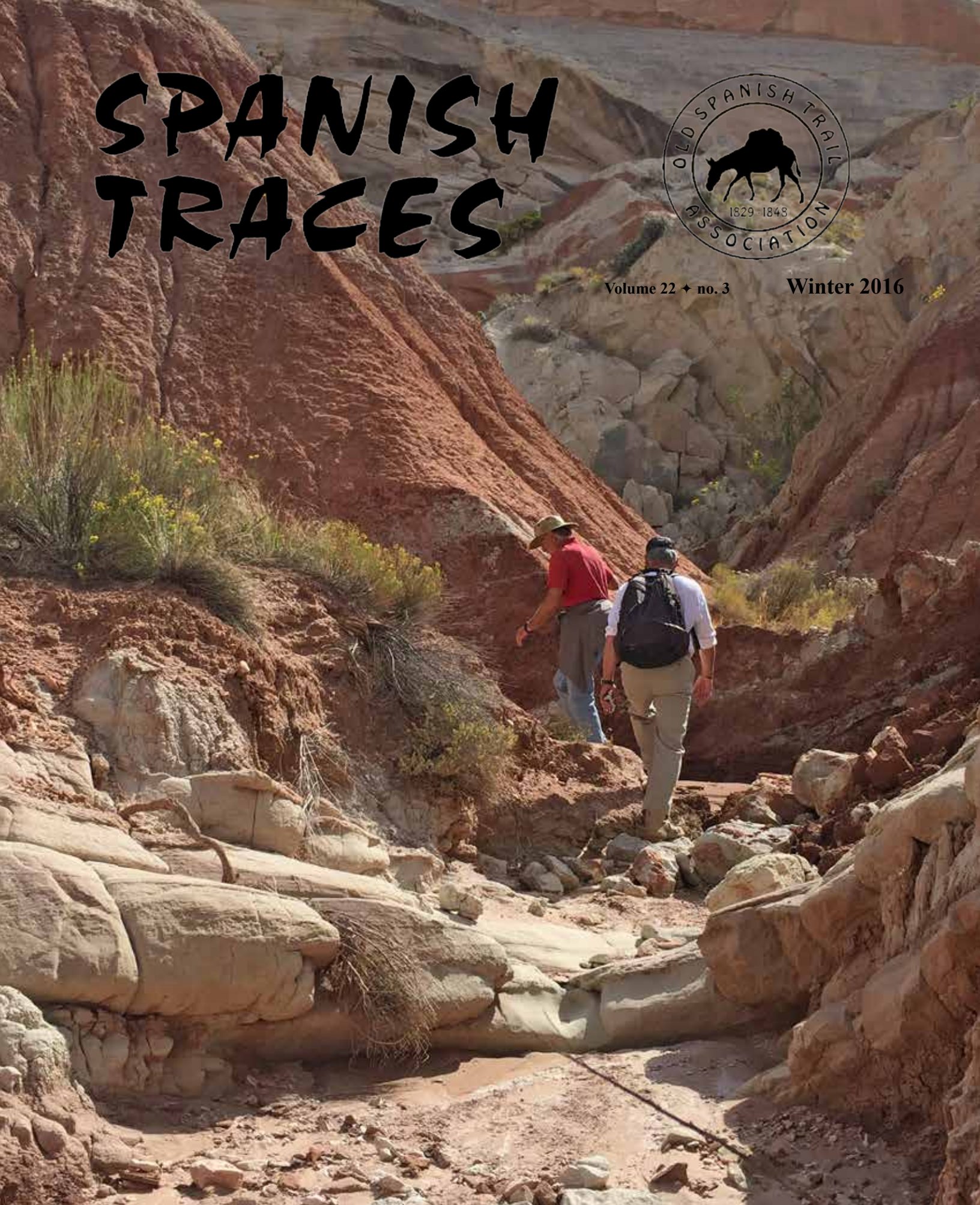


SPANISH TRACES



Volume 22 ♦ no. 3

Winter 2016



Apodaca Trail

Cajon Pass Fire

Mexican/American War

L.A.'s First Election

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OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Old Spanish Trail (OST), one of America's long-distance pioneer trade routes, is recognized by Congress as a National Historic Trail. From 1829 through 1848, traders and pack mules followed the OST on typically a six-week trek from northern New Mexico to Southern California, where woolen goods from New Mexico were swapped for horses and pack stock raised on California's ranchos. Many took the trail – traders, frontiersmen, trappers, families, military expeditions, and Indian guides.

The mission of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) is to study, preserve, protect, interpret, and promote appropriate use of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT). OSTA promotes public awareness of the OSNHT and its multicultural heritage through publications, a website and interpretive activities; by encouraging research; and by partnering with governments and private organizations. We encourage you to join OSTA, help in trail preservation, and increase appreciation of the multicultural heritage of the American Southwest.

Visit our website: www.oldspanishtrail.org

The OSTA website is the place to go for both general and comprehensive background and recent news on the OSNHT and OSTA. The site contains maps, an overview history of the trail, and a bibliography of relevant books with links for purchases of books and other OSTA merchandise from the Association. There is also a regularly updated news page that contains links to government reports, activities of OSTA members, and other news related to the trail. The web page links to National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites, where public documents and maps related to the OSNHT can be found. Memberships (new or renewal) may be paid on the OSTA website, and donations, both general and for specific projects, can be made through the OSTA website as well.

Spanish Traces is the official publication of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado. *Spanish Traces* welcomes submission of articles, book reviews, and OST-related news. OSTA assumes no responsibility for statements or opinions of contributors. *Spanish Traces* is copyrighted to OSTA in its entirety, but copyright to individual articles is retained by the author. The next deadline for submissions is **February 10, 2017**. All matters relating to *Spanish Traces* should be directed to the OSTA Editor.

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On the Cover, front and back: On a recent field trip, members of the Armijo Chapter investigated an unnamed wash in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument located along the eastern edge of the Kaibab Monocline – Cockscomb formation. It was necessary for the 1829 Armijo caravan to cross this formidable geographic barrier, located between Page, Arizona and Kanab, Utah. Pictured are Kern Nuttall, George Hardeen, and Cindy Stafford. Photos by Paul Ostapuk. Read more on page 11.



Ashley J. Hall
OSTA President

The fourth annual “Old Spanish Day” was held on October 1 at the Desert Discovery Center in historic mid-town Barstow, California (home of the Old Spanish Trail and Route 66). As the OSTA President, I was invited, along with representatives from each of the OSTA states, to participate in this event. Those pictured below helped organize and coordinate a one-day event celebrating the Old

President’s Corner

Spanish Trail, and state and local officials presented proclamations.

The event featured American Indian and Hispanic families and groups dancing, minstrels singing and poetry readings, many Old Spanish Trail food booths, workshops, exhibits, and displays along the replica of the Old Spanish Trail that wound its way around most of the Center’s grounds. An estimated 1,000+ people attended the event.

OSTA representatives from California (Nelson Miller), Colorado (Doug and Deloris Knudson), Utah (Fish Lake Chapter President Stephanie Moulton, and her sister from Richfield), and Nevada (Liz Warren, Robert Spurlock, Glenn Shaw, Lorna and Ashley Hall) hosted Trail state stations to explain the importance of the location and some of the historical events along the Old Spanish Trail through their individual states as it wound its way between Santa Fe and Los Angeles.

In addition to welcoming speeches by the mayor of Barstow and Jane Laraman Brockhurst, Director of the Desert Discovery Center, speeches were given by Todd Suess, Superintendent of the Mojave National Preserve; Rose Beardshear of the BLM - Barstow; Zack Pratt, the BLM - Barstow Chief of Recreation; and Ashley Hall, President of OSTA.

Along with this Old Spanish Trail day, a bit of history was made on September 20 at the Chamber of Commerce office, Riverside, California, where Nancy Melendez of the Spanish Town Heritage Foundation chaired a meeting of Old Spanish Trail enthusiasts to listen to a presentation and proposal by Alex King, Director-at-Large of the OSTA Board of Directors, encouraging the formation of a new Riverside area chapter of OSTA. During the meeting, a proposal for a new OSTA Aqua Mansa chapter was developed, with 18 members

Organizers of Old Spanish Trail Day were (l to r): Todd Suess, NPS Superintendent of the Mojave National Preserve; Nelson Miller, President Mojave River Chapter OSTA; Rose Beardshear, Interpretive Specialist, BLM; Jane Laraman Brockhurst, Director, Desert Discovery Center; Ashley Hall, OSTA President, and Zachary Pratt, Chief - Recreation, BLM. Photos: Nelson Miller



and a set of bylaws to be advanced to the OSTA Board for approval. Elected officers include President, Gayat “Gaby” Adame; Vice President, Nick Burkhardt; Secretary, Brenda Flowers; and Treasurer, Marissa Yaeger.

The chapter has now submitted all required paperwork to the OSTA Board for approval, which is on its agenda in November. [APPROVED]

OSTA was very sad to receive a letter of resignation from Paul McClure, California State Director, for health reasons. Paul has been a real god-send to OSTA, both as a long-time board member, and for his time and effort in launching the California interest in OSTA and its related history. Paul surely will be missed.

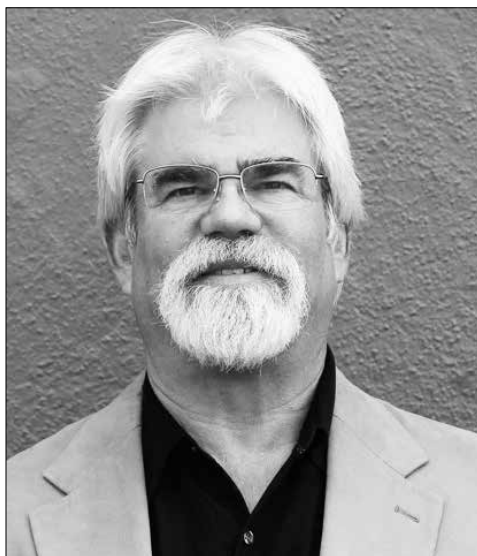
In my last annual report, which appeared in the Autumn 2016 *Spanish Traces*, I identified the major areas impacting OSTA. Standing together as members, officers, and board of directors, we can make a significant difference in the accomplishments of OSTA. ♦

APOLOGY

In the Autumn 2016 issue of Spanish Traces, the photos on the back cover were taken by Jack Prichett, but photo credit was not given. My apologies, and thanks to Jack for his professional photography of the event.

--Spanish Traces Editor

Trail Dispatches



John W. Hiscock
Association Manager

All of us as members of the Old Spanish Trail Association and proponents of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) are amid a busy and dynamic time for our endeavors. With the results of the recent national election in, we will have a new President and undoubtedly changes in the Executive Branch land management agencies—such as the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Forest Service—who administer the OSNHT or manage federal lands that the Trail traverses. The OSNHT Co-Administrators, the BLM and NPS, are also in the middle of evaluating comments submitted on the long overdue OSNHT Comprehensive Administrative Strategy which will set the stage for administration of the Trail for years to come. In addition, the Association and its members continue public promotion, interpretation, education, and protection of the Trail. It is a time when your interest, attention, and involvement are as important as ever.

In October, the Association completed and submitted its comments on the Draft Comprehensive Administrative Strategy (CAS) for the OSNHT to the Trail Co-Administrators, no small task given the 150-page length of the document. OSTA comments focused on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Our concerns that the CAS, as opposed to a comprehensive management plan (CMP) as envisioned by the National Trails System Act, and the norm for NHT administration, and the lack of National Environmental Policy Act review of the CAS, as normally is done for NHT CMPs, may belittle or endanger the applicability, meaning, and effectiveness of the CAS.

- The critical need for the Co-Administrators to fully, continually, and collaboratively communicate, advise, and work on administration of the Trail over the entirety of its length, in fulfillment of the Secretary of the Interior's delegation of co-administrative authority.

- The critical importance of communications and collaboration with OSTA on all aspects of Trail administration.

- The role of the Co-Administrators in collaboratively advising all federal land management entities and managers on proper consideration of OSNHT resources and values when routinely considering actions on their respective lands, and partnering with others—such as local, state, and tribal governments, and private landowners—on the goal of protection of OSNHT resources and values.

- The ongoing importance of evaluation and consideration of the ultimate disposition of the OSNHT

continued next page

Trail Dispatches, cont.

Study Routes—the West Fork, the Fish Lake Cutoff, and the Kingston Cutoff—for formal inclusion as part of the OSNHT. My personal thanks go out to a number of OSTA members who contributed to this effort.

- The ongoing importance of refinements to the existing routes of the OSNHT, including incorporation of refinements previously discussed and agreed with OSTA (Mapping Workshops of 2006 and 2013), explanations of refinements adopted in the CAS but not previously discussed with OSTA, and a process for further discussions and adoption of necessary refinements.

- The ongoing importance of identification of high potential sites and segments of the OSNHT, and the inclusion of such sites and segments previously agreed with OSTA (Mapping Workshops of 2006 and 2013), explanations of high potential sites and segments adopted in the CAS, and a process for further recommendations and adoptions of high potential sites and segments.

OSTA's formal comments on the Strategy totaled 26 pages plus attachments. We hopefully expect the Co-Administrators to carefully consider and react to OSTA's comments, including warranted revisions to the CAS. At this point in time, we have not been informed of the schedule for revision and finalization of the CAS. OSTA's detailed comments have been shared with all OSTA board members, chapter presidents, and other leaders. For those of you who are interested, copies may be obtained from your leaders, or from me by sending your request in an e-mail (ostamgr@gmail.com).

I would like to personally thank all

members of OSTA who contributed to the herculean effort of review of the CAS. Special appreciation goes to Kenn and Lorraine Carpenter, who spent hours reviewing OSNHT route refinements and high potential site and segment listings and comparing such aspects of the CAS to former efforts, communications, and agreements. Other leaders and members sent me detailed comments for consideration, including: Alex King, Tom Sutak, Jack Prichett, Al Matheson, Vicki Felmlee, Doug Knudson, Pat Richmond, Suzanne Off, Mark Henderson, Conchita Marusich, Jere Krakow, Gary Werner of the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), and others who I may be missing (my apologies). What an effort by great and knowledgeable folks! And thanks to BLM and NPS Co-Administrators Rob Sweeten and Aaron Mahr, and their staff, for their efforts thus far.

Much more is happening as well.

Largely through the efforts of Director-At-Large Alex King and vibrant and interested local citizens, OSTA is on track for the addition of a new chapter in the Riverside, California area—the Aqua Mansa Chapter with at least 18 charter members. Alex is also involved in conversations with other potential members in the Los Angeles area about the creation of a chapter there. In addition, Conchita Marusich is investigating the possibility of a “Descendants” chapter with nationwide membership. The OSTA Board will be acting on chapter matters—adoption of the Aqua Mansa Chapter, [APPROVED] and nationwide chapter policies—in a meeting scheduled for November.

Stewardship efforts are keeping us

busy reviewing multiple energy development and transmission proposals on federal lands throughout the West. We continue to score successes in protecting the resources and values of the OSNHT through our efforts. Please stay alert to proposals in your areas, let me know of things that come up, and I will coordinate with others.

Thanks to Chelsea Bodamer for fulfilling interim membership coordination responsibilities for a couple of months, and welcome to Emily Schrepf, our new Membership Coordinator.

Thanks also to Paul McClure for his years as a Board Member and California Director. Paul regretfully has found it necessary to resign at this time. The California Director position will be temporarily filled by Board appointment as soon as possible if a candidate is identified. If you have an interest, your involvement at the Board leadership level is sought and needed. Other Board positions opening in 2017 include: OSTA president (as Ashley Hall completes his second term and is ineligible for another term); Treasurer (as Gary Boyd completes the former term of office by appointment: he is eligible for additional terms); California Director (following Paul McClure and possibly an interim appointee); and Utah Director (incumbent is Al Matheson who is eligible to be elected for a second term if he chooses to run). Your input to President Hall, Secretary Ostapuk, or me, and/or willingness to step up are appreciated!

Stay alert, stay involved, and promote the Trail! ♦

Call for Presentations for the 2017 OSTA National Conference

What is your passion, interest, or expertise regarding the Old Spanish Trail?

Submit your ideas for presentations or field trips at the 2017 OSTA Conference for first consideration by February 1, 2017, to Nelson Miller at NEMiller47@yahoo.com, or by mail at 13043 Quapaw Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308.

Target a 45 minute presentation with 15 minutes for questions. If you anticipate a longer presentation, please submit a second request, with reference to related presentation. Great topics (such as Al Matheson's Celestial Navigation along the Old Spanish Trail) may be allocated two or more time slots. Please include:

1. Proposed title of presentation or field trip
2. General description of the subject
3. Presenters with brief bio
4. Other relevant information

Special Member Benefit

Did you know that as a member of the Old Spanish Trail Association you can access an online archive of *Spanish Traces*? If you are doing research, reading this archive is a must.

If you are currently a member and don't know how to access this archive, just contact John Hiscock, Association Manager, at 435-689-1620 or ostamgr@gmail.com and he can provide you the access code for the members section of the OSTA website.

