

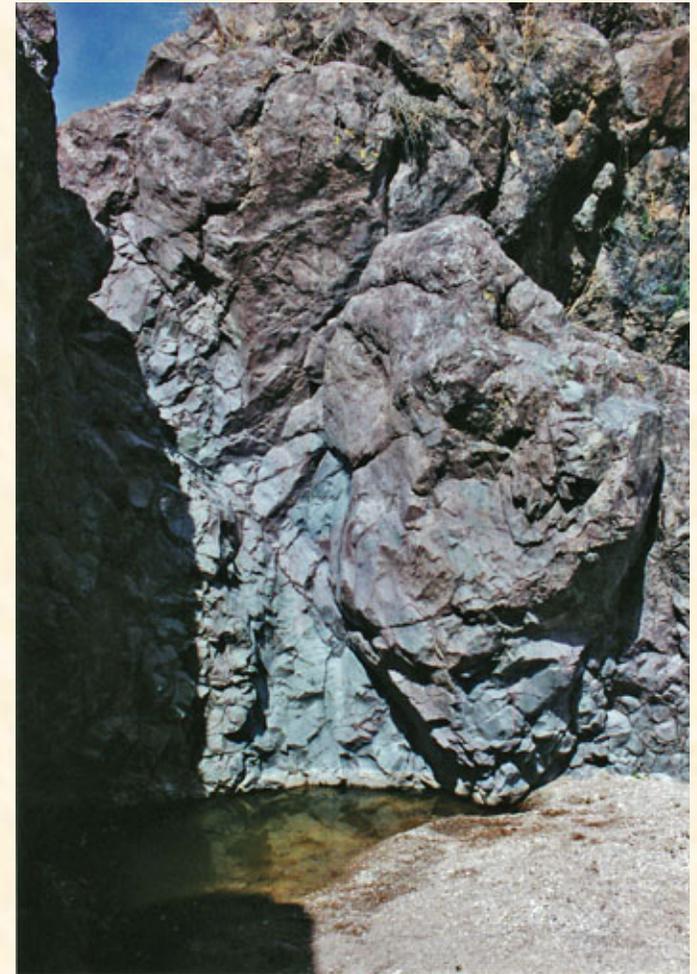
March 20-21, 1993

**Foster's Hole to Playas Lake, New Mexico
Southern Trail**

1993

Trip led by Pat and Paul Etter with guide Don Couchman. Eighteen chapter members from three states met in Deming, NM to head for Jug Canyon and Foster's Hole. In 1846, Foster's Hole was named by Phillip St. George Cooke after Dr. George B. Foster, a member of his expedition. A truly remarkable spot, even today, Foster's Hole is a grand landmark on the trail. The group then headed for Fort Cummings and Cooke's Spring. The trip continued by a 4WD through Cooke's Pass. Couchman pointed out various things as we moved through the pass, numerous graves (only one marked with an inscription), petroglyphs, mortar holes, and grooves made by wagon wheels. The next day we traveled through Coyote Hills, using the new technology of a GPS to locate the right ranch road. Coming out of the hills, Playas Lake shown in the sunlight ahead. It was a real weekend of seeing the trail. Prior to this outing, the Roots and the Tompkins traveled to the Coyote Hills and Playas Lake region to scout out the area.

First stop, Foster's Hole. Here the group listens to Don Couchman explain the history of this site. Water here can vary due to rains and how much sand and gravel has washed into the holding basin before being scoured out by a big rain. Wagon trains could camp in flat areas nearby and bring animals here for water.





Rose Ann Tompkins photographs Foster's Hole from a rock perch. This may have been the same rock where Phillip St. George Cooke sat to oversee the watering of stock when the expedition camped here.

Leaving Foster's Hole, the trail was just to the north, or right, of Round Mountain, see here at the left of the photo. The trail heads generally towards Cooke's Peak, seen here in the distance.





Jack Root examines a marker for the trail crossing on Highway 87. This marker is actually about one mile north of the actual crossing.



Don Couchman, a historian from Las Cruces, NM, talks to the group about the trail through Cooke's Canyon.

Near the west end of Cooke's Canyon, these grooves are still to be seen in the bedrock. Many wagons would have gone over this rock to produce the grooves.



Massacre Peak stands near the trail through Cooke's Canyon. It is named for an event that occurred when a group was attacked in the area.



