

DESERT TRACKS



VOL. 6
NO. 5

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ORGANIZATION

NOVEMBER
1993

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FROM THE EX-PRESIDENT

At the Chapter meeting in Flagstaff on October 30, the leadership changed and Sheri Lee is now your president. I hope you will cooperate with her as well as you led me through the last two years. With Sheri's enthusiasm, I am sure the chapter is in good hands.

Those of you who did not attend the mapping workshop in Flagstaff led by Don Buck missed a rewarding experience. Don is a first rate teacher. We not only got to walk and ride over a portion of the Beale Road but to study it in depth to determine what should be included on our official maps of the southwest trails. Maybe we can have another workshop when our mapping gets into full swing.

Mapping is now more important than ever because the chapter took action at the business meeting to request that OCTA's next Historical Trails legislation be the Southwest Trails. Don Buck is going to write up the proposal and Rose Ann and I will present it to National Board at their meeting in Salt Lake City in March. This past weekend, the CA-NV-HI Chapter voted to join in the request. Hopefully our efforts will bear fruit and we see no reason why they shouldn't.

If our request is approved, we will all have to put our shoulders to the wheel and get the trails in the Southwest mapped so the National Park Service can draw up their management plans.

See you on a trail soon.

Doyle Reed



NEW OFFICERS

President	Sheri Lee
Vice-president	Jim Carter
Secretary	Pat Etter
Treasurer	Harland Tompkins

GIVE THEM YOUR HELP & SUPPORT

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR 1994

JANUARY OR FEBRUARY

Butterfield Trail outing in central Arizona
Details coming soon

MARCH 19

Trails Symposium, Las Cruces, New Mexico

MID-APRIL

Gila Trail outing east of Safford, Arizona

JULY 16

SWOCTA Planning Meeting

- ☞ Have a pet research project?
- ☞ Read a good book lately?
- ☞ Found remnants of old trails, sites, or ???

PRESENT A TALK AT OUR ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Call Harland Tompkins
(602) 963-3565 with your title



MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 30, 1993 BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. in the Mt. Elden Meeting Room of the Woodlands Plaza Hotel, Flagstaff, AZ by president Doyle Reed. Members in attendance included Don Buck, Jim Byrkit, Marion & Jim Carter, Pat & Paul Etter, Maria & Richard Greene, Bob & Sheri Lee, Fiona & Doyle Reed, Ruth & Jack Root and Rose Ann & Harland Tompkins.

Those present thanked absent member Lynda Hatch for arranging the elegant dining location, Rose Ann for the menu and the motel accommodations and Don and Rose Ann for the hard work and excellent planning of the day's outing.

The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The treasurer reported a balance of \$519.56. Expenses for this outing will be submitted at the next meeting. A brief discussion of expenses for the Butterfield Pass outing and the symposium was held.

Don outlined the MET program as well as plans for the next day's work. Doyle humorously described the problems of access to the Indian Reservation and expressed his concern about weather in January, both with regard to the Butterfield Pass outing, but no conclusions were reached. Marion related the gist of a letter from Kathy Roubal asking for more volunteers to work on the COED project. Harlie asked for volunteers to present papers at the March symposium and said he needs to have the titles of those papers very soon.

Upon motion duly made by Harlie, seconded by Pat and carried, it was resolved that the Southwestern Chapter prepare a written presentation for the national board at its mid-year meeting proposing that OCTA submit and support, for legislative action, the addition of the southern routes complex of trails to the National Historic Trails System.

Jack Root of the nominating committee presented a slate of officers for the 1994-95 term as follows: Sheri Lee as president, Jim Carter as vice president, Pat Etter as secretary and Harlie Tompkins as treasurer. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was elected by affirmation.

Marion Carter thanked the outgoing officers for their service and a hearty round of applause followed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Sheri Lee
Secretary

NEW EDITORS FOR *DESERT TRACKS*

This issue of *DESERT TRACKS* will be my last issue. I have been the editor since its beginning, six years ago. It is time for some new blood, some new ideas. Our chapter is widely scattered across several large states. I have always felt that this newsletter is a very important link in keeping us in touch with each other as we pursue our trail interests.

