

**CORAZON de los CAMINOS  
HEART OF THE TRAILS CHAPTER  
SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION**



**NEWSLETTER  
March 2014**

**APRIL MEETING, APRIL 12, 2014, AT NRA WHITTINGTON CENTER  
CAFETERIA, 11 am**

Our next meeting is **April 12, 2014**. Meet at **NRA Whittington Center**, 34025 U.S. 64, Raton, NM 87740 (575) 445-3615 cafeteria at 11 am. Roger Sanchez will be our guest speaker. After lunch Tom Ferguson will lead us on a tour of Van Houten.

**MAY MEETING, MAY 10, 2014, AT LVCCHP, LAS VEGAS, NM 1 PM**

The May meeting will be held on May 10, 2014 at the LVCCHP, 116 Bridge Street, Las Vegas, NM at 1 pm. Lorenzo Vigil, a Ft. Union Park Ranger will speak about the economic impact and influence of Ft. Union on surrounding areas—particularly Las Vegas, Mora and San Miguel County.

Hope to see you all there.

**March Meeting**

**Grenada-Fort Union Military Freight Route**

As a girl, Lolly Ming grew up in Colorado and listened to the real history and family stories in and about Cripple Creek, but later became interested in the military trail that crossed their ranch about a hundred miles east of Trinidad. The presentation began with a short history of the Santa Fe Trail and its major routes (the Mountain Branch and the Dry Cimarron) established by William Becknell and party in 1821. In 1846, General Stephen W. Kearney marched down the trail and made New Mexico a U.S. territory. This necessitated the establishment of military forts throughout the southwest. Ft. Union was the largest of the southwestern forts and the supply center for all the other forts in the area. Therefore, tons of freight had to be sent there during its existence beginning in 1850. Pope was sent to survey a new trail, and by 1859 the military route was established. Fort Wise (near Lamar, CO) was established in 1860 to protect trail travelers and keep the peace among the Indians. The fort was later renamed named Fort Lyon and had a minor location change. Meanwhile, the railroads started to push westward and freight could be off-loaded and transported to Ft. Union. On July 4, 1873, the town of Old Grenada was established. Most of the freighters on this trail were New Mexicans. Miguel Otero, Sr. later became the territorial governor of New Mexico. Otero and Sons was one of the principal freighting firms on the Grenada trail. It was not long until the town of New Grenada was established. It was pointed out that freight was transported both directions on this trail. The trip to Ft. Union delivered all the staples an army needs,

and the return trip carried fine wines, buffalo tongues, tallow, hides, cattle, sheep, horses, etc. Over 400,000 buffalo hides were shipped to Grenada. There was over forty-six million tons of freight hauled on the Grenada-Ft. Union trail.

Our guest speaker used a PowerPoint presentation to take us down the trail using the diary of Lucinda Wiseman as she recorded daily events. Many pictures were shown of Old Grenada, New Grenada, ruts, springs, petroglyphs, ruins, graves, flora, wildlife, and major landmarks. Through the pictures and narrative, we traveled across the prairie through Emery Gap and Tollgate Canyon, Cinder Cone (called Mt. Capulin today), Kiowa Springs, rock crossing of the Canadian, Turkey Mountains, and Fort Union. The Grenada-Fort Union military road existed from 1873—1876; 1878 spelled the end of the route altogether. Of course, the coming of the railroad in 1880 eliminated the need for Ft. Union to even exist. Thank you, Lolly, for the excellent photography and presentation.

### **The President's Report**

Dear Trail Trekkers,

I did not attend the Spring Board meeting at Independence, MO, as I could not take five days off work, plus the expenses involved. As it was, I needed to bury my mother in Oklahoma and keep my doctor's appointments. I have found that my old medical problems are not cured, and I shall continue to have problems. We have some people in our group who have been working tirelessly on many projects. Thank you! We could not do without you. At our March meeting we passed out a list of paid memberships for 2014. If you have not yet signed up, please do so as soon as possible. Membership cards are being passed out and name tags are being processed. Please plan to attend our first major outing for the year. We shall meet at the Whittington Center cafeteria on April 12, 2014 at 11:00 a. m. Roger Sanchez will be our guest speaker, and he will speak on the history of mining in the area. We shall then dine in the cafeteria, and afterward carpool. Tom Ferguson will then lead us on a tour of Van Houten.

Looking ahead, the May meeting will proceed as scheduled at CCHP at 1:00 p.m. The June 14 trip has a waiting list. Please let me know if you wish to be placed on it in the event that someone cannot make it. We are moving the tour of the Rock Crossing of the Canadian to October and will later inform you of the details. Our one July event will be the tour of Catskill and Swastika on July 19. Details will follow in the newsletter. We wanted to inform you in advance of the schedule changes for your planning, but please stay abreast in each monthly newsletter. Let's all have a great year!

Dennis

My e-mail address is:

[schneidermusic@q.com](mailto:schneidermusic@q.com)

Telephone —575/376-2527

Mailing address: 828 South Euclid Ave., Cimarron, NM 87714.