



Arizona Trails

July 1989

NEWSLETTER - AZ CHAPTER - OCTA

Vol. 2 No. 3

JACK'S TRAIL BITS

When last I penned these comments we were on the verge of rafting down the Colorado. The venture came off as planned; we are thankful to Bill Hohmann and other members of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society who made it possible. Once again the awesome experience worked its magic on mind, body and spirit. We loved it.

Although we were forced to miss the Trails Symposium on 6/17, all reports say it was a success and worth doing again next year. Much credit is due to Harland Tompkins and all others who planned and participated to make the event work.

Last week eleven of your chapter's members met in the cool forest atop Mount Lemmon to plan the coming year's activities. You will read the results elsewhere in this issue of A.T. Gracious hosts Sheri and Bob Lee even agreed to a repeat performance next summer -- don't miss it.

Those old activists, Tom Hunt (in NFP) and Don Buck (memo to Chapter chairs) are exhorting us to participate more fully in such OCTA projects as COED and trail mapping. I agree that there is much untapped talent in the chapters. We'll talk about this at our chapter breakfast in Boise. See you there.

Jack D. Root

---- THE FOLLOWING IS JACK'S ANNUAL REPORT TO OCTA ABOUT OUR CHAPTER:

Memo to: Board of Directors, OCTA
Subj: Annual Report, Arizona Chapter

Our chapter's current strength is 41 members, not all of them active. The vast distances characteristic of the Southwest mean a lot of travel for some members to attend chapter events. Despite this, we managed to meet seven times during the year, including a breakfast get-together at St. Joe.

Three of the meetings were overnight (those distances again) field trips, focussing on various segments of the Southern emigrant and military routes across the Southwest.

We are especially proud of the successful Trails Symposium (flyer attached) held on June 17th at the Az. Historical Society Headquarters in Tucson. We expect to make this an annual event and to keep the quality of the presentations worthy of the best traditions of OCTA and the A.H.S.

Another idea employed at recent meetings is a used book auction. Members donate books they no longer want to keep and the funds raised will support other chapter needs.

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TRAILS SYMPOSIUM CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL - WILL REPEAT NEXT YEAR

The chapter's first attempt at a symposium was on Saturday, June 17 in Tucson at the Arizona Historical Society Auditorium. The facilities were excellent for our group with room to spread out and the museum exhibits and library close by. Attendance was good with 16 members and about the same number of guests. The number changed as some came late and some had to leave early. This was considered a good turnout for our first attempt.

All of the presentations were well received. They included:

- "Southwestern Trails before Carson, Kearny & Cooke" - by Betty Lee
- "The Southern Route - 1849: A New Look" - by Patricia Etter
- "The Oregon Trail: Myth & Fact" - by Aubrey Haines
- "Old Fort Lowell" - by Sheri Lee
- "Tucson's Million Dollar Railroad to Nowhere" - by Peyton Reavis
- "Elevation Measurements by the Early Army Explorers" - by Harland Tompkins
- "McLoughlin & Old Oregon" - by Robert E. Lee (book report)
- "Mapping Arizona's Historical Roads - by Gary Keller (poster presentation)

Harland Tompkins, the program chairman of the symposium, also acted as moderator. Jack Root was the local arrangements chairman and was scheduled to present a paper. He was called out of town, however, and we hope to hear his talk at a later time. Wilma Haines did an excellent job of providing a table of coffee, lemonade, ice tea, along with doughnuts in the morning and homemade cookies in the afternoon. Questions of the speakers and lively discussion during the breaks seemed to say that the symposium was well received. The plan is to repeat the symposium next year so think about a paper you might want to present. There are also plans to publish the proceedings. All the talks were videotaped.

A short business meeting was held at the end of the day (minutes below). Several members then met at a local restaurant before heading for home.

----- SUMMARY OF BUSINESS MEETING HELD 6/17/89 AT TUCSON -----

Meeting called to order at 4 pm by Jim Carter, Vice President. \$216.62 in the treasury. Book sale donation for the day was \$7. Betty asked for more donations of books for future sales. Jim thanked all who made the symposium work so well.