Ruth and Jack Root have volunteered to be the new editors. It is imperative that you support their efforts. That means writing articles if they ask you, sending them articles on your own trail activities, writing book reports that might be of interest to the membership, etc., and **always** giving moral support. The encouragement and appreciation I have received has made a **big** difference.

Our chapter may be the smallest OCTA chapter in terms of membership, perhaps the largest in area it covers, and has the most trail with the least knowledge about it, but we are making ourselves heard in the larger membership of OCTA. It has been an uphill battle and still is, but we are making progress. *DESERT TRACKS* is an instrument in that battle as OCTA's board members and the other chapter newsletter editors all get copies, and therefore know what we are doing. Let's keep that knowledge going out to them as well as our own members.

On another subject, I want to thank those who helped make the mapping workshop a success. I was given a lot of credit, but there were several others who were involved in making it work.

Jim Byrkit and Harland Tompkins were in on the planning for this event. Jim set us up with an ideal classroom, and continues to store SWOCTA's maps. Harland provided numerous copies of the Quad maps used during the workshop, took care of getting the MET manuals we needed, and kept me sane.

Lynda Hatch helped with local arrangements in Flagstaff, finding and pricing the motels we used, as well as finding us the place to have the dinner.

And, last but not least, Don Buck gave us several days of his time, and was an excellent instructor for the workshop. He made the complicated sound simple, and led a bunch of neophytes through the process of getting what we seeing on the ground to make sense on the maps in order for others to use them.

I have been to at least two mapping workshops at national conventions, but I never felt like I could go into the field and do what they were talking about. The hands-on experience of classroom and fieldwork gave me the confidence to do this work in the future.

Rose Ann Tompkins

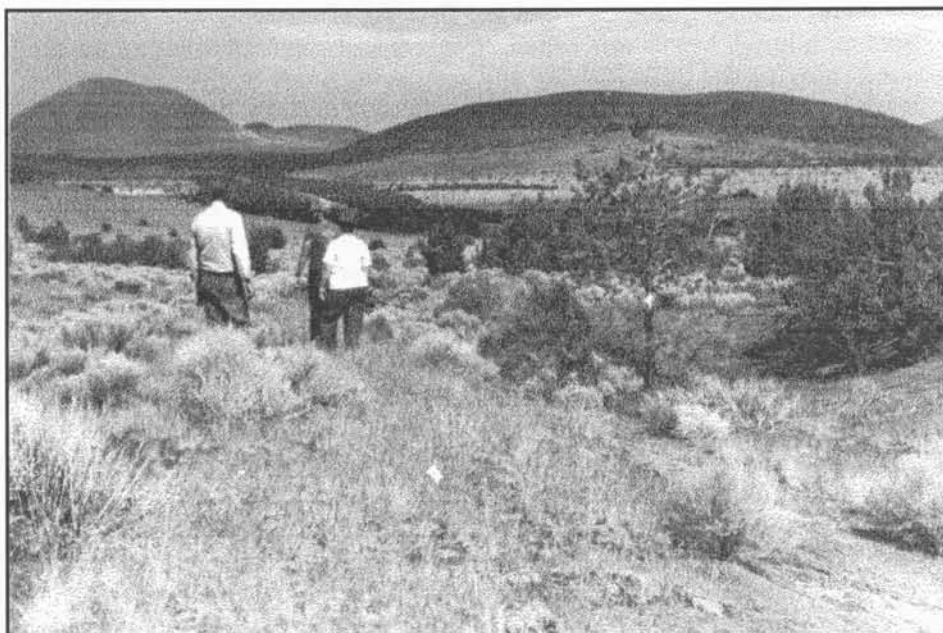
WORKSHOP BEGINS THE BIG JOB

With the small step of mapping 4.5 miles of the Beale Road, the Southwest Chapter has begun the long process of mapping hundreds of miles of trails. Though it is a drop in the bucket, those who attended the MET (Mapping Emigrant Trails) workshop felt a sense of accomplishment as the weekend ended and they could see their work on two USGS 7.5 minute maps.

