



Old Spanish Trail Association

OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION 5th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

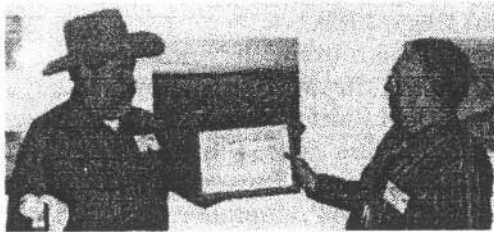
May 2 & 3, 1998

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They came to Santa Fe for OSTA's 5th Annual Conference. They enjoyed good weather, good conversation and a fine program.

Later, at the OSTA Business Meeting, there was a changing of the guard and a new direction for OSTA.

**PAT KUHLOFF - REGISTRATION
TOM & LUCY PHELAN**



RON KESSLER & WILLARD LEWIS
OSTA and Willard was a worthy recipient.

Willard Lewis, President of the Salida Del Sol Chapter, welcomed everybody and asked **Ron Kessler**, President of OSTA, to kick off the Conference.

Ron surprised Willard by presenting him with the **C. Gregory Crampton Award**. Willard was given the award for his outstanding contributions to OSTA. This is the introduction of this award by

The morning program started promptly. **Dr. Tom Chavez** gave the keynote address- "**The Old Spanish Trail: The Final Piece of Manifest Destiny**".

Dr. Chavez asked us to consider what is important about the Old Spanish Trail: ruts, landmarks, the hardships? Why did OST travelers keep going? What is significant about the OST in US history?

Dr. Chavez stated that trails are like veins through which flow the culture that feeds society. In New Mexico we have the Camino Real, the Santa Fe Trail and the Old Spanish Trail. Is there any doubt of the impact these trails have had on New Mexico and the US? They brought people. They brought commerce. They brought cultures. They provided a link throughout the US.

In 1829 the first trade caravan left Santa Fe and used the Old Spanish Trail to get to Los Angeles. This started commerce between New Mexico and California. Each year the trade caravans returned with the word of life and prosperity in California. The Old Spanish Trail had completed the land link over which people traveled to the West Coast. Slover and Pope, with their families, in a party of twelve, left Taos in 1837 and made the first wagon trip to settle in California. The Rowland - Workman Party, (25 men) left New Mexico in 1841 for California. Some of these men contributed considerably to the development of California, e.g., John Rowland, William Workman, Benjamin Wilson, Dr. Lyman, Albert Toomes. Coincidentally, the first wagon train over the Oregon Trail, the Bidwell - Bartleson Party, arrived in California within a week of the Rowland - Workman Party on the OST.

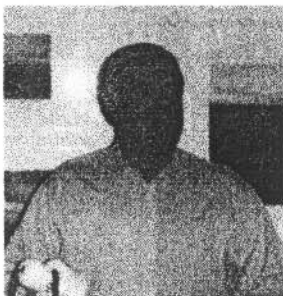
Dr. Chavez circulated copies of letters from Rowland and Workman describing their life in California. These letters are part of the Benjamin M. Read Papers in the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives. The letters were reminders of the reality of history.



DR TOM CHAVEZ

Did you know that in 1844 John Fremont was the one who coined the name "The Spanish Trail"? Later, others added "Old". Interestingly, the Trail was developed after Mexico became independent and not during Spanish rule.

Thanks Dr. Chavez for all the fine speeches you have made - not only at this conference but on the other occasions as well. You have made a difference in everybody's interest.



The second program was given by **Dr. Joseph Sanchez**, Director of the Spanish Colonial Research Center, and it was on **"California and the Old Spanish Trail"**.

Dr. Sanchez told us about the early exploration of California, and, how the Old Spanish Trail evolved with the development of California.

Ute trails and trade with the Pueblo Indians existed before Onate settled New Mexico in 1598. However, trade in New Mexico was limited to that on the Camino Real.

Spain expanded settlement in Tucson around 1700, Albuquerque

DR. JOSEPH SANCHEZ 1706, San Antonio 1718, and San Diego 1769.

It was the California development that eventually led to a land route with New Mexico. Dr. Sanchez told us how Spain was always concerned with the threat of foreign influence so Spain decided to settle California by land and sea from Baja California.