Betty Lee photographing Jim Carter. She is sitting among a group of Indian mortar holes located near the trail at the west end of Cooke's Canyon.



Petroglyphs near the mortar holes.



Vista Tank, probably the site of a place noted by Phillip St. George Cooke as “water for 50 animals.” The trail through this part of Coyote Hills is mostly parallel to the present ranch road.



Looking for trail signs in Coyote Hills.



in Coyote Hills, the trail trace shows here where it has worn down an edge of bedrock



At the south end of Coyote Hills, the sight of Playas Lake comes into view. Although it appears to be a lake with much needed water, it was usually dry.



In January of 1993, the Roots and the Tompkins did a preliminary trip to the Coyote Hills and Playas Lake area. It was possible at that time to drive across Playas Lake. Emigrants often thought they were about to reach water, only to be disappointed when the water turned out to be this dry lake bed. Cattle tracks can be seen across this photo, made when the surface was damp.

July 17-18, 1993
Sixth Planning Meeting
Mt. Lemmon, Arizona

This meeting was a return visit to the mountain cabin of Bob and Sherri Lee. Twelve members came together to plan an ambitious year ahead.



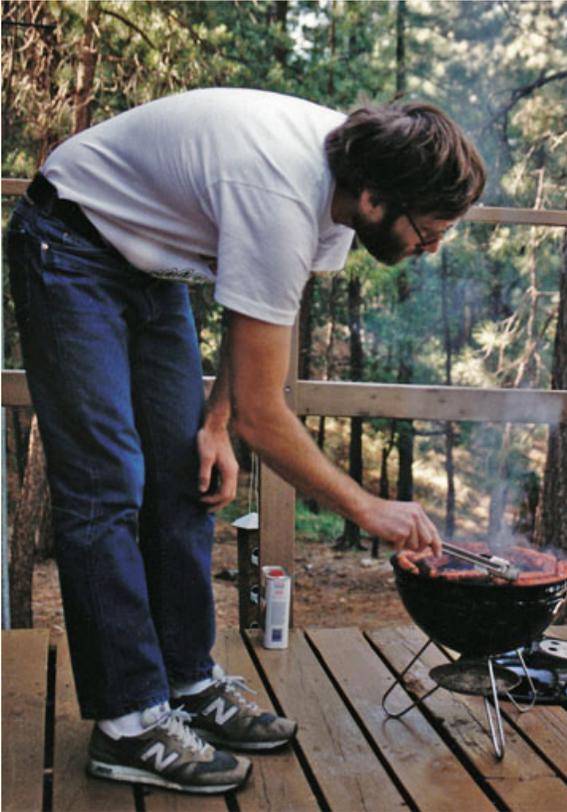
A view of the Mt. Lemmon cabin of Bob and Sherri Lee.



Aubrey Haines and Harland Tompkins engage in important chapter business (or maybe just discuss the weather).

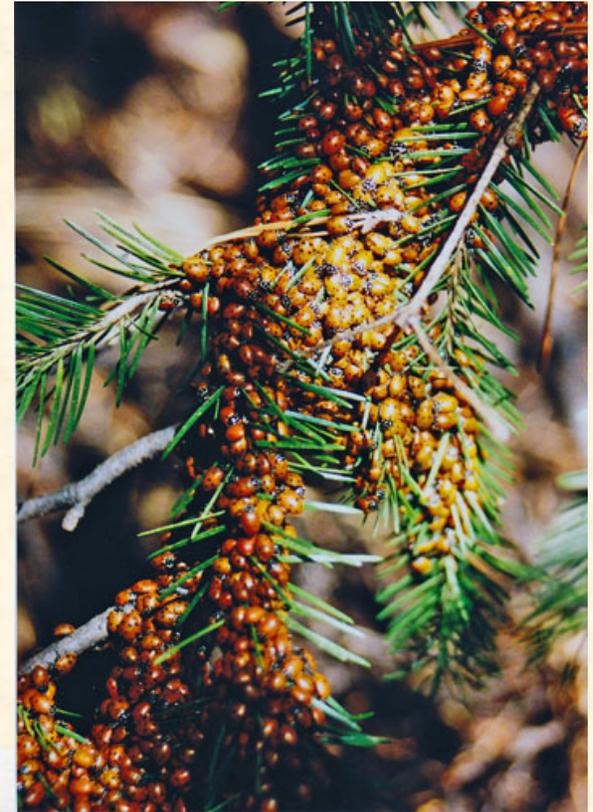


The Roots (center) and Lees (elder) visit while preparing to take a scenic drive of the area.