Don Buck, one of the developers of OCTA's MET program, greeted fifteen students at 8:30 AM on Saturday, Oct. 30. We met in a classroom at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff to begin the classroom portion of the workshop.

Jim Byrkit, a professor at NAU, saw to it that we had a room with large tables, just right for spreading out maps as we tried to put Don's instructions together with the MET manual and the pertinent maps (both historical and modern) and diaries.

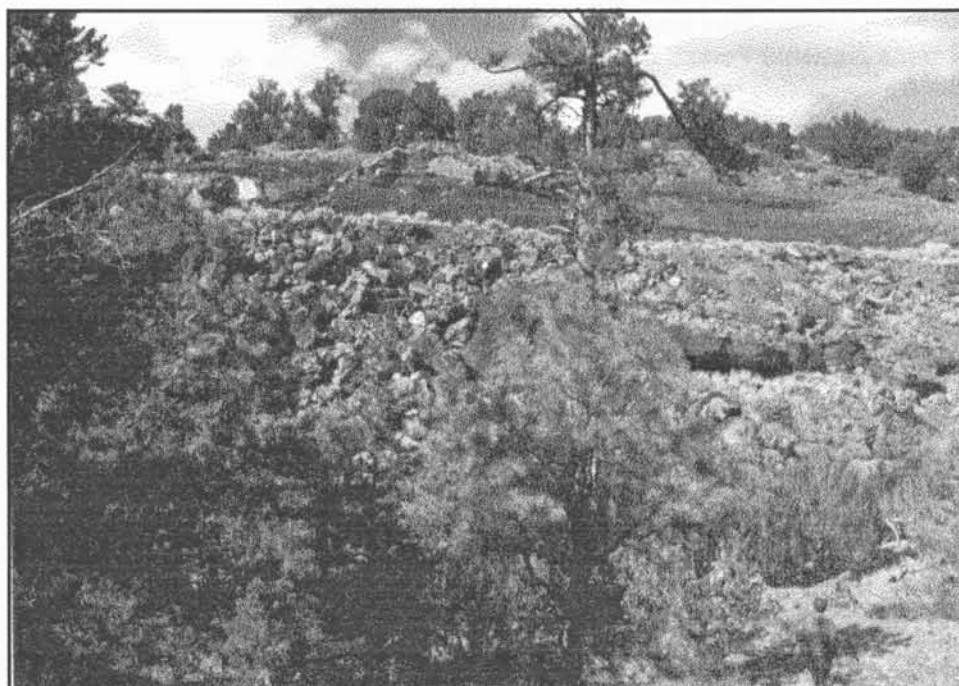
Those attending the workshop were: Jack & Ruth Root of Tucson, Bob & Sheri Lee of Tucson, Paul



& Pat Etter of Mesa, Harland & Rose Ann Tompkins of Chandler, Jim Byrkit of Flagstaff, Doyle & Fiona Reed of Davis, CA, Jim & Marion Carter of Las Cruces, NM, and Richard & Marie Greene of Angel Fire, NM. The Greenes have recently joined our chapter after moving to the Southwest from the East. It was nice to have some new faces, especially ones so eager to get involved.

Don went over the parts of the manual we would be using, and explained the methods being used by OCTA's mapping program. After about two hours of the classroom instruction, we headed for the field. In this case it was a portion of the Beale Road northeast of Flagstaff. The chilly morning gave way to a beautiful day of blue sky and mild temperatures as we began walking the ruts and marking the work map each person carried. This portion of the trail was in the cinder cones around the San

Continued on page 4



Bottom: Cosnino Caves area, showing the highway cut, with rock debris on left that buried many of the cave entrances. Several caves are still visible at right.

Top: Standing on the ridge line looking east. An eroded swale is on the right, one of several parallel swales on this hillside.

Francisco Mountains, beginning in fairly open country and leading to the pine forest around the area known locally as Turkey Tanks.

A car shuttle was set up so the rut stompers did not have to retrace their steps. As the group finished the first leg of mapping and reached a ridge top, a lunch break was called. Coolers and bags appeared as we sat around enjoying the beautiful day and comparing notes. Evidence of native culture littered the ground in the form of broken pottery. Several rock enclosures overlooked the vast plain to the east towards the Little Colorado River.

