of the State Park and tour the grounds of the old presidio. Some even disappeared into the shops that the small community offers to the visitors.

Down the road a few miles is Tumacacori, now a National Monument. The old mission church stands, a silent sentinel to past glories, with the blue skies and nearby hills as a great backdrop for the present day photographer. The museum told its story of those Spanish and Indian days.

Lunch was at the Cow Palace in Amado, a rustic place with good food. Rebers made arrangements and a long table was waiting for us.

After lunch we headed for Arivaca, stopping at a mine site where the brother of Charles Poston lies in his concrete vault. In Arivaca we visited the local cemetery and bakery (not in the same location).

Harry and Mary Reber invited the group to their home in Green Valley for a late afternoon cocktail as we enjoyed the sunset from their patio. Then it was back to RV resort for dinner. As usual there was more food than we could possible eat, but we did our best.

After the business meeting, Jim Carter talked to us about the Butterfield Stage, its historical beginnings and its course through the west. Doyle Reed picked up the thread with slides of the trail from Yuma west. Both broadened our view of one of Arizona's trails.

It was a long day for those at this meeting, but certainly varied. Thanks to all who made it work so well.

## AN INCIDENT

In 1851, Capt. Lorenzo Sitgreaves led a government survey party which crossed northern Arizona. One member of the party was Samuel W. Woodhouse, a physician and naturalist. The following is taken from his medical report.

"I have introduced one case in particular, in which I was unfortunately the sufferer. I refer to the bite of the rattlesnake, with its treatment, which may be of some service to the profession, especially to those connected with the army.

"On Wednesday morning, the 17th of September, 1851, while Lieut. Parke and I were walking out to procure some specimens of birds, when about two miles from Zuni, in passing along an Indian trail, I came within a few inches of treading upon a rattlesnake, which immediately coiled himself up and prepared to strike. Jumping back, I drew my ramrod, and with it struck him over the back, with sufficient force to break it. Being a fine specimen, I wished to preserve it without further injury, when, placing my gun on his head, and seizing it, as I supposed, immediately back of the head, picked him up; but unfortunately, I had too long a hold, when he threw round his head and buried his fang in the side of the index finger of my left hand, about the middle of the first phalanx. The pain was intense, but momentarily producing a sickening sensation. I immediately commenced sucking the wound; at the same time I got Lieut. P. to apply a ligature round the finger, to prevent the too rapid absorption of the poison. Scarifying the finger freely, I continued sucking the wound until I returned to camp. I sent a man, who was with us at the time, immediately back to the pueblo, to bring me some aqua ammonia fortis. He met me about three-fourths of a mile from the pueblo. I immediately applied it freely to the wound, when I was met by Mr. Kern who wished me to try the western remedy; that is to say, to get drunk. This remedy I had often heard of, and, determined to try its efficacy, I commenced drinking whiskey. By the time I reached the pueblo I had drank about half a pint. During all this time I continued sucking the wound; then taking some ammonia internally, I scarified the finger, holding it in a basin of warm water, which allowed it to bleed freely. Already the glands in the axilla were getting sore and painful. I commenced drinking brandy; at the same time held my finger in a cup of ammonia. It took a quart of fourth-proof brandy, besides the whiskey, to produce intoxication, which only lasted some four or five hours. During this state I vomited freely. Soon after coming to my senses, I removed the ligature, and applied a large poultice of flaxseed-meal. I repeated the ammonia internally, ----"

Dr. Woodhouse continued to treat himself and by Sept. 24 writes: "This day we commenced our march; after going six miles, encamped. I placed my hand in a sling, and it was with the greatest difficulty I could manage the mule with one hand, being rather weak, and the animal rather obstinate. The sun was very hot; this, with the jolting, caused me to suffer considerable pain."

The last reference to his difficulty is on October 20 after one of the men died: "Having the use of but one hand, I was unable to make a post mortem examination".

At the end of his report is a table containing all the accidents or illness' he treated, the total is 69, with 2 deaths. This included 5 arrow wounds.

SOURCE: Sitgraves -- "Report of an Expedition Down the Zuni & Colorado Rivers", Senate Executive Document 59, 32nd Congress, 2nd Session. Dr. Woodhouse medical report - pages 181-185.



The following is a Summary of the business meeting minutes taken by Wilma Haines, Secretary, on January 14, 1989.

Present were: Susan Doyle, Ruth & Jack Root, Bob & Sheri Lee, Harry & Mary Reber, Doyle & Fiona Reed, Rose Ann & Harland Tompkins, James & Marion Carter, Aubrey & Wilma Haines, and Gordon & Shirley Stebbings (17 total).

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Root at 7:40 pm. The minutes were read and approved. The treasurer reports we have \$160.36, with no outstanding bills.

Motion passed to pro-rate dues by the quarter when receiving new members.

One more newsletter will be sent to last year's members who haven't renewed.

Nominating Comm. Reported that 75% of the ballots returned. Elected were: Jack Root, Pres.; Jim Carter, Vice-Pres.; Wilma Haines, Secretary, and Sheri Lee, Treasurer. Jack Root thanked the committee for their work.

Shirley Stebbings, reported on the plans for the March meeting at Anza-Borrego State Park in California. She passed out information packets and answered questions.

Harland Tompkins previewed plans for a June 17 symposium. Jack Root will try to arrange a meeting place at the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson. Harland also reported for Gary Keller that OCTA will buy maps for the chapter to use in mapping trails. It was decided to ask for maps to use on the northern routes. Gary Keller is also interested in leading a 4-wheel drive trip into Canyon de Chelly over Labor Day weekend. Anyone interested should contact him.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. Program followed, given by Doyle Reed and Jim Carter.

Wilma Haines, Secretary



THOSE AT THE JANUARY MEETING GATHERED FOR  
A GROUP PICTURE FOLLOWING THE EVENING PROGRAM