

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

NEWSLETTER
MAY 2012

MAY MEETING

Our first tour of the year is SATURDAY, MAY 19. We will meet at the Point of Rocks Ranch at 10 a. .m. then travel east. All the way will be country roads (improved, dirt) so make your plans accordingly. This is a portion of the Cimarron Cut-Off and there are many historic sights, including Rabbit Ears, Turkey Creek and Round Mound. Faye Gaines asks that we do our homework and have information to share along the way. We lost our Master Storyteller, Harry, and each of us needs to fill the gap. Bring your lunch and information and join us!

To reach Point of Rocks Ranch, go east from Springer on Hwy 56 to the roadside park located between mile markers 23 and 24. Turn north for 7 miles on Dorsey Road C-52, turn east 2 miles on Windmill Road. Turn north on Point of Rocks Road to the Headquarters. THERE ARE SIGNS!

JUNE MEETING

The June meeting will be June 10, SUNDAY in Las Vegas. We will meet at 12 noon at the CCHP building, 116 Bridge Street and tour west to Kearny's Gap. Lunch is on your own. Dennis Ditmanson and Martha McCaffrey are in charge of the program.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Plans for summer meetings of the Chapter are being changed completely---for the better. We will be joining the Cimarron Historical Society and Philmont in July for a tour of Indian writings and dinosaur tracks. Date to be arranged. J. D Schmidt has spoken to Mr. Daniels about a barbeque for the August meeting in Wagon Mound.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all Corazon members! Our April business meeting was busy and productive. Some people were surprised by the attendance It is not known if the price of gasoline and travel is affecting us, or just the busy spring season. Most of our board members were present plus many of our regulars. Thank you. We are moving forward with brochures, a possible website and publicity. It was disappointing when our guest speaker did not show up. Since it turned out that he was helping a neighbor in distress, we will forgive him. Thank you, Faye for giving a short program. I appreciate Dr. Eugene Lamb attending our meeting to help with project presentations and lending his expertise. Henri and Tibor have really accomplished an outstanding job at our Fort Union archives. Henri reported that we have an entire room set aside for us. I was pleased that our chapter authorized our treasurer to automatically pay normal everyday-to-day expenses and report back to us in a regular financial report. Our business meetings are sometimes spaced over a period of months. We are hoping for a big rally on our May19 tour beginning at Point of Rocks. Faye has asked that each member does a

little research to share on our tour, so don't let us down (we don't have Harry anymore). It doesn't have to be extensive if everyone participates. Please watch your monthly newsletter for important program changes concerning upcoming events. We have been offered some unique opportunities such as the Indian Writing tour (with the archeologists on Philmont) at Cimarron, so watch for all upcoming developments. I hope to see everyone on May 19, and we hope the weather is good. Dennis

CORAZON BOARD MEETING

Corazon Chapter is having a brochure printed advertising the museums in this area: Clayton, Folsom, Trinidad, Raton, Cimarron, Philmont, Springer and Las Vegas. Printed in color on glossy paper, 10,000 at a cost of \$880.00 have been ordered with the copy having gone to the printers this week. The Secretary will file a request for the remainder of the Education Grant from the SFTA. \$200 was given to J. D. for production of tapes but \$300 more may be available. Doyle Foreman with the very able assistance of Dr. Eugene Lamb of Cimarron is in charge of the project. Sincere thanks go to you both.

Corazon will support the website for the Santa Fe Trail Interpretive Museum in Springer. Much work remains to be done including the contents of the site. Paula Steves is being asked to be in charge.

The Chapter very much appreciates the excellent work Henri Vanderkolk and Tibor Remenyik have done on the Archives at Fort Union. The Jean Hinkle Room where our archives are kept was established in recognition of the work of Jean and Charles Hinkle and Alma Gregory and it is good to know it is being utilized again. Arrangement can be made if anyone wants to do research there.

APRIL DIAPPOINTMENT

Members who came to Springer hoping to hear Apollonio Ortiz's talk were disappointed that instead of meeting with us he was helping a neighbor who had run off into hole with a water wagon. "A friend in need is a friend indeed." Faye Gaines gave an interesting short talk from Morris Taylor's book *First Mail West*.

There was no United States postal service west of Council Grove before 1850. When wagon trains were relied on to bring messages from the east there was a lag of two or three months for mail. Around the time of the Mexican War (1846) most dispatches were of a military nature and those as well as private correspondence was carried by military riders or experienced plainsmen.

After the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, Washington began to look for ways to more firmly secure the west territory. Mail routes were established, postage rates were reduced and the adhesive stamp was introduced as well as the practice of paying postage at the point of origin rather than at the destination.

In 1850 the first mail contract was awarded to carry the mail over the Santa Fe Trail Cimarron Cut-Off from Independence to Santa Fe. Mule teams were commonly hitched to the mail wagons although horses were more often used in California. Service was originally set for monthly. Stage stops or accommodations for employees and passengers were few and primitive. As the rails lengthened, distances covered by stagecoaches became shorter and mail service more frequent---semi-monthly, weekly, and by 1866, tri-weekly

Gold discovery in California and Colorado brought increased settler and with that increased Indian hostility. Indian raids and war parties plagued the stage lines and mail coaches almost to the end of their existence. Often these vehicles traveled alone or in small parties and in the west there was truly” safety in numbers.” Indian uprisings led to the eventual establishment of forts along the Trail---Fort Nichols, Fort Wise, Fort Union and others.

In 1861 the government abandoned the Cimarron Cut-off route in favor of the trail over Raton Pass. The mail and stages continued to run with ever-shortening routes until the railroad reached Santa Fe in 1880.

SFTA DIRECTORS MEETING

Peggy and Tom Ferguson and Faye attended the directors meeting, Ulysses, KS, April 20-21. Peggy and Tom sent this report.

We arrived at the host hotel on April 19 with a WELCOME TO THE SFTA on their billboard. Great people and good rooms. We attended the meet and greet. Everyone was very welcoming to us as new people. Later we attended a Preservation Committee meeting chaired by Faye. As new, uneducated members we were impressed at the extent of the work this committee does. It is a never-ending battle to keep the Trail safe from progress.

Friday, April 20 at 8 a.m. we met at the historic Adobe Museum for a meeting with the Kansas Scenic By-Ways group. The information they presented was about the requirements for designation of the SFT through Kansas as an historic byway. The information they presented was very interesting noting that each state has different requirements. For all who have never been to the Adobe Museum, it is very much worth visiting.

Jeff Trotman and ladies served lunch each day. They did a great job keeping us happy with sandwiches, chips, fruit and yummy cookies. They worked hard and their work was appreciated.

The afternoon consisted of the Board of Directors meeting. It impressed us with the hard work and enthusiasm. The evening meeting was on publicity but we didn't attend. We were beat.

Saturday, we met again at the Museum to plan our goals for the next 10 years. Sharon Brown of the NPS was the leader. The goals are: 1) Increase public awareness of the National Trail System, 2) complete and enhance the designated national trails, 3) build the capacity of the organizations and federal agencies to better administer manage and sustain the trails, 4) protect, preserve and promote awareness of the Trail and its history, 5) preserve, if possible, the tangible remnants of the trail, 6) work to provide incentives and protection to land owners who allow access to the Trail and 7) work to make land owners aware of the historic treasure they have.

There was a closing barbeque at Wagon Bed Springs and on Sunday a tour of local ruts with a guide. It was a grand time out on the prairie.
Tom and Peggy

Come join us!! Dixie

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