

**February 3, 1996
Chapter Open House
Chandler, Arizona**

1996

In an attempt to interest more people in joining OCTA and the chapter, it was decided to hold several open houses in different parts of Arizona and New Mexico. The only one held was in Chandler at the home of Rose Ann and Harland Tompkins. We contacted all OCTA members in the Phoenix area. Seven members and four guests participated.

Reba Grandrud looks at chapter newsletters and photo albums.



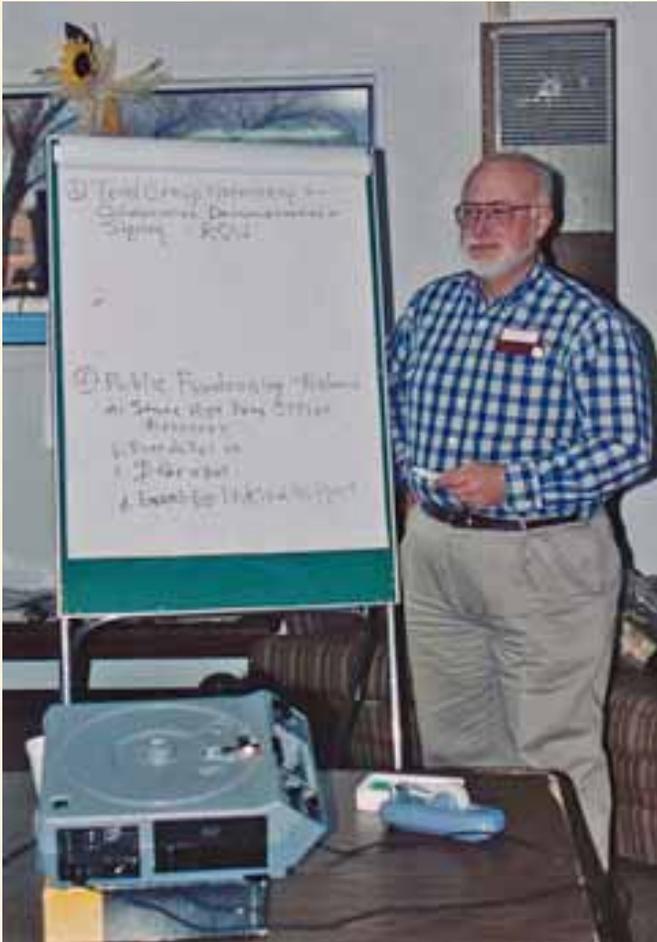
Display of trail books and maps.



February 24, 1996
Joint Trails' Workshop
Socorro, New Mexico

Organized by Charles Townley in order to develop political and community support for the trails of the Southwest. Sixteen chapter members attended, along with representatives of the National Park Service, the Arizona Historic Preservation Office, the New Mexico Preservation Division, the Santa Fe Trail, and Old Spanish Trail organizations. There was a morning tour of Ft. Craig. After lunch there were presentations by the various groups. Breakout groups took on the questions of getting the message out and gaining political and community support.





Charles Townley acting as facilitator at the workshop.



Reba Grandrud gives some of her viewpoints at the workshop.



Paul and Pat Etter at the workshop



There was dinner together at the end of the day.

Charles Townley, Marian Carter and Jim Carter..



Richard Greene, Marie Greene and Paul Etter

April 4-11, 1996
Second Mapping Week
Southern Trail, New Mexico

A big goal was reached on this mapping trip, finding where the Southern Trail left the Rio Grande. The 1849 diary of William Hunter gave a description that proved useful and H.M. Powell's diary gave us mileages from some known locations. A wash that was dubbed "Hunter Wash" soon revealed trail traces, rust on rocks, and artifacts. Eventually we lost the trail on the mesa above, but vowed to return to look again. A visit to Foster's Hole was also beneficial as trail was again found. There is no real swale, but rust and artifacts led to a fence on the section line and a gate. Since there is no ranch road presently at this gate, it seems left over from earlier use and probably a way to move cattle from one grazing area to another. Five members and two guests made the trip.



Pigeon Creek, named in diaries, plus the gap in the mountains in the distance gave a point to calculate mileage to Hunter Wash.

William Hunter left a clue in his diary which helped in finding this landmark where the trail turned away from the Rio Grande. The entrance to this drainage is the only one in the area with the horizontal strata he mentioned.