Following lunch, the mapping continued across the ridge and down the other side to a lovely valley. The last stretch of trail went into the pine forest and led to the crossing of the San Francisco Wash. The crossing is located between Turkey Tanks and an area that was known to diarists as Cosnino Caves. The caves are located in a wall of lava rock and are mostly covered now by the debris from highway construction. The tanks are located in the lava rock of the wash bed and were used by travellers for watering the stock they had with them. The tanks appear much the same today. The crossing is evident still with road building on one side leading to the wash and several deep swales leading out the other side.

It was late afternoon by this time, and all headed back to Flagstaff to rest a bit before dinner. We met in the Mt. Elden room at the Woodlands Plaza Hotel for a very nice dinner, arranged by another NAU professor, Lynda Hatch. She was not able to be at the workshop, but did a wonderful job of helping with local arrangements. Dinner was followed by a business meeting and election of officers. Minutes of the meeting are elsewhere in the newsletter.

At 9 AM on Sunday morning, we met again at the classroom and spent the morning putting notes on the full-sized maps. As we compared maps and discussed the differences, Don helped with interpretation and coming to a consensus. Then the final maps were made, the ones that will be on file with OCTA.

The area mapped had a variety of trail classifications, along with various other features to be noted. This area of trail has been marked by the Coconino National Forest, but OCTA is putting its detailing on the trail with this mapping.

Most of the Southwest trails have not been marked in any way and it is hoped that we can now use this core group to begin mapping in other places in Arizona, New Mexico, and even Texas and Oklahoma. It will be many years of work, but it has begun!

Rose Ann Tompkins

The portion of the Sunset Crater East Quad that was mapped during the workshop is shown here, along with the margin notes.



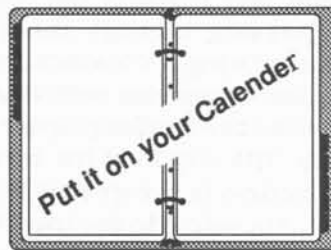
- (A) TRACE FAINT HALFWAY ACROSS FIELD UNTIL GOOD SWALE EMERGES TO FENCE
- (B) 3 INCH BRASS MONUMENTS ON TOP OF PIPE, CLOSE TO GROUND INDICATING LOCATION OF BEALE ROAD USUALLY AT 1/4 MILE INTERVALS
- (C) BEALE ROAD BRASS CAP MONUMENTS INDICATE BEGINNING AND END OF THIS SWALE
- (D) TRAVELERS OFTEN CAMPED IN THIS VALLEY.
- (E) TURKEY TANKS WERE WELL KNOWN WATER SOURCE FOR TRAVELERS
- (F) ROAD BUILT UP ON NORTH BANK OF WASH. ON SOUTH BANK OF WASH THERE ARE MULTIPLE RUTS.
- (G) COSNINO CAVES VISITED BY TRAVELERS
- (H) BEALE ROAD CROSSES WASH AT TWO SITES SW OF DAM

BACK, BY POPULAR DEMAND !!!