Betty Lee spoke about the symposium "Trails Toward a New Western History" to be held in Santa Fe Sept. 27-29. She plans to go and can give you information about it.

Gary Keller previewed his Labor Day trip Sept. 7-9 to Canyon de Chelly. It is a 4 wheel drive trip, we will have our own Indian guides, one for each five vehicles. Campground available, motels probably full by now. Get in touch with him immediately if you wish to go.

Planning for the next year to be held on Sat. July 8 at the cabin of Bob & Sheri Lee on Mt. Lemmon. Meet at 1 pm, bring your own lunch, she will fix the dinner and a breakfast for those staying over. She will send out maps to all.

Discussion about publishing a proceedings of the symposium. Betty Lee made a motion to fund it up to \$100, seconded and passed. Betty Lee will edit, the Tompkins will retype if necessary and have them printed. Hope to have them available at the national meeting at Boise in August.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Wilma Haines, Secretary

NEXT YEAR PLANNED WITH ENTHUSIASM

On Saturday, July 8, we journeyed to the top of the mountain (Mount Lemmon outside Tucson) to hammer out tentative chapter plans for next year. As we climbed out of the desert heat, the AC went off and the windows were opened. We were greeted at the cabin of Sheri and Bob Lee at 8000', amid the pine trees, hummingbirds, grosbeaks, squirrels, and chipmunks. The sack lunches were enjoyed on the deck, and then we got down to business.

As the afternoon went on, ideas were mulled over. A long discussion was held about running a rendezvous next year. The conclusion was finally reached that we don't have the resources available yet within our group to run a successful rendezvous, but will consider it again at next year's planning. Information was exchanged about several possible field trips. Some members not present had passed along information to consider. It was a good session. The results are outlined below. Those present for the meeting were: Jack Root, Paul & Pat Etter, Betty & Bob Lee, Sheri & Bob Lee, Harland & Rose Ann Tompkins, and Wilma & Aubrey Haines.

Sheri and Bob served a "western" dinner of beef brisket, cowboy beans, and sourdough bisquits. Then came homemade Bing cherry ice cream, with cake brought by Betty Lee and cookies by Wilma Haines. It was a groaning good meal!

When it began to get dark and the birds had disappeared, the Tompkins showed slides taken recently in the Kingman area of Beale Road traces. They talked about recent contacts they have made in northern Arizona and the plans for tracing and mapping the road, which was used by many emigrants on their way to California.

For those who stayed overnight, we went to sleep with windows open, blankets over us, and tales of roaming bears in our thoughts. The bears have been numerous in the area this summer as the lack of food and water has brought them into the populated areas of the mountain. The stories were good, but we saw nary a bear.

The cool morning brought out jackets as we had breakfast on the deck. This meal was sausage and blueberry pancakes, with lots of juice and coffee. This was a weekend when our waistlines may have suffered, but our spirits certainly soared. Thanks to Sheri and Bob Lee for a great getaway!

Annual Report continued

A midsummer planning session is becoming a tradition in our young chapter's life. Eleven members met in July at the Mt. Lemmon cabin of Bob and Sheri Lee and laid out plans for the ensuing chapter year. No bears were sighted, despite our hosts' cautionary remarks.

We are mindful of the desirability of chapter participation in OCTA's national projects and will work toward this end in the coming year.

