



## TRAIL TAILS



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Please send your email addresses or any questions to Carol Retzer: [carolretzer@hughes.net](mailto:carolretzer@hughes.net). Or 785 828 3739

Happy New Year!!! I hope you all had a blessed and wonderful Christmas with lots of family and friends! We are so very fortunate to live in this country and enjoy the freedoms we have.

Virgil and Delores Scheid, Al Bunting and I gathered at Wilmington in October to do some major grounds work. While there, representatives from the Kansas Preservation Alliance arrived to look over the place and gather information. We got a great deal of tree removal done and the mess cleaned up. Thanks to Al for bringing out his bobcat – what a great toy!

We discussed two major topics at the meeting in October. First, of course, was Wilmington. It is agreed that we must find a new, responsible, qualified owner to deed the property over to. It is not realistic to believe the Chapter can continue trying to maintain this property, much less restore it. The Kansas Preservation Alliance has met with us and discussed several options, one of which is to sell the property with preservation “covenants”. This would be the best of all worlds, but first we need a buyer. If any of the membership should hear of someone looking to buy and restore historical properties, please contact me or anyone at the Kansas Preservation Alliance. Their address is: 12120 State Line Rd. Ste. 128, Leawood, KS 66209, or [www.kpalliance.org](http://www.kpalliance.org).

The next item for discussion is our combined efforts with local historians and Osage County to develop a brochure highlighting historical sites within Osage County. It was decided that our Chapter would come to our January meeting prepared with information and digital photos of various sites we would like to see on the brochure. I am preparing information on Wilmington and the Havana Stage station. If anyone would like to contribute to this, please forward your information to me via email at: [carolretzer@hughes.net](mailto:carolretzer@hughes.net). Of course, even better would be your attendance at the January meeting!

The National Parks System has made available funds for signage along the trail. The Chapter has requested their assistance in updating the signs throughout Council Grove. As you may know, these signs are showing their age and we would like to restore them before their condition worsens. I will keep you informed on when this work is scheduled to be done. The NPS will provide funds with the Chapter providing the labor to install the updated materials. Please consider volunteering when I call for help!

I have had no commitment from any of the membership to sponsor the annual Santa Fe Trail ride this June. Therefore, the rides provided by Al Bunting and Bill Z. out of the Burlingame arena will be the only rides provided at this time.

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Santa Fe Café in Burlingame. We can gather around 6 to eat and have the meeting following dinner. I hope to hear from the History/Signage committee which did not attend the last meeting. They are working on identifying trail locations in our chapter that need to be marked, or need existing signs redone. There should be some matching funds from the National Park Service soon and we need to have our list ready for submission. We will also be working to finalize the brochure so that it can be to the printers in time for the Spring/Summer seasons. Please come and contribute! This is a wonderful chance to promote the Santa Fe Trail and have a hand in its preservation!

At our January meeting, we will need to elect chapter board members and officers. Three directors will finish their terms and will need to be replaced. They are: Don Cress, Leland Zerbe, and Lois DeWitt. (Of course, we would love to have the three of you “re-up”) Feel free to send your nominations for directors and officers in an email to me if you can’t attend the meeting. Thanks!

That’s about all for now.  
**Until next time – Happy Trails!**

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