

January 18, 1997

**Oatman site to Sears Point and Maxwell Point, Arizona
Southern Trail**

1997

This was a day trip led by Boma Johnson. He worked for the BLM out of Yuma and was a trail contact person for us on several occasions. Besides our guide, eleven members and one guest participated in the tour of these two trail sites. These sites offer good views of the trail along the Gila River between Gila Bend and Yuma.



Below: Peter Bennett, Boma Johnson, Charles Townley and Richard Greene at the memorial marker for the Oatman family at Oatman Flat. The actual burial site is unknown.



Above: Detail from trail seen in far left photo. Grooves and rust give evidence that iron wheeled wagons moved over these rocks.

Above: Richard Greene examines the trail leading from Oatman Flat up to the mesa where the Oatman massacre took place





Above: Ruins of a homesteader's cabin in the Gila River Valley near Sears Point. Every time the river floods, more of the cabin disappears.

Above, right: Boma Johnson, in brown pants, tells the group information about the trail that went just south of Sears Point and Maxwell Point. This route was used when it was too wet to use the trail in the river valley itself.

Below, right: Two of the many emigrant inscriptions found at Sears Point and Maxwell Point.



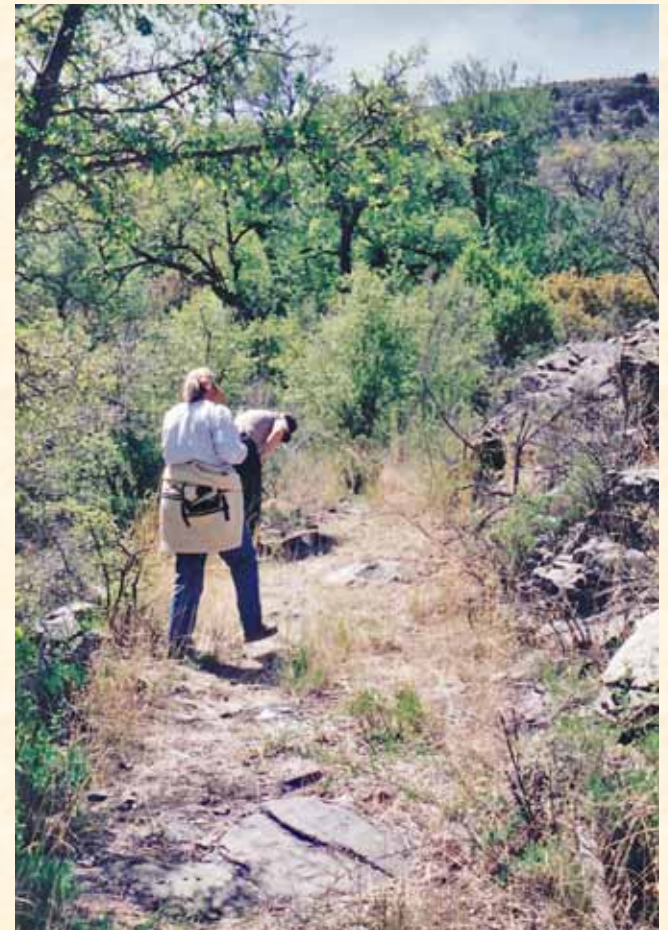
April 20-24, 1997
Fourth Mapping Week
Apache Pass Alternate, Arizona

Larry Ludwig, NPS Ranger at Ft. Bowie National Historic Site, invited us to trail map through the site. This began a good relationship with him as he shared his knowledge of the area and led us to several starting places to look for the trail. Seven chapter members and one guest participated in this mapping. A few emigrants used this route in 1849, then it became a main route as it was shorter than the route through Guadalupe Canyon. The Butterfield Stage Line later went through here and this route was also used by the military. This was our first work along this alternate to the main Southern Trail, but it was not the last.



Left: Larry Ludwig, ranger at Fort Bowie, at the historic cemetery on the grounds; pictured with Marie & Richard Greene and Tracy DeVault.

Right: Mapping the trail in Siphon Canyon as it heads for Apache Pass.



Fort Bowie
ruins



Upper left: Looking northeast down Siphon Canyon. The trail used this corridor to access the important Apache Spring and then the pass. Finding water was always an issue in this rugged country.

Lower left: This rock in Siphon Canyon shows the heavy rust from the iron wagon wheels passing over it.