J.D. Root
President,
AZ Chapter

SCHEDULE FOR 1989-90

ARIZONA OCTA

Date	Description	Contact person
Sept. 2,3,4	Four wheel drive trip into Canyon de Chelly. Indian guides to places of interest inc. those not seen on regular tours.	Gary Keller (602) 832-1495
Sept. 27,28, 29	Symposium in Santa Fe, "Trails Toward a New Western History". Not a chapter sponsored event, but members are urged to participate.	Betty Lee (602) 428-1196
Nov. 4,5	Trail sites in southern parts of New Mexico. Includes Ft. Cummins, Cook Spring, Ft. Fillmore, and Butterfield Stage Stations.	Jim Carter (505) 522-1189
Jan. 27	Boat trip on Lake Powell from Wahweep to Hole-in-the-Rock, Morman site.	Jack Root (602) 749-9679
Apr. 7,8	Beale Road traces in the Kingman, AZ area. Includes Sitgraves Pass, Beale Springs, and Mojave Historical Museum.	Rose Ann Tompkins (602) 963-3565.
June 16	2nd Annual Trails Symposium Tucson	Harland Tompkins (602) 963-3565
July 14,15	Annual planning meeting Lee's cabin, Mt. Lemmon	

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE ROSTER YOU RECEIVED LAST NEWSLETTER:

CHANGE: Jim & Marian Carter, new street address - 4091 Sotol Drive

NEW MEMBERS: Bruce & Carol Hammond
2506 W. Carribbean Lane #12
Phoenix, AZ 85023
(602) 993-4159

WELCOME TO THE GROUP!

DRAGOON SPRINGS STAGE STATION

Last April, Wilma and I went looking for the site of the Dragoon Springs station on the short-lived Butterfield Stage Line across southern Arizona.

Leaving Highway I-10 at Texas Pass, we followed a paved road several miles east to the almost ghost town of Dragoon, where we made inquiry at the post office (a trailer by the side of the road). I will not attempt to repeat the directions given us by the postmistress, who ended with, "I guess you can get in there, I made it with my car!"

Trending eastward on a series of very unimproved range roads, we arrived at a parking area with a Forest Service informational panel, and from there, walked in about two hundred yards to the site which is in a several acre fenced plot.

The station is not at Dragoon Springs, which are a half mile to the east, in the mouth of Jordan Canyon; instead, it stands on the debris apron sloping down from the Dragoon Mountains, in a very exposed and inhospitable situation. As one of the original (1858) stations on the Butterfield line, it was sturdily built of the material the site offered -- stone -- laid up as dry-masonry walls two feet thick and, originally, about ten high (even after the passage of so many years, the walls remain from two to eight feet high).