TRAILS SYMPOSIUM

SWOCTA's
sometimes
annual

Hosted by the
*Dona Ana County
Historical Society*



March 19, 1994



*Make
Travel
Plans*



at the
Good Samaritan Village,
Las Cruces, New Mexico

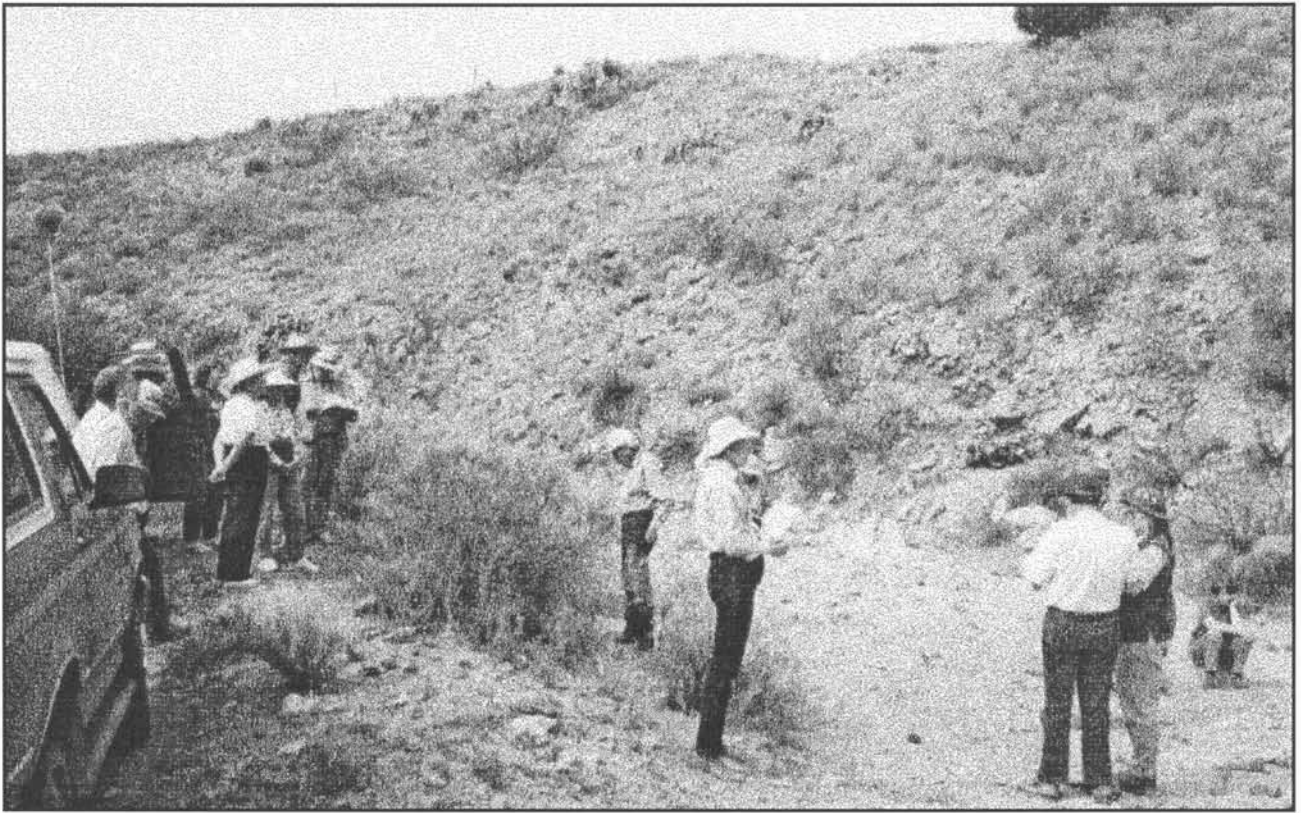
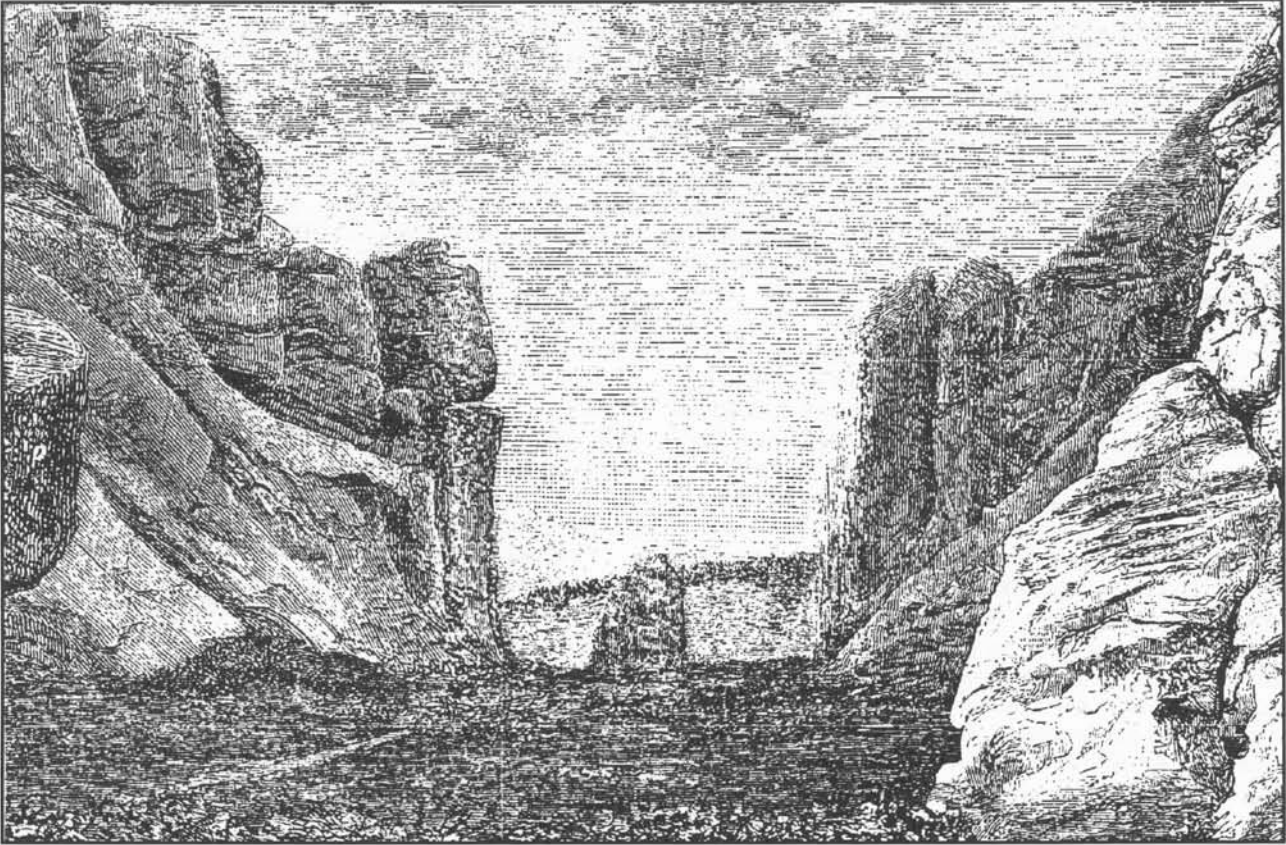
ANOTHER VIEW OF COOKE'S PASS

