

**February 3-5, 1995**

**Cook's Canyon to Coyote Hills, New Mexico  
Southern Trail**

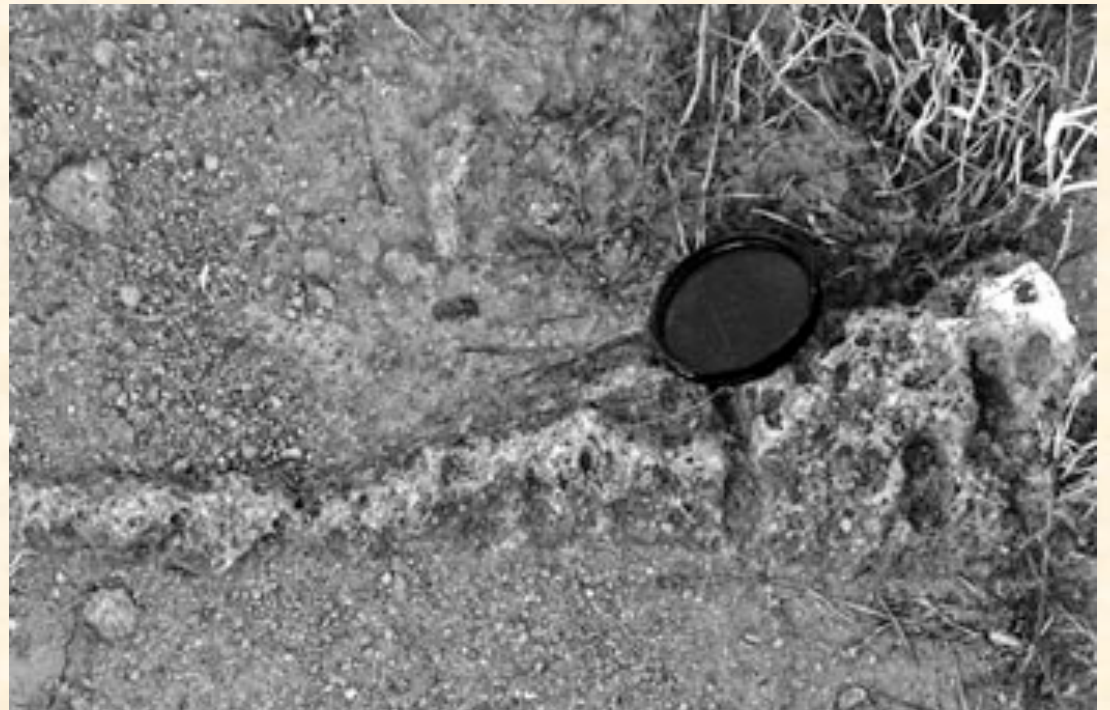
# 1995

This mapping weekend began on a Friday when Don Buck, Pat Etter and Rose Ann Tompkins stopped to map in Coyote Hills on their way to the group meeting in Deming, New Mexico. Over the weekend, the group mapped from the stage station at Ft. Cummings, through Cooke's Canyon to Detention Dam #2. Don Couchman provided guidance in Cooke's Canyon, pointing out various graves. This was the first use of the GPS (Global Positioning System) to find and map trail.



