

DESERT TRACKS



Volume 9
Number 1

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

March
1996

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Mapping Week set for early April

A week of mapping on the Southern Trail in New Mexico has been planned for Saturday, April 6 through Friday, April 12. This period of mapping will concentrate on the trail between the Rio Grande near Garfield and Cooke's Spring.

We will again be camping, perhaps in more than one location. However, we will start the week at Perche Dam State Park. The park is located 21 miles south of Truth or Consequences on I-25. We have again tried to select a small park, feeling it will be more secluded. It is listed as having 50 sites, 6 with electricity. It is at 4,100 feet elevation, "set in the deep shade of towering cottonwoods" along the Rio Grande. There are flush toilets and showers. The fee is \$7 per night. You will be responsible for your own camping setup and meals.

If you read the report in the last newsletter,

you will know what to expect. At this time we have three vehicles and five people who are already planning to be present. Some of us will be arriving on Wednesday evening, the 3rd, and doing some preliminary research work. We will again use a variety of historical maps, diary accounts, two GPS units and 5 portable CB units in the field work. We will also use OCTA's MET (Mapping Emigrant Trails) manual as our guide.

If you would like to participate in all or part of this activity, please contact me for more details. I need to know who will be present in order to coordinate our activities for the best results.

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Consider a Weekend of Camping April 6-7

Can't get away for a whole week of mapping, but would like to learn what goes on and how its done by the experts? Rose Ann, Don Buck and Richard Greene will be pleased to host you on the weekend and take you out to see mapping-in-progress.

Who knows...you might even enjoy it! All they ask is that you let Rose Ann know you will be there so they look/wait for you and don't take off into the swales and leave you behind. Or worse yet, change campgrounds and abandon you.

SWOCTA Regional Open House

by Rose Ann Tompkins

In an effort to reach OCTA members living in our area who were not chapter members, an Open House was held on Saturday, February 3. Invitations were sent to all OCTA members living in or close to the Phoenix area. The Open House was held at the home of Harland and Rose Ann Tompkins. Turnout was light, but those who came seemed to have a good time visiting and looking at the displays.

Three tables of information were made available. One consisted of brochures about OCTA, the SWOCTA chapter and COED, as well as our three photo albums and four symposia proceedings. Another held the items available from the OCTA catalog we happened to have, along with order blanks. The reasoning for this was when members don't attend conventions, they do not have a chance to browse the books. Finally, there was a display of maps and mapping information being used in the

chapter's project of mapping the Southern Trail. All displays were popular.

Light refreshments were served and we had a short slide program showing some of the trail outings we have had over the years. No one seemed eager to leave, therefore we called it a success.

SWOCTA members who attended, besides the host and hostess, were Reba Grandrud, Pat and Paul Etter and Ken and Dorothy Tompkins. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Dean Mathews and Mr. and Mrs. DeVault. We are pleased to report the Mathews decided to join our chapter.

We felt this was a worthwhile activity for a chapter like ours where the membership is so widely scattered and it is often necessary to travel long distances to attend a meeting. There are tentative plans to have similar activities in the Tucson and Albuquerque areas.

Welcome to our New Members!

Our recruiting drive to date has resulted in nine new memberships. Welcome! Our ultimate goal is to get more members to come to our activities. I know if you would attend, you would enjoy the places we visit and things we do.

Our newest members are:

Jim Bartholomew of Albuquerque, NM
Earl & Connie Casteel of Alamosa, CO,
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Mathews of Rio Verde, AZ,
Joe Nimmo of Ponca City, OK,
Don & Signe Parrish of Yacaipa, CA,
Walter & Teresa Pickett of Los Alamos, NM

Dan & Rosemary Rice of Phoenix, AZ,
Ray & LaVerne Sayre of Tucson, AZ,
and Marc Simmons of Cerrillos, NM.

I am happy to have new members from New Mexico. I hope you will attend our Annual Planning Meeting to be scheduled for this summer at our home in Angel Fire, New Mexico. As soon as we can select a definite date a special mailing will go out to all the SWOCTA members. Meanwhile, if any SWOCTA or OCTA members are passing through Angel Fire- please stop by. Call me at 505-377-6342.

Richard Greene, Membership Chairman

...DEPTH LOOK AT THE ORIGINS OF ETHNIC DIVERSITY IN NEW MEXICO

MORNING SESSION

- 8:00 Final registration and coffee
- 9:00 Announcements and welcome
- 9:15 Keynote address
1846 - With Apologies to Gore Vidal
Dr. Thomas E. Chavez
- 10:00 *Mexico and the U.S. - Mexico War*
Dr. Oscar J. Martinez
- 10:45 BREAK
- 11:00 *Governor Manuel Armijo's Campaigns on the Napestic*
Dr. Ward Alan Minge

AFTERNOON SESSION

- 2:00 *Johnny Gringo from Missouri: The Doniphan Expedition in New Mexico*
Dr. John Porter Bloom
- 3:00 *The Mormons in New Mexico in 1846 and the Mormon Battalion*
Dr. Frank Ross Peterson
- 3:45 BREAK
- 4:00 *The Revolt of 1847*
Robert J. Torrez
- 4:45 *What's It All About*
Summation of Proceedings
Dr. Gustav Seligmann

Social Hour

DINNER
and an informal visit with the participating scholars



This invitation came to us by way of e-mail

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

*Fee by March 1 \$25 x _____ = \$ _____

*After March 1 \$30 x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Dinner (optional) \$20 x _____ = \$ _____

Proceedings of Symposium \$11 x _____ = \$ _____

(postage included)

TOTAL \$ _____

MAKE PAYMENT TO: Doña Ana County Historical Society (or DACHS)

500 North Water Street
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
(505) 522-1194

*INCLUDES LUNCH AND MUSIC OF 1846

PARTICIPATING SCHOLARS:

Thomas E. Chavez
Director of the Palace of the Governors
Museum in Santa Fe. A Fulbright Research
Fellow.