The following excerpts from the book titled *WITH PACK AND RIFLE IN THE FAR SOUTH-WEST*, by Achilles Daunt, published in 1888. The illustration of Cooke's Pass (at right), along with the description will not match what we saw in our visit there last spring. The author certainly had a vivid imagination. Writing of Cooke as a gold miner, the bones of 400 Indian victims, etc. are additional testimony to his imagination.

Credit goes to Pat Etter for finding this gem of eloquence, plus the photo at right, below, was taken by Paul Etter during our trip through Cooke's Pass.

... From this point we had a choice of routes. We could pass the Sierra de los Mimbres either by Cooke's Cañon or by another depression to the northward, which was reported practicable for mules. Rube said that it was much longer and more difficult than the more direct way through Cooke's Cañon; but he frankly admitted that the latter route was the more dangerous. After some consultation we decided on risking the canon, although we could not hide from ourselves the extreme risk we ran of being jumped by the Apaches while passing through it. I do not know to what it should be attributed, whether to the extraordinary vigour of body imparted by the pure air of these solitudes, or to a recklessness which is produced by the many dangers to which even the most cautious traveller is exposed; but neither of us thought very much of the probable consequences of passing through this ill-omened gorge, which had during a comparatively short period before the date of our visit seen many a terrible encounter between the skulking Apaches and parties of whites. At this very time the bones of four hundred of these victims to savage hate were strewed along the cañon, appealing to the traveller with mute eloquence to make the best of his way to more secure regions. Near the entrance to the cañon is now situated Fort Cummings, a pleasant little stockaded building erected to overawe the savages; but the latter for some time might more truly be said to have overawed the fort, as the soldiers could not venture away from its protection except in strong parties, and even these moved in constant fear of ambuscades. This famous gorge owes its name to an old gold miner who about the year 1848 discovered the possibility of reaching California by this route. He made two trips and explored the cañon, which on his recommendation became the accepted track to the El Dorado of the West. Cooke's ideas of the most direct way to the gold mines must have been rather indefinite. It was soon discovered that