At the entrance to Hunter Wash, Don Buck leads the way up the trail trace.



The trail trace near Foster's Hole can be seen as a color difference as it goes to the gate shown at the section line fence.



Rock smoothed and grooved by wagon wheels.



Foster's Hole seen from the hillside above it. The water hole itself is in about the middle of the photo below the dark area of the rocks.



Looking west from the gate at the fence, the trail went down the drainage across the center of the photo. On the horizon is Cooke's Peak and in the middle distance is Round Mountain. The trail went just north of Round Mountain.



Parked near Foster's Hole are Richard Greene, Tracy DeVault, Don Buck, and John Gergan.



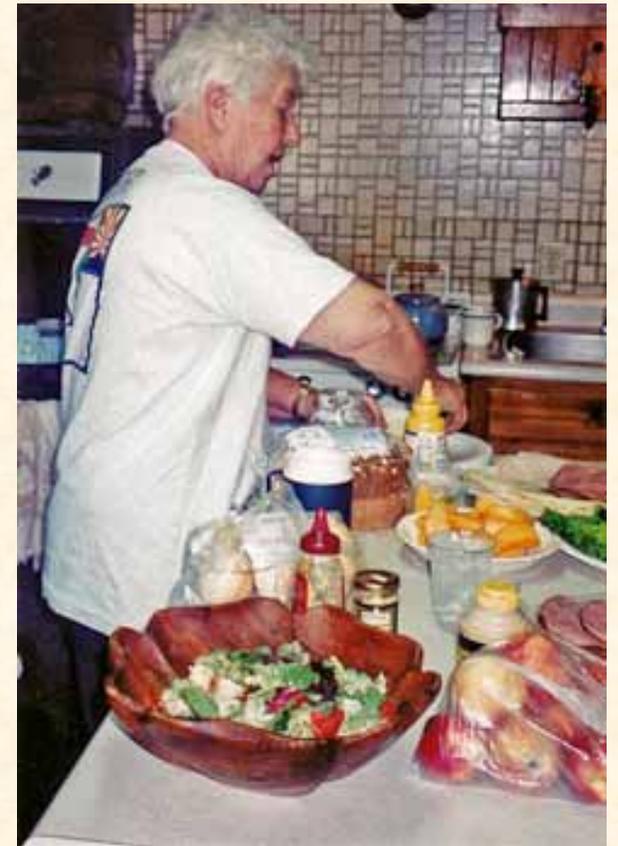
The group camped part of the week at City of Rocks State Park. Pictured here are Marie Greene, Beth Langstaff, and Richard Greene.

June 8, 1996
Ninth Planning Meeting
Angel Fire, New Mexico

The day was spent enjoying the mountain air of the Greene's home in Angel Fire while setting up plans for the next year of chapter meetings.



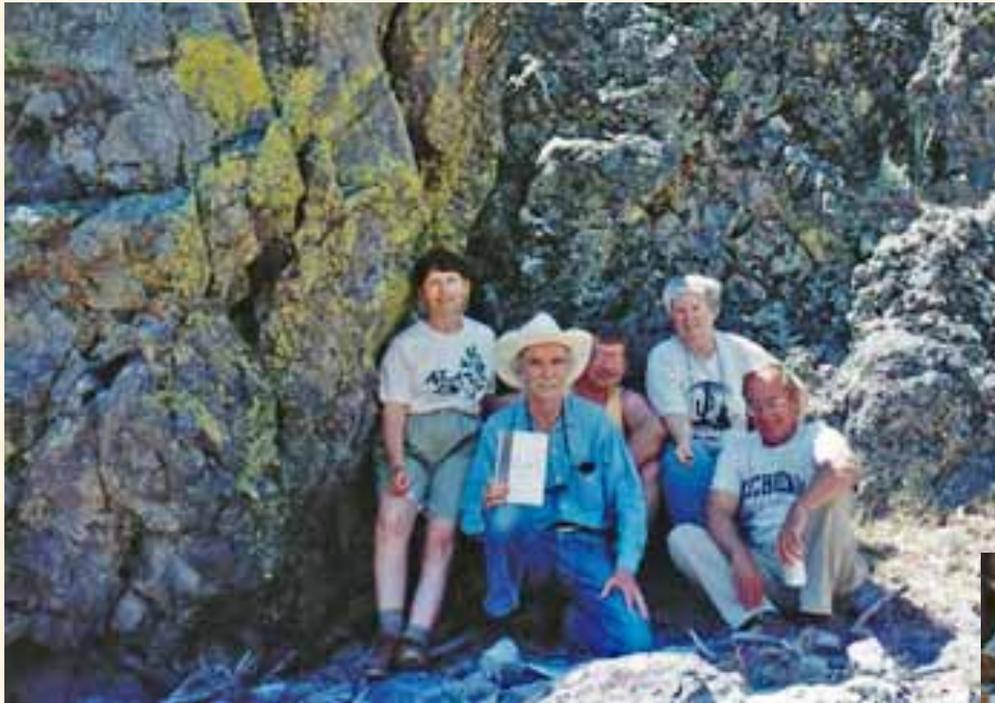
At the meeting were the Greens, Roots (and their grandson), Townleys, and Tompkins.