Aching to delve into past issues and not a member? Join online at www.oldspanishtrail.org or access the membership form on the back cover of *Spanish Traces*.

Rowland Workman Online

Read about the arrival of the Rowland and Workman expedition at Mission San Gabriel at the Homestead Museum site, <https://homesteadmuseum.wordpress.com/2016/11/05>.

Save the Date
2017 OSTA Conference
October 4 - 8, 2017

At the Harvey House, Barstow, California



Theme: Pathways From the Past
Lead to the Future

The Old Spanish Trail, often following Native American trails, established the path for roads, highways, railroads, and interstates.

Celebrate the 5th Annual
California Old Spanish Trail Day
during the OSTA Conference

Enjoy speakers, field trips, demonstrations, presentations, music, and a musical performance of the Spanish Trail Suite.

Chapter Reports

Tecopa Chapter

★ The Tecopa Chapter has made what seems to be a major Trail discovery: a set of apparently old, highly weathered graves right alongside the OST route on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in a remote area of California's Mojave Desert. The chapter encountered the apparent graves during its ongoing trail survey and recording, then carefully recorded, mapped, and photographed the site and compiled the data into a confidential report, which was then submitted to BLM officials.

The graves are laid out in rows, suggesting Euro-American burial practices. Relevant archival research to date has turned up an 1847 report from Mormon Brigade soldiers returning from duty in California to Salt Lake City. The account reports that the soldiers came upon victims of an attack and buried the bodies. The Tecopa chapter, in consultation with Mormon historians and other scholars, is continuing the search for additional documentation of attacks on parties or of parties that failed to arrive in California.

★ In September and early October, the chapter provided comments, trail survey data, and GPS mapping of trail routes in the areas east of Death Valley to Association Manager John Hiscock for incorporation into the formal comments submitted by OSTA on the Draft Comprehensive Administrative Strategy for the OSNHT, jointly released in July by the BLM and the National Park Service.

★ With the onset of cooler winter weather in the desert, the Tecopa Chapter will resume its GPS recording and mapping of segments of the OSNHT and the subsequent Mormon Road. To date, the chapter has recorded more than 35 miles of extant trail route.

--Jack Prichett

Salida del Sol Chapter

The Chapter's August field trip went to the Carracas Crossing of the San Juan River, on the main branch of the OST, and met with a group led by Jim Jefferson, who was looking at prayer trees in the area. Jim organized a nice evening program for everyone at the Ute Casino. The Salida del Sol portion of the trip was attended by three members and Doug Knudson from the Del Norte Chapter in Colorado and was led by Rachel Miller and Kathy Whitson from the USFS. They did a great job. Thank you, ladies.

In October we met for lunch at the Sopaipilla Factory in Pojoaque and then crossed the street to the Poeh Museum for our meeting. Again, three folks showed up. Our speaker was Christine Fischahs, a descendant of the Ceran St. Vrain family. She gave a wonderful talk about the family from their beginnings in France to their arrival and activities in New Mexico.

Being a large chapter in membership and a small chapter in turnout for events in 2016, the chapter plans only one meeting for 2017, the required annual meeting the third Saturday in April, the 15th. A time, place, and speaker will be announced at a later date. This is a disappointment to me as the chapter now has funds and several projects in the pipeline but no active folks to participate. If you would like to participate, please get in touch with Pat Kuhlhoff, 505-466-4877, pglk@cybermesa.com.

OSTA dues for Salida del Sol Chapter members were due in October (\$25 for individuals or \$30 for families). You should have received an e-mail, or mailed renewal notice. If you've yet to pay, please do so ASAP, either electronically on the OSTA website, or by mail to Emily Schrepf, OSTA Membership Coordinator, P.O. Box 193, Kanab, UT 84741. Please update your contact information if necessary (address, e-mail, and phone) and don't forget to mark your chapter affiliation (SDS) so the Chapter gets its allocation of funds.

--Pat Kuhlhoff

Mojave River Chapter

Over 500 people attended the Fourth Annual Spanish Trail Days on October 1, at the Desert Discovery Center in Barstow, California. The event especially targeted families and children, with many activities to learn about the Old Spanish Trail. Special thanks to the OSTA members who supported this event by having a booth at the event and providing information, including: Ashley Hall, Liz Warren, Doug Knudsen, Stephanie Moulton, Viola Basulto, Ed Pearson, Nelson Miller, Cliff Walker, Sam Hunter, Glenn Shaw, and Mark Franklin who brought OSTA books for sale. Stephanie Moulton had a lot of information regarding the Fish Lake Cutoff, and Doug Knudsen shared information regarding Churro sheep.

A variety of educational activities related to the trail were provided: mule packing, New Mexican Cocina, Navajo Churro sheep, spinning and weaving, rope making, Old Spanish Trail night camp, mountain men encampment and weaponry, and a trading post. Other activities presented were archaeological exploration, flint knapping and atlatl display, desert safety and desert animals, rocks and minerals, genealogy, children's games of the historic period, piñata, Chemehuevi bird singers, mariachi band, folklorico dance, bluegrass music, mural painting, and a photo booth.

Speakers provided three presentations during the day:



Terry Haider demonstrated mule packing at Spanish Trail Days in Barstow.

1. Cliff Walker, "The Good and the Bad Along the Old Spanish Trail";
2. Charles Wood, Chairman of the Chemehuevi Tribe, "California Indian Slavery prior to, during, and post OST";
- and 3. Cliff Walker and Fred Baca, "Family Connections to the Old Spanish Trail."

Old Spanish Trail Day was a cooperative effort of the Old Spanish Trail Association, BLM, Desert Discovery Center, and the National Park Service. The City of Barstow also sponsored the event. We look forward to the Fifth Annual Old Spanish Trail Day during the National Conference on October 7, 2017.

--Nelson Miller



Stephanie Moulton provided information about the Fishlake Cutoff to young visitors at Spanish Trail Days. Photos: Nelson Miller

Agua Mansa: The Birth of a Chapter

La Placita, San Salvador, Agua Mansa—all names of the largest non-indigenous settlement on the Old Spanish Trail between Los Angeles and Santa Fe in the Mexican era. This peaceful, diverse community was established in 1842 when 10 families traveled across the Old Spanish Trail from Abiquiú, New Mexico, to settle along the riverbanks of the Santa Ana River (modern day Riverside and Colton, California) by way of Rancho San Bernardino. Upon arriving at the Rancho to claim Antonio Maria Lugo's offer of land ownership in trade for settling and protecting the Rancho, Lorenzo Trujillo and the 10 families were informed that the offer was no longer valid. The families debated whether to follow Lorenzo Trujillo to the Santa Ana River and take Bandini's alternative offer of land ownership along the Santa Ana River or follow Santiago Martinez to settle on land closer to Los Angeles. The majority accepted the Bandini offer following Lorenzo Trujillo, and the twin communities of La Placita de los Trujillos and Agua Mansa were born.

The original 2001 Feasibility Study route of the OSNHT included both a stub route from Cajon Pass ending at La Politana (Bunker Hill in San Bernardino) and a direct route from Cajon Pass to Mission San Gabriel and Los Angeles. The 2016 Draft Comprehensive Administrative Strategy released in July added the connecting Mission road (San Bernardino Road) from Politana through Agua Mansa and west to Pomona where it joins the route going further west, officially including the La Placita and Agua Mansa communities in the OSNHT family.

OSTA's mission to study, preserve, protect, interpret, educate and promote respectful use of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and closely related routes works well with the Spanish Town Heritage Foundation's (STHF) mission of championing the Hispanic legacy of the Inland Empire's first settlers by sharing their stories, creating cultural learning opportunities, and leading community efforts to restore and revitalize La Placita de los Trujillos. It was only natural for STHF to investigate the possibility of establishing an OSTA chapter in the area to work toward both organizations' missions.



The Trujillo adobe was on the Old Spanish Trail.

The Spanish Town Heritage Foundation hosted an organizational meeting in Riverside during September 2016 with over 20 in attendance. Interest and enthusiasm for a local OSTA chapter were high. Bylaws were reviewed, officers were elected, and dues were collected. The big discussion of the evening was what to name the chapter. La Placita, San Salvador, Agua Mansa, and Inland Empire were all possibilities. Noting that most early maps labeled the area as Agua Mansa, it was decided to name the prospective chapter Agua Mansa.

The bylaws, membership applications, dues, and a list of officers for the new chapter were forwarded to OSTA along with a request to approve and accept the new chapter. The OSTA board will meet shortly to consider the application. [APPROVED]

Today, all that remains visible of the twin communities is the 1862 version of the Trujillo Adobe and the Agua Mansa Cemetery. The first school (the Trujillo School), the first church (San Salvador de Jurupa), and the Cantina are all gone. The actual OST is said to be today's Agua Mansa Road that passes directly in front of the Agua Mansa Cemetery. STHF looks forward to working with the Agua Mansa OSTA Chapter (once approved) to educate, preserve, and protect the Old Spanish Trail and La Placita de los Trujillos and Agua Mansa, transforming the area into a living history park.

Nancy Melendrez, President, Spanish Town Heritage Foundation

Armijo Chapter

Members of the Armijo Chapter enjoyed a field trip on October 8 in a scenic canyon along the Kaibab Monocline Cockscomb, a geologic formation in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The 1829 Armijo diary was discussed along the way, in addition to discussion of elements of the Draft Comprehensive Administrative Strategy recently released by the OSNHT Trail Administrators.

The Armijo Chapter has begun dialog with a PhD in linguistics for possible insights into 19th century Mexican frontier dialects and more specifically the translation of two Armijo campsite diary entries:

*A los artenesales de piedra.
Al artenejal de la ceja Colorada.*

--Paul Ostapuk



Map shows location of Armijo Chapter hike, circled, small line headed north from Utah Highway 89. See additional photos on the Armijo Chapter Facebook page: [armijo chapter - old spanish trail association](#)

William Workman Chapter

All is well here in the far-flung reaches of northern England, home to OSTA's only international chapter and original home of William Workman (1799-1876) for whom the chapter is named. The most recent issue of *Spanish Traces* was well received by the members. The cover photo of the Autumn 2016 issue of the Whitewater Trail near Grand Junction, Colorado, was not unlike a scene from our Pennine uplands and may well have reminded William Workman of this part of the world when he traversed similar territory on his journey over the Old Spanish Trail.

Looking ahead to 2017, Chapter President Bill Ramsay and Secretary David Fallowfield have already formulated plans to attend the OSTA 2017 Annual Conference in Barstow, California, October 6-7, 2017. They were at the last conference there in 2007 and enjoyed it immensely and will certainly want another visit to Afton Canyon for photographic opportunities.

--David Fallowfield

Tres Trails Chapter

The Tres Trails Chapter in extreme southwestern Utah continues to seek to define the Antonio Armijo alternative route through our region in 1829.

Also, chapter president Leo Lyman has just published a history journal article on Jedediah Smith's explorations of the middle half of the original Old Spanish Trail, 1826-27, in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 84 (Fall, 2016), 277-293. This features a photo taken by chapter member David Evans of an area rock inscription of 1826, probably by one of Smith's brigade members, likely the earliest Anglo-American record in the entire Great Basin then being explored.

--Leo Lyman

Nevada Chapter

Fall 2016 Auto Tour, Las Vegas to Resting Springs, California

On a warm, sunny morning in mid-October 2016, twenty-seven OSTA members and friends gathered at the Old Spanish Trail Park in southwest Las Vegas, prepared to spend the day touring the Trail and learning the story of how and why it developed. Ashley Hall, OSTA President, welcomed everyone and then turned the program over to Nick Saines. Nick, former Nevada Chapter President who discovered and identified a major trail remnant here, recounted the experience of members of the chapter who worked with representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the State of Nevada, Clark County, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the *Las Vegas Review Journal* to gather historical sketches of the time period. These were developed to post on 13 kiosks throughout the park.

Departing the OST Park, the caravan drove southwest to see where the Old Spanish Trail (OST) went up a ravine toward the Blue Diamond Gypsum Mine. Then we travelled south to intersect with Nevada State Route 160 (Las Vegas to Pahrump Valley) and proceeded southwest to State Route 159, the turnoff to Blue Diamond Town and Red Rock National Conservation Area. We passed one of the Eagle Scout OST replacement markers that stands along SR 159 in front of the gypsum mine,

then to the head of the Old Spanish Trail at the town of Blue Diamond. Here we saw the OST marker at the top of the Trail pass leading southeast out of the town. Here Dr. Warren, Nevada Chapter Vice President and longtime OST historian, took a few minutes to tell of the important role Blue Diamond Spring and its meadow played for the Santa Fe traders as they began the tough climb up Cottonwood Wash to Mountain Springs Pass and meadow, then down into the sere desert of the Pahrump Valley.

From Blue Diamond, the tour proceeded back to SR 160 and moved up Cottonwood Wash, stopping at the newly-established state/county/BLM bike trail head, where there is an old kiosk devoted to the story of the OST. In the near future, this kiosk will be replaced, providing up-to-date information about the trail history and use. Here Dr. Warren told the story of Old Bill Williams, a horse thief who was a key figure in the development of the trail between Santa Fe and Los Angeles. Before anyone settled in the region, Bill Williams depended on the springs of Red Rock Canyon to water his ill-gotten animals. Forage for his horses was also plentiful enough to help them survive the rigorous, thousand-mile journey.

We next moved up to the Potosi turnoff from Highway 160, where Dr. Warren and Stan Plum recounted the history of the Potosi Mine. We noted here the remnants of an old Indian roasting pit. An old OST marker is here as well.

Next we proceeded to the top of Mountain Springs Pass and to the “World Famous Bar/Grill,” long established here. An old OST marker is still in place on the putting green in front of the bar. The pass, elevation 5420’, cuts through the mountains that divide Las Vegas Valley from Pahrump Valley. It has been used for thousands of years, offering valuable native plant foods as well as water.

The tour then traveled down the west side of the pass, following the OST into Pahrump Valley to the Sandy Valley Road, where we pulled off to view one of the most spectacular of all OST vistas to the southwest, with Emigrant Pass clearly in view. The group examined the remnants of the OST which are also clearly visible, measuring about 20 feet across. The ground here is so compacted from its early use that only small grass can grow. We took photos of the tour group and told stories of the OST traders who had herded thousands of head of livestock along the trail. These horses and mules grazed on the very plants that the local Paiutes depended on for their own survival, causing great hardship to the Paiutes and consequently great antagonism to develop.

We then drove along Highway 160 through Pahrump Valley to the Tecopa Road/OST Highway that leads to Stump Springs, which is about two miles from the California state line. Here we stopped and discussed the importance of Stump Springs Sand Dunes, which

store water that can be tapped for use in dry spells. These dunes run east-west for about seven miles. If water at one spot was insufficient for their needs, the traders travelled west along the Sand Dunes in search of a large enough seep. They would then move on to Emigrant Pass. Jack Pritchett and the Tecopa Chapter of OSTA have researched and identified several OST traces that lead from the sand dune seeps toward Emigrant Pass.

At the St. Therese Mission, owner and OSTA member Randolph Dizon and his family hosted the tour to a delicious traditional Hispanic lunch. During the lunch break, Dr. Warren continued to tell stories about happenings along the Trail, the personalities that make the Trail come alive, and the daily struggle of the traders and others who traveled it.

Next we drove southwest to the top of Emigrant Pass, California. Here the OST is very visible, as are remnants of the Salt Lake to Los Angeles wagon road. Both routes ascended the pass, crossed over its crest and down the other side. On the east side of the pass, the old wagon road is visible for miles, mute testimony to the heavy use that was made of it in the nineteenth century.

From Emigrant Pass, we travelled to Resting Springs Ranch and Preserve, where we were welcomed by Allan, its caretaker. He showed us the spring box, built where approximately five gallons of water a minute flows from the spring head.

This water is piped to a reservoir, then to a palm grove and other spots to foster the growth of grass, shrubs, and other trees.

Dr. Warren related the horrific story of the Hernandez family tragedy that occurred here in 1844. This family, accompanied by a knowledgeable guide, left the main caravan early, despite the danger, to ensure enough food and water for their horses and mules. At Resting Springs, a regular OST campsite, the small group was attacked and killed by Paiutes.

Pablo Hernandez, about 10 or 12 years old, and Andreas Fuentes, an adult familiar with the trail, were out herding their share of the horses when this attack occurred. On returning to the camp and finding those waiting there had been killed, they fled back along the trail, expecting to find the main caravan. Instead, they found U.S. Army Captain John C. Fremont and his party of 151 men, including famous guides Kit Carson and Alexis Godey. Fremont's large party was heading down the Mohave River, on its way to Washington, D.C. where Fremont was to make a report to the U.S. Topographical Corps on his western expeditions.

The first official map of the American West, a product of this expedition, for the first time named and located Las Vegas, Nevada, which Fremont visited. He indicated the name translated into "a marshy place," which indeed it was, with numerous springs and short creeks that supported plentiful vegetation.

