



## **Willard Chilcott (1928 – 2018)**

Willard S. Chilcott was born in Pasadena, Calif., August 8, 1928. He studied business and political science, among other topics, at both the University of Southern California and The University of New Mexico. His early life in California included

interests in business, politics, music and entertainment. In 1960, he co-founded The Ice House, a well-known comedy club in Pasadena that is still operating. He gave up his interest in the club in 1978 and moved to Santa Fe in 1980. In 1982, Chilcott helped found the Santa Fe Community Orchestra and often played with the group. Chilcott became a cycling enthusiast in the late 1970s. When he moved to Santa Fe from California, he took over organizing the Santa Fe Century, an annual 100-mile event, and ran it for many years. Chilcott spent years researching, mapping and promoting the idea of a bike tour along the Santa Fe Trail, from Santa Fe to Missouri. The 1,100-mile tour was first held in 1995 and held biannually over the next 21 years. Each day on the Santa Fe Trail Bicycle Trek, participants received a printed itinerary. It detailed the routes, suggested stops that included historical sites, eateries, lavatories, etc. Willard stated, "It's YOUR ride! YOU choose how to spend your day. Go fast. Go slow. Stop a lot. Don't stop at all. Stay with other riders. Ride solo. You decide."

After the 2016 event, Chilcott announced that year's event would be the final trip. Willard passed away January 15, 2018. He is survived by his wife Marilyn Fisher, his daughter Cynthia, sons Richard, Willard Jr. and John, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.