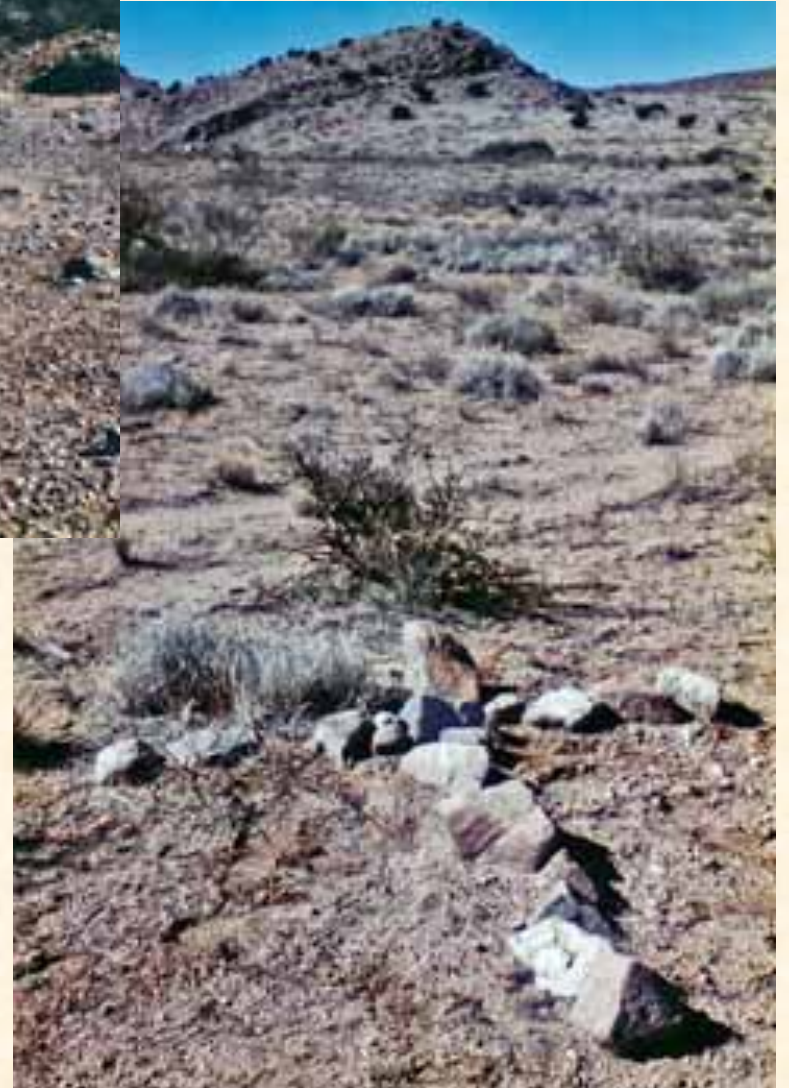
Rose Ann Tompkins stands on a piece of pristine trail at the crossing of a small wash in the Coyote Hills. A visit here in later years found it had been destroyed when a water line was put through.

Evidence of trail use in Coyote Hills. It is in a trace parallel to the present ranch road.





A portion of trail near Cooke's spring.



One of a number of graves in the  
Cooke's Canyon area

Pat Etter takes notes at this grave site. J. Chaffin is the only marked grave in Cooke's Canyon.



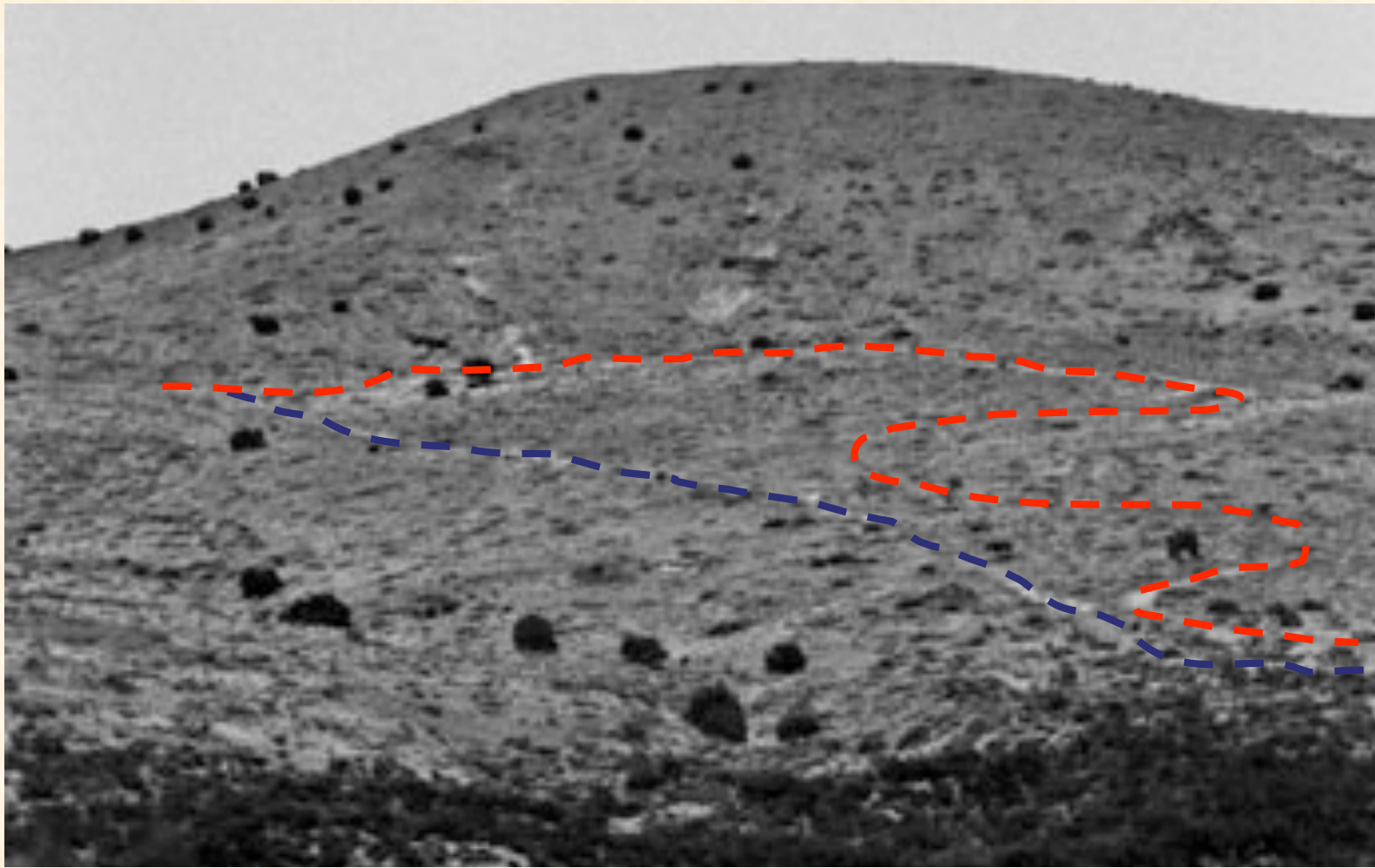
Detail of the Chaffin grave.



