

DESERT TRACKS



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SOUTHWEST CHAPTER
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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Pat Etter and Ruth Root admire Marie Greene's handknit sweater during a break at the SW Chapter Symposium in Las Cruces, March 19th.

Photo by Rose Ann Tompkins

From the Trailmarm...

Our symposium in Las Cruces last month was informative, enjoyable and well attended. Thanks to Jim & Marion Carter and Harlie Tompkins for a well planned weekend! Next the Lees of Safford have planned an outing on the Kearney Route April 23-24.

Planning is essential to having an informative and productive outing and our planners have done really well. And now I plan to write about the next two planning meetings: July 16-17, 1994 at Strawberry, AZ and July 15-16, 1995 at Portal, AZ. Make sure these dates are marked on your calendars; you don't want to miss these fun meetings.

At Strawberry we will have the use of two cabins which means there will be six bedrooms and three baths! This is terrific for those who don't care to "rough it" by sleeping on the deck in a sleeping bag.

Paul Etter contacted an "inn" at Portal where we need to make reservations a year in advance. The membership voted at the symposium to reserve six rooms at once then have the members RSVP to Paul (602-964-3967) right away. When he has those six rooms spoken for he will direct additional callers to make their own reservations right away. He'll have the phone number and tell them how to arrange to get the "group rate". Contact Paul before this June 1st!!! There is also good camping nearby for tents and RVs. This area is so busy because it has the best birdwatching in America-no kidding!

As you are considering an outing for the group, think about what trails are in the area that NEED TO BE MAPPED. We have a lot of mapping to do in the Southwest and we have only just begun... 'can't preserve 'em if we don't map 'em!

Plan ahead for the next Planning Meeting!

Sheri Lee, President

Fourth Sometimes Annual Symposium a Winner

Saturday, March 19 dawned bright and beautiful in Las Cruces, NM for our symposium. Forty-plus attendees from at least four states and Canada, heard a good mixture of presentations. From the serious to the sublime, our 4th sometimes annual trails symposium talks held the audience throughout the day.

Local arrangements chairman, Jim Carter, worked with the Dona Ana County Historical Society to find the well appointed auditorium at the Good Samaritan Village. Program Chairman, Harland Tompkins, put together nine speakers for the event. Seven of the nine speakers were chapter members.

The morning started off with Don Couchman of Las Cruces speaking on "A Road of Many Names: Development of the Southern Emigrant Route." He has done extensive research on the trails history of southeastern New Mexico, especially the Cooke's Spring area. He traced how the area developed in history as numerous groups passed through.

Lynda Hatch of Flagstaff, AZ gave us a unique talk on "Sharing the Love of Trails with Children." As an educator, she was able to give us many ideas about how to interest children in the trails. Using a variety of examples she had with her, we could see how the trail could come alive for school children.

With a fascinating talk titled "Records of the Archdioceses of Durango, Mexico from 1612 through the 1860s," Charles Townley of Las Cruces told of a recent project to microfilm the Spanish records of a time period that often includes items impacting U.S. history. The logistics of the work as well as the results that are beginning to come to light were covered.

Gordon Owen of Las Cruces shared his knowledge in his talk, "The Meaning of the New Mexico Mystery Stone." This large, inscribed rock has been the subject of research and interpretation, and he gave us the theory of it being one of a number of such evidences of early visitors to the Americas.

After lunch, Harland Tompkins, Chandler, AZ, led off the afternoon presentations with "A Little Road of our Own;" the result of continuing personal research. This original wagon road, used in and out of the Strawberry, AZ, has been traced using oral tradition, early maps, a GPS, and ground and air search over several years to pinpoint its location.

Jack Root, of Tucson, AZ, also related results of some original research in his talk, "Search for Tres Alamos." This area on the San Pedro River north of Benson, AZ was the location of a burial that a present day relative was trying to find. Again through various types of sleuthing, Jack thinks he has found the burial site.

"Emigrants and Soldiers on the Northern Plains, 1860s" was the topic of Susan Badger Doyle of Albu-

querque, NM. The interaction of the emigrants and soldiers on the Bozeman Trail and that impact on the native population is of continuing interest to Susan. Her tracing of that interaction held all trail buffs' interest.

Sheri Lee of Tucson shared her interest in a book in "Tales of a Frontier Town: Las Vegas, NM." This collection of writings will keep anyone interested in the development of this western town on the Santa Fe Trail.

Ending the day, Jim Byrkit of Flagstaff spoke on "The Travels of Pauline Weaver in the American Southwest." Weaver spent many years in the southwest as it was gradually settled by anglos. Jim gave us results of his research on this man, disproving many earlier stories about Weaver. Following his talk, he offered for sale his recent booklet about his research and donated the days' proceeds to the chapter.

The 22 chapter members and one guest met later for dinner at the La Posta restaurant in old Mesilla. Mexican food at its best is offered at this former stage stop location. A short business meeting followed.