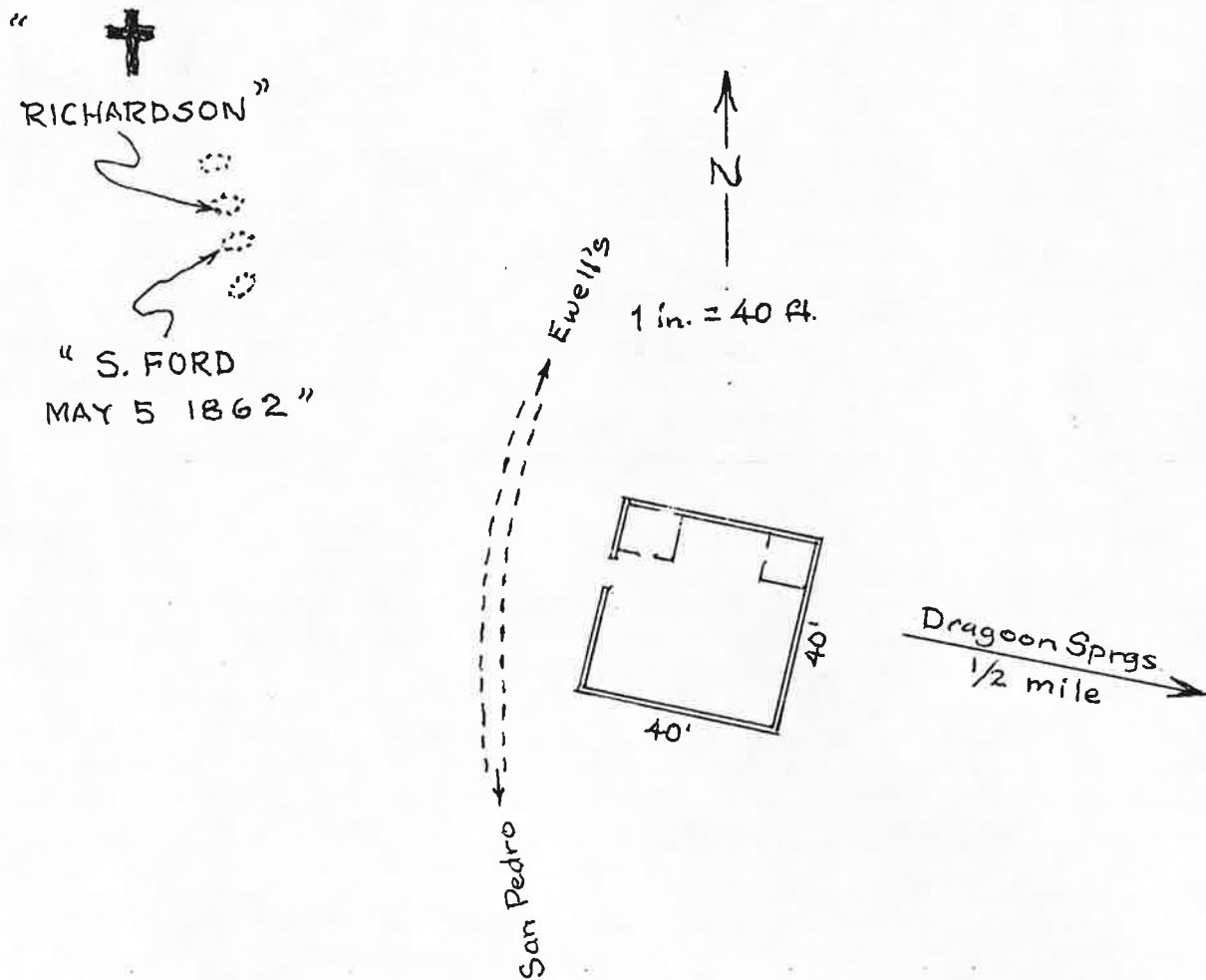
On measuring the ruin it was found to enclose a forty-foot square, skewed a few degrees from the cardinal directions. The west wall had an opening of about eight feet, placed somewhat left of center (as one faced the structure), which was probably closed by a gate. Within, there was evidence of two rooms, both ten or twelve feet square, and not adjacent; one being in the northwest corner and one in the northeast. The two rooms were likely the only roofed portion of the structure, the remainder serving as an open horse pen.

Approximately one hundred feet northwest of the large gate were four graves, well mounded with field stone and about ten feet apart on a line fifteen degrees west of north. The most northerly burial was unidentified, but the one next to it had a headstone with a deeply incised cross with "RICHARDSON" below it, while the third burial, from the north, was marked "S. FORD", with the date, "MAY 5 1862", below it. The southerly burial was unidentified, at least as far as we could tell. Information on the Forest Service panel states that the burials were those of confederate soldiers, and I found that confirmed in Wagoner's EARLY ARIZONA (1977), p. 456. Captain Hunter, the Confederate officer commanding at Tucson abandoned the town on May 4, 1862, and began his retreat toward the Rio Grande. "While en route, the party was attacked near Dragoon Springs -- some fifty miles east of Tucson -- by Apaches who killed four men and drove away a number of horses and mules."

We expected other burials at the station; from the "massacre" which accompanied its construction, but found no evidences of the burials. The Apaches were not responsible for those deaths. The

three men -- James Burr, Preston Cunningham and James Laing -- died of axe wounds inflicted by three Mexican employees, and the fourth man, Silas St. John, suffered for nine days before the doctor from Fort Buchanan arrived to amputate his nearly severed arm. That grisly event took place in September, and on October 2, 1858, the first overland mail coach from the east passed by.

Aubrey L. Haines
July 13, 1989



DRAGON SPRINGS STAGE STATION
Butterfield Stage Route, A.T.