

ARIZONA TRAILS



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ARIZONA CHAPTER
OF OCTA

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PRESIDENT STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF JULY PLANNING MEETING

Just returned from Albuquerque (where a few emigrants were known to have passed). Rose Ann and I were there for a conference relating to work. Motorola still expects me to do a few things which are not trail-related. Enjoyed some time with the Albuquerque member of our chapter, Susan Doyle, speculating how Edward Beale and company crossed the Rio Grande river and left town, pondering over maps, etc. Rose Ann and I spent some time at El Morro although because of high winds we still didn't get to see the ruins at the top.

The chapter has had a very good year. All of our meetings have been well planned and most have been well attended. In one or two, we emphasized the quality of attendance rather than the quantity. We should acknowledge the leadership of the Kellers, the Carters, the Roots, and Rose Ann Tompkins for leading this year's trips. The planning for the Symposium is coming along.

The year which we planned last summer is coming to a close, however. After the symposium in June we will get together on July 14 and 15 at 8000 feet elevation (cool) to plan the next year. This is a very enjoyable retreat, but in addition, it is a very important meeting. At this time, we will set the demeanor and plan the specifics for the next year.

I would encourage any and all of the chapter members to attend and give your input to the direction which the chapter moves. We are specifically looking for suggestions for our weekend outings. If you have a suggestion and would be willing to lead the outing, please come and bring up the possibility. If for what ever reason, you cannot come to the meeting, but have a good idea, send the information to either Sheri Lee or to me. Over the last two years, the chapter has developed some skills in the logistics of planning an outing. If you have a good idea, but are reluctant because you have never led an outing, we can arrange for some help in that area.

It is important that we continue to have a balanced program. This includes programs on both the north and south emigrant trails in Arizona, contributions from both New Mexico and Southern California, and programs about the stage roads and the military roads and forts.

We would like to thank the Tucson Lee's for hosting the planning meeting and would again encourage all of our members to attend.

Harland Tompkins

**CURRENT CHAPTER
MEMBERSHIP ROSTER
IS INCLUDED IN THIS
MAILING.**

MINUTES

Arizona OCTA met April 7, 1990 at the Steak Barn, Kingman, AZ. Present were 14 members and 3 guests: Harland & Rose Ann Tompkins, Bob & Betty Lee, Harry & Mary Reber, Susan Doyle, Warren Wesler, Paul & Patricia Etter, Doyle & Fiona Reed, Aubrey & Wilma Haines. Harland called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and welcomed Mr. & Mrs. Loren Wilson and Ed Edwards as our guests from the Mohave County Historical Society.

Harland presented corsages to the Lees for their 50th wedding anniversary and the Haines for their 44th wedding anniversary with congratulations. He thanked the Mohave Historical Society's representatives for their help and use of their building for our program to be held after dinner.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as they appeared in the last newsletter. The treasurer reports a balance of \$226.78.

A motion passed to donate \$25 to the Mohave County Arts and History Museum for use of their facilities.

Harland presented to Loren Wilson and Ed Edwards a compilation of Beale Road journals in appreciation of their guide work for the weekend. He called on Susan for a report on the National Frontier Trails Center opening in Independence, MO which she attended on

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March 24. She described the activities and progress at the new site. National OCTA has plans to deed California Hill and future donations or acquisitions like Johnson's Ranch to the state or local history chapters for maintenance and interpretation. Appraisal forms returned from the Boise convention participants revealed that new members should be made to feel more welcome and this will be addressed at the next convention in some way.

New Business. Our next meeting will be the symposium at Casa Grande Valley Museum on Sat. June 16. You will receive details. More presentations are needed at this time.

Rose Ann reminded us that the deadline for the next newsletter is April 25. Also send her items for News From the Plains.

The planning session for next year will be in July at Lee's cabin on Mt. Lemmon near Tucson. You will receive information on this. Bring ideas for trips and programs.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Wilma Haines, Secretary

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
JUNE 16 - TRAILS SYMPOSIUM
JULY 14 & 15 - PLANNING MEETING
DETAILS ON BOTH EVENTS SENT LATER.



Looking east from Sitgreave's Pass, the canyon where Beale built his road shows its rugged character. Harry Edwards Peak (as named by Beale) is a prominent landmark.

BOOK REVIEW

by Jack Root

LAND OF LAVA, ASH, AND SAND

The Pinacate Region of Northwestern Mexico

by Ronald L. Ives

compiled by James W. Byrkit

Edited by Karen J. Dahood

Published by the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, 1989

Most of us who cross the border at Lukeville and proceed via Mexican Route 8 through Sonoyta to Puerto Penasco pay scant attention to the grim landscape to the west. This area, known as the Pinacate, held a lifelong fascination for Dr. Ives, who ended his days in a Tucson nursing home in 1982.

A youthful Ives, who became a man of Jeffersonian dimension, made his first attempt to walk into the desolate Pinacate in 1928. He was inspired by reading

Hornaday's classic, *Camp-fires on Desert and Lava*. The 18 year old Easterner was forced to turn back, just ten miles short of Papago Tanks, the next reliable source of water. Two years later, Ives made a successful incursion into the region via Sonoyta. Over the next fifty years he made about 100 solitary trips into the area and published an incredible number of scientific articles on every facet of this remote corner of Sonora. The range of his work comprised Geography, Geology, Climatology, History, and Folklore.