In 1769, two ships, loaded with men and supplies, left Baja for San Diego Bay. Captain Rivera led the land party and blazed a trail to San Diego. On May 14, Rivera found the ships and the crew in bad shape. Many of the crew had died and the remainder had scurvy. A second land party, led by Portola and Father Serra, followed the trail of Rivera and reached San Diego on July 1. Serra founded the Mission of San Diego. Portola moved further north with Pedro Fages and soldiers. They discovered Monterey Bay and San Francisco Bay. Eventually, Portola returned to Mexico and left Pedro Fages in charge. Serra built missions in Monterey and elsewhere in California.

Initially, the settlers in California faced hard times while trying to become self sufficient. They could not get adequate support by land from the depleted resources of Baja and supply by sea was unsatisfactory. Consequently, two alternative land routes to California developed. First, in 1771, Father Garces made the trip from Southern Arizona to California and later Garces and Anza followed this same route to the San Gabriel Mission. Garces and Anza returned to Mexico and made a second journey to California. The second trip was significant because they recruited settlers, took supplies and livestock. The party arrived safely at San Gabriel. Anza continued north and founded San Francisco (1776).

Spain became complacent after it had created settlements in California, the Garces and Anza route was neglected, and California grew in relative isolation.

The next explorations for a land route to California came from New Mexico. In 1765 Juan De Rivera got as far as Moab, Utah. In 1776, Dominguez and Escalante got to Central Utah. Between 1777 and 1821 a land route from New Mexico to California was not pursued by Spain or Mexico. However, mountain men were exploring the Southwest and finding the way to California. By 1822, Mexico had won independence from Spain, California had become prosperous and Mexico had a new attitude on trade with foreigners and access to California.

In 1829 Antonio Armijo took the first trade caravan to California. Thus, was started the Old Spanish Trail carrying trade and emigration from New Mexico.

Our thanks to Dr. Sanchez for all the times he has addressed us on early Spanish history and this time was no different - he was as good as usual.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) & THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL (OST)

As you know, the NPS is doing a feasibility study to determine if the OST qualifies to be a national historic trail. On completion, the study will be submitted to Congress.

David Gaines and **Larry Beal** from the NPS were in attendance.

Larry Beal, Study Team Job Captain, updated us on the study: It is anticipated that the study will be submitted to Congress in the Spring of 1999. There will be a public review before the study goes to Congress. Larry appreciated the responses he got on the Comment Form that NPS sent out. Dr. Sanchez is working with the NPS on the route and placing it on USGS topo maps. NPS is informing OST landowners and addressing their concerns. Also, the NPS is working with Indian groups regarding their history on the OST.

The OSTA is ready to support the NPS study. We appreciate Larry making time for us.



LARRY BEAL, NPS

Lunch centered around the ambiance of the Plaza. The afternoon program began promptly. We formed two groups so as not to overcrowd the Collections area.



Charles Bennett, Assistant Director of the Palace of the Governors (POG), took us through the Collections area. Charles was entertaining and knew his collection.

If there is a crown jewel in the Collection, then, the two Segesser paintings on hides (bison or elk) are it. The POG purchased the paintings from the Segesser family. The paintings were done between 1693 and 1730 in New Mexico. Father Philipp Von Segesser sent three painted hides to his brother in Switzerland. Two paintings were in the possession of the Segesser family. The third is still being pursued. Philipp Von Segesser Von Brunegg (1669 - 1762) spent the last 31 years of his life as a missionary

around Northern Sonora, Mexico and Southern Arizona with another missionary. He is considered the first permanent resident (non American) of Arizona, and served at the Mission San Xavier del Bac near Tucson, in 1732.

SEGESSER I - is not complete because pieces were cut out for wall hangings. Segesser I depicts a confrontation between a group of mounted Indians with two Spaniards and a large group of unmounted Indian foes. The setting is a forested, mountainous area containing wild animals. Historians believe the painting is based on an actual event but are uncertain when the event took place. It is generally accepted that it is a confrontation between a punitive expedition from Santa Fe against Plains Indians.

Indians raided the Spanish and Pueblos throughout 1598 - 1821. In retaliation, punitive expeditions were directed against the Indians and to rescue abducted women and children.

SEGESSER II - illustrates the Massacre of the 1720 Pedro de Villasur Expedition.

Villasur, troops from the Palace of the Governors and Pueblo Indian Auxiliaries traveled to Eastern Nebraska looking for French intrusion into the Spanish Empire. The expedition was attacked by a combined force of Pawnee and Oto Indians on the morning of August 13, 1720. 34 of 48 Spaniards and 11 of 60 Pueblo Indian Auxiliaries were killed.