Fremont sent Carson and Godey with Fuentes and the Hernandez boy to Resting Springs and followed with his large party, abandoning the Mohave River. Fuentes would be their guide from then on, leading the group to Las Vegas Valley via the then-current version of the OST, which included several spring sites and small creeks, Mountain Springs Pass over the Spring Mountains, and Cottonwood Springs (today's Blue Diamond). Fremont pursued and killed the raiding Paiutes, but Pablo Hernandez had lost his entire family, and the guide for the small party was also a victim. Fremont adopted Pablo into his family, and Fuentes accompanied Fremont's expedition back to Washington, D.C. In fact, Fuentes never returned to his life in the Southwest, but signed on for many expeditions the U.S. sent out to explore in the mid-nineteenth century.

Leaving Resting Springs, we traveled to Tecopa and then to China Ranch and Date Farm, located in a major spring area where date farming has been practiced for many generations. We visited the Date Farm Store, enjoyed date milk shakes and fresh dates, rested, and then began our return trip to Las Vegas. The total length of the OST Auto Tour was 220 miles round-trip. ♦

*--Nicole Marie Dominguez
and Dr. Liz Warren*

Back to the Trail Event Celebrated Healthy Outdoor Recreation and History on OSNHT

By Coreen Donnelly, NPS-NTIR

“Back to the Trail,” the first of its kind health and wellness event along the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (NHT), was held on October 15 near Grand Junction, Colorado. The event captured the interest of many area residents who were unfamiliar with the trail and its history. It was also celebrated as a National Park Service Centennial event for the Old Spanish NHT.

In a true partnership effort, the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR), the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA), Mesa County, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Western Colorado Interpretive Association teamed to create the event.

Open to the public for more than 20 years, this segment of national historic retrace trail is approximately seven miles long and is located about three miles southeast of Grand Junction, Colorado. The trail is moderate enough for beginners and gives spectacular views of the Gunnison River and desert landscapes, making it the perfect setting for an event like this. Funded through a National Park Foundation (NPF) Active Trails Grant, the project raised awareness of the Old Spanish NHT through the enhancement of recreational and educational opportunities along its route.

The day’s activities included a guided history hike,

yoga, mountain biking, and horseback riding along the historic trail. Sarah Shrader, owner of Bonsai Design, one of the world’s leading companies in outdoor recreation parks, was also a guest speaker. The event was a great success with many local community members, the mountain biking group Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA), and the Colorado Backcountry Horsemen participating. A mixture of young and old connected to the trail through recreation and healthy outdoor activities.

Partners Kay Simonson, Lead Planner for Mesa County, Vicki Felmlee, Colorado State Director for OSTA, and Coreen Donnelly of National Park Service, National Trails Intermountain Region, met in October of 2015 to brainstorm and write the NPF Active Trails Grant proposal. The main goal of the proposal was to establish this event as something the local community could embrace and continue in future years. Once awarded funding, a year-long effort was set in motion to further develop the trail, to raise awareness about the resource, and to encourage people of all ages to get outside and experience the trail.

In addition to the health and wellness event, the NPF grant funded pedestrian signs to mark the historic trail, new Old Spanish NHT road directional signs to the trailheads, two interpretive orientation panels to be placed at the trailheads, a dedication event held in July 2016 in conjunction with OSTA’s annual conference, and many giveaway items for participants such as water bottles, granola bars, local fruit, backpacks, and more.

After the event, the Grand Junction Striders, a local running group, approached OSTA with an interest in adopting this event and hosting a race along the trail next year. Stay tuned for news of this 2017 Old Spanish Trail race. All involved look forward to seeing how this event grows, changes, and continues to strengthen the connection between participants and the Old Spanish NHT in the coming years. ♦



Photo: Vicki Felmlee

Blue Cut Fire Devastates Cajon Pass

By Nicholas R. Cataldo

The Cajon Pass has played a prominent role in Southern California's history since prehistoric times. Indians, explorers, trappers, loggers, land speculators, rail passengers, early-day motorists, and the military have all passed through this rugged natural corridor that separates the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountain ranges on their way to or from the desert, making this an important gateway in Southern California.

Unfortunately, on August 16, 2016, a wildfire known as the "Blue Cut Fire" rampaged through the Cajon Pass area, and the fast-moving blaze destroyed more than 100 homes and another 200 structures. The wildfire did extensive damage to utility infrastructure, and scorched more than 36,000 acres of vegetation ranging from dense underbrush to majestic Ponderosa Pines.

Amazingly, no lives were lost.

Compounding the tragic destruction of homes, property, and watershed, this inferno destroyed irreplaceable historic structures. The Clyde Ranch, also known as the "Earp Cabin," and the Summit Inn at the top of the Cajon Pass were reduced to ashes and rubble. In addition, the Blue Cut Fire also scorched much of the Old Spanish Trail.

Hours after the "fiery monster" ignited, the Summit Inn was lost to the fast-moving flames. This

Route 66 landmark had been a favorite stop for motorists looking for a quick "bite" since 1952. Among the celebrity travelers to have eaten at the Summit Inn were John Wayne, Elvis Presley, Clint Eastwood, Pearl Bailey, Flip Wilson, George Strait, and Roy Rogers. The new owners have begun rebuilding the Inn.

The Clyde Ranch, located in the upper section of Lone Pine Canyon about four miles southeast of Wrightwood, was also badly damaged. The red ranch house and battered old gas station building have greeted travelers for decades.

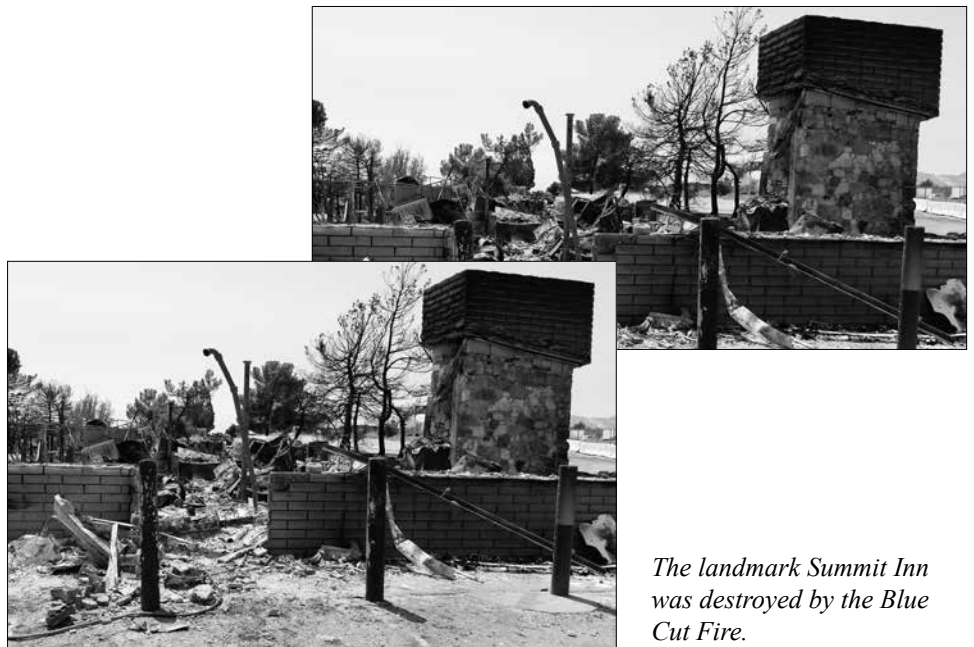
According to the late Robert B. "Bob" Clyde, the 160-acre ranch was purchased by Almon Clyde from George Swarthout, one of the original Mormon settlers who arrived in the San Bernardino Valley from Salt Lake a decade earlier. At first the family lived in a tent but

with the help of his boys, Almon Clyde moved a line cabin used by Swarthout about a quarter mile down the canyon up to the present site by rolling it up on logs, sometime between 1870 and 1872.

According to Clyde, his family was close friends with Virgil Earp who, after the famed "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral," moved near his parents' home in Colton. Virgil, and sometimes brother Wyatt, would ride up through the Cajon Pass and on to Lone Pine Canyon and camp out a couple weeks at a time while hunting deer with Almon and his boys.

The Clyde's original cabin was enlarged over the years, and it became known as the "Earp Cabin" due to visits by the famed brothers over the years. The weathered old structure had survived intact until the Blue Cut fire.

continued next page



The landmark Summit Inn was destroyed by the Blue Cut Fire.

The Old Spanish Trail runs through Cajon Pass in the middle of this photo.



Photos: Nick Cataldo

Old Spanish Trail Scorched

After the annual caravans packed with woolen blankets departed along the Old Spanish Trail (OST) from New Mexico and crept through the desolate Mojave Desert, the pack train finally reached its destination in the Los Angeles Basin, but only after snaking through the rugged Cajon Pass.

A popular rest stop along the way, and one of the most historically significant sites in Southern California that OST travelers no doubt used, was a grove of willow and cottonwood trees in the wash near the southbound truck scales along I-15. Originally a Serrano Indian village and later a pioneer rest stop, this historic gem was purchased by the San Bernardino County Museum Association in 1975.

Father Jose Maria Zalvidea visited this village in 1806 and in his notes identified it as *Amuscopiabit*, “place of little pines.” Traveling from Santa Barbara to San Gabriel looking for possible sites for future

missions, the gospel-driven padre noted in his diary seeing “15 to 18 wild Indians and some little ones” at Amuscopiabit. And while there, he baptized two old women. One he named Francesca and the other Ambrosia.

Archaeological research has determined that the site had been a Native American village for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. Much like apartment dwellers of today, the Serrano tenants often stayed for relatively short periods of time. When the natural resources in the surrounding area were depleted, the 15 to 20 men, women, and children, whose lifestyles centered on hunting and gathering, moved elsewhere, only to be replaced by new tenants later.

With the constant intrusion of horse thieves making their way from the Mojave Desert to the San Bernardino Valley, as well as the steady flow of immigrants passing through the Cajon Pass, the peace-loving Serranos scattered into the mountains. By the early 1840s, when mule caravans from New

Mexico were traveling through the pass, the settlement of Amuscopiabit was no more.

However, soon afterward this area became known as “Willow Grove” or “The Willows.” The first mention of this moniker was in 1850 when an immigrant party bound for Los Angeles brought their wagons down from West Cajon Canyon. After making their way down a steep, narrow ridge, David Cheesman described in his diary:

“We came to *Willow Grove*, nine miles from the divide, a good camping place. From this point to Sycamore Grove [near today’s Glen Helen Park], 2 miles from the entrance of Cajon Pass, was down a narrow and rocky gorge to the entrance of the canyon.”

When Mormon wagon trains arrived into San Bernardino from Salt Lake soon afterwards, Willow Grove or “The Willows” became the first watering spot after leaving the Mojave River at what is now Oro Grande.

In March of 1854, a government surveying party led by Lt. Amiel W. Whipple, seeking a feasible southern route for a railroad, came through the Cajon Pass. Reaching the abandoned Serrano settlement at noon, the men stopped long enough to allow their horses to rest. While gazing at the lush surroundings that were dotted with piñon pines and included a willow- and cattail-lined creek, the officer noticed signs of the earlier Indian village.

In his diary, Whipple wrote, “at the place of our noon halt we saw vestiges of Indian huts, broken pottery, and metates. One of the

latter was fashioned with considerable skill. The exterior was hemispherical, with a conical cup in the centre capable of holding about two quarts of grain. The rock was senate, hard, polished, smooth, and symmetrical within and without. The pottery was rough, unpainted, and unglazed. The huts were covered circular depressions in the ground about 10 feet in diameter, and two feet deep.”

The glory days of Amuscopiabit and Willow Grove are long gone. However, my good friend, Mike Hartless, who until recently served as the San Bernardino County Museum Association’s resident care-

taker, helped preserve the legacy left by those hardy souls from centuries past by educating the public for the past 40 years about the rich and diversified history that occurred here.

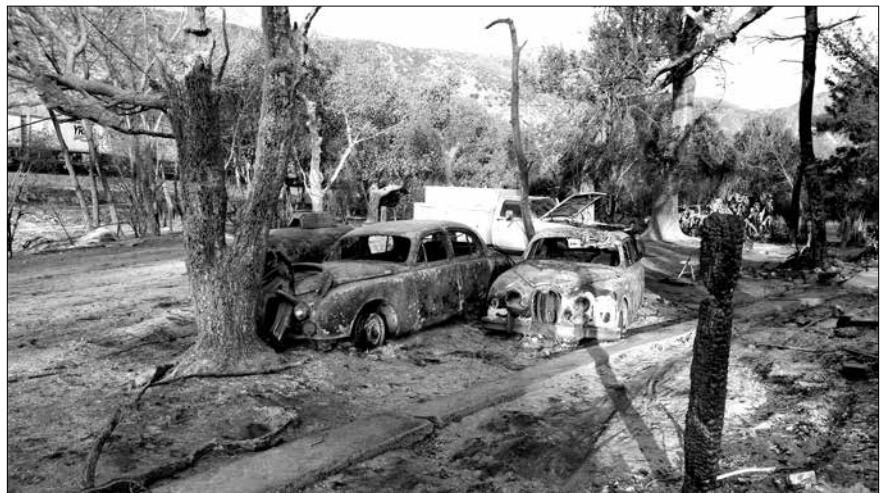
At this time, there is no resident caretaker, in large part because the old ranch house, built by the Inman family in the late 1930s and later Mike’s residence, was yet another victim of the Blue Cut Fire. ♦

Nick Cataldo has been a contributing western history writer for the Tombstone Epitaph since 1996, the San Bernardino County Seat since 1998, and the Dezert Magazine since 2011. He is the author of several books.



The Willows

Stoddard-Waite monument dedication at the Willows on May 18, 1913, the monument at the 100th anniversary dedication, and burned remains of ranch house and cars at the Willows.



Helen Greene Blumenschein and the Apodaca Trail – Northern Extension of El Camino Real

*transcribed and edited
by Patricia Joy Richmond*

In 1964, Taos artist and historian Helen Greene Blumenschein¹ (HGB) started a personal journal titled: *Trails to Santa Fe from Taos*. The worn, three-quarters inch-thick maroon leather notebook contains Helen Blumenschein's original field entries as well as edits she added later. Deciphering her "lefty" scrawl was never easy, but she and I corresponded regularly. We visited each other often and ventured forth on outings with historian friends Ruth Marie Colville² and Corina Santistevan.³

Before her death, Helen Blumenschein entrusted to me several items she considered of historic value including her *Trails* journal, her *Aranzazu* notebooks,⁴ and maps related to her research of Taos Valley's trails and roads ranging from pre-Vargas to modern highways. Using her own words, this article follows Helen Greene Blumenschein's quest to discover and document the northern extension of El Camino Real between Santa Fe and Taos – a route that she eventually named the "Apodaca Trail."⁵

In early November 1964, HGB began a "Trails to Taos" narrative with the following paragraphs:

When it was first brought to my attention by Jack Boyer⁶ that the dramatic ride we take today on the paved highway #64 [now SH 68] from Velarde through the Rio Grande Gorge to Pilar had only been in existence since 1875, I realized that a fascinating story and a walk on an old abandoned road was in store for me. The original road served Taos Valley since prehistoric Indian days when the Picuris Indians and Pot Creek Indians would trade - or fight.⁷

In 1938, I had come across several old maps in the New York City Library, [each] showing the same route from Santa Fe to Taos. When I started reading firsthand accounts of the early travelers on the road from Velarde to Taos, beginning with Alvarado in 1540, Vargas 1692, Colonel Sterling Price's Military reports of 1847 and 1853, and the book by the first territorial attorney, W.W.H. Davis,⁸ to



*Helen Greene Blumenschein,
portrait by Ernest Blumenschein.
Courtesy of the Taos Historic
Museums, Taos, New Mexico*

remembering my own arrival by train and stagecoach in 1913, I suddenly was aware of the overly rapid changes in recent years of the beautiful, isolated valley of the TAOSSES (as the Taos Indians were called on one old map). I felt compelled to ride and walk this lifeline to [Taos] valley...⁹

Introduction

Helen Greene Blumenschein was born November 30, 1909, in New York City to renowned artists Ernest L. and Mary Greene Blumenschein. In 1919, HGB and her mother moved to Taos, where Ernest had spent his summers paint-

ing. HGB's primary path directed her toward a career as an artist; but her interests extended beyond her artistic talents. In roaming the countryside afoot or on horseback since childhood, HGB acquired first-hand knowledge of Taos Valley and adjacent mountains. Extensive reading and in-field research enhanced her familiarity with New Mexico's archaeological, cultural, and historic heritage.

In 1964, HGB set upon a project that took her into the rugged and remote hill terrain between Velarde and Pilar, New Mexico. Sometimes accompanied by a friend or paid guide, sometimes on horseback, but often venturing on foot by herself, HGB explored canyons and arroyos, meadows and steep hillsides in search of the documented trail that had served Don Diego de Vargas (1692, 1694, and 1696) and other notable travelers between Santa Fe and Taos until the advent of the U.S. Territorial Period (1848). She identified this route as the northern extension of El Camino Real and named it the Apodaca Trail—one of the routes of the Old Spanish Trail between Santa Fe and Taos. (The Apodaca Trail preceded roads developed between Santa Fe and Taos by the U.S. military after 1848, such as *El Camino Militar*.)