Compiler Jim Byrkit has assembled 16 of Ives' articles into this volume, under the headings: "The Environment", "The Inhabitants" and "The Explorers". As many of the articles originally appeared in specialized journals of limited circulation, publication by the Arizona Historical Society brings Ives and his scholarship before the General Reader for the

first time. There are a number of useful and interesting maps; for some of these, the older reader should have a magnifying glass at hand. The extensive footnotes are lively, and expand one's understanding of the text. They are Ives' original notes, updated by the editors.

Ives did extensive historical research into the writings of early Spanish Jesuits, Soldiers and Explorers who traversed Northwest Sonora enroute to the Colorado River and California. This led him into the field of historical sleuthing, of which there are several interesting examples in this collection. In these, Ives uses his expertise in various scientific fields to confirm the centuries-old observations of Kino, Fages, and others.

Ronald L. Ives was a multi-talented scientist who could write with clarity and unpretentious vigor. This is a cracking good read for lovers of Southwest History.

BEALE ROAD FIELD TRIP - APRIL 7 & 8, 1990



The traditional group photo was taken at this memorial to Edward Beale and other early groups that traveled the area. Standing, left to right; Robert Lee, Harry Reber, Aubrey Haines, Fiona Reed, Warren Wesler, Doyle Reed. Seated, left to right; Paul Etter, Betty Lee, Mary Reber, Susan Doyle, Wilma Haines, Rose Ann Tompkins, Patricia Etter, Harland Tompkins.

The chapter held its spring field trip on April 7 and 8 in the Kingman, Arizona area, with fourteen members, two guides and two guests participating in all or part of the activities.

We met late on Saturday morning at a park in Kingman where there is a stone monument commemorating the Beale Road, emigrant wagon travel, and military activity in the area. After a windy lunch and a group picture, we joined Loren Wilson, our guide for the afternoon. Loren is a retired teacher and a volunteer at the Mohave County Museum of History and Arts.

Our first stop for the afternoon was at a site in northeast Kingman where the trace of the old Beale Road can still be seen as it came into the area from the northeast. The area at that place has not been cultivated or otherwise disturbed, even though it is now inside the town. We then roughly followed the road as it went through town, stopping at various locations.

One stop was actually off the Beale Road, but is the site of a route used by wagons carrying ore

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story and photos by Rose Ann Tompkins except where indicated



The group examines fragments of Indian pottery seen at the Beale Springs site, an indication of early use of the area.

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from nearby mines through the area. At this particular site, the heavy ore wagons had to come down a steep hill over solid rock. Over the years, deep ruts were left in the rock for quite a distance. It was an impressive site for everyone.

We spent quite a while at the site of Camp Beale Springs. These springs were first located by Beale's party in 1859 and he changed the road to take advantage of them. The spring continues to this day, with watercress and mint in abundance. There are numerous signs of human use of the area, from the rock walls of the corral, traces of foundation stones of the military camp, the concrete walls of a one time city water reservoir and swimming pool, and even the evidence of Indian habitation.

The afternoon ended back at the museum with a short tour given by Loren and then a look at the historical library and some of its books and maps.

At 5:30 the group met at the Steak Barn for a short business meeting. We also recognized two couples that would celebrate their wedding anniversaries on April 14; Robert and Betty Lee, 50 years; and Aubrey and Wilma Haines, 44 years. Dinner followed the business meeting.

We had an evening program back at the museum. Loren Wilson showed us

slides of various Indian sites in the Kingman area and some of the work being done to survey, protect and preserve the sites. He also had slides of the Beale Road sites we had seen that day and would see the next day.

On Sunday morning we met early at the museum parking lot for our trip out to the Sitgreave's Pass area. At the entrance to the canyon leading to the pass, we met our guide for that day, Ed Edwards. We took several short hikes that day, the first being at our meeting place. We went across the wash and over to the Beale Road trace. The swale was quite easy to see.

As we went up the highway towards the pass, there were several places where evidences of the old wagon road could be seen. At one stop we hiked down the wash from a spring and we could see where Beale's workers had put in a rock retaining wall for the road to come more gently down a grade. At that location we found the initials or names of three individuals, with one of them being dated at 1859. These were probably men who worked on the road, perhaps research will tell us more about who these men were.

Another stop was to see the foundation walls of an old blacksmith shop used by the ore haulers. The ore road and the wagon road were sometimes the same trace, and sometimes were different traces. Also complicating the

scene were buried pipelines which had destroyed the road traces in places.

Finally we reached the pass itself. There is a Beale Road sign at the pass, put in by the BLM. Ed showed us several places where traces of the road could be seen, including more rock retaining wall. The view from both sides of the pass is spectacular. Towards the east, we looked back down the canyon we had just come up; while towards the west, we could see the Colorado River valley and California on the far side, just as the emigrants saw it.

From a lookout point near the pass, several followed Ed down the old wagon road. This is the area where the greatest difficulty was encountered by Beale and the early emigrants. Wagons were let down by rope and it took quite a bit of time for all to get down safely. Walking down the hillside is still extremely difficult. Fortunately, the rest of the group brought the cars around on the highway so it was not necessary to climb back up.

Some of us ended the weekend by going into nearby Oatman for a late lunch. The town was alive with tourists, bikers and burros, but we were able to find a semi-quiet place for a good lunch.

The weekend book sale brought in over \$50 for the chapter. We will be having these booksales from time to time.



These deep ruts, found in solid rock, were made by ore wagons going through Kingman, AZ. photo by Robert Lee



Wild burros still roam the Beale Road area west of Kingman. They are descendents of burros brought in by prospectors in the 1800's.