Other items we saw: an 18th Century Santa Fe Presidio Bull Hide Shield (examples of which can be seen in the Segesser paintings) - An 18th / 19th Century Franciscan Cassock (robe) of blue wool - Weapons vault contained only those pertaining to New Mexico history (Geronimo's rifle and Kearney's pistol were on loan) - Spiked dog collars for war dogs (mastiffs) that were found near Clayton, NM and associated with Coronado - The head of a Mexican lance was found at Santa Domingo Pueblo - The knife of the only Pony Express

rider killed in the line of duty - Kearney's field desk and spectacles - from Billy The Kid's jail cell were doors and windows - The chest used by Winfield Scott in the War with Mexico.

Charles Bennett said that many items were on loan to the ten museums in the NM state system. Charles said "just as well" because of the continuing need for storage and display space in the POG.

It was a great show , Charles .

The next program was given by **Robert Torrez** , the State Historian of New Mexico and **Dr. Tom Chavez**.

Robert Torrez took an interesting approach to Hafen & Hafen's book on the Old Spanish Trail. He took their historical references and double checked Spanish documents to check on the trail's history. As early as 1783, documents mentioned use of the Trail: geographic locations, trade goods and permission to conduct expeditions. In 1797, documents indicated a record of trading goods. There were other examples too.

Robert Torrez made his point by suggesting that with all the books on the OST, it would be interesting to validate citations used by doing original research in the Archives. After all, with the benefit of knowing what we know today maybe we can discover even more about the OST in the Archives.

Thanks, Robert for sharing your knowledge with us. It was a great lesson.

Dr. Tom Chavez expanded upon the use of archival research. He said the POG Archives were open to the public from 1pm to 5pm, Mon.- Fri. He encouraged us to discover history: "Can you imagine coming on something new that would improve what we know today or cause us to rethink the course of history ?"

Dr. Chavez said the POG Archives contained 4800 maps, the Montoya Collection of papers from 1700 - 1927 (Montoya lived in Pena Blanca and collected documents), the 1791 Diary of a Farmer and kept over a 30 year period and many more examples including a WPA project on file about the Oral history given of New Mexico.

What more can you say about Dr. Chavez except he is exuberant.



ROBERT TORREZ

This was the end of the Saturday program .



**ERNEST KESSLER &
ALLAN & SHARON JACOBSEN**

The Social hour at Peppers: we met at 6pm and immediately tucked into the Mexican buffet. We all did justice to the food. Along with the food there were books for sale and sell they did. It was good to meet so many new faces. The Business Meeting of OSTA followed after dinner (the meeting will be covered at the end of this report) .

SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS - There were two trips.

WILLARD LEWIS LED ONE TRIP: From Santa Fe they traveled to Santa Cruz, the hub for the settlement of Chimayo, Trampas, Embudo, Abiquiu and most of the Espanola Valley. It was in 1598 that Onate came to the area. Twenty families from Mexico augmented the

settlement of Santa Cruz. First, the settlers constructed an acequia for the irrigation of their fields. An acequia came before a church. In 1629, the first grape vines were planted. From Santa Cruz, it was on to the San Juan Pueblo (however, due to religious services entry was not possible in the morning so some of the group went back at the end of the trip). On July 11, 1598 Juan De Onate established the first Spanish capital on the site. The capital was moved a short distance away into larger quarters and called San Gabriel. De Anza used the site as a supply depot. The Old Spanish Trail forded the Rio Grande at the site and split into the North and South branches of the trail.

From the San Juan Pueblo, the group drove to the ruins of the church, Santa Rosa de Lima near Abiquiu. Santa Rosa de Lima was the first saint in the Americas and the church was named for her. In the 1730's the church and a plaza were active. In 1748 there were problems with Indians. By 1754, families sought more security in Abiquiu and Santa Rosa declined. By the time the Old Spanish Trail came through only ruins remained.

The 1776 Dominguez-Escalante Survey of Missions and Villages showed Abiquiu had 49 families (249 persons). Antonio Armijo came through Abiquiu in 1829 leading the first pack trip to and from California on the Old Spanish Trail. Through the 1830s - 1840s, Abiquiu was the most northern Spanish settlement, had become the third largest community - after Santa Fe and Santa Cruz - with a population of 3,400.

A stop was made at Bodes store (Abiquiu) and the group shopped for refreshments. Bodes store is a great place - like an old time hardware store.