During the Mexican era (1821-1848), Taos became the hub for New Mexico's fur industry. Taos also became a commerce destination along the Old Spanish and Santa Fe Trails. Traders used the Apodaca Trail to convey goods from or through Taos Valley. At the time of her field journal (1964), HGB, like most historians, associated New Mexico's Old Spanish Trail with the Santa Fe-Abiquiú-Moab route to Green River, Utah. The Old Spanish Trail Association would not exist until 1994. However, through her trail research and familiarity with several

traditional crossing sites of the Rio Grande near Taos, HGB realized that trade items could proceed north and ultimately westward from Taos, as an alternative connection with the Main Route of the Old Spanish Trail.

In 2002, HGB's Apodaca Trail officially became a segment of the North Branch of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail [OSNHT]. HGB's pioneering research and documentation of the Apodaca Trail a half century ago established a foundation for today's Old Spanish Trail historians and researchers.



**Helen Greene Blumenschein's
Field Journal¹⁰
*Trails to Santa Fe from Taos, 1964***

Early in July 1964, I had an opportunity to climb to the Picuris Saddle from the upper Miranda¹¹ campground and the next week to go by a Scout jeep from the Pot Creek ruin¹² to the Saddle, a distance of only six miles. This large Pot Creek Indian ruin, dating from 1150 to 1250 [AD] is, they [archaeologists] say, closely connected to Picuris Pueblo which dates from 1150 AD. The trail on the south side of Picuris Saddle is only about five miles to the Pueblo, which makes a total of eleven (11) miles - an easy walk for one day.¹³

This route reminded me of a map I had photocopied in 1938 at the New York Public Library showing the trail from Velarde to Taos in 1851 (by Kern).¹⁴ These early Indian trails were, of course, the shortest distance between two points (usually two pueblos) and also the lowest point in altitude crossing the mountains. These trails had originally been deer trails [in] these mountains, whereas on the plains and eastern Rocky Mountain crossings, the buffalo trail was followed and

then possibly improved upon by the Indians.

It must be remembered there had to be water at frequent intervals for man; and later when the Spaniards arrived and followed the old Indian trails, they needed grass for their horses. Their carts and cannons needed easier grades. Later still, the heavy wagons loaded with goods on the Santa Fe Trail followed routes with a gradual grade but went to villages where they could easily sell their goods and trade. (note, HGB: Get a drawing of a Spanish cart used by early Spanish, Kit Carson Museum.)

The Chihuahua Trail in the 1600s was one of the first of this type. This was from Santa Fe to Chihuahua. To what extent Taos participated in this [trade route] I am not sure as yet since Taos Valley was not heavily settled until the early 1800s after the Comanches had been severely beaten by Anza (1775 and 1785).¹⁵

In 1540-42, Alvarado¹⁶ visited the Pecos Pueblo (now in ruins) and then went up the Rio Grande as far as present Velarde where the sudden appearance of the steep-sided gorge and fallen basalt rocks forms a barrier to horses and carts. Even today, the cave-ins in the gorge on Highway 64 [SH 68] still make it a dangerous route because of falling rocks, particularly in the summertime and during the spring thaw.

Alvarado undoubtedly took the route which was the shortest and easiest - three miles up the first northeast branch of the main arroyo, Rio de las Entrañas,¹⁷ running into the Rio Grande at Velarde. (Footnote, HGB: Alvarado named this river Nuestra Señora, as he first discovered it on September 8, 1540, [after] coming from the Zuni and Acoma pueblos toward Bernalillo where Coronado settled that

winter with his army.)

At the end of the three miles, the trail drops in a northerly direction and arrives in two miles at the river in present day Embudo - Dixon. Following this river east two miles, it [the trail] forks - one branch going to present Peñasco and the other to present day Ojo Sarco village¹⁸ and its five-mile-long fertile valley. The distance from Dixon to Velarde is four miles; from Dixon to Ojo Sarco, eight miles; to Las Trampas, two miles; and to Picuris Pueblo, seven and one half miles. (footnote, HGB: Total mileage - 22 miles, Velarde to Picuris by this route)

Leaving Ojo Sarco, you are in the forest until you drop into the Peñasco Valley. The left branch of the Embudo River, although much shorter to Peñasco and running parallel to the Rio Grande for eight miles, to Picuris Pueblo from the upper end of present Cañoncito (6,172' altitude) is, like the gorge, steep-sided and has too many falling rocks - on map, three miles of this at lower end. (note, HGB: Check this route, even so.) I did, and it is tough. (footnote, HGB: I have used topographic contour maps of Taos County, Las Trampas, Velarde, and Truchas quadrangles to mark the actual way I walked or rode in the trails.)

August 12, 1964

I found an excellent geological map, Southern end of the Sangre de Cristo by [illegible] survey¹⁹ and two others, which used in conjunction with the previous mentioned ones gives me a good picture of the area. Even so, I find it absolutely necessary to walk or horseback ride these trails to understand them. An example of this is the walk I [took] Sunday, August 9, 1964, up Miranda Canyon²⁰ from Ponce de Leon hot springs to a point one half mile from my first walk up to Picuris Saddle in July.²¹ This is approximately up Miranda five miles - four miles to

[the] last spring and a beautiful open meadow at the head of the canyon. Due to the drought, only a few springs exist today. (footnote, HGB: There was also a drought going on in 1692, which precipitated another revolt in 1696 when Vargas again came up to subdue the Taos Indians. The trip up to Taos in 1692 by Vargas was instigated by friendly Picuris Indians who told him Taos Indians and Pecos Indians were attacking and molesting Picuris Indians.)

The entire four miles of the Miranda Canyon is under the surveillance of a lookout on a trail going up the spine of a hill just east of the Ponce de Leon hot springs. Some years ago, I walked up this spine and at the second level point in the rise [referred to later by HGB as Second Pass], I found the remains of an old Indian smoke signal [spot]. This spot could signal to the Taos Pueblo should anyone approach from the Miranda Canyon, Picuris Mountains, or [should] anyone exit from the mouth of Little Rio Grande, Rio del Ranchos, or Rio Chiquito, all of them within a mile of each other. The only place hidden from this lookout would be the sudden east-west bend in upper Miranda Canyon at the last spring and meadow. In his journal, Vargas says he camped in the Paraje²² Miranda in the dense forest so that no one could see his approach. He left at 4:00 a.m., which on October 7 would have been dark, so that it would be light by the time he was at the mouth of the canyon - no doubt coming out into the Ranchos Valley at the point of the present flume which irrigates the Llano Quemado. (footnote, HGB: from the Little Rio Grande, formerly called Las Trampas, now called Rio Grande del Ranchos in latest 1963 geological map of Socorro, New Mexico School of Mines)

[Vargas] then says he proceeded across the plains - across an arroyo

and near the pueblo of Taos (which arroyo? Pueblo River? Rio Lucero?) where he stopped. Most of the Indians [Taos Pueblo] by this time had taken refuge in the Taos Mountains. (Footnote, HGB: He [Vargas] says in an embudo in a mountain to the east. Notice how frequently the word "embudo" is used by all writers of their exploits between Taos and Velarde. *Embudo* means a box canyon.) [funnel or trick]

I walked along this streambed of Miranda, and on the west side of it were a surprising number of small pueblo sites. On my return, I followed along the new Carson Forest south boundary fence just below an abandoned lumber mill site. I noticed some potsherds and upon looking more closely discovered a whole culinary pot about sixteen inches high and eight or ten inches across the mouth - just the lip showing near a bulldozed area to make a fence.²³ (footnote, HGB: October 12, excavated same with R.E. [Rose Evans].²⁴ October 31, Rose Evans glued [the pot] together. It has [a] distinct conical base with a concave center section and can stand upright by itself. It has Taos micaceous [illegible] clay. Now in Kansas City Museum - November 1, 1964, Stew Peckham)²⁵

Below it [pot site] is a spring, now dry, near fence and lower end of meadow, and above it [is] a hill with a distinct depression on top and much pottery on the hillside downhill from it. There had been a severe cloudburst up there this summer, 1964. Below that and about two miles above the spring, more potsherds and an obsidian arrowhead not far from the west side of the streambed. An obsidian arrowhead, quite large [with] a broken stem [HGB sketch of point] [that] I found just 50 feet west of top of [the] pass on slope going over into drainage east towards head of Little Rio Grande del Ranchos from Miranda Canyon. One wonders what connection these little sites

had with Pot Creek ruin and Picuris Pueblo.²⁶

Except for the two beautiful meadows, there is not too much land to cultivate. This would appear to be primarily a main route south over the Picuris range from Taos Valley. (footnote, HGB: This route was also used by Colonel Price²⁷ and Lieutenant Davis [W.W.H. Davis] in 1847 and 1854 respectively.)

August 16, 1964

I walked up the Arroyo de Mina from just west of Dixon, the first dip on [the] paved highway from the Santa Fe and Taos highway to Dixon. Walking for one hour with several stops due to 90 degree heat from 11:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, I kept to the right at [the] base of [a] mesa, continually keeping my eye on a blade-like formation of sand coming from the basalt-covered mesa to my right. Going up on my left was pure sand-eroded hills and formations. One mile up, a trickle of water [runs] in an arroyo [that] turns left; a few cottonwoods there, following it [the water source]. I took [the] right arroyo [for] another mile. There was a fresh cattle trail that day which made it easy to follow what had been a dim trail due to heavy rain through July and August. I knew from having talked to Emilio Martinez²⁸ of Velarde that this was a cattle range, and he had spoken of the spring water.

I had walked up the last 100 yards of Embudo Pass, as usual quite steep. Recent erosion had caused the cattle to take a new trail around one of the many eroded hills (small) at the north approach to Embudo Pass. On this north side, the erosion on what had once been a wagon road showed ruts from five feet to fifteen feet deep at [the] bottom of the steep incline. Near the top, this time, I made a pencil sketch of [the] view to northeast towards Picuris - where one can see the

new paved road winding down from Peñasco. [I] also found some potsherds – historic period I would say.

The juniper tree under which I sat grew out of a mound of rocks which looked like some sort of a marker (survey? or battle of 1847 marker?)²⁹ There was another mound of rocks on [the] other side of the trail, too. It would not be difficult for 500 Indians on horseback to disappear in this eroded area. I would like to know where [the] gas line survey goes from here. It goes right over Embudo Pass. On the trail at this point, there is now only room for one person to go single file down the trail. I want to go back here some early morning to take pictures (moving pictures and do some drawings of this eroded road before the bulldozers tear it up. (footnote, HGB: October, Bob Harper, Los Alamos, took photos.)³⁰

August 21-22 Pecos Conference, Window Rock, Arizona, Navajo land.

Wonder of wonders – two nice old maps – one of 1769 by Urrutia printed in Madrid 1769.³¹ I wonder what actual date [the] survey was made showing Embudo, Taos, and Picuris very close together and no churches connected with either one of them? A church [symbol] (meaning villa or town!) was shown north of Las Trampas and called Santa Barbara. Would this be

Rodarte? There is the Santa Barbara River running from the Jicarita Peak through Peñasco and today called Embudo Creek as it goes down to Dixon and into the Rio Grande. And where Velarde is today, is a church shown and the name Rio Arriba - present day Velarde, which is one mile north of old La Joya. [Rio Arriba is] the present name of the county. By Rio Arriba do they mean the upper Rio Grande or the present Arroyo Ancho coming into Velarde at the location of present school-house (1964)? This is old La Joya.³²

An 1864 military map supervised by Carleton³³ showing the trail no longer going via Embudo but directly to Las Trampas or possibly a little south at Ojo Sarco. This no doubt is a result of the erosion on the north side of Embudo Pass plus the fact it [Embudo Pass] struck me as a likely place for ambushes as the trail became narrower at [the] top of [the] pass on the north side. The map showed a trail, more likely a wagon road as is the Las Trampas one, going from Ojo Caliente to Cieneguilla and up to Taos on present paved highway of 1936 - Number 64.³⁴ It [the map] also showed Fort Union and a road directly east from Taos. This puzzles me a bit as the only rivers mentioned are the Taos River and the Ocate River running east - west.

Al Schroeder³⁵ of the National Park Service in Santa Fe gave a good talk

on historic movements of Navajos and Apaches and mentioned an encampment of Apache [men] near Picuris (date?).³⁶ In four months a book translation of Sosa's expedition of 1580 [1590] will be published.³⁷ In the meantime, I want to read his [Sosa's] account of getting from Velarde to Picuris. According to Al, [Sosa] went up Embudo Creek. This Journal told of a box canyon – shoe box. [A] fishing entrance is a road down from the Harding Mill. (note, HGB: Make footnote of all translations of Spanish words. Local word for trails not in dictionary – Verdada?)³⁸

Goodness! If they took that way! (shorter I will admit - seven miles to Picuris Pueblo). No wonder Vargas said what a bad road it was, and evidently Sosa did too. Both of them had a snowstorm. That [suggests] the Indians deliberately took Alvarado, Vargas, and Sosa the shortest but hardest way – probably hoping they would fall off the steep trail! Later maps all show the route [going] through Las Trampas (by horseback and wagon). I would say via Ojo Sarco by wagon. Will it be *Rito de las Entrañas* (the purple-branched cacti), the right branch of the Miranda Arroyo, up which one starts to the Embudo Pass? (note, HGB: Check 1696 trip of Vargas and second rebellion - this time Picuris, too! Padres had warned of drought and unrest in the pueblos. 1694 Vargas went to Taos

"View to the Northeast from Picuris Saddle," pen and ink drawing by Helen Greene Blumenschein (use permission granted by Shirley Davis)



again. This time he raided Taos Pueblo and took all their grain! No wonder they rebelled again in 1696!)³⁹

Crusaders of the Rio Grande by Espinosa⁴⁰ - I found this in introduction to Vargas' first expedition by editor Hammond.⁴¹ [Espinosa] says he [Vargas] went from Taos north to present Colorado border and then south to Santa Fe to avoid ambush in the mountains (Picuris!) and then west to Ojo Caliente and down the Chama to San Juan [Pueblo] and Santa Fe. [Espinosa] said the Spanish killed twenty Utes on this trip in a fight. TRUE. Check this 1694 route, TRUE.⁴²

August 30, 1964

I entered the mouth of Embudo Creek at *Cañoncita* [little canyon], parking my car in a farmyard. What an impossible canyon that is! I just went up as far as the first impasse of cliffs on both sides of a beautiful river, narrow and falling from one deep pool to the next. Walking is impossible on both sides – no sign of a trail at all. I met two hiking fishermen, and they said it was necessary to climb over [a] cliff to get by, and that it was real rough on the other side! And I thought it was rough on this side! A fine place for the Apaches to hide though, further up I am sure.

September 2, 1964

This time Orval Shreeves⁴³ and I drove to the Harding mine and walked down a southeast direction to Embudo Creek - (August '64 - A. Montgomery had posted a mining claim there!) This evidently is the beginning of a box canyon going south – sheer cliffs on either side, but evidently a fisherman can go over one side. We didn't. [The] canyon opens up going east towards Picuris, which we could see not too far away (two miles?). On [the] road back up, we noticed another road going towards Embudo Creek. (Is this where Las Trampas Creek joins it?) Curiosity

will have me find out – although now I know no horse or wagon ever followed Embudo Creek – a lovely stream. It would seem they [travelers] went pretty much by the previous road (previous to 1963) from Dixon to Peñasco - although there is a steep ascent that way. I drove up the Ojo Sarco road (should be Zarco - clear blue spring water), and it is by far the easiest way with plenty of water and forage for horses and men. On his return from Taos and Picuris in 1692, Vargas states [that] he did ten leagues from Taos Pueblo to Picuris in two days and nine leagues from Picuris taking the embudo short cut. In other words, he did not return by Las Trampas and Ojo Zarco [sic] but must have come down a north road parallel to Embudo Creek in order to arrive in San Juan Pueblo at 3:00 PM: 27 miles! (I wonder what time he started.) Obviously he did not stay with his foot soldiers on this last day. Evidently he was sure he would not be ambushed at Embudo Pass. The north side of it is dangerous both for erosion and cloudbursts and [for] attacks. At that time, he [Vargas] had the San Juan Indians, the Picuris and even the Taos Indians as his allies. (footnote, HGB: The U.S. cavalry figures on marches of 48 miles a day – this of course would be on the level plain.)

Don Diego de Vargas Zapata Luhan Ponce de Leon had left his artillery (cannon and stone mortar) at the San Juan Pueblo. (footnote, HGB: because of mountains and rough terrain with steep-sided hills.)

