

This newsletter has no name.
What shall we call it?

Feb 1988

NEWSLETTER - AZ CHAPTER - OCTA

Vol. 1 No. 1

President - Jack Root
Vice-Pres.- Aubrey Haines
Secretary - Susan Badger
Treasurer - Sheri Lee
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are, about six months past the gleam-in-the-eye stage and I'm writing a few lines for our first newsletter. Not bad!

Although the formal action by the National OCTA Board to recognize us as a chapter has not yet occurred, we can all look back with satisfaction at a good beginning. As I write, we have just completed our second field trip. Dan and Geri Talbot led us to the 1851 Oatman Massacre site on the Gila Trail (Cooke's 1846 Wagon Road). Sixteen members attended Dan's slide presentation and our business meeting that night at Painted Rocks State Park-- right on the trail blazed by the Mormon Battalion. Thanks to the Ken Tompkins' for hosting our meeting in their big fiver.

Plan now to attend our next outing. Aubrey Haines has more to say about that, elsewhere in this newsletter.

I must remind those who want to be Arizona Chapter members and have not paid their dues for 1988 to forward same to the Treasurer. A form for this purpose will be found at the end of the newsletter. OCTA membership is a prerequisite, of course.

Hats off to Rose Ann Tompkins for volunteering to "do" the newsletter. Now it's up to all the rest of us to provide her with news to put in it.

Happy Trails,

Jack

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WINTER MEETING HELD AT PAINTED ROCKS STATE PARK

We held out winter field trip the weekend of Jan. 23-24 at Painted Rocks State Park near Gila Bend. Besides having an extensive area of petroglyphs with both Indian and early travelers' inscriptions, the area has evidence of the passing of the Mormon Battalion, Butterfield stage coaches, and freight wagons.

Dan Talbot has done extensive research on these trails through Arizona and he shared some of his knowledge with us. On Saturday, we spent the day on the back roads (or faint tracks across the desert that only a guide could decipher). We made a number of stops to look and listen as Dan filled in details of what occurred in the area over the last century. Our goal was the site of the Oatman Massacre, which happened in 1851. The

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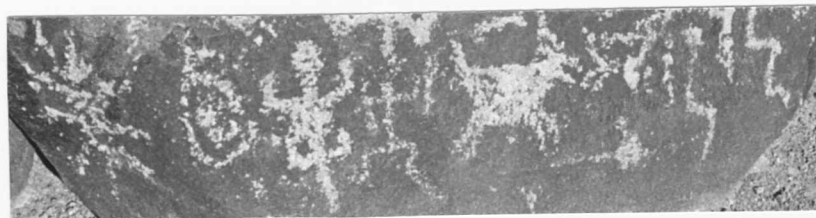


emigrant family was traveling alone across the area when attacked by Indians. Most of the family was killed. The family was buried in the area and a marker remains at the site of the actual massacre with a stone monument nearby. Also visible at the site are easily seen traces of the wagon road that climbed from the Gila River valley to the mesa above. We enjoyed our lunch at the edge of the mesa overlooking the valley.

Sat. evening Dan presented two slide shows at the park, where we were joined by a large group of others who were camping in the area. Dan had a very interesting presentation on the history of the area, illustrated with slides. He uses an ultralight plane and a dunebuggy to facilitate his mapping of the trails. His photos include aerial infrared pictures to enhance traces on the ground.

On Sunday we visited other sites in the area that were more accessible. These included the remains of an adobe building said to have been a stage stop, a small cemetery where Dan thinks the Oatmans are buried, the stone monument to the Oatman's placed by the DAR, and the fallen adobe ruins of a early farmhouse in the valley.

All those on this trip felt they had learned something of the early Arizona trails, and certainly gained an appreciation of the travel hardships of that time. It is a beautiful but harsh country.



Jan. 23, 1988 - Business Meeting - Painted Rocks State Park

Jack called the meeting to order. We had graciously been invited into the Ken Tompkins' 5th wheel, and Ken remarked that the 16 of us in there was probably a record. Jack read the minutes of the last meeting. There were three elements to be considered resulting from the Safford meeting:

1) Name - The group voted 15 to 1 to call ourselves "the Arizona Chapter of OCTA." We will be very happy to have any members from neighboring states, but feel that all the states will have their own separate chapters eventually.

2) Time Frame - After discussion it was decided that the primary emphasis will be the Pioneer Westward Migration, with secondary emphasis on periods prior to and succeeding years.

3) Sphere of activity - The membership asked that the Board review this and come up with a recommendation. Betty suggested we find out what other groups are doing, and the spirit of OCTA in general. It was suggested that we do whatever we can, limited to feasibility of field work and interest shown. Any suggestions will be welcome.

Aubrey Haines brought up the Data Accumulation file. He had three samples and suggested everyone should do that with information. Any research should have a data base on it - so it could be recalled. The COED program was discussed. Jack will get the COED format and Tom Hunt site report forms for trails.

Sheri Lee suggested we could all do research on sites we visit.

Gary and Dean Keller joined the chapter. He is mapping four wheel drive roads. He agreed with uniformity idea but said the typewriter x's can't be done. Must ask Tom Hunt how to do it.

Our Treasurer reported that we have \$50 and no expenses. She suggested we have a roll of stamps and provide stamps to whomever is leading the next outing.

Jack reported that there are still some Az. OCTA members who have not responded to our notices. We can't continue to send correspondence to those who haven't responded.

