NEXT PROGRAM: Saturday, September 23, 9:00 AM. Field Trip to Forked Lightning Ranch within Pecos National Historic Park. This will be a joint trip with Santa Fe Westerners and the local Old Spanish Trail chapter (sponsor.) The Forked Lightning Ranch was established in 1924 by Tex Austin, a rodeo promoter, as a dude ranch. It was later purchased by Buddy Fogelson, husband of Greer Garson, and was often used as their summer home. The ranch was eventually bequeathed to PNHP. Most of the “field” will be in the home. Meet and car-pool from the Albertson’s parking lot on Zia at 9:00 AM, or the Eldorado Supermarket parking lot (east end) at 9:30 AM. Fees include $3.00 per person and $2.00 for the ranch visit, payable at the PNHP Visitor Center; all park passes will be honored. Lunch will be at Kristina’s on Highway 50 – north side of the road; restaurant is behind the building on the street front. There is a big sign out front. Lunches run from $5.00 to $10.00. Please call Pat Kuhlhoff at: 466-4877 by September 20 with your reservation so that we can let the park office and the restaurant know how many folks to expect.

LAST PROGRAM: Saturday, June 10, 2006. Field trip of SFT ruts and traces from the southern border of the City of Santa Fe to Museum Hill, led by Mike Pitel.

Mike is a member of the SFTA, and has been its Publicity Coordinator for many years. He researched and co-authored, with Linda Tigges, “The Historic Santa Fe Trail Inventory Study” for the City of Santa Fe in the late 1980’s.

Fifteen members met at 9:30 near the Trail monument on Camino Lejo. Mike gave us background information current maps on the Trail within city limits. We then car-pooled along Old Santa Fe Trail to the south end of Quail Run, then made stops at numerous sites just west of OSFT where there was evidence, or more often, where there recently was evidence of the Trail.

The Trail ruts and traces lie between the Caminos de Pecos branch (re the Jose de Urrutia map of Santa Fe, 1676) and Old Santa Fe Trail. Mike has seen them disappear rapidly due to recent development; and many are no longer accessible due to fencing and gating of private property. A lively discussion took place about “what to do,” with one suggestion being the issuing of plaques to homeowners who leave Trail ruts undisturbed.

After several hours we had made our way back to our starting point, where we concluded the outing. Margaret Sears then led a group of enthusiasts to other nearby Trail rut sites.

PROGRAM ON SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2006. Joint meeting with OSTA at La Farge Library Community room.

After brief opening remarks by La Alcaldesa Joy Poole, and Pat Kuhlhoff (OSTA), approximately 50 members and guests were treated to an outstanding one-woman performance by Chataqua actress Van Ann Moore.

Mamie Bernand Aguirre (whose life was recently documented in Journey of the Heart, A...
True Story, a biography by Annette Gray) lived from 1844 to 1906. Mamie was the daughter of a Westport, Missouri merchant. She married Epifanio Aguirre, a freighter from southern New Mexico. She traveled five times over the Santa Fe Trail, keeping journals and scrapbooks of her adventurous life.

In a dramatic and often emotional performance (complete with period costumes, props and music), Van Ann became Mamie right before our eyes. Some highlights of her life include: her birth in St. Louis, attending an eastern finishing school, sewing Confederate flags (her family considered themselves Southerners), meeting and attempting to speak Spanish to her future husband Epifanio Aquirre, traveling along the Santa Fe Trail, meeting her in-laws on Las Cruces, the birth of her three sons, living in Las Vegas, NM (and interacting with the soldiers and wives of nearby Fort Union), losing her husband in an Indian attack, and eventually becoming a teacher in the Tucson area.

Mamie’s real-life great granddaughters, Andra Aguirre, of Eldorado, and Rowene Aguirre-Medina, of Tucson, were in the audience and were obviously moved by this reenactment of their great-grandmother’s life. It was very touching for all of us to see Mamie (VanAnn) “meet” them for the first time.

A phone call was placed to the author, Annette Gray, in Canada, at the conclusion of the performance. She seemed very pleased to know that her work was being shared in this manner and expressed regret at being unable to attend.

Submitted by Mary Lundell

FIELD TRIP TO SALINAS PUEBLO MISSIONS NATIONAL MONUMENT, Saturday, May 20, 2006.
Along with members of OST and the SF Westerners, 20-25 people caravanned to Mountainaire. There we visited the historic Shaffer Hotel, and spent time at the Monument Interpretive Center. After lunch at the Firehouse Restaurant, we went to Abo (and later Quarai), where park service guides led us through the church ruins and explained details of the culture that was thriving there at the time the Spanish visited the area in 1581. Drought, famine and Apache raids eventually led to the abandonment of this area in the 1670’s.

Submitted by Mary Lundell

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP. October 14, 2006, Saturday, Trip to El Camino Real Visitor Center and Fort Craig National Historic Site (joint outing with OST). Santa Fe area members: meet at 8:45 AM at the Santa Fe Outlet Mall located at I-25 and Cerrillos Rd., NE corner of the parking lot. Bring your lunch. DEPART at 9:00 AM SHARP. We’ll form 2 carpools—one for those going to the Center only, and one for those touring both the Center and Fort Craig.

Take I-25 south to Socorro, then another 35 miles south to Exit #115, and follow signs. Look for Greg Reiche’s monumental sculpture “Camino de Suenos” at the entry way. Arrive at the Center about 11:30 AM. We’ll be given an introduction to the award-winning building; then tour the exhibits. A visit to Fort Craig (approx. 12 miles from the Center) follows.

Our Chapter has purchased a portable sound system. This will make outdoor field trips audible for everyone!

WEBSITE
The national SFTA has a website on the internet, and each chapter is composing a linked page on it. Board members are working on individual items for it, with Joy Poole doing the collecting-editing-submitting of the material to Clive Siegle for final inclusion on the site.

PINON CANYON MANEUVER SITE(PCMC)
As you may have read in the August issue of Wagon Tracks, the US Army is considering expanding PCMS. This is a 240,000 acre military training area midway between Trinidad
and La Junta in SE Colorado. The expansion would likely increase the site to about 600,000 acres. The expanded PCMS would enclose and impact about 60 miles of the mountain branch of the Santa Fe Trail.

Opposition to the expansion is coming mainly from ranchers and other citizens of southeastern CO, as well as the SFTA. Our chapter member, George Donoho Bayless, participated in the Crowley County Days parade in the town of Ordway, just northwest of La Junta in July, protesting the expansion plans.

October 27-29, 2006. SFTA Rendezvous, Larned, KS. Registration form with details is on the website: santafetrail.org.

November 18, 2006, Saturday, 1:30 PM. Eldorado Community room. Note change of date from last Newsletter. Joy Poole, currently Deputy State Librarian of the New Mexico State Library, will give a talk on recently discovered memoirs and diaries of the Trail.

George and fellow EoT member Ron Lolordo will march in the Sept. 10 Santa Fe Fiesta Parade to continue the protest. He invites anyone to join them. His new phone number is (505) 983-6300.

CALENDAR:

- **September 23, 2006**, Saturday. Forked Lightning Ranch field trip.

- **October 14, 2006**, Saturday. Camino Real Center and Fort Craig. Note change of date from last Newsletter.

- **October 18, 2006**, EoT board meeting, 4:00 PM, 125 W. Lupita. Helen Geer and Joy Poole’s residence. All welcome; please call them beforehand to verify time/location.

EoT board: Joy, Pam, Helen, Mary, Molly