### John Chaffin gravesite

“November 22nd [1849]: Mr. John Chaffin had been indisposed since we left Socorro, but always rode out the day’s journey. Last night I learned he had become worse; on rising at daylight I was informed that he was dead. We are now in camp waiting for the grave to be finished. The morning is very cold, with a piercing wind from the Southwest: a few drops of rain fell at an earlier hour: a genuine November day. Although he died at half past ten o’clock last night, the event made little stir amongst the sleepers round him. It was very sudden; very few imagined that his condition was dangerous. The grave was dug near the roadside; cedar logs were procured on the hills half a mile from the camp. There were no materials to make a coffin. He was wrapped in a blanket, then laid in his overcoat, as if the more to protect him from the chill sod. Cedar logs were laid above and filled with springs of cedar: then a layer of earth and in fine large rocks above to prevent the wolves from opening the grave. The rest, like this, was done by friendly hands and we bade farewell to our worthy companion. He was an amiable and excellent man. He leaves in Platte County, Missouri, a wife and four children. Not one of us, I dare say, but thought of her bright hope for him at home. It will be long ere the sad intelligence shall come to her from this wilderness.”

*Pioneer Notes from the diaries of Judge Benjamin Hayes, 1849-1875. Privately printed at Los Angeles 1929.*



Near the west end of Cooke's Canyon, the red line is the present ranch road and the blue line is the trail swale.

Petroglyphs in Cooke's Canyon



**July 22, 1995  
Eighth planning meeting  
Portal, Arizona**

No photographs from this meeting.

---

**August, 1995  
OCTA convention  
Grand Island, Nebraska**

A few photos from the OCTA convention.



The chapter nominated Pete and Faye Gaines, owners of the Point of Rocks ranch, for a Friend of the Trail Award. Faye has a hug for Richard Greene as Pete looks on. They have protected the Santa Fe Trail on their ranch for many years.

Eminent trail historian, Merrill Mattes gave the keynote address.



Jack Root eats his lunch on a tour. Jack goes on every tour he can.



Roger Blair, Susan Doyle, and Bea Kabler visiting.

**April 14-21, 1995**

**1st Mapping Week**

**Cook's Canyon to Soldiers Farewell, New Mexico  
Southern Trail**

This was the first full mapping week. Don Buck, Richard Greene, and Rose Ann Tompkins traveled in one vehicle, camping at City of Rocks State Park in New Mexico. This first attempt at longer time periods for mapping to see if more could be accomplished than in several weekend trips. Not as many can take an entire week off, but the time spent in travel to and from mappings places were seen as counter-productive to the time spent actually mapping. The GPS was beginning to show its usefulness.



Grooves in a rock helped find the trail west of Cooke's Canyon.



Don Buck can be seen walking down a deep swale east of Cow Spring. Cooke's Peak can be faintly seen on the horizon.

Various views of Cooke's Peak.



Looking west along the trail corridor. Bessie Rhodes Mt. on left, Soldiers Farewell Hill on right. Trail went between them.



Soldiers Farewell Hill. Photo taken from Bessie Rhodes Mt. Trail goes through valley between them, forking at the west end. The Southern Trail turns southwest, the Apache Pass Trail continues west.

Don  
Buck

Richard  
Greene



Closer look at valley between Soldiers Farewell Hill and Bessie Rhodes Mt. The latter was a military heliograph station.