



Arizona Trails

April 1989

NEWSLETTER - AZ CHAPTER - OCTA

Vol. 2 No. 2

JACK'S TRAIL BITS

You will read elsewhere in this issue of our Borrego Desert Field Trip. Being one of those who had to miss the Julian part, I hope that wasn't apple pie ala mode [Editor's note - it was]. But Gordon has promised us a rain check.

Plans continue for the June Symposium. Let's get behind Harland and bring it off successfully.

About this time last year (early April) some of us were getting ready for Don Buck's Road Rendezvous. It was an experience I'll never forget and love to recall. Around a campfire on that venture, we talked of a future rendezvous--- the infamous Hastings Cutoff, downfall of the Donner party. Buzz Eckenbeurg volunteered to lead it. Now Buzz is gone, but other California members have picked up the challenge and expect to scout the area soon. Here's one who'll be waiting for the call.

Two new members joined us at Borrego. Welcome to Dick and Mae Chapman, part-time residents of Tucson. On 4/27 Ruth and I have a date with the Rio Colorado and a raft. Tell you more about that next time.

Jack D. Root

ON A SEPARATE PAGE AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER, YOU WILL FIND A CURRENT MEMBERSHIP ROSTER FOR THE CHAPTER. ANY MEMBERS JOINING LATER IN THE YEAR WILL BE GIVEN IN LATER NEWSLETTERS SO YOU CAN KEEP YOUR ROSTER CURRENT. IF THERE IS AN ERROR FOR YOUR LISTING, PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR AND IT WILL BE CORRECTED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

A MOMENT WITH THE EDITOR

I hope you are finding that this newsletter keeps you in better touch with the chapter and its doings. The feedback I have received has been positive and I appreciate it. If you have any other ideas about what to include, I hope you will let me know. I am open to suggestion, and would like to get items from you to include in future issues.

This is a lively group of people and I feel I have learned a great deal by being a part of it.

Rose Ann Tompkins

TRIP REPORT - SOUTHERN EMIGRANT TRAIL TOUR - MARCH 11 & 12

CALIFORNIA ANZA-BARREGO STATE PARK

Saturday, March 11th, dawned warm and bright in the little desert community of Borrego Springs, California. Fourteen Arizona OCTA members converged at the Anza-Borrego State Park Palm Canyon Campground to begin a day of exploring nearby pioneer trails. The Stebbings had planned well; a local guide joined the group at the park museum and we were off to the historic "Scissors Crossing". It was soon apparent that Indian, Spaniards, U.S. Military, Mormons, state operators, and doubtless, countless others, before and after, had crossed the desert in this area due to the presence of vital springs and occasional grasses.

We found our own latter-day oasis in the guise of the Butterfield Inn, where all took a leisurely lunch and slaked their thirst. After looking over the restored Vallecitos Stage Station and the Palm Spring (containing rare desert pupfish yet!) we returned to camp.

In the late afternoon our happy hour and first book auction (Betty Lee's idea) was a success, followed by the obligatory (sigh) business meeting. By this time the desert sky was filled with stars and by their light (and flashlights), we ate. A very full day.

On Sunday morning those who didn't have to head home joined the Stebbings in nearby Julian. Gordon acted as guide through the Historic Eagle Gold Mine, dating from 1870. Later Gordon and Shirley served the group their homemade apple pie. A nice close to a full weekend.

Many thanks to Shirley and Gordon Stebbing for planning this superb outing.

----- SUMMARY OF BUSINESS MEETING HELD 3/11/89 AT ANZA BORREGO -----

Minutes were read and approved. The treasurer has reported \$195 in the treasury. Mae Chapman collected the \$2 per person field trip fee (\$28) and the money for the used book sale (\$44.50). From this, \$12 was used to pay for the lunch for the day's guide and his friend.

Jack reported on the plans for the symposium on June 17th. He read the reply from AHS, saying we can hold it there. The Tompkins will be in Tucson on March 18 to review the site and discuss the program.

Bob Lee suggested those from the chapter attending the national meeting in Boise have a breakfast get-together while there.

September will be a planning meeting. Bob and Sherri Lee previously invited us to come to their cabin on Mt. Lemmon, perhaps this could be the site for a planning meeting. Betty Lee suggested a planning committee be appointed. Everyone should be thinking of possible outings to present at the planning meeting.

Outing suggestions included Fort Bowie and Sears Point, keeping in mind the longer term goal of preparing to lead a Rendezvous. Baldwin Lamson suggested the possibility of the De Anza Trail, a 4 wheel drive trip.

Doyle Reed explained plans for the Hastings cut-off Rendezvous from Ft. Bridger to the Humboldt River that he will lead in Sept.

Stebbing were thanked for all their efforts. Gordon has pies to serve after tomorrow's (Sun. 3/12) tour of the mine in Julian.

Ruth Root, Acting Secretary

SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 17

TIME: 9 AM UNTIL 5 PM

PLACE: ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, TUCSON, ARIZONA

For our summer meeting, we will be having a day long symposium. This will involve presentations by a number of people, both members and guests, to include various subjects concerning Arizona trails, Oregon trails, and Arizona history in general.

We will meet in the auditorium at the AHS, it is roomy and air-conditioned. You will have a lengthy lunchtime to explore the society's museum and library.