The use of the word embudo puzzled me for awhile. Translated it means funnel, but I have come to the conclusion, a vertical funnel, not a horizontal one as some seem to think today.⁴⁴ Vargas spoke of the Taos Indians fleeing into the embudo in the center of Taos Mountain. This is a cliff-like canyon like a box canyon. Embudo Pass is eroded into vertical curves on the north

side. The Embudo Mountains, ten miles north [and] spoken of by Col. Price, are steep, cone-shaped mountains with very steep sides – making it easy to ambush from.⁴⁵ (footnote, HGB: translate as box canyon)

(more footnotes, Et Cetera; HGB: On reading Sosa's notes in [the] Santa Fe historical library – he never gives leagues marched every day nor the names of Pueblos or settlements he passes – very poor description of [his] march. He finally mentions Acoma, Santo Domingo, and also I presume, short of Santa Fe in book I read. It would be very hard to trace his march. He nor anyone else ever marched up Embudo Creek.) The more I see of it [Embudo Creek], the less I like it. After being in the Guadalupe Mountains where Geronimo and his Apaches hid, I would say Embudo Creek was the ideal spot for the Jicarilla Apaches to hide.

I am also sure I found the Apache encampment⁴⁶ of 1854 west of the Picuris Pueblo. It was at the head of the Agua Caliente Creek. (The source is a mineral hot springs.) The Agua Caliente Creek ends up at Pilar - at this time (1962) [sic].⁴⁷ Four of us found arrowheads under the pine needles in a lovely hollow covered with yellow pine near the spring – a perfect spot for an encampment of Apaches.

September 6, 1964 (See topo map showing exact route.)⁴⁸

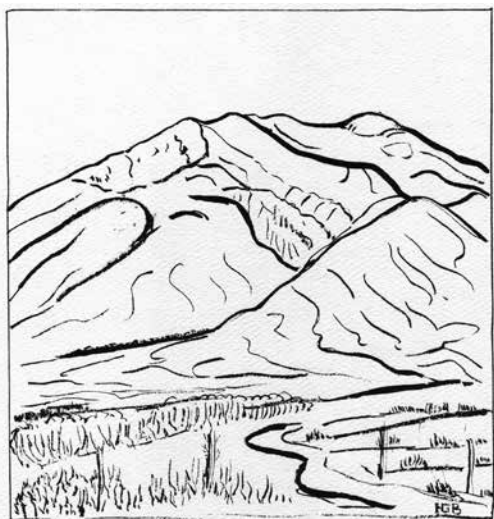
Horseback [trip] with Levi Martinez, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Pablo Martinez, Ojo Sarco.⁴⁹ We left at 10 AM to go to [the] windmill and tanks in the *Cañada de las Entrañas* (cacti) via *Cañada de la Jacinto* (hyacinths!). Excellent road and grade until it hits La Cuesta [Cuesta del Aiyre – Hill of the Wind] – the highest point; and as usual, [the] slope facing northeast is so badly eroded in the center of [an]

old road to the depth of fifteen feet (!!!), that [the] road is even impassable to all wheeled traffic and jeep. This seems to be [the] same depth as at Embudo Pass and therefore must date from [the] same period. Therefore, Col Sterling Price could not have brought artillery by this route either but must have followed [the] ridge north of Cañada de las Entrañas – unless he took Cañada Ancha, [the] arroyo south of present schoolhouse at Velarde. It took two hours going; one and a half returning - dry [with] no water or forage. \$4.00 a day for horses with or without guide; to Las Lagunas, \$5.00 per day.

September 13, 1964

Horseback [trip] with Levi Martinez, 9:30 to 11:30 AM, to Vallecitos and back to corral. [We] found an old flour mill for stone grinding – the parts all taken out of it and dispersed. (note, HGB: Truchas–stones, Arroyo Seco - near Espanola Museum?)

[From] 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. [we were] looking for [the] trail to Las Trampas and found it [after] a half hour on horseback. Two miles through pine forest following Rio de las Trampas above steep gorge; [the trail] comes out at lower end of Trampas Valley about one mile south of [the] church – a lovely sight. (note, HGB:



See map.) [The] wagon road he [Martinez] showed me was no better than [the] present road up to [the] paved highway and over. Although it is a bit shorter, [it is] too steep a grade to be an improvement.

[The] entrance to the horseback trail [is] by an arroyo and [a] curving mountain valley just below Pablo Martinez's property (1964). [It] turns uphill on an old road, and at [the] saddle and top turns into [a] trail. [The] road continues along the ridge in both directions, east and west.

September 16, 1964

Clark Funk⁵⁰ and I are going to ride horseback from El Valle to Las Lagunas – three small lakes up in the mountains east of El Valle. (Rain and snow the night of the 15th so [the] trip was abandoned.)

September 26, 1964

[The] September 25th trip, with [the] Forest Service Civilian Advisory Committee, [went] all through the Rio Grande Grant over to Pot Creek [and] back to Cerro Vista - Tres Ritos for lunch. Twelve miles from Cerro Vista to [the] highway [with a] good road up and down La Junta Canyon. Take [the] right fork up Las Presas Canyon⁵¹ to get on top. (note, HGB: beetle area to be burnt - got out of control on Oct. 1? [1964]) Pete Salid⁵² says Ojo Sarco means blue spring – from Arab word azure! (note, HGB: See Harrington, 1912, who said clear blue spring - mineral springs.)

"Northern New Mexico," pen and ink drawing by Helen Greene Blumenschein (use permission granted by Shirley Davis)

(note, HGB: Wolfman⁵³ [is] doing salvage archaeology on [a] sewer line at Picurís and says they now believe [that] Pot Creek pueblo was where [the] division of Taos and Picurís began at 1150 AD. A good guess – I would say. What and who was already at Taos Pueblo? Did they join them? Did they burn [the] pueblo to the east of the present one – rebuild or what? See Tamaron, 1760, [the] burning of the Martinez house at [Taos] Pueblo.⁵⁴ At least one of [the] Taos Pueblo kivas has two ventilators as had the latest large kiva just excavated at Picurís in [the] sewer salvage! Second large kiva. I am sure Taos Pueblo has [the] same. All my [excavated] pithouses had only one ventilator.

October 4 [1964]

[I] walked with Mr. Robert Harper, photographer from El Rancho and Los Alamos, from Dixon to [the] top of Embudo Pass [for] 50 minutes⁵⁵ and then spent at least an hour looking for artifacts. I found a large number of obsidian chips including two bases of small arrowheads - flat [base] notched in center. [HGB drawings of two points with notations and indicator arrows] Various types of obsidian – dark to light and cloudy.

[About] 150 yards west-northwest of [the] top of [the] pass, a cross of lava rocks would appear to be of Spanish origin. [We] found another mound of rocks, now level, which appears much older. Three markers around it [HGB drawing of a triangle with a dot at each point] had supports for a high pole which is used for surveying. Said pass is also marked with two piles of stones on either side of road (or rather cow path) down [the] northeast side. This old mound might be just a boundary marker.⁵⁶ (note, HGB: U.S Army did not mark graves! Spanish often mark such places at the death of some person - auto accident, freezing in a

snowstorm, etc. I saw the same thing in Chile. It also exists in Mexico.)

November 18, 1966⁵⁷

Time [it takes] to get to Cieneguilla Pass to Apodaca Canyon Trail – two and a half hours; return [trip], one and a half hours; half an hour up Agua Caliente stream past [the] gravel cliff and embudo. You can see a road that zigzags up the hill on [the] south side of [the] creek (very small). Very steep ascent for one hour, [but] the next hour [is an] easy grade over two passes close together at [the] top. [The] trail has been turned into a mining road. I would say 60 years ago. Road [is] covered with windblown piñon trees and even a large pine near [the] last half mile.

I left an old wash tub in the center of [the] trail at a badly eroded spot where I found one piece of a tire with a red vulcanized repair in it on very sharp slate-like rocks sticking up vertically from the road. Good road continues beyond this to top. [HGB drew a jagged line to depict the road.]

Second top where I marked a big P in [the] bark of a piñon tree in June of 1966⁵⁸ - shaped like this at crest of top ridges when I went on horseback from Rinconada. [HGB pencil sketch of tree] South of this is [a] logging road to [the] plateau and other mining roads. Then southwest to Apodaca Canyon, [the] trail, clearly visible and badly eroded, [was] used as a wood road in the 1800s. Trees have been stripped in this area very severely. They [firewood gatherers] are still going to pine and spruce areas on the south side to get firewood (1965).

The grade on this trail is not bad for mule packs except at [the] beginning of the trail at Agua Caliente Creek to [the] first 1000 feet where there is a short tongue plateau.

[HGB map sketch with the following notation: This is [on the] north side. I was facing the sun at all times going up this trail on the north side.]



Helen Blumenschein's identification of the northern extension of El Camino Real between Velarde and Taos – the Apodaca Trail - encouraged placement of an interpretive forest service sign on U. S. Hill (SH 518). HGB had contacted the Children of the American Revolution to request funding for the project.⁵⁹ HGB generously shared her findings with agency personnel and other historians. She utilized her field-notes and first-hand knowledge in promoting awareness of the trail through lectures, radio programs, newsletters, and formal publications.⁶⁰ National Historic Trail designation for the Old Spanish Trail⁶¹ has revitalized interest in the Apodaca Trail. Modern researchers and historians should not overlook the pioneering contributions of the woman who first set sights on locating and documenting this ancient trail – Helen Greene Blumenschein.⁶²



Endnotes

1. Helen Greene Blumenschein [HGB] was well known and respected throughout Taos Valley and New Mexico as an artist, archaeologist, historian and environmentalist. An outdoor enthusiast, she fished, hunted, skied, hiked, and rode horses. Upon returning to Taos after World War II, she promoted local folk arts to revive interest in Taos as an art community and also organized a Taos Valley History Fair. HGB was a charter member of both the Taos Archaeological Society and the Taos County Historical Society (TCHS). Respected among scholars for the integrity of her work, she received professional recognition including the New Mexico Archaeological Society's Achievement Award

for History and Archaeology (1969). The Taos Chamber of Commerce named her Woman of the Year in 1984. HGB died at Plaza de Retiro (Taos), September 9, 1989. HGB is listed in *Who's Who in Art, Women of the West, American Women Artists, and Remarkable Women of Taos*. In recognition of her many contributions toward northern New Mexico's archaeological record, the Archaeological Society of New Mexico dedicated Volume 5 of its *Collected Papers* "in Honor of Helen Greene Blumenschein." Albert H. Schroeder, *Papers of the Archaeology Society of New Mexico: 5* (Albuquerque: Archaeological Society Press, 1980).

2. Ruth Marie Colville (1905-2004) spent her adult life researching and documenting the cultural and historic heritage of the San Luis Valley [SLV]. Like Blumenschein, Colville focused on in-field research of old roads and trails. She was a founding member of the San Luis Valley Historical Society and OSTA. See: Ruth Marie Colville, *La Vereda: a Trail through Time*, (Alamosa, Colorado: San Luis Valley Historical Society, 1992).

3. Corina Aurora Santistevan (1919-2016), a seventh-generation descendant of Taos Valley pioneers, became the quintessential authority on Taos history. A charter member of the Taos County Historical Society, she consistently contributed to public awareness of Taos Valley's history. See: Corina A. Santistevan and Julia Moore, eds., *Taos: A Topical History* (Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico, 2013).

4. In 1977, HGB compiled copies of her articles, lectures, letters, newsletters, radio transcripts, research notes, bibliography list, and other Taos Valley information into two large loose-leaf notebooks. She anticipated publishing this collection under the title *Aranzazu* in reference to a *Reredo* [altar screen painting] of Our Lady of Aranzazu that a Taos Pueblo native

had saved during the revolt of 1680 and later relinquished to Vargas. See: Corina Santistevan, "Our Lady of Aranzazu," *Ayer y Hoy en Taos*, TCHS (Summer 1986). HGB's "Trails" *Journal*, *Aranzazu* notebooks, and other papers are archived as the Helen Greene Blumenschein [HGB] Collection, Southwest Research Center, Taos.

5. "W.W. H. Davis [William Watts Hart Davis], the first attorney general for New Mexico [1853], described the 'bridle path,' as he called it, from the present-day villages of Dixon and Apodaca over the Picuris Mountains to the then Cieneguilla, now Pilar. After walking this trail, I named it the Apodaca Trail since he mentioned a pillar of sandstone as being the marker at the base of the south side of the trail; this sandstone pillar is still there west of the new paved highway 76 that passes through Apodaca today (1977). ...as of 1968 named by H. G. Blumenschein, Apodaca Trail, going north from town of Apodaca." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II:35 and footnote, II:67.

6. Jack K. Boyer (1911-1989) had known HGB since childhood. After World War II, Boyer returned to Taos and became the Executive Director of the Kit Carson Foundation, a position he held for 34 years. Along with HGB, he was a charter member of TCHS and collaborated with her on TCHS projects.

7. "To my horror, after years of research, I found not one person in the Ranchos Valley who remembered the pre-1875 route into Taos Valley from the south, spoken of by Anza in his military journal of 1779 as the 'Camino Real.' It was four miles west of the U.S. Hill." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 195.

8. W.W.H. Davis, *El Gringo, or New Mexico and Her People* (New York: Harper, 1857; reprinted Rio Grande Press, 1963).

9. "There were wagon roads at different periods in different places due to

erosion south of Embudo River. The main road from Trampas to Picuris through Telephone Canyon and through Miranda Canyon remains much the same. However, it is obvious from reading personal accounts of travels of priests and laymen that they took different Trails [sic] from Embudo north.... Even Bandelier mentions coming by a precipitous trail [but] returns by a wagon road so he could see the range of mountains - the Truchas and Jicarilla Peak. He may have taken U.S. Hill road, which is four miles east of Picuris Saddle/Pass. HGB, *Journal*, "Odds and Ends":19. Col. Price in 1847 named the present Picuris Mountain U. S. Mountain. Probably U.S. Hill was named after it. Local folklore said it was called U.S. Hill because the steep, winding road made those letters." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 67.

10. Silent insertions as well as edits of abbreviations, punctuation, and "short-hand" notations facilitate reading HGB's journal entries. HGB's journal contains her field notes, "Odds and Ends" citations from reference sources, and a short narrative description of her trail explorations. HGB's page numbering starts over at each section.

11. The name *Miranda*, as applied to Miranda Canyon or *Arroyo Miranda*, probably refers to Fray Pedro de Miranda, a Franciscan priest stationed at Taos Pueblo. He oversaw construction of the San Geronimo Mission Church - completed in 1629. Fray Miranda was killed during a Taos Pueblo revolt on December 28, 1639. HGB, *Aranzazu*, I:123-125. The present *San Geronimo* (St. Jerome) Chapel was completed in 1850 to replace the original church destroyed during the January 1847 Taos Revolt. HGB, *Aranzazu*, I: 39. HGB cites *Miranda Canyon* in her journal; however, she later edited the map that appeared with her *El Palacio* article to read *Arroyo Miranda*, which conforms

to the Carson National Forest map.

12. As a charter member of the Taos Archaeological Society, under the supervision of Dr. Fred Wendorf and Stanley Stubbs (New Mexico Laboratory of Anthropology), HGB excavated two pueblo sites within private property on Pot Creek. HGB's excavation reports, articles, and radio broadcasts about Taos Valley archaeology reflect her focus on professional ethics and procedures. See: HGB Collection, Southwest Research Center, Taos.

13. Blumenschein estimated the distance as equivalent to four short leagues. "Where the three trails, 1) Camino Real 2) Apodaca Trail 3) Picuris Trail, cross the Picuris Mountain was not too difficult to determine since the mountain forms a high barrier to the south of Taos Valley." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 124.

14. Richard Kern (1821-1853) served as an artist with John C. Frémont's 1848-49 expedition, Lt. J. H. Simpson's "Navajo Expedition," and Capt. John W. Gunnison's 1853 Pacific Railroad Survey. Kern produced the first visual image of Pueblo Bonito. He, Gunnison, and other members of their survey party were massacred while encamped near the Sevier River in Utah. See: David J. Weber, *Richard H. Kern: Expeditionary Artist in the Far Southwest, 1848-1853* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press for the Amon Carter Museum, 1985).

15. In 1779, Governor Juan Bautista de Anza's military expedition traveled by moonlight along a trail at the western edge of the San Luis Valley (labeled after 1994 as the West Fork of the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail). Anza intercepted and defeated the Comanche chieftain Cuerno Verde and his raiding party near today's Colorado City. Anza returned to New Mexico by Vargas' 1694 route, now part of the East Fork OSNHT.

16. Hernando de Alvarado served as

captain of artillery for the Coronado expedition. In August 1540, Alvarado led a reconnaissance of New Mexico's pueblos. He proceeded toward the northern Rio Grande pueblos after visiting pueblos near present day Albuquerque. Taos historian Michael Miller states: "Whether Alvarado did, in fact, pass through the Taos Valley is still debated. The historical evidence is inconclusive and contradictory." Corina Santistevan and Julia Moore, eds., *Taos: A Topical History* (Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 2014), 242.

17. *Entrañas* translates as heart or entrails. This stream's name refers to the abundance of cacti bearing purple branches that resemble entrails. According to S. K. Miller (Carson NF, retired), the common name is stick or tree cholla (*Opuntia imbricate*).

18. Though an early Taos Valley settlement, Ojo Sarco found itself a half mile outside the Taos County boundary with the formation of Rio Arriba County. HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 67.

