

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

NOVEMBER
NEWSLETTER

END-OF-YEAR PROGRAM

The November 19 program and annual business meeting will wrap up 2011 for Corazon Chapter. We will meet at K-Bob's of Las Vegas, 1803 7th St., at 1 p.m. for the living history presentation "Land of Luz" by Dorothy Smoker. Ms. Smoker tells the story of Marie de la Luz Beaubien Maxwell.

There will be a business meeting and election of officers. It is also time to begin to plan programs for 2012. Lunch is available from the menu before the program.

Make a special effort to join us!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, headed by Tom Ferguson, will present a slate of candidates for seven (7) members of the Board of Directors to serve for the next two years. Further nominations from the floor are welcome. After election, the Board will meet to organize itself.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Paula sends "GREETINGS FROM TEXAS" where she enjoyed the Cowboys vs Seahawks football game last Sunday. She will be home in time for the November meeting.

TRAIL PRESERVATION

Faye Gaines has been working with the Tri States power company, which is upgrading their line between Farley and Springer. The workers did not recognize the trail ruts and had located a pole in them. The company is cooperating in making changes.

GREETINGS FROM JAPAN

Henri and Harue VanderKolk have been vacationing and visiting relatives in Japan. Henri e-mails that they have been pounded by a typhoon and shaken by an earthquake. Stay safe, friends!

OCTOBER TOUR AT CROW CREEK RANCH

In October Corazon members visited the Crow Creek headquarters of CS Ranch where we were welcomed by Linda Davis and her daughter-in law, Mary Davis.

This is the location of the Horn cabin, which dates from 1854. Horn was driving a herd of hogs to Santa Fe when a snowstorm caught him here. He built the cabin and spent the winter.

Linda told that the ranch was begun in February 1873. Soon after Frank Springer arrived in Cimarron from Iowa to be attorney for the Maxwell Land Grant Company, he

chose a vega east of the village as the area he wanted to own. It is now the site of the home ranch headquarters.

Springer represented the land grant company before the United States Supreme Court and won the disputed claim that the grant comprised 1.7 million acres. He took much of his payments in land. The ranch is divided into several divisions: on the south, Clayton Place, headquarters and, separated from the rest by Vermejo Park Ranch, Crow Creek on the north.

Springer married Josephine Mary Bishop, a lady from hearty pioneer stock herself. Living back east, her mother and the three girls were abandoned by her father. Mrs. Bishop learned that the position of Postmistress was available in the village of Cimarron, Territory of New Mexico. She immediately accepted the job, hired a wagon and team and came over the Trail. Mrs. Bishop became a legend in Cimarron, dancing the Highland Fling whenever the occasion arose. She live to advanced age and when asked the secret of her longevity would reply, "Just a wee bit of Scotch everyday."

The Frank Springers had seven children but it was a grandson Les Davis who chose to make the ranch his life's work. After World War II, Les moved to New Mexico from Philadelphia and married Linda Mitchell, daughter of Albert Mitchell, another prominent ranching family. The couple has six children; all of whom are involved in the ranch in various capacities. Les has passed away but Linda continues her active life.

The CS brand comes from Charles Springer, Frank's brother, who came from Iowa as cattle boss. Jiggs Porter was the long time foreman. He taught both Les and the boys the ins and outs of the cattle business.

Northeastern New Mexico ranches have suffered severely from drought. Crow Creek cattle have been shipped to pasture in Wyoming. It was because of the fragile conditions of the range that Corazon was did not go west of Hwy 64 to the site of the Crow Creek Stage Station.

CROW CREEK STAGE STATION

Nancy Robertson quoted from *First Mail West* by Morris Taylor "In September 1870, Barlow, Sanderson and Company made...arrangements with the Maxwell Land Grant Co. One was the lease of a half acre on Crow Creek, between the Raton Mountains and Cimarron. There the stage company would erect a stage station; which could not be a home station." Dennis Schneider passed out maps of the area and gave some facts about the stagecoach routes. Not much else is known about this station.

Linda and Mary served delicious refreshments of cookies, brownies and cider to the group. "Thank You" to the Davis family for their hospitality and interesting program.

FORT UNION

Veterans' Day weekend is fee free at Fort Union National Monument and other National Parks. A nice salute to veterans!

Hats off to all Veterans and members of all branches of service! It takes only a glance at our history to realize how much our nation---we---owe you!