Below: A discouraged bunch on the last morning. The wind had gotten so bad, with no letup forecast, the trip was shorten.



July 19-20, 1997
Tenth Planning Meeting
Strawberry, Arizona

The group returned to Strawberry for this planning meeting. Several attendees had ideas for future trips. During the evening, a slide show was presented on the mapping trips to date. The next day some some went to the nearby site of the Battle of Big Dry Wash.





A morning excursion included an overlook at the top of the Mogollon Rim, and a visit to the site of the 1882 Battle of Big Dry Wash where the US Army fought with Apaches.



August, 1997
OCTA convention
Elko, Nevada

Various photos of chapter members at the convention



Newlyweds Susan Doyle and Roger Blair.



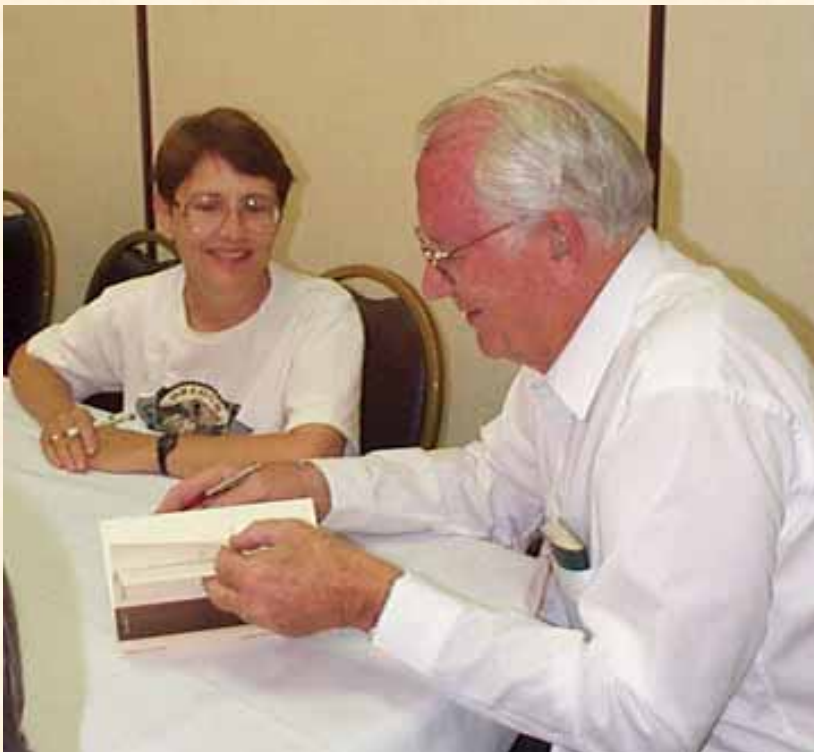
Bob Lee, Rose Ann Tompkins, Bea Kabler and Ruth Root at the chapter meeting.



Rose Ann Tompkins and Harland Tompkins (not newlyweds)



Visitors were invited to participate in the tribal dancing.



Susan Doyle and Fred Dykes signed books at Author's Night.



October 31-November 6, 1997
Fifth Mapping Week
Southern Trail, New Mexico

This was the third visit to the area of Hunter Draw as seven participants tied together some parts of the trail. An alternate trail out of Hunter Draw was mapped. Most of the trail to Foster's Hole was completed, and some trail west of Foster's Hole was covered. The days were pleasant, though the nights were long and chilly in the vehicles. A number of artifacts were noted along the way, good evidence of the trail.



Dave Hollecker, Neal Johns and Marie Greene investigate this swale on an alternate trail out of Hunter Draw



Broken parts to a wagon wheel were found on the alternate trail out of Hunter Draw.



Looking for the trail on a mesa between drainages.



Left: The group arrives at their dry camp in a wash. Though temping fate of a flash flood, it offered a level place to camp. The trail was probably in the wash at this point.

Below: Foster's Hole, named by Col. Phillip St. George Cooke in 1846, was an important water source. This view of Jug Canyon is from the rocks above Foster's Hole, looking downstream.



Above: Don Buck, Richard Greene, Dave Hollecker and Neal Johns do a bit of roadwork to give the vehicles a more stable way through this rough piece of 4WD road.





Some of the various artifacts found during this week of mapping.

On the last day, the Indian mortar hole was found at the edge of a small wash.