On Sunday morning, nine cars formed a caravan led by Don Couchman. We spent the morning viewing various historical Rio Grande River crossings used in the 1800s. We traveled from a location south of Las Cruces north as far as Hatch before heading for home. This viewing of crossing locations helped put a variety of readings into perspective. Don has been invaluable to us on several occasions as he has led our group to the early sites on the trails of southeast New Mexico.

As in the past with our symposia, a "Proceedings" of the event will be published for those presentations that lend themselves to print. When it is available, you will be informed.

Rose Ann Tompkins



Host Jim Carter and Moderator

2 Harland Tompkins open the Symposium

Photo by Rose Ann Tompkins

SOUTHWEST OCTA OUTING APRIL 23-24 AT SAFFORD, AZ.

CONTACTS: Bob and Betty Lee
3780 W. Golf Course Rd.
Thatcher, AZ 85552
Ph. 1-602-4281196
(Thatcher is 3mi W. of Safford)

We plan to explore the rugged Gila River access route of Kearny's Army of the West as it approached Bonita Creek campsite 20mi E. of Safford in 1846. Kit Carson was the guide. Supply wagons had been abandoned back on the Rio Grande in favor of pack mules, although two howitzers were pulled through. The exact route has never been charted, but starting from the known point of the Bonita Creek campsite of 10/26-27, can OCTA mappers scout it out?

Friday, April 22--Early birds collect at Open House at Lees from 6-8pm.

Saturday, April 23--Meet at Chamber of Commerce parking area on Hwy 70 at 8:30am with full tanks, lunches, water, weather-appropriate gear, etc. Pick-ups or 4WD required for last 5mi to river. Cars OK for first 15mi. Some doubling up probable. CB radio highly recommended. We will return 4-5pm. Dinner and meeting will be at the historic La Paloma Restaurant in Solomon, 8mi E. of Safford at 6:30pm.

Sunday, April 24--Leave C of C parking area at 9am for Mt. Graham. Access to telescope site itself doubtful, as parking, ins., responsibility, etc. for tours not yet worked out. Plan on 2hrs each way from Safford. Picnic Lunch?

References: The most available are Lt. Emory Reports, a reprint of Notes of a Military Reconnaissance by W.H. Emory, and the Journal of Capt. A.R. Johnston included in the same 1848 Ex Doc. No. 41, Thirtieth Congressional Report. Best USGS quad map for trip is Gila Box 7.5min topo. (The Lees have several BLM Gila Box Draft Environmental Studies maps that are very adequate; you may have one free if you do not get the USGS map)

CAUTIONARY NOTE: Be aware in reading Emory and Johnston that by some unknown quirk, the names of creeks have been confused. Today, our maps show their Prieto as the San Francisco, their Azul as Eagle Creek, their San Carlos as Bonita Creek, and their San Francisco as the San Carlos!!! (Whoever twisted that around surely frustrated a lot of researchers).

To find the Lees, ask at your motel how to get to the golf course or Daley Estates. We are the first townhouse next to the store just as you enter the housing area on Golf Course Road, at 3780.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE LET BETTY AND BOB
KNOW IN ADVANCE IF YOU
PLAN TO ATTEND.

Area Motel Accomodations

Prices subject to change without notice - Prices do not include tax

BEST WESTERN DESERT INN OF SAFFORD 70 Units Owner: Duke Kim
1391 W. Thatcher Blvd., Safford, AZ. 85546 428-0521
Rates: 1 or 2 people - Queen \$57.00 1 or 2 People 2 Dbl. \$62.00
1 or 2 people - King \$57.00
Extra Person \$4.00

Corporate Rates Available - Pool - Restaurant - Lounge - Phones
Remote Color TV - Refrigerated Rooms - Courtesy Car Airport - Non Smoking Rooms Available
Refrig. & Coffee Makers in each Room.

COMFORT INN OF SAFFORD 44 Units Mgr. Robyn Knight
1578 Thatcher Blvd, Safford, AZ. 85546 428-5851
Rates: 1 person - 1 bed \$41.00 2 People -2 Beds \$49.00
2 people - 1 bed \$44.00 Extra Person \$5.00 Rollaway \$5.00
Cribs \$3.00

Commercial Rate, Government & Group Rates Available. 10% Senior Citizen
Discount-Handicapped Equiped Rooms-Heated Pool-Phones-Color TV-Regrigerated-Restaurant
Adjacent-Children Under 18 Free-Non Smoking Rooms Available.

