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DESERT TRACKS



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SOUTHWEST CHAPTER
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ORGANIZATION

JANUARY
1994

Editors-Jack and Ruth Root, 8422 E. Tourmaline Dr., Tucson, Az. (602)760-0903

From the Trailmarm...

Here we are, a whole new editorial staff and mostly new administration, with a new line-up of field trips. Rose Ann has been our editor and I have been the treasurer right from the git-go and we knew we should be replaced. She got lucky.

The focus of our chapter needs to change somewhat. For over six years we have had a good time visiting sites and stomping ruts, but we've done nothing to preserve anything. I feel the time has come for each of us in the chapter to get serious about mapping southwestern trails for preservation.

We're off to a good start. At the Flagstaff meeting we voted to draft a proposal to preserve southwestern trails and to present it to the national board at its mid-year meeting in March. You will receive a copy of the proposal with your "Desert Tracks" when it is finalized.

At our house we made a New Year's resolution to get out into the cactus with the snakes and tarantulas and, using techniques recently learned from Don Buck, begin mapping a trail this year! How about setting a similar goal at your house?

Doyle and Fiona Reed have a fine Butterfield Pass outing planned for February 26-27. Pat Etter made a diligent effort to get us onto the Gila Reservation to visit Maricopa Wells, but, sad to say, it became obvious the visit wasn't worth the cost (\$200) or the bother (appearances before two separate tribal councils). Regardless, this will be a trip well worth your time.

The Reeds will be staying at an RV park, but the rest of us need to make our motel reservations now. See you there.

Sheri Lee, President

KEY DATES - 1994

FEBRUARY 26 Butterfield Trail outing in central Arizona

MARCH 19 Trails Symposium, Las Cruces, New Mexico

APRIL 23 Gila Trail outing east of Safford, Arizona

AUGUST 9 - 13 OCTA Convention, Salt Lake City

NEW TEAM TAKES ON DESERT TRACKS

With this issue, Jack and Ruth Root assume editorial responsibility for your chapter newsletter. We'll do our best to maintain the quality we've come to expect from Rose Ann Tompkins as she takes a well-earned break. We'll continue to depend on you members out there for the lion's share of the material that we publish. So keep it coming and we'll try to deliver "all the news that's fit to print."

One caveat: We do not possess the publishing computer capabilities that Rose Ann has. Consequently, the typographic style of Desert Tracks will necessarily be simpler. We hope the readers will understand and bear with us.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Rose Ann for taking on the newsletter at its inception. She has brought it to a level of excellence that equals any and exceeds most of the OCTA chapter publications in the nation. Hats off to you, Rose Ann, for your dedication and many hours of hard work on behalf of the Southwest Chapter.

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TRIBAL LANDS, ANOTHER VIEW....

Having had all kinds of problems and adventures getting permission from ranchers to seek out overland trails on their private land, I sympathized with Doyle Reed's frustrations while he tried to get permission to visit the site of Maricopa Wells on the Gila River Reservation.

The Pima and Maricopa Indians who are residents in the Gila River Indian Community regard themselves as a sovereign nation. One of the things they can do is regulate traffic in out-of-the-way areas on local roads. These Native Americans are not being capricious. In addition to trying to cope with a great deal of illegal dumping (garbage and worse) in the vast and unpatrolled area, the tribe has also noted that many protected species of cacti are being illegally removed. It is also true that the tribe is also attempting to regulate use of the area by local residents for a number of very good reasons to protect their youth. I understand that "Rangers" have been appointed by the tribe to patrol the reservation.

I have written a formal request to the tribe that we be allowed to visit the Maricopa Wells area and that we would not object to a guide, if necessary. Our request must be approved by the Tribal Council (I do not know when they next meet). Now, all we have to hope for is approval to visit and hope that any fee is reasonable.

Patricia A. Etter

NEXT SWOCTA FIELD TRIP:

Complete details may be found in Doyle Reed's memo to all members dated 11/22/93.

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning February 26 at the county line between Pinal and Maricopa Counties on Maricopa Road, Rt. 238. This location is 10-12 miles west of Maricopa and about 30 miles east of Gila Bend. The road crosses a cattle guard at the county line and there are signs indicating you are going into a new county. We will go through the gate on the north side of the road on the west side of the county line. The access road here is the only place we will need 4 wheel drive so we may have to double up in the 4 x 4 cars. For those staying in Gila Bend, we will meet you at the east end of Pima St. (the main drag) just beyond the overpass at 7:30 a.m. if you wish to follow us.

We normally have a chapter meeting following the tour so participants should plan on spending Saturday night in Gila Bend.

If you are planning to join us, please notify Doyle & Fiona Reed, 326 12th St., Davis, Ca. 95616, (916) 753-2759 so we won't leave anyone at the gate.

