

Special Activities of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter Of the Santa Fe Trail Association

Listed below are some of the special activities the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association has undertaken:

Wet/Dry Routes Chapter Newsletter – It was decided to start a newsletter in 1993, which would be mailed to our membership. Added features of this newsletter were a “Did You Know” column by David Clapsaddle, book reviews by George Elmore and Joanne VanCoevern, and the Marion and Will Corner, which will feature artwork from elementary children. Ida Yeager will do the word processing for this publication. A contest was held to determine the name of the newsletter. Entries received were “The Ox Yoke”, “Traces”, “Scuttlebutt”, and “Wet/Dry Tails”. The winner was “**TRACES**” which was submitted by Rosetta Graff. David Clapsaddle served as the first editor, followed by Howard Losey. The “Traces” has taken various forms throughout the years, but is still published quarterly.

Faye Anderson Award – During the fall meeting of the Chapter in 1993, members voted to establish the Faye Anderson Award. This award will recognize the significant contributions of an individual, or a group, with respect to the publication or preservation of the Santa Fe Trail. In addition to a Plaque of Appreciation, the award will honor the recipient/s with a lifetime membership in the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter. The award will be presented annually at the Winter meeting of the Chapter. Faye Anderson, one of the Charter members of the Chapter who died unexpectedly in November 1991, was a true Santa Fe Trail enthusiast and a credit to our Chapter. Winners of the Faye Anderson Award are as follow:

- 1994 – Leo and Bonita Oliva
- 1995 – Mildon Yeager
- 1996 – Joanne VanCoevern
- 1997 – Rusti Gardner
- 1998 – David Clapsaddle
- 1999 – Clara Goodrich
- 2000 – Howard Losey
- 2001 – Larry Mix
- 2002 – Cecil Johnson
- 2003 – KCAHTA
- 2004 – Paul Bentrup
- 2005 – Larned State Hospital
- 2006 – George Elmore

175th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail – The Wet/Dry Routes Chapter participated in the 175th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail coordinated by the Kansas State Historical Society. Plans called for various local organizations to present programs related to their respective areas during the summer of 1996. The Wet/Dry Routes Chapter was responsible for programs related to 1825 survey of the Santa Fe Trail, the Battle of Coon

Creek, The Big Rut on the Jerome Herrmann property and Gabriel's Barbecue on the Wetzel property. Former president, Lon Palmer coordinated the Chapter's efforts.

Wet/Dry Routes Chapter Seminars – Beginning in 1997, the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter started hosting one and/or two day seminars. Changes throughout the years included co-sponsoring the seminar and holding it in conjunction with the Fort Larned Old Guard and then holding the seminar every other year. Following is a list of these seminars:

1997 Seminar

This seminar was held on June 14, 1997 in Larned. The theme was "Murder on the Santa Fe Trail". Presenters included: William Chalfant, discussing the murder of Antonio Chavez on Owl Creek; Ray Schulz, speaking on the murder of Francis Boothe at the Walnut Creek Ranche in 1857; Randy Thies, speaking on the 1862 murder of A. I. Baker at Rock Creek; and Tom Goodrich, addressing the murder of Augustus Howel in 1863 at Diamond Spring. In addition, Leo Oliva will introduce the seminar with a discussion of social conditions on the frontier which contributed to such violence.

1998 Seminar

A second seminar was held June 13, 1998 and the theme for this one was, "Survey of the Road to Santa Fe, a Great American Drama in Three Acts". This seminar centered on the 1825 U.S. Survey of the Road to Santa Fe. It was conducted at the Larned Community Center. Presenters included: Leo Oliva, Craig Crease, David Clapsaddle and David Sandoval. In the evening, participants were treated to ice cream at Sibley's Camp in Larned. The next day a field trip was taken to survey related sites in Pawnee, Edwards and Ford counties.

1999 Seminar

This seminar was held on June 4-5 and featured presentations focusing on the theme of "Trading Ranches on the Santa Fe Trail. Speakers included Michael Olson, William Chalfant, Leo Oliva and David Clapsaddle. A special feature of this seminar was an art show of works related to the Trail and association subjects. The artwork of Jerry Thomas, Manhattan, who has received national recognition for his paintings, was the main feature. Local artists also participated. A special session held at 7:00 p.m., June 4, focused on the artwork.

The trading ranche presentations were held on June 5. All sessions were held at the Kansas Soldiers Home, Fort Dodge.

2000 Seminar

The theme for the fourth seminar was "Specks of Civilization: U.S. Military Posts in Pre-territorial Kansas". It was held on June 10, 2000 at the Santa Fe Trail Center. The stories of Forts Leavenworth, Scott and Riley were examined with a view of the relationship of each to the Santa Fe Trail. Speakers included Stephen Allie, Arnold Schofield, Terry Van Meter and John Lemons.

2001 Seminar

The fifth annual seminar hosted by the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter was held on April 28, 2001 in a joint meeting with the Fort Larned Old Guard at the Fort Larned NHS. The seminar, "Altercations and Confrontations: The Civil War Along the Santa Fe Trail," was presented during the morning session and featured the following four speakers: Arnold Schofield, Leo Oliva, Harry Myers, and George Elmore.

2002 Seminar

(Went to bi-annual seminars.)

2003 Seminar

Scheduled for May 3, 2003 and held at Fort Larned National Historic Site, this seminar was held in conjunction with the Fort Larned Old Guard. The seminar featured speakers addressing subjects related to theme, "The Mexican War and The Santa Fe Trail". Speakers were Arnold Schofield, Francis Cuppage, M.D., and Leo Oliva.

2005 Seminar

The Chapter held the 2005 Seminar in conjunction with the Fort Larned Old Guard annual meeting. It was held at Fort Larned on May 7, 2005. The speakers theme, "Before Becknell" was well addressed by expert speakers covering the French, Spanish, and American explorations of the southwest prior to the 1821 opening of the Santa Fe Trail by William Becknell. Presenters for this seminar were: Leo Oliva, Donald Blackeslee, Harry Myers, and Craig Crease.

Chavez Marker Dedication – A replica of a marker with the single word CHAVES was located south of the Owl Creek Crossing on the Santa Fe Trail. The marker, long since gone, was placed near the site where Antonio Chavez was killed in 1843 by Jackson County Missourians who were operating as mercenaries in league with the Republic of Texas. A replica of the historical marker was prepared and placed at the location of the original site. An onsite dedication of the marker was held June 12, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. David Sandoval, Colorado Southern University, was the guest speaker.

Award for National History Day – Beginning in 1999, the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter presented an award of \$200 to the best entry relative to the Santa Fe Trail by a Kansas student in the National History Day Competition. Because of the lack of participation by students this program was discontinued in 2004.

Poster Contest – In place of the award given for the National History Day, an award given for Poster Contest has been initiated. The posters must be related to the Santa Fe Trail. The contest will be held in various school districts in the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter area on a rotating basis.