COUNTRY MANOR MOTEL & RESTAURANT Mary Lou Krieg
420 E. Hwy 70, Safford, AZ 85546 1-800-321-6550 or 428-2451
Rates: 1 person- 1 bed \$29-\$38 2 People-2 Beds \$32-\$45
3 People \$38-\$57 4 People \$40-\$65

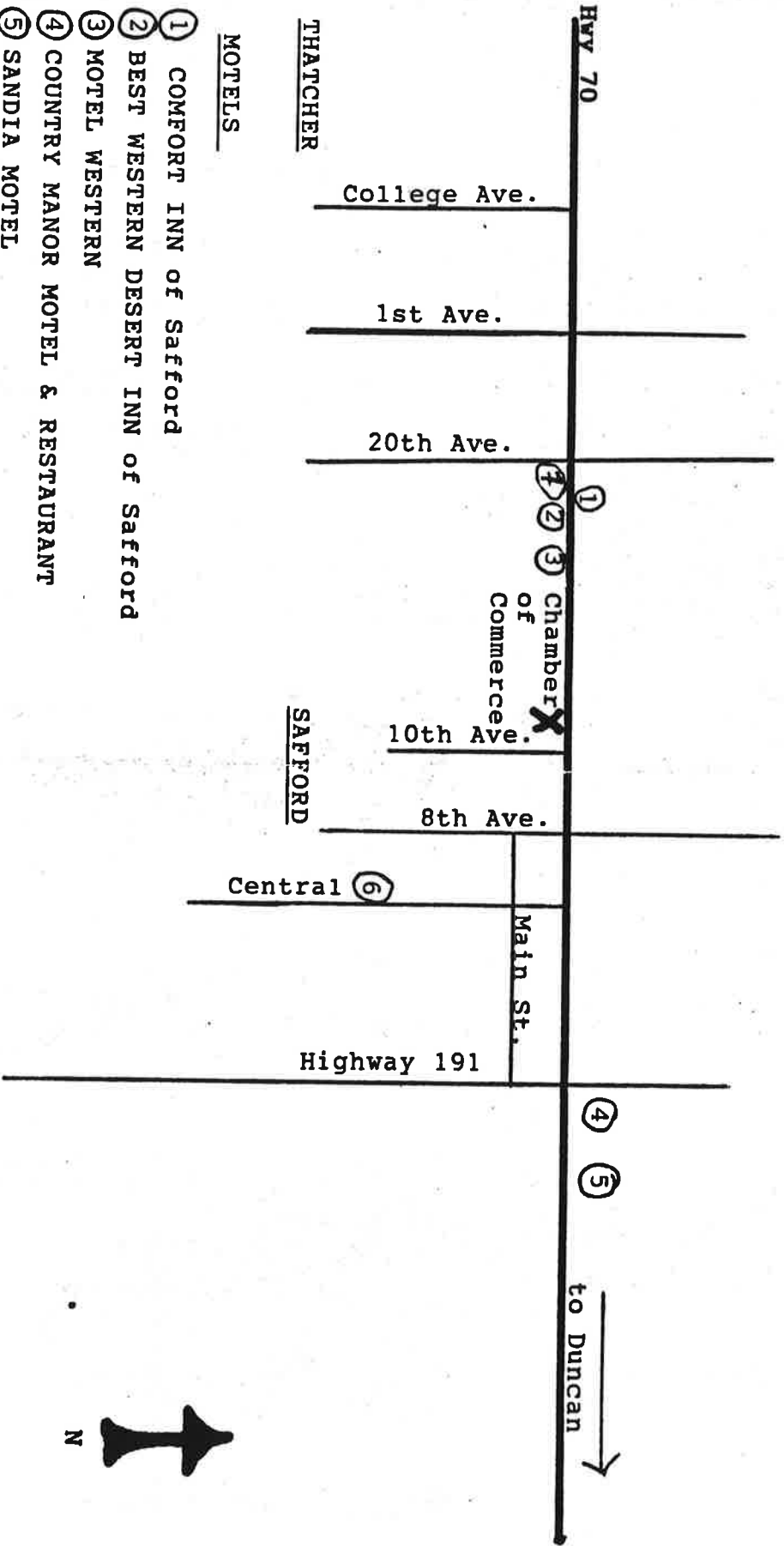
Air Cond. Rooms -In Room Refrigrator Upon Request-Remote Color TV & HBO Cable-Direct Dial
Touch Phones-Pool-Non Smoking Rooms-Restaurant & Lounge Included Comp.
Cocktail-Corporate & Sr. Citizen Disc.-Most pets accepted-Fax-Copier- 1200 Sq.Ft. Suite 2
Bdrm.



Rolling Westward,
ever Westward,
near summit of
Butterfield Pass

Photo by Rose
Ann Tompkins

AREA MOTEL ACCOMODATIONS



MOTELS

- ① COMFORT INN of Safford
- ② BEST WESTERN DESERT INN of Safford
- ③ MOTEL WESTERN
- ④ COUNTRY MANOR MOTEL & RESTAURANT
- ⑤ SANDIA MOTEL
- ⑥ OLNEY HOUSE bed & breakfast
- ⑦ Lexington Pines R.V. park - /535 Thatcher Blvd. 428-8309 Rod. (Close to C.O.T.C.)
- ⑧ Roper Lake State Park (Four miles South of Safford)



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

DESERT TRACKS
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Major William H. Emory of the Corps of Topographical Engineers.
Courtesy Arizona Historical Society.