19. A later reference by HGB to a 1963 New Mexico School of Mines map suggests it as her resource. See: J.P. Miller, A. Montgomery, and P.K. Sutherland, *Geology of part of the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains, New Mexico* (Socorro: New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources Memoir 11, 1963). HGB's September 2 journal entry noted that A. Montgomery had filed a mining claim on Embudo Creek in 1964.

20. A September 18, 2012, press release by The Trust for Public Land and the U.S. Forest Service announced that the first section of a historic 5,000-acre property south of Taos, known as Miranda Canyon, had come under protection within the Carson National Forest. The property included part of the federally designated national historic Old Spanish Trail, used as a trade route between New Mexico and Cali-

fornia during the mid-1800s. Senator Tom Udall commented: "This land is of great significance to New Mexico for its history... The Old Spanish Trail opened a way to the West, and now we will be able to experience the magnificence of this landscape and protect part of the territory our ancestors traveled some 200 years ago..." The Carson National Forest acquired the final 1,364-acres of the historic 5,000-acre Miranda Canyon Parcel in October 2015.

21. "It is in this area of the Picuris Mountains that the Apache Indians took refuge after they were driven from the plains... By the time Cantonment Burgwin was built, the soldiers probably felt it was safer, as well as four miles shorter, to go to Ft. Union by the present U.S. Hill..." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 107.

22. "As the route [Camino Real] became established, parajes, or "stopping places," were developed where men and animals could find rest, water, and forage, or camp for the night. Such a stopping place was the Paraje de Miranda – a mountain meadow fed by a spring at the foot of the present Picuris Fire Lookout. Usually located half day's journey apart – up to 15 miles, parajes were referred to by a singular name such as Miranda rather than paraje de Miranda so modern geographers and historians mistakenly chart them as old Spanish towns." HGB, *Aranzazu*, I: 221, 297-98.

23. HGB later wrote: "The fence apparently follows the exact line of old wagon road, which formed the east boundary of the Serna grant (1724!). I think the road came first and then the road was used as boundary line in grant survey. Since Vargas used it in 1692, it seems to have been an ancient road. I would like an Indian to take me on the old Picuris Trail, which is shorter but much more up and down." HGB, *Journal*, "Narrative," 10 (November 11, 1964).

24. In writing about this pot in her November 11, 1964, narrative, HGB changed the name from Rose to Cheryl Evans. "On Oct. 12, I dug up with C.E. the pot I found in July in Miranda Canyon, the location of a recently abandoned sawmill, the meadows at the head of the Miranda Canyon. This was on a west terrace of the meadow and seems to be refuse (and building area?). Above west on the more abrupt hill and further south up the meadow was a depression from which a few potsherds were washed downhill. Was this a Pit House?" HGB speculated whether the pot was "Picuris, Taos or Apache. I think it is an Apache cache, but Stew Peckham says Taos."

Numerous searches and inquiries among Taos Valley and archaeology associates have failed to reveal any information about either a Rose or Cheryl Evans. She may have been associated with Stewart Packham's salvage archaeology projects during the 1960s. Excavating and then restoring a pot to museum standards would require professional expertise.

25. Stewart Peckham carried out Museum of New Mexico salvage excavations at two sites along the Rio Grande del Ranchos. Blumenschein's notes suggest that she and Evans had removed the pot in collaboration with Peckham who was considered an authority on Pueblo pottery. HGB's November 1, top margin, journal entry indicated that Peckham had sent the pot to a museum in Kansas City. The Kansas City Museum's collection includes a traveling Southwest Pueblo Pottery exhibit; however, the collections curator found no archival record for HGB's Apodaca Trail pot. The pot may have been sent to a different Kansas City museum or to Dr. James Gunnerson, an authority of Jicarilla Apache pottery. Peckham served as curator and director at the University of New Mexico Laboratory of Anthropology and as the New Mexico State Archaeologist.

26. "In 1956, Blumenschein (1956:55-56) reported that the Taos Archaeological Association had carried out excavations at Pot Creek Pueblo in 1953. She reported evidence of two occupations based on stratigraphic relations between structures and the presence of both TaodKwahe'e and Santa Fe Black-on-white pottery. Also in 1956, the Museum of New Mexico carried out salvage excavations at two sites along Rio Grande del Rancho, ... (Peckham and Reed 1963:2- 4, 10)." Jeffrey Boyer et al, *Studying the Taos Frontier: The Pot Creek Data Recovery Project* (Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Office Of Archaeological Studies, Excavation Archaeology Notes 68, 1994), I:43.

27. Colonel Sterling Price, 2nd Missouri Infantry, led the U.S. military campaign that subdued New Mexican insurgents involved in the January 1847 *Taos Revolt*. See: Alberto Vidaurre, "1847: Revolt or Resistance?", *Taos, a Topical History*, 123-136.

28. In her TCHS trail guide for Vargas' 1694 expedition, HGB wrote: "Another kind guide was Emilio Martinez of Velarde. This time we went on foot with his little daughter walking by our side. They showed me how to find the hidden Embudo Pass. This was on the Camino Real until the heavy erosion of the early 1820s washed away the trail. Even today, the cows must make a new path after each heavy cloudburst, as they tramp from Dixon to Velarde by this age-old route." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 226-226a.

29. "Captains Vrain and Burgwin had a skirmish with Apaches at Embudo Pass prior to joining Col. Price with his cannon at Las Trampas." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 205.

30. Robert Harper was a Los Alamos laboratory photographer. Presumably, both Harper and Joseph Baum took photographs during trail excursions with HGB. Research into archival photo collections might reveal photographic

images of the trail and surrounding landscapes as they appeared in the 1960s..

31. José de Urrutia's 1769 map of the Spanish holdings in the Americas: *Mapa, que comprende la Frontera, de los Dominios del Rey, en la America Septentrional*.

32. "On pre-1900 maps, Embudo is where Dixon is today and Velarde replaces La Joya. Pilar replaced Cieneguilla at one of the crossings of the Rio Grande. HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 107. *Arroyo* meant a living stream in those days, quoting from Mr. Albert H. Schroeder, National Park Service, Santa Fe. The Rio Grande was called the Rio del Norte until the American occupation." HGB, *Aranzazu*, I: 228.

33. Brigadier General James Carleton assumed command of the Military Department of New Mexico during the Civil War.

34. New Mexico highway numbers have changed several times since HGB's journal entries.

35. Albert H. Schroeder, professional archaeologist and ethnohistorian, served with the National Parks Service for thirty years. Following retirement, he continued writing and editing works relevant to New Mexico's history and pre-history. Schroeder edited *Papers of the New Mexico Archaeological Society*:5 dedicated to Helen Greene Blumenschein.

36. Apache Canyon lies east of the Picuris Saddle. Jicarilla Apaches engaged U.S. troops in battle at La Cieneguilla above Pilar close to Picuris Pass. See: David M. Adams et al, "Taos, the Jicarilla Apache, and the Battle of Cieneguilla," *Taos, a Topical History*, 137-153.

37. Gaspar Castaño de Sosa led an unauthorized expedition of 140 colonists and slaves into northern New Mexico in July 1590. During the winter of 1590-91, Sosa and members

of his party explored and prospected near present day Santa Fe. George P. Hammond and Agapito Rey, *The Rediscovery of New Mexico, 1580-1594* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1966).

38. The word should be *vereda* - hence Colville's *La Vereda: a Trail through Time*.

39. Research of Vargas's 1694 route from Taos into southern Colorado brought collaboration between HGB and San Luis Valley historian, Ruth Marie Colville. HGB's friend Peggy Pond Church (poet and author of *The House at Otowi Bridge*) had stayed at Colville's home following an auto accident near Del Norte, Colorado. Pond arranged for the two historians to meet. Their similar interests evolved into decades of friendship.

40. J. Manuel Espinosa, *Crusaders of the Rio Grande, the Story of Don Diego De Vargas and the Reconquest and Refounding of New Mexico* (Chicago: Institute of Jesuit History, 1942). An article by Espinosa in *Colorado Magazine*, 16: 3 (May, 1939) had whetted Colville's interest in Vargas' s1694 *entrada* into the San Luis Valley. Espinosa was a professor of history at St. Louis University at that time.

41. G.P. Hammond, ed., *First Expedition of Vargas into New Mexico, 1692*; Coronado cuarto-centennial publications, 1540-1940 (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1953).

42. Initially HGB thought it more likely that Vargas had crossed the Rio Grande at Pilar and then proceeded south to Santa Fe. In the early years of exploring Vargas's route, HGB had depended upon translations by historians unfamiliar with northern New Mexico geography – especially Taos Valley. While serving in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps in the South Pacific during World War II, First Lieutenant Helen Blumenschein translated

and censored mail written in Spanish. Relying on personal proficiency with the language and her familiarity with Taos Valley, HGB began to question the accuracy of published translations. She conferred with Eleanor B. Adams (University of New Mexico) "whose unexcelled ability to read Vargas' hand written military journal made possible the trail and history research..." As a result, HGB reconciled misconceptions and errors about historic locales. (HGB, *Aranzazu*, 10a)

To hone her skills in translating Vargas's journal, Colville studied Spanish in Mexico City. She located not only the ford where Vargas crossed the Rio Grande but also the site of Vargas's skirmish with Moache Utes (northeast of present day Antonito, Colorado). A treaty negotiated by Vargas with the SLV Utes lasted until the U.S. Territorial Period.

43. In her May 1969 TCHS newsletter, HGB stated: "There was the never-to-be-forgotten walk from Rinconada to Pilar that Joe Baum, Orval Shreeves, and I took one hot June day." A long-time Taos Valley resident, Orval Shreeves had directed HGB's attention to one of the pithouses that she excavated. HGB included a photo of Orval Shreeves and his wife in *Recuerdos: Early Days of the Blumenschein Family* (self-published 1976), 10.

44. George Frederick Ruxton passed through Taos Valley in January 1847 prior to the Taos Revolt. He noted: "The next day, passing the miserable village of La Cañada, and the Indian pueblo of San Juan, both situated in a wretched, sterile-looking country, we reached El Embudo – the funnel – where I put up in the house of an old Canadian trapper..." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II:5.

45. Col. Price's February 15, 1847, dispatch: "On the 29th [January], I marched to La Joya [Velarde], where I learned that a party of sixty or eighty of the enemy had posted themselves

on the steep slopes of the mountains which rise on each side of the canon [sic] or gorge, which leads to Embudo." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II:214.

46. In 1692, Vargas noted that Apaches probably had hastily abandoned *rancherías* and destroyed huts. Fleeing Vargas's punitive expedition of 1696, Tewa and Picuris natives took refuge among Apache villages in the region identified by the Spaniards as *El Cuartelejo*. Dr. James H. Gunnerson (1913-2009), an expert on Apache pottery, investigated the Apache encampment on Picuris Peak in the late 1960s. In describing Apache sites within the foothills between Velarde and Pilar, Gunnerson wrote, "Apache sites, probably camp sites of visiting Jicarillas, have also been found near Picuris Pueblo." J. H. Gunnerson, *Archaeology of the High Plains* (Denver: BLM, Cultural Resource Services #19, 1987) 105-06, 113.

47. Pilar, formerly Cieneguilla, was named for a sandstone outcropping. "According to the map of Menchero 1745, there used to be two sandstone pillars. While [I was] sketching this formation one day, a little native boy on a burro passed by. I hailed him in hopes of finding the old name of it. He answered, "Oh, we call it Smokey the Bear." April 20, 1969, Mrs. Winifred Watts, a local old-timer, said it [the pillar] was named El Gigante (the giant). It used to have a large bulbous top which has since eroded." HGB, *Aranzazu*, I:135. In 1977, Mrs. Watts (*Homesteading at Carson, New Mexico*) noted another old trail from Cieneguilla to Picuris that went up Tierra Amarilla Canyon to a trail over cliffs where a battle had been fought. "On up Cieneguilla Canyon past the old Arnold place and spring over the hill to Picuris. Embudo Creek was forded at Apodaca – no bridge." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II:145a. HGB's *Recuerdos* includes a photo of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Watts, 10.

See: Menchero's 1745 *Mapa de Reino de Nuevo Mexico* (Atlas of Historic New Mexico Maps, New Mexico Humanities Council, nmhum.org), and John L. Kessel, *Miera y Pacheco, a Renaissance Spaniard in 18th Century New Mexico* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013).

48. HGB's article, "Historic Roads & Trails to Taos," *El Palacio* (Spring 1968). 9-19, included a trails map prepared by Phyllis Hughes, Museum of New Mexico. HGB retained a copy of the out-of-print article in her files. (HGB Collection, Southwest Research Center, Taos) In pursuing her desire for accuracy, HGB customarily penciled edits not only to her work but also to other authors' published materials. The map included with this article incorporates edits HGB made to the Hughes map.

49. HGB's footnote for her TCHS trail guide: "Another Martinez from Ojo Sarco furnished horses and guided me in the area used by large expeditions following watercourses and green grass to Las Trampas." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II:226a.

50. Clark Funk owned Don Fernando Emporium of Southwest Curios on Taos Plaza as well as several other plaza businesses. For eleven years, he lived at and cared for the Blumenschein Home and Museum on Ledoux Street. Both he and HGB were avid skiers and helped in founding the Taos Ski Valley.

51. Rd 76, T23 N, R 14 E, Sec. 24; *El Rito de la Presa* (The Little River of the Dam), a northeast tributary to La Junta Canyon. Since *presa* also translates as "lion," *Las Presas* may have referred to mountain lions.

52. A Peñasco rancher, Pete Salid served as a delegate to the Bill of Rights Committee that recommended revisions to the 1910 New Mexico State Constitution. *Hobbs Daily News-Sun* (September 3, 1969), 5.

53. Dr. Daniel Wolfman became the founder and director of the New Mexico Office of Archaeology Studies [OAS] Archaeomagnetic Dating Laboratory. He participated in Southern Methodist University's 1992 study of Picuris Pueblo. Wolfman returned to Taos Valley thirty years later as co-director of the OAS Valdez Phase dating project. Jeffrey Boyer, *Dating the Valdez Phase: Chronometric Re-evaluation of the Initial Anasazi Occupation of North Central New Mexico* (Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico, Office of Archaeology Studies, Archaeology Notes 164, 1997).

54. During early stages of settlement, Spanish colonists built their homes along the outside walls of the Taos Pueblo. These buildings were destroyed during the Revolt of 1680 or appropriated to other uses. Vargas noted that the Mission Church was being used as a stable. HGB, *Aranzazu*, I: 7.

55. In comparing this walk to W.W.H. Davis' description of his 40-mile ride to Taos, HGB wrote: "The wagon road winds round through the depression in the mountains while the middle path, which we [HGB and Harper] followed, leads in a more direct route over some of the highest peaks." Another HGB note about the trail: "See Twitchell, publication 36, School of American Research, Oct. 1916, account of a soldier walking from an ambush at Picuris Mt. (Saddle) in revolt of 1696 to Santa Fe in nine days... He [soldier] went down a canyon called (windy?)." HGB, *Journal*, 17. In citing place name changes within the area of her trail research, HGB noted that before 1900 Picuris Saddle appeared on maps as *Cuesta del Aiyre*, Hill of the Winds. HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 107.

56. "Guillermo Martinez, a clerk of Probate Court, in and for Taos Territory of New Mexico. Witness was Buenaventura Sobata of lawful age and duly sworn; Ques. - Do you know

the location of the Miranda Valley and the Picuris Pueblo road which forms the WEST boundary call of said Grant: and if so, where is it situated?

Ans. - It is a valley near the divide of the Vallecito mountains on the Cuesta del Aiyre (Picuris Saddle- HGB) where there is an old monument of this line and the Picuris Road (Camino Real - HGB) is the West line up to said monument." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 115.

57. Two years lapsed between a trail narrative that HGB had written in her journal and her final journal entry. "Odds & Ends" and "Misc. Et cetera" notes from her research sources filled the pages in-between. In June 1966, HGB made her final horseback trip over the trail with Taos resident Mr. Alfonso Vigil and his young son Steve. Mr. Vigil was Corina Santistevan's nephew-in-law. HGB acknowledged this trip in her May 1969 TCHS newsletter: "There was a hair-raising horseback ride down the Indian Trail from Picuris Pueblo to the South Hondo when Alfonso Vigil and his son Steve provided horses and acted as guides." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 226.

58. This date and the 1965 firewood reference suggest that HGB had returned to the Apodaca Trail and Picuris Pass between November 1964 and November 1966 although she did not make any additional entries in her journal during that time.

59. "July 9, 1969, El Camino Real will be dedicated by the C.A.R. and the Carson Forest with the Taos Chamber of Commerce assisting. A new forest lookout area on top of the U.S. Hill will be the location of the dedication." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 123.

60. "It is impossible in a biographical sketch to name the many ways in which Helen Greene Blumenschein has given of herself to serve. ...One must know Helen to know her generosity and thoughtfulness... Her mind is not on herself, but on the things she

wants to see done and to be part of doing." Jack and Dorris Boyer, "Helen Greene Blumenschein, a Brief Biography," *Papers of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico*: 5 (Albuquerque: Archaeological Society Press, 1980) 1-10.