Oscar J. Martinez
Professor of History, University of Arizona
Visiting Professor of History, Yale University

Ward Alan Minge
Historian, Author

John Porter Bloom
Author, Editor, Archivist

Frank Ross Peterson
Professor of History, Utah State University
Fulbright Lecturer, Victoria University,
New Zealand

Robert J. Torrez
New Mexico State Historian
President, State Historical Society
of New Mexico

Gustav Seligmann
Associate Professor of History
University of North Texas

Leon Metz
Author, Historian

Harvey Wilke - Moderator
Retired Professor of Civil
Engineering, Purdue University

1846

**NEW MEXICO'S
HISTORIC YEAR**

1846-1996

**A SESQUICENTENNIAL
SYMPOSIUM**

Presented By

*The Doña Ana County
Historical Society*

and

*The Academy for Learning in
Retirement*

MARCH 30, 1996

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hilton Hotel
(505) 522-4300
Las Cruces, New Mexico

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

The History Department - New Mexico State University
The Rio Grande Historical Collections
The Branigan Cultural Center
The Las Cruces Convention & Visitors Bureau



**DOÑA ANA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
500 N. WATER ST.
LAS CRUCES, NM 88001

Trails Workshop held in Socorro, NM

by Rose Ann Tompkins

Charles Townley of Las Cruces, New Mexico, organized the trail workshop, held Saturday, February 24 in the Socorro, New Mexico area. The purpose was to develop political and community support for the southwestern trails.

SWOCTA members in attendance were Marion and Jim Carter, Pat and Paul Etter, Reba Grandrud, Marie and Richard Greene, Sheri and Bob Lee, Ruth and Jack Root, Rose Ann and Harland Tompkins and Charles Townley. We were pleased to welcome for the first time at a meeting, members Connie and Earl Casteel from Alamosa, Colorado and Signe and Don Parrish from Yucaipa, California.

The day began with a tour of the ruins of Fort Craig, led by Brenda Wilkinson of the BLM. This huge fort, established in 1854, after the heaviest emigrant use, was located on the travel route along the west side of the Rio Grande. It was abandoned permanently in 1885, after serving as a Union fort during the Civil War and as a control during times of Indian raids. Good ruins remain; some partially restored and some require a good imagination to discern.

Following lunch at the famous Owl Bar in San Antonio, the group met in a facility located at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge for the afternoon workshop. Short presentations were given by John Conoboy, Long Distance Trails Group, Santa Fe office, National Parks Service; Reba Grandrud from the Arizona Historic Preservation Office (and a SWOCTA member); and Mike Taylor of the New Mexico Preservation Division. Taylor's presentation included slides of trail remnants of El Camino Real along the Rio Grande River.

Representatives of the three trail groups present each took some time to share information about their organizations. They were: Nancy Robinson of Raton, New Mexico representing the Santa Fe Trail Association; Ron Kessler of Monte Vista, Colorado for the Old Spanish Trail Association and Rose Ann Tompkins for OCTA. The group then broke into smaller groups to discuss various phases of how to get our message out and gain political and community support. Charles will take all our results and compile a report for us. It was certainly worthwhile having the trail groups talking together, since we share a common purpose.

At 5 pm the meeting broke up to allow those interested to go into the bird refuge to watch thousands of Snow geese, hundreds of Sand Hill cranes and two Whooping cranes fly in from specially planted standing cornfields rented from nearby ranchers, for their night in the Refuge. These birds had spent the winter at Bosque del Apache and would be leaving a few days later for their summer grounds in Idaho.

The day ended with dinner at the Val Verde Hotel in Socorro, where we all sat together in a back room at a long table, visiting with old and new friends. Several expressed an interest in having this kind of joint meeting periodically. Our appreciation to Charles Townley for organizing the day and we must say that he really knows how to pick excellent restaurants!

In a very short business meeting while waiting for the entree, new SWOCTA officers were elected for a two year term. (See the report from the new president elsewhere in this issue.)

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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From the Adobe Hacienda of the new Trail Marm...

Thank you for my recent election as president of SWOCTA. It will be my pleasure to work with all of you over the next two years to make our organization even more productive in the important Trails work that we do. We take this opportunity to thank the outgoing officers who have all done an outstanding job over the past two years: Sheri Lee-President; Jim Carter-Vice president; Pat Etter-Secretary, Harland Tompkins-Treasurer; and Jack and Ruth Root-Publishers of *Desert Tracks*.

We welcome back Harland Tompkins who is continuing as Treasurer, Ruth Root as the new Secretary, and Sheri Lee for taking

on the job of publishing *Desert Tracks*. Our new officers also include Rose Ann Tompkins as Vice president. We appreciate these dedicated individuals who are willing to contribute their time and experience to these positions. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the weekend outing that will be combined with the next mapping outing in April. At least one of the mappers will take the rest of us on a tour of the elusive and interesting sites found during the Fall mapping week. Thank you for your support and let me hear from you.

Marie Greene, President