

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

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2011

PROGRAM, MARCH 17, 1 p.m.

Corazon Chapter will meet Sunday, March 17 at Elida's Café in Springer, 801 Railroad Ave. Doyle Foreman will give a program "XIT Ranch." Lunch will be available prior to the meeting.

Following the program, we will tour the Santa Fe Trail Museum in the old Colfax County Courthouse. In addition to the Trail exhibit, the building has an interesting history. Visitors will be able to purchase Trail items such as mugs, t-shirts and books. This will be a special opportunity, as the Museum has no plans, at present, to open for the summer.

MAY TOUR AT PECOS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Corazon will begin its series of summer tours at Pecos Saturday, May 21st. Meet at the Visitor's Center at 10:00 a.m., and bring a sack lunch. Park Ranger Erick Volance will guide us through parts of the Park which encompasses the Indian Pueblo, the Spanish Mission, the Forked Lightning Ranch and the 1862 Glorietta Battlefield.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I want to thank the Board Members for participating in our March 25th meeting in Springer. One of the topics discussed was the SFT trunk. The trunk is an educational tool containing items that would be used on the Trail. It was set up for schools to show children items like the tin cup, bull whip, bonnet and various clothing worn during the trail days and to educate them about the history of the Trail. Ron Harvey, ranger at Fort Union, is going to use the Corazon trunk at the Fort this summer for the Junior Ranger Programs for ages 7-12. It will also be used on Saturdays at 2 p.m. for a special summer program on the Santa Fe Trail. And it will continue to be used in schools and organizations, with Ron's guidance and direction, during the year. What a wonderful way to keep history alive for these young folks!

Also, we need to apologize to those of you that came out to Raton to hear David Sandoval. We had a mix-up on the allotted time booked for this program. Since then we have made future changes and arrangements.

Hope to see you in Springer for the XIT presentation.
Paula

'DEFENDING THE EMPIRE'

Dressed in the authentic wear of the Spanish presidio soldier, Dr. David Sandoval, history professor of Colorado State-Pueblo University, gave the March program based on the time when New Mexico was a part of the Spanish Empire. Twelve Corazon members and guests were present.

There were four reasons Spain entered into the Southwest: 1) to search for wealth, 2) to retrieve fugitive Indians who had left the pueblos, 3) to scout for possible intrusions of the French and 4) to look for trails to other locations. To these could be added the obligation, expressed by Queen Isabella, to convert the Indians to Christianity.

“The basic operating premise of the empire was mercantilism, but they wished to incorporate Native labor,” Sandoval said. If the Indians were settled in villages they were more easily controlled. For that reason the presidios and missions were built close together where one could always hear the ringing of the church bells. The result of this urbanization was the rapid spread of disease.

Spanish entry into New Mexico began with Coronado’s search for mineral wealth in 1540. Others followed: Onate with the first settlers, Juan de Archuleta and Juan de Ulibarri seeking runaway Indians, Pedro de Villasur whose expedition was wiped out by the Pawnees when he scouted for trespassing French.

By 1790 a line of fortified outposts had been constructed in the Southwest from Texas to California. These presidios were manned by the *soldados de cuera*. Having been born in the frontier provinces, they were adapted to the harsh conditions and were governed by their own regulations. They were issued, in addition to standard weaponry, a leather shield, a lance and a heavy sleeveless leather jacket, from which comes their name. They wore a broad brimmed black hat to block the desert sun and leggings for protection from cacti and brush.

One *soldado* is said to have replied when asked about his duties, “ I have more duties than the Devil has Fallen Angels.” They manned the forts, protected the missions, escorted supply trains, carried messages and did anything else assigned to them by the provincial governor.

Their clothes were heavy and hot in a desert climate. The buckskin jacket dried stiff if it got wet. There was seldom enough ammunition for their ineffective weapons. They were never fully supplied and rarely paid on time. Nevertheless, the *soldados de cuera* served for a term of ten years and left their legacy in the Southwest.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING

The Chapter received a letter of thanks from the Santa Fe Trail Hall of Fame for the donation in memory of Harry Myers. Altogether \$2950 was donated in Harry’s memory.

The Hall of Fame Committee is asking for nomination of persons to be considered for induction into the Hall. A nominee should be someone important in the history of the Trail. The February 2011 issue of *Wagon Tracks* gives complete directions for nominating.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

April 17th, Sunday---- Corazon program “XIT Ranch”, Doyle Foreman, Elida’s Café, 801 Railroad Ave. Springer, 1 p.m. Lunch available prior to the program

April 21st, Thursday----“Las Vegas” Heroes of the Past: “The 3rd New Mexico Volunteer Infantry,” Glimpses of the Past program, 1 p.m. Interpretive Center, 116 Bridge Street, Las Vegas

May 21st, Saturday—Corazon tour of Pecos National Historical Park, meet at Visitors Center, 10 a.m. Bring a sack lunch

June 23-27---Mountain Men Rendezvous, Eagle Nest
June 25-26---Cultural Encounters, Fort Union National Monument **Corazon**
will participate on **Saturday, June 25th** 10 a.m.
July 16th, Saturday---First Fort and Arsenal Tours, Fort Union
July 17th, Sunday---“**Round-Up on the Trail**”, **Point of Rocks, 10 a.m. All day event**
August 4-14---Heritage Week, Las Vegas
August 20th, Saturday---Corazon Auto tour, Raton to Cimarron, 10 a.m.
August 20th, Saturday---Candlelight Tours, Fort Union
September 17th, Saturday---Corazon program “Las Vegas and the Santa Fe Trail”, Martha McCaffrey, 1 p.m., Followed by a walking tour of Old Town Plaza
September 24th, Saturday---First Fort and Arsenal Tours, Fort Union
October 15th, Saturday--- Corazon tour Crow Creek Stage Station, 1 p.m.
November 19th, Saturday---Corazon business meet and program To be arranged, Las Vegas

CODE OF ETHICS

It's time to hit the trail again! So we should be reminded...
NEVER ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT PERMISSION.

RESPECT THE SITES VISITED AND TREAT THEM WITH CARE

PHOTOGRAPH AND SKETCH AT WILL

LOOK AT, BUT DON'T TOUCH, TRACE OR CHALK ROCK ART.

RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO LEAVE YOUR NAME CARVED IN THE ROCKS.

DON'T TAKE ANYTHING WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE LANDOWNER.

IF YOU FIND ANYTHING OF INTEREST LEAVE IT IN PLACE AND REPORT THE FIND TO THE LANDOWNER OR GUIDE.

PICK UP ALL TRASH---EVEN IF IT'S NOT YOURS.

STAY WITH THE GROUP. DON'T WANDER OFF ALONE.

LEAVE GATES AS YOU FIND THEM---OPEN IF OPEN, CLOSED IF CLOSED.

DO TAKE THE TIME TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO GUIDES AND/OR LANDOWNERS.

REMEMBER, YOU ARE A GUEST AND CONDUCT YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY. IT TAKES ONLY ONE BAD EXPERIENCE TO CLOSE A SITE TO EVERYONE.