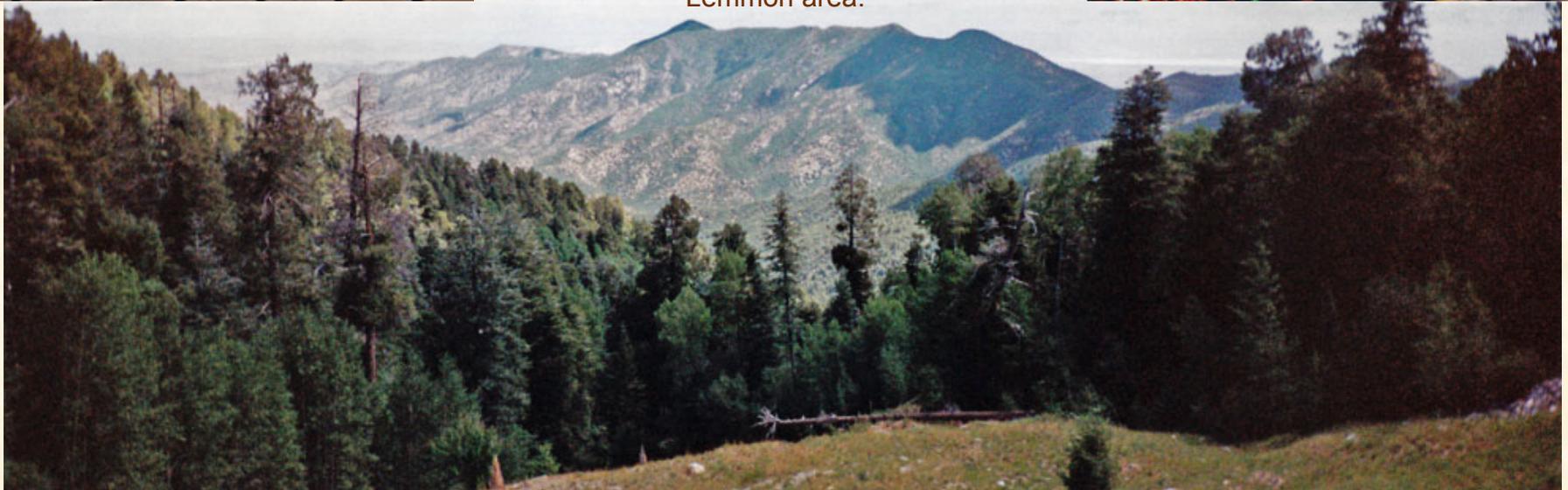


Bob Lee (the younger) grills breakfast sausage.

At the top of Mt. Lemmon, swarms of lady bugs gather each summer, covering trees and foliage.



One of many great views in the Mt. Lemmon area.



August, 1993
OCTA convention
Baker City, Oregon

Various informal photos of chapter members at the OCTA convention.



Don and Vilma Buck enjoy a walk along the trail.

Jack Root walks in a swale.



The Root enjoy all aspects of the convention, from the banquet (below) to sitting with the Carters (above) at the presentations.



Bob and Betty Lee prepare to enjoy the BBQ.



October 30-31, 1993
Mapping Workshop
Flagstaff, Arizona

Don Buck instructed eleven chapter members on how to map trails using the *Mapping Emigrant Trails* (MET) manual. Jim Byrkit provided a classroom at Northern Arizona University for that part of the workshop on Saturday morning. The afternoon was spent applying the knowledge to a portion of the Beale Road northeast of Flagstaff. In the evening the group met for dinner and a business meeting, including election of new officers. Sunday morning was another classroom session to put the mapped trail on the topographic map.



Don Buck, at right, begins his classroom instruction to the group. Here is shown Pat Etter, Doyle Reed and Fiona Reed.

Don leads part of the group into the field to look for the Beale Road.





Paul Etter, Pat Etter and
Jim Byrkit stop for lunch
along the trail

Harland Tompkins stands on the Beale Road
where roadwork was done to facilitate the slope
leading to the crossing of the San Francisco
Wash near Turkey Tanks.





Marie Greene, Richard Greene, Marion Carter (above), Ruth Root, and Jack Root (below) work on their topographic maps after the field work. At right is a graphic showing the trail mapped at the workshop. This shows the results according to the MET manual.



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