Tentative titles of some of the talks are:

"The Oregon Trail: Fact & Myth" by Aubrey Haines

"McLoughlin & Old Oregon" by Robert Lee (Safford)

"On Fort Lowell" by Sheri Lee

"Elevation Measurements by the early Army Explorers" by Harland Tompkins

"The Southern Route - 1849: A New Look" by Patricia Etter

"Mapping Historical Roads" by Gary Keller

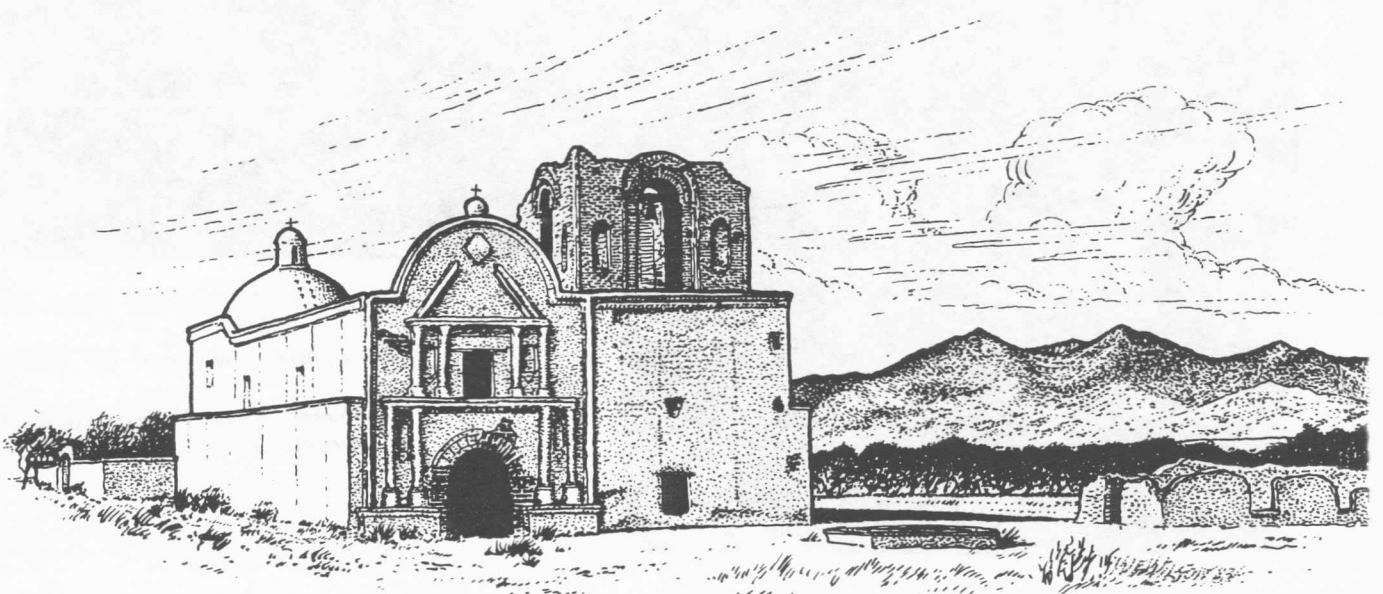
It looks like a full day of presentations, lively discussion, map reading, etc. This is a new venture for our chapter and we are hoping for a good turnout of interested members. This would also be good meeting to invite friends to accompany you if they have an interest in history, travel, or trails.

You will receive a flyer with the complete program a few weeks before the meeting, but put the date on your calendar now and plan for an indoor day this time.

If you have any questions, contact:

Harland Tompkins at 963-3565

Jack Root at 749-9679



LET'S GET ACQUAINTED !

Continuing with our series of articles designed to introduce us to each other, this issue profiles another charter member of our chapter, Susan Badger Doyle. Susan served as the first Secretary to the chapter. It must have been good experience, for she is now the Secretary for the national organization.

Susan was born in Illinois and grew up in Urbana. She has also lived in Michigan and West Virginia before her current home in Albuquerque, N.M. She lives there with her husband W.E. Badger, a general surgeon. The family also includes one son, Bob, and two daughters, Rebecca, and Rachel. The youngest, Rachel, will graduate from high school this spring.

Schooling has been a big part of Susan's life, as she has a MA in Anthropology, MLS in Library Science and is currently working on a PhD. Her dissertation is on the Bozeman Trail and has involved quite a bit of travel in Wyoming the last few years. Susan lists her occupation as writer, her current project in that area is a biography of a New Mexico pioneer woman.

Susan says that she joined OCTA in 1984 after picking up a brochure in a museum in Wyoming and she has attended several of the national conventions as well as two rendezvous: the Black Rock Desert Trek in '86 and the Mojave Road Rendezvous in '88. Susan also belongs to the Santa Fe Trail Association, the New Mexico Historical Society, and several library associations.

When the die-hard trail buffs head out with their 4WD's, Susan is likely to be somewhere in the group. She has missed only a couple of our trips, in spite of the distance she comes to join us. And she was definitely one of those who helped us get off and running.



Bob & Betty Lee at Palm Canyon ↑

← Walking the trail at Little Pass

Photos from March field trip
provided by Bob & Betty Lee

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