

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

NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2012

SUNDAY, JUNE 10 TOUR

Corazon goes to Las Vegas for the Sunday, June 10 tour. Meet at 12 noon at the CCHP/Santa Trail Interpretative Center, 116 Bridge Street. Lunch is on your own. Martha McCaffrey, Carol and Dennis Ditmanson are planning the program, which includes a drive to Kearny's Gap.

The Ditmansons have invited us to their home for cowboy cobbler after the meeting. It would be helpful if you would contact them at cid@zianet.com or Dixie Odom at delo@bacavalley.com, or 575-375-2705 if you plan to come. Thank you Carol and Dennis for your gracious invitation.

PHILMONT TOUR

Corazon members will enjoy a special treat in July when we join with Philmont and the Cimarron Historical Society for a tour to "the old ones" archaeological site and dinosaur tracks near Cimarron. July 28 is the tentative date. BUT BE SURE TO READ YOUR JULY NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all trail buffs: Our field trip from the Point of Rocks went very well with a picture-perfect day. Faye Gains is an excellent guide. Not only did we view the locations of the campgrounds and landmarks but also saw some of the latest designated historical preservation sites of the trail. Emery Murray got up very early that morning and drove down from Las Animas to join us. He is a member of Bent's Fort Chapter (as well as Corazon) and used to work for the park service at Ft. Lyon. We covered a lot of ground that day. To give you an idea, two vehicles drove up to view McNees Crossing from the highway after leaving the Kiowa grasslands and Emery left us by way of Kenton, Oklahoma for his return home. We hope to see everyone for the next trip to Las Vegas on June 10 at noon.

We are busy distributing the new northeast New Mexico museum brochures as much as possible at Cimarron, NRA and Raton. I have several thousand stored here in Cimarron. Ask for them and you shall receive; I will try to get some to Las Vegas during our outing.

Faye has been under the weather this week, but Tom, Peggy, Gladys and I met at the NRA Whittington Center with their officials last Tuesday and marked out the site for the Santa Fe Trail Exhibit. My chief concerns now are placing something that adds to the area rather than detracts, cannot be easily vandalized, requires little maintenance and can hold up to the weather. We shall be open to models and designs to be considered in the final lay out and cost involved.

I guess we do not usually lower a flag or drape a chair, etc. but we are going to miss Tibor. Not only was he a long-standing member, but he also rendered valuable service to our organization. We have lost another great Trail champion.

Dennis

SPRINGER MUSEUM WEB SITE

Paula Steves who has been the kingpin in the Springer Museum project e-mailed that other commitments prevent her from continuing to work on the web site. The chapter needs someone who is computer literate to volunteer to coordinate with Springer Museum/Springer Mayor Danny Cruz to decide content and other questions. If you are interested, please contact Dennis; otherwise the project will be tabled.

ROADSIDE PULL-OFF

Fort Union is planning a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the NM161 Watrous pull-off. "The way-sides and pull-off are designed to feature the close relationship of the Santa Fe Trail with Fort Union and the communities of the area," writes Marie Sauter, Fort Union superintendent. The tentative date is set for July 21. Corazon will receive a formal invitation when plans are finalized,

TIBOR REMENYIK DIES

When Tibor Remenyik passed away on May 27, Corazon, Fort Union and the Las Vegas Rough Riders lost a true friend. History and museums, accompanied by his volunteer involvement, had always been his interest. He died at age 83 of rapidly advancing systemic cancer.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, Tibor's family left Hungary in 1944 as the Russian army entered. They lived in Switzerland until 1959 when he joined his brother in the United States. He became a naturalized citizen in 1964.

Tibor was educated in Hungary, Switzerland and at the Colorado School of Mines. His work experience included an assistanceship in mineralogy in Germany, mineral exploration in Iran, and road base gravel exploration in Tennessee. He retired to Las Vega where he taught geology at Highlands University. His career was in mineralogy and mining but he was a man of many interests,

Tibor had been an active member of Corazon since 1997 and had held several offices. He will be greatly missed. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Janet and all his family.

MAY TOUR

A very small group met at Point of Rocks Ranch May 19 to follow the Cimarron Cut-Off branch of the Trail. Our route followed the Trail as closely as public roads allow. Faye was our faultless guide who didn't get us lost even once as we traveled east and north to the Kiowa Grasslands near Clayton.

It didn't take much imagination on the beautiful spring day to see wagons crossing the open prairie---and maybe a few Indians, too. Trail ruts are visible in many, many places including one near Sophia being considered as a national historic site.

We ate lunch in the shade of trees on the grounds of the old Sophia school that was built by the WPA. Sophia was settled by Bulgarian emigrants and developed into a

farming community that drought out during the Dust Bowl. It is now a Ghost Town—except for the school building which has been remodeled and is being used by Assembly of God churches as a home for wayward boys. We appreciate their hospitality in allowing us to “trespass” on their campus.

White Massacre site, camping places---Rock Creek, Round Mound, Rabbit Ears Creek, Cottonwood (Turkey Creek), Kiowa National Grasslands---all were on our agenda as we traveled east. Many travelers left journals of their trip and details from these were shared by Dennis, Faye and Dixie. A long trip but lots to see—just as Santa Fe Trail travelers noted all those years ago.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 10—Corazon meets at 12 noon at 116 Bridge Street ,Las Vegas

JUNE 24-25---Cultural Encounters, Fort Union

SATURDAY, JULY 14---First Fort and Arsenal Tours, Fort Union

SATURDAY, JULY 21---Tentative date for ribbon cutting, Watrous Roadside Pull-off

SATURDAY JULY 28---Tentative date for Corazon combined meeting with Philmont and the Cimarron Historical Society, Cimarron

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19---Corazon tour , Wagon Mound

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15---Corazon tour to be arranged

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7---Corazon program at Old French

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17---Corazon business meeting and program, “CivilWar in New Mexico” Eric Valencia, NPS Pecos National Historical Park, speaker

Remember the “Glimpses of the Past “ programs at the CCHP/Santa Fe Trail Intertpretive Center, Las Vegas, the third Thursday evening of each month at 7 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Clayton Complex comprised of Santa Fe Trail campsites and geographical landmarks is designated as a National Historic Landmark. The complex begins at McNees Crossing near the Oklahoma state line and extends to Round Mound. A complete collection of slides of the area, both from the air and on the ground, may be seen in the Herzstein Museum in Clayton.

Enjoy your summer and join us on the Trail,
Dixie