this trail was much longer and ran through more sterile regions than was at all necessary, and it gradually fell into disuse. Those who had availed themselves of it suffered terrible hardships; and for many, alas! it was a road fated to lead to the next world. We were, of course, aware of the terrible interest which hung over this gloomy pass, and as we perceived Cooke's peak towering above the lesser summits of the range our pulses beat quicker, and I at any rate began to think that we might have selected a better route. However, I said nothing, and we shortly drew near the entrance, where the valley narrower as it became enclosed between the wild-looking mountains. We rode in silence, each seeming to feel the weight of a presentiment of danger. An ominous sign was the freshly made trail of Apache ponies, which Rube declared could not have been made many hours. Here and there we perceived bunches of grass tied up in a particular manner, and all pointing in the same direction. These were, no doubt, signals arranged by the savages to convey some intelligence to their passing parties, but of what nature we could not guess. These symptoms of the presence of the Apaches deepened our sense of uneasiness. Our eyes were incessantly searching the outlines of the cliffs, or the brush-covered ledges, in expectation of seeing their skulking forms waiting to ambush us; but they were invisible. Once within the cañon, the sandstone walls towering on either side, we felt as if we had voluntarily placed ourselves in a trap from which there was no retreat. High above rose the tremendous cliffs, limiting the light of day; and in the gloomy pass below, oppressed with a feeling being buried in the bowels of the earth, we struggled onwards over the rugged track, which here and there was encumbered with huge masses of the crags which had fallen from the summits on either side. Some of these were as large as cathedrals, and we had to turn aside from the direct way in order to avoid them. . . .



BE AWARE OF INDIAN RESERVATIONS

by Doyle Reed

If the trail you are following disappears into an Indian Reservation, think twice before you follow.

Fiona and I were working the Butterfield Stage Route in Arizona and we wanted to go to the site of the Maricopa Wells Station which is on the Gila River Indian Reservation south of Phoenix. At the place where the route crosses the public road which goes through the reservation, there is a wide cattle guard in the fence with no signs indicating you are not supposed to go in. The trail inside the fence is well used and has lots of traffic over it. So we joined the crowd.

As we were trying to find the Wells, a car came from the opposite direction with two Indians in it. We asked them where the wells were. They answered by saying the Wells were over by the Buttes and did we know we were on Indian land. I asked if that was illegal and they said people have had their cars confiscated for being in there so you can imagine how long we lingered.

Later I was talking to the manager of the museum in Gila Bend and told him of our experience. He thought that if we went to the Tribal Headquarters in Sacaton, we could get a permit to go in to the Wells. The next day it was off to Sacaton. The first place we went was the police station. We were directed us to the Community Building. I asked the first person I met where I had to go to get a permit and he directed me down the hall to the third door on the left. The young lady there directed to back down the hall, across the building and down a hall to the third door on the left. The young lady there reported that the secretary who had been handling permits was no

longer there and that I would have to see a man over in the Dept. of Land and Water Resources whose offices were over by the Hospital but that he was in a meeting until noon.

That afternoon it was off to the Department of Land and Water Resources where we were informed the guy we needed to see had gone to Tempe and wouldn't be back until 8 the next morning.

The next morning it was back to Sacaton and lo and behold the guy was there at 8. He was a very nice young man and asked how he could help me. When I told him what I wanted, he said it was a somewhat complicated procedure. First I had to put up a \$100 Administration fee which was nonrefundable, then attend a board hearing which cost another \$100. He wasn't clear as to under what circumstances the second \$100 might be refunded. I got the impression it might be refunded if the permit was not granted.

I indicated that was a little expensive for me. He then reiterated that our car and its contents would be confiscated if we were found out there and we would be subject to a possible additional fine. I thanked him for the information and we stayed on the highways while on the reservation.

The whole process sounds very aggravating but it got to the point where it was laughable and you might as well enjoy it. Really, the people we contacted were very courteous and wanted to be helpful.

The lesson is, don't go on Indian lands without checking first. Good trail hunting.

DESERT TRACKS

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