HGB's words reveal her philosophy toward history: "You can readily see how events of the present move back and forth like the tides in the sea. They correlate at times and then they break completely as if forgetting the past. Then they start all over again, beating against the cliffs of time! The future of Taos Valley will depend on our learning from the past." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 140.

61. In the transcript for a radio tape about the Taos Trade Fairs, HGB stated: "By 1831, the Spanish Trail from Taos was sending out all sorts of produce, liquor, cattle and sheep to California. The private American trading forts - Vrain, Bent, Robidoux became famous." In a footnote, she questioned whether Indian slaves sold at the Taos Trade Fair had been brought via the Old Spanish Trail. HGB also cited Herbert Auerbach's "Route of the Old Spanish Trail," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 1941: "...Taos was the preferred center of trade in furs and other goods during the Mexican period, so there were two distinct alternate routes from Taos to join further west and the Old Spanish Trail to California." HGB, *Aranzazu*, II: 304. The United States Congress designated the multi-branched Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail in 2002.

62. HGB's last visit to the northern leg of El Camino Real, the Apodaca Trail, was in the early 1980s. On August 13, 1982, New Mexico author-historian Marc Simmons had written to HGB: "The new State Historian, Stan Hordas, tells me he has persuaded the state highway dept. to up-date and correct the Historical Highway markers. I

continued on page 34

Completion of Arroyo Miranda Acquisition Protects Old Spanish National Historic Trail in New Mexico

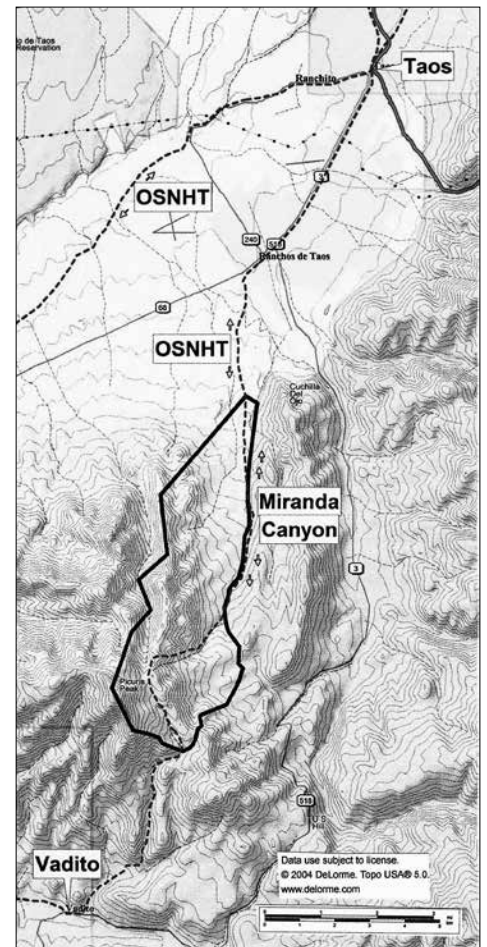
[First published March 23, 2016, in *Pathways*, a publication of PNTS, reprinted by permission]

Since at least the early 1800s Native Americans, trappers, and traders followed trails from Santa Fe to Taos, New Mexico, and on northward into the San Luis Valley of present-day Colorado. At least two of these routes were subsequently used from approximately 1829-1848 by New Mexico traders traveling between Santa Fe and Los Angeles, California, on what came to be known as the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail, and what was ultimately designated by federal law as a portion of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT). One variant of the OSNHT running north between Santa Fe and Taos followed a “lowland” route close to the Rio Grande River, from the vicinity of present-day Espanola. The other trended directly northeast from the Espanola area over the western slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains through Chimayo, Truchas, and the Picuris Pueblo, rounding Picuris Peak at close to 9000’, and then down Arroyo Miranda to Taos.

Much of the Arroyo Miranda, or Miranda Canyon, had been in private ownership since the days of Spanish land grants, and more recently, owned by others. Development of the canyon into

residential lots was contemplated in recent years. The private land in the Canyon was located immediately west of Carson National Forest lands. A unified effort arose represented by local communities in the Taos area, the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA), and the Trust for Public Land (TPL). In 2011, with the threat of development of the land increasing, the TPL stepped in and bought the 5,087 acre property for \$10.8 million. Since that time, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars have sequentially been sought through the unified efforts of the aforementioned parties and the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), acquired, and utilized between 2012 and 2015 to transfer the TPL Miranda Canyon tract to Carson National Forest. Final funding in the amount of \$2.6 million was acquired via LWCF in 2015 and utilized to complete the transfer from TPL to the United States Forest Service (USFS).

The project is a significant success story for OSTA, TPL, PNTS, and the USFS. Miranda Canyon will be managed for its watershed, vegetation, and wildlife resources, and its public recreational potential. The acquisition places management control of as much as eight miles of the OSNHT with the USFS, and Trail management agencies - the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management. In this loca-



tion, the Canyon and the OSNHT will provide the public with significant opportunities for “enjoyment and appreciation of open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources” and the “opportunity to vicariously share the experience of the original users of a historic route” in effectuation of the goals and mandates of the National Trails System Act.

L.A.'s First Presidential Election

By Nathan Masters

This article appeared on the website of KCET television on November 8, 2016, in the "Lost LA" segment, www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/las-first-presidential-election. Reprinted by permission.

Neither Democratic candidate Franklin Pierce nor Whig candidate Winfield Scott took much notice of Los Angeles during the 1852 presidential campaign – and why would they? The City of Angels was then a dusty adobe village of some 2,000 souls, a frontier outpost within a state worth only four electoral votes and accessible only by a dangerous overland journey or a long steamship ride around South America. (Even during the Mexican-American War of 1846-48, in which Pierce and Scott both served as general officers, the two men probably never thought much about Los Angeles; both participated in the invasion of Mexico proper, while Los Angeles represented a minor strategic prize in a distant, secondary theater.)

And yet, despite its electoral insignificance, Los Angeles voted.

On Tuesday, November 2, voters made their way to one of ten polling places scattered across a then-expansive Los Angeles County, which in 1852 encompassed much of present-day Orange and San Bernardino counties. In the Santa Ana precinct, they assembled at Bernardo Yorba's adobe house near the Santa Ana River. In the Roubideaux (sic) precinct near present-day Riverside, it was the home of Louis Rubidoux. And in the San Gabriel precinct, the old Spanish mission acted as polling place.

In Los Angeles itself, a crowd gathered that morning outside the adobe county courthouse at Spring Street and Franklin Alley. The contest between Pierce and Scott, fought over slavery and other sectional issues, might not have stirred much passion among Angelenos, but the races for state and local office certainly had. Just to reach the polling window, voters had to push through the throng of candidates and other campaigners huddled around the courthouse. Inside,

behind the ballot box, the election officials – inspector Alexander Bell and judges John G. Downey and Ignacio del Valle – tried to manage the chaos.

Because California did not use voter rolls until 1866, these officials made a spot determination about each voter's eligibility. Despite spirited arguments from the crowd about each voter's citizenship and residency status, most white men who presented themselves before the officials were allowed to vote, as were most Mexican-Americans, made U.S. citizens by the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Indians were not permitted, however, nor were African-Americans (though Afro-Mexicans like Pío Pico were). Women regardless of ethnicity could not vote, either; they would not win suffrage in California until 1911.

The ballots themselves were usually pre-printed tickets supplied by local Democratic or Whig partisans. To vote a straight party ticket, a voter simply placed the slip of paper in the ballot box. To cross party lines in a race, the voter crossed out the pre-supplied name and wrote in his preferred candidate.

The presidential candidates, Pierce and Scott, did not themselves appear on the ballots; instead, the electoral college delegates pledged to them did. Thus, to vote for Scott, a voter would actually cast four votes, one for each of the Whig electors: John C. Fall, D. H. Haskell, T. D. Johns, and James E. Hale. To vote for Pierce, he would vote for the four Democratic electors: Winfield S. Sherwood, Joseph W. Gregory, Thomas J. Henley, and Andrés Pico.

Of these eight electors, Pico was the only one to hail from Southern California. But Pico, brother of Pío, was more than an Angeleno. He was a Californio who, as commander of Mexican forces in California, battled American troops during the invasion of 1846-47 and now, as a U.S. citizen and a pragmatist, had reinvented himself as a Democratic politician. In 1852, Mexican-Americans still constituted a majority of Southern California's voting population. Pico was a natural choice to represent them in the electoral college.

A mere five years after he surrendered to Lt. Col. John C. Fremont at Cahuenga, Gen. Pico was now pledging his electoral college vote to a brigadier general on the opposing side.

“Vote Early and Vote Often”

Despite the best efforts of election officials, voter fraud plagued Southern California’s first elections under American rule. Harris Newmark recounts some of the rumored practices in his memoir *Sixty Years in Southern California: 1853-1913*:

Not far from Los Angeles...a whole tribe of Indians was voted; while on another occasion the names of a steamer’s passenger list were utilized by persons who had already voted, that very day, once or twice! Cutting off the hair, shaving one’s beard or mustache, reclothing or otherwise transforming the appearance of the voter – these were some of the tricks then practiced.

Other election fraud was even more pernicious. Cooping – the practice of kidnapping voters, intoxicating them, and forcing them to vote for a particular party, often several times in the same day – was common to many U.S. cities. (It may have killed Edgar Allan Poe in 1849.) When Anglo newcomers imported it into Southern California, cooping fit within an emerging pattern of racial violence against the region’s poorer Spanish-speaking residents. Newmark writes:

Sonorans, who had recently arrived from Mexico... were easy subjects for the political manipulator. The various candidates...would round-up these prospective voters, confine them in corrals (usually in the neighborhood of Boyle Heights), keep them in a truly magnificent state of intoxication until the eventful morning, and then put them in stages ... On reaching the voting place, the captives were unloaded from the stage like so much inanimate baggage, and turned over to friends of the candidate to whom, so to speak, for the time being they belonged. One at a time, these creatures were led to vote; and as each staggered to the ballot-box, a ticket was held up and he was made to deposit it.

We’ll never know exactly how such practices distorted the vote, but the final tally, published November 6

in the *Los Angeles Star*, showed a narrow victory for Pierce in Los Angeles County: 571 to 574 votes for his four electors versus 496 to 498 for Scott’s. (A few voters, apparently, split their votes between the two party slates.)

Soon after, the statewide tally showed that Pierce had carried California as a whole, and Andrés Pico traveled north to the state capital of Vallejo to participate in California’s electoral college proceedings. On December 1, he met with his fellow Democratic electors – Sherwood, Gregory, and Henley, all northern California businessmen – and, as Southern California’s sole representative, cast one of the 254 electoral votes that placed Brig. Gen. Pierce in the White House.



Commentary by Alex King, OSTA Director-at-Large

In 1852, Los Angeles County stretched from the ocean to the Colorado River—California’s border with the Territory of New Mexico. San Bernardino County would not be created until the next year, and both Orange County and Riverside County were years from existing.

The 1050 or so voters in the County were spread over 10 voting precincts: about 380 at Los Angeles, 180 at San Gabriel, 65 at San Juan (Capistrano), 60 at San Jose (today’s Pomona), 15 at Chino, 37 at Santa Ana, 38 at San Pedro, 75 at San Salvador (de Jurupa), 55 at “Rubideaux’s” (rancho), and 135 at San Bernardino.

Andrés Pico, brother of Pío Pico, was one of the four Democratic electors that prevailed and went on to cast their votes to elect Franklin Pierce as President.

But besides the Presidential race, voters also selected congressional representatives, state assemblymen, several county officeholders, including all 5 county supervisors, and filled positions in the County’s seven townships: Los Angeles, San Gabriel, San Juan (Capistrano), San Jose (Pomona), Santa Ana, San Salvador (de Jurupa), and San Bernardino.

continued on next page

L.A. Election, continued

Old Spanish Trail travelers Benjamin Wilson and John Rowland both ran for one of the County Supervisor positions. Wilson won a position, but Rowland came in last behind nine other candidates--and didn't get a single vote in San Salvador!

Jefferson Hunt of the Mormon colony at San Bernardino was elected to the State Assembly.

Santiago Martinez was elected a Justice of the Peace in the San Jose Township, as was 22-year-old Julian

Trujillo (son of Lorenzo Trujillo) in the San Salvador Township. Also in San Salvador, another 22-year-old, Nestor Espinosa (son of Hipolito Espinosa) was elected Constable.

Julian Chavez was among those elected to the school board of the Santa Ana Township.

The election results were presented in a table and summary in the *Los Angeles Star* on Saturday, November 6th, 1852. See facing page. Some of the Old Spanish Trail personalities mentioned above are circled. ♦

Blumenschein, continued from page 30

proposed a series of markers on the Camino Real – placed from El Paso to Taos – and he agreed to submit it... We might think in terms of three for the road between Santa Fe and Taos. One definitely should be in Taos designating it as the end of [the] Camino. Can you recommend two other places...? What about along the highway at Velarde where the Camino branches off toward the northwest?" (HGB Collection, Southwest Research Center, Taos).

HGB and I [PJR] met Simmons and Dan Murphy (New Mexico NPS, historian, writer, and founder of the Gran Quivira Conference) near the curve on U. S. Hill. After following a forest service road to a meadow parking area, the four of us proceeded to walk the trail as HGB shared her knowledge of the terrain and the historic personages who had traveled the Apodaca Trail.

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Patricia Joy Richmond, San Luis Valley historian and author of Trail to Disaster: the Route of John C. Frémont's 4th Expedition and The Story of La Loma de San José, is a founding member of the Old Spanish Trail Association [OSTA]. She served as the association's first vice president and later as Colorado Director. She has contributed articles about the Old Spanish Trail and OSTA to Spanish Traces and other publications. Richmond also was a founding member of the San Luis Valley Historical Society and served as editor of the San Luis Valley Historian.

Election Returns of Los Angeles County,--November, 1852.

(OFFICIAL.)

	Los Angeles.	San Gabriel.	San Juan.	San Jose.	Chino.	Santa Anna.	San Pedro.	San Salvador.	Rancho Santa Ana.	S Bernardino.	Total.
For Electors of President and Vice President.											
PICO,	279	103	6	32	5	3	24	73	32	14	571
SHERWOOD,	284	101	6	32	5	3	24	73	32	14	574
GREGORY,	284	101	6	32	5	3	24	73	32	14	574
HENLEY,	284	101	6	32	5	3	24	73	32	14	574
HASKELL,	102	74	59	28	15	34	36	2	24	122	496
FALL,	101	75	59	28	15	34	36	2	24	122	496
HALE,	102	76	59	28	15	34	36	2	24	122	498
JOHNS,	102	76	59	28	15	34	35	2	24	122	497
For Members of Congress.											
Latham,	285	100	6	33	2	3	15	73	32	14	563
McDougal,	286	103	6	33	2	3	15	73	32	13	566
Tingley,	91	74	59	27	12	34	23	2	24	122	468
Edwards,	91	71	59	26	12	34	23	2	24	122	464
For Judges of the Supreme Court.											
Murray,	285	103	6	30	3	3	15	73	32	13	563
Wells,	279	101	6	29	3	3	15	73	32	13	554
Sloan,	91	71	59	27	11	34	22	2	24	123	464
Buckner,	91	72	59	30	11	34	22	2	24	123	468
For Clerk of the Supreme Court.											
Woodside,	288	103	6	30	2	3	15	73	36	13	569
Hawks,	87	72	59	30	12	34	22	2	21	123	462
For District Attorney.											
Dimmick,	270	85	61	49	12	36	28	70	24	123	758
Brooks,	60	41	0	0	0	0	9	4	0	9	123
For District Judge of the First District.											
Hayes,	305	113	38	60	14	36	31	71	38	122	818
Norton,	58	57	27	0	0	1	7	4	18	13	185
For Members of the Assembly.											
McFarland,	294	123	22	8	2	3	15	73	43	12	595
Hunt,	85	70	44	45	12	34	20	15	21	128	474
Reid,	80	53	59	46	14	34	23	2	18	123	452
Ogier,	260	93	3	0	0	3	14	10	25	9	417
For County Treasurer.											
Downey,	288	102	6	30	2	3	15	73	43	13	575
Stearns,	67	71	58	26	12	34	23	2	10	123	426
For Supervisors.											
Alexander,	270	102	55	0	2	3	15	72	33	135	687
Wilson,	96	73	61	58	12	34	23	48	24	124	553
Thomas,	105	72	20	58	12	34	23	51	28	124	527
Cota,	260	82	53	28	2	3	15	52	1	0	496
Sturgis,	260	74	6	28	2	3	15	53	16	11	468
Requena,	257	99	3	0	2	3	15	26	32	12	449
Del Valle,	243	99	3	0	2	3	15	27	32	12	436
Dominguez,	84	66	52	26	12	34	23	2	24	124	447
Sepulveda,	84	67	55	26	12	34	23	2	23	124	450
Rowland,	91	72	12	58	12	34	23	2	23	4	329
For Public Administrator.											
Keller,	272	104	45	26	3	4	16	73	32	13	588
Hoover,	87	69	19	31	11	33	20	2	24	122	418
For County Surveyor.											
Hancock,	304	142	47	46	10	0	36	74	32	126	817
For County Coroner.											
Gibson,	272	111	6	57	14	3	15	73	41	15	550
Myles,	89	63	58	0	0	34	22	2	13	122	460

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

Los Angeles—Commissioners of Common Schools: Antonio F. Coronel, J. Lancaster Brent, John O. Wheeler.
Justices of the Peace: G. T. Burrill, Wm. G. Dryden, Ignacio Coronel, Juan Sepulveda.
Constables: W. B. Osburn, J. D. Barker, George Batchelder, Vincente Elisalde.
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San Bernardino—Commissioners of Common Schools: Theodore Turley, D. Seeley, J. H. Belline.
Justices of the Peace: John Brown, W. J. Herron.
Constables: G. Hunter, J. D. Holliday.

SUMMARY.

The Democratic electoral ticket has a majority of 75, and the state ticket nearly the same majority.
Renja. Hayes, Esq., is elected District Judge by a very large majority, as will be perceived upon an examination of the above table.
Captain K. H. Dimmick met with but little opposition for District Attorney, and has a clear majority of more than 600 votes.
For the Assembly, Dr. J. P. MacFarland of this city, and Capt. Jefferson Hunt of San Bernardino, are elected. Dr. MacFarland's name was on the Democratic ticket and Capt. Hunt's on the Whig ticket.

The County Supervisors for the ensuing year, are Messrs Beni. D. Wilson, D. W. Alexander, David W. Thomas, G. A. Sturgis and Leonardo Cota. Messrs. Wilson and Thomas were the Whig candidates, and Messrs Alexander, Sturgis and Cota, the Democratic candidates.
Henry Hancock received the entire vote of the county for Surveyor.
Dr. John G. Downey, County Treasurer; Matthew Keller, Public Administrator; Alexander Gibson, Coroner, were the nominees of the Democratic Convention, and are elected by handsome majorities.

Los Angeles Star.

Saturday, November 6, 1852.

The following persons are authorized Agents for the Star and receipts obtained from them for accounts due to the undersigned, will be acknowledged by us.

LEWIS & RAND.
SANTA BARBARA.....Capt. Samuel Barney.
MONTEREY.....Curts & Little.
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SAN JUAN.....S. A. Pollard.

227—We wish our friends to bear in mind that we are prepared to perform every variety of Job Printing, in a style as neat, and at prices as reasonable as any office in the State.—Bill Heads, Notices, all kinds of blanks, &c., &c., printed at short notice.

MR. JAMES DUNCAN is the only authorized agent for the Star in San Francisco. Advertisements left at his box in the book-store of Cooke & Leecount, will be forwarded to us by first conveyance.

THE ELECTION IN SAN DIEGO. We learn from San Diego that the Scott electoral ticket received 37 majority, and the Whig state ticket 33 majority. Our correspondent writes as follows: "For Senate, Kurtz (Whig) has beaten Couts (Dem) by 72 majority. Tighlman, (Independent) is chosen for Assembly by a small majority. For District Judge, Benjamin Hayes received 90 votes; Myron Norton, 64.—The Colorado precinct is yet to be heard from; the number of votes polled at that precinct will not exceed forty votes, which, I think, will increase the majority of the Whig presidential and state tickets to fifty; and Kurtz's majority to 100."

CHILD ACCIDENTALLY KILLED BY ITS FATHER. G. T. Burrell, Esq., was called on Thursday, to hold an inquest upon the body of Mary Caroline, aged three years, daughter of Mr. Cyrus Graham. It appeared that on the evening previous, while Mr. Graham was cleaning a pistol, it was accidentally discharged, lodging the contents in the body of his little daughter, who was playing at his side, producing instant death. The verdict of the jury was in accordance with these facts.

THE SEA BIRD. The high south east wind which prevailed on Thursday, detained the Sea Bird at San Diego during that day. She run into San Pedro yesterday, and was to sail for San Francisco early this morning.

FUNDING THE COUNTY DEBT. The proposition to fund the County Debt was submitted to the voters of this county at the last election, but owing to the shortness of the notice, was generally disregarded. At San Bernardino, however, the vote was unanimous in opposition—134 votes. In the other precincts of the county there were no votes cast for or against the proposition.

THE LAND COMMISSION. Judge Hall is occupied exclusively in the taking of depositions, and has completed upwards of one hundred since the departure of Judge Thornton. Unless orders to the contrary are received by the next mail, the Commission will remove to Sta. Barbara on the next trip of the Sea Bird.—Judge Thornton and Mr. Cooley, the Law Agent, are still in San Francisco.

MARRIED.—On the 28th ult., by G. Thompson Burrill, Justice of the Peace, Mr. John O. Hogan to Miss Mary Anne Vaughan; at the same time, Mr. Theophilus Hayes to Miss Susan Vaughan.

THE OVERLAND IMMIGRATION. The Sacramento Union says that there are still arriving almost daily, trains of overland emigrants; although the great body of the army from the Plains is already settled for the winter, either at Carson Valley, or within the limits of this State.

Board of Commissioners.

The Mexican-American War and the Old Spanish Trail

By Earl Fosdick

To students of the Old Spanish Trail, the U.S./Mexican War (1846-1848) was the beginning of the end of the annual trader caravans that linked the Mexican provinces of New Mexico and California. According to Hafen and Hafen (1954), the last mule caravan from Santa Fe, with 212 New Mexicans and 130 pack mules, arrived in California in December 1847 during the final stage of the war. Both provinces, as well as Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, and central Mexico, were occupied by American forces, while the two nations negotiated a peace settlement in Mexico City.

New Mexico was the first Mexican territory occupied by the United States during the war. It

was conquered without resistance on August 17, 1846, when Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearny's Army of the West entered Santa Fe after a grueling 1,000-mile march along the Santa Fe Trail from Fort Leavenworth in Kansas Territory. General Manuel Armijo, the reportedly corrupt and cruel Mexican territorial governor in Santa Fe, had abandoned the city two days before Kearny's arrival, taking all of his belongings and heading south on the Camino Real to Chihuahua. It was the first time in its history that the United States took a foreign country by military conquest (Groom, 2011).

However, up and down the Rio Grande, the occupation provoked the hatred of the subjugated population. Furthermore, many of the Catholic priests felt their position

threatened by the secularism and Protestantism of the United States and were encouraging the people to revolt.

The insurrection began on January 19, 1847, when a group of Pueblo Indians killed and scalped the American territorial governor, Charles Bent, in his Taos home. They also slaughtered other Americans, including U.S. Circuit Attorney James Leal, who was tortured, then thrown into a ditch where he was consumed by hogs. On February 5 after the bombardment of the adobe mission of Taos Pueblo where most of the rebels were holed up, the rebellion was finally put down by Colonel Sterling Price, the new American territorial governor. Nearly 200 Pueblo Indians were killed in the attack.

Due to the unrest, the typical annual caravan did not leave Santa Fe for California on the Old Spanish Trail in the fall of 1846 (Hafen and Hafen, 1954). Though the territory calmed down after the rebels were crushed, New Mexicans brooded about the occupation and awaited the outcome of the war.

New Mexican traders were not the only ones who would not use the Old Spanish Trail to travel to Cali-



1847 map of Mexico was used during peace negotiations. Courtesy general records of the U.S. Government, RG-11.

ifornia in 1846. When Brigadier General Kearny departed Santa Fe on September 25, 1846, he travelled south on the Camino Real with 300 cavalymen, wagons, and cattle, to conquer California. Also riding with him were several mountain men, including Thomas Fitzpatrick who guided the column. Though the Old Spanish Trail was the most heavily used route between New Mexico and California, in the main it was unsuitable for wagons. Instead, Kearny chose to head down the Rio Grande, turn west south of Socorro, skirt the volcanic mountains of southwestern New Mexico, then travel down the Gila River to Yuma before heading across the desert to San Diego. It was thought that this route would get the army to California in the shortest amount of time.

Kearny's proposed route had been used by mountain men for more than 20 years to trap beavers along the Gila River and its tributaries in southern Arizona. One of the first trappers to use this route was Sylvester Pattie and his son James, who left Santa Fe in the winter of 1825-26 to trap the Gila, the San Francisco, and the San Pedro rivers. In the season of 1829 and 1830, while Antonio Armijo was pioneering the Old Spanish Trail, Ewing Young led a party of some forty trappers, including the redoubtable Kit Carson, from Taos to the Colorado River, then returned to New Mexico by way of the Gila River where they obtained 2,000 pounds of beaver.

Astonishingly, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Kearny's veteran guide, had never taken the Gila Trail before, and no maps were available to guide him (Hafen, 1976). It had been rumored that General Armijo had a map of central New Mexico, but, if the rumor was true, he probably took it with him when he fled south. When officers asked villagers about the local trails and terrain, they could provide no useful information since none had ventured far outside their own village.

As Kearny moved down the Rio Grande south of Albuquerque and into Apache country, he certainly must have been pondering how he would cross the uncharted mountains of southern New Mexico and Arizona to reach California. Then an amazing thing happened; at Socorro, Kit Carson and nine horsemen descended on his column (Sides, 2006). They had just ridden over the very Gila River route Kearny was seeking, taking news of the successful conquest of California to President James K. Polk in Washington, D.C. On August 13, 1846, three days before Kearny occupied Santa Fe, Commodore Robert F. Stockton, Commander of the Pacific Fleet, and his forces occupied Los Angeles. However, unbeknownst to Carson, Mexican forces had recaptured the City of Angels, as well as other major ports along the coast. Commodore Stockton tenuously held San Diego.

Alas for Carson, Kearny made him join his staff as chief scout since Fitzpatrick had no clear idea

how to get California. Carson's dispatches were turned over to Fitzpatrick who conveyed them to President James K. Polk. After discussing with Carson the character of the route, Kearny ordered 200 of his dragoons and all of the wagons back to Santa Fe. Because California was conquered, he thought that he could continue the journey with only 100 men and the two howitzers. He also summoned more mules from Santa Fe after learning Carson had lost 35 of them along the Gila.

On October 20, 1846, Kearny arrived at the upper Gila River. He then followed the Gila to Yuma, except for arduous detours around the impassable Gila Box and Needles Eye. As Kearny led his struggling men through the forbidding mountains and canyons of eastern Arizona, he was thankful not to be towing anything but the 2 two-wheeled howitzers. After crossing the California desert and approaching the coastal mountains near present-day Palm Springs, he learned about the uprising in California which had pushed the Americans out of Los Angeles and into San Diego. Continuing west, Kearny's army encountered a formidable Mexican force of 160 Californios under the able command of General Andrés Pico at San Pasqual, 38 miles east of San Diego.

On the morning of December 6, 1846, Kearny attacked Pico's forces at San Pasqual and was nearly wiped out by Pico's expert mounted lancers. He lost 19 men,

including three officers. What was left of his army was saved several days later by 160 U.S. Marines and sailors sent by Commodore Stockton in San Diego.

Kearny arrived in San Diego on December 12, 1846, nearly three months after leaving Santa Fe. This was about the same amount of time taken by the annual mule caravans on the Old Spanish Trail. He had travelled 1043 miles, about 200 miles less than he would have if he had taken the Old Spanish Trail. It is interesting to speculate whether Kearny would have taken the Old Spanish Trail if he had known at the outset that the Gila Trail was not suitable for wagons and would pose so many difficulties in crossing.

A month later, after a few minor skirmishes with Mexican troops, Kearny and Stockton rode victorious into Los Angeles on January 10, 1847. The Battle of San Pasqual is considered by some the most significant Mexican War clash on present U.S. soil. It gave Americans what they desired most from the War – the fertile lands of California and the Pacific ports of San Diego and San Francisco.

Another significant consequence of Kearny's march from Santa Fe to Los Angeles was the construction of the first wagon road from New Mexico to California. Following closely behind Kearny, but on a different route, the 500 men of the Mormon Battalion, commanded by Captain Philip St. George Cooke, built a rudimentary road for the

supply wagons left behind by Kearny. While Kearny was working his way on pack mules across the mountainous terrain of southeastern Arizona, the Mormon Battalion took a more southerly route along the present-day international border and then turned northward down the San Pedro River to the Gila River. Thereafter, it followed the same course as Kearny to California. The Cooke Wagon Road would become the preferred route to California by merchants and emigrants after the War, while the western part of the Old Spanish Trail would be converted into the Mormon Wagon Road used mainly by emigrants.

The taking of California did not end the Mexican War. That came almost nine months later. On September 14, 1847, after a remarkable series of military victories along the 200-mile National Highway from the main Mexican port of Veracruz to the capital, Major General Winfield Scott rode triumphantly through the city square of Mexico City.

The military campaign to take Mexico City began on March 9, 1847, with the beach landing of nearly 12,000 American troops three miles southeast of the city of Veracruz, Mexico's greatest port city. It was the first amphibious landing in American naval history (Eisenhower, 2000). The Siege of Veracruz began on March 23 as the naval guns under the command of Commodore Matthew C. Perry opened fire. On the 25th, Scott brought his artillery into action and

began pounding Veracruz and its walls. According to Mexican and American observers, there were four to six shells in the air at any given time (Eisenhower, 2000). The bombardment was successful and on March 29, General Juan Morales surrendered the city.

Veracruz was only the base from which to advance to Mexico City, 200 miles to the west. Before reaching the "Halls of Montezuma," Scott's army would win numerous battles along the National Highway, including battles at Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Churubusco, Molina del Rey, and Chapultepec.

The final battle at Chapultepec took place on September 13, 1847, when Scott attacked 30,000 soldiers protecting Mexico City. It was the bloodiest battle of the war (Greenburg, 2012). General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna's army suffered some 7,000 casualties and an additional 3,730 were taken prisoner. That night Santa Anna and the remnants of his army vanished from the city. When Britain's Duke of Wellington, one of the world's most renowned military men, learned of the American conquest of Mexico City, he called Scott "the greatest living soldier" (Merry, 2009).

It would take five months of negotiation between the United States and Mexico before the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, 1848. The treaty authorized a U.S. payment of 15 million dollars for 525,000 square

miles of Mexican land, one-half of its territory, including not only New Mexico and California, but all of Arizona north of Gila River, Utah, Nevada, and parts of Wyoming and Colorado.

The Mexican War cost the United States 13,780 lives (Eisenhower, 2000). Thousands more were maimed for life. Only one death in eight came from enemy action; most of the soldiers died from accidents and disease, mainly tropical diseases such as yellow fever. The death rate (the ratio of fatalities to total men in service) was the highest sustained in any war fought by the United States.

The cost of the war was far greater for Mexico. The number of Mexican fatalities has been estimated to have been around 25,000, mostly civilians killed by the intense artillery bombardment of cities. In addition, Mexico was deeply humiliated, defeated by its sister republic who had been the first nation to recognize its independence in 1821.

During the war, there was considerable opposition to it, mainly by northern Whigs and abolitionists, who worried that the new territory acquired from Mexico would be open to slavery. Henry David Thoreau spent a night in jail for not paying his state taxes in opposition to the war. Statesmen, like Henry Clay, vehemently opposed the war and the acquisition of any Mexican territory. Towards the end of the war, the antiwar movement had spread across much of the na-

tion as the casualties continued to mount.

Much of the opposition to the war in the United States centered on General Zachary Taylor and his Army of Occupation. On March 28, 1846, under orders from the President, he moved his forces along the Texas coast to the mouth of the Rio Grande, precipitating an attack by the Mexican forces that had gathered on the opposite side of the river at Matamoros. On April 25, a detachment of cavalry from General Mariano Aristas's army crossed the Rio Grande and ambushed 63 of Taylor's dragoons on patrol, killing 11 and capturing the rest. To President Polk, this was an unprovoked attack and act of war. Polk believed that Taylor was within the boundaries of the newly annexed state of Texas and therefore unjustly attacked. On May 13, 1846, Congress declared war against Mexico.

Whether justified or not, Polk had his war and would use military might to force the Mexicans to surrender large tracts of its vast territory. He quickly implemented his war plan by sending General Kearny and the Army of the West from Leavenworth on June 26, 1846, to conquer the large Mexican provinces of New Mexico and California. Manifest Destiny was nearing its climax, and Polk was its driving force.

However, to many who opposed the war, Manifest Destiny was a design of Providence, which would draw California inevitably into

the Union without war. In fact, the westward expansion of the United States had already begun. In 1843, the first great migration to Oregon occurred. The surge westward to New Mexico and California was delayed, but by 1846, the trickle was beginning. To think that Mexico would not put up a fight to save its northern provinces was to underestimate the Mexican people. To their credit, Mexicans fought hard, despite a corrupt and unstable government, to protect its territory from the land-hungry Americans.

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Earl Fosdick is the OSTA Arizona Director, and is a Trail Steward for the OST and the Arizona Trail. He is working on retracing Father Garces's 1776 trek across Northern Arizona.



Armijo Chapter Field Trip
in the Grand Staircase-Escalante
National Monument, Utah



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