When some went out for a walk, Dundee, the resident horse, showed off for them.

**August, 1996
OCTA convention
Elko, Nevada**

Various photos of chapter members at the convention



Randy Brown, on right, took Susan Doyle, Don Buck, Roger Blair, and Rose Ann Tompkins to a trail sight mentioned by Elijah Howell as a spot where he sat in the shade to write in his diary. It is the only shade that fits Howell's description.

The Roots and Rose Ann Tompkins visit after dinner.



Don Buck and Susan Doyle sign books at author's night. They edited the 1849 diary of Elijah Preston Howell.



October 12-18, 1996
Third Mapping Week
Southern Trail, New Mexico

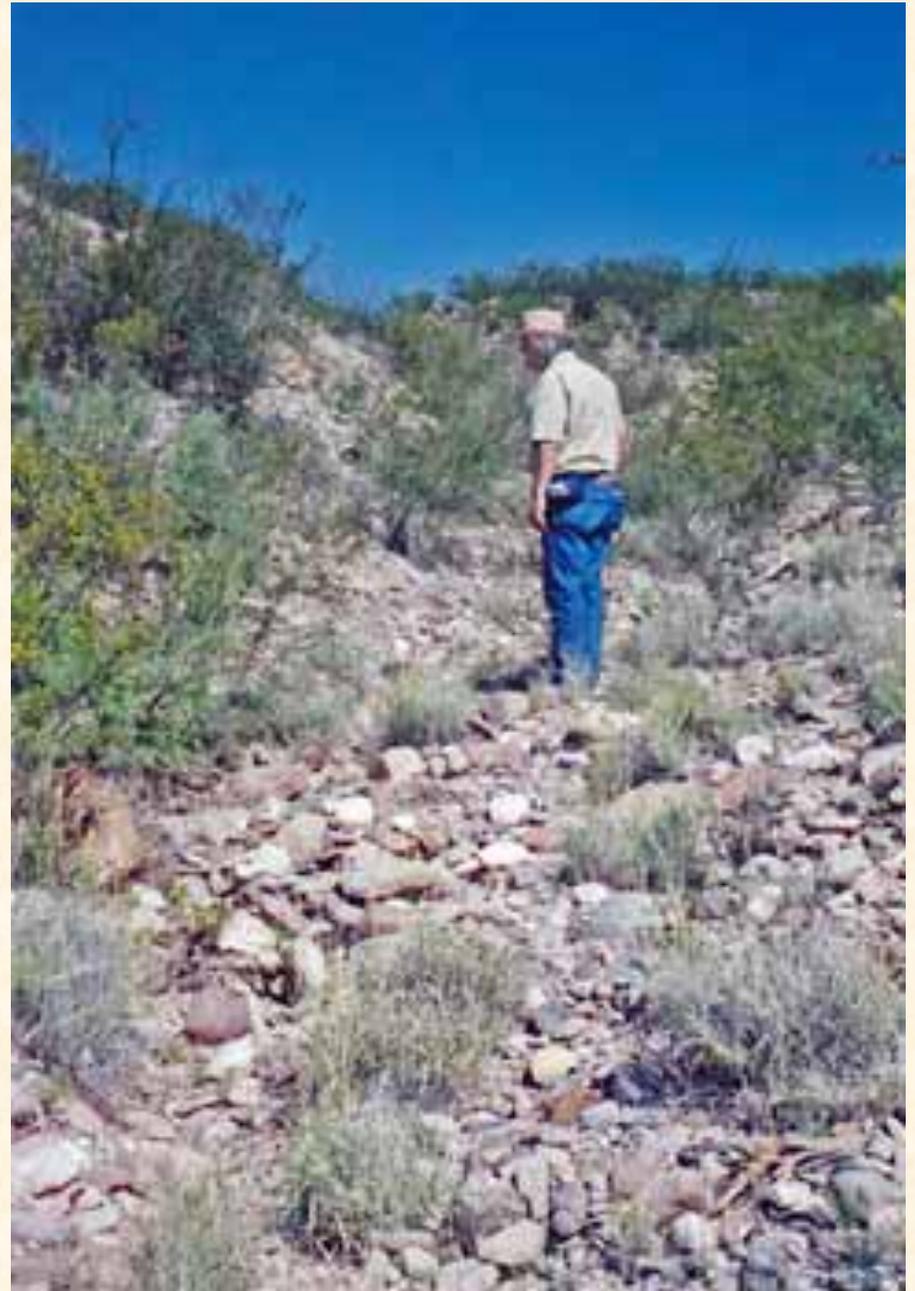
The week began with a tour of Hunter Wash. Several visitors from the Las Cruces area historical group were shown the trail swale and other trail signs from the bottom to the mesa top. After camping at Percha Dam State Park, the mapping group began their week by locating and mapping where the trail dropped into Berrenda Wash. In H.M.T. Powell's diary, he called it a steep hill, and the name Powell's Steep Hill stuck. Don Buck and Rose Ann Tompkins made arrangements to fly the trail. A private pilot in Las Cruces flew the two from the Rio Grande to the Coyote Hills while a number of photos were taken. The rest of the week was spent mapping additional areas of the trail.



The tour of Hunter Wash began the week of mapping. Here the group stops at the top of the wash to view the surrounding countryside. Elephant Butte is seen on the horizon.



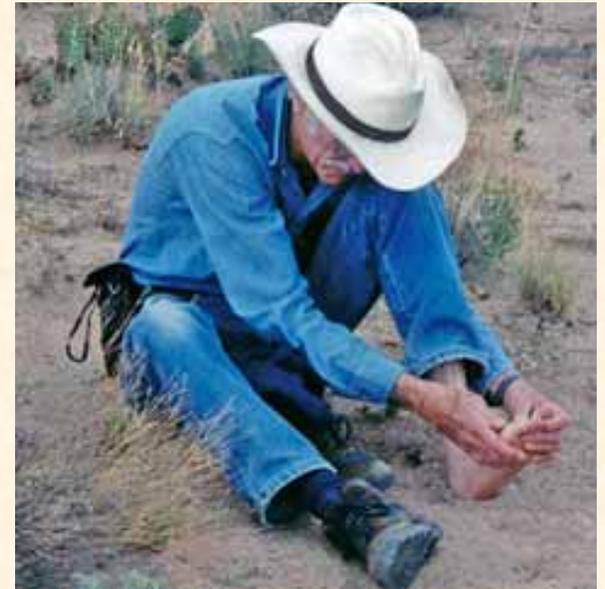
Powell's Steep Hill looking down from the top.



Powell's Steep Hill looking up from the bottom.



Looking at Powell's Steep Hill from the side. The rocks were moved aside and this shows clearly in this photo.



Don Buck points out the trail and the rocks that have been moved. This is about halfway down the hill.



Artifacts found on Powell's Steep Hill. They were photographed and returned to their location.



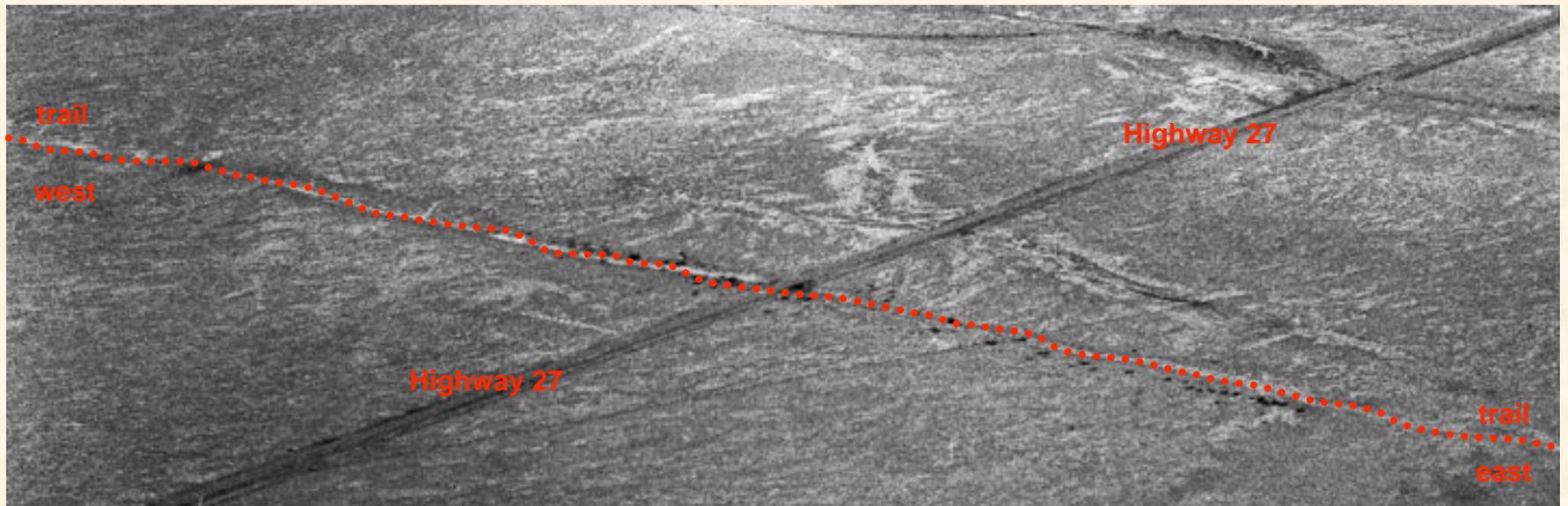
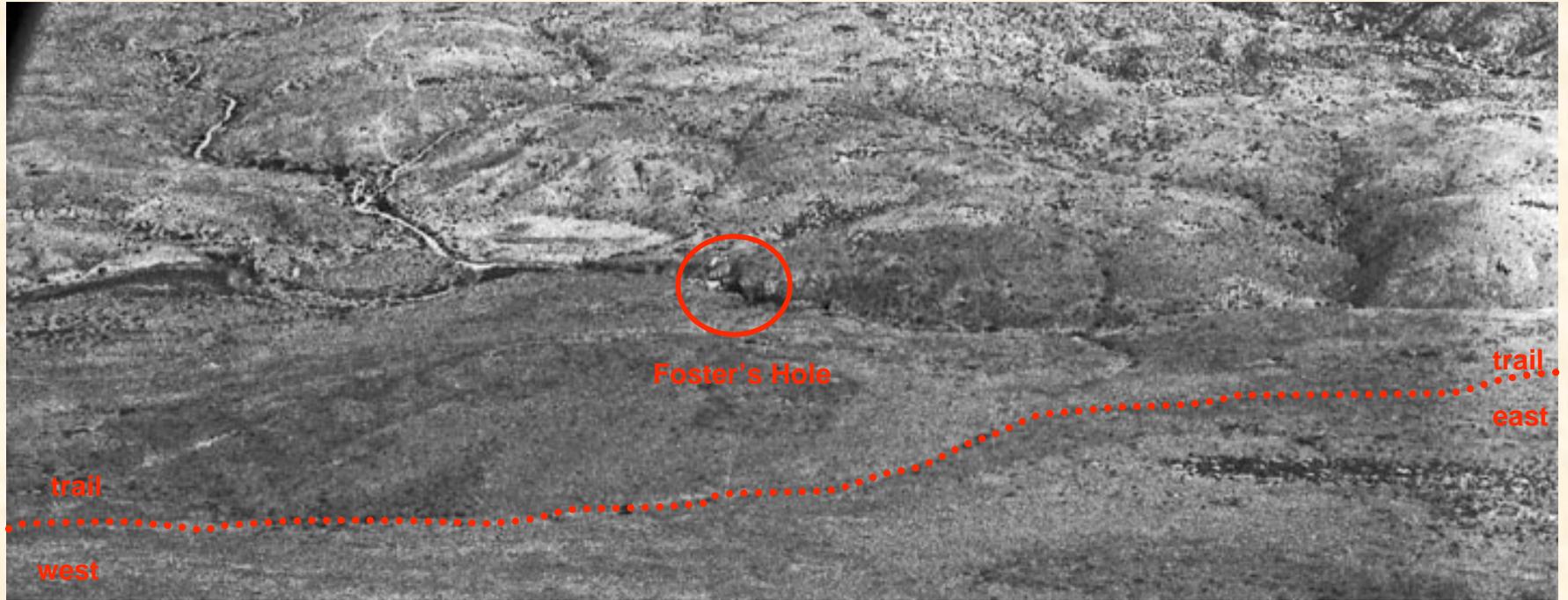


Preparing to fly the trail.

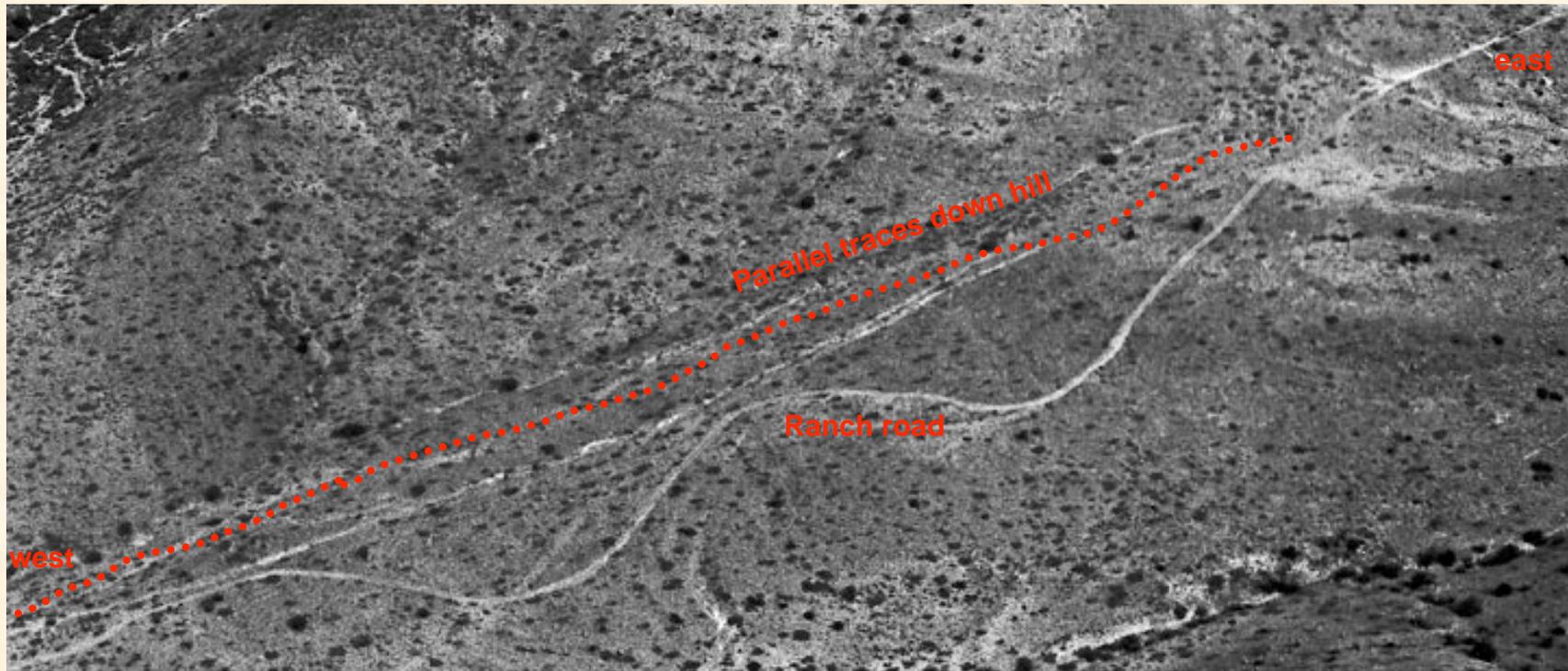
Aerial view of the entrance to Hunter Draw.
North is towards the top of the photo.



Aerial view of Foster's Hole area



Aerial view of trail crossing Highway 27 west of Foster's Hole



Trail in Cooke's Canyon

Two views of Cooke's Peak



This mapping week was the first one to dry camp rather than returning to a campground each night. On the last night, the five mappers still in the group were camped in Hay Draw, west of Cow Spring. This was the night of a presidential debate and it became the evening pastime. Dave Hollecker had a small TV with him and was able to pick up a signal. It was a curious mix of dinner, watching TV, and wilderness.