The treasurer will collect a fee of \$2 per person to cover expenses of the trip.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OCTA would like to enlist more volunteers to do surveying for the COED program (Census of Overland Emigrant Documents). While we try to have volunteers search for their own documents, it may soon be possible to provide copies of material to be surveyed for those people interested in surveying but who don't want to or can't take time to do research.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please let me hear from you.

Marion Carter

Nov. 1 to May 1 - 4091 Sotol Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88001
(505) 522-1189

May 1 to Nov. 1 - P.O. Box 445, Alto, NM 88312
(505) 336-8378

The SouthWest Chapter of OCTA

Oregon-California Trails Association



presents the 1994

Trails Symposium

8:30 am

Saturday, March 19, 1994

Good Samaritan Village
Social Center Auditorium
3011 La Buena Vida
Las Cruces NM

Presentations:

Jim Byrkit, "The Travels of Pauline Weaver in the American Southwest"

Susan Badger Doyle, "Emigrants and Soldiers on the Northern Plains, 1860's"

Charles Townley, "Records of the Archdioceses of Durango, Mexico from 1612 through the 1860's"

Jack Root "Overland with Kit Carson"

Don Couchman, "A Road of Many Names: Development of the Southern Emigrant Route"

Harland Tompkins, "A Little Road of our Own"

Lynda Hatch, "Sharing The Love of Trails with Children"

Sherri Lee, "Tales of a Frontier Town: Las Vegas NM"

For those remaining in the Las Cruces area on Sunday morning, Don Couchman has agreed to lead a 2 - 3 hr informal field trip to show the location of some of the Rio Grande crossings.

For further information, call
Harland Tompkins, (602) 963-3565
or Jim Carter, (505) 522-1189



Hosted by the

**DONA ANA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

SYMPOSIUM

S.W. Chapter O.C.T.A.
Las Cruces, NM 19 March 1994

Syposium Location:

Good Samaritan Village, Social Center Auditorium, 3011 La Buena Vida, (505) 522-1362. I-25, Exit 1, thence East on University, North on Telshor to Buena Vida, East to Social Center. Parking in lot East of Social Center. Good Sam is $\frac{1}{2}$ block NE of Memorial Medical Center.

Partial List, Hotels & Motels:

Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn, 901 Avenida De Mesilla, (505) 524-8591; (800) 528-1234.

Hampton Inn, 755 Avenida De Mesilla, (505) 526-8311; (800) 426-7866.

La Quinta Inn, 790 Avenida De Mesilla, (505) 524-0331; (800) 531-5900.

Above motels reached from I-10, Exit 140; or from I-25, Exit 3, thence from I-25, West on Lohman to Valley Drive, and South on Valley to Avenida De Mesilla.

Holiday Inn, 201 E. University Avenue, (505) 526-4411; (800) 465-4329.

Days Inn, 2600 S. Valley Drive, (505) 526-4441; (800) 325-2525.

Super 8, 245 La Posada Lane, (505) 523-8695; (800) 800-8000.

Motel 6, 235 La Posada Lane, (505) 525-1010; No 800 number.

Best Western Mission Inn, 1765 S. Main Street, (505) 524-8591; (800) 528-1234.

Above motels reached from I-10, Exit 142, North on Main then SE on Valley Drive; or from I-25, Exit 1, thence from I-25, West on University to Valley Drive, and North on Valley to La Posada and Main Streets.

Hilton Inn, 705 Telshor Blvd., (505) 522-4300; (800) 445-8667.

The Hilton is reached from I-10, Exit 145 to I-25 North; Exit 3 off I-25, thence East on Lohman to Telshor and South to the Hilton. From I-25, Exit 3 to Lohman, thence as above.

RV Parks:

K.O.A., Exit 135 off I-10 onto Highway U.S. 70 East. Camp-ground is 2 miles West of Rio Grande on US 70. (505) 526-9030.

Siesta RV Park, 1551 Avenida De Mesilla, (505) 523-6816. From I-10, Exit 140, South on Avenida De Mesilla.

Dalmonts RV Trailer Corral, 2224 S. Valley, (505) 523-2992. From I-10, Exit 142, North on Main to Valley, Thence NW to Park.

"Must say something of the Rio Gila, and the magnificent mountains of gold and silver that skirt its fertile valley! It is beyond doubt that there are portions of its valley unsurpassed by any in the world for its fertility, but at the same time it is also equal to any in its barrenness of all vegetable productions. Corn is raised in considerable quantity immediately along its banks, but not in abundance...."

The Journal of Cave Johnson Coutts
Nov. 9, 1848

"As an evidence of the honesty of the Pima and Maricopa Indians, it may be mentioned that General Kearny left some bales of goods and a number of broken down mules with the former to be called for by Colonel Cooke on his arrival, and they were promptly delivered up. Other mules that General Kearny had been forced to leave to their fate, when given out after passing the Maricopa village, were found and cared for by the Indians, and promptly and voluntarily delivered to us on our arrival there."

Sgt. Daniel Tyler
Dec. 24, 1846

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