

1991

January 19-20, 1991

Cow Springs to Doubtful Canyon, New Mexico

Southern Trail and Butterfield Overland Stage Route

Trip led by the Jim Carter. This was a continuation of Carter's trip the year before. The first stop was at Cow Springs on a private ranch. The spring is still active, though now enclosed. Soldiers Farewell was the next stop where part of the stone foundation is still visible. After a night in Lordsburg, there was a visit to view towards where the Barney Station had been, a tour of Shakespeare, a ghost town, and a final stop at Stein's Station. From there the trail goes into Doubtful Canyon and what is now Arizona. The local ranch owner showed us a gravemarker of John James Giddings.



Cow Springs as it appeared in 1991, enclosed and covered. There is a very good trail swale leading to the spring from the east.



Ruin of the Soldiers Farewell Stage Station. Just east of this location, the Southern Trail and the Apache Pass alternate fork. The earlier Southern Trail heads southeast, while the Apache Pass Trail goes west towards Doubtful Canyon. This trail was used later by emigrants, military the Butterfield Overland Stage and various others.

Taking the tour at the ghost town of Shakespear, NM. There was some use of stage lines through here when the playa west of Lordsburg was very wet.



Stein's Peak in the background, with the ruin of the stage station in the foreground. The peak is visible for many miles as one travels towards Doubtful Canyon from the east.



Marker for John James Giddings, who was killed when a stage was attacked in the Doubtful Canyon area. Indians were blamed for the attack, though many later felt it was white men after the money that was on the stage. The marker does not indicate the actual burial spot as that is unknown.

March 16-17, 1991
San Simon to Cienega Spring, Arizona
Apache Pass Trail

Trip led by the Bob and Sheri Lee. First stop was the supposed site of San Simon Station, but later research put it at a different place. The group hiked east from Apache Pass to Fort Bowie, along the trail. The second day started with trying and failing to find the Ewell's Stage Station, but there was better luck at the Dragoon Springs Stage Station. The ruins, graves and a side 4WD drive to a spring was included. The day ended with a search for the Cienega Stage Station. After some comparing a historic photo with the present landscape, it was found.



The group did find a Butterfield Road in their vain search to find Ewell's Stage Station.

The group hiked the trail leading away from the actual pass at Apache Pass towards Fort Bowie.



Fort Bowie can be seen on the ridge ahead as the group hiked the trail down from Apache Pass.



Jack Root tours the stabilized walls at Fort Bowie, reading the interpretive signs along the way.



A small cemetery remains in an area near Apache Spring. Both Indian and whites were buried here. After the fort closed, all military remains were removed to the San Francisco National Cemetery.

The spring still flows in the area. This is what brought the native tribes and later travelers through this area.





Several gather to read the signage about the site.



Three graves from the Civil War era are near the stage station, which is located behind the people in this photo. A packrat nest occupied the top of one grave. This area has been cleaned up and is now in better shape.



At the Cienega Springs Stage Station site the vegetation was more lush than away from the site.

Several look at a historic photo of the Cienega Springs Stage Station to line up the railroad trestles and highway to locate the stage station. This was the spot.



July 13-14, 1991
Fourth Planning Meeting
Strawberry, Arizona

The group met at the Strawberry cabin of Harland and Rose Ann Tompkins. Fourteen members attended the meeting and decided on programs for the next year. There were excursions to view the early trails into the Strawberry Valley and a local rancher gave a program on early settlement of the valley.



Planning group discussion on the Tompkins' deck. Bob Lee, the elder, took the group photo. Left to right; Betty Lee, Jack Root (with back to camera), Jim Byrkit, Reba Wells (on floor), Sherri Lee, Ruth Root, Rose Ann Tompkins, Pat Etter, Bob Lee (the younger), Harland Tompkins, Paul Etter, Aubrey Haines (behind Wilma), and Wilma Haines.

Two local excursions were part of the planning weekend.

Overlooking Fossil Creek Canyon. A pack trail from Payson to Camp Verde carried the mail at one time. Parts are still visible today and can be hiked.



Harland Tompkins led a group on an unnamed trail, one of several used to bring settlers and others from the Mogollon Rim down to the valleys of Strawberry and Pine.



Betty Lee (left) and Reba Wells could be sisters.



Rose Ann Tompkins and Ruth Root have smiles to greet everyone to breakfast at the cabin.

October 5-6, 1991
Overland Road
Flagstaff to Perkinsville, Arizona

Trip led by Jim Byrkit. After meeting in Flagstaff, Jim led the group along the Overland Road, used by early settlers, miners and military. Jim had researched the history of this route and saw the placement of rock cairns along the way.



Jim Byrkit points out the direction of the trail as the group crossed Garland Prairie. Left to right; Ruth Root, Jack Root Sherri Lee, Jim Byrkit, Harland Tompkins, Susan Doyle and Bob Lee.



Ruth Root enjoys a drink at Dow Spring, one of the springs along the Overland Road. Jim said the water is still pure and drinkable.



Two photos showing places where this trail could be seen and followed.



Lunch at Bear Spring, one of the places travelers used along the Overland Road.



The time of year allowed the group to enjoy the aspen trees in their fall color.