A newsletter was discussed and Rose Ann Tompkins agreed to put one out. News should be sent to her in advance. It was suggested that anyone can write in their views of the trips. We talked of having a newsletter between outings. Betty Lee suggested that new members names should be in the newsletter - maybe a profile, etc.

There was discussion on when the next meeting or outing will be held. Aubrey and Wilma Haines will lead one to El Morro. There will be no need for 4 wheel drives, it's mainly a walking type outing. This will be covered in the newsletter.

Jack thanked Dan Talbot for leading today's trip and we will meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning for more sites around here.

Meeting was adjourned.

Ruth Root, Acting Secretary

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Sheri Lee, Treasurer, reports that we have 12 paid memberships, with \$60 being received. Disbursements as of Feb. 1, 1988 total \$23.64, leaving a balance of \$36.36.

SPRING MEETING - EL MORRO - APRIL 9 & 10

At our recent meeting at Painted Rocks it was decided that the next meeting would be at El Morro National Monument, near the eastern end of "Beale's Road", the northern emigrant route across Arizona. It is tentatively planned to gather at El Morro on the afternoon of April 9, have our meeting in the campground that evening (this will include a talk on the 35th Parallel route - Beale's Road - by Aubrey Haines), then tour El Morro on Sunday, the 10th. This general plan will be confirmed to you by letter late in March, at which time we will need to know who will be there.

El Morro is 40 miles southeast of Gallup, New Mexico, on State Route 53. It is about 50 miles by road from either Gallup or Grants, the nearest towns with motel facilities; however, there is an attractive free campground at the Monument, though it is of limited capacity. There are also camping facilities at Ramah, 13 miles west of the area. The elevation is 7500 feet at the Monument.

El Morro National Monument, which takes its name from the prominent bluff, is a 1,278 acre preserve established December 8, 1906, for the particular purpose of preserving early Spanish and American inscriptions on the base of the bluff, and prehistoric sites on its summit. The Spanish inscriptions go back to 1605, fifteen years before the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, and they are amazingly numerous and well-preserved; while the American inscriptions include such interesting people as Lt. J.H. Simpson and artist Kern (1849), Lt. Edward F. Beale, who introduced camels into Arizona as beasts of burden (1857), and a number of emigrants, including John Udell who survived an attack by Mohave Indians on one of the first wagon trains to travel on Beales's road (1857). There are many Indian petroglyphs in and around the inscriptions, and a 2.5 mile self-guiding trail gives access to the top of the mesa where there are two pueblo ruins, one excavated and the other untouched. The Monument has a good museum and library.

While El Morro is a small area, off the beaten track, it is a really outstanding and particularly photogenic place, with much to offer those interested in old routes of travel. Plan to see it with us.

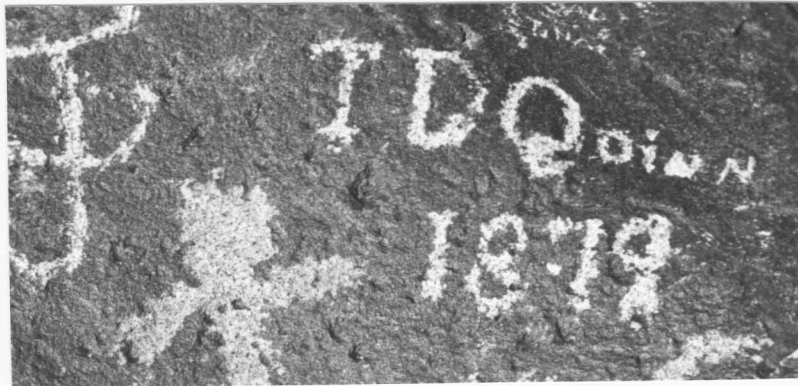
Lt. J.H. Simpson USA & R.H. Kern Artist,
visited and copied these inscriptions,
September 17th / 18th 1849.

Luis Gonzalez
año de 1667

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ACA Beng^o ñ ñ ñ pleba^o
WJN

As editor of this newsletter for now, I will be depending on all of you to provide me with copy from time to time. I will need writeups on trips we take as well as upcoming events. I hope to have profiles of various members in the future. And I welcome any items of interest to "trail fans". For instance, you might find this tidbit of interest. One name and date that I saw on the rocks at Pictured Rocks was "T.D. Quinn 1879". My curiosity was raised and I looked in the 1880 California Census. I did find a T.D. Quinn living in Truckee. He was 33 years old, a laborer, born in Ill. His wife, Elma, age 32; and son, Charles, age 5, also lived in the family. The same man? Maybe.

Rose Ann Tompkins
1125 W. Mission Dr.
Chandler, AZ 85224



If you have paid your dues for the 1988 year,
your receipt is included with this newsletter.

If you wish to join, fill out the form below and return it as indicated.

LACK OF RESPONSE WILL CAUSE THE CHAPTER TO RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDE THAT
YOU DO NOT WISH TO JOIN US AND NO FURTHER MAILINGS WILL BE SENT.

YES, I want to be a member of the Arizona Chapter of OCTA, and participate
in their activities. Enclosed is \$5.00 for my calendar 1988 dues.

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Note: Dues are \$5.00 per mailing address

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Sheri Lee
5790 E. Territory Ave.
Tucson, Az. 85715

(you may wish to memo the checks to OCTA, but do NOT make them out to OCTA)