

Febuary 26-27, 1994
Enid to Painted Rocks, Arizona
Southern Trail

1994

Trip led by Doyle and Fiona Reed. The group followed the general route of the emigrants and later the Butterfield Stage and other parties. The early part, before Butterfield Pass (Pima Pass) went over a number of minor drainages, but they proved difficult for those without high clearance vehicles. The Pass area is BLM land and a pristine section of desert with huge saguaro cactus and many other cactus varieties. After a night in Gila Bend, there was a visit to the trail area between the Gila River and Painted Rocks State Park.



It was necessary to fill in some of the small drainages that crossed the road. Bob and Sheri Lee watch as Doyle Reed and Harland Tompkins wield their digging tools.

During the climb to Butterfield Pass, the landscape to the east included desert views (green from winter rains), the Gila River Valley and distant mountains.





As the terrain got higher, the desert became more lush. Here Richard Greene, Ruth Root, and Marie Greene listen to Paul Ette, the chapter flora expert, inform them about some of the cactus.



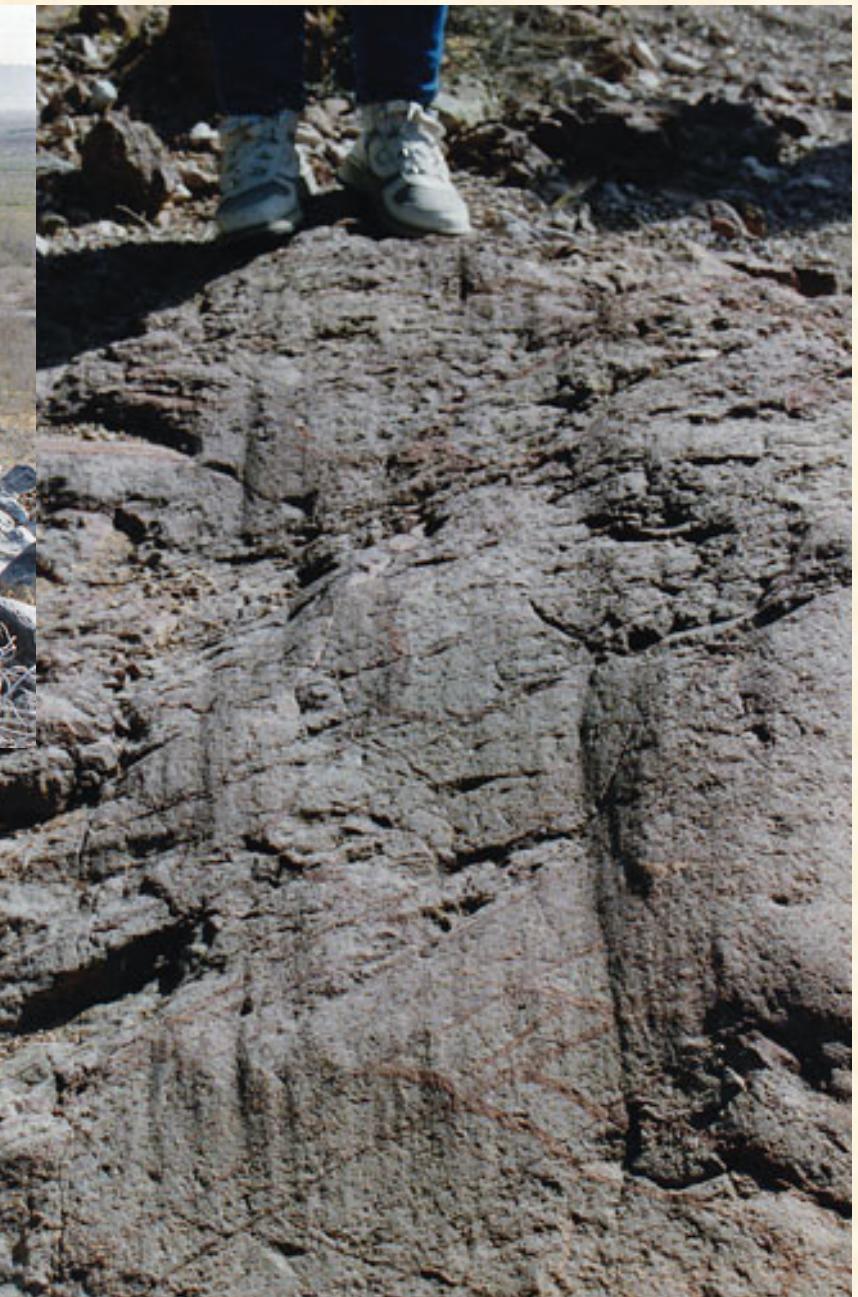
Ruth Root, a chapter member from the founding of the chapter, seldom missed a trail trip.

Near the top of Butterfield Pass, the road was more challenging.





Richard Greene, Bob Lee (the younger) and Harland Tompkins look east to view the Gila River Valley. They are near where the trail climbed out of the valley to head for Painted Rock.



Wagon grooves are plentiful from the area between the climb out of the Gila Valley and Painted Rock

March 19-20, 1994
Fourth Symposium
Las Cruces, New Mexico

The chapter's fourth symposium was held in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Harland Tompkins was program chair, Jim Carter was local arrangements chair. With the help of the Dona Ana County Historical Society, a venue was used at the Good Samaritan Village auditorium. There were nine speakers, seven being chapter members. The next day, local historian Don Couchman led the group to historic Rio Grande crossings from south of Las Cruces to Hatch.



Jim Carter, left, local arrangements chair, and Harland Tompkins, program chair welcome participants to the symposium.

Don Couchman, an invited speaker, titled his presentation "A Road of Many Names: Development of the Southern Emigrant Route"





Sheri Lee's topic was "Tales of a Frontier Town: Las Vegas, N.M."



Jack Root's topic was "Search for Tres Alamos."



Susan Doyle's topic was "Emigrants and Soldiers on the Northern Plains, 1860s."



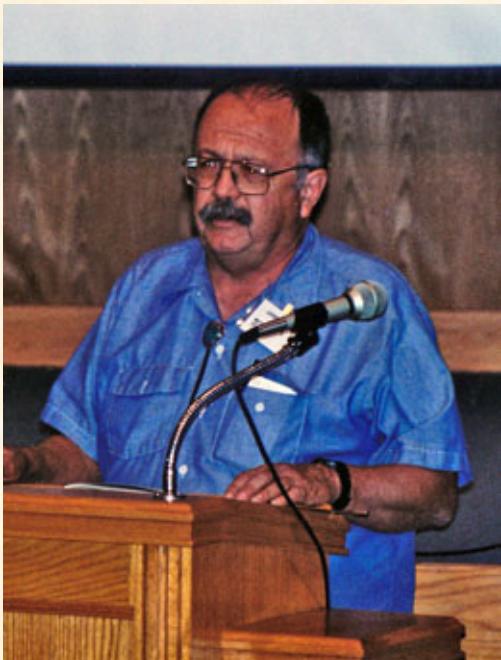
Lynda Hatch's topic was "Sharing the Love of Trails with Children."



Charles Townley's topic was
"Records of the archdioceses of
Durango, Mexico from 1612
through the 1860s."



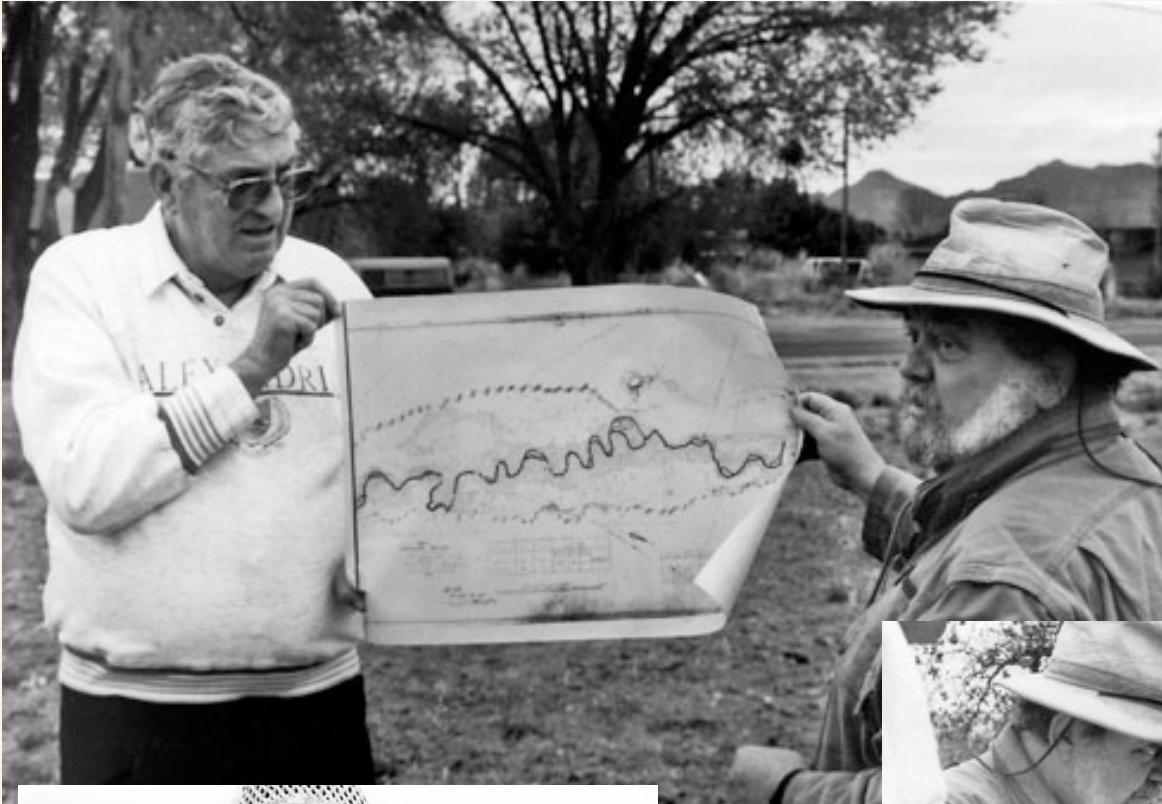
Rose Ann Tompkins
videotaped the Symposium.



Jim Byrkit's topic
was "The Travels
of Pauline Weaver
in the American
Southwest."



Marie Greene made her unique OCTA sweater. Pat Etter
and Ruth Root visit with her during the coffee break.



Paul Etter, on right, assists Don Couchman in displaying a historic map of the Rio Grande.



Betty Lee, Rose Ann Tompkins and Marian Carter follow Don Couchman's overview of the Rio Grande Valley.

Don Couchman points out features on current topographic map to show differences in the path of the Rio Grande today, compared to the mid-1800s.



April 23-24, 1994
Devil's Turnpike
Kearny Pack Trail, Arizona

Trip led by Bob and Betty Lee. A full day for ten chapter members and two BLM guides, it gave the group a good helping of the rugged country covered by Kearny's Army of the West in 1846 and various others, including '49ers. No actual trace of this pack trail was seen, but there was much appreciation for the rough terrain those men called the Devil's Turnpike. The following day, the group was the first one to be led on a tour of the Mt. Graham International Observatory.



These three photos show well the rugged country of the Devil's Turnpike.



Chapter member, Marie Greene



Lunch was enjoyed at this overlook. Bonita Creek enters the Gila River at the green area shown in the photo above. This confluence was the location of the very first chapter outing.





On the way up Mt. Graham to the observatories, the group stopped for a photo.



July 16-17, 1994
Seventh Planning Meeting
Strawberry, Arizona

The chapter planning meeting was held again at the Tompkins' cabin in Strawberry. Plans for the next year were ironed out.



Chapter members relaxed on the Tompkins' deck before and after the formal planning meeting.





Meeting over, time for happy hour and dinner.



**August, 1994
OCTA convention
Salt Lake City, Utah**

Various informal photos of chapter members at the OCTA convention.



SWOCTA gathers for an informal meeting during the convention



Trail signs east of Salt Lake City include this boulder with both massive rust and rock grooves.



Trail signs on the salt flats west of Salt Lake City include these faint wagon tracks seen just to the right of the modern tire tracks.



Both Rose Ann Tompkins and Betty Lee received OCTA's Meritorious Achievement Award at the convention.



September 17-18, 1994

Point of Rocks Ranch, New Mexico

Santa Fe Trail

Trip led by Richard and Marie Greene to the Point of Rocks Ranch. The group met at the Greene's home in Angel Fire, NM the night before heading for the ranch, owned by Pete and Faye Gaines. Point of Rocks is a landmark on the Santa Fe Trail in northeast New Mexico as there was a spring at the location. The Gaines welcomed our group as they do any trail followers, showing us the wide swale across their land. Dinner was steaks from their own beef.



A number of tepee circles attest to native american use of the area at one time.



This headstone of Isaac Allen, 1848, is a replica. The original was broken during an unsuccessful attempt to steal it.



Marie Greene and Faye Gaines visit during dinner.



Ruth Root and Charles Townley enjoy dessert.



Early morning scenes at the ranch.



The point of rocks is clearly visible here. The windmill still pumps water from the original spring.



This marker is located in Las Vegas, New Mexico.



The Santa Fe Trail climbs out of the Pecos River and enters San Miguel.

The Pecos River where the Santa Fe Trail crosses it at San Miguel

November 12-13, 1994
Mapping attempt, New Mexico
Southern Trail

Trip led by Pat Etter with Don Buck as mapping consultant. This was to be the first attempt to map a trail after having the trail workshop. Eighteen trail enthusiasts assembled in Lordsburg, NM. The weather did not cooperate as heavy rains in the area made going off-road almost impossible. Much of the weekend was spent at a motel and restaurant working in groups on the maps of the area. General Land Office maps and USGS topographic maps were compared and the former traced onto the latter for later use. Socializing and eating were main parts of the weekend as well.



Charles Townley, Don Buck, and Don Couchman confer about the trail, using maps and diaries.



Richard Greene taking notes.

The Happy Hour was a good time to learn more about each other.



Marie Greene shared her “spider” with Don Buck.



The local restaurant saw us several times during the weekend