Ghost Ranch & Georgia O'Keeffe (can you ever separate them): **Author Lesley Poling-Kempes**, talked to the group about the Piedra Lumbre, the land area around Abiquiu, through which flows the River Chama. The Piedra Lumbre was one time unsettled and undivided. The land was subsequently involved in shady land deals by the Santa Fe Ring and Hispanic politicians to get land titles away from owners. In later years, the Archuleta brothers rustled and murdered in the area, but, life in the Piedra Lumbre area eventually settled down and became peaceful. You have to read the author's book "Valley of Shining Stone; The Story of Abiquiu" to really enjoy the incredible history of this area.

The caravan continued to Cebolla where Willard pointed out the Sage Plains. The Sage Plains were recorded by travelers on the OST. Travelers usually camped on the Nutrias river about six miles from Cebolla because it was a reliable water supply.

The final stop - El Vado State Park. Willard explained that El Vado means The Crossing. In 1776, Dominguez and Escalante crossed the Chama River. Today the crossing is under El Vado Lake but the pass to Puerta Grande was the reason for the crossing.

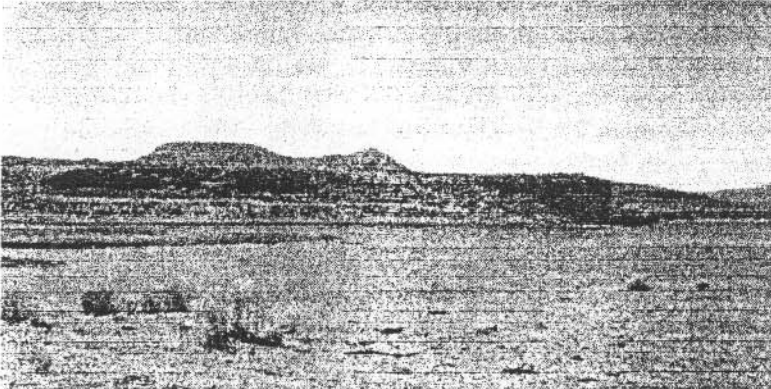
It was a lot of driving before the tour ended up at El Vado but with the stops and talks the time went quickly. After farewells, everybody departed for home.

RON KESSLER LED ANOTHER TRIP: Ron's group followed the same route as Willard to the San Juan Pueblo and then continued on to Taos.

The group stopped to visit the Church of San Francisco de Asis in Ranchos de Taos. The church is not one of the oldest churches in New Mexico, but it is a fine example of Franciscan architecture. Church records show the church was completed in 1815. The church has eight canvas paintings in the main retablo at the front of the church that are supposed to have come from Spain. Another retablo contains eight paintings on wood done by Molleno, a New Mexican santero of the early 1800s.

Probably, the mystery painting "The Shadow of the Cross" intrigues people the most. The painting depicts a life-size figure of Christ standing beside the Sea of Galilee. **IN THE LIGHT**, Christ wears a brown robe with a blue shawl on his shoulders. The background is white clouds and a light blue sky. **IN DARKNESS**, the background becomes luminescent, the figure appears dimensional, a cross appears over the left shoulder and a halo over the head. The sea and the sky seem to glow and some people see the bow of a boat in the lower right hand corner. It is not known what causes this phenomenon even after scientific investigation. The painting was done in 1896.

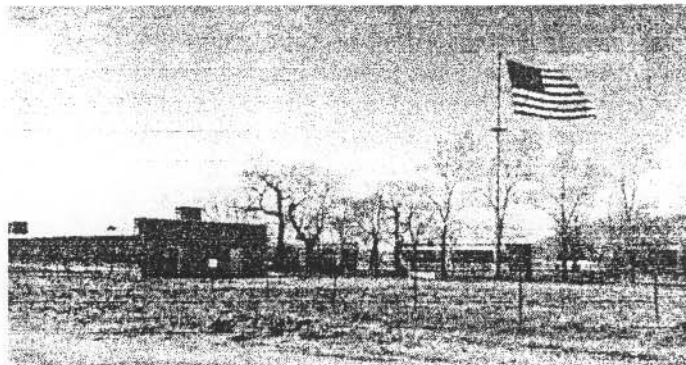
Proceeding through Taos, Questa, Costilla we crossed the Colorado State Line and turned towards the Rio Grande at Mesita. We arrived at a beautiful spot beside the river. Three cranes flew off. The scene remained serene. Ron pointed out the many petroglyphs on the mound nearby: a sunburst, a Maltese cross, a serpent (Ron said that the serpent was used by Indians to signify water) were especially noteworthy. Also, on top of the rocky mound appeared to be the remnants of a medicine wheel (a circle of stones).



Ron pointed out the crossing that De Vargas took across the river and made mention of "Dos Brazos (two arms)". We could clearly see the spits of land in the river that caused the river to separate in two and then rejoin again further downstream. This became the Ford Ferry site for wagons going to and from San Luis. In the distance you could see a white slope - the

King Turquoise Mine. The skeleton of an Indian was found in a tunnel there. We went on to San Acacio. We stopped at the cemetery beside the Snake river (more like a big irrigation ditch). It was here that De Vargas camped. We noted that many military men buried there. Out in the middle of nowhere - at peace. It must have been devastating to lose so many from so small a community. We visited the San Acacio church - the oldest church in Colorado - built in 1856. The community has done a wonderful job fixing it up and looking after it.

San Luis was next - the oldest town in Colorado was founded in 1851. Fort Garland provided protection. On the way to Fort Garland, Ron stopped beside the road and asked us if we could see the flag waving in Fort Garland? We could not. He said that Albert Richardson wrote he could see the flag from where we stood. Sometimes, when you check, you find out things. Fort Garland is worth a visit. A picturesque spot with mountains in the background and the romance of Kit Carson.



Ron took us to the outskirts of Blanca and showed us wagon tracks. This was the road from San Luis to the mines at Crestone and it was a branch of the Old Spanish Trail. It was a real treat to be out with Ron. It's an education in history, geology and geography. Thanks, Ron.

That was the end of the Sunday program .

The 5th OSTA Annual Conference was over. **SEE YOU NEXT YEAR .**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

President Ron Kessler called the meeting to order. After dispensing with the Treasurer's report, he announced that he was resigning as President, due to health reasons. He presented a new slate of officers:

PRESIDENT	CHARLES QUERFELD
VICE PRESIDENT	RON KESSLER
SECRETARY	MARIE GREENE
TREASURER	RICHARD GREENE

The slate was elected unanimously. Charles Querfeld then thanked Ron for his tireless work on behalf of OSTA. We are lucky that Ron will continue as Vice President.

The slate for new Board Members was presented by new President Charles Querfeld:

Willard Lewis	Santa Fe, New Mexico
Reba Grandrud	Phoenix, Arizona
Bill Chenoweth	Grand Junction, Colorado
Ronald Jewkes	Castle Dale, Utah
John Robinson	Fullerton, California

This slate was also elected unanimously.

Charles gave a brief summary of the direction that he feels should be taken to strengthen OSTA. This included revising the By-Laws, concentrating on membership growth, establishing at least one chapter in each state, improving communication with other trail groups, and pursuing funds for non-profit designation for OSTA Chapters.

Several committees were proposed and volunteers were requested to help in these areas.

STANDING:	Membership/Finance	Richard Greene
	Newsletter/Publicity	Ron Kessler (Newsletter)
	National Conference	TBA
	Chapter Relations	Willard Lewis
	Mapping/Marking	Richard Greene (Temporary)

Ad Hoc:	WWW	Judy Querfeld
	NPS Study	Ron Kessler
	501c(3) extension	Richard Greene
	Grants	TBA
	Nominating	TBA
	National Trails	TBA
	Governance	Charles Querfeld

The meeting was adjourned.

The new Board of Directors and Officers of OSTA will be meeting on Saturday, June 27, 1998 at 12:00 noon, Holiday Inn, 755 Horizon Drive, (I-70,Exit31), Grand Junction, CO. The membership is invited to come to the meeting.

JUNE 1998-99 ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW!

Make checks payable to The Old Spanish Trail Association.

Mail to: Richard Greene, Treasurer OSTA

PO Box 483

Angel Fire, NM 87710

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____ **e-mail**_____

Dues Enclosed_____ **Additional Donation**_____

Membership: _____ **\$10 individual (1 vote)**
_____ **\$15 family (maximum 2 votes)**
_____ **\$25 institution (1 vote)**
_____ **\$ 5 student (individual under age 18)**



The Old Spanish Trail Association

Richard Greene, Treasurer OSTA

PO Box 483

Angel Fire, NM 87710

*** Dues paid for 98-99**

**** Lifetime Members**

THIS WILL BE THE LAST MAILING FOR